



KNOWLEDGE CENTRE FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

PORTFOLIO



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About the United Nations System Staff College

The United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) is the United Nations system's learning organization, headquartered in Turin, Italy, with an office in Bonn, Germany and New York, USA. The UNSSC designs and delivers learning programmes for UN staff and their partners. In addition, the College also helps the United Nations become more effective by fostering a common leadership and management culture across the system.

Learning programmes at the UNSSC

Geared towards the transformative 2030 Agenda

We support UN staff and other relevant stakeholders in identifying innovative approaches to deliver on the requirements of a universal, more integrated, and holistic 2030 Agenda through our learning and knowledge products.

Truly inter-agency

We bring together UN staff from across the system in a truly inter-agency spirit to learn from each other, exchange views on common issues and build networks to continue learning beyond the classroom.

Accessible

We offer residential courses in state-of-the-art facilities on the UN Campuses in Turin, Italy, Bonn, Germany, and an office in New York, USA. We also deliver training in over 50 countries each year, thanks to our mobile team of trainers.

Relevant to daily UN work

We blend external expertise with

practical UN experience. Courses feature subject-matter expert solutions, think tanks, the private sector, and civil society, as well as experienced UN practitioners.

UN-specific

We are part of the UN family, so we know what it means to work in the United Nations – be it in the field or at headquarters, in the middle-income countries, in programmes or operations, in entry-level or management positions.

Delivered directly at the desk

Our distance learning courses combine self-paced online learning with live sessions with the course instructor and participants from across the UN system and beyond. UN staff and partners can learn how they want, when they want, and still benefit from an interactive experience.

Tailor-made

We design and deliver customized learning programmes on-demand to meet the specific needs of organizations, departments, peace operations, or inter-agency groups.

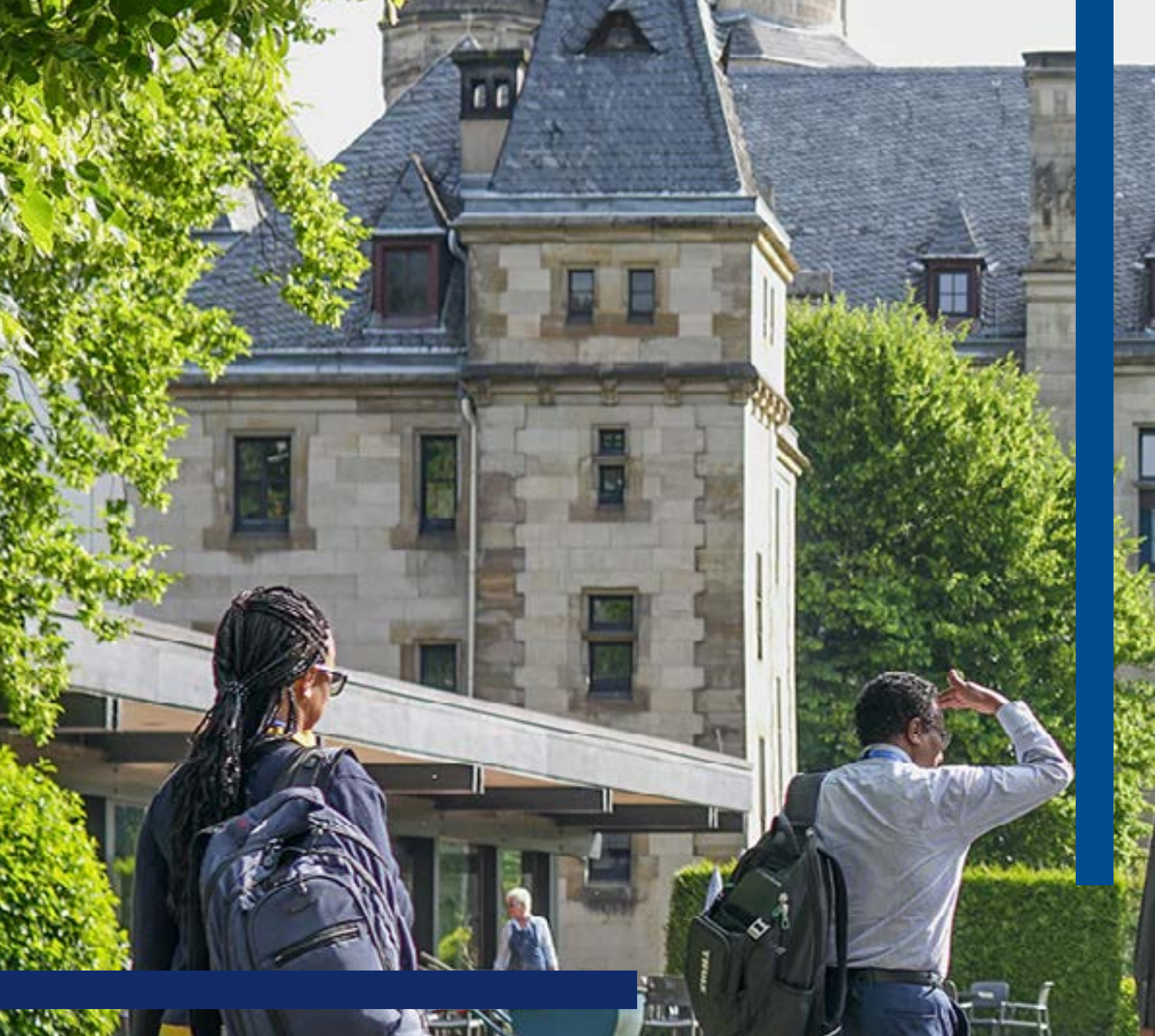


The UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development

The UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development was officially opened in January 2016 in Bonn, Germany. Our mission is to respond to the comprehensive learning, training, and knowledge management needs of UN staff and partners in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Together they form the most comprehensive blueprint to date for eliminating extreme poverty, reducing inequality, and protecting the planet. Along with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, they constitute an integral plan of action for people, planet, and prosperity, which requires all countries and stakeholders to act in concert.

The sustainable development agenda demands new approaches to knowledge and skills development for all actors. Development progress requires holistic thinking, moving beyond separate mandates and structures, and exploring linkages between different thematic issues. The 2030 Agenda requires an issues-based *modus operandi*, fostering new partnerships to identify critical problems and opportunities, leveraging diverse means of implementation, and facilitating joint action to ensure progress and maximize results.

Life-long learning must, therefore, be seen as a key component of personal as well as organizational development. At the UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development, we are committed to facilitating catalytic learning across the UN system and beyond in support of sustainable development results.



Sustainable Development Courses



EXAMINE

We provide concrete learning opportunities where UN staff and partners can learn and examine the sustainable development agenda



SDG Primer



The SDG Primer aims to establish a common base of understanding and approach for the UN system in supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is meant to inform, in broad terms, the programmes and actions of all UN entities, including their engagement with government and civil society partners.

Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development constitutes a paradigm shift. It requires understanding and articulating a narrative around the meaning and value of sustainable development, how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) interrelate across various sectors, and what it will take to achieve them.

Fundamentally, achieving the SDGs requires all stakeholders' active involvement: the United Nations system, national, regional, and local governments, the private sector, civil society, academia, and people at large. Success depends on pursuing a whole-of-government and whole-of-society vision to meet the high ambitions and challenges of the goals. The UN system should be prepared to assist UN Member State in all aspects of this endeavor.

The Foundational Primer on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, also known as the SDG Primer, aims to establish a common understanding and approach for the UN system in supporting the 2030 Agenda. It is primarily meant to inform, in broad terms, the programmes and actions of all UN entities, including their engagement with government and civil society partners.

Contents

The SDG Primer is hosted on the UNSSC Blue Line platform. It comprises of the following:

- The SDG Primer Online Module (3-hours)
- Assessment Quiz

Participants will receive a Certificate upon successful completion of both of the above.

Target Audience

UN staff at all levels

Cost of Participation

The SDG Primer e-course is free-of-charge.

Note: This certified course on the SDG Primer is currently only available for UN staff. If you are not employed by the UN, you can still access the SDG Primer (without a certificate) at sdgprimer.un.org.

Anti-Corruption in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



This online course promotes awareness about the key role anti-corruption plays in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It offers practical examples and key tools to enhance the integration of anti-corruption in the measurement and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The programme also introduces participants to the importance of aligning national sustainable development and anti-corruption strategies.

Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been a major breakthrough for the anti-corruption movement, as it emphasizes the importance of promoting transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption, and makes an explicit link between corruption, peace, and just and inclusive societies.

UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner said, “the 2030 Agenda has established anti-corruption as a global imperative on which hinges the achievement of all sustainable development goals. Goal 16 is rooted in human rights and highlights the importance of strengthening institutions and governance in our pledge to leave no one behind.

We also have the opportunity to advance the anti-corruption agenda through the implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption, which has now reached near-universal ratification, providing a comprehensive global framework to fight corruption in line with the 2030 Agenda.

Corruption is a complex phenomenon that continues to persist in many countries across the world. It has a direct impact on the three dimensions of sustainable development – social, economic and environmental – and affects each of the five pillars of the 2030 agenda: people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnerships.”

Despite progress, corruption is still a pressing challenge. Resources lost to corruption exceed the estimated \$10 trillion required to eradicate poverty by 2030. Money lost to corruption is development denied to those most at risk of being left behind.

The United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) has partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bureau for Policy and Programme Support to offer the first worldwide online course on the key role anti-corruption plays in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) has partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bureau for Policy and Programme Support to offer the first worldwide online course on the key role anti-corruption plays in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will:

- Demonstrate a sound understanding of the 2030 Agenda and articulate the key role that anti-corruption plays in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the dual role anti-corruption plays in the 2030 Agenda, both as a focus area in itself under SDG 16 and as a prerequisite to achieving all other SDGs.
- Identify different methods, tools, and best practices to mainstream anti-corruption initiatives in sustainable development plans and programmes.
- Identify practical tools and best practices to harmonize the monitoring of sustainable development and anti-corruption initiatives.
- Be able to articulate the need to align sustainable development and anti-corruption efforts.

Course Methodology

UNSSC online courses are designed to deliver maximum learning outcomes through carefully chosen high-quality learning materials. Our highly facilitated online courses combine self-paced study modules with applied learning components, such as case studies, interactive exercises, and collaborative group work, specially tailored to the needs of the professional interested in deepening their knowledge on a particular subject matter.

Participants will also benefit from live moderated webinars which feature valuable inputs from renowned subject matter experts and allow real-time dialogue with high-level speakers. Webinar recordings are also made available to ensure that participants have a flexible and seamless learning experience.

A facilitator guides and assists the participants all along the course, and provides real-time feedback on activities and exercises. Our user-friendly online social learning platform provides participants with the opportunity to connect with peers from diverse organizational backgrounds, fostering peer-to-peer learning.

UNSSC online courses give learners the opportunity to complete activities when it best fits their schedule. Participants are largely free to determine their own weekly study plan. Lasting five weeks and demanding six hours of study per week, UNSSC online courses incorporate the same high academic rigor as any UNSSC face-to-face programme.

Contents

The course frames climate change and climate action around the five core cornerstones of the 2030 Agenda: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership.

- **Week 1:** I Sustainable development and anti-corruption. Concepts of corruption and sustainable development. Anti-corruption initiatives advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- **Week 2:** The role of anti-corruption as part of SDG 16 and as a prerequisite to achieve all other SDGs.
- **Week 3:** Fighting corruption across sectors
- **Week 4:** Integrating anti-corruption in sustainable development plans and programmes – coordination and implementation. Different approaches to align anti-corruption initiatives to sustainable development plans and programmes.
- **Week 5:** Integrating anti-corruption in sustainable development plans and programmes – monitoring. Tools and best practices to monitor anti-corruption efforts within the context of sustainable development.

Target Audience

UN staff from headquarters, UN country teams or regional offices, government representatives, development practitioners as well as members of civil society, academia and foundations.

Cost of Participation

This online course is offered free-of-charge. This course has been developed by UNSSC and UNDP with significant inputs from UNODC, U4, OHCHR, GIZ, Sida, and International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA). The course is financially supported by UNDP and UNODC.

UNSSC fosters collaborative peer-to-peer learning among its course participants. To achieve this, UNSSC adopts a rigorous methodology in its selection process that considers the course's scope, objectives, and expected outcomes. UNSSC utilizes specific selection criteria for its course participants to promote cohort-based learning and increase course impact.

