

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINING PEACE

MODULE III



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KEYWORDS

Security sector reform; disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration; governance; election processes; UN's role in sustaining peace.

ABSTRACT

As once stated by Nelson Mandela, "Peace is not just the absence of conflict; peace is the creation of an environment where all can flourish, regardless of race, colour, creed, religion, gender, class, caste, or any other social markers of difference."

In a world of proliferating conflicts, sustaining peace has become a complex task that demands a comprehensive approach which includes an understanding of the political process, safety and security, rule of law and human rights, social services, core government functions, and economic revitalisation. Anchored in the acknowledgement that communities continue to function and resist in conflict situations, this course will focus on exploring the political and safety and security dimensions of peace processes (including elections; inclusive dialogue; reconciliation approaches; and conflict management at national and subnational levels; disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration; and security sector reform) as well as the role played by different international organisations such as the UN in peacekeeping missions.

Recognizing that conflicts are not a linear process and bringing in the vantage point of local communities, the course will discuss the role of humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actors in conducting activities with a triple nexus approach before, during, and after conflict. As described in Secretary General's Report on Our Common Agenda, a prevention agenda linking peace and security, human rights, gender equality, and climate and development while also demonstrating an understanding of factors that exacerbate local grievances and instability is critical to sustaining peace.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Analyze the role of political safety and security processes in building and sustaining peace.
2. Examine the role of various international and regional organizations in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and stability consolidation.
3. Understand key UN policies for sustaining peace, including our Common Agenda and Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) and their application in conflict settings.
4. Evaluate reconciliation approaches, inclusive dialogue, conflict management strategies and security sector reform at different levels of governance.
5. Identify the challenges and opportunities of the triple nexus approach (humanitarian-development-peace) in crisis management before, during and after conflict.
6. Critically reflect on the impact of cross-cutting factors such as human rights, gender equality, climate change and sustainable development in conflict prevention and resolution.

LECTURERS



Rafael Barbieri
Department of Peace
Operations,
United Nations



Andrew Whitley
Executive Director
Geo-Political Advisory Services



Sébastien Coquoz
Elections and Conflict
Prevention
European External
Action Service,
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Hans Thorgren
Senior Advisor,
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FBA



Mr. Stefan Aström
Head of DDR
Programme, Folke
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FBA



Fallckolm Cuenca
Head of Security Sector
Governance and Reform,
Folke Bernadotte Academy,
FBA

METHODOLOGY

The course uses a variety of methodologies, including lectures and presentations, debates, group work, practical and advanced role-playing sessions, outdoor activities, and simulation exercises.

DIPLOMA

Participants who successfully complete the course will obtain an official diploma from the International University Centre for Peace Missions of Helsinki España.

LOCATION

- Alfaz del Pi, Alicante, Spain

DATE

- 9-13 June 2025

COURSE DURATION

- 40 hours
- 8:30am-5:00pm Monday to Friday

LANGUAGE

- English
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MINIMUM REQUIREMENT

- University degree or equivalent professional training.
- Fluency in English: B2+.
- Strong interest in international affairs.

ACCOMMODATION

- Participants organize their own accommodation. However, Helsinki España will inform selected participants of the different accommodation options available.

COST AND ENROLLMENT

- 1.200€ course fee.
- Meals and accommodation costs are NOT included.
- Applicants are also responsible for their visa-related costs.

VISA PROCESS

In order to start with the visa process, participants must have paid all the course. Helsinki España will support participants with an invitation letter.

ENROLLMENT PROCESS

Registration form must be sent to iucpm@helsinkiespana.org.

PAYMENTS

- Individual courses must be paid in full.
- Participants are responsible for the cost of bank transfers and currency exchange.
- In case of cancellation prior to the start date of the course, please note that we unfortunately cannot reimburse you. You will be able to participate in future courses with that course credit.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Unfortunately, we cannot provide scholarships for this course. Participants (or their employer) must be able to cover the tuition fee.

LECTURERS



MR. STEFAN ÅSTRÖM

INSTITUTION: FOLKE BERNADOTTE ACADEMY (FBA)
POSITION: HEAD OF DDR PROGRAMME

Stefan Åström is currently working as Head of the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) program at the Folke Bernadotte Academy. Prior to this job, he worked at the OAS DDR Verification Mission in Colombia for more than 6 years, serving 4 years as Regional Office Coordinator at Headquarters.

