**INPUTS TO AN UPCOMING REPORT
ON CIVIL SOCIETY SPACE, FURTHER TO
UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL RESOLUTION
32/31
ADOPTED IN JULY 2016**

**Geneva, Switzerland
18 December 2016**

Resolution 32/31 and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

With reference to the resolution 32/31, UNITAR's work is linked to paragraph 14 (e):

14. *Also urges* States to create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment for civil society, and in this regard to use good practices such as, inter alia, those compiled in the report of the High Commissioner on practical recommendations for the creation and maintenance of a safe and enabling environment for civil society, based on good practices and lessons learned by, inter alia:

…(e) Providing for a long-term supportive environment for civil society, including through education that is aimed at strengthening the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms;…

UNITAR has frequently shown its support to the promotion and protection of civil society rights and the protection of civil society space through training, education and capacity building. UNITAR's activities provide the fundamental tools needed by civil society actors, to equip them with the knowledge and valuable skills necessary to carry out their advocacy work.

UNITAR engagement with Civil Society

In recent years, UNITAR has engaged with civil society actors through various activities:

Date	Event	Details of the event
7 Nov - 4 Dec 2016	UNITAR organized an e-course on Cosmopolitan Communication: Connecting across Diplomats, Business Leaders and Civil Society Actors	The general objective of this e-learning course was to reinforce the knowledge of the process of communication, to explore cultural awareness, and to understand the differences in communication among various cultures. Additionally, it is important to learn how to effectively manage constructive conversations. After this course the participants were able to: • Describe and identify the different types of cosmopolitan communication; • Apply tools and techniques for effective cosmopolitan communication; • Identify, explain and react to cultural communication patterns and features; • Identify and overcome communications barriers and thus be able to act confidently in an intercultural setting. The same course also ran in 2015.

Sep 2016	Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT)	UNITAR developed and delivered a Training of Trainers for 8 staff members of the Association for the Prevention of Torture. The one-day training focused on learner engagement techniques and building sustainable teams/communities during and after training events. The learning objectives were: • Explain how people learn; • Discuss the scope and impact of training; • Identify effective techniques for learner engagement and describe their applicability; • Devise a strategy for building sustainable teams and communities during and after training events.
14 Jul 2016	UNITAR Delivers Harmonizing Global, Regional, and National Commitments to Implement the SDGs Seminar to the New York Diplomatic Community	The UNITAR New York Office hosted this seminar at the UN Headquarters in New York during the High-Level Political Forum. The seminar was attended by approximately 50 delegates from Permanent Missions to the UN and members of civil society. Mr. Nikhil Seth, Executive Director of UNITAR, opened the session by speaking to the issue of multiple agendas and presenting the question, "How do we align all of these agendas and goals?" The panellists included: Mr. Jeffery Sachs, the Director of Earth Institute and Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development at Columbia University; Mr. Haldoor Thorgeirsson, the Director for Strategy at United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and Ambassador Kamau, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations. The panellists urged nations and civil society groups to promote and support the implementation of the SDGs, to make budgetary plans, to harness science and technology for the effective implementation of the SDGs, to use multiple types and sources of funding, to spread knowledge of the SDGs at the population level, and to form new tools for national and civic cooperation to achieve the SDGs.

July & Dec 2016	UNITAR organized 2 sessions of the online course on Human Rights and Environmental Protection for Sustainable Development; in collaboration with the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment	The general objective of this online course was to cover the basic principles and concepts of human rights, the SDGs with emphasis on the goals and targets most relevant to environmental protection, and the relationship between human rights and the environment. It also explained the bases for the application of human rights to environmental issues, the procedural and substantive obligations relating to the environment, Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, as well as the obligations relating to vulnerable group. Further, it gave examples of constitutions that have incorporated a right to a healthy environment, good practices in procedural and substantive environmental protection, as well as good practices in the protection of groups particularly vulnerable to environmental harm. After completing the course, participants were able to: • Recognize the basic principles of human rights; • Identify the SDGs and targets that concern the environment; • Explain how environmental harm can interfere with the enjoyment of human rights; Determine how the exercise of human rights can help promote environmental protection and sustainable development.
21 Apr 2016	9th edition of the Geneva Lecture Series entitled "A Civil Peace by Civil Society -Tunisian Experiences for the Future of the Region" at the Palais des Nations	UNOG and UNITAR, in cooperation with the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, co-organized this event. The event consisted of a panel discussion with the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet and was followed by an interactive debate with the public. The panelists of this event were Ms. Ouided Bouchamaoui, President of the Tunisian Union of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts; Mr. Hocine Abassi, Secretary-General of the Tunisian General Labour Union; Mr. Abessatar Ben Moussa, President of the Tunisian Human Rights League; and Mr. Fadhel Mahfoudh, President of the Tunisian Order of Lawyers. The event was moderated by Dr. Ghassan Salame, Professor Emeritus of Science Po. Paris and former Lebanese Minister of Culture. The Geneva Lecture Series are a joint UNOG-UNITAR series of open lectures which take place on a regular basis at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. The lectures aim to foster awareness of a number of pressing global challenges among audiences in Geneva and beyond, with a focus on how each individual can contribute to resolving such challenges. Note: The lauded work of the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates was mentioned in the adopted resolution 32/31 and also in the