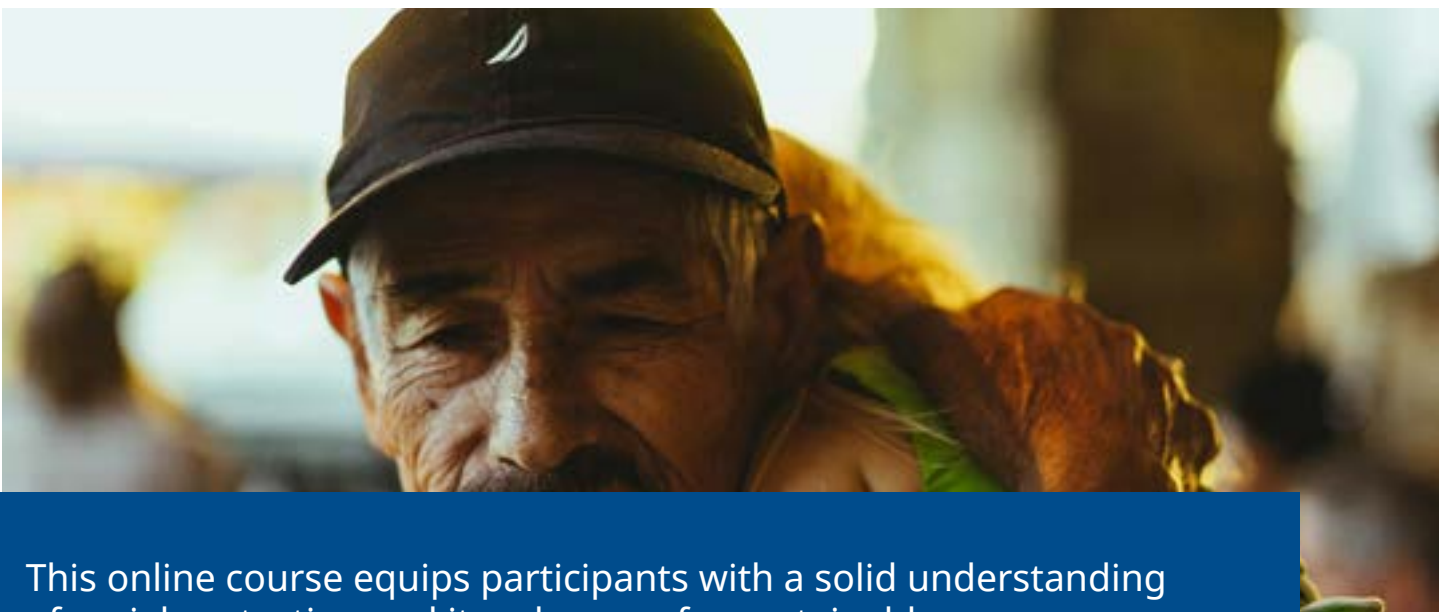
Participants will enjoy the following benefits from the free online course:

- (3-months access to course materials (including exclusive video material and key readings), recording of webinars and speakers' presentations)).
- Participation in live webinars with renowned subject matter experts.
- Exclusive access to the UNSSC online social learning environment with training and supporting background materials, and the opportunity to stay connected with colleagues.

Certificates from the United Nations System Staff College will be awarded to participants upon completion of the course.

OPEN TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS

Social Protection for Sustainable Development



This online course equips participants with a solid understanding of social protection and its relevance for sustainable development. The course will showcase experiences from countries representing different contexts and regions on work done to extend social protection in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) lay out a set of key development objectives for developed and developing countries alike to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all.

Among the priorities agreed upon by Member States is social protection—repeatedly cited in the agenda as a primary means to reduce poverty and combat inequality. Countries are called for to “implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.” Currently, an estimated 73 percent of the world’s population lives without adequate social protection coverage. This means the ambitious objective set out by the 2030 Agenda will require concerted efforts from across the spectrum of UN and national actors, joining up disparate interventions and leveraging new tools to achieve the 2030 target.

Objectives

By the end of this online course, participants will be able to:

- Explain the meaning and benefits of social protection and its role in the 2030 Agenda;
- Identify key examples of global trends and good practices from countries in extending social protection;
- Identify practical tools to implement social protection at the country level.

Course Methodology

UNSSC online courses are designed to deliver maximum learning outcomes through carefully chosen high-quality learning materials. Our facilitated online courses combine self-paced study modules with applied learning components, such as case studies, interactive exercises, and collaborative group work, specially tailored to the needs of the professional interested in deepening their knowledge on a particular subject matter.

Participants will also benefit from live moderated webinars which feature valuable inputs from renowned subject matter experts and allow real-time dialogue with high-level speakers. Webinar recordings are also made available to ensure that participants have a flexible and seamless learning experience.

An expert facilitator guides and assists participants throughout the course and provides real-time feedback on activities and exercises. Our user-friendly social online learning platform provides participants with the opportunity to connect with peers from diverse organizational backgrounds, fostering peer-to-peer learning.

UNSSC online courses give learners the opportunity to complete activities when it best fits their schedule. Participants are largely free to determine their own weekly study plan. Lasting five weeks and demanding six hours of study per week, UNSSC online courses incorporate the same high academic rigor as any UNSSC face-to-face programme.

Contents

This course comprises five modules over five weeks:

- 2030 Agenda and social protection: sustainable development as a global development framework; basic concepts of social protection;
- Extending adequate social protection to all the population. Global trends and good practices in extending social protection.
- Social protection floors as a fundamental element of national social protection systems. Designing and implementing social protection systems for all.
- Ensuring a financially sustainable and equitable social protection systems.
- Tools at our fingertips

Target Audience

Participants coming from various backgrounds such as the UN, other development agencies, bilateral donors, government officials, worker and employer organizations, members of civil society, and academia.

Cost of Participation

This online course is offered free-of-charge.

UNSSC fosters collaborative peer-to-peer learning among its course participants. To achieve this, UNSSC adopts a rigorous methodology in its selection process that considers the course's scope, objectives, and expected outcomes. UNSSC utilizes specific selection criteria for its course participants to promote cohort-based learning and increase course impact.

Participants will enjoy the following benefits from the free online course:

- (3-months access to course materials (including exclusive video material and key readings), recording of webinars and speakers' presentations)).
- Participation in live webinars with renowned subject matter experts.
- Exclusive access to the UNSSC online social learning environment with training and supporting background materials, and the opportunity to stay connected with colleagues.

Certificates from the United Nations System Staff College will be awarded to participants upon completion of the course.

OPEN TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change as a Development Agenda



This joint UN Climate Change - UNSSC online course offers a holistic and integrated approach to climate change and demonstrates the interlinkages and interdependencies between sustainable development and climate change to make informed policy choices towards low-carbon and climate-resilient sustainable development.

Introduction

Climate change is a cross-cutting development issue that affects every aspect of sustainable development and the entire 2030 Agenda. The Paris Agreement on Climate Change, along with the 2030 Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals, forms the most comprehensive blueprint to date for eliminating extreme poverty, reducing inequality, and protecting the planet. Together with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, these documents constitute an integral plan of action for people, planet, and prosperity, which requires all countries and stakeholders to act together. Sustainable development and climate action are deeply interconnected and interdependent. For example:

- Achieving zero-hunger is not possible without protecting food systems from the negative impacts of climate change;
- Cities and communities cannot be sustainable without adequate protection from extreme weather events;
- Ensuring children's health is not possible without addressing air pollution and the increase in climate change-driven, vector-borne diseases;
- Economic development cannot be sustainable without reversing over-reliance on carbon-intensive energy sources.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Explain key elements of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda and the role of climate action in the broader context of sustainable development;
- Identify and articulate the interrelations and interdependencies between the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the five critical dimensions of sustainable development: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership;
- Identify and articulate best practices to ensure coherence and mutual reinforcement between the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Explain existing tools and instruments to mainstream sustainable development and climate action into national development policies and planning.

Course Methodology

UNSSC online courses are designed to deliver maximum learning outcomes through carefully chosen high-quality learning materials. Our highly facilitated online courses combine self-paced study modules with applied learning components, such as case studies, interactive exercises, and collaborative group work, specially tailored to the needs of the professional interested in deepening their knowledge on a particular subject matter.

Participants will also benefit from live moderated webinars that feature inputs from renowned subject-matter experts and allow real-time dialogue with high-level speakers. Webinar recordings are also made available to ensure that participants have a flexible and seamless learning experience.

An expert facilitator guides and assists the participants all along the course, and provides real-time feedback on activities and exercises. Our user-friendly social online learning platform provides participants with the opportunity to connect with peers from diverse organizational backgrounds, fostering peer-to-peer learning.

UNSSC online courses give learners the opportunity to complete activities when it best fits their schedule. Participants are largely free to determine their own weekly study plan. Lasting six weeks and demanding six hours of study per week, UNSSC online courses incorporate the same high academic rigor as any UNSSC face-to-face programme.

Contents

The course frames climate change and climate action around the five core cornerstones of the 2030 Agenda: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership.

- **Week 1:** Introduction: sustainable development, climate change and climate action.
- **Week 2:** The social dimension of sustainable development, climate change, and climate action (People).
- **Week 3:** The environmental dimension of sustainable development, climate change and climate action (Planet).
- **Week 4:** The economic dimension of sustainable development, climate change, and climate action (Prosperity).
- **Week 5:** Climate change and peace, justice, and strong institutions (Peace).
- **Week 6:** Partnerships and means of implementation for climate action and sustainable development (Partnership).

Target Audience

Development practitioners from the UN system, governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, civil society and academia.

Cost of Participation

This online course is offered free-of-charge.

UNSSC fosters collaborative peer-to-peer learning among its course participants. To achieve this, UNSSC adopts a rigorous methodology in its selection process that considers the course's scope, objectives, and expected outcomes. UNSSC utilizes specific selection criteria for its course participants to promote cohort-based learning and increase course impact.

Participants will enjoy the following benefits from the free online course:

- (3-months access to course materials (including exclusive video material and key readings), recording of webinars and speakers' presentations)).
- Participation in live webinars with renowned subject matter experts.
- Exclusive access to the UNSSC online social learning environment with training and supporting background materials, and the opportunity to stay connected with colleagues.

Joint certificates from the United Nations System Staff College and UN Climate Change will be awarded to participants upon completion of the course.

OPEN TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS

Circular Economy and the 2030 Agenda



This engaging five-week online course will focus on harnessing circular economy principles and systems-based approaches to explore ways in which we can redesign our systems, products, and services to allow us to achieve a sustainable living for all, within planetary limits.

Introduction

This course explores the application of Circular Economy (CE) practices in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Four years into the implementation of the Agenda, it is evident that 'business as usual' will not help us to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Systems-based approaches, along with a strong commitment to deep-rooted transformations and actions, are vital to the reduction of humanity's footprint on our planet. Our resources are finite, and the principles and practices of the circular economy will be catalytic in creating goods, processes, and ecosystems that are restorative and regenerative by design.

The course will focus on 'how' and 'why' circular economy principles will be critical to achieving the goal of the 2030 Agenda - sustainable development for all.

Theoretical, practical, and case study-based approaches will be used to illustrate and support the concepts. The course will be strongly application-based, with numerous real-life examples from around the world, and will include tools useful to advance CE practices. Participants will get the opportunity to engage with distinguished experts through live webinars. Assignments, exercises, quizzes, and peer sharing across the different modules of the course will benefit the participants and add to their learning.

This course has been created in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme.

Objectives

Upon the successful completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Understand the interconnection between Circular Economy and its potential in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Explain the importance of systems-based approaches to identify effective circular transformations.
- Apply different models of circularity to identify opportunities for circular transformations of products and services in real-life cases.
- Understand the opportunities to drive circular value across the life cycles of products and processes and examine business models that could support circularity.
- Explore the policy environments that support the successful application of circular strategies to cities and examine why citizens can play a crucial role in ensuring circularity.
- Identify the barriers and enablers to mainstreaming circular strategies.

Course Methodology

UNSSC online courses are designed to deliver maximum learning outcomes through optimal time investments into carefully chosen high-quality learning materials. Specially tailored to the needs of the professionals interested in developing skills to advance their career or deepening their knowledge on a particular subject, our facilitated online courses combine self-paced study modules with applied learning components such as case studies, interactive exercises and collaborative group work.

Participants also benefit from live moderated webinars which feature valuable inputs from renowned subject matter experts and allow real-time dialogue with high-level speakers. Webinar recordings are also made available to ensure that participants have a flexible and seamless learning experience.

