

Multilateralism in Practice

Course Catalogue

2027





UN Photo/Yutaka Nagata



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Welcome to UNITAR

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

Working with partners across the United Nations system, governments, academia, civil society and the private sector, UNITAR delivers training and learning solutions on the implementation of global agreements, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Pact for the Future.

Our mission is to bridge gaps in knowledge and skills through impactful training, research and innovative learning solutions



Global Reach

In 2025, over 577,000 learners chose to train with UNITAR through close to 1,400 training courses, knowledge sharing events and capacity development programmes worldwide.

Our learners and beneficiaries include diplomats, delegates and other government officials, non-governmental representatives, local authorities, and young professionals.





What We Do

UNITAR's activities are customized to the beneficiaries' specific needs. Being at the forefront of the international arena, we bring together practitioners from diverse professional backgrounds by facilitating knowledge exchange, peer learning and the sharing of practical experience.



Empower Individuals

We equip individuals with skills and knowledge to support multilateral diplomacy, improve public sector performance and advance the SDGs.



Strengthen Institutions

We support governments to strengthen governance, improve decision-making and advance the 2030 Agenda.



Build Learning Ecosystems

We develop sustainable learning systems with partners to enable long-term capacity development.



Support the United Nations System

We enhance effectiveness of capacity development efforts across the UN system through shared learning, best practices and partnerships.

Leader in Multilateral Diplomacy Training

Our Multilateral Diplomacy training programme pursues the overarching objective of strengthening multilateralism and supporting the effective functioning of the United Nations intergovernmental machinery. To this end, we design and deliver workshops and other capacity-development activities tailored to the specific needs of diplomats, government officials, international civil servants, representatives of the private sector, and other relevant stakeholders.

We support Member States in strengthening national capacities and institutions, while fostering their effective participation in multilateral negotiations and decision-making processes. Positioned at the forefront of the international arena, we bring together practitioners from diverse professional backgrounds, facilitating knowledge exchange, peer learning, and the sharing of practical experience.

Our activities cover a wide range of policy domains, including bilateral and multilateral negotiation, environmental and climate change diplomacy, economic diplomacy, human rights, diplomatic protocol, and other related topics, as well as capacities and skills development activities such as diplomatic report writing, public speaking, media relations and negotiation techniques, public and digital diplomacy, among many others.

UNITAR's activities are customized to the beneficiaries' specific needs. Being at the forefront of the international arena, we bring together practitioners from diverse professional backgrounds by facilitating knowledge exchange, peer learning and the sharing of practical experience. Most of our activities are demand-driven and can be implemented in New York, Geneva, in-country, at United Nations offices, or online.





2027 Diplomatic Learning Series

With the aim of supporting the diplomatic community through targeted capacity development, expert learning, and high-level exchanges on contemporary diplomacy, UNITAR's Division for Multilateral Diplomacy is launching the 2027 Diplomatic Learning Series: Multilateralism in Practice.

Multilateralism in Practice is structured around five pillars. Particular attention will be given to the specific needs and priorities of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The Diplomatic Learning Series draws on UNITAR's long-standing expertise in multilateral diplomacy training, built and refined over sixty years through its programmes in Geneva.

The Series includes five focus areas representing fundamental domains of institutional expertise.



UN Photo/Loey Felipe

FOCUS AREA 1

Core Diplomatic Training (CDT)

A series of nine annual workshops held from November to June, designed to strengthen essential diplomatic skills and competencies needed to effectively engage in the multilateral system.

FOCUS AREA 2

Briefings on the United Nations

Four briefings held throughout the year, complemented by one special event organized during the High-level Political Forum, providing the diplomatic community with practical insight into the UN system, its principal organs, and decision-making processes.

FOCUS AREA 3

Ambassadorial Roundtables

Convened two to four times per year, providing a platform for exchange among Ambassadors and senior diplomatic officials on leadership, diplomatic practice, and emerging global challenges.

FOCUS AREA 4

Public International Law for Diplomacy

Four executive-level workshops held annually to strengthen delegates' understanding and application of the legal frameworks that underpin multilateral diplomacy and global governance.

FOCUS AREA 5

New York Lecture Series

Convened one to two times per year, bringing together high-level speakers and diverse stakeholders for dialogue on thematic issues shaping global affairs and multilateral cooperation.



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FOCUS AREA 1

Core Diplomatic Training

Core Diplomatic Training (CDT) lies at the core of UNITAR's mandate to strengthen multilateral diplomacy through practical, high-impact learning. As one of UNITAR's longest-standing diplomatic training initiatives, CDT has evolved from foundational courses designed for diplomats from newly independent United Nations Member States into a comprehensive learning offering serving the broader international diplomatic community.

