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Course Syllabus

Climate Change Diplomacy:
Negotiating Effectively under the UNFCCC
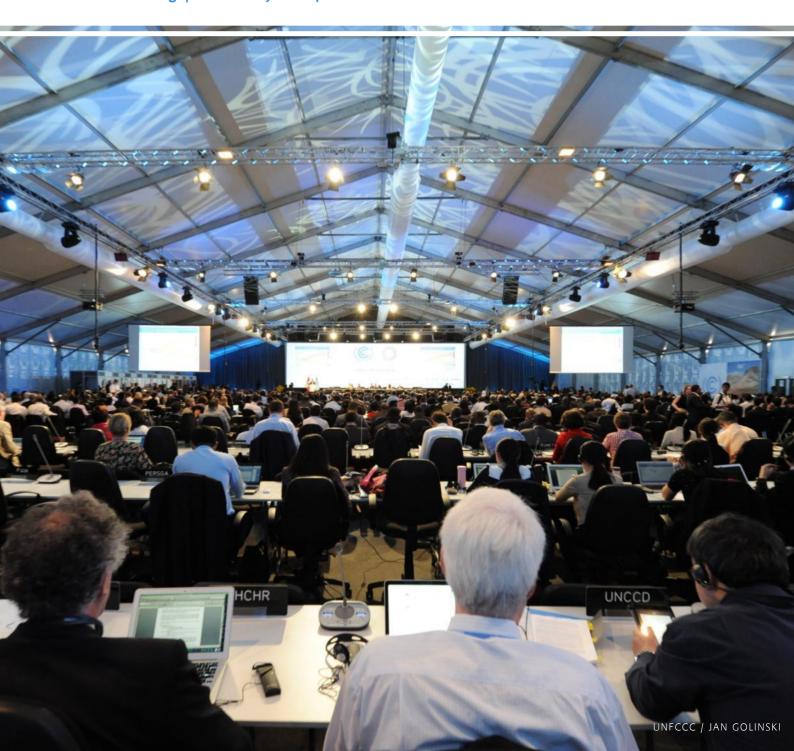
e-Learning | 25 Feburary – 21 April 2019

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Disclaimer and Acknowledgements

Please carefully read the Disclaimer and Acknowledgements documents located on this course's home page before beginning the course for more information about the terms and conditions of use of UNITAR's virtual learning environment and acknowledgement of those organizations for their authorization to use audio transcripts, webcasts and photographic imagery.

Course Presentation

Climate Change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. Understanding the climate change problem is a work in progress for the scientific community, however the risks that it already poses to global societies mean that mitigation and adaptation efforts command the expertise of economists, development agencies and policy makers alike. The breadth of the range of challenges posed by climate change on a global scale has meant that it has become an international and interdisciplinary concern, and the subject of multilateral negotiations and geopolitical debate.

This course aims to provide a broad and concise training for participants from a variety of backgrounds and professions, in order to develop their understanding and appreciation of the collective action problem of climate change, the risks it poses, as well as the multilateral negotiation process and the framework of international climate change law and compliance mechanisms. The course is designed to equip participants with the knowledge and capacities to make important decisions and represent the interests of their respective parties when considering climate change commitments, strategy or policy developments.

Course Outline

Module 1

Understanding Climate Change and Global Vulnerabilities

- Lesson 1: Understanding Climate Change and Its Causes
- Lesson 2: Greenhouse Gases and Climate Change
- Lesson 3: Observed and Projected Impacts of Climate Change

Estimated learning time: 7 hours

Module 2

Introduction to Climate Change Diplomacy

- Lesson 1: The Need for an International Climate Change Agreement
- Lesson 2: History and Development of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Lesson 3: Objectives and Principles under the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement
- Lesson 4: Parties, Groups and Observer States to the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement
- Lesson 5: Institutional Arrangements and Practice of the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement
- Lesson 6: Cooperation and Participation of Organisations and Observers

Estimated learning time: 7 hours

Module 3

Implementation, Compliance and Enforcement of the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement

- Lesson 1: Communications from Parties on Implementation
- Lesson 2: Adopting, Amending and Reviewing the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement and the Annexes
- Lesson 3: Compliance of the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement

