

The United Nations Chemicals and Waste Management Study Programme



9-13 November 2026



UNITAR Headquarters
Av. de la Paix 7 bis, 1202
Genève Switzerland



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The Programme Experience

The United Nations Chemicals and Waste Management Study Programme is a flagship capacity development initiative delivered by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in Geneva, designed to strengthen knowledge and professional competencies in international chemicals and waste governance.

The programme is grounded in the recognition that the world is facing the Triple Planetary Crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste. While these challenges are often addressed separately, they are deeply interconnected. Unsound chemicals and waste management contributes to environmental pollution, degrades ecosystems, threatens biodiversity, contaminates air, water, and soils, and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions throughout the life cycle of chemicals and products. Conversely, sound chemicals and waste management is essential for protecting ecosystem integrity, safeguarding human health, supporting climate mitigation and adaptation, advancing a circular economy, and addressing the Triple Planetary Crisis.

Through engagement with United Nations agencies, convention secretariats, and international experts, participants gain practical insights into policy frameworks, regulatory approaches, and emerging challenges in the sound management of chemicals and waste.

By fostering technical expertise, professional networks, and understanding of multilateral chemicals and waste governance, the programme supports the development of skilled professionals capable of contributing to sustainable chemicals management at national and international levels. It also promotes international exchange, enhances career pathways within the UN system and related organizations, and contributes to strengthening global cooperation and capacity for environmental sustainability.



Organizer



UNITAR and its Chemicals and Waste Management Programme (CWM)

An autonomous UN body established in 1963, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is a dedicated training arm of the United Nations System and has the mandate to enhance the effectiveness of the UN through diplomatic training and to increase the impact of national actions through public awareness-raising, education, and training of public policy officials. UNITAR provides training and capacity development activities to assist mainly developing countries with special attention to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and other groups and communities who are most vulnerable, including those in conflict situations.

The Institute covers topics in the broad areas of Peace (promote peaceful, just, and inclusive societies), People and Social Inclusion (promote people's well-being and support the equitable representation of countries in global decision-making fora), Planet, environmental protection and restoration, and climate change (support the conservation, restoration, and safeguarding of our planet for present and future generations), Prosperity through sustainable economic growth (promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth), and Cross-fertilizing knowledge (optimising the use of technology and supporting coherence for the 2030 Agenda). It also researches innovative learning approaches, methods, and tools, as well as applied research to address critical issues, such as disaster risk reduction and humanitarian emergencies.

The UNITAR Chemicals and Waste Management Programme (CWM) provides capacity-building, technical support, and policy guidance to address challenges related to hazardous chemicals, waste, and their impacts on human health and the environment.

How CWM Supports

- Capacity Building: Development of training materials, workshops, e-learning materials, and tools to enhance skills development
- Policy Development: Establishing guidance documents, strategies, and support to enhance regulatory and institutional frameworks
- Development of Curricula and Training Programmes: Adapted to the learning needs and realities of countries and stakeholders
- Technical and Administrative Support: For countries to fulfill their international obligations under core global agreements and frameworks on chemicals and waste

Facilitators



Mr. Jorge Ocana

Manager, Chemicals and Waste Management Programme (CWM), UNITAR

Jorge Ocana is the Manager of the Chemicals and Waste Management Programme and has more than 25 years of experience developing chemicals-related strategies, guidance materials, and training programmes on specific areas of Chemicals and Waste Management. He has been involved in activities and projects related to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), particularly on PCB management in African countries and in the Latin American region. Additionally, he has supported the development of Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, and national profiles for Chemicals Management. He holds a master's degree in Social Sciences and a Biology Degree.



Mr. Oliver Wootton

Senior Programme Specialist, CWM, UNITAR

Oliver Wootton is a Senior Programme Specialist in the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Chemicals and Waste Management Programme. He has fifteen years' experience working in sustainable development, health and environment, in Malawi and the UN. Leading UNITAR's portfolio on classification and labelling of chemicals, nanomaterials, ratification of chemicals conventions, and key aspects of the Global Framework on Chemicals.



Mr. Stephen Joyce

Programme Coordinator, CWM, UNITAR

Stephen Joyce is a Programme Coordinator at UNITAR's Chemicals and Waste Management Programme. With a Master of Public Administration from the University of Victoria, his work focuses on developing capacity-building programmes on topics such as enhanced producer responsibility, water, and pollution management, while supporting international initiatives like the science-policy panel on chemicals and waste. He has contributed to high-level UN processes, including consultations that informed a UN General Assembly resolution on water and sanitation, and has experience in policy analysis through roles with the Government of Canada. His background combines public policy, stakeholder engagement, and education, with a strong commitment to advancing the SDGs through practical training and international collaboration.

