We work globally

Working towards the full implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda and the UN Youth2030 Strategy

Projects designed to strengthen the important and positive roles of young persons in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security

Thematic Areas

- Youth, Peace and Security agenda.
- Social and business entrepreneurship.
- Youth leadership.
- Youth-led advocacy.
- Conflict resolution and mediation.
- Youth-led reconciliation.
- Gender and diversity inclusion.

Our Services

- Training and facilitation.
- Coaching and mentoring.
- Training of Trainers (ToT).
- eLearning.
- Master degrees and postgraduates.
- Learning support materials.

Our Mission

We contribute to a more peaceful, inclusive and just world by closing the capacity gap standing in the way of the full realization of the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda as well as the UN Youth2030 strategy.
Some examples of UNITAR’s work in this area include last year’s support to the Social Cohesion Consortium in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to design and implement a process that allowed members of the Consortium to efficiently capture youth-sensitive project successes, with recommendations for future programming. Similarly, UNITAR continues to support the Colombian peace process, across the themes of reintegration of children and youth, youth-led conflict transformation and community-based reconciliation. To support young women in their leadership journeys in the wider peace and security field, UNITAR is running a global “She Leads for Peace” summer school programme as part of the Women’s Leadership for Peace programme. Across the African continent, UNITAR supports a range of mandated youth networks with the aim to enhance youth leadership at different levels, including the Office of the African Union Chairperson’s Youth Envoy, YouLead Africa, and the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation. Programming uses methodologies that are needs-based and transformative, and while being youth-led and youth-focused also includes intergenerational approaches to enable youth leadership.

The diverse youth demographics of today represent the largest and most active segments of the global population. Yet, many young persons grow up in poverty and lack adequate support to realise their aspirations and to contribute to flourishing social and employment sectors. Often too, these dynamics of exclusion intersect with existing conflict dynamics. By providing dedicated programming with trusted partners, such as through the E-Mobility for Kenya project, UNITAR helps improve equitable access to the labour market while supporting young persons to establish important strategies to contribute to sustainable growth, help advance youth friendly attitudes to entrepreneurship, and to prevent latent conflict at many levels.

At the intersection of the Women, Peace and Security and the Youth, Peace, and Security agendas, young women in the peace and security field often face gender- and age-specific discrimination and exclusion. By recognising and supporting the leadership shown by young women as essential drivers for preventing conflict, building and sustaining peace, and advancing gender equality, UNITAR is committed to bridging the gap between the WPS and YPS agendas. Exemplifying these efforts, the She Leads for Peace Summer School is a unique leadership training programme tailored to young women, equipping participants with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to elevate their active participation in peace and security initiatives. This programme, now in its third edition, creates a space where participants can share experiences with fellow participants and guest speakers, fostering a community of belonging that extends beyond the course.

“This course has truly been a transformative experience, shaping my perspective and approach to global challenges. I am immensely grateful for everyone’s dedication and expertise in nurturing future leaders for a more harmonious world. As I move forward, I am excited to apply these newfound skills and insights to contribute meaningfully to the cause of peace and diplomacy.”

- She Leads for Peace summer school participant