

UNITAR: Environmental Mandate & Activities

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Environmental mandate

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) was established in 1965 as an autonomous body within the United Nations with the purpose of enhancing the effectiveness of the Organization through appropriate training and research. UNITAR is governed by a Board of Trustees and is headed by an Executive Director. The Institute is supported by voluntary contributions from governments, intergovernmental organizations, foundations, and other non-governmental sources.

UNITAR's Environmental Programmes are committed to assisting the development of sustainable institutional, technical and human resource capacities, raising awareness, increasing knowledge and improving communication in partner countries and organizations. Six environmental and sustainable development-related areas are involved: Chemicals and Waste Management, Environmental Governance and Democracy, Climate Change, Decentralized Cooperation, Environmental Law and Information Society.

All programmes involve a wide variety of stakeholders, including, inter alia, government and other public officials, academics, planners, local authorities, private sector and civil society representatives. Other guiding principles include the importance of country-driven processes (addressing national priorities), South-South cooperation, and a commitment to carefully designed and implemented programmes that make a lasting contribution to national development.

UNITAR's Environmental Programmes provide, as a basic service, self-needs assessment frameworks/methodologies, tailored to their specific substantive areas of focus. Such an approach, be it through the development of a National Chemicals Management Profile, a self-assessment undertaken by local authorities, or the determination of national capacity building needs to implement the three Rio Conferences, has a proven track record, replicated many times in dozens of countries.

UNITAR is an autonomous body within the UN system, whose programmes are funded entirely through voluntary contributions. As a result UNITAR provides a unique, flexible environment where innovation is fostered and where delivering on commitments to partners is central to the continuing existence of the organization.

Environmental activities

- Chemicals and Waste Management
- Environmental Governance and Democracy
- Climate Change
- Decentralized Cooperation
- Environmental Law
- Information Society Frameworks and strategies for sustainable development

