unitar
United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Our Work in Peace & Security

United Nations Institute for Training and Research
Second Quarter Report 2026

unitar
United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Published by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

7 bis, Avenue de la Paix, CH-1202 Geneva, Switzerland.

Photo credits (left to right): UN Photo/ONU Mark Garten, UN Photo/John Isaac

©UNITAR 2026



WHO WE ARE

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is the training and capacity-development arm of the United Nations. Headquartered in Geneva, it supports Member States and stakeholders worldwide to strengthen knowledge, skills and institutional capacities to address global challenges.

Working with governments, academia, civil society, the private sector and partners across the United Nations system, UNITAR delivers training and learning solutions that support capacity development and the implementation of international and national priorities, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

WHAT WE DO

UNITAR strengthens capacities across the full spectrum of peace and security—from conflict prevention and peacemaking to peacekeeping, stabilisation, and recovery—while addressing cross-cutting priorities such as disarmament, maritime governance, and inclusive approaches to peace, including women and youth.

The Institute translates global commitments into practical knowledge, skills, institutional capacities and strategic partnerships that deliver measurable, scalable, and sustainable peace and security outcomes in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

This work strengthens individual competencies, institutional capacities, and national systems, while enhancing the coherence and effectiveness of UN peace and security efforts through evidence-based approaches and shared learning.



Table of Contents

01

Introduction

A Message From the Division Director 05

02

Quarter 2 at a Glance

Reach & Results 06

Participant Reach 07

03

Our Impact

Strengthening Capacities for Peace and Security 09

Supporting Institutions and Practitioners 11

Advancing Learning, Innovation, and Knowledge 13

Working in Partnership 15



Acronyms & **Abbreviations**

ARC	*African Risk Capacity*
AU	*African Union*
CECOPAC	*Chilean Joint Peacekeeping Operations Centre*
CPST	*Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training*
CRESMAC	*Centre Régional de Sécurité Maritime de l'Afrique Centrale*
DDR	*Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration*
EELISA	*European Engineering Learning Innovation and Science Alliance*
ITI	*International Tracing Instrument*
KMKM	*Zanzibar Coast Guard*
MGA	*Military Gender Advisors*
MGFP	*Military Gender and Focal Points*
MMEA	*Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency*
PoA	*Programme of Action*
SALW	*Small Arms and Light Weapons*
SDC	*Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation*
UN	*United Nations*
UNDCO	*United Nations Development Coordination Office*
UNODA	*United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs*

A Message From the Division Director

The global peace and security landscape continues to evolve at an unprecedented pace. From armed conflict and humanitarian crises to technological disruption, environmental risks and growing demands for inclusive governance, today's challenges require innovative thinking, stronger partnerships and sustained investment in people and institutions. In this context, building capacities remains one of the most effective ways to equip practitioners, institutions and future leaders to anticipate change, respond to complexity and deliver sustainable peace.

During the second quarter of 2026, UNITAR continued to translate this commitment into action through a diverse portfolio of initiatives. We advanced gender integration in peace operations by preparing Military Gender Advisors to train future practitioners, supported the next generation of peacebuilders through immersive learning experiences in Geneva, and convened global experts through the «Everything AI» event to explore practical approaches to the responsible governance of artificial intelligence. We also expanded institutional capacities in maritime security, environmental preparedness and counter-terrorism while fostering adaptive leadership to help senior decision-makers navigate an increasingly uncertain global environment.

Innovation and knowledge remained central to our work. We strengthened professional education through the Programme in Humanitarian Action and Peacebuilding, published two research volumes arising from the 2nd UNITAR International Research Conference to bridge research, policy and practice, and continued expanding access to inclusive learning for professionals in more than 150 countries. These initiatives reflect our commitment to ensuring that knowledge is translated into practical solutions with lasting impact.

Partnerships continued to amplify our impact. From advancing collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme in support of South Sudan's peace agenda to reinforcing maritime security cooperation with regional partners in Central Africa, our work demonstrates that sustainable peace is built through coordinated action and shared expertise. I extend my sincere appreciation to our partners, donors, participants and colleagues whose commitment and collaboration continue to make these achievements possible. Together, we remain committed to equipping individuals and institutions with the knowledge, skills and partnerships needed to build more peaceful, just and inclusive societies.