An expert facilitator guides and assists the participants throughout the course and provides real-time feedback on activities and exercises. Our user-friendly social online learning platform provides participants with the opportunity to connect with peers from diverse organizational backgrounds, fostering peer-to-peer learning.

While being interactive and participatory, UNSSC online courses give learners the opportunity to complete activities when it best fits their schedule. Participants are largely free to determine their own weekly study plan. Lasting five weeks and demanding six hours of work a week, UNSSC online courses incorporate the same high academic rigor as any UNSSC face-to-face programme.

Contents

- **Week 1** will introduce key features of the 2030 Agenda, explain the evolution of the concept and principles of Circular Economy and explain the importance of the need to transition from a linear to a circular system in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda.
- **Week 2** will establish the need for a systems-based approach to circular economy. It will discuss the Butterfly diagram and the Circularity diagram as strategic tools for circular design and understand their operational principles through technical and biological cycles of products and resources with the help of real-life case studies. It will consider the need for systemic enabling environments supported by appropriate policies for circularity.
- **Week 3** will explore how to make businesses more circular, applying CE principles to business products and processes and examining innovative business models and relationships as well as policy environments that could support circularity in business.
- **Week 4** will focus on designing circular cities by illustrating the potential of CE principles to create sustainable and thriving urban living environments.
- **Week 5** will analyze the key barriers and enablers to increasing the adoption of CE principles and processes. It will reiterate the importance of a systemic approach to a circular economy in order to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

Target Audience

Development practitioners from the UN system, governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, civil society and academia.

Cost of Participation

This online course is offered free-of-charge.

UNSSC fosters collaborative peer-to-peer learning among its course participants. To achieve this, UNSSC adopts a rigorous methodology in its selection process that considers the course's scope, objectives, and expected outcomes. UNSSC utilizes specific selection criteria for its course participants to promote cohort-based learning and increase course impact.

Participants will enjoy the following benefits from the free online course:

- (3-months access to course materials (including exclusive video material and key readings), recording of webinars and speakers' presentations)).
- Participation in live webinars with renowned subject matter experts.
- Exclusive access to the UNSSC online social learning environment with training and supporting background materials, and the opportunity to stay connected with colleagues.

Certificates from the United Nations System Staff College will be awarded to participants upon completion of the course.



EMPOWER

We assist UN Country Teams in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda by identifying their learning needs and providing customized learning programmes



UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework online course



The UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework is a core instrument for providing a coherent, strategic direction for UN development activities by all UN entities at country level. This self-paced online course equips participants with a thorough understanding of the application of the 2019 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Guidance.

Introduction

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) is a core instrument for providing a coherent, strategic direction for UN development activities by all UN entities at country level. It guides the UN system in planning and implementing UN development activities at country level, as well as in mobilizing a spectrum of development partners beyond the United Nations.

The 2019 UNSDCF Guidance provides a direction for strategic planning, funding, implementation, monitoring, learning, reporting, and evaluation, all of which are undertaken by the UN development system with the host government and partners. For UN Country Teams to provide coherent and effective support to countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda, UN staff at global, regional, and country levels need to be thoroughly familiar with all aspects of the UNSDCF Guidance.

This self-paced online course is designed to equip participants with an in-depth understanding of the UNSDCF as a centerpiece of UN development system reform. It will enable reflection on how to clearly articulate the UN development system's collective response to support countries in their pathways towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. Embodying the spirit of partnerships that are at the core of the 2030 Agenda, it aims to help turn our collective promise to leave no one behind into tangible action for people on the ground.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Identify the requirements of the UNSDCF as the most important planning and implementation instrument for UN development activities within countries.
- Articulate the new elements of the UNSDCF.

Course Methodology

The UNSDCF online course is hosted on the UNSSC Blue Line platform. It comprises the following:

- Five interactive self-paced modules, detailing key stages of the design and implementation of the UNSDCF
- Sharing activities to facilitate participant exchange
- An individual reflection exercise
- A graded final assessment

Contents

- **Lesson 1:** Setting the Stage
- **Lesson 2:** Planning, Roadmap, and Common Country Analysis (CCA)
- **Lesson 3:** UNSDCF Design and Development
- **Lesson 4:** Preparing for Implementation: UNCT Configuration, UNSDCF Signature, Funding Framework
- **Lesson 5:** Implementation, Monitoring, Learning, and Evaluation

Target Audience

UN staff at all levels.

Cost of Participation

This online course is free-of-charge. Certificates from the UNSSC will be awarded to participants upon completion.

RCO Learning Path



The newly designed UN Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) Learning Path offers participants a rigorous six-month blended programme of interactive advanced high-impact online modules (emerging sustainable development issues and cross-cutting functional competencies) and a residential workshop at the UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development in Bonn, Germany. It combines two components, online and face-to-face, to ensure that all RCOs are part of a renewed community that shares expertise and know-how across a restored peer-to-peer learning virtual structure within the UN system.

Introduction

On 1 January 2019, a reinvigorated RC system was rolled out, embodying the vision of the UN General Assembly to create a dedicated, independent, impartial and empowered development coordination function. Success is to be measured by improved, integrated policy advice, increased programmatic results, more efficient and agile operations, and greater transparency and accountability, inspiring a renewed commitment to multilateralism in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Ultimately, the measure of success will be the impact for people, planet and prosperity.

Through a six-month journey, the RCO Learning Path facilitates an in-depth exploration of emerging sustainable development issues, reinforcing professional competencies and building on the power of collaboration, coordination, co-creation, and communication as core abilities of the new skillset to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

Participants will not only expand their knowledge, but also exchange best practices, and gain substantive insights on how to collaborate, co-create, coordinate, and communicate more effectively. They will also follow a journey of virtual networking with other RCOS before meeting face to face, as the programme will conclude with a residential workshop in Bonn during fall 2021 (COVID-19 allowing).

In summary, this programme explores opportunities to acquire the latest information related to RCO daily assignments, enables participants to meet new colleagues and experts, and builds competencies to boost the RC system and the effectiveness of the UN development system as a whole.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will:

After completing this course, participants should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a sound understanding of the vision and principles underlying the 2030 Agenda to increase programmatic results, more efficient and agile operations, and greater United Nations transparency and accountability at the national level.
2. Acquire the ability to deliver on the 2030 Agenda as part of a reinforced Resident Coordinator office and an independent, impartial, and empowered Resident Coordinator system.
3. Be equipped with knowledge of the specific tools, mechanisms, and approaches that can be employed to develop and deliver on an effective United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

Course Methodology

UNSSC courses are designed to deliver maximum learning outcomes through carefully chosen high-quality learning materials. This course combines self-paced study modules with applied learning components, such as case studies, interactive exercises, collaborative group work, synchronous webinars, and a residential component tailored to the needs of RCO staff. An expert facilitator guides and assists participants throughout the online component of the course and provides real-time feedback on activities and exercises. Our user-friendly social online learning platform provides participants with the opportunity to connect with peers from diverse organizational backgrounds, fostering peer-to-peer learning.

Participants will benefit from live moderated webinars that feature inputs from renowned subject-matter experts and allow real-time dialogue with high-level speakers. Webinar recordings are made available to ensure that participants have a flexible and seamless learning experience.

Ultimately, the face-to-face component will strengthen the power of collaboration, coordination, co-creation, and communication as core abilities of the new skillset to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. Participants will apply their learning through experiential methodologies such as case studies, team discussions, and dialogues with UN senior staff and other speakers. The average learning time per week is 2.5 hours, including study time (depending on the week).

Contents

High-impact modules:

1. Emerging Sustainable Development issues: Transformative Pathways, beyond COVID-19 recovery, climate emergency, circular economy, social protection, SDG financing and inequalities
2. Cross-cutting functional competencies: systems thinking, partnerships, managing sustainable development results, and policy coherence for sustainable development
3. Residential Workshop: Face-to-face workshop. The power of 4 C's: coordination, collaboration, communication, and co-creation

Target Audience

RCO staff at the professional level covering at least one of the five core functions:

1. Strategic planner
2. Economics
3. Partnerships and development finance
4. Data and results management and reporting
5. Communications and Advocacy

Cost of Participation

The course fee of \$1000 covers the following:

1. Six-month online learning path with self-paced customized content designed to respond to the needs and challenges of RCO staff, including:
 - 3-months' post-course access to course materials (including exclusive video material and key readings), recording of webinars and speakers' presentations.
 - Participation in live webinars with renowned subject matter experts.
 - Exclusive access to the UNSSC online social learning environment with training and supporting background materials, and the opportunity to stay connected with colleagues.
 - All course materials, resources and contacts
2. Four days of residential workshop (location TBC) skills training with a balance of presentations, group work on case studies, and individual skills and reflection exercises.

Certificates from the UNSSC will be awarded to participants upon completion.

UN Country Programming in the Context of the 2030 Agenda



The course will equip the UN staff at country, regional and global levels with a solid understanding of the fundamental shift that underpins the preparation of the new generation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) as the single most important UN instrument for planning and implementation, as well as with a set of tools and instruments to design highly effective, flexible and impactful UNSDCF to accelerate the progress of the 2030 Agenda implementation.

Introduction

On 31 May 2018, all 193 countries agreed to take forward the most ambitious and comprehensive change process of the UN development system to make the UN fit for purpose to support the 2030 Agenda. To effectively deliver on the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda, a new generation of strategic, flexible, results- and action-oriented UNSDCFs is needed at country level. The revitalized UNSDCF should reflect the UN's contribution to real improvements in people's lives while respecting the choices and opportunities open to them and is integral to a UN's role that is more focused, relevant to the agenda at hand, and invested in the value-add that the UN brings together to a country. The revitalized UNSDCF Guidance was adopted by UN SDG to promote a full transition to a new generation of UNSDCFs as a single and primacy UN document for the UN support on the 2030 Agenda, including in the humanitarian and crisis contexts.

The UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development has developed a course to enable the UN staff at country level and those in respective oversight and support roles at regional and global level to design more flexible and impactful medium-to-long term strategic frameworks for the UN, governments, and other stakeholders to improve people's lives with leaving no one behind. The course offers a mix of knowledge and skills to build the capacities of the UN for designing new UNSDCFs as a vehicle for leveraging financing and investment, an advocacy strategy, an enabler for greater efficiencies, and a compact for mutual accountability and transparency. Participants will gain an enhanced knowledge of UN programming tools and instruments and their practical application in UN development work.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, the participants will:

- have a common understanding of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its implications for the effectiveness of UN System work at country level;
- have a common vision of the new generation of UNSDCF as a partnership framework for delivering the UNDS' collective response in support of the country's sustainable development needs and priorities;
- understand how UNSDCF will aim at accelerating progress on the 2030 Agenda implementation by addressing bottlenecks with a focus on those left behind;
- understand how UNSDCF will serve as a vehicle to leverage and channel financing and investment in the country's sustainable development priorities;
- be able to use the revised UNSDCF Guidance and the accompanying Companion Pieces, and the Standard Operating Procedures to effectively support national efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda.

Course Methodology

The course is interactive in nature and will use real-life examples and exercises to offer opportunities for participants to learn and internalize critical elements of the training programme. It uses a blended format of instructional sessions, experience-sharing, and peer-to-peer learning.

Contents

- **Day 1:** Global context, imperatives of the 2030 Agenda, and implications for the UN.
- **Day 2:** UNSDCF as an instrument for accelerating progress on the 2030 Agenda: design criteria for UN common country analysis and new approaches to data and evidence in the new generation of revitalized UNSDCF.
- **Day 3:** Scope and content of UNSDCF as a partnership framework. UNSDCF as a vehicle to leverage and channel financing and investment in the country's sustainable development priorities. UNSDCF and agency-specific instruments.
- **Day 4:** UNSDCF as a mutual accountability framework for results. UNSDCF as an advocacy strategy.

Target Audience

Regional and Country Office staff, field level managers, UN strategic planners, Chairs/members of UNSDCF groups/task teams and UN Coordination officers/advisors.

Cost of Participation

The course fee of 2,500 USD will cover the following:

- four days of training with a balance of presentations and group work on case studies and exercises;
- exclusive access to UNSSC online social learning environment with training and supporting background materials, and the opportunity to stay connected with colleagues;
- all course materials, resources, and contacts.

Participants are expected to cover all travel costs related to their attendance in the course.

Certificates from the UN System Staff College will be awarded to participants upon completion of the course.

OPEN TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS

Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development



An engaging online course designed to equip participants with an understanding of why policy coherence is important for achieving sustainable development, what coherent policymaking entails, and what are some specific tools, mechanisms, and approaches that can be employed to foster policy coherence.