Estimated learning time: 7 hours

Module 4

Mitigating Climate Change

- Lesson 1: How much do we need to mitigate?
- Lesson 2: Current Mitigation Provisions and Mechanisms
- Lesson 3: Other Mitigation Related Issues – AFLOU, REDD, LULUCF, Bunker Fuels and Response Measures

Estimated learning time: 7 hours

Module 5

Adapting to Climate Change

- Lesson 1: Vulnerability to Climate Change and Adaptation
- Lesson 2: Adaptation under the Convention

Estimated learning time: 7 hours

Module 6

International Considerations for Climate Change Decision Making: International Climate Financing and Technology Transfer

- Lesson 1: What are the Mitigation and Adaptation Costs?
- Lesson 2: Financing Climate Change
- Lesson 3: Developing and Transferring Technologies

Estimated learning time: 7 hours

Module 7

Capacity Building, Education and Research

- Lesson 1: Capacity Building for Climate Action
- Lesson 2: Promotion of Education, Awareness and Training
- Lesson 3: Promotion of Research and Systematic Observation

Estimated learning time: 7 hours

Module 8

The Paris Agreement and Beyond

- Lesson 1: Main Stepping-Stones in Climate Change Negotiations
- Lesson 2: The Paris Agreements: Analysis and Progress Achieved

- **LIVE online lecture and Q&A with Dr. Marcelo Rocha**

Estimated learning time: 7 hours

Contents and Learning Objectives

	Content	Learning objectives
		AT THE END OF THE MODULE, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO:
Module 1 Understanding Climate Change and Global Vulnerabilities	▪ The Difference between Climate and Weather ▪ Physical Mechanisms of Climate Change ▪ The Causal Chain of Climate Change ▪ The Carbon Cycle ▪ Sources of greenhouse gases ▪ The GWP and the Kyoto Protocol ▪ Observations of climate change ▪ Effects and impacts of climate change	▪ Explain the difference between climate and weather; ▪ Discuss how human activities can cause enhanced warming of the climate system through the intensification of the natural greenhouse effect; ▪ Define the causal chain of climate change and how it involves numerous scientific and socio-economic uncertainties and complexities, making impact projections for future emissions scenarios somewhat reliant upon assumptions; ▪ List some of the observed and projected effects and impacts of climate change.
Module 2 Introduction to Climate Change Diplomacy	▪ The need for an international climate change agreement ▪ History and Development of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol ▪ Objectives and Principles under the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement ▪ Parties, Groups and Observer States to the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement ▪ Institutional Arrangements and Practice of the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement ▪ Cooperation and Participation of Organizations and Observers	▪ Discuss the need for an international climate change agreement; ▪ Recognize and appreciate the international climate change policy framework; ▪ Recall the history and developments of the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement; ▪ Identify the Parties and groups of Parties to the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, including their respective commitment and negotiation positions; ▪ Identify the roles and rules of procedures of the institutions and bodies under the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.
Module 3 Implementation, Compliance and Enforcement of the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement	▪ Communications from Parties on Implementation ▪ Adopting, Amending and Reviewing the Convention, the Protocol, and the Annexes ▪ Enforcement of the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement	▪ Differentiate how Parties to the Convention submit their relevant information concerning the implementation of the Convention; ▪ Identify the provisions and process to adopt, amend and review the Convention, the Protocol and Annexes of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol; ▪ Illustrate the structure of the compliance mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, and how it may be exercised.
Module 4 Mitigating Climate Change	▪ How much do we need to mitigate? ▪ Current provisions to mitigate climate change ▪ Sustainable Development and ▪ Mitigation ▪ AFOLU, REDD, bunker fuels and response measures	▪ Define and describe what mitigation is and justify the reasons for how much we need to mitigate in order to stabilize the concentrations of greenhouse gases; ▪ Identify the emission targets a new deal should aim to define in order to avoid dangerous climate change and summarize and appraise the mitigation potential in the short, medium and long term as well as the policies, measures and instruments to achieve it;

- Identify the current mitigation provisions under the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol, including the Kyoto flexible mechanisms and the recent developments of international negotiations in that respect;

- Describe the basic concepts and recent developments related to mitigation in AFOLU, international bunker fuels, REDD+ and response measures.