Evariste Karambizi
Director, Division for Peace
UNITAR

Reach & Results

These learning initiatives reached thousands of participants worldwide, strengthening capacities and supporting impactful knowledge sharing across diverse sectors.

5,110
Participants

PARTICIPANTS BY REGION



- **67%** Africa
- **18%** Asia & Pacific
- **7%** Europe
- **4%** Latin American & Caribbean
- **2%** Middle East
- **2%** North America

Participants were primarily based in Africa, followed by Asia-Pacific with smaller shares accross Europe. Latin America and the Caribbean. the Middle East, and North America.

EVENT MODE OF DELIVERY

20
Total number of events

09
Face-to-face events

07
Online events

04
Hybrid events

PARTICIPANTS BY GENDER



57%
Women

39%
Men

A small proportion identified as non-binary (0.45%), while 3.33% preferred not to disclose their gender.

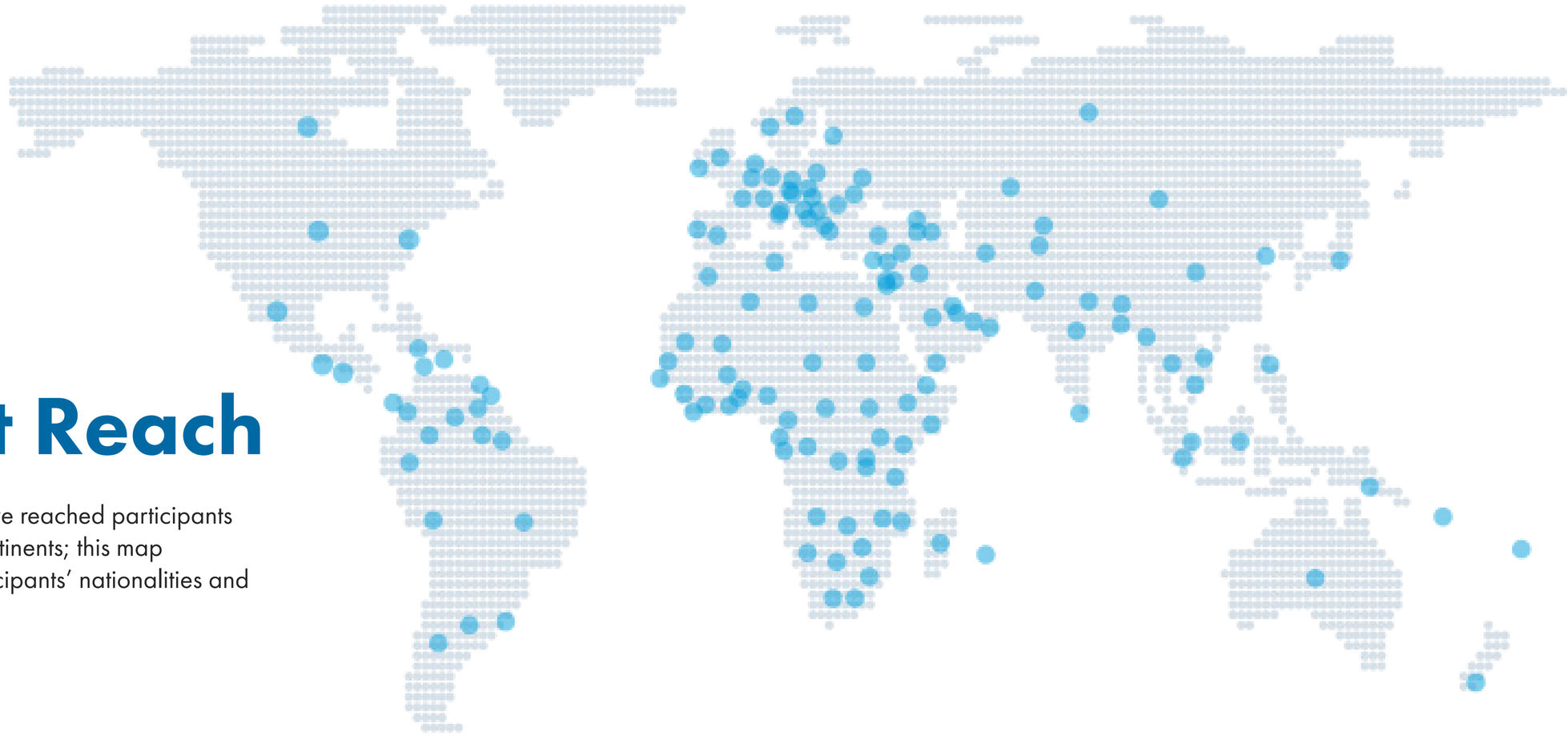
PARTICIPANTS BY AFFILIATION



Government	30.07%
Academia	17.08%
NGO	16.35%
Private Sector	8.72%
International Organization	5.27%
UN System	4.02%
Regional organization	0.76%
Others	17.73%

Across
145 Countries

Spanning
06 Continents



Participant Reach

During the Second quarter of 2026, we reached participants from over 145 countries across six continents; this map illustrates our impact by showing participants' nationalities and countries of origin.

- Afghanistan
- Algeria
- Angola
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belgium
- Benin
- Bhutan
- Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Botswana
- Brazil
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Congo
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Djibouti
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- Equatorial Guinea
- Estonia
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- Fiji
- France
- Gabon
- Gambia (Republic of The)
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Greece
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Hungary
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran (Islamic Republic of)
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kyrgyzstan
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Libya
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Namibia
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Niger
- Nigeria