Introduction

This course was designed by the UN System Staff College Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development, in coordination with the National University of Singapore acting through its Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and the Hertie School of Governance based in Berlin, and in collaboration with the OECD Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development Unit in Paris.

The course explores approaches to cross-organizational and cross-sectoral policy coherence on the national, regional, and international levels, with a view to equipping participants with an understanding of why policy coherence is important for achieving sustainable development, what coherent policymaking entails, and what are some specific tools, mechanisms and approaches that can be employed to foster policy coherence.

Conventional approaches to development often focus on sector-specific economic results, working under the assumption that markets function perfectly. Such approaches do not adequately consider externalities and their impact on society, equity, or the environment. They also often ignore the transboundary and inter-generational effects, which results in siloed, contradictory policies that often undermine one another.

The 2030 Agenda demands integrated approaches that view development through a holistic lens, using a systemic approach that takes account of the causal relationship and the synergies and trade-offs produced among the social, economic, and environmental dimensions in a comprehensive manner.

This need for coherence is more evident than ever as the raging COVID-19 pandemic has interrupted our journey towards transformative change and risks reversing decades of development gains. The pandemic has further exposed flaws in the prevailing socio-economic model, which the 2030 Agenda is trying to address. It is the need of the hour to seek coherent short and medium-term responses to the crisis, addressing its interdependent consequences with long-term sustainability in mind and in the spirit of shared responsibility and global solidarity.

Inputs by high-level speakers from the UN System, think tanks, academia as well as the OECD complement this course.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will:

- Demonstrate a sound understanding of the vision and principles underlying the 2030 Agenda, the evolution of the concept of policy coherence for sustainable development, and the importance of policy coherence for sustainable development;
- Demonstrate a good understanding of the relevance of policy coherence as an approach and a tool to achieve sustainable development outcomes, and be able to recognize policies that are mutually reinforcing across governance levels;
- Be equipped with knowledge of the specific tools, mechanisms and approaches that can be employed to foster policy coherence, including partnerships and multi-stakeholder engagement.

Course Methodology

UNSSC online courses are designed to deliver maximum learning outcomes through carefully chosen high-quality learning materials. Our facilitated online courses combine self-paced study modules with applied learning components, such as case studies, interactive exercises, and collaborative group work, specially tailored to the needs of the professional interested in deepening their knowledge on a particular subject matter.

Participants will benefit from live moderated webinars that feature valuable inputs from renowned subject matter experts and allow real-time dialogue with high-level speakers. Webinar recordings are made available to ensure that participants have a flexible and seamless learning experience.

An expert facilitator guides and assists participants throughout the course and provides real-time feedback on activities and exercises. Our user-friendly social online learning platform provides participants with the opportunity to connect with peers from diverse organizational backgrounds, fostering peer-to-peer learning.

UNSSC online courses give learners the opportunity to complete activities when it best fits their schedule. Participants are largely free to determine their own weekly study plan. Lasting five weeks and demanding six hours of study per week, UNSSC online courses incorporate the same high academic rigor as any UNSSC face-to-face programme.

Contents

- **Week 1** provides an introduction to the vision and principles of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the concept and evolution of policy coherence for sustainable development, and elaborates upon vertical and horizontal coherence as well as the different mechanisms that enhance policy coherence across the policy cycle.
- **Week 2** discusses the importance of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) in the context of SDG 17 of the 2030 Agenda and introduces some of the OECD approaches towards understanding the concept of PCSD.
- **Week 3** focuses on the importance of policy coherence at national, regional, and international levels and discusses examples of policy coherence for sustainable development.
- **Week 4** looks at tools and review mechanisms to assess the integration of the 2030 Agenda at the national level and tracking progress on policy coherence.
- **Week 5** recaps core notions of PCSD and focuses on partnerships and multi-stakeholder engagement to foster policy coherence for sustainable development.

Target Audience

UN staff from headquarters, country teams or regional offices, government representatives, development practitioners as well as members of civil society, academia and foundations.

Cost of Participation

This online course is offered free-of-charge.

UNSSC fosters collaborative peer-to-peer learning among its course participants. To achieve this, UNSSC adopts a rigorous methodology in its selection process that considers the course's scope, objectives, and expected outcomes. UNSSC utilizes specific selection criteria for its course participants to promote cohort-based learning and increase course impact.

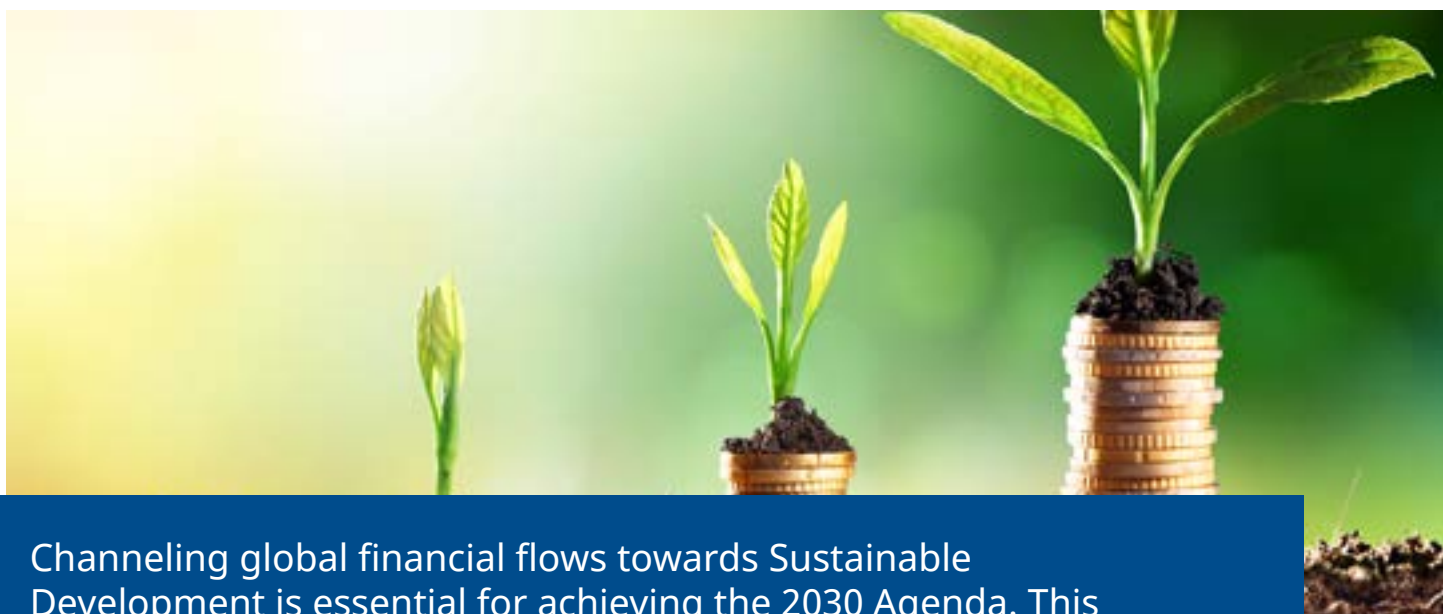
Participants will enjoy the following benefits from the free online course:

- (3-months access to course materials (including exclusive video material and key readings), recording of webinars and speakers' presentations)).
- Participation in live webinars with renowned subject matter experts.
- Exclusive access to the UNSSC online social learning environment with training and supporting background materials, and the opportunity to stay connected with colleagues.

Certificates from the United Nations System Staff College will be awarded to participants upon completion of the course.

OPEN TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS

Mobilizing Financing for Sustainable Development



Channeling global financial flows towards Sustainable Development is essential for achieving the 2030 Agenda. This course is designed to equip UN staff with knowledge and skills to galvanize financing for sustainable transformation. It will illuminate the financing landscape, examine best practice innovations in mobilizing public and private finance, explore the use of technology in financial inclusion and emphasize the role of the UN staff as catalysts to achieving financial transformation.

Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will require financing to the tune of several trillions of dollars, while current levels of Official Development Assistance stand at a mere 3-4 percent of this requirement. This requires tapping into other sources of finance and emphasizes the need to leverage ODA more effectively to channel global financial flows from unsustainable areas towards sustainable development to accomplish the transformation.

If the challenge is great, so is the prize. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent tremendous investment opportunities. Achieving the SDGs could open up \$12 trillion in market opportunities and create 380 million jobs by 2030.

However, despite growing momentum for sustainable investments, financing gaps remain large. The mobilization of both public and private resources and investments falls far short of what is needed. Engineering innovative investment opportunities by shifting the structures of incentives, amplifying domestic resource mobilization, leveraging digital transformation and fintech, redirecting pension funds towards more sustainable opportunities, and unlocking the potential of new channels such as crowd sourcing and crowdfunding could all help accelerate our progress towards the goals.

Financing the 2030 Agenda will require a radical transformation in the way that we think and work. This course is designed to equip UN staff with knowledge and skills to play a catalytic role in the mobilization of finance for sustainable development.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the development finance landscape;
- Be aware of UN approaches and catalytic actions to support the development and implementation of national sustainable financing strategies;
- Demonstrate an enhanced understanding of strategies to mobilize and leverage public and private resources and investments for SDGs

Course Methodology

This face-to-face course combines inputs and lectures by high-level subject matter experts with opportunities for knowledge sharing and participatory exercises. Participants are led to apply their learning through application-oriented learning methodologies such as case studies, collaborative group exercises, team discussions, and dialogues with the speakers.

Contents

The 2030 Agenda and the imperatives for change in the ways in which it will be financed, defining the UN's role in supporting national financing strategies, mapping the financial landscape, innovations in public, private and blended finance, understanding the demand for sustainable investing, leveraging digital and fintech, resources and support available within the UN system.

Target Audience

UN staff: Resident Coordinator Office staff engaged in financing for the SDGs, coordination officers, financing and partnership specialists and officers, programme and policy specialists.

Cost of Participation

The course fee of \$2,500 covers the following:

- Four days of training with a balance of presentations and group work on case studies and exercises.
- Exclusive access to a UNSSC online social learning environment with training and supporting background materials, and the opportunity to stay connected with colleagues.
- All course materials, resources and contacts.

Participants are expected to cover all travel and lodging costs related to their attendance at the course.

Certificates from the UNSSC will be awarded to participants upon completion.

OPEN TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS

Applying Design Thinking in Implementing the 2030 Agenda: An Innovative Approach to Innovation



Based on the principles of design thinking, this four-day course equips participants with the knowledge and skills to apply integrative and cross-disciplinary thinking to come up with innovative, human-centered solutions designed to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Introduction

The 2030 Agenda demands integrated approaches capable of delivering transformative results. This requires viewing development interventions through a holistic lens and assessing their impacts on the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, as well as carefully considering the synergies and trade-offs produced by them. Traditional approaches to development programming that focus on individual sectors and patchwork policy-making are not enough to address the challenges facing the world today. Recognizing that employing the same approaches over and over again will not yield different results, the notion of sustainable development requires all-of-society to come up with novel, innovative, and human-centered approaches. It urges us to go back to the drawing board to think creatively and be innovative.

The notion of design thinking focuses on the human experience. In essence, design thinking is a human-centered systematic approach to problem-solving. When applied to sustainable development, it can result in local, collaborative, and participatory initiatives that are based on the local context rather than being retrofitted to it.

Holistic, uninhibited, collaborative, iterative and visual, design thinking fosters integrative and cross-disciplinary thinking.

This course will enable participants to understand and analyze the design of their organizational initiatives from the perspective of the “end-user,” i.e., the people, and gain a better understanding

of how initiatives can be designed to work in a local context. By guiding participants through the different stages of design thinking, this course will empower them to apply integrative and cross-disciplinary thinking in order to come up with human-centered solutions or reconsider existing organizational initiatives in support of the 2030 Agenda. Participants will also benefit from a design thinking toolkit that will encourage them to apply design thinking to their work

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will:

- Demonstrate a sound understanding of the notion of sustainable development, the 2030 Agenda, and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, its vision, and principles; and the holistic approach of the 5Ps – People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnerships;
- Demonstrate a sound understanding of the key principles and stages of the design thinking process, the concept of innovation, and types of innovation;
- Be able to understand and analyze development initiatives within the local context of where they are implemented, and be able to apply integrative and cross-disciplinary thinking in support of human-centered and sustainable solutions.

Course Methodology

This face-to-face course combines inputs and lectures by high-level subject matter experts with opportunities for knowledge sharing and participatory exercises. Participants are led to apply their learning through application-oriented learning methodologies such as case studies, collaborative group exercises, team discussions, and dialogues with speakers.