Prior to that, he was an advisor to the Head of the Presidential Authority of "Red Solidaridad Social" in Colombia, regarding the sustainable return/reintegration of internally displaced persons. His previous experience includes working for UNDP in Colombia, UNHCR in Venezuela; CIMIC/SFOR in Bosnia; UN Military Observer, MINUGUA in Guatemala, and the Swedish Migration Board.

Stefan Åström holds a BA in Political Science and an MA in International Humanitarian Law.



MR. SÉBASTIEN COQUOZ

INSTITUTION: EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION
SERVICE
POSITION: ELECTIONS AND CONFLICT PREVENTION
POLICY OFFICER

Sébastien Coquoz is a Conflict Prevention and Elections Policy Officer at the European External Action Service's Peace, Security and Defence Partnerships Division, deployed in Brussels since 2021 by the Swiss Expert Pool for Civilian Peacebuilding. He covers conflict prevention in Asia Pacific and electoral violence prevention globally. He coordinates country, regional and scenario analyses and electoral violence risk assessments, develops partnerships, builds internal capacity and advises EEAS hierarchy, EU services and Delegations on conflict prevention, mediation and dialogue support in countries at risk of electoral violence. He is also the focal point for conflict prevention trainings and collaboration with the UN.

From 2018 and 2021, he was the Peace, Elections and Democracy Adviser at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs' Peace and Human Rights Division, where he coordinated the Swiss approach to conflict prevention and resolution in electoral, constitutional, and parliamentary processes. From 2013 to 2018, he worked as human rights officer and then head of a field office at OHCHR Colombia and programme officer at the Norwegian Refugee Council's Latin America office. He also worked on diplomatic affairs, mine action, human rights and money laundering in Peru, Switzerland, Norway and Indonesia. He studied International and European Law and Human Rights.



MR. RAFAEL BARBIERI

INSTITUTION: DEPARTMENT OF PEACE OPERATIONS,
UNITED NATIONS

POSITION: TEAM LEADER OF THE MEMBER STATES
SUPPORT TEAM IN THE INTEGRATED TRAINING
SERVICE

Rafael Barbieri is currently the Deputy Team Leader of the Member States support team in the Integrated Training Service of the United Nations Department of Peace Operations (UNDPO). Rafael's team oversees the development and delivery of mandatory and recommended pre-deployment training materials for UN Peacekeeping.

Mr. Barbieri has more than 30 years of progressively responsible experience in training and education and more than 25 years of experience in peacekeeping training. He has served in the UN Secretariat for 17 consecutive years.

Previously, Mr. Barbieri served in the army for almost three decades, mainly in the Special Forces. He graduated from the Military Academy as an infantry officer in 1985 and from the War College as Staff Officer in 2000. He commanded the deployment of troops in Cambodia (UNTAC) in 1993 and in DCR (MONUC) from 2002 to 2003. Rafael was the Director of the Uruguayan Peace Operations Training Centre from 2003 to 2005.

After he retired from the army in 2008, Mr. Barbieri was recruited by the United Nations as a civilian staff member, serving both at HQ and in the field. He served as chief of training in 2012 in Syria (UNSMIS). Rafael oversees the development and dissemination of key UN Specialised Training Materials (STM), including the UN Military Units; the Comprehensive Protection of Civilians; the UN Senior National Planners Programme; and Intelligence in Peacekeeping. During his assignment in the Secretariat, Rafael has led numerous training programmes and advised Member States on how to contribute to peacekeeping operations.

He holds a master's degree in military science and two university degrees in system analysis and computer engineering. He was a professor at the University in Uruguay from 1999 to 2002 in project management and computer science.



MR. FALLCKOLM CUENCA

INSTITUTION: FOLKE BERNADOTTE ACADEMY
(FBA)

POSITION: HEAD OF SECURITY SECTOR
GOVERNANCE AND REFORM

Fallckolm is currently working at FBA with Rule of Law and Governance with a specific focus on Governance of the Security Sector. He has previously worked in diverse context such as Afghanistan, Colombia, Myanmar, Senegal, and most recently in Moldova to mention a few. His academic background is in International Relations and International Law.