

# RISKS AND THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE.

## MODULE IV



## MODULE IV. RISKS AND THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE.

### KEYWORDS

**Transnational organised crime; economies of conflict; armed conflicts and prolonged crises; terrorism; armed groups labelled as terrorist; radicalisation, disinformation, modern conflicts.**

### ABSTRACT

The nexus between illicit arms, transnational organised crime, and armed conflict intensifies violence and erodes governance. Modern conflicts, influenced by geopolitical rivalries and the globalisation of crime, create environments where criminal economies, such as drug trafficking and illegal mining, flourish due to weak rule of law. These illicit activities, sustained by both state and non-state actors, fuel prolonged crises in regions like Afghanistan, Colombia, and the Sahel, where arms and financial resources flow freely across borders.

Geopolitical interests often exacerbate modern conflicts, with global powers backing factions that prolong instability for strategic gain. In regions like the Middle East and Eastern Europe, these rivalries fuel armed confrontations, making peaceful resolutions elusive and creating power vacuums exploited by terrorist organisations. Groups like ISIS and Al-Qaeda thrive in these destabilised regions, taking advantage of failed states and capitalising on social alienation, disinformation, and radicalisation. Disinformation, particularly spread through digital platforms, further amplifies conflict by polarising societies, undermining trust in institutions, and promoting extremist narratives.

Additionally, the "terrorist" label has become blurred in modern conflicts, complicating legal frameworks and humanitarian efforts. Armed groups are often mischaracterised, impacting aid delivery and exacerbating local violence. The course will explore these intersections of organised crime, terrorism, extremism, and disinformation within the context of modern conflicts, addressing their geopolitical underpinnings and impact on global security. Participants will engage with current strategies and international law responses to combat these interconnected threats.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Understand the different concepts and definitions of organized crime, terrorism and extremism, and the definition under different legal frameworks.
2. Get acquainted with the major financing mechanism of organized crime and its relations with existing conflicts.
3. Understand the legal implications of humanitarian, development and peacebuilding workers engaging with terrorist groups under different jurisdictions.
4. Explore the challenges of the international community's response to maintain peace and security and fight organized crime and terrorism.
5. Analyze the role of geopolitical rivalries and disinformation in exacerbating modern conflicts, including their impact on state stability, radicalization, and the spread of extremist ideologies.

### LECTURERS



**Charles Petrie**  
Former UN Assistant  
Secretary General



**Edgardo Buscaglia**  
Senior Research Scholar in Law  
& Economics,  
Columbia University



**Ted Howard**  
Senior Policy and  
Programs Advisor  
Global Affairs Canada

## 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.

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### LOCATION

- Alfaz del Pi, Alicante-Spain

### DATE

- 16-20 June, 2025.

### COURSE DURATION

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

### LANGUAGE

- English

### 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.

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### 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](mailto: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. CHARLES PETRIE

**INSTITUTION:** INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT  
**POSITION:** FORMER UN ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
GENERAL

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Sir Charles Petrie Bt, OBE is currently an independent consultant, specialising in human security. He holds a degree in International Affairs and Art History from the American College in Paris and a MBA from INSEAD. He has close to 30 years of experience working in conflict and famine settings, some of it with Médecins Sans Frontières and much of it with the UN system. From mid-2003 to the end of 2007, he was the UN representative in Myanmar. At the end of 2007, he was expelled from the country by the military for supporting the monks of the Saffron Revolution. Charles resigned from the UN at the end of 2010 as the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General for Burundi.

After leaving the UN, Charles was the special policy advisor to the President of Somalia, based in Villa Somalia Mogadishu (03/2011 - 09/2012). Subsequently and upon the new Myanmar government's invitation, he coordinated a mechanism set up to facilitate the discussions between the Government and the Ethnic Armed Groups (02/2012 - 03/2015). In March 2012, he was tasked by the UN Secretary-General to lead an internal review of the UN's actions in Sri Lanka during the last phase of the conflict. In the first half of 2015, he was designated as a member of a group of experts commissioned by the UN Secretary General to review the UN's Peacebuilding Architecture.

In August 2021, Charles published a book entitled "The Triumph of Evil", which relates the story of an attempt to hold a former UN official accountable for his alleged involvement in the murder of thirty-two people, including UN colleagues, during the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

He was named Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2014 New Year's Honours list for services to international peace, security and human rights. Upon his request, he received the award in Mogadishu.



## **MR. EDGARDO BUSCAGLIA**

**INSTITUTION:** COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
**POSITION:** SENIOR SCHOLAR OF ECONOMICS AND  
LAW

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Prof. Dr. Edgardo Buscaglia is a Senior Scholar in Law and Economics at Columbia University (NY, USA), a Visiting Senior Academic at Università degli Studi di Torino (Turin, Italy), a Professor at Universidad Nacional de Buenos Aires (Argentina) and the President of the "Instituto de Acción Ciudadana" (Mexico City, México).

Since 1991, Dr. Buscaglia has led programs with the United Nations and the World Bank, providing public policy advice to public and private sectors in 119 countries. He is focused on counteracting and preventing complex economic transnational crimes linked to political corruption and private sector corruption in countries including Afghanistan, Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, Ukraine, and Yemen.

Dr. Buscaglia is also a philanthropist within civil society organisations, providing free assistance to victims of human trafficking. He also counters wildlife trafficking in his roles as President of the United States branch of the Wildlife Justice Commission funding corporation and as President of the "Instituto de Acción Ciudadana" in Mexico.

Dr. Buscaglia has published his findings as opinion editorials in well-known newspapers such as The Wall Street Journal, Washington Times, New York Times, and Financial Times, among others. He has also published his findings in more than one hundred peer-reviewed scientific papers and seven books.

In 1995, he also co-founded the Latin American Law and Economics Association and served on the Board of Governance of Transparency International (Berlin, 1995-99). Professor Dr. Edgardo Buscaglia received his legal postdoctoral training in the Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program at the University of California at Berkeley. He also received a master's in law and economics and a PhD concentrated in law economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



## MR. TED HOWARD

**INSTITUTION:** GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA  
**POSITION:** SENIOR POLICY AND PROGRAMS ADVISOR

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A high-performing leader with over 30+ years of progressive experience spearheading programs supporting the strategic objectives of the Government of Canada. Strong command of international relations with substantial exposure to public policy guidance, social performance and responsibility, regulatory frameworks, sustainable governance, indigenous relations, peace support, and security sector reform. Professional training development and educator with exemplary presentation skills.

Three major specialties include civil sector engagement, strategic communications and strategic partnership development. I provide a unique skill set with the ability to effectively implement multi-stakeholder proactive engagement, conflict mediation, regional and community development, public administration institutional reforms, capacity building, and social impact programs.

Core expertise lies in bench-marking regulations, analyzing policies and procedures, and frameworks, and overseeing project life cycle management. Consistently able to conceptualize innovative decision-making, robust planning, and strong relationship management orientation to help advance development at multiple levels of the government.

Beyond political and technical advisory competence, proven experience managing projects, budgets, governmental contingency funds, and specialty teams, in complex and unstable environments. Experienced negotiator.

## PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