Contents

Sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development; vision and principles; key principles and stages of the design thinking process: empathizing, defining, ideating, prototyping and testing; innovation and types of innovation; collaborative design rooted in culture and context; and cross-disciplinary and integrative thinking.

Target Audience

UN personnel and representatives from governments, civil society, and the private sector

Cost of Participation

The course fee of 2500 USD covers the following:

- Four days of training with a balance of presentations and group work on case studies and exercises.
- Exclusive access to UNSSC online social learning environment with training and supporting background materials, and the opportunity to stay connected with colleagues.
- All course materials, resources and contacts.

Participants are expected to cover all travel and lodging costs related to their attendance of the course.

Certificates from the United Nations System Staff College will be awarded to participants upon completion of the course.



PARTNER

**We help the UN and partners to better
engage in constructive partnerships to
become genuine catalysts for sustainable
development**



Building Partnerships for Sustainable Development



This course is designed to strengthen knowledge and understanding regarding the imperatives for building partnerships and offer key elements of partnering. The course also serves as a platform for cross-fertilization and knowledge and experience sharing among partnership practitioners.

Introduction

Within the context of a rapidly evolving development (cooperation) environment, it is critical to examine ways to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships. The UN is increasingly interacting with new, emerging, and 'non-traditional' development cooperation partners, such as philanthropic foundations, the private sector, academia, and civil society, who are jointly taking responsibility to shape the 2030 Agenda and implement the Paris Agreement.

During the interactive introductory partnership course and based on inputs from subject matter experts, participants reflect on the specific modalities of working with different partners to achieve development effectiveness. With the intention to strengthen participants' knowledge and understanding about imperatives for building partnerships, the course explores key elements of partnering such as ethics, due diligence, rules of engagement, biases and stereotypes, conflicts of interest, as well as partnership frameworks and cases.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will:

- understand why multi-stakeholder partnerships are crucial for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement;
- have reflected upon challenges and opportunities regarding partnership development;
- be familiarized with policies, guidance, and tools that facilitate partnerships between the UN and other stakeholders;
- be cognizant of the drive and different roles of different development actors;
- gain knowledge and skills to build substantive and sustainable partnerships.

Course Methodology

The course builds on interactive methodologies as well as the expertise from subject matter experts and participants representing different sectors. It also features application through the use of real-life case studies and practical exercises.

The training programme promotes intellectual and practical knowledge sharing and fosters a culture of understanding and cross-fertilization among participants. It offers a venue for networking among participants of various organizations aiming at fruitful collaborations and partnerships.

Contents

- **Day 1:** Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships Imperatives.
- **Day 2:** The Partnering Cycle: understanding the different stages and how to use them.
- **Day 3:** Partnering examples from within the UN and from civil society. Ethics and reputational risks. Partnership and due diligence.
- **Day 4:** Partnering with the Private Sector. Way Forward.

Target Audience

UN staff: Programme and Policy Specialists, Coordination Officers, Partnership Specialists and Officers.

Cost of Participation

The course fee of 2,500 USD will cover the following:

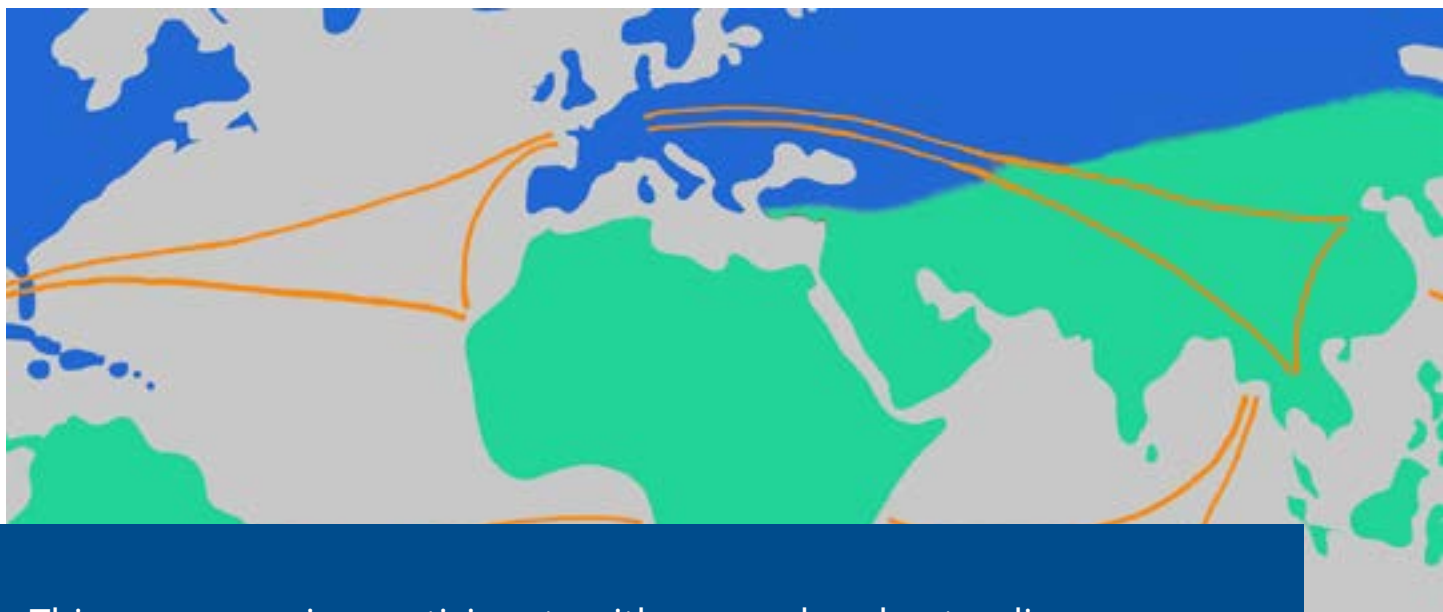
- four days of training with a balance of presentations and group work on case studies and exercises;
- exclusive access to UNSSC online social learning environment with training and supporting background materials, and the opportunity to stay connected with colleagues;
- all course materials, resources, and contacts.

Participants are expected to cover all travel costs related to their attendance in the course.

Certificates from the UN System Staff College will be awarded to participants upon completion of the course.

OPEN TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS

UN Catalytic Support to South-South & Triangular Cooperation



This course equips participants with a sound understanding of the theory and practice of South-South and Triangular Cooperation and how it can advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through new and effective cooperation models.

Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development demands new approaches to knowledge and skills development for all actors. It requires issues-based modus operandi, fostering new partnerships to identify key problems and opportunities, leveraging diverse means of implementation, and facilitating joint action to ensure progress and maximize results. The nature and ambition of the 2030 Agenda require new and effective partnerships to ensure its implementation.

Recognizing the growing importance of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SS&TC) in accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the UN System Staff College offers this course in close cooperation with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). The course builds a common understanding of the theory and practice of South-South and Triangular Cooperation as a means of development cooperation. It equips participants with the key principles, tools, and methods needed to comprehend the challenges and opportunities inherent in the approach, as well as to better understand the roles of different actors involved and to mobilize relevant partnerships. It explores the catalytic role the UN can play in helping to further promote the South-South Cooperation agendas of its member states and development partners as a whole.

The course expands its coverage beyond individual UN staff and UN Country Team members to governments and institutional focal points on South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- demonstrate a solid understanding of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the paradigm shift that it brings;
- understand the foundations and the modalities of the SS&TC approach in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- familiarize with the most recent tools and methods applied by various stakeholders in the area of SS&TC;
- effectively apply SS&TC in advancing the national development priorities and implementation of the 2030 Agenda in their respective countries.

Course Methodology

Through interactive and participatory sessions, combined with inputs from subject matter experts from around the world, participants will share practices and explore ways to enhance political, economic, social, and technical collaboration across the three pillars of sustainable development and to mobilize South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Contents

- **Day 1:** Building a clear conceptual framework for understanding SS&TC in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: historical background and rationale, principles, modalities, and approaches.
- **Day 2:** Exploring the diversity of SS&TC programmes and approaches in support of national sustainable development priorities: meeting key partners and players, understanding key driving forces for cooperation, and the tools and strategies applied.
- **Day 3:** Implementing SS&TC initiatives at country level: important steps and success factors; monitoring and evaluating SS&TC; way forward.

Target Audience

UN staff and development practitioners; governments and institutional focal points on South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Cost of Participation

The course fee of 2,000 USD will cover the following:

- three days of training with a balance of presentations and group work on case studies and exercises.
- exclusive access to UNSSC online social learning environment with training and supporting background materials, and the opportunity to stay connected with colleagues.
- all course materials, resources and contacts.

Participants are expected to cover all travel costs related to their attendance in the course.

Joint Certificate from the UN System Staff College and UN Office for South-South Cooperation will be awarded to participants upon completion of the course.

OPEN TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS

Unleashing the Power of the Private Sector in Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



This course introduces participants to the different types of private sector entities and demonstrates how strategically engaging with these entities can help implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It introduces participants to tools to identify common objectives to create shared value and emphasizes the importance of mitigating risk. The course also reinforces the need for participants to advocate for placing sustainable development at the core of businesses and investing.

Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is unprecedented in its scope and ambition. The UN and governments have neither the reach nor the resources to implement it alone. Engagement, especially with the private sector, is imperative for the 2030 Agenda to succeed.

The private sector, with its unparalleled reach, has the capacity to be a key driver to achieve the objectives of the 2030 Agenda. In some cases, the private sector is already performing this role. The UN and its member states must seize the opportunity of forming strategic partnerships with private sector entities and advocating for businesses to embrace sustainable development in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Moreover, the 2030 Agenda offers the private sector numerous opportunities to access new markets and institutional investment, estimated at about \$12 trillion by 2030 while adding 380 million new jobs. This in itself is a compelling argument for the private sector and governments to work together to make the 2030 Agenda a reality.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will:

- Understand the need to engage with the private sector for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda
- Demonstrate familiarity with frameworks and tools to develop partnerships with the private sector
- Appreciate the importance of due diligence before pursuing engagement
- Acquire the ability to articulate the need for and advocate for enhanced private sector engagement in achieving the 2030 Agenda

Course Methodology

UNSSC online courses are designed to deliver maximum learning outcomes through optimal time investments into carefully chosen high-quality learning materials. Specially tailored to the needs of the professionals interested in developing skills to advance their career or deepening their knowledge on a particular subject matter, our highly facilitated online courses combine self-paced study modules with applied learning components such as case studies, interactive exercises, and collaborative group work.

Participants also benefit from live moderated webinars, which feature valuable inputs from renowned subject matter experts and allow real-time dialogue with the high-level speakers. Webinar recordings are also made available to ensure that participants have a flexible and seamless learning experience. A competent facilitator guides and assists the participants all along the course and provides real-time feedback on activities and exercises. Our user-friendly social online learning platform provides participants with the opportunity to connect with peers from diverse organizational backgrounds, fostering peer-to-peer learning.

While being interactive and participatory, UNSSC online courses give learners the opportunity to complete activities when it best fits their schedule. Participants are largely free to determine their own weekly study plan. Lasting five weeks and demanding 6 hours of dedication a week, UNSSC online courses incorporate the same high academic rigor as any UNSSC face-to-face programme.

Contents

- **Week 1:** How partnerships are vital to the 2030 Agenda.
- **Week 2:** The role of the private sector in implementing the 2030 Agenda.
- **Week 3:** How to pursue partnerships with the private sector: frameworks for action.
- **Week 4:** Due Diligence: protecting against reputational risk.
- **Week 5:** Engaging with the private sector: the way forward.

Target Audience

UN staff, especially partnership specialists and officers. Development practitioners from governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector.

Cost of Participation

This online course is offered free-of-charge.

UNSSC fosters collaborative peer-to-peer learning among its course participants. To achieve this, UNSSC adopts a rigorous methodology in its selection process that considers the course's scope, objectives, and expected outcomes. UNSSC utilizes specific selection criteria for its course participants to promote cohort-based learning and increase course impact.

Participants will enjoy the following benefits from the free online course:

- (3-months access to course materials (including exclusive video material and key readings), recording of webinars and speakers' presentations)).
- Participation in live webinars with renowned subject matter experts.
- Exclusive access to the UNSSC online social learning environment with training and supporting background materials, and the opportunity to stay connected with colleagues.

Certificates from the United Nations System Staff College will be awarded to participants upon completion of the course.



