

# United Nations Development Programme United Nations Institute for Training and Research

## Strengthening Multilateral Negotiation Capacities of African Decision Makers

Knowledge to lead



**unitar**

United Nations Institute for Training and Research



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

## UNDP Africa and UNITAR

### – building capacities to foster long-term human development



Together, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) are working to bolster the ability of African governments to participate in multilateral negotiations. As the development network of the United Nations, UNDP supports African countries in developing national and local capacities to advance human development and accelerate progress toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Through this partnership, we draw on the expertise of UNITAR in the area of training and research to help government officials to boost their negotiation skills.

In 2011, we partnered with a number of organizations such as the African Development Bank (ADB), the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to promote strategic and innovative thinking among African decision-makers, train delegates in negotiation processes, and help them to build networks of good practice.

Ultimately, we aim to bring African positions to the fore so that the interests of the region are represented - from a position of strength - on a number of key issues, including climate change, financing for development, regional integration, multilateral trade negotiations, and peace and security through mediation training.

Together, UNDP and UNITAR will continue to serve African countries so that capacity development translates into long-term human development across the continent.

**Tegegnework Gettu**

United Nations Assistant Secretary-General  
Assistant Administrator of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
Director of Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP

## United Nations Development Programme

### – Regional Bureau for Africa (UNDP RBA)

UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa aims to help the region to achieve rapid inclusive growth by encouraging a strong private sector, social protection for the most vulnerable and employment opportunities, especially for the young. In addition, UNDP RBA promotes agricultural transformation to bolster food security and incomes across the region. It also helps to empower women so they can participate in all spheres of activities, from the economic to the political.

Secondly, UNDP aims to strengthen the resilience of African societies by working to prevent conflict, build peace and pave the way for long-term recovery, ensuring development progress is preserved and built upon. The organization also helps to minimize the impact of natural and climate-related disasters, collaborating with countries to prevent losses and help them to recover wherever these events occur.

Thirdly, the organization works to ensure sustainability, encouraging a development process that is less carbon-dependent, better suited for Africa and that uses the vast and diverse natural wealth of the continent in a sustainable manner.

UNDP's four focus areas include:

- Poverty reduction
- Democratic governance
- Crisis Prevention and Recovery
- Environment and Energy

### Policy makers and eminent experts from Africa and emerging economies discussed challenges and opportunities of regional trade and investment



From 13 to 14 December 2011, UNDP RBA and UNITAR organized a high-level conference on “*Emerging Partners and Africa: Key Trade and Investment Issues*” in Dakar, Senegal. In light of Africa's involvement with new and emerging partners, this high-level conference focused on key trade and investment issues and offered an exclusive platform for participants to engage in dialogue, to network and to explore innovative approaches to trade and investment negotiations. The conference was organized around three thematic clusters: 1) Financing and South-South Cooperation for Development Effectiveness, 2) Regional Integration, and 3) Governance and Leadership. It also provided a mechanism to channel innovative thinking in these areas into policy making at the national, regional and multilateral levels.

## UNDP RBA and UNITAR

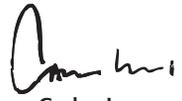
### – supporting the strategic development priorities of Africa



As we approach the New Year, it is important to reflect on what has been achieved. Throughout 2011, UNITAR has worked in close cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme's Regional Bureau for Africa (UNDP RBA) to develop a broad portfolio of activities to support capacity building initiatives for African officials in the context of the four key priority areas of the UNDP's Third Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF III).

Activities implemented during 2011 have supported over 1,100 African officials, sharing best practices and showcasing global experts on how to tackle a vast array of contemporary challenges, such as sustainable development, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, peace and security, as well as investment, trade and the economy. UNITAR's partnership with UNDP is long standing and represents a valuable commitment by both Institutions to "Deliver as One" by supporting and strengthening capacity building programmes of relevance to their respective mandates.

UNITAR, through its experience in delivering world class training, using cutting-edge methodologies, is making concrete contributions to developing the capacities of tens of thousands of persons around the world, and through its partnership with UNDP RBA has made great accomplishments in supporting the strategic development priorities of African states.