		2014, A Practical Guide for Civil Society: Civil Society space and the United Nations Human Rights System book.
2016	UNITAR published a manual and online course on "Strengthening Civilian Capacities to Protect Civilians"	UNITAR in partnership with Non-Violent Peace Force has developed a manual and an online course on "Strengthening Civilian Capacities to Protect Civilians". The manual and the course aim to contribute to the common objectives of protecting civilians and keeping peace through the involvement of local communities and civil society. More specifically, the online course provides an introduction to the foundations of Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP), its principles, methods and required skills, as well as an overview of UCP in practice. At the end of the course participants are able to: • Recall the key principles and sources of guidance of UCP • Illustrate UCP methods and required skills; • Summarize key steps to go through in preparation for entering a community; • Outline key actions to undertake while living in and exiting a community.
9 Sep 2015	Speech by (former) UNITAR Executive Director Madam Sally Fegan-Wyles at the conference "15 Years of UN Security Council Resolution 1325"	UN ASG Sally Fegan-Wyles, previous UNITAR Executive Director, made welcoming remarks at the opening of the conference "15 Years of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security – Review and Outlook" organized by the Government of Switzerland and held at the Maison de la Paix in Geneva. She acknowledged that some notable progress has been made through the six follow up resolutions, the efforts made by the various departments of the UN, by the Funds and Programmes, by many national governments, and by Civil Society organisations, with regards to global efforts to protect women from violence, and to the promotion of the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflict, and the construction of stable and just societies. She also highlighted some progress made on civil society networks, which have been established and are very active. She furthermore noted that in 2014, all UN mediation support teams included women; civil society groups were consulted in all processes where the UN was in a lead or co-leading role, and women's representation on negotiating parties' delegations showed a steady upward trend.
8 Nov 2014	The UNITAR New York Office co-sponsored with the Permanent Mission	Held at the Al-Khoei Foundation in New York, the event brought together scholars, diplomats, religious figures and government officials, who discussed methods to combat extremism at a civil society level. The conference stressed the link between a robust

	of Iraq to the UN and the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) a special forum on the topic "Confronting Extremism: Faith-Based Community Initiatives towards Positive Diversity, Protecting Minorities and Enhancing Accountability and Good Governance"	civil society and the improvement of governance and security. Presenters noted the role of religious groups, charities, government programs and educational institutions in fostering a sense of belonging and social empowerment. It was agreed that these community-based mechanisms could act as a powerful means of counteracting sectarian divisions and confronting the root causes of extremism.
25-29 Aug 2014	UNITAR organized training for 85 Civil Servants from Afghanistan entitled "Workshop II of its flagship Fellowship for Afghanistan Programme" in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates	The UNITAR Hiroshima Office successfully concluded the workshop, which covered various topics such as Organisational Needs Assessment, Project Planning and Design, as well as Team Development and Management. The Fellowship, in its 11th annual cycle, is a 7-month programme which sees 60 Civil Servants from Afghanistan paired with Mentors from around the world in an innovative blended-learning environment. The 2014 Fellowship featured participants from the following entities within Afghanistan: • The Afghanistan Civil Service Institute (ACSI) • The Agha Khan Foundation • De Afghanistan Breshna Shirkat (Power Utility Company) • The Mine Clearance Program for Afghanistan • Ministry of Borders and Tribal Affairs • Ministry of Counter Narcotics • Ministry of Education • Ministry of Finance • Ministry of Public Health • Ministry of Public Works • Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development • National Assembly (Wolosi Jirga, Parliament) • Office of the Administrative Affairs Resource Persons at the Workshop included Dr Michael Fors of Microsoft Corporation and Professor David Eaton, of the University of Texas in Austin. The Abu Dhabi workshop was followed up with online mentoring sessions, as well as video-conferences examining the following;