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Qatar
- Republic of Korea
- Republic of Moldova
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Rwanda
- Saint Lucia
- San Marino
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- State of Palestine
- Sudan
- Suriname
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Tajikistan
- Thailand
- Togo
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Tunisia
- Türkiye
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- United Republic of Tanzania
- United States of America
- Uruguay
- Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of
- Viet Nam
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Our **Impact**

01

Strengthening Capacities for Peace and Security

02

Supporting Institutions and Practitioners

03

Advancing Learning, Innovation, and Knowledge

04

Working in Partnership

KEY OUTPUTS

01

Strengthening Capacities for **Peace and Security**

UNITAR aims to strengthen individual capacities needed to address emerging global challenges and to support more effective and inclusive peace and security efforts. During the second quarter of 2026, the Institute delivered a range of training initiatives, immersive learning experiences and global dialogue platforms to enhance professional competencies, promote gender-responsive peace operations and foster international cooperation on emerging issues such as artificial intelligence governance. These efforts empowered practitioners, future leaders and decision-makers to strengthen institutional performance, advance inclusive peacebuilding and support more effective responses to evolving peace and security challenges.

Advancing Gender Integration in Peace Operations

Canada

- Sustainable peace requires defence institutions that integrate gender perspectives into policies and operations. The Institute strengthens the **capacity of MGAs and MGFPs through context-specific Training of Trainers** aligned with national frameworks and the **Women, Peace and Security agenda** by equipping them with advanced facilitation and instructional skills.

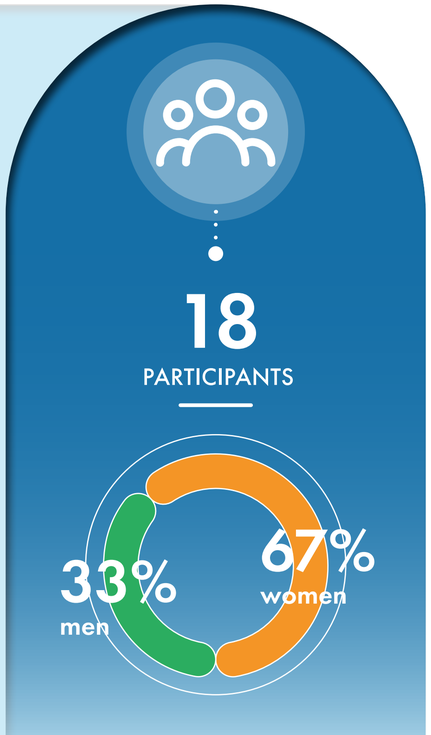
  Delivered in May with the **CECOPAC** and funded by the **Canadian Department of National Defence**, the training enabled experienced military officers to build and deliver national gender training programmes.



