

## **Economic and Social Council**

### **Agenda item 21: United Nations research and training institutes**

#### **United Nations Institute for Training and Research Report of the Secretary-General**

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Distinguished President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

I am honoured to introduce the Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, E/2025/50.

UNITAR has served the international community for over 60 years, strengthening national institutions and systems, and the capacities of diplomats and professionals across the public service and other sectors of the economy, driven by the goals and values of the United Nations. UNITAR training, learning and applied research activities span all pillars of the UN's work, and contribute to

advancing multilateral diplomacy, maintaining peace and security, and achieving national development priorities, including implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Across all its programming, UNITAR aims to optimize evidence-based decision-making and leverage technology for high impact, sustainable outcomes.

Mr. President,

With the sustainable development goals way off track and development finance shrinking (particularly ODA by 7.1% in 2024), investments in building strong institutions and systems, and expanding and enhancing human capital through upskilling, reskilling, and facilitating knowledge transfer, assume heightened priority. UNITAR embraces this strategic objective of developing countries, especially the least developed, SIDS and landlocked countries, providing tailored learning solutions to meet countries' needs.

Allow me to highlight some areas of our work captured in the Secretary-General's report.

To advance multilateral diplomacy, UNITAR continues to be the “g-to” entity of the United Nations for diplomats and other delegates, particularly from developing countries, to enhance understanding of the dynamics of the United Nations system. UNITAR supports high-level cross-learning and best practice sharing among Member States, prepares delegates for effective participation in the work of the principal organs and subsidiary and other bodies of the United Nations, and engages regional organizations to drive implementation of internationally agreed commitments.

In the area of peace and security, the Institute continues to train police and military personnel for deployment in UN peace operations, in collaboration with DPPA/DPO and regional organisations such as the African Union. UNITAR has expanded its partnership with peacekeeping training centres in Ghana, Mali and Tanzania, developed new initiatives to support the fight against terrorism and maritime governance, security and sustainability, and grown the portfolio of activities to enable women to meaningfully take part in peace processes at all levels. High-level, experience-sharing and dialogue spaces provided by the Institute, such as the **unique annual seminar for special and personal**

**representatives and envoys of the Secretary-General**, and regional trainings in preventive diplomacy, mediation and peace making remain in high demand.

The United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT), managed by UNITAR, has been an invaluable support to peacekeeping and humanitarian operations, and to advance sustainable development. Between June 2023 and December 2024, UNOSAT's emergency mapping service was activated 130 times and produced over 900 geospatial-derived products on 62 countries, half of which are in special situations.

In its work to promote sustainable development and people's well-being, the Institute deploys its e-learning platforms to scale and accelerate capacity development investments, as well as its geospatial and satellite services, and leverages its CIFAL network across 33 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australia and Europe to extend its reach to the local level. Robust road safety programmes with governments and local partners, grounded in behavioural science, help countries decrease the number of fatalities and injuries from road and traffic-related accidents (SDG

3.6) toward achieving good health and well-being. And a new initiative migrating 123 e-courses to the WHO Academy's learning platform supports the Academy in designing, marketing and administering health-related learning solutions.

In 2024, UNITAR launched Prosperity Alliances in China and in the United Kingdom, bringing together governments, NGOs, academia and enterprises to work towards sustainable inclusive economic growth, particularly for young people and women. The Institute is also helping to strengthen employability capacities, skills for multi-stakeholder collaboration, and AI and technology readiness, and enhancing knowledge on trade, public finance and intellectual property, working with UN system and external partners.

UNITAR continues to prioritise climate action for a healthy planet for present and future generations, for example through the One United Nations Climate Change Learning Partnership (UNCC Learn), which brings together 36 United Nations and other multilateral organizations. The UNCC Learn e-learning platform, managed by UNITAR, offers 65 courses in several languages and at no cost to learners related to climate change and the green

economy transition. The platform reached a major milestone this year with 1 million users worldwide. And the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) Programme with ILO, UNEP, and UNIDO and eight funding partners, working through Resident Coordinators, provides tailored support to 22 partner countries to transform their economies into drivers of sustainability.

Through its Sustainable Cycles Programme, undertakes applied research and training programmes to address skill gaps in achieving sustainable production, consumption and disposal of e-waste and plastics.

Jointly with the UN System Staff College, UNITAR steers the work of the UN SDG: Learn, a learning platform composed of 68 partners and over 830,000 users to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. President,

These are just some highlights of our work.

The progress and achievements in programming and operations are generally reflected in the positive feedback received from

Member States and other clients and from compliance and oversight mechanisms.

UNITAR is 100 per cent voluntary funded. Overall, UNITAR remains in sound financial health, showing both growth and increasing stability. In November 2024, the Institute's Board of Trustees adopted the revision to the 2024-2025 programme budget of \$97.382 million, representing a \$7.811 million increase from the initial 2024-2025 budget of \$89.571 million.

The Institute is preparing its 2026-2029 strategic framework, consulting widely across its diverse partners and working with the UN Futures Lab Network to anticipate future challenges and opportunities. The UN 2.0 skills will be integral to the new strategic framework.

As we look forward, allow me to echo the **recommendations of the Secretary-General** for UNITAR to continue to grow its programming in alignment with the 2030 Agenda, deepen its beneficiary outreach and explore ways to strengthen engagement

at the country level through enhanced linkages with the United Nations system, ensuring that its programming has greater impact.

The Secretary-General also recommended that Member States lend full support, including through unearmarked funding, to enable the Institute to invest in scaling up its support for national capacity building, learning and other needs; and that UNITAR should intensify its engagement with other stakeholders, including business and private sectors, foundations and relevant United Nations entities, so as to strengthen and expand support to countries, particularly those in special situations.

Mr. President,

In ending, allow me to express the Institute's gratitude to Member States for their continuing support and in particular to the Government of Nepal, through its Permanent Mission in New York, for having facilitated the resolution on UNITAR.

UNITAR will continue to serve Member States as a centre of excellence in capacity development, a neutral partner in knowledge sharing, and a critical transition resource.



Thank you, Mr. President.