

Study Programme

United Nations Chemicals and Waste Management



18-22 May, &
13-17 July 2026



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



Background

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 in Geneva, designed to strengthen knowledge and professional competencies in international chemicals and waste governance. The programme provides participants with direct exposure to global institutions shaping environmental policy and multilateral cooperation, offering an immersive learning experience through expert lectures, technical workshops, institutional visits, and career development sessions.

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.



Host Entity



UNITAR and its Chemicals and Waste Management Programme

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 countries:

- 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



Learning Objectives

- Explain the global architecture of chemicals and waste governance, including international agreements, UN agencies, and scientific bodies.
- Describe the global system for chemicals and waste management.
- Identify tools, methodologies, and financing mechanisms relevant to chemicals and waste management.
- Build networks with Geneva-based secretariats, UN agencies, and technical institutions.
- Understand career pathways in international chemicals and waste governance.

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 policy. 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 will be awarded a Certificate of Completion by UNITAR

Registration

May Edition: Field Visit: 18 - 22 May 2026 [Register now](#)

July Edition: Field Visit: 13 - 17 July 2026 [Register now](#)

Contact Details

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





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