Group photo during the ToT MGA in Chile

Activity conducted in Santiago, Chile





Preparing the **Next Generation of Peacebuilders**

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

- Developing the next generation of peacebuilders requires practical exposure to diverse approaches to peacebuilding beyond the classroom.

  In June, the **Peace in Action Study Tour equipped emerging peacebuilders** with practical insights through immersive learning, institutional visits and engagement with peace actors in **Geneva**.

  The nine participants deepened their understanding of peacebuilding and developed personal action plans to apply their skills in their own fields, with support from the **University of Notre Dame.**

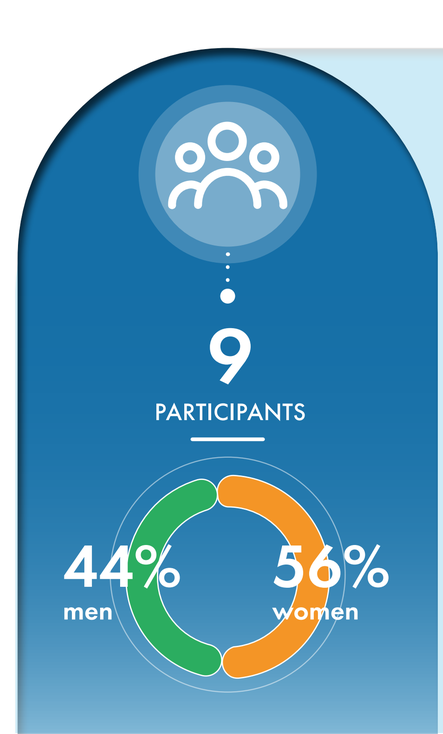
> *This program has given me more hope, in both our generation and the wider world moving forward.*
>
> Programme Participant



Group photo during the Peace in Action Study Tour

Activity conducted in Geneva, Switzerland





Convening Global Dialogue on **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Governance**

Hybrid Event

The rapid evolution of artificial intelligence requires practical approaches that translate governance principles into effective institutional action.

In May, UNITAR convened the **two-day international event "Everything AI"** bringing together 102 policymakers, researchers, engineers and practitioners from more than 30 countries to exchange practical approaches to AI governance across security, law and public institutions. Organized in partnership with **EELISA**, the event fostered cross-sector collaboration and more coordinated approaches to the responsible governance and deployment of AI.

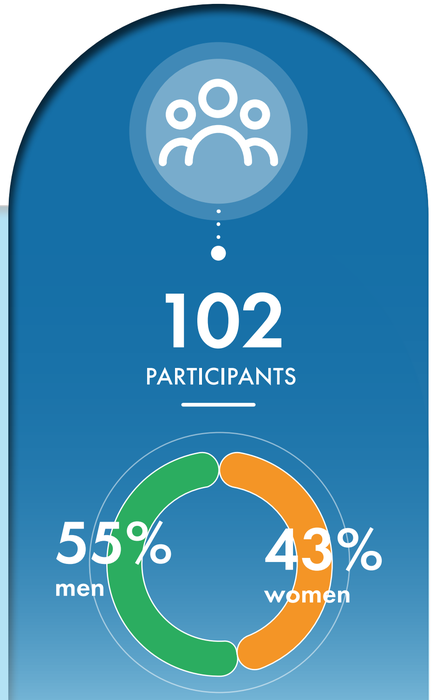




Moments from the Everything AI conference, featuring collaborative discussions and expert presentations on AI governance

Activity conducted in Brussels and online







A doctoral researcher in Urban and Spatial Planning at UPM (ETSAM), she explores how digital participatory planning can be integrated with traditional methods to create more sustainable, equitable, and citizen-centred urban environments.