		• Social Capital and Civil Society; • Risk Mitigation; • Results-based Management.
2014-2015	Citizen Cyberlab Project	Development of crowdsourcing GeoTag-X open source platform for volunteer contributions from civil society in analysing photos under various thematic areas, such as food security, refugee shelters, cultural heritage and health. The project has been transferred to Citizen Cyberlab, a collaboration with CERN and the University of Geneva, in addition to UNITAR. UNOSAT Manager Einar Bjorgo has explained the importance of the project in these terms: "Engaging with civil society through volunteer online contributions has significant potential. Through Citizen Cyberlab we have learned much about how to best approach volunteers for maximum impact."
2014- 2016	Support to the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI – previously known as the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights) and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)	Since 2014, UNITAR has supported the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI – previously ICC) and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) with the methodological preparation of the interactive sessions of the training on International Human Rights System for National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs). In 2015-2016 UNITAR, GANHRI and FES also developed an online component aimed at providing the participants with basic knowledge prior to their participation in the face to face training in Geneva. Between April and May 2016, UNITAR supported the delivery of a blended training course for 16 representatives of NHRIs from various countries around the world (3 representatives from Africa, 5 from Europe, 4 from Latin America, and 2 from Southeast Asia). The training course aimed at strengthening the capacity of the National Human Rights Institutions to protect and promote the respect of Human Rights in their respective countries through an efficient and effective engagement with the International Human Rights system – especially the United Nations mechanisms - both from a theoretical and a practical perspective.
2014 - 2016	Comic book project in the DRC and Colombia aimed at strengthening the capacities of local community to prevent the (re-) recruitment of children as soldiers.	Since 2014, UNITAR has worked with civil society organizations in the DRC and Colombia to contribute to the prevention of the (re) recruitment of children as soldiers, by developing comic books that reflect the risks associated to recruitment of children as soldiers as well as the reality of the life of a child soldier. The comics and related educational materials are used to sensitize communities in conflict-affected areas and to empower youth and their counterparts to make positive contributions for peace and sustainable development. Furthermore, the comic books convey basic protection

		strategies on how to prevent the recruitment and re-recruitment of children.

Other events:

- Sep 2013 - Joint project on '*Strengthening Capacities of Civil Society Organizations for National and Regional SAICM Implementation in the EECCA Region'* with Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. During the 5th Central and Eastern European regional meeting of SAICM in Macedonia, UNITAR and OECD held a briefing session on nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials. UNITAR presented an overview and progress on its nanotechnology programme and pilot projects. This joint project won the most outstanding project award in the region and UNITAR, as a member of the IOMC presented the "IOMC Toolbox for Decision Making In Chemicals Management", which is an online tool for countries that would like to setup or improve their chemicals management system. The interactive toolbox assists countries to find answers and mechanisms when dealing with their specific needs and objectives and points users to available IOMC resources to address specific national problems related to chemicals management.

- Jun 2013 - *Help to alleviate the global burden of trauma, new responses to a challenge for Governments, UN agencies and civil society.* UNITAR and EMDR Europe HAP and the NGO Forum for Health, organised a program of lectures, discussion panels and individualized consultations on innovative trauma therapy in humanitarian, developmental and everyday settings, bringing together experts in mental health, development and humanitarian issues. This event supported WHO's Global Mental Health Action Plan which calls for a scaling up of care for people experiencing adverse life events including trauma.

- Sep 2012 - *UNITAR promoting Democracy Education for healthy and peaceful societies.* UNITAR New York Office, together with the Council for a Community of Democracies and the UN Democracy Fund convened a panel discussion for Permanent Missions, the UN and from civil society to discuss the role of democracy education in promoting healthy and peaceful societies.

- Jun 2012 - *Leading International Thinkers Call for New Social Contract to address the sustainable development challenges of the 21st Century.* A high level panel discussion was organized by UNITAR and the Ethos Institute to review the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference and discuss a new holistic vision for humanity and nature. The Panel called for a new Social Contract of governments, civil society and all stakeholders to implement the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference.

- Jun 2012 - An interactive working session by UNITAR/UNEP on "Capacity Development to Strengthen Participatory Environmental Governance". In order to identify possible action for strengthening

capacities of stakeholders and Governments for effective public participation, brought together around 300 participants from civil society, Governments, academia, the private sector, and the UN system. Government may benefit significantly from effective civil society participation and win-win situations are possible, but government officials often hesitate to seek public engagement. It is therefore key to raise awareness in Government about the potential benefits of public participation through careful dialogues and capacity development support programmes. At the same time it is also important to enhance technical capacities of Government officials to design and manage participation processes (e.g. managing public hearings or consensus processes). Moreover, effective public participation processes require legal frameworks and formal structures, including judicial review of decisions.