MEASURE

We recognize the importance of a coherent measurement language in the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda, which is reflected in our learning offerings



Advanced Course on Measurements for Results-Based Management



“What gets measured gets managed.” Well-developed, structured, and measurable planned results are essential to manage programmes and projects, to involve the right people, and to achieve sustainable development results. The course equips participants with skills to develop measurable programme objectives, design performance measures, and indicators, and identify appropriate data analysis procedures.

Introduction

Designed and delivered in collaboration with the ROI Institute, this course enables effective results-based management (RBM) in UN system organizations by enhancing staff competencies in designing, monitoring, and evaluating projects and programmes. The advanced course builds upon other UNSSC offerings on RBM and evaluation by providing more in-depth, technical, and skills-building learning on one of the key elements of RBM strategies: performance measurement.

Through a mix of theoretical learning, practical exercises, and UN case studies, participants build skills in development measures, collecting and analyzing data, reporting results, and using data to manage performance.

Objectives

Upon the successful completion of this course, participants will:

- Have gained an in-depth understanding of the relationship between measurement and effective RBM as well as the RBM process;
- Be able to identify stakeholder data needs and be able to develop performance measures/indicators reflective of stakeholder needs, as well as measurable programme objectives that reflect the intended performance measures/indicators;
- Be familiar with data analysis procedures and be able to select the appropriate procedure given

the level of measurement and type of measure;

- Have learned how to communicate the results of an evaluation project in practical terms;
- Have enhanced their knowledge and skills to use measurement results to improve programmes and make informed decisions.

Course Methodology

UNSSC online courses are designed to deliver maximum learning outcomes through optimal time investments into carefully chosen high-quality learning materials. Specially tailored to the needs of the professionals interested in developing skills to advance their career or deepening their knowledge on a particular subject matter, our highly facilitated online courses combine self-paced study modules with applied learning components such as case studies, interactive exercises, and collaborative group work.

Participants also benefit from live moderated webinars, which feature valuable inputs from renowned subject-matter experts and allow real-time dialogue with the high-level speakers. Webinar recordings are also made available to ensure that participants have a flexible and seamless learning experience. A competent facilitator guides and assists the participants all along the course and provides real-time feedback on activities and exercises. Our user-friendly social online learning platform provides participants with the opportunity to connect with peers from diverse organizational backgrounds, fostering peer-to-peer learning.

While being interactive and participatory, UNSSC online courses give learners the opportunity to complete activities when it best fits their schedule. Participants are largely free to determine their own weekly study plan. Lasting six weeks and demanding 6 hours of dedication a week, UNSSC online courses incorporate the same high academic rigor as any UNSSC face-to-face programme.

Contents

- **Week 1:** General overview of RBM and the imperatives for it. Basic concepts and theories underpinning RBM. Five paradigms of RBM; RBM at project and programme level;
- **Week 2:** The characteristics of RBM at the institutional and policy level;
- **Week 3:** Programme alignment: results-based framework and development of sound objectives and indicators;
- **Week 4:** Indicators of achievement and the logical framework approach;
- **Week 5:** Data collection, data analysis, and the reporting of results;
- **Week 5:** Monitoring and evaluation. Development of a measurement plan to ensure effective results-based management for projects and programmes.

Target Audience

UN and UN-affiliated staff involved in project/programme management, including design, monitoring, and evaluation.

Cost of Participation

The course fee of 1850 USD will cover the following:

- Unlimited access to course materials (video and key readings), recording of webinars and speakers' presentations;
- Participation in live webinars with renowned subject matter experts on RBM, measurement;
- Exclusive access to a UNSSC online social learning environment with training and supporting background materials, and the opportunity to stay connected with colleagues.

Certificates from the UN System Staff College will be awarded to participants upon completion of the course.

Results-Based Management to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda



This comprehensive training programme is designed to equip UN staff with the knowledge and skills to apply results-based management (RBM) principles and tools (causality analysis, theory of change, results chain, indicator frameworks) in supporting integrated and multi-dimensional UN programming in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a “game-changer” that requires more than a mere harmonization of terminology or coordination of parallel efforts. It calls for integrated, interdependent, and multidisciplinary outcomes by the UN system for collective impact.

One of the most powerful resources at the disposal of the UN development system is results-based management, commonly defined as “a management strategy by which all actors ensure that processes, products, and services contribute to achieving a set of results.”

Results-based management starts long before the logical frameworks traditionally associated with RBM. It begins with a causality analysis that lays sound foundations for the Theory of Change to address deeply interrelated and interdependent development challenges.

Making the UN response to national priorities more results-oriented, integrated, and aligned with the 2030 Agenda is what all countries expect from the United Nations. These expectations can be met by using the full potential of results-based management.

This course offers a mix of knowledge and skills for advancing the applications of RBM principles and tools and strengthening the quality of UN programming at the country level. Participants will become fully knowledgeable of RBM and its practical application, innovative ways, and approaches to support the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of UN sustainable development programmes.

Objectives

Upon the successful completion of this course, participants will:

- have a common understanding of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the UN Reform and their implications for the UN System effective country-level interventions;
- define UN System approach to results-based management;
- be able to use specific RBM tools (theory of change, results frameworks) in planning, project/programme proposal drafting, monitoring, reporting, and evaluation.

Course Methodology

The course will adopt a blended format of instructional sessions and practical application. Participants will complete mini-RBM projects starting from identifying a development challenge, elaborating its theory of change, risks and assumptions, creating its results framework, formulating results, targets, and indicators to strengthen learning retention and application.

Course enrolment will be limited to 25 participants to maximize interaction with the course instructors and derive the most benefit out of small group work.

Contents

- **Week 1:** 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN Reform, UN Integrated Programming and Overview of RBM;
- **Week 2:** Theory of Change (from problem tree to solution pathway), RBM for strategic planning;
- **Week 3:** Results chain, Risks, and Assumptions, Indicators, Results-based budgeting;
- **Week 4:** Managing for Results, Results Reporting;
- **Week 5:** Monitoring and Evaluation.

Target Audience

UN strategic planners; Chairs/members of UNSDCF groups/results groups/task teams; UN Coordination officers/advisors; UN staff involved in project/programme management

Cost of Participation

The course fee of 2,500 USD will cover the following:

- five days of training with a balance of presentations and group work on case studies and exercises;
- exclusive access to a UNSSC online social learning environment with training and supporting background materials, and the opportunity to stay connected with colleagues;
- all course materials, resources, and contacts.

Participants are expected to cover all travel costs related to their attendance in the course.

Certificates from the UN System Staff College will be awarded to participants upon completion of the course.

What a UN Evaluator Needs to know: How to Manage UN Evaluations in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



The course equips UN staff with the knowledge and skills to design, commission, and manage evaluations to strengthen the oversight, transparency, accountability, and collective learning arrangements of the United Nations development system to enable continual enhancement of its contributions to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Introduction

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development opened a new page in the history of mankind with all nations united by the same 17 Sustainable Development Goals, 169 targets, and 230 indicators to build a sustainable, inclusive, prosperous, and stable societies for all people, leaving no one behind.

Independent evaluation has an important role to play in strengthening the oversight, transparency, accountability, and collective learning arrangements of the United Nations development system to enable continual enhancement of its contributions to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The United Nations System Staff College Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development collaborates with the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG) in organizing and delivering this joint course. UNEG will, as knowledge experts in the field of evaluation, provide input and support to the development and implementation of this training and participate in segments of it. The collaboration will harness know-how across the UN system on evaluations and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Structured around the UN system-wide approach to evaluations and using the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) evaluation process as the UN common evaluation example, the course is to develop capacities of UN staff - currently or potentially involved in the evaluation process - to design, commission, manage and use evaluations in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Upon the completion of the course, participants will be provided with an opportunity to join and benefit from the online-facilitated Community of Practice with UN Evaluation professionals.

Objectives

By the end of the course, UN staff will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to design, commission, and manage evaluations to strengthen the oversight, transparency, accountability, and collective learning arrangements of the United Nations development system to enable continual enhancement of its contributions to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Specific Objectives:

By the end of the course, participants will:

- Have a common understanding of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Reform and their implications for the UN development system effective country-level interventions;
- Have a better understanding of what is evaluation, different types of evaluation, and the role of evaluation in the UN system, with a special emphasis on the UNSDCF evaluation;
- Have developed competencies to design, commission, manage and use evaluations in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Exchange experiences, lessons learned and good practices emanating from the UN system and international cooperation.

Course Methodology

The course will adopt a blended format of instructional sessions, experience sharing, and peer-to-peer learning. Participants will also work on real-world examples and exercises to strengthen learning retention and application.

Course enrolment will be limited to 25 participants to maximize interaction with course instructors and derive the most benefit out of the small group work.

The course will be, to the extent possible, tailored to the realities and contexts of the participants of each edition by using contextualized adjusted examples, case studies, and exercises.

Target Audience

UN Programme staff, involved in programme management, supporting and contributing to evaluations, UN Strategic planners, Chairs/members of UNSDCF results and M&E groups and staff from UN Resident Coordinator's Office.

Course enrolment eligibility and requirements

Solid understanding and practical experience in results-based management and/or programming is mandatory for this course, and participants should have been trained (formally or on-job) in Results-based management.

Cost of Participation

The course fee covers the following:

- Three-days of training with a balance of presentations and group work on case studies and exercises
- Exclusive access to our online learning platform with training and supporting background materials, and the opportunity to stay connected with colleagues
- Access to the online-facilitated Community of Practice with UN Evaluation professionals
- All course materials, resources, and contacts

Participants are expected to cover all travel costs related to their attendance in the course.


Certification

Joint Certificates of Attendance from the UN System Staff College and UN Evaluation Group will be awarded to participants who complete the course.



LEAD

We create a space where leaders across sectors can hone their craft, becoming more effective and strategic facilitators, implementers, and leaders of transformational change



The UN Country Team Leadership Course: Maximizing Synergies for Greater Impact



Building on the repositioning process of the UN development system, the Decade of Action, and the imperative for sustainable societal transformation in the light of the post-Covid efforts to build back better, this executive five-day programme will strengthen skills and capabilities required for UN leaders to drive the nationally owned 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The course focuses on the areas of integrated policy support, systems-thinking, strategic communications, and collaborative and agile leadership. An exclusive feature of the programme embeds experiential learning through a site visit, demonstrating the real-life interconnectedness of the 5Ps—people, planet, prosperity, partnership, and peace. In addition, UN leaders will receive a high impact professional and personalized media training as part of the course.

Introduction

We are all called to lead, to act, to change. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents an imperative for change for the United Nations. The Covid-19 pandemic has drastically underlined the connections between immediate public health measures and wider economic, social, and environmental linkages, which need to be considered when designing and implementing integrated responses. Yet, the efforts to build back better risk favoring unsustainable short-term gains, which will ultimately increase inequality and threaten the planet, over a push toward the needed long-term transformation toward human well-being within planetary boundaries.

The course aims at supporting UN leaders to articulate, facilitate, and broker the needed changes in support of the people in the countries they serve. It also provides a space to discuss the necessary adjustments in the structure, leadership, accountability mechanisms, interaction, and capacities of the UN development system, which are required to ensure it is positioned to provide countries with

the support they need while strengthening its relevance. The UN needs visionary and principled leadership across the system to address today's challenging world. It needs leaders who stand up for UN values— and who inspire through their commitment to peace, justice, respect, human rights, tolerance, and solidarity.

Participants will deepen their knowledge and sharpen their political acumen through engaging discussions with UN senior officials and subject matter experts. There will be opportunities to share practices through interactive peer-to-peer learning and workshops that unpack inter-agency concerns as well as individual agency contexts and develop solutions that leverage each UN agency's strengths and expertise.

Experiential learning methods such as a site visit, as well as a full-day media training, will complement the intense training programme.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will:

- Have strengthened their knowledge of the vision and principles underlying the 2030 Agenda as well as the approaches to its implementation through practical means and mechanisms to sustainable development;
- Have gained a deeper understanding of the repositioning process of the UN development system and the implications for UN agencies and Resident Coordinator Offices at country level;
- Have gained a deeper understanding of integrated approaches to sustainable development and systems thinking, in the context of building back better post-Covid 19;
- Have improved their understanding of the defining characteristics of UN leadership and the various ways of working that exemplify these leadership characteristics
- Have acquired knowledge of mechanisms and tools that enhance UNCTs' integrated policy support to countries;
- Be ready to apply the art of effective and strategic communication to improve the quality of dialogue with partners and stakeholders, increase advocacy, and highlight results

Course Methodology

This face-to-face course combines inputs and lectures by subject-matter experts and senior UN staff with opportunities for knowledge sharing and participatory exercises.

