

Press Release

For immediate release.

UNITAR celebrates 60 years of enabling positive change.

Geneva, 26 September 2023: The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) proudly celebrates its 60th anniversary of commitment to multilateral diplomacy, training, research, and empowerment.

Evolution and Ongoing Commitment

Since its founding in 1963, UNITAR has stood at the forefront of training and capacity development for UN Member States, consistently adapting to meet their evolving needs and priorities. UNITAR has played a vital role in equipping individuals and organizations with the skills and knowledge needed to tackle global challenges. UNITAR is a key advocate for the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), contributing to the creation of a fairer and more sustainable world. In 2022, the Institute served close to 400,000 individuals, mostly from developing countries through delivery of nearly 1,300 learning events.

Celebrations

To mark its 60th anniversary, UNITAR is organizing a series of events and initiatives worldwide. In Geneva, starting on the **2nd of October, a photo exhibition**, displayed on **the Rotonde du Quai du Mont-Blanc** (across from the Brunswick Monument), will illustrate 60 years of history as well as stories of UNITAR alumni who made a positive change in their community. The alumni featured in the panel exhibition come from Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kenya, Maldives, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, United Arab Emirates and Vanuatu.

The **opening ceremony on the 6th of October** (4 pm) of the photo exhibition will be attended by Mr. Nikhil Seth, the Executive Director of UNITAR, Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, H.E. Mr. Raymond Loretan, President of the Diplomatic Club of Geneva, and Mr. Alfonso Gomez, Mayor of Geneva.

“Our captivating photo exhibition will showcase our journey and impact over the past six decades. I invite everyone to visit the exhibition.” says Nikhil Seth, Executive Director of UNITAR.

On the **4th of October** (9 am), at the **Palais des Nations, in Room XVII** (U.A.E. Room) the United Nations Climate Change Learning Partnership (UN CC:Learn), hosted by UNITAR, will organize a hybrid **Youth Climate Dialogue** (YCD) connecting 6 high schools. The event will provide students with a platform to exchange with and learn from each other about climate change, its impacts on various parts of the world, and the different solutions for it. This special edition will feature schools from four countries (France, Japan, Kenya, South Africa) that were part of the Institute's initial Board of Trustees, as well as Switzerland, the main donor of the partnership, and the United Arab Emirates, a long-standing partner in the YCD initiative.

To conclude the celebrations, an exceptional concert will bring together artists from Ecuador, India, and the African continent on the stage of the **Conservatoire de musique de Genève** on the **16th of November**,

with the Jet d'eau illuminated in UNITAR blue on the same night. The UNITAR flags will be displayed on Mont Blanc bridge during the week of the 13th November.

About UNITAR

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is a dedicated training arm of the United Nations founded in 1963 by the General Assembly with a mission to enhance the UN's effectiveness through training and research. The Institute offers a wide range of training programmes and learning solutions to assist individuals and organizations in addressing global challenges. UNITAR has been headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, since 1993.

To find out more about the 60th anniversary, please visit 60years.unitar.org/

<https://www.unitar.org/about/news-stories/press/unitar-celebrates-60-years-enabling-positive-change>

For more information, please contact

Ms. Akiko Perona, Chief, Communication and Information Technology Support Unit, UNITAR
E-mail: akiko.perona@unitar.org | Mobile: +41 (0) 79 279 93 92

Mr. Angus Mackay, Head of One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership (UN CC:Learn), Director, Division for Planet, UNITAR
E-mail: unccllearn@unitar.org