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Targeted Audience

The course is aimed at government officers dealing with transboundary water and groundwater issues, diplomats, negotiators, specialists from various ministries (Foreign Affairs, Environment, etc.) and governmental agencies working in the field of water management, law professors, and researchers.

Profile of Applicants

To apply for the course, candidates must be between 25 and 50 years old and have a background in law, political science, economics or international relations, or have work experience in freshwater and/or groundwater issues.

Fluency in written English is also required since the course will be conducted in English.

Applications will be screened on the basis of a selection process.

Registration

Qualified candidates can apply for the course by completing the **online form** provided at: <https://www.unitar.org/event/aquifers> and sending their **resumes and motivation letters** to info.ilp@unitar.org

Incomplete applications will not be taken into account for the selection.

The deadline for applications is 29 November 2014.

Selection Procedure

A committee will analyze the applications and select 40 trainees who will participate in the course **on a free of charge basis**.

The committee will give due consideration to applicants' qualifications and to the scope of their professional duties. Due consideration will be also given to candidates from least developed countries and developing countries.

Only selected participants will be notified by email on 30 November 2014.

Contact

For more detailed information about the course content, registration and selection procedures, please contact us by email at info.ilp@unitar.org

Organizers

The course has been jointly developed by [the United Nations Institute for Training and Research \(UNITAR\)](#) and [the University of Geneva](#) in partnership with [the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation](#).



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**

In collaboration with IDANE Water



Online Advanced Course on the
Law of Transboundary Aquifers

from 3 to 22 December 2014
Free of charge for selected participants



Background

More than 90% of freshwater resources are contained in aquifers, many of which cross States. Over half of the world's population depends on aquifers as sources of potable water. The demand for groundwater is likely to increase in the future in response to the need to offset declining surface water availability, as well as increased consumption and climate change. In this context, recent developments with respect to improving the legal framework for managing transboundary groundwaters are significant. Most notable among these are the 2008 Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers adopted by the International Law Commission (ILC) and the 2012 Model Provisions on Transboundary Groundwaters adopted by the Meeting of the Parties of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

Course Goal

The objective of the Course is to provide advanced knowledge of the key legal aspects governing the management and the protection of shared groundwater resources.

The Course will serve as a theoretical and practical foundation for professionals involved in the process of treaty-making and/or participating in international conferences and other forms of negotiations with the purpose of elaborating and/or adopting specific agreements on groundwater resources. Moreover, the Course is intended to foster an understanding of the implications of the principles affirmed in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (1997) and the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (1992) for groundwater resources. The law on surface and ground water needs to be developed and interpreted in a coherent way to guarantee a more complete protection of transboundary waters and prevent the risk of conflicts.

Course Content

The Online Advanced Course on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers will examine the principles and norms applicable to transboundary groundwater resources.

The Course will emphasize some specific features of groundwater resources such as their greater vulnerability to long-term damage, the need to protect the recharge process and the fact that aquifers are not always hydraulically connected to surface waters. The Course will be centred on the Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers adopted by the ILC in 2008 and the practice regulating the use of groundwater resources, developed by the UNECE since the 1980s .

Moreover, the Course will include an analysis of case studies such as the Convention on the Protection, Utilization, Recharge and Monitoring of the Franco-Swiss Genevise Aquifer of 2007 and the Guaraní Aquifer Agreement of 2010.

The Course will be divided into 2 modules:

Module 1: Principles of groundwater management and protection. **Module 2:** Existing legal and institutional frameworks on transboundary groundwater resources.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this course participants will be able to:

- Identify the principles of the law on transboundary aquifers.
- Explain the main features of the ILC's Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers and UNECE and UNESCO's practice governing the use of groundwater resources.
- Define the principle of equitable and reasonable utilization, the obligations not to cause significant harm, the exchange of data and information and the norms in emergency situations.
- Examine the scope of main freshwater agreements in relation to groundwater resources.



Methodology

The course will be conducted over 3 weeks and delivered through UNITAR's e-learning Platform; consequently, participants will require a reliable internet connection throughout its duration. Technical requirements for taking the course properly can be consulted at: www.unitar.org/mdp/

The course design allows participants to actively interact with their peers and the moderator. Guided discussion forums are organized on selected topics to promote participation and knowledge sharing. Participants also have the opportunity to work with practical examples, analyze case studies and conduct short research assignments. As the course is an asynchronous e-learning course, trainees can access the course material and participate in the forums at any time.

Depending on each module, there is a slight variation of the amount of study time required. As an average, participants are expected to devote approximately 10 hours/week to review the course content and to complete course assessment activities. Participants who successfully complete the course will receive a Certificate of Completion issued by UNITAR and the University of Geneva.