

UNITAR  
EXECUTIVE  
DIPLOMA ON  
INTERNATIONAL  
LAW IN THE  
21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

25<sup>th</sup> May – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020



**unitar**

United Nations Institute for Training and Research





# BACKGROUND



**We have an agreement, for instance, today, a general agreement that the international law applies to cyberspace. But there is no agreement on how international humanitarian law applies to the cyber dimension of conflicts. [...]These are the areas where we still need international law, and in a way the role of the United Nations and namely the second commission of the General Assembly is vital. We need to find a minimum of consensus in the world on how to integrate these new technologies in the laws of war that were defined decades ago in a completely different context.**

**António Guterres**

International law is the cornerstone of global interaction, politics, and policy. States as well as non-state actors in today's globalized and interconnected world are constantly influencing the development of international law and in turn find their actions influenced by it. In addition, new technologies are opening up new possibilities while also creating new challenges.

UNITAR is launching an Online Executive Diploma on International Law that will explore new and cutting-edge legal topics to dynamically inspire participants to become accomplished professionals in their respective field and to provide them with the tools, information, and network they will need to do so.

The Online Executive Diploma on International Law will give participants the essential knowledge on the fundamentals of international law and the new developments driven by technologies. The first week will cover the underlying principles of public international law necessary to understand the importance, role and purpose of international law in the contemporary legal order. Once equipped with these tools to understand the international law principles, participants will discover the new challenges arising in the field of international environmental law and climate change before exploring the final frontiers in polar law and space law.

After pushing the frontiers in the "real world" during this first week, the second week will allow participants to delve into the digital sphere and look at the implication of cyber development and artificial intelligence to international law. Here participants will be introduced to the rules of international humanitarian law governing cyber operations and international law of cyber-security. The course will then tackle issues related to cyber warfare and will finally address the question of extraterritorial use of force against non-state actors facilitated by new weapons.



# THE EXECUTIVE DIPLOMA

## Methodology

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The online executive diploma is fully internet-based, allowing participants from all over the world to join without increasing their carbon footprint. The diploma will consist of 10 interactive online workshops, taking place on the platform Zoom, and will be moderated by an expert on the theme during. The material presented in the workshops will be interactive and assignments in the form of simulation exercises and online discussions will be given to participants to further advance their knowledge. The participants will be eligible to receive a certificate of participation after the completion of all workshops.

Estimated learning time: 6 to 7 hours for workshop day and 60 to 70 hours in total.

## Learning Objectives

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At the end of this online executive diploma, participants should be able to:

- Identify the main actors and principles of public international law;
- Analyze the emerging concepts of international environmental law;
- Describe the historical evolution of polar law and identify its key standard-setting instruments;
- Identify and analyze the main legal issues related to the application of space law;
- Describe the main rules of international humanitarian law and differentiate between those which apply to the cyberspace and the others;
- Define the role and importance of international law of cyber-security for the international security;
- Apply the main rules governing international humanitarian law to cyber-warfare;
- Demonstrate profound understanding of key issues of the extraterritorial use of force against non-state actors.

## Target audience

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The online executive diploma is aimed at students and professionals seeking a deeper understanding of international law. The course is open to up to 50 participants.

# WEEK 1: PUSHING THE FRONTIERS



## 1. Public International Law

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International Law is the cornerstone of global interaction, politics, and policy. As such, a sound understanding of its intricacies and fundamental principles is essential for productive work in today's globalized and interconnected world. This first workshop aims at giving the basic knowledge of international law to participants by introducing them to state responsibility, customary international law and the law of treaties. This workshop will ensure that all participants have a sound understanding of the fundamental principles and obtain the necessary tools to understand questions related to specific fields of international law.



## 2. International Environmental Law and Climate Change

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Adopted by States, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) are standard-settings instruments for effective global environmental protection. However, nowadays some states, particularly least developed and developing countries, face the challenge of implementing over 300 MEAs due to limited technical, financial and human resources. At the same time it is these countries that are most harshly hit by climate change - forcing their inhabitants to seek refuge.



## 3. Polar Law

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Polar law is the field of law dealing with the legal regimes applicable to the Arctic and/or the Antarctic. Sixty years after the adoption of the Antarctic Treaty recognizing the importance of maintaining international peace and security in Antarctica for the common interest of all nations, the lessons learned from the challenges of cooperation remain relevant. The workshop on polar law will shed light on the current issues surrounding polar law and the opportunities to overcome them, notably by using science as a tool of diplomacy.