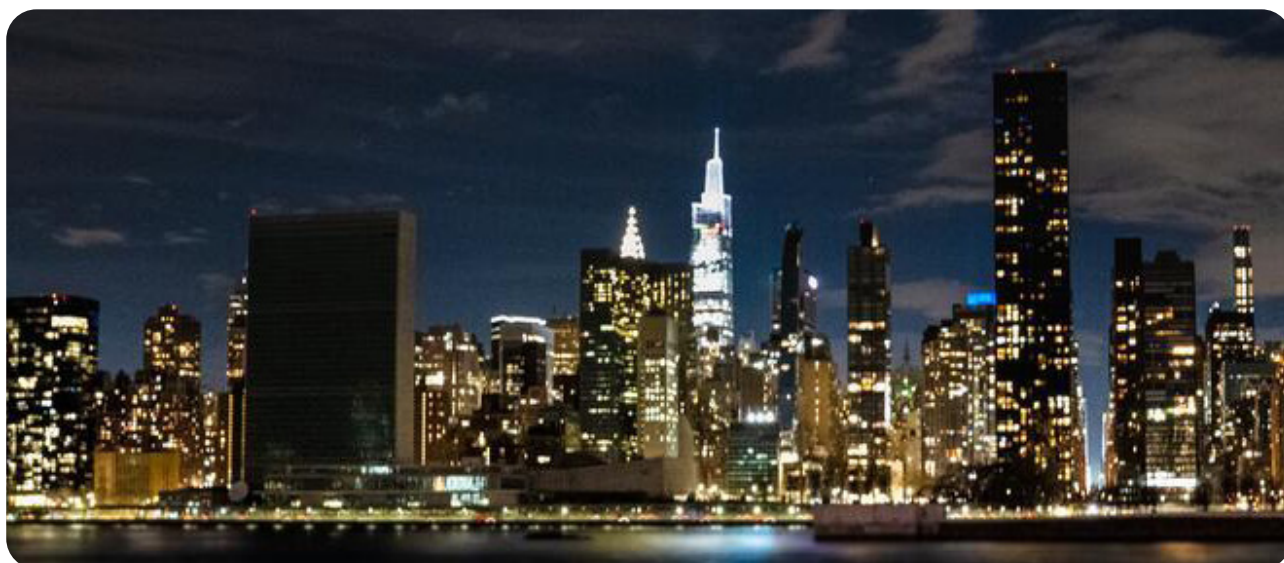
Grounded in UNITAR's commitment to practical and applied learning, CDT equips participants with the knowledge, skills, and competencies required to navigate complex diplomatic environments and engage effectively in bilateral and multilateral settings.

Through the programme, participants will develop:

- A comprehensive understanding of the United Nations system, diplomatic protocol, digital diplomacy, and conference diplomacy;

- Practical insights into contemporary challenges and opportunities shaping bilateral and multilateral diplomacy;
- Enhanced competencies in negotiation, drafting, public speaking, communication, and diplomatic engagement;
- The ability to apply analytical and research-based approaches to complex diplomatic and policy challenges; and
- The confidence and professional skills required to contribute meaningfully to diplomatic processes and international cooperation.

Rooted in the ethos of “on the UN, for the UN, by the UN,” CDT combines institutional knowledge with practical diplomatic experience to strengthen participants' ability to engage within the multilateral system, while fostering a global community of practitioners committed to effective diplomacy and international cooperation.



Content and Structure

CDT is delivered through nine annual workshops, with each workshop focused on a specific area of diplomatic practice essential to effective engagement in the multilateral system. Each workshop combines expert-led instruction with practical exercises and simulations, equipping participants with the necessary knowledge and skills required to navigate contemporary diplomatic practice.

The training is open to members of the diplomatic community, including Permanent Missions and United Nations staff, as well as government officials and international civil servants.

The Workshops

EFFECTIVE WRITING IN MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

This workshop equips participants with practical tools to write clearly, concisely, and persuasively in multilateral contexts. Through presentations and interactive exercises, participants will strengthen their ability to draft impactful reports, summaries, and official communications that capture key outcomes of meetings and negotiations.

NEGOTIATION SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES

This workshop builds participants' capacity to understand negotiation techniques and navigate complex multilateral discussions. Through practical exercises and simulations, they will explore key elements and procedures of international negotiations, practice effective strategies, and gain confidence to guide and support colleagues in achieving successful outcomes.

DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOL AND ETIQUETTE

This hands-on workshop combines United Nations protocol and diplomatic event management, providing participants with the tools to coordinate high-level visits, meetings, conferences, and other events effectively. Through practical exercises and real-world scenarios, participants will strengthen their ability to apply protocol standards with precision, discretion, and professionalism.

LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND ASSERTIVENESS

This training strengthens participants' leadership and strategic decision-making skills in diverse cultural and multilateral settings. It explores leadership styles, effective communication, leading diplomatic teams, crisis leadership, and practical approaches to navigating complex diplomatic and institutional dynamics with clarity, adaptability, and sound judgment.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

This workshop will strengthen participants' skills in communication, consultation, planning, and relationship-building to promote cooperation across organizations and governments. Participants will learn to use dialogue and other facilitating techniques to achieve mutual benefits and improve project delivery.

CONFERENCE DIPLOMACY AND DRAFTING RESOLUTIONS

This workshop builds participants' understanding of contemporary conference diplomacy and the processes behind UN resolutions. Through practical exercises and simulations, participants will learn to navigate formal procedures, engage effectively in group discussions, and understand the roles and perspective of diverse stakeholders.

PUBLIC SPEAKING AND PRESENTATION SKILLS

The workshop equips participants with the skills and confidence to communicate effectively, especially in public and multilateral settings. Participants will engage in interactive presentations, explore key communication strategies, and receive constructive feedback to strengthen their public speaking, presentation techniques, and overall communication impact.

DIGITAL DIPLOMACY AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

This workshop will examine how digital technologies and AI are transforming diplomacy. It will address how diplomats use these tools to achieve their goals, while also exploring the challenges such as cybersecurity threats and disinformation. Additionally, the workshop will consider the geopolitical implications of digital technologies and AI in the global arena.

EFFECTIVE CO-FACILITATION IN MULTILATERAL PROCESSES

This workshop will equip participants with practical skills to implement mandates and serve effectively as co-facilitators of intergovernmental processes. It covers mandate interpretation, coordination between co-facilitators, managing consultations, maintaining impartiality, navigating differing positions, and building consensus toward an agreed outcome.

Workshops in French

UNITAR works with intergovernmental organizations, such as the International Organization of La Francophonie (L'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie), to expand access to these training workshops in multiple languages, including French. Through these collaborations, UNITAR supports diplomats and international civil servants in strengthening their diplomatic competencies in their respective working languages.

CONFERENCE DIPLOMACY AND MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

This workshop will strengthen participants' understanding of United Nations conference diplomacy, negotiation processes, and decision-making dynamics.

DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATION AND EFFECTIVE WRITING

This workshop equips participants with practical tools to write clearly, concisely, and persuasively in multilateral contexts.

FOCUS AREA 2

Briefings on the United Nations

Briefings on the United Nations are designed to strengthen participants' understanding of the United Nations system, its principal organs, and their roles within the broader multilateral architecture. Through practical, expert-led sessions, the briefings provide diplomats and members of the diplomatic community with insight into key UN institutions, decision-making processes, and the dynamics of multilateral engagement in New York.

Through these briefings, participants will develop:

- A practical understanding of the mandates, structures, and working methods of key United Nations organs and intergovernmental processes;
- Insight into the functioning of the multilateral system and the role of Member States in advancing international cooperation;
- Knowledge of current institutional priorities and global policy discussions shaping the work of the UN;
- Greater familiarity with negotiation processes, decision-making dynamics, and diplomatic engagement within the UN framework; and

- The confidence and contextual understanding needed to engage in multilateral discussions.

Complementing these briefings, SDGs in Practice serves as UNITAR's flagship event in the context of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). Convened annually for the past ten years in partnership with UN DESA, the event brings together Member States, United Nations entities, and other stakeholders to facilitate dialogue, knowledge exchange, and practical learning on advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Together, these initiatives, through expert presentations, moderated discussions, and peer exchange, support informed and effective participation in multilateral processes by connecting institutional knowledge with current global priorities.

Content and Structure

Briefings on the United Nations are convened four times throughout the year, with an additional special event organized within the framework of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Open to all members of the diplomatic community, each session brings together the Ambassadors chairing the respective bodies, senior United Nations officials and other distinguished practitioners to offer practical insight into the work and priorities of the United Nations system.

The Briefings

GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ITS MAIN COMMITTEES

This briefing provides delegates with an introduction to the United Nations General Assembly as the Organization's principal deliberative body. The session examines its structure, Main Committees, resolutions, negotiation processes, and its role in advancing international cooperation across the UN agenda.