Learning Objectives

- Explain the architecture of international chemicals governance and the Global Framework on Chemicals and Waste.
- Analyze current issues of concern and emerging policy challenges in chemicals and waste management.
- Identify tools, methodologies, and financing mechanisms relevant to chemicals and waste management.
- Build professional networks with Geneva-based chemicals and waste governance institutions and experts.
- Understand career insights in international chemicals and waste governance.

Programme Content

The programme integrates expert lectures, technical workshops, site visits, and career sessions.

Target Audience

This programme is ideal for researchers, graduate students, and early-career professionals working on chemicals, waste, environmental and health policies. A maximum of 30 participants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Methodology

UNITAR programmes are designed to be highly interactive and participatory and will include – whenever possible – a variety of simulation exercises, case studies, and tools to enable participants to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of substantive topics. Illustrations and case studies will be shared with participants so that they can strengthen their understanding of the topics.

Monitoring and Evaluation Criteria

UNITAR evaluates its training for accountability, learning, and quality improvement purposes. During the delivery of the training, learners will be engaged to assess progress towards the achievement of pre-defined learning objectives (which will be communicated to the participants prior to each learning event).

The training activities will be monitored and evaluated through the standard UNITAR Quality Assurance Framework for evaluating training. Recommendations received will be systemically considered for the continuous improvement of activities and their implementation will be executed progressively.

Certification

At the end of this study programme, participants who have attended over 75% of the programme, and completed the programme work will be awarded a Certificate of Completion by UNITAR in both physical and digital formats.

Customized Training Programmes

Beyond the United Nations Chemicals and Waste Management Study Programme, UNITAR works with governments, international organizations, development partners, financial institutions, academia, civil society, and the private sector to design and deliver tailored capacity development programmes that respond to specific institutional priorities and national contexts.

Drawing on the expertise of UNITAR's Chemicals and Waste Management Programme and its extensive network of partners across the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) as the host organization, customized programmes combine policy advice, technical assistance, executive education, applied research, and institutional capacity development to strengthen national systems for the sound management of chemicals and waste. Programmes can be delivered in person, online, or through blended learning formats, ranging from short executive workshops to comprehensive multi-year capacity development and institutional strengthening initiatives.

Customized programmes can cover a broad range of thematic areas, including:

- Sound management of chemicals and waste throughout the life cycle
- International chemicals and waste governance, including the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, and Minamata Conventions, the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC)
- National chemicals management legislation, regulatory frameworks, and institutional strengthening. e.g, we have developed programmes for [Nigeria](#) and [Serbia](#)
- Circular economy, resource efficiency, and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- Plastic pollution prevention and sustainable plastics management
- Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), mercury, lead, PFAS, and other chemicals of concern
- Sustainable chemistry, green chemistry, and pollution prevention

UNITAR also provides technical assistance to support the development of national chemicals and waste management strategies, regulatory roadmaps, institutional strengthening programmes, and implementation plans. Whether supporting the implementation of international agreements, strengthening national chemicals legislation, improving waste management systems, advancing circular economy solutions, or building institutional capacity, UNITAR develops practical, results-oriented learning programmes that equip governments, institutions, and professionals with the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to address today's chemicals, waste, and pollution challenges.

Testimonials



Ms. Deirdre Doran

Assistant Principal Officer
Department of Climate, Energy and Environment, Government of Ireland

"Definitely will use these learnings in my current government policy role and particularly when working as vice chair of EU Council WPIEI during the Irish presidency".

Mr. Elliot Eu

Doctor,
Singapore General Hospital, Singapore

"The highlight was meeting fellow delegates from very diverse cultural and professional backgrounds, to attend a comprehensive training program across multiple facets of chemical and plastic management, conducted within and hosted by the UN".



Ms. Jewel Ndung'u

Advocacy and Communications Manager,
Sustainable Kenya, Kenya

"The expertise in the room was very enriching for me, as someone who's young in my career. It felt like walking through history, policy, law, and science, all at the same time, and I think this will be such an insightful way that allows me to practice for the communities I serve".

Registration



Dates: 9 - 13 November 2026

Programme fee: \$2,400, or discounted rates at 15% off for groups of 3 or more

Register online via the QR code, or link here <https://gqr.sh/MUPv>

Kindly note that UNITAR will be responsible for the overall design, coordination, and implementation of the Study Programme. It will liaise with participants on a regular basis prior to the activity's implementation in order to ensure a smooth organization for everyone involved.

The participants are responsible for purchasing their own travel tickets to and from Geneva, accommodations, as well as applying for a visa to Switzerland. UNITAR can support this process with the help of an official visa invitation letter.

Contact Details

For any further inquiries, please email cwm@unitar.org

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