**Introduction to UNITAR**

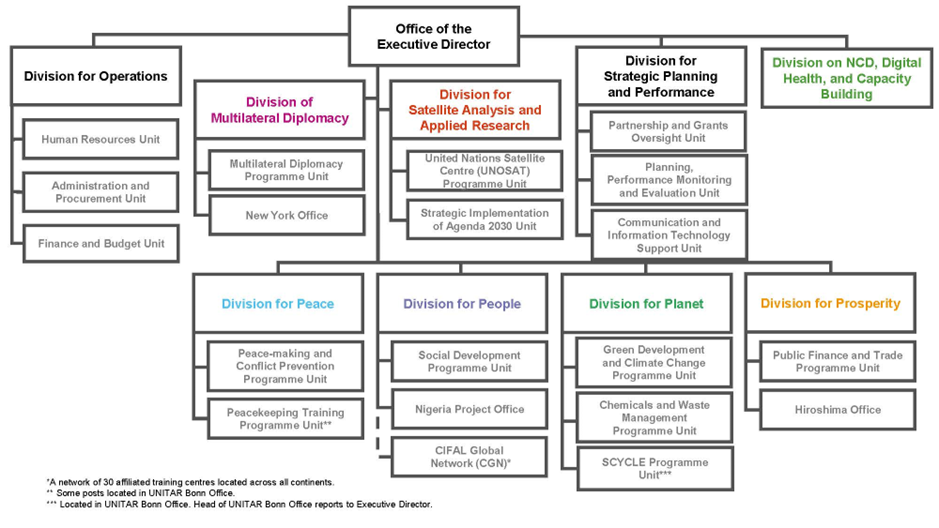
**Brief Introduction**

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) serves as the training and research arm of the United Nations, and provides innovative learning solutions to individuals, organizations and institutions to enhance global decision-making and support country-level action for shaping a better future.

Established in 1963, UNITAR is equipped with the infrastructure as well as resources to provide top-tier training activities for the aspiring young generation longing for a diplomatic career. The trainings are delivered by a wide range of experts in different related fields, such as former UN diplomats, UN staff as well as international consultants that have multicultural backgrounds.

UNITAR’s overall beneficiaries were produced through the delivery of 896 events (equivalent to some 12,173 event days over the calendar year). UNITAR issued 58,091 certificates of participation and completion for 2020 learning-related events which have objective assessment of learning. UNITAR serves a wide spectrum of constituencies, with 49 per cent of its learning-related beneficiaries coming from non- state sectors, including NGOs, academia, and the businesses; 10 per cent from government (national, state and local); 6 per cent the United Nations and other international organizations; and 35 percent from other sectors.

**Organization Structure**

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With a strategy fully focused on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UNITAR supports Governments to implement the 2030 Agenda. UNITAR uses the Sustainable Development Goals as the guiding principle for our work with the strategic objectives organized around four out of five thematic pillars of the 2030 Agenda (Peace, People, Planet and Prosperity).

Therefore, the Division of Multilateral Diplomacy (DMD) lies in the cross-cutting position of the four thematic divisions. DMD works to enhance the capacities of diplomats, public officials, delegates, students, professionals and other stakeholders to increase performance in conferences and meetings convened at the United Nations as well as other international and regional organizations, and level the playing field in multilateral settings. We are uniquely positioned to support countries in strengthening national institutions for building capacity at all levels and fostering the participation of Member States in global governance, contributing to the acceleration of the 2030 Agenda.

The Office of the Executive Director gives the strategic guidance and direction to the entire Institute. Division for Strategic Planning and Performance is responsible for performance planning, monitoring and evaluation as well as partnership and resource mobilization, while Division for Operations supports the programme delivery from operational side.