THE WORK OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

This briefing examines the mandate, working methods, decision-making processes, and subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Security Council. Participants explore the Council's role in maintaining international peace and security, as well as current priorities and the practical realities of Security Council diplomacy.

UNITED NATIONS FIFTH COMMITTEE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

This briefing introduces participants to the General Assembly's Fifth Committee and its responsibility for administrative and budgetary matters. The session explores the United Nations budget cycle, financing of mandates, oversight mechanisms, and the negotiation processes that underpin the Organization's operations.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

This briefing examines ECOSOC's mandate, coordination functions, and contribution to the UN's economic, social, and sustainable development agenda. Participants gain insight into its subsidiary bodies, engagement with Member States and stakeholders, and its role within the broader UN development system.

INTERLINKAGES AMONG THE PRINCIPAL UN ORGANS

This briefing examines how the principal UN organs interact, complement one another, and operate within their respective mandates, including how decisions, responsibilities, and processes connect across the UN system.

Events During the High-Level Political Forum

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) IN PRACTICE

Convened annually for the past ten years in partnership with UN DESA, UNITAR's flagship event during HLPF provides a platform for Member States and other stakeholders to exchange practical experiences, share lessons learned, and strengthen collaboration in advancing the SDGs.

FOCUS AREA 3

Ambassadorial Roundtables

The Ambassadorial Roundtables are a series of high-level, closed-door discussions that provide a trusted space for Ambassadors to engage in substantive discussion beyond formal negotiations, examine emerging challenges facing the multilateral system, and share lessons drawn from practice. It is grounded in the recognition that many of the most valuable insights in diplomacy are acquired not through formal instruction, but through direct exchange among experienced practitioners navigating complex political and institutional environments.

Each roundtable is structured around clearly defined objectives and practical outcomes. Through these discussions, Ambassadors will be able to:

- Exchange perspectives on negotiation strategy, coalition-building, coordination mechanisms, and diplomatic leadership;
- Strengthen relationships and networks of trust among Permanent Representatives and senior officials across regional and political groupings;

- Engage directly with other Ambassadors and senior practitioners on pressing thematic, political, and procedural challenges affecting the multilateral system; and
- Identify practical approaches, lessons learned, and innovative practices that can be applied directly within their Missions and in the conduct of intergovernmental processes, including the work of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Designed as a high-level forum for dialogue and reflection, each roundtable is led by serving Ambassadors, distinguished former Permanent Representatives, or senior United Nations officials with direct experience in the subject under discussion. The format encourages candid discussion, practical reflection, and the exchange of experience among practitioners operating at the highest levels of diplomacy.



UN Photo/Loey Felipe

Content and Structure

The Ambassadorial Roundtables are convened two to four times a year, bringing together Permanent Representatives and senior diplomats for focused 90 to 120-minute exchanges on issues of strategic relevance to contemporary multilateral diplomacy.

The Roundtables

CHAIRING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

This roundtable explores the role of the Chair in guiding international conferences and multilateral negotiations. Ambassadors will examine techniques for managing deliberations, facilitating dialogue, navigating procedural challenges, and building consensus among diverse stakeholders.

UNITED NATIONS FIFTH COMMITTEE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

This roundtable examines the role of the Fifth Committee in shaping the United Nations' administrative and budgetary framework. Ambassadors will examine the Organization's financial architecture, budgetary negotiations, institutional priorities, and the role of Member States in advancing effective resource management, accountability, and consensus-building on key budgetary matters.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

This roundtable explores the opportunities and challenges presented by artificial intelligence within the multilateral system. Ambassadors will explore emerging governance frameworks, ethical considerations, human rights implications, and the role of international cooperation in shaping responsible AI development.

LEADERSHIP IN MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

This roundtable examines the role of leadership in advancing effective diplomacy and collective action within complex multilateral environments. Ambassadors will examine strategic decision-making, diplomatic influence, coalition-building, and navigating competing priorities among diverse stakeholders. The discussion will highlight the importance of vision, communication, and consensus-building within international institutions.

DRAFTING UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS

This roundtable examines the principles and practice of drafting UN resolutions. Ambassadors will examine resolution structure, drafting techniques, negotiation strategies, and the role of resolutions in advancing collective priorities and shaping intergovernmental outcomes.

FOCUS AREA 4

Public International Law for Diplomacy

Public International Law for Diplomacy is founded on the recognition that international law is an essential instrument of diplomacy, providing the framework through which States cooperate, negotiate, uphold international commitments, and address shared global challenges. For diplomats and international officials, an understanding of legal principles and processes is critical to navigating multilateral forums, shaping negotiations, and advancing effective international cooperation.