Participants apply their learning through case studies, engaging site visits, team discussions, participatory and innovative learning methods, and dialogues with speakers.

Contents

Sustainable Development Vision and Principles; Challenges and opportunities of repositioning the UN development system; sustainable transformation and systems thinking in the context of Building Back Better; improving political acumen and leadership skills; strengthening strategic communication and advocacy skills.

Target Audience

UN Resident Coordinators (RC) and RC Candidates, Country Directors and representatives of UN agencies, funds, and programmes

Cost of Participation

The course fee of 5500 USD covers the following:

- Five days of training, including lunches, coffee breaks, as well as an evening reception
- A full-day professional media training to foster competencies to handle various kinds of interviews and press conferences effectively.
- Exclusive access to UNSSC's online social learning environment with training and supporting background materials, and the opportunity to stay connected with colleagues.
- All course materials, resources and contacts.

Participants are expected to cover all travel and lodging costs related to their attendance of the course.

Certificates from the United Nations System Staff College will be awarded to participants upon completion of the course.

UNCT Dream Teams



In direct response to the call by UN Secretary-General António Guterres to reposition the UN development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda and to work towards “a new generation of Country Teams that are tailored to the specific needs of each country,” this training allows UNCTs to discuss and strengthen their collective leadership, mutual accountability, advocacy, and partnership skills while deepening the definition of their collective value proposition to maximize results in the country they are serving.

Introduction

The UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development contributes to coherent approaches to sustainable development policy and practice through the development of learning tools, platforms for interaction, and a mature set of learning offerings.

It also serves as a catalyst and convener, prompting dialogue and knowledge sharing on issues relevant to the vision and mission of the United Nations, in concert with a diverse set of stakeholders from governments, academia, the private sector, and civil society.

With the support of the Federal Republic of Germany and consistent with the demand by UN member states for the UN Development System to reposition and accelerate its support to countries in terms of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in line with national priorities and on the basis of international norms and standards, UNSSC designs tailored leadership programmes for UN Country teams. These trainings cover a wide range of topics pertaining to the 2030 Agenda, UNDS Repositioning in the specific country context, as well as competencies and skills required to collectively define country contextual responses.

Tailored Content

The DREAM TEAM Training will be tailored to the specific UNCT needs:

- The duration can be between 3 and 5 days
- Inputs, reflections and sessions can include topics such as
 - o vision and principles of the 2030 Agenda
 - o collaborative and agile UNCT leadership
 - o systems thinking in a post-Covid 19 world
 - o climate crisis and economic transformation: what role for the UN?
 - o design thinking and innovation
 - o team building
 - o partnerships
 - o negotiation and political acumen
 - o advocacy
 - o executive media training
 - o contextualized UNDS Repositioning and the collective value proposition

Target Audience

UN Country Teams

Cost of Participation

The fees depend on the content and elements of the tailored programme.

Participants are expected to cover all travel and lodging costs related to their attendance of the course.

Certificates from the United Nations System Staff College will be awarded to participants upon completion of the course.

Learning to Lead: Transitioning to Adaptive Sustainable Development Leadership



The four-day programme for aspiring mid-level UN staff prepares participants for the critical transition to a greater leadership role in supporting transformative processes at country-level and builds on innovative and technologically advanced practices for sustainable development.

The programme strengthens political acumen and broadens the participants' scope of vision to prepare them for more strategic and upstream policy advisory roles to drive nationally owned sustainable development strategies.

The course strengthens collaboration for sustainable development, provides opportunities to practice substantive leadership skills to engage and influence stakeholders and to become transformative change agents.

Introduction

For the first time in humanity's history, we live in a world in which all countries are committed to a global action plan for people, prosperity, and the planet – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The challenges to achieving this ambitious promise are enormous, and the United Nations – impactful, effective, fit for purpose – has never before been more needed by its Member States than now.

The ongoing UN development system repositioning process calls for a new set of attributes for the UN leadership – impactful, adaptive, purposeful, holistic, and agile – to effectively lead the organization to deliver results at the scale and pace required to help the countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

The course will enable the UN staff who are aspiring to take on the UN leadership roles to build on a more profound understanding of the paradigmatic shift required by the 2030 Agenda and the changing role of the UN, as well as the new attributes of the leadership positions in the UN to align and harness their own competencies and skills to make the necessary transition into roles of greater responsibility.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, the participants will:

- Strengthen their knowledge of the vision and principles underlying the 2030 Agenda and effective approaches towards its implementation through practical means and mechanisms to sustainable development;
- Understand the ongoing repositioning of the UN development system, as well as the related UN reform streams, and the implications for the UN work at country, regional and global levels;
- Have an understanding of their current “starting point” in this process and what competencies, skills, and values they will need to develop to move to a leadership role in the repositioned UN system to provide impactful and transformative support to countries on their sustainable development paths;
- Harness their individual purpose and leadership style as a driver of superior performance for organizational impact;
- Acquire and build self-awareness and commit to impactful and adaptive sustainable development leadership.

Course Methodology

This face-to-face course combines inputs and lectures by subject matter experts and senior UN staff with opportunities for knowledge sharing and participatory exercises.

Participants are led to apply their learning through experiential learning methodologies such as case studies, team discussions, and dialogues with the speakers.

Contents

- Sustainable development, 2030 Agenda and the SDGs: concepts, vision, interconnectedness and complexity, global and local, challenges and opportunities, countries and the UN.
- Leadership models and styles: qualities required for successful leadership, practical techniques to improve leadership and management, and strategies for encouraging innovation and managing change.
- Learning to lead for sustainable development: cultivating the necessary thinking, values, and skills; shaping the context; embracing purposeful, reflective, and adaptive leadership style.

Target Audience

UN staff at the P3-P4 levels and equivalent, working on issues related to the UN support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the sustainable development goals (SDGs) at national, regional, and global levels.

Cost of Participation

The course fee of \$2,500 will cover the following:

- Four days of training with a balance of presentations, group work on case studies, and individual skills reflection exercises;
- Exclusive access to a UNSSC online social learning environment with training and supporting background materials, and the opportunity to stay connected with colleagues;
- All course materials, resources and contacts.

Participants are expected to cover all travel costs related to their attendance in the course.

Certificates from the UN System Staff College will be awarded to participants upon completion of the course.

UN MASTERMIND



The UN Mastermind is a small peer-to-peer mentoring group with members consisting of UN senior leaders, chief executives, and directors who are addressing the challenges of achieving the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development in times of uncertainty.

Introduction

Before the Covid-19 pandemic began to paralyze large parts of the world, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres ushered in the 'Decade of Action' to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

The Global Sustainable Development Report, as well as the 2019 Secretary-General's Sustainable Development Goals Report, had both highlighted that despite considerable efforts, the world wasn't on track, and a growing number of experts began to voice concerns about genuine commitment and effort underpinning the sustainable development response.

Covid-19 hit in full scale, amplifying the need for transformative change and leadership even further. As the Secretary-General subsequently highlighted in the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020, "the effects of COVID-19 are imperiling progress towards the SDGs and could set back years of development gains."

As the world begins planning for a post-pandemic recovery, it is crucial to seize the opportunity to "build back better" by creating more sustainable, resilient and inclusive societies. But this is easier said than done. We at the UN System Staff College recognize this challenge, particularly for those whose job it is to turn the ambition of a sustainable future for all into a reality. Building back better requires us to actively pursue strategies to win for people and planet. There is no time for complacency, neither on substance nor on the process. Sustainable development is not an option, it is a necessity, and we don't need incremental change but transformation.

To support executive-level leaders in sustainable development, we designed a new peer-support initiative, the UN Mastermind Groups.

Course Methodology

- Participation in a 3-month program with 6 x 90-minute virtual meetings
- Meetings are two weeks apart with an opportunity for communication, support, and discussions outside mastermind group sessions via a dedicated platform
- Facilitated and hosted by an experienced Mastermind facilitator
- Interactive and engaging in style, including regular breakout sessions and a chance to work in a variety of group settings
- Every participant will work on their own executive leadership challenge related to Sustainable Development during the program while supporting other group members
- The agenda belongs to the group (6-8 people), and each person's participation is key. Peers provide feedback, help brainstorm new possibilities, and set up accountability structures that keep participants focused and on track.

Distinct Groups

As a pilot, the UNSSC Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development launched two distinct UN Mastermind Groups in 2020—the UNCT Alumni Mastermind Group and the UN Leaders for Sustainable Development Mastermind Group.

The UNCT Alumni Mastermind group

Shaping a sustainable future post-Covid also closely ties in with the UN Development System Reform process. Following the endorsement of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework as a core instrument for conceptualizing, planning, and implementing the UN development activities at country level, UN Resident Coordinators, UN Country Teams, and individual UN entities are exploring, testing, and conceptualizing new ways of working together to contribute to better lives in dignity and prosperity on a healthy planet.

But at times, as we have learned from senior leaders during our UNCT Leadership courses in Bonn, UNCT members (in any role) can also feel fairly isolated. This is where the UNCT Alumni Mastermind Group comes in. Through peer-to-peer engagement and mentoring, identified executive-level participants ideate, discuss and reflect on their own leadership contributions and solutions towards a UN Development System whose impact is truly larger than the sum of its parts; and one that is expressly focused on the impact for people and planet.

The UN Leaders for Sustainable Development Mastermind group

To tackle sustainable development, climate change, and other global challenges such as the current Covid-19 pandemic, governments, the business sector, academia, civil society, and international organizations must work together. Facilitating interaction between and among senior executives representing different backgrounds is critical to foster this.

The UN Leaders for Sustainable Development Mastermind Group facilitates peer interaction between and among senior executive leaders from different walks of life to ideate, discuss and reflect on their leadership contributions and solutions towards the design, development, and implementation of sustainable development pathways. Moreover, the UN Leaders for Sustainable Development Mastermind Group will also serve as an incubator for multi-stakeholder engagement and collaboration.

Target Audience

The new initiative, open to a carefully selected group of alumni and resource persons, focuses on professionals who are 'centers of influence' to discuss, brainstorm, share knowledge and explore solutions related to effective UN country team and/or sustainable development work. UN Mastermind groups are all about "putting leading minds together for a common purpose, i.e., sustainable development." They promote the highest level of systems thinking, collaboration, innovative mindset, transformational change, and diversity.

Cost of Participation


The UN Mastermind is by invitation only and offered free-of-charge.

Certificates from the UN System Staff College will be awarded to participants upon completion of the UN Mastermind.



COMMUNICATE

We facilitate learning on effective communication and advocacy for sustainable development and engage alumni and the larger community in continuous discussions through diverse knowledge management platforms and training formats



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Recognizing communication as a core leadership function, this three-day executive course equips senior UN staff, public and private sector representatives, as well as other key stakeholders with advanced skills and knowledge required to articulate and actively communicate a credible and convincing strategic vision for the UN, aligned with the 2030 Agenda. The course provides high-level media training at the professional studios of the German broadcaster Deutsche Welle, along with personalized media coaching. It also features an intense media boot camp that includes crisis communication and leveraging the power of social media.

Introduction

The world needs credible and convincing leaders capable of telling powerful stories to successfully achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The ability to communicate a clear, concise, and compelling vision of a more sustainable future is at the heart of successful, strategic leadership. Recognizing communication as a core leadership function, this three-day executive course equips senior UN staff, as well as senior public and private sector representatives, with the skills and strategic toolkit they need to strengthen support for the 2030 Agenda.

Through intensive, personalized media coaching and high-level media training at the studios of the German broadcaster Deutsche Welle (DW), participants will enhance their ability to successfully mobilize, motivate and inspire their organizations, partners, and stakeholders. An intense media boot camp, which includes crisis communication, will form an important part of the training programme.

The course enables participants to apply the art of strategic and effective communication to improve the quality of dialogue with partners and stakeholders, understand diverse audiences and forge new partnerships, and increase advocacy and highlight results achieved by their organization in support of the 2030 Agenda. Application-oriented learning methods will prompt participants to apply their learning in various exercises, including a final public speaking project addressing a specific challenge, which will be prepared and delivered by participants themselves, with the assistance of highly qualified media professionals.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will:

- Demonstrate a sound understanding of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with a view to crafting strategic narratives around it;
- Have acquired a good understanding of means and ways to craft convincing, powerful, and strategic narratives that are clear, concise, credible, issue-focused, and appeal to the stakeholders' priorities;
- Be equipped with the skills required to credibly convey and deliver messages in support of the sustainable development agenda, highlighting results achieved by their organizations in the context of the 2030 Agenda;
- Have enhanced their communication skills with regards to traditional and new media and will have identified concrete areas for personal improvement.