**Carlos Lopes**

United Nations Assistant Secretary-General  
UNITAR Executive Director

## Overarching objectives of

### UNDP RBA - UNITAR cooperation during 2011 and into 2012

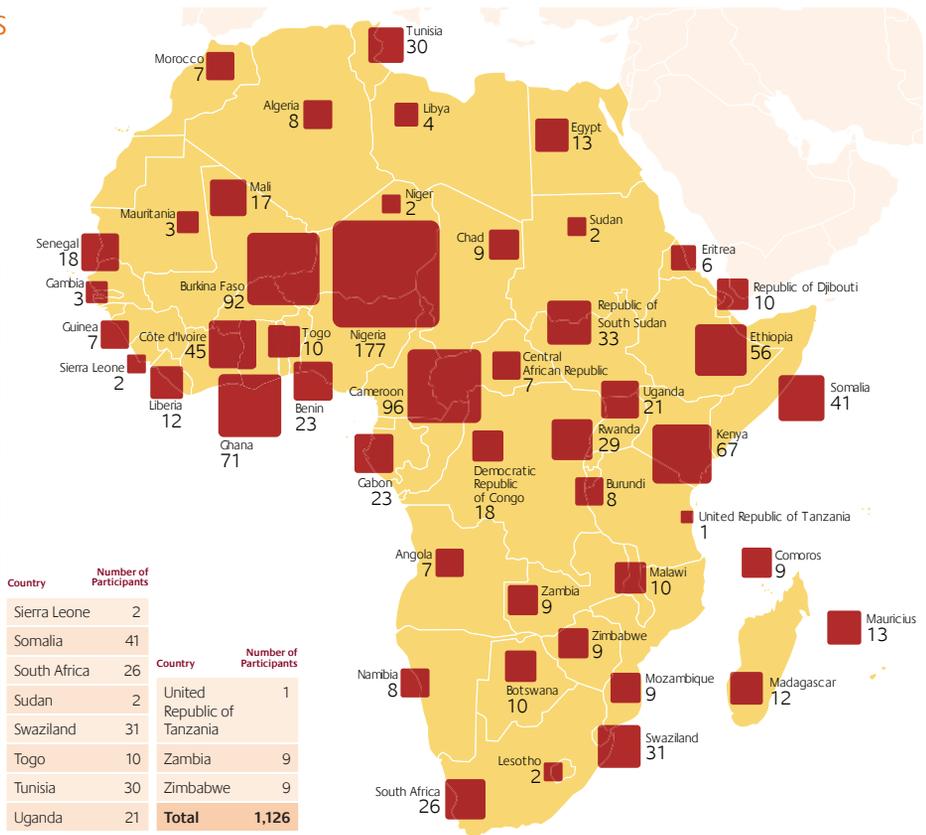
Throughout 2011, the United Nations Development Programme Regional Bureau for Africa and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research have worked together through capacity development activities to improve African negotiators' skills in multilateral negotiations on issues within the key priority areas of the UNDP's Third Regional Cooperation Framework: 1) poverty reduction and the Millennium Development Goals, 2) consolidation of democratic and participatory governance, 3) conflict resolution, peace building and recovery, and 4) energy, environment and sustainable development. Programmes seeking to address these issues have pursued the following objectives:

1. The provision of regional support for the achievement of MDG-based National Development Planning and Poverty Reduction Strategies, through the development of a knowledge management system for MDG-based planning processes in RBA countries.
2. The strengthening of African capacities to gain maximum benefit from inclusive globalization and regional integration through the reinforcement of government officials' skills in participating in global trade negotiations and linking trade policies to local poverty reduction strategies.
3. The enhancement of the capacity of the African Union / Peace and Security Department to perform core functions related to the Peace and Security agenda for the African Union Commission.
4. The delivery of capacity building programmes enhancing the management of environmental services and financing of sustainable development through stronger engagement in environmental and carbon finance negotiations and processes.

In 2011 alone, 1,126 African officials were trained through various forms of capacity development activities.

## Project beneficiaries

Country	Number of Participants	Country	Number of Participants
Algeria	8	Guinea	7
Angola	7	Kenya	67
Benin	23	Lesotho	2
Botswana	10	Liberia	12
Burkina Faso	92	Libya	4
Burundi	8	Madagascar	12
Cameroon	96	Malawi	10
Central African Republic	7	Mali	17
Chad	9	Mauritania	3
Comoros	9	Morocco	7
Cote d'Ivoire	45	Mozambique	9
Democratic Republic of Congo	18	Namibia	8
Egypt	13	Niger	2
Eritrea	6	Nigeria	177
Ethiopia	56	Republic of Djibouti	10
Gabon	23	Republic of South Sudan	33
Gambia	3	Rwanda	29
Ghana	71	Senegal	18
		Sierra Leone	2
		Somalia	41
		South Africa	26
		Sudan	2
		Swaziland	31
		Togo	10
		Tunisia	30
		Uganda	21
		United Republic of Tanzania	1
		Zambia	9
		Zimbabwe	9
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,126</b>



## Supporting the implementation of the peace and security agenda of the African Union Commission



The Regional Training Programme to Enhance Conflict Prevention and Peacemaking in Africa and the High Level Seminar on Preventative Approaches in the African Peace and Security Architecture took place in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) in October-November 2011. The Regional Programme aimed to respond to Africa's training needs in the area of conflict prevention and peacemaking. Thanks to the collaboration with UNDP RBA, the programme could invite an increased number of staff from the African Union Commission and Regional Economic Communities, as well as officials of the AU Peace and Security Council member states. The High Level Seminar discussed how all the stakeholders – AU, Member

States, Regional Economic Communities and UN – and each one of us could effectively support the conflict prevention mechanisms provided by the African Peace and Security Architecture.

The High-Level Seminar for the Committee of Elders of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa took place in Mombasa (Kenya) in December 2011. Benefiting from UNDP RBA and UNITAR's combined experience and knowledge, all three programmes were well received and provided participants with invaluable knowledge, experience and skills vital for their work towards achieving and sustaining peace across the African continent.