This series of workshops is designed to strengthen participants' understanding of the principles, institutions, and contemporary developments of international law, while enhancing their ability to engage effectively in international legal processes and multilateral diplomacy. Through the workshops, participants will develop:

- A comprehensive understanding of the foundations, principles, and sources of international law;

- Knowledge of treaty negotiation, drafting, interpretation, implementation, and other aspects of international legal practice;
- Familiarity with the role of international law within the United Nations system and multilateral diplomacy;
- Practical insights into specialized areas of international law; and
- The ability to apply international legal concepts and analytical approaches to contemporary diplomatic, policy, and governance challenges.

Rooted in UNITAR's commitment to practical and applied learning, the workshops bridge legal knowledge and diplomatic practice, enabling participants to better understand the legal dimensions of multilateral action and strengthen their ability to engage effectively in international processes.



Content and Structure

The Public International Law for Diplomacy series consists of four intensive executive-level workshops offered every three months. Designed for diplomats, government officials, and international affairs professionals, these workshops strengthen and apply participants' understanding of the legal frameworks that underpin international cooperation, multilateral diplomacy, and global governance.

The Workshops

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL LAW

This workshop introduces the fundamental principles, sources, and subjects of international law. Participants will examine the evolution of the international legal system, the relationship between international and domestic law, and the role of states and international organizations in the development and implementation of legal norms.

LAW OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

This workshop explores the role of international law within the United Nations framework. Participants will gain an understanding of the legal dimensions of the work of the General Assembly, Security Council, International Court of Justice, and other key organs, as well as the role of legal advisers and multilateral legal processes.

LAW OF THE SEA

This workshop explores the international legal regime governing the oceans, with particular attention to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Participants will examine issues related to maritime jurisdiction, navigation, marine resources, maritime security, and emerging challenges in ocean governance and sustainability.

INTERNATIONAL SPACE LAW AND GOVERNANCE OF OUTER SPACE

This workshop examines the application of international law to outer space activities and the evolving governance frameworks shaping the use and exploration of space. Participants will explore issues related to state responsibility, space security, satellite operations, commercial space activities, and ongoing multilateral discussions on norms, principles, and rules governing the peaceful and sustainable use of outer space.

FOCUS AREA 5

New York Lecture Series

The New York Lecture Series (NYLS) is a flagship UNITAR initiative that provides a platform for dialogue at the intersection of diplomacy, policy, and global thought leadership. It advances a deeper understanding of the United Nations system and multilateral processes by bringing together the diverse actors shaping the international agenda in New York.

NYLS convenes distinguished leaders and experts, including senior UN officials, former Heads of State and Government, academics, private sector leaders, and civil society representatives, creating a space for exchange among the diplomatic community, international organizations, academia, the private sector, and civil society. The series will:

- Foster dialogue among stakeholders engaged in shaping global priorities;
- Connect research, emerging ideas, and practical experience with United Nations work and ongoing multilateral processes in New York;

- Promote informed reflection on global challenges and the roles of States, international organizations, and non-state actors in advancing shared priorities;
- Strengthen engagement and collaboration among the diverse communities contributing to multilateral action in New York.

Building on the legacy of the Geneva Lecture Series—which has hosted speakers including Ban Ki-moon, Mikhail Gorbachev, Jane Goodall, and Martti Ahtisaari—the New York edition extends this tradition of high-level public dialogue to a city that serves as a global hub for diplomacy and hosts the largest concentration of Permanent Missions and multilateral institutions in the world.

UN Photo / Manuel Elias



Content and Structure

The New York Lecture Series convenes one to two times per year, with each lecture dedicated to a timely thematic issue of global significance. Each event features distinguished speakers and experts who share insights on emerging challenges and opportunities, followed by a moderated discussion and interactive exchange with participants.

Topics in the New York Lecture Series may include:

- Climate Action and the Sustainable Development Goals
- Artificial Intelligence and Global Governance
- Peace, Security, and the Future of Multilateralism
- Human Rights and Global Justice
- Global Health and Resilience
- International Law and Global Governance

Through these discussions, the series brings together members of the diplomatic community, United Nations staff, academia, the private sector, think tanks, civil society, and the wider public, fostering dialogue and exchange among the diverse stakeholders engaged in shaping the international agenda.



Stay informed and contact us

For the latest information and upcoming training opportunities, visit our website or contact our team:

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