## 4. Law of Space

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Space law is a relatively recent field of international law, yet in a rapid change and constant development. It covers space-related activities such as public and private space exploration, liability for damages caused by space objects, environmental preservation and new space-related technologies. The workshop on space law will introduce participants to the main legal instruments governing the space environment and the role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) to space law-making. Participants will then deepen their knowledge on national space law and space security law. Our experts will give them the necessary tools to discuss the challenges that space law is and will continue to face in the future, namely, among others, debris mitigation, space traffic and cybersecurity.



# WEEK 2: EXPLORING THE DIGITAL REALM



## 5. Introduction to International Humanitarian Law and Cyber Operations

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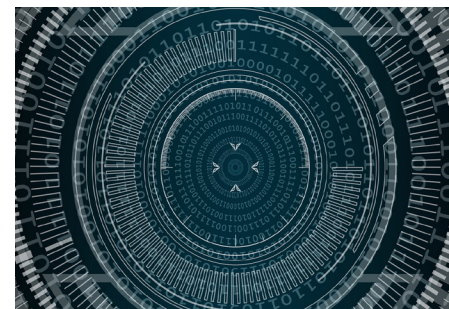
War remains a matter of great concern to humanity. Recent conflicts have demonstrated that the ravages of war continue to have a devastating impact especially on the civilian population. With the increasing amount of states developing military cyber capabilities, the interplay between the “cyber” and “real” realm of war needs to be addressed. This workshop will lay the foundations for all subsequent ones by introducing participants the rules governing cyberspace and their interplay with international humanitarian law. Participants will explore methods and means of cyber warfare, and learn to distinguish between the applicability of international humanitarian law to cyber operations in international armed conflicts and non-international armed conflicts.



## 6. International Law of Cyber-Security

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The threat of cyber-attacks increases every day and international law is having a hard time in keeping-up facing those threats. According to the 2020 Global Risk report, large-scale cyberattacks causing a breakdown of critical information infrastructure and networks are at the fifth position of short-term risk likely to increase. It is therefore crucial for international law to provide timely and effective remedies to those threats that could shortly materialize. This workshop will discuss the challenges international law is currently facing in this field, e.g. attributing cyber-attacks to states, and present the mechanisms it offers to respond to such attacks.



## 7. Cyber Warfare and International Humanitarian Law

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This workshop builds on the foundations of the two previous ones. After gaining the necessary knowledge about international humanitarian law, cyberspace and cyber-security, participants will deepen their knowledge on the threats of cyberwarfare. The workshop is aimed at shedding some light on the application of the international humanitarian law to cyber warfare and clarify the grey areas surrounding the transposition of the rules of the Geneva Convention to the cyber realm. Participants will be introduced to the relevant legal framework to consider, the difficulties of this “transposition” exercise and discuss potential avenues to overcome them.



## 8. Extra-Territorial Use of Force Against Non-State Actors

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Extraterritorial use of force against non-state actors has been very much supported by new weapons and technologies, such as artificial intelligence, during the last years. Specifically, it is commonplace when referring to the strategies of the “war on terror” and takes notably the form of targeted killings and abductions. Those situations pose important challenges to international law and in particular, international law on the use of force, international humanitarian law and international human rights law. This workshop examines the applicability of these frameworks and the interactions between those fields when it comes to analyze extra-territorial use of force against non-state actors.

# UNITAR



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## About us

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Established in 1965, UNITAR is an autonomous institution within the United Nations system with a mission to deliver innovative training and conduct research on knowledge systems to develop the capacities of its beneficiaries. As the training arm of the UN, its mission is to develop capacities to enhance global decision-making and to support country level action for shaping a better future.

At the heart of UNITAR, the Division for Multilateral Diplomacy (DMD) delivers training and support workshops to address the needs of diplomats, government officials, international civil servants and students to meet complex, global challenges. UNITAR's Division for Multilateral Diplomacy activities cover a wide range of policy domains, including bilateral and multilateral negotiation, environmental and climate change diplomacy, economic diplomacy, human rights, diplomatic protocol, Agenda 2030 and other related topics, as well as capacities and skills development activities such as diplomatic report writing, public speaking, media relations and negotiation techniques, among many others.

## Registration and Course Fee

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Interested participants are invited to register via UNITAR's website: <https://unitar.org/event/full-catalog/executive-diploma-international-law-online>

The course participation fee is 2600 USD for the whole executive diploma. A few fellowships for participants from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are available, reducing the fee to 1500 USD. To apply for the fellowship and reduced fee please provide UNITAR with a passport scan and a CV via [info.ilp@unitar.org](mailto:info.ilp@unitar.org).

Registration will be closed as soon as the course is full and places will be secured once the payment is confirmed.

## Contact

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“UNITAR’s Division for Multilateral Diplomacy is at the forefront of our efforts to ensure that our future leaders are equipped for any challenges they will face in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

Mr. Nikhil Seth

United Nations Assistant Secretary-General  
Executive Director, UNITAR



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