Mahshid Cheraghi

I participated in the UNITAR Everything AI event in Brussels in May 2026 as both a participant and organiser, and it had a significant impact on how I understand AI governance in practice. It shifted my perspective by making the gap between AI systems and their real-world implementation in public policy and urban contexts much more tangible, particularly what I now refer to as the "translation gap" between technical capabilities and institutional understanding. The experience also strengthened the way I approach my research, encouraging me to see AI not only as a technical tool, but as a governance and participatory challenge, and it continues to shape how I analyse urban regeneration cases through a more interdisciplinary lens.

Supporting **Institutions and Practitioners**

Supporting institutions and practitioners is essential to strengthening the operational effectiveness, resilience and sustainability of peace and security systems. During the second quarter of 2026, UNITAR enhanced institutional capacities through specialized training, leadership development and innovative learning solutions across peace operations, maritime security and counter-terrorism. These initiatives strengthened professional competencies, promoted adaptive leadership and reinforced the application of international standards and operational best practices. By equipping institutions and practitioners to respond to evolving security challenges, these efforts contributed to stronger national capacities, more effective service delivery and sustainable peace and security outcomes.

Building Medical Training Capacity for Peace Operations

Canada

- Peace operations increasingly expose uniformed personnel to complex, high-risk environments, while many Troop and Police Contributing Countries lack qualified trainers to deliver standardized, UN-aligned pre-deployment medical training and institutional capacity.

UNITAR delivered a **Training of Trainers that equipped instructors with practical**, scenario-based teaching skills **to prepare peacekeepers for medical challenges in mission settings.**

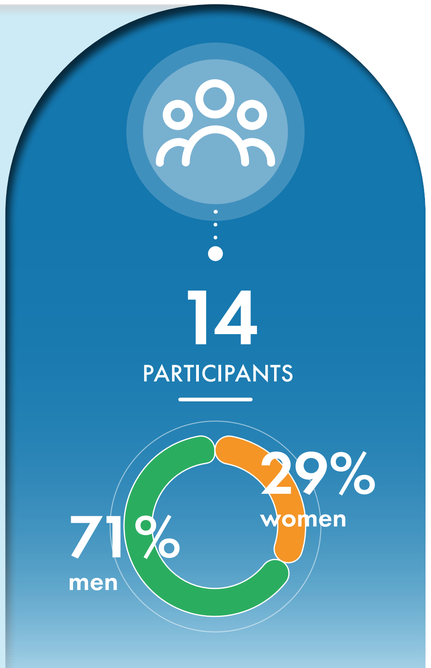
Delivered in May with the **Tanzania Peacekeeping Training Centre** and funded by **Global Affairs Canada Peace and Stabilization Operations Program**, it strengthened sustainable national training capacity for future deployments.



Preparing trainers for safer peace operations in Tanzania

Activity conducted in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania





Promoting Environmental Preparedness in Maritime Operations

Auswärtiges Amt

- Growing maritime activity increases the need for effective preparedness to prevent and respond to marine pollution incidents.

In June, UNITAR delivered a training on **the Blue Economy and Oil Spill Prevention which equipped 56 operational and senior KMKM personnel** with practical knowledge of oil spill prevention, preparedness and response, while strengthening understanding of environmental protection and maritime governance.

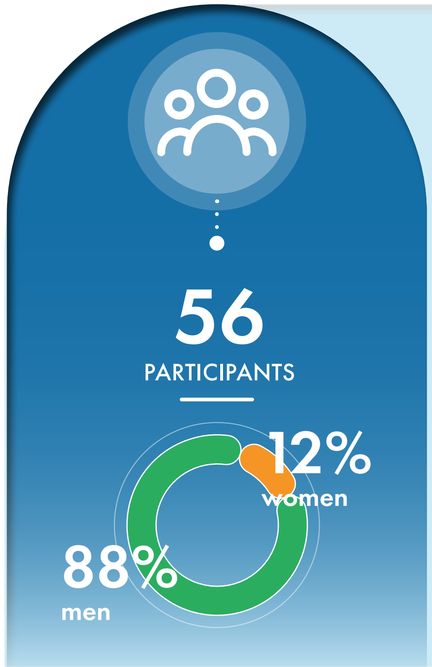
Delivered in partnership with **KMKM**, it **supported the development of institutional capacity** to manage marine pollution risks in Zanzibar.