In 2012, a series of activities related to enhancing the skills and competences of African Peacekeepers are planned to be carried out: (1) training of 12 African officials on techniques of transferring knowledge; (2) development of a community of practice that will provide an information sharing platform as well as to support knowledge and the creation and dissemination of existing materials and resources; and (3) a Resource hub for trainers, a virtual space that will serve as a reference point for the design, delivery and evaluation of training activities.

“ Our greatest contribution for peace has just started.

Participant, Regional Training Programme for Africa, October - November 2011

## MDGs and financing for development: Meeting the challenges of the post-crisis global economy



With the decline of concessional funding for development in the wake of the global financial crisis, African countries are increasingly turning to new and innovative sources of funds, including private ones. Hence, UNDP and UNITAR conducted a series of face-to-face and internet-based training and networking activities to strengthen the skills of African negotiators involved in financial negotiations.

A total of 738 African negotiators and officials from 47 countries participated in two workshops, three online courses, and nine e-discussions on financing for development. These activities were anchored in UNDP's overarching goal of capacity development for poverty reduction and acceleration of progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). To support access to relevant documentation and dissemination of good practices, UNDP and UNITAR gathered case studies and developed two knowledge products which were made available through the internet.

The collective network of experts of both institutions along with their ability to garner support from key African institutions will be leveraged in the coming year to further accelerate the capacity development support in this crucial thematic area. In addition to traditional face-to-face training, activities in 2012 will make greater use of innovative ICT-based methodologies for wide dissemination and cross-regional networking of participants.

“The various topics were spot on and we definitely covered key topics for most countries in Africa. It is our responsibility to take on the challenges that were proposed here and pursue those issues back home. I am sure that those topics would be very beneficial.

Mr. Samuel Kobina Newton,  
Central Bank of Ghana

## Energy, environment and sustainable development: Managing environmental services and progress towards financing sustainable development

Given Africa's vulnerability to environmental change and climate variability, the importance of mainstreaming environmental awareness into development strategies is vital to economic, social and political development across the continent. The challenges in achieving the MDGs are exacerbated by the threats of climate change on society, the economy and the environment.

“Climate Change is a reality across our world, any opportunity to learn about it serves well to the solutions we are seeking.

Peter Bior Alier Biar, First Secretary,  
Embassy of South Sudan, Pretoria,  
workshop on Climate Change  
Democracy, November 2011

Three capacity building workshops on Climate Change Diplomacy have taken place during 2011 in Geneva (Switzerland), Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), and Pretoria (South Africa), and have enhanced participants' knowledge as to how to uphold African development priorities in the context of multilateral negotiations concerning environmental integrity, and financing sustainable development and adaptation to climate change.

Activities in 2012 will target the training of African trainers, so as to strengthen the African ownership and leadership of continental capacity development initiatives in the fields of environmental management and financing sustainable development.



## Regional trade and integration: African negotiators debate the way forward for Sub-Saharan Africa

To assist African countries in participating more effectively in trade and investment negotiations, UNDP and UNITAR conducted a series of cutting-edge training and networking activities in 2011. All of these activities focused on providing concrete tools to African policy makers and negotiators for promoting economic growth and sustainable development. A better understanding of regional integration imperatives was also fostered by offering channels for cross-fertilization of information and ideas among officials.

A total of 348 African negotiators and officials from 47 countries participated in two workshops, two online courses, and six e-discussions on regional trade and integration. A number of real-world case studies were also collected and disseminated widely through the internet with the aim of providing a source of reference on regional integration and trade issues. In 2012, activities will increasingly use innovative ICT-based tools and knowledge products for greater outreach and networking of participants, in addition to traditional training methodologies.

## “Deliver as One”

### – UNITAR’s inter-agency partnerships with other UN entities

Being a UN Institute specialized in training for Member States and research on training methodologies, UNITAR contributes to the United Nations system as a whole. Although many UN entities offer training on themes of relevance to their respective mandates, none offer the expertise on how to best deliver this training, capture and retain knowledge, and build upon it. This is why the Institute’s “raison d’être” is closely tied to methodology, responding to where the UN system needs it most, and on which it can deliver based on its specific strengths.

The Institute is sensitive to the necessity of developing synergies with other UN entities, and of sharing its capacities on research on learning methodologies and approaches. UNITAR is keen to increase collaborations with other UN agencies which, in turn, enhance knowledge transfer through training. Delivering these services as one applies as much to research and training activities as it does to any operational branch of the UN.



United Nations Institute for Training and Research  
Institut des Nations Unies pour la Formation et la Recherche  
Instituto de las Naciones Unidas para Formación Profesional e Investigaciones  
Учебный и научно-исследовательский институт  
Организации Объединенных Наций  
معهد الأمم المتحدة للتدريب والبحث  
联合国训练研究所



**unitar**

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Palais des Nations  
1211 - Geneva 10  
Switzerland  
T + 41-22-917-8400  
F + 41-22-917-8047  
[www.unitar.org](http://www.unitar.org)