Module 5

Adapting to Climate Change

- Vulnerability to Climate Change and Adaptation
- Adaptation under the Convention
- Current policies and knowledge about responding to climate change
- Interrelationship between adaptation and mitigation

- Define what climate change adaptation is and identify adaptation options and opportunities;

- Recognize the need for climate change adaptation and the need to identify the key vulnerabilities;

- Identify adaptation provisions under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement and describe the adaptation work undertaken under the Convention to date.

Module 6

International Considerations for Climate Change Decision Making – International Climate Finance and Technology Transfer

- The costs of Mitigation and Adaptation
- Financing Climate Change
- Developing and Transferring Technologies

- Discuss international considerations for climate change decision making, such as the costs and the opportunities to fund adaptation and mitigation actions and identify the recent developments of international negotiations in relation to climate finance and understand the relevant institutional framework;

- Identify the opportunities for technology transfer;

- Explain the current institutional arrangements under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol negotiation processes;

- Recognize that promoting effective development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies is critical for the pursuit of sustainable development goals that respect the climate;

- Identify the commitments of Parties for transferring technology and financing the access of developing countries to clean technologies, such as the Technology Mechanism.

Module 7

Capacity-building, Education and Research

- Need for capacity building
- Promotion of Education, Awareness and Training
- Promotion of research and systematic observation

- Identify other important considerations for climate change decision making; such as the need for capacity building, and the importance of promoting climate change education, awareness training, research and the infrastructure for systematic climate observations;

- Describe the current framework for capacity building activities under the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

Module 8

The Paris Agreement and Beyond

- Main Stepping-Stones in Climate Change Negotiations
- The Cancun Agreements: Analysis and Progress Achieved
- The Durban outcome: Analysis and Progress Achieved
- The Doha outcome: Analysis and Progress Achieved
- The Warsaw outcome: Analysis and Progress Achieved
- The Lima outcome: Analysis and Progress Achieved
- The Geneva outcome: Analysis and Progress Achieved

- Interpret the key issues in the international climate change negotiations that led towards a post-2020 agreement, including the Bali Road Map; Copenhagen Accord, Cancun Agreements; Durban Outcomes; Doha Climate Gateway; Warsaw Outcomes; Lima Outcomes and the progress achieved;

- Recognize the lessons learnt and analyze the key elements of the Paris Agreement and how to move forward.

- ▪ **Online Live Lecture with Dr. Marcelo Rocha**

Methodology

The course will be delivered via the e-Learning platform Moodle (please see the course *User's Guide* for instructions on using this platform). This pedagogical tool will help the participant meet the course's learning objectives through a self-paced study routine supported by multimedia, optional and required readings, discussion forums, assessment quizzes, and a wealth of other information. Adapted specifically to full-time professionals, participants will learn by: absorbing (reading), doing (activities), interacting (socializing), and reflecting (relating to personal experience).

Materials will be posted online on a weekly basis. Your course is divided into eight modules; each contains the same structural elements:
- Contents page
- Learning Objectives page
- Lesson Material (text, videos, and documents)
- Discussion Board
- Assessment

Grading Policy and Course Completion

Students are eligible for a course certificate upon successful course completion. Successful completion requires:

- **an 80% passing grade on EACH of the eight module-based assessments** (8 out of 10 questions correct); you may take each assessment up to three times (questions are randomized from a larger pool of questions and therefore will change upon assessment attempts);

- participation in the weekly Discussion Board forums; your posts will be evaluated according to both **quantity and quality** (e.g., content relevance and contribution to overall discussion).[1]

Before moving to the next module, you should: **(a)** read all the core module texts, **(b)** take the module-based assessments, and **(c)** participate in the weekly Discussion Board forums. You are encouraged to consult the optional external links to enhance your knowledge of the given lesson's topic (e.g., links to websites and additional documents).

All assessments, once made available, will remain accessible until the end of the course (see page 10 for a detailed schedule) and may complete them anytime during the duration of the course. However, we strongly recommend that you complete each assessment before moving to the next module.

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[1] See Disclaimer sections (h), (i) and (j) for more information regarding the terms and conditions of use of forums.

UNITAR's e-Learning Committee will make the final decision regarding certificates, in consultation with the Course Director. UNITAR reserves the right to award certificates only to those considered as "eligible" participants. We urge you to take a clear note of the above requirements. If you need any clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the Multilateral Diplomacy Programme Team.