**Vision, Mission, and Core Functions**

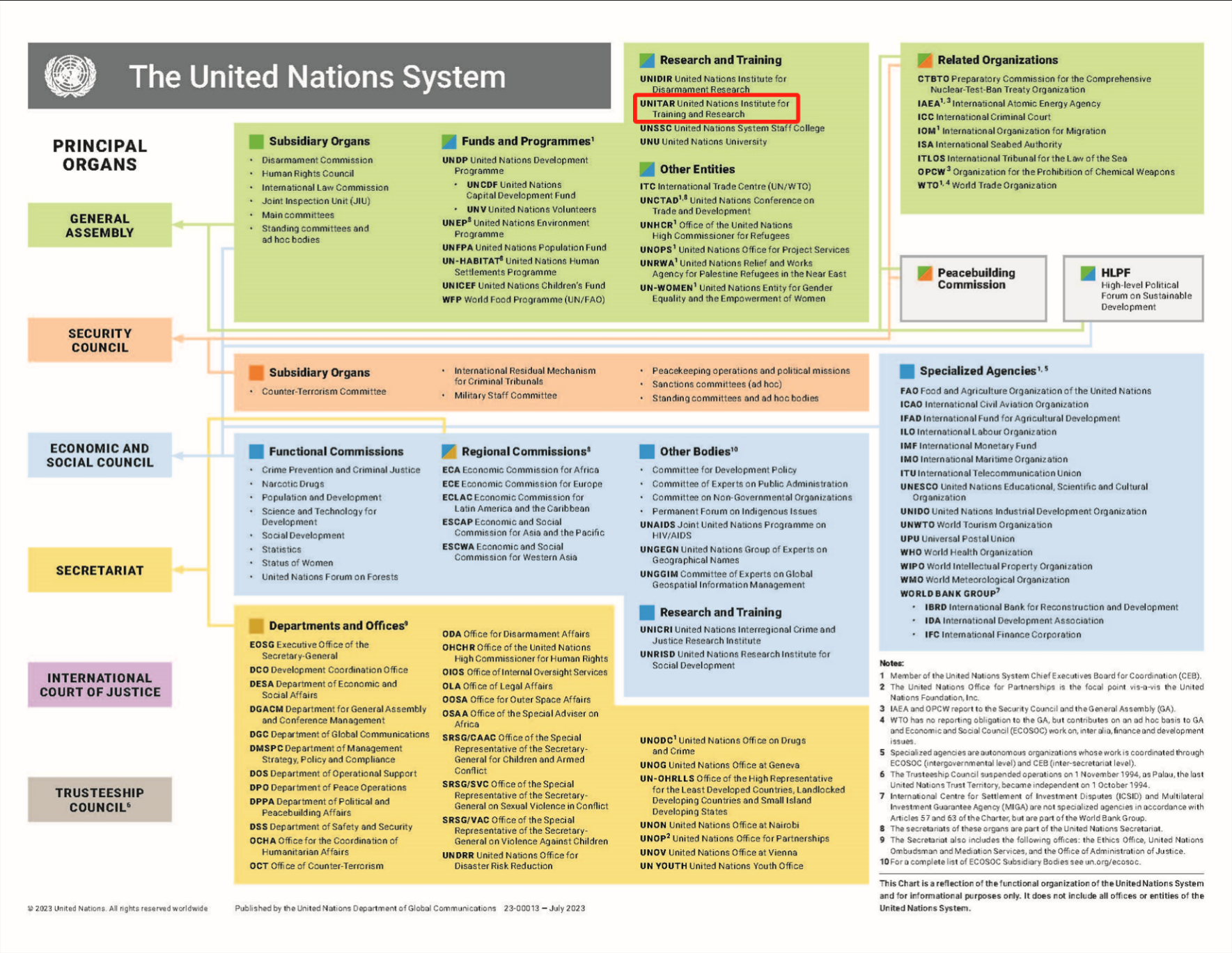
UNITAR aims to reflect a drive for results and programming to develop the capacities of individuals, institutions, and organizations with a view to overcoming global challenges.

UNITAR’s mission is to develop the individual, institutional and organizational capacities of countries and other United Nations stakeholders through high-quality learning solutions and related knowledge products and services to enhance decision-making and to support country-level action for overcoming global challenges.

UNITAR’s core functions are stated below:

* Providing high-quality learning solutions to address the capacity development needs of individuals, organizations and institutions;
* Advising and supporting governments, the UN and other partners with knowledge services, including those that are technology-based;
* Facilitating knowledge and experience sharing through networked and innovative processes;
* Integrating innovative strategies, approaches and methodologies into our learning and related knowledge products and services.

**UNITAR Within the United Nations**



**Executive Director of UNITAR**

A person in a suit and tie

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Mr. Nikhil Seth

Mr. Nikhil Seth was appointed as UN Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 8 June 2015.

Before joining UNITAR as Executive Director, Nikhil Seth was the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) at the United Nations Secretariat in New York. In this role he served as head of the Rio+20 secretariat and of the secretariat for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, spearheading the preparations for these conferences in Rio, Brazil, and Apia, Samoa. He was also closely engaged in coordinating and advancing their follow-up. Mr. Seth’s Division was also responsible for supporting the intergovernmental negotiations for the post-2015 development agenda, which was adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015 in September 2015.

During his career with the United Nations since 1993, Mr. Seth has served as Special Assistant and Chief of Office to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (Sept 1993 – Jun 2001), Chief of the Policy Coordination Branch in the Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (Jun 2001 – Jan 2003), as Secretary of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Second Committee of the General Assembly (Feb 2003 – Aug 2006), and as Director of the DESA Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (Aug 2006 – Aug 2011), where

he guided the ECOSOC’s work in implementing several new key mandates, including its Annual Ministerial Review and Development Cooperation Forum.