

LEADING IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

17-19 JANUARY 2024

VILLA MOYNIER, 120B RUE DE LAUSANNE, GENEVA

This executive course, tailored for Geneva-based diplomats and co-organized with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, addresses the negotiation practices at the multilateral level, by taking the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council (HRC) as an example of formal and informal negotiation and decision-making processes by an international intergovernmental body.



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Negotiation processes and voting of resolutions and decisions are among the most sophisticated and developed processes in today's UN system. These processes involve not only states, who are the main players and the only ones entitled to vote but also UN agencies – like the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which acts as the HRC substantive and logistical secretariat, independent experts such as Special Rapporteurs or members of fact-finding missions or commissions of inquiry, as well as civil society actors.

PROGRAMME

Leveraging our extensive network of international experts and practitioners, this executive training delivers to Geneva-based diplomats profound and pragmatic insights into multilateralism and the functioning of UN human rights mechanisms, with a particular focus on the HRC. It is tailored to suit the needs of the audience, with content continuously adapted throughout the course to ensure it aligns with participants' expectations. Other prominent HRC-mandated mechanisms like the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the UN Special Procedures - as well as treaty-based mechanisms such as the UN human rights treaty bodies - take centre stage, encompassing detailed explanations, hands-on practical exercises, thought-provoking anecdotes, and engaging storytelling.

Diplomats will gain proficiency in essential skills such as drafting resolutions, negotiation techniques, and managing interactions with regional and political groups active in the HRC negotiating area. The training also includes sessions on the key role of national stakeholders in implementing and/or monitoring international HR recommendations, including national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up (NMIRFs), national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and civil society organizations (CSOs). The training will facilitate meaningful connections among participants and with the organizers, fostering opportunities for ongoing collaboration on matters of mutual significance.

METHODOLOGY

The course will be conducted in a participatory mode with a combination of illustrated lectures (using power points and short videos) and exercises aimed at understanding how best to lead in the Human Rights Council. It will be held over the course of 3 full days, and preparation ahead of the course will include short readings.

AUDIENCE

This executive training course is designed for newly Geneva-based diplomats who have been working in their respective permanent missions for less than 1.5 years. Only one diplomat per mission will be admitted to the course and preference will be given to diplomats from non-OECD countries.

ACCESS TO A DEDICATED COMMUNITY PLATFORM

All participants in our training course have access – ahead, during and following their course – to a dedicated community platform (on Mighty Network). This community brings together all the participants to our courses who have unlimited access to the training materials and resources shared during their course and can exchange with all the alumni of the Geneva Human Rights Platform Training Hub.

LECTURERS

The training course will be led by Kamelia Kemileva, the Co-Director of the Global Cities Hub, that promotes city diplomacy at the UN and a Senior Consultant to AxLR Ltd, a Geneva-based private company. Her policy research and publications focus on the functioning of the UN system, multilateral diplomacy and selected topics in international law.

CERTIFICATION, FEE AND APPLICATION

Participants who successfully complete the training course receive a certificate of participation from the Geneva Academy.

This training is supported by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and is provided free of charge for newly Geneva-based diplomats.

Applications must be submitted
before 15 November 2023 at:
<https://bit.ly/3M7mvkl>