- Feb 2012 - Project ForestWatchers: For ordinary citizens around the globe to play an active role in monitoring a large share of the world's remaining forests. Another innovative project involving collaborative mapping and cyberscience will see the light this year thanks to support from the Open Society Foundations. The Foundations, established by George Soros, have the mission "to increase public access to knowledge, facilitate civil society communication, and protect civil liberties and the freedom to communicate in the digital environment." The new project, dubbed ForestWatchers, is one of the Cybermappr applications and a spin off of the renowned Citizen Cyberscience Centre (CCC), created by UNITAR, CERN, and the University of Geneva to serve as incubator of innovative ideas in cyberscience and collaborative distributed thinking. ForestWatchers was born from an idea floated by UNOSAT experts, that of mapping actual deforestation in Brazil. The project partners include the Brazilian National Institute for Space Research, the Federal University of São Paulo and the Federal University of Western Pará. The aim of the initiative is to use citizen-based collaborative computing to sustain a deforestation monitoring system based on satellite imagery analysis and crowd-sourcing. ForestWatchers will also integrate the latest UNOSAT methodologies in crowdsourcing and geo-tagging. The long-term, bold vision of this project is for ordinary citizens around the globe to play an active role in monitoring a large share of the world's remaining forests.

Events related to the engagement with civil society are shared on the UNITAR website and updated regularly: http://www.unitar.org/special-events

It is important to note that UNITAR is also part of the CIFAL Global Network (*CIFAL stands for "Centre International de Formation des Autorités et Leaders" (in French), and "Centro Internacional de Formación para Autoridades y Líderes" (in Spanish).* The CIFAL Global Network is composed of 16 International Training Centres for Authorities and Leaders. These CIFAL centres are located across Asia, Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Caribbean, and the network is coordinated by UNITAR's Decentralized Cooperation Programme (DCP). Most of DCP's training services are delivered through the CIFAL Global Network. The

CIFAL centres provide innovative training throughout the world and serve as hubs for the exchange of knowledge amongst government officials, the private sector and civil society.

The CIFAL Global Network's mission is to strengthen the capacities of government officials and civil society leaders, thus empowering them to advance sustainable development.

The central purpose of CIFAL's training programmes is to develop and strengthen human capacities to better respond to development challenges and to facilitate City to City (C2C) partnerships. CIFALs trainings provide a platform for dialogue and knowledge transfer on key development related issues. Through knowledge management methodologies, CIFALs provide networking opportunities that lead to collaboration, facilitation of peer to peer learning and exchange of best practices. Since its inception in 2003, the Network has reached more than 30,000 beneficiaries through over 400 learning events.

The eradication of poverty and hunger, environmental sustainability, risk reduction of natural disasters and provision of skills required to compete in a global economy, are only a few of the challenges that our governments and societies face. The CIFAL Global Network recognizes that there is a crucial need for capacity development in order to address these challenges.

While working together, the CIFAL centres address a wide range of issues, including:
- Sustainable development and poverty eradication;
- Decentralized cooperation;
- Environmental sustainability;
- Urbanization;
- Gender equality;
- Health security;
- Public-private partnerships.

The Green Development and Climate Change Programme and Civil Society

UNITAR's Green Development and Climate Change Programme (GCP) has engaged civil society actors for many years (please see events above), however, more recently the following activities have been organised in order to better engage civil society on issues of climate change:

- Youth Climate Dialogue (http://www.uncclearn.org/news/youth-climate-dialogues-ycds-go-beyond-swiss-borders)
- The Climate Classroom (http://www.uncclearn.org/news/climate-classroom-cop22-provides-innovative-learning-opportunities-busy-delegates)
- Closing the Climate Finance Gap in Cambodia: Could Training be the Simple Answer? (https://medium.com/@UNITAR/closing-the-climate-finance-gap-in-cambodia-could-training-be-the-simple-answer-5adac74d6999#.18olt9dob)
- Bhutanese Children on a Mission to Lighten their Load on the Planet (https://medium.com/@UNITAR/bhutanese-children-on-a-mission-to-lighten-their-load-on-the-planet-f185be5209b3#.ml78plf2m)

- One-Day Trainings on SCP, Waste Management, Resource Efficiency Conducted in Colombo and Sabaragamuwa ((https://www.unitar.org/sri-lankan-universities-go-green-one-day-trainings-sustainable-consumption-and-production)
- Meeting on 'Mongolia's Pathway to Sustainable Development': Green development as an opportunity in times of economic downturn in Mongolia (http://www.unitar.org/times-are-they-changin-mongolia-green-development-opportunity-times-economic-downturn)
- Green Economy Week (http://www.uncclearn.org/news/ghanaians-celebrate-climate-change-and-green-economy-week)
- There are free courses on climate change available to civil society actors in various languages (http://uncclearn.org/login/index.php)

The activities above have provided a safe space and enabling environment for civil society to discuss, share and address things which are of importance to them including climate change and the mitigation of its effects through daily actions and activities. UNITAR works to support civil society actors work endlessly to protect the environment, to empower the youth, to advocate for transparency of government budgets and policies, and to promote corporate social responsibility and accountability.