The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) – a specialized training agency of the United Nations – supports the (re-)establishment of peaceful, just and inclusive societies (SDG 16) by enabling individuals and organizations to contribute meaningfully to sustainable peace.

With almost 60 years of experience in capacity building, we provide customized, creative and results-based learning solutions, carefully crafted for countries and communities emerging from conflict and facing specific development needs. At the core of our success is our specific methodology that allows for the creation of powerful and inspiring spaces, products and services (online and face-to-face) for high-quality learning and collaboration.

Our training programmes have mentoring and coaching as their key ingredients and promote participation, dialogue, local ownership and multiplication of knowledge for sustainable impact and behavioural change.

Thematic Areas
- Security Sector Reform (SSR).
- Human rights and international human rights mechanisms.
- Legal aid and access to justice.
- Governance and accountability.
- Judicial reform.
- Civil society actors and SDGs.
- Media and SDGs.
- Institution building.

Our Services
- Training and facilitation.
- Coaching and Mentoring.
- Training of Trainers (ToT).
- E-learning and Online Facilitation.
- Online Courses and Master Degrees.
- Advisory.
- Advocacy.
- Learning Support Materials.
Flagship projects

Strengthening the Capacity of the Judicial System and Promoting the Rule of Law in Mali

UNITAR supports national stakeholders in a comprehensive reform of the judicial system as part of Mali’s governmental transition for a total of 2300 people until 31 December 2023. The project aims at a strengthened and modernized Malian judicial system, particularly in its institutional desire to promote the rule of law, a just and equitable society, the effective fight against corruption and impunity and finally national development. After an initial assessment mission in phase I, UNITAR and its partner, the Institut National de Formation Judiciaire, started phase II with a Colloquium on electoral litigation and trainings. The success of the project became known in the region. UNITAR will start similar project activities in Niger and Senegal in 2023 to support reforms and improvements in the justice systems with targeted measures.

Future projects

Enhancing respect for the rule of law by training actors in the informal/traditional justice system in Niger

Aware of the importance of peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16) in Niger, UNITAR is developing an initiative strengthening the capacities of the various actors offering conflict resolution and legal advice outside the formal justice system. The informal/traditional justice system plays an important role for local communities and has great potential for fostering the rule of law and justice in Niger. UNITAR seeks to provide training in law, judicial principles and dispute resolution and to facilitate cooperation and exchange between the actors of the formal and informal justice sectors. The aim is to ensure that the Nigerien justice system gains in accessibility, legal certainty and legitimacy for the benefit of the Nigerien population.

Rule of law is a principle of governance in which all persons, institutions and entities, including the State itself, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with international human rights norms and standards. UNITAR supports Member States and other stakeholders in need by providing high-quality learning and capacity-building solutions designed to help them:

- Address root causes of conflicts.
- Ensure accountability for human rights.
- Prevent discrimination of vulnerable groups.
- Reinforce good governance within institutions, judiciary and security sector.

“This training was really beneficial because the method used is simple and pedagogical, which allows the participation and interaction between the trainers and the participants. The training gave us the opportunity to identify our limits in terms of judgement and criminal procedure. During the 5-days training, many notions were addressed. The exchanges allowed us to learn more on some key concepts”.

Noumady Kanté, Magistrate and president of the Military Court, Mali