Study Planning

The following study grid indicates which course activities are mandatory:

Activity	Mandatory
Interactive Course	Yes
External Links and Readings	No, recommended
Cybrary[2]	No
Module Assessments	Yes
Discussion Forum	Yes
Course Evaluation	Yes

What is distinct about this learning experience is that it is an **online** learning experience. Online training, by its very nature, entails delivery of educational content over the Internet. As you will proceed in this course, training materials will be made available to you through UNITAR's e-Learning portal. This course will also provide links to other web resources such as references and documents. Additionally, it will require you to use simple collaborative tools such as email exchanges among the group/participants who have registered for this course as well as participate in a discussion forum.

The UNITAR team is available to provide guidance and user information to help you participate and **contribute actively** to this discussion forum, which is an important requirement for completing this course. You will also have access to a Course Director (or instructor) who will animate the discussion board as well as answer substantive and course related questions (either using the Discussion Board or through a traditional email method). There will thus be no face-to-face interaction. All interaction will take place through the Internet using UNITAR's e-Learning portal!

The **advantages** of online training are many. You are able to:
- schedule and pace your learning according to your specific needs;
- make use of additional resources using the internet;
- work from office or home as long as you have a computer with an internet connection;
- connect with your fellow participants and instructors through the learning portal.

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[2] The Cybrary contains important course information; please see the next section on the course's Learning Content.

The lack of face-to-face interaction will require more discipline and proactive planning on your end in order to successfully meet the course's learning objectives. In this regard, it is thus different and distinct from a traditional face-to-face training course.

The **Complete Course Schedule** (see next page) indicates when materials will be posted online and taken offline. Note that following the eighth week, material will remain available online for the wrap-up session in which participants can take the Course Evaluation, as well as finish all assessments until the specified date.

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
25 Feburary 2019	First day of course Module 1 online	Discussion Board (DB) 1 online Assessment 1 online			Module 2 online
4 March 2019		DB 2 online Assessment 2 online			Module 3 online
11 March 2019		DB 3 online Assessment 3 online			Module 4 online
18 March 2019		DB 4 online Assessment 4 online			Module 5 online
25 March 2019		DB 5 online Assessment 5 online			Module 6 online
1 April 2019		DB 6 online Assessment 6 online			Module 7 online
8 April 2019		DB 7 online Assessment 7 online			Module 8 online Course Evaluation online

15 April 2019	**LIVE WEBINAR** 3:00 - 4:30 PM CEST (UTC+2) To be confirmed	DB 8 online Assessment 8 online			
22 April 2019		All Discussion Boards close			All assessments close Assessment answers online **COURSE**

Although this online course is **asynchronous** – meaning that the interaction between you and the trainers or fellow participants will take place intermittently with a time delay – it will be important to establish a course study routine that best adapts to your work schedule, family commitments, Internet connection speed, etc. This will allow you to complete your assignments and tasks in time (on a week-by-week basis) and thus maintain a similar pace as other course participants. *Please note that the MDP e-Learning Team will send you a reminder if your module-based assessments have not been completed.*

Learning Content[3]

The complete set of course materials **will NOT be available all at once on the UNITAR portal. Materials will be posted on a weekly basis.** Learning materials are organized as follows:

1. Interactive Course

The interactive course is the core mandatory learning activity. The various module lessons contain links to external documents and websites, videos, questions and suggested responses, and basic text. The lessons are relevant to a wide demographic of participants, both those with basic knowledge on the topic as well as those with more advanced knowledge who wish to focus on the more specialized points of the course.

2. Resources

The Resources section contains both optional and mandatory materials to enhance your understanding of a given lesson's subject matter. For example:
- **The Cybrary** (Cyber Library) contains many additional resources, including:
    i. Printable PDF version of each module (with the Documents to Download cited in each module)

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[3] See Disclaimer for more information regarding the terms and conditions of use of the course material.

ii. Optional Readings

3. Key to Icons

Document to download
Link to external site

Video clip

Questions

Course Moderators

Professor Keith Shine FRS

Moderator for Module 1
Email : k.p.shine@reading.ac.uk
Office Location: Reading, United Kingdom
                Mexico City, Mexico