Oil Spill Training in Tanzania

Activity conducted in Zanzibar, Tanzania





GCSP Geneva Centre for Security Policy

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Preparing Leaders for the **Future in Times of Rupture**

- In a rapidly shifting global landscape marked by the deterioration of international law, accelerating technological disruption, and growing complexity, **senior peace and security leaders require dedicated space for strategic reflection** beyond day-to-day operational demands.

  In June, the Senior Leadership for Peace seminar equipped **35 senior practitioners** with adaptive leadership approaches, systems thinking and practical tools to navigate emerging peace and security challenges.

  Delivered in partnership with **the Geneva Centre for Security Policy** and funded by **the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs,** it strengthened leadership capacity for peacebuilding, diplomacy and international security.

> *I have participated in many seminars, but this was by far the best one. It was spot on and the organization was perfect.*
>
> Programme Participant

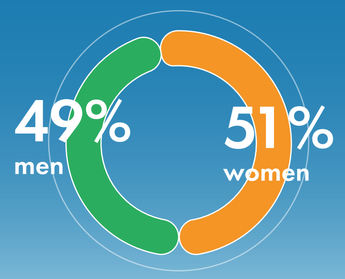


Senior Leadership for Peace Seminar

Activity conducted in Geneva, Switzerland



35
PARTICIPANTS



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale

Ecole de Maintien de la Paix
Alioune Blondin Beye

Fostering Rule of Law in **Counter-Terrorism Practice**

Online

- Counter-terrorism efforts are most effective when security responses are grounded in the rule of law and supported by skilled practitioners.

  UNITAR expands capacity by **developing an innovative self-paced e-learning course** that complements two face-to-face training courses for military, police, judicial and civilian personnel in West Africa and the Sahel. Currently under development, the course is **expected to be launched in the coming months**.

Funded by the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy**, the course supports sustainable, regionally tailored counter-terrorism training. It has been developed in cooperation with experts from the **École de Maintien de la Paix Alioune Blondin Bèye** and from the **Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna.**



Joint training for military and policy in the areas of counterterrorism

50
Participants

Advancing **Learning, Innovation, and Knowledge**

Advancing learning, innovation and knowledge is essential to building the capacities needed to address increasingly complex peace, humanitarian and development challenges. During the second quarter of 2026, UNITAR strengthened professional education, expanded access to inclusive, practice-oriented learning, and promoted knowledge generation through applied research, academic collaboration and research publications. These initiatives equipped practitioners with practical knowledge, enhanced evidence-based practice, fostered interdisciplinary knowledge exchange and advanced innovative, accessible and learner-centred approaches. Together, they contributed to stronger professional capacities, more accessible education and greater collaboration across the global peace and development community.

Advancing Education **on Humanitarian Action & Peacebuilding**

Online

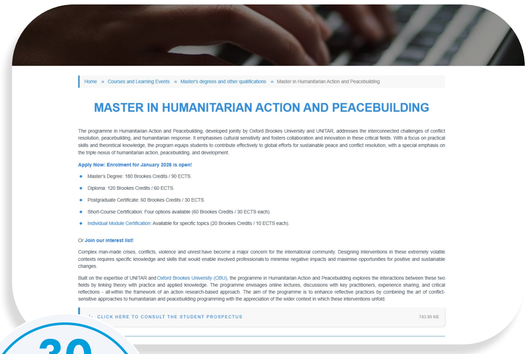
OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

- Humanitarian crises and protracted conflicts demand integrated approaches that connect humanitarian action, peacebuilding and development.

The Programme in Humanitarian Action and Peacebuilding (HAP) explores **the humanitarian-development-peace nexus** through modules on humanitarian principles, conflict-sensitive approaches, human rights, protection, local leadership and sustainable recovery. It equips humanitarian and peacebuilding practitioners, diplomats, military and police officers, academics and journalists with **practical knowledge through flexible, practice-oriented learning.**

Delivered in partnership with **Oxford Brookes University**, it promotes locally led, conflict-sensitive approaches and strengthens professional practice across the humanitarian and peacebuilding sectors.

Enrol now



Celebrating **10 Years** of MAHAP!

