As defined by the United Nations (UN), rule of law is a principle of governance in which all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, 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. It requires measures to ensure adherence to the principles of supremacy of the law, equality before the law, accountability to the law, fairness in the application of the law, separation of powers, participation in decision-making, legal certainty, avoidance of arbitrariness, and procedural and legal transparency.

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.

**THEMATICAL AREAS**

- Security Sector Reform (SSR)
- Human rights & international human rights mechanisms
- Legal aid & access to justice
- Governance & accountability
- Judicial reform
- Civil society actors & SDGs
- Media & SDGs
- Institutional construction & reforms of the probation and after-care services

**OUR SERVICES**

- Training and facilitation
- Coaching & Mentoring
- Training of Trainers (ToT)
- E-learning & Online Facilitation
- Online Courses & Master Degrees
- Advisory
- Advocacy
- Learning Support Materials

**VISION AND MISSION**

As defined by the United Nations (UN), rule of law is a principle of governance in which all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, 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. It requires measures to ensure adherence to the principles of supremacy of the law, equality before the law, accountability to the law, fairness in the application of the law, separation of powers, participation in decision-making, legal certainty, avoidance of arbitrariness, and procedural and legal transparency.

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;
- and reinforce good governance within institutions, judiciary and security sector.
Africa Rule of Law Summit

The annual Africa Rule of Law Summit will bring together African heads of state, AU and UN representatives, ministers in charge of constitution and justice, chief justices, attorney-generals, think tanks working in law and justice, international, regional and local organisations, academia and civil society organisations with the aim of enhancing the African countries’ capacities to own, implement and observe the rule of law. The resulting sessions and policy briefs will inform policy- and decision-making in respective areas, while papers on peace, sustainability and advancement of the rule of law in fragile Member States, in particular, will provide a platform for robust discussions and analysis on how states can comparatively balance the need to fight crime and state despondence while ensuring that the rule of law prevails.

Mediation Support

This joint project with COMESA aims to strengthen the mediation capacities of the COMESA Committee of Elders through tailor-made refresher training. Part of the project will include the dissemination of the mediation handbooks developed by COMESA for the resolution of both electoral and resource-based conflicts to a wide range of stakeholders, such as CSOs, youth, women, religious leaders and grassroots opinion leaders in selected border areas.

Democratisation Processes

This project is another collaboration with COMESA that involves the review of best electoral practices to allow for their updating and the development of a tool of standards for their dissemination within the region. These efforts will be complemented by the development of training modules for electoral management bodies (EMBs) and other key election stakeholders, while Regular meetings of COMESA EMBs will be used to deliver these trainings. Specific support will be provided to COMESA Member States’ Committees of Elders to conduct joint assessments of the implementation of COMESA (and other) election observer reports that would substantially strengthen electoral processes ahead of any subsequent elections in Member States.

Current Projects

Good Governance for Parliamentarians, July 2020 - June 2022

The project, established as a collaboration between UNITAR and the Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST) in Kenya, aims to scale up the fight against corruption through training and capacity building for Members of Parliament and County Assemblies of the Republic of Kenya. It does so by promoting a universal culture of good governance, democratic values, gender equality, respect for human rights, justice for all and rule of law and by equipping Members and Staff of Parliament and county Assemblies with concrete skills needed to effectively deliver on their responsibilities related to oversight and accountability.

Health Security and Self-Care Interventions for Sexual and Reproductive Health During and Post COVID-19, July 2020 - June 2021

In response to the urgent demand to introduce evidence-based self-care measures and self-care interventions while addressing policy and regulatory considerations, the project, run in collaboration with the World Health Organization, aims to equip public health actors with the requisite knowledge on self-care interventions and policy changes required to ensure rapid responses in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

The training programme is designed to enable participants to respond rapidly to global health crises by introducing alternative and evidence-based ways of service delivery, while ensuring continuous progress towards the achievement of universal health coverage in line with the SDG 3 of Good Health and Well-being.

Future Projects