Professor Keith Shine is Professor of Physical Meteorology in the Department of Meteorology at the University of Reading, having previously held the post of Head of Department. He joined the University in 1988 after studying physics at Imperial College London and taking a doctorate in meteorology at the University of Edinburgh followed by spells as a researcher at Liverpool and Oxford Universities. He became a Professor in 1998 and led the University of Reading's successful bid for a Queen's Anniversary Prize in 2006. His research focuses on understanding how human activity initiates climate change and the role of water vapour in the Earth's energy balance. Keith was a lead author of Climate Change 1995, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report on global warming. He has also been heavily involved in similar international scientific assessments of ozone depletion. Keith has recently been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Dr. Rodolfo Godínez

Moderator for Module 2
Email: rodgodinez@yahoo.com
Office Location: Mexico City, Mexico

Rodolfo Godínez Rosales holds a PhD in Environmental Law from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, a Master of Laws from the University of London, Queen Mary College, and specialization courses at The Hague Academy of International Law, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the University of Eastern Finland.

Over his career, he has worked in the Mexican Ministries of Energy; Environment and Natural Resources; and Foreign Affairs, participating extensively in climate change negotiations. He also has served as senior lawyer in the National Commission for Human Rights and the Mexican Senate.

He has been lecturer at several Mexican Universities and authored articles on environmental law, climate change and human rights.

Ms. Daniela Rey

Moderator for Modules 3 and 7
Email: drey@climatelawandpolicy.com
Office Location: London, United Kingdom

Daniela is the founding Director of Climate Law and Policy (CLP). She is an international environmental lawyer, with over 12 years experience in policy and legal development and strengthening, in the areas of climate change, forest/land use governance, human rights and biodiversity. Daniela is a leading expert in supporting country-led efforts to operationalize UNFCCC REDD+ safeguards commitments, through the design and implementation of country safeguard systems.

Before founding Climate Law and Policy, Daniela has held several roles including at ClientEarth, the United Nations, and several environmental law firms. Daniela holds an MSc in Environmental Change and Management from Oxford University, a Diploma in Public International Law from Universidad Catolica de Chile, and a B.L from Universidad de los Andes in Santiago, Chile. Daniela is fluent in English and Spanish.

Ms. Ana Maria Kleymeyer

Moderator for Modules 5 and 6
Email: amkleymeyer@gmail.com
Office Location: Geneva, Switzerland

Ms. Ana Maria Kleymeyer is the Founder of Instruments for Change, a advisory group that provides capacity building and consultancy services for governments, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations in the areas of environmental policy development and implementation. Prior to launching I4C, she served as Lead International Advisor to the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina. During her prestigious career she has served as lead negotiator of the Argentinean delegation for negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol, and the Montreal Protocol. She also continued to support the UNFCCC process and advise members of the World Trade Organization as Senior Advisor on Climate Change Negotiations for the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) in Geneva. Ms. Kleymeyer holds a Juris Doctor from the College of Law at the American University in Washington, DC and a masters in international development from the IEUD in Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr. Marcelo Rocha

Moderator for Modules 4 and 8
Email: marcelo.trocha@gmail.com
Office Location: Sao Paulo, Brazil

Dr. Marcelo Rocha is a member of the Brazilian delegation for negotiations under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol and also acted as the co-facilitator of the LULUCF (land-use, land-use change and forestry) group of the ad hoc working group on further commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) during the negotiation rounds that took place from June 2008 to December 2012. He has also been a member of numerous expert review teams on annex i greenhouse gas inventories at the UNFCCC since 2005. He is a member of the registration and issuance team (RIT) and the afforestation working group of the clean development mechanism executive board, as well as being a member of the technical advisory panel of the forest carbon partnership facility of the World Bank until 2009. Dr. Rocha is the founder and partner of Fábrica Éthica Brasil and is an associate researcher at IPÊ (ecological research institute).

Technical Support

For any technical issue or coordination matter, you may contact the Multilateral Diplomacy Programme Unit e-Learning Team (MDPU e-Learning Team) by posting a message on the General or Technical questions boards on the UNITAR Virtual Learning Environment.

You may also contact us by email at mdp-elearning@unitar.org. Email support is available 24/7. Emails will be answered within 24 hours.

MDP e-Learning Team
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Phone: +41 22 917 88 10
Office location: Geneva, Switzerland
Phone support hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM Geneva time