30 Students Currently Enrolled

"

Svitlana Wahlen

The MAHAP programme gave me a solid foundation for understanding the UN mission, humanitarian principles and complex field realities. The international cohort — many already working with the UN — made the experience as enriching personally as it was academically. It strengthened my conceptual clarity, critical thinking and commitment to humanitarian principles, building a strong foundation for a career in humanitarian action.



International relations professional with a strong commitment to humanitarian action, peacebuilding and UN values, MAHAP Postgraduate alumna.

Bridging Research, Policy and Practice for Peace and Sustainable Development

Technical University of Sofia We succeed!

- Higher education and applied research play a critical role in shaping innovative responses to global peace and development challenges.

In June, UNITAR published **two research volumes from the 2nd UNITAR International Research Conference**, providing scholars, policymakers and practitioners with evidence-based insights on higher education, peace, sustainable development and innovation.

Developed in collaboration with the **Technical University of Sofia** and international academic partners, the publications advanced knowledge-sharing and interdisciplinary collaboration **aligned with the UN 2.0 agenda.**





Scan to read the **Conference Proceedings** and the **Special Volumes of Selected Papers** or **click here**

Embedding Inclusion in Learning Design

Online

- Leaving no one behind requires learning programmes that are intentionally **designed to be inclusive and accessible**.

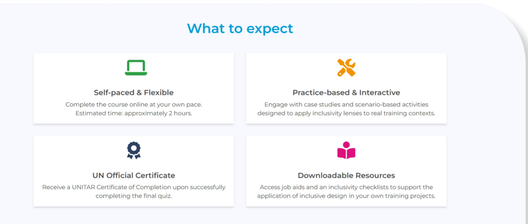
  UNITAR's self-paced Inclusive Learning Design course equips instructional designers, trainers and programme staff with **practical tools to integrate disability inclusion, gender equality and intercultural sensitivity** across the learning cycle.

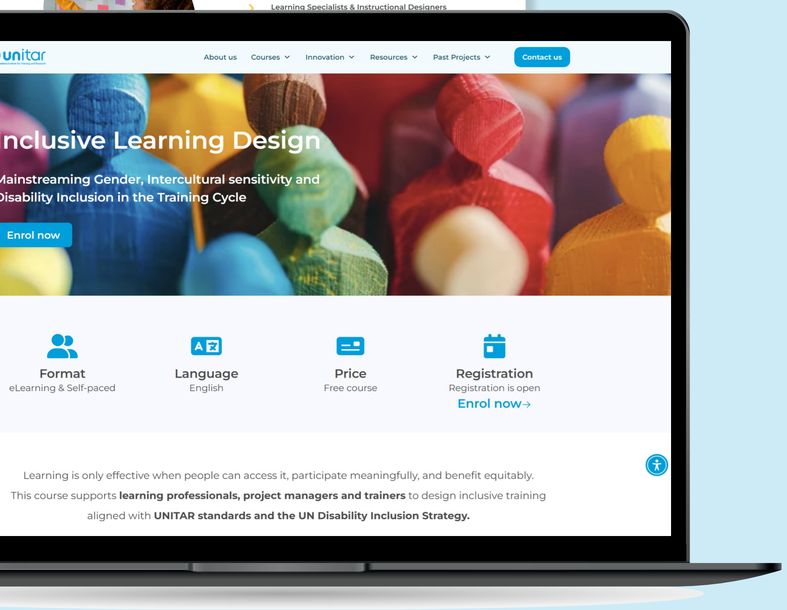
  Since its launch, it has reached 2,147 professionals **across 154 countries**, expanding global capacity for inclusive learning design.

