

ONLINE

27 OCT 2026 - 29 OCT 2026

## UN Leadership Catalyst Series - Adaptive Leadership Accelerator (Edition 2)

Change and transformation Leadership  
Stakeholder engagement and partnerships



**LANGUAGE**  
English



**DURATION**  
Three days,  
covering three  
webinar  
sessions (each 4  
hours in  
duration)



**ENROLL BY**  
21 Oct 2026



**PRICE**  
1,200 USD



**LOCATION**  
ONLINE



**TARGET**  
UN Only

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**Designed exclusively for UN system directors (D1/D2), the UN Leadership Catalyst Series provides a reflective, high-impact learning space to examine, adapt, and elevate leadership practice in the face of volatility and uncertainty.**

## Introduction

The **UN system** is **operating in an environment of unprecedented complexity** — characterized by competing priorities, constrained resources, shifting mandates, and increasing demands for agility and coherence. In such contexts, **the challenges leaders face cannot be solved through technical expertise alone; they require new ways of seeing, thinking and mobilizing others across boundaries**

The **UN Leadership Catalyst Series: Adaptive Leadership Accelerator** invites senior UN leaders to step into a **live learning and experimentation space** to explore how they can lead through uncertainty, exercise influence beyond authority, and build collective capacity for change. **Grounded in the principles of adaptive leadership, systems thinking, and collective sense-making**, it offers a reflective, action-oriented space to **transform one's leadership practice for the realities of today's UN**.

# Objectives

## As participants go through the UN Leadership Catalyst Series - Adaptive Leadership Accelerator, they will:

- **Recognise and distinguish adaptive from technical challenges** in their operational context.
- **Strengthen their ability to mobilise people and systems** to navigate uncertainty and advance new ways of leading
- **Build personal and collective resilience** in navigating political, institutional, and cross-boundary complexity
- **Develop experiments and learning loops that foster adaptive capacity** within themselves, their teams, and entities.

# Course methodology

The programme combines structured learning, reflective and peer dialogue over **three webinars, each four hours in duration**.

## Learning modalities will include:

- **Expert input and dialogue:** Each session will be led by faculty with deep expertise in adaptive leadership and systems thinking.
- **Live case analysis:** Participants bring real-time leadership challenges and test new approaches with peer and faculty support.
- **Online learning platform:** A resource hub of supplementary readings and reflection tools accessible throughout the programme.

# Course contents

The programme will comprise **three deep-dive sessions**, covering the following themes and topics:

## Session 1: Seeing the System Anew: Diagnosing the Challenge

- Understanding complexity and distinguishing between technical and adaptive challenges;
- Expanding perspective: from problem-solving to pattern recognition;
- Introducing the concept of staying on the balcony - observing and intervening with purpose.

## Session 2: Mobilising People and Systems: Working with Resistance and Energy

- Understanding the social dynamics of change and the loss it provokes;
- Tools for mobilising stakeholders and working across boundaries;
- Navigating conflict, tension, and uncertainty as productive forces for adaptation;
- Practising interventions in live cases through peer consultation.

## Session 3: Leading in Motion: Experimentation, Learning and Renewal

- Designing safe-to-fail experiments and iterative learning processes;
- Building personal and organisational resilience under pressure;
- Reflecting on presence, courage, and purpose in leading change;
- Crafting a personal Action Plan - a roadmap for continued experimentation beyond the programme.

# Target audience

## Senior UN staff at the D1/D2 levels;

Senior staff operating in relevant fields of international cooperation in complex, fast-changing contexts.

By open enrolment or nomination. (Please note that some UN organizations follow an internal nomination process to identify candidates for the programme).

# Cost of participation

The **tuition for the programme is \$ 1,200**, inclusive of access to all sessions, materials and access to the learning platform for one year.