Course Methodology

The training programme offers a mix of knowledge and skills for effectively communicating the progress made on the implementation and results of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. The course adopts a blended format of instructional sessions, application-oriented activities, and peer-to-peer learning.

Contents

Overview and evolution of the concept of sustainable development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), its vision and principles, as well as the Paris Agreement; means and ways to craft clear, concise, credible, and issue-focused narratives in support of the sustainable development agenda with a view to building ownership for the agenda at different levels; knowledge of latest tools and techniques as well as skills required to credibly convey and deliver messages with regards to traditional and new media; employing new approaches and effective and innovative tools and resources to highlight results achieved by one's organization; visualization and use of accessible language; use of social media within the parameters of the UN; action planning.

Target Audience

Senior UN staff (P5 and above), senior public and private sector representatives and other key stakeholders.

Cost of Participation

The course fee of 3500 USD covers the following:

- Three days of training with a balance of presentations and group work on case studies and exercises.
- Exclusive access to a UNSSC online social learning environment with training and supporting background materials, and the opportunity to stay connected with colleagues.
- All course materials, resources and contacts.

Participants are expected to cover all travel and lodging costs related to their attendance of the course.

Certificates from the United Nations System Staff College will be awarded to participants upon completion of the course.

Communicating for results: Leveraging Communications Skills to Deliver on the 2030 Agenda



This online course offers a holistic and integrated approach to the role of communications as support to the UN development system to convey simply and concretely what the UN is doing to help a country achieve the 2030 Agenda. It offers a perspective on how to use communications beyond the raise awareness approach throughout the programme cycle to enhance periodic monitoring of aid effectiveness and project delivery and to establish a solution based systematic process highlighting UN contribution to the world's population wellbeing.

Introduction

Communication is a cross-cutting issue that impacts the reputation, positioning, and the capability to inspire action of the UN system. The world needs credible and convincing leaders capable of telling powerful stories to successfully achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Moreover, the world needs practitioners who understand the importance of creating a coherent UN and mainstreamed communications process aligned with the UN vision and mission. The world also needs conveyors of hope able to capture audience imagination while offering examples and ways to solve problems

To fulfill this role and function as catalyzers of behavioral change, the UN communications focal points are requested to act together, leading the narrative on global issues and boosting their skills in strategic and solutions communications, impactful storytelling, digital content production, and data analysis and evaluation.

Gaining an understanding of the UN inter-agency development processes and their linkages to effective communication mainstreaming is crucial to stand out in a hyper-connected world in an efficient, coherent, and impactful way. The course will support participants to acquire skills to:

- Convey simply and concretely what the UN development system is doing to help a country

achieve the SDGs and to point out what the UN as a whole is doing right, what is possible on how the UN is making a difference

- Plan strategically for impactful dissemination of results: Selecting the right channels, addressing the right audience, and transmitting the right messages
- Mitigate risks while communicating within the context of an emerging or ongoing crisis
- Create a space for communications during the design and delivery of UN programmes
- Help expand partnerships and collaboration within UN agencies, governments, and other development partners to advance the SDGs

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Familiarize themselves with the global communications strategy of the Organization and its shift to an audience-focused, impact-oriented approach that uses communication not only to inform but to advocate and inspire with content that engages and empowers audiences.
- Understand and build capacity for crisis communications and the specific steps to take and tools to use in crisis situations.
- Demonstrate a sound understanding of the role of strategic communications and communication coordination to deliver on the 2030 Agenda and the programming cycle with a view to better convey, advocate, and disseminate compelling stories on UN work, bringing back values at the forefront of any UN communication efforts.
- Understand the entry points and the existing tools to mainstream communication across UN programmes and UN planning.
- Identify and articulate best practices to share knowledge effectively across the system and to boost UN visibility, positioning, and trust.
- Enhance individual communication skills in a selected range of areas for professional improvement to deliver effectively on the 2030 Agenda.
- Exchange on best practices through real concrete examples on how to leverage UN global access being content creator around the world
- Build up an interagency network of UN communications professionals increasing information exchange flow on best practices and know-how at the global level.
- Enhance a culture of evaluation and impact measurement with strategic planning.
- Facilitate partnership building in communications work at the local level.

Course Methodology

During the five weeks of the course, participants will engage in interactive webinars with high-level experts from the UN system, governments, civil society, and the private sector. Through videos and key reading material, participants will dive deeper into each week's focus area.

In contrast to the less collaborative format of traditional Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), UNSSC online courses combine tutored components with synchronous and asynchronous activities, comprising approximately two hours of knowledge acquisition, two hours of knowledge application to real-life and training scenarios, as well as group work and collaboration with peers. In addition to engaging in self-paced learning, participants in UNSSC online courses also benefit from live webinars with renowned experts on sustainable development, allowing real-time virtual interaction between the instructors and participants.

Contents

- **Week 1:** Introduction: Sustainable Development, UN Reform, 2030 Agenda and Communications
- **Week 2:** Inter-agency programming: Bridging programme and communications; Acquiring political acumen and understanding context
- **Week 3:** Communicating with a purpose (best practices): Audience-Message Nexus
- **Week 4:** Communicating with a purpose (best practices): Channels
- **Week 5:** Building up momentum together; Creating systems to deliver on the 2030 Agenda

Target Audience

Communications officers and associates from the UN system or UN practitioners assigned as UN communication focal points at country level

Cost of Participation

This online course is offered free-of-charge.

UNSSC fosters collaborative peer-to-peer learning among its course participants. To achieve this, UNSSC adopts a rigorous methodology in its selection process that considers the course's scope, objectives, and expected outcomes. UNSSC utilizes specific selection criteria for its course participants to promote cohort-based learning and increase course impact.

Participants will enjoy the following benefits from the free online course:

- (3-months access to course materials (including exclusive video material and key readings), recording of webinars and speakers' presentations)).
- Participation in live webinars with renowned subject matter experts.
- Exclusive access to the UNSSC online social learning environment with training and supporting background materials, and the opportunity to stay connected with colleagues.

Certificates from the United Nations System Staff College will be awarded to participants upon completion of the course.



LEARNING EVENTS



UN Summer Academy



An engaging five-day online programme that fosters rich interaction on issues relevant to the work of the UN and its partners in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement through panel discussions, small-group breakout activities, and a group project.

Introduction

Leveraging the presence of 20 UN entities as well as various leading international development institutions based in Bonn, the UN Summer Academy provides participants with unparalleled learning and networking opportunities. The Summer Academy facilitates and fosters dialogue with thought and action leaders who are currently working towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

The virtual UN Summer Academy builds on the rich legacy of [eight face-to-face editions](#). As in previous editions, the Academy combines academic rigor with cutting-edge thinking, providing participants with unparalleled learning and networking opportunities. It facilitates and fosters dialogue with thought and action leaders who are currently working towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Participants will explore transformative approaches required for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and share concrete examples and practices from diverse country contexts and stakeholder perspectives.

At the same time, this first-of-its-kind virtual edition capitalizes on the additional opportunities offered by its online format. Through experiential learning methodologies, participants will engage with a wide range of expert inputs, as well as in peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchange. Participants will apply the concepts learned to co-develop inputs for the UN75 conversation on current and future risks and opportunities and solutions for global cooperation.

Thanks to the generous support of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, this course is offered at a reduced price of \$250.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of the UN Summer Academy, participants will:

- Demonstrate a sound understanding of the key notions underpinning the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change;
- Demonstrate an improved understanding of the key challenges and opportunities facing the multilateral development system and key actions at global and local levels to drive the future we want.
- Have benefitted from unparalleled networking opportunities, and demonstrate an increased awareness of the role of different development partners; and
- Have received exposure to good practices in the area of sustainable development at the local level.

Course Methodology

Recognizing that transformative learning cannot take place through classical chalk and talk lectures, the UN Summer Academy is designed using experiential online learning methodologies that combine panel discussions featuring high-level speakers with interactive opportunities for knowledge exchange and experience sharing.

The virtual Summer Academy will be synchronous, meaning participants will be expected to be online at the same time during specified hours. (Plenary sessions with all participants will take place between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. CEST. In order to accommodate the widest possible range of international participation, UNSSC will offer small-group breakout activities in two blocks: once in the morning, CEST, and again in the evening, CEST.)

The Summer Academy will feature a variety of moderated online learning formats, including: live webinars with thought leaders; small-group breakout activities for reflection and knowledge-exchange; applied labs in which participants work on collaborative exercises; and a group project in which participants will apply the knowledge and skills they have acquired during the Academy. Moreover, the UN Summer Academy places a premium on fun and relationship-building. This will remain a key priority in the virtual edition, including through networking sessions in which participants showcase their work, games, and other social activities.

Contents

The UN Summer Academy introduces conceptual approaches underpinning the notion of sustainable development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The 2020 UN Summer Academy interrogated the role of the UN and multilateralism in the context of the 2030 Agenda. It drew from and contribute to UN75's global conversation about the future we want. Panel discussions, plenary sessions, and other interactive exercises recognized the critical need for multi-stakeholder partnerships and shared ownership of the vision as well as coherent and synergistic actions at local, regional, and international levels by a broad range of development actors in partnership to achieve sustainable development for all.

Target Audience

UN staff, national and local government representatives, civil society representatives, academics, private sector representatives, as well as a select number of master's and post-graduate students.

Applicants will be selected on the basis of their professional/academic profile and motivation statement.

Cost of Participation

The course fee of \$250 USD covers the following:

- Five days of online training, including a technical orientation* on how to use all online platforms and tools used for the course
- Exclusive access to a UNSSC online social learning environment with training and supporting background materials, and the opportunity to stay connected with colleagues.
- All course materials, resources and contacts.
- Participants are expected to cover all costs related to their participation in the Summer Academy.

Certificates from the United Nations System Staff College will be awarded to participants who attend the Summer Academy.

UN Reflection Series



A learning event that focuses on issues pertaining to the integration of sustainable development and multi-stakeholder approaches to delivering the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

Introduction

Leveraging the presence of 20 UN entities as well as various leading international development The UN Reflection Series is an annual learning event focusing on issues pertaining to the integration of sustainable development approaches from a substantive perspective as well as in terms of multi-stakeholder approaches to delivering the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

Its 2016 edition of the UN Reflection Series focused on the role of the UN System and other development partners vis-à-vis Middle-Income Countries. The first Series welcomed a highly distinguished group of participants – UN staff, academics, development practitioners, and policymakers – from 18 different countries located in Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas. The reflection series also aims at building a corps of sustainable development alumni from different sectors, interested in continuing dialogue and collaboration on the topic beyond the event.

In 2016, the Reflection Series fostered active learning and knowledge sharing on the most effective approaches to advance sustainable development in Middle-Income Countries. As defined by the World Bank, middle-income countries are those countries with a GNI per capita of more than \$1,045 but less than \$12,736. Given the wide range, they are at different development stages. As a group, however, they are home to 72% of the world's poorest people. In the context of the 2030 Agenda, particular attention needs to be paid to these countries and their needs in order to leave no one behind. In view of this, the Series offered participants the opportunity to reflect on different issues such as the normative role of the UN; South-South and Triangular Cooperation; policy advice and upstream engagement; as well as the role of civil society in development cooperation in Middle-Income Countries. The Series provided various learning spaces – such as seminars, roundtable discussions, high-level panels, and practical-oriented clinics – to facilitate participants' interactions.

The 2016 event was organized by the United Nations System Staff College, in collaboration with the

UN Development Operations Coordination Office (UN DOCO, now UN DCO), and the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin.

The UNSSC will run the second UN Reflection Series in 2021.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will:

- Have deepened their understanding of the substance and key features of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, including relevant processes and opportunities for multi-stakeholder engagement;
- Have deepened their knowledge with regards to the specific focus topic;
- Have reflected upon challenges and opportunities regarding partnerships development in the context of the topic discussed;
- Be cognisant of the drive and different roles of different development actors;
- Have enhanced the knowledge and skills to build substantive and sustainable partnerships and enhance their networks.



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The United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) is the primary provider of interagency training and learning for staff of the United Nations system. Its overall objective is to promote and support UN inter-agency collaboration, increase the operational effectiveness of the UN system as a whole and provide UN staff with the required skills and competencies to face today's global challenges.

UNSSC conducts a variety of learning and training activities, in Turin and Bonn, UN Headquarters as well as at the regional and country levels. All such activities effectively respond to the cross-agency, far-reaching reform agenda of the United Nations.