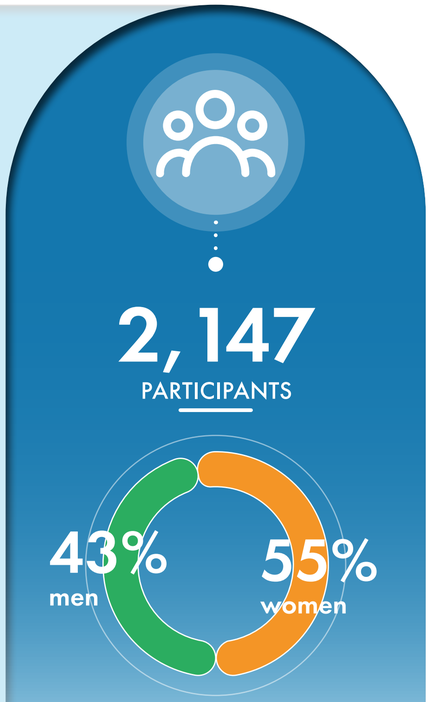
> *This course was a transformative learning experience that broadened my perspective on accessibility. A key insight for me was understanding how small design choices can significantly impact inclusivity, and I feel much more confident applying these skills in my future career.*
>
> Programme Participant

> *This learning was valuable because it translated inclusion into concrete actions trainers can apply in training-related work. It gave me and my teams a more practical understanding of how to help make learning more accessible, equitable and effective for diverse participants across the different phases of training delivery — from needs assessment to evaluation. The case scenarios will help us justify to the hierarchy the importance of reassessing training through an intersectional inclusion lens.*
>
> Programme Participant

Enrol now







> *As a gender and climate change facilitator, this course has been incredibly valuable in strengthening my understanding of inclusive learning design. One key insight for me was the importance of intentionally creating learning spaces that are accessible and responsive to diverse needs. It helped me reflect on how I design and deliver sessions with communities, ensuring that no one is left behind. I am excited to apply these approaches in my facilitation work to make learning more inclusive, participatory, and impactful.*
>
> Programme Participant



04 Working in **Partnership**

No single institution can address the complex drivers of conflict alone, making strategic partnerships essential to sustainable peace. During the second quarter of 2026, UNITAR strengthened collaboration with United Nations entities, regional organizations and national institutions to enhance maritime security and advance peacebuilding efforts. These partnerships reinforced institutional capacities, fostered coordinated planning and aligned expertise with regional and national priorities. Through joint initiatives and strategic dialogue, the Institute advanced collective action, strengthened regional cooperation and laid the foundation for sustainable peace and security outcomes.

Strengthening **Maritime Security Management Systems**

- Effective maritime security is built on coordinated systems that enable institutions to prevent, manage and respond to evolving threats.

  In June, the Training on the Implementation of Security Management Systems (SMS) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) equipped 20 operational managers from Maritime Operations Centres and Multinational Maritime Coordination Centres in the CRESMAC region with a structured framework to **protect maritime personnel and assets against threats such as theft, sabotage and terrorism.** Through practical application of SOPs, participants strengthened their crisis management and inter-agency coordination skills.

  Delivered with the support of **CRESMAC**, the training reinforced regional maritime security capacity.

Activity conducted in Pointe Noire, Congo





Aligning Expertise for **Peace in South Sudan**

- Complex peacebuilding challenges call for coordinated action that leverages the comparative advantages of different institutions.

  In May, a high-level meeting between UNITAR and the United Nations Development Programme **identified priority areas for collaboration** to strengthen the rule of law, mediation, peacebuilding, security sector reform, electoral preparedness, and the meaningful participation of women and youth in peace processes in **South Sudan**. The discussions resulted in a draft joint action plan to guide future cooperation.



▲ *Sabino Edward Nyawella Amaikwey, Deputy Permanent Representative of South Sudan to the United Nations. UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe*

Activity conducted in Geneva, Switzerland



unitar

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Connect with us online

unitar.org



Geneva, Switzerland
(Headquarters)

Avenue de la Paix 7 bis,
CH - 1202 Geneva, Switzerland

+41 (0)22 917 8400
info@unitar.org



New York, USA

1 United Nations Plaza, Room DC1-820,
New York, NY 10017-3515, USA

+1 212 963 9196
nyo@unitar.org



Hiroshima, Japan

8th Floor, 3-25 Nakajimacho, Naka-ku,
Hiroshima-shi 730-0811, Japan

+81 (0) 82 236 3808
hiroshima@unitar.org



Bonn, Germany

UN Campus, Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1,
53113 Bonn, Germany

+49 (0)228 815 0214/3
bonn@unitar.org