
PROJECT:	Strengthening Disarmament Expertise
DISARMAMENT FOCUS:	Disarmament advocacy
PROJECT TIMEFRAME:	12 months
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS:	Latin American and Caribbean States (national pilot course)
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BACKGROUND

There is a palpable need for determined and focused leadership at the highest level to revitalize the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda. This need was underscored at the September 2009 Security Council Summit, which acknowledged the need for more decisive international efforts in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. As a means of addressing these demands and facilitating ongoing and new disarmament and non-proliferation efforts, several States in the region have requested specific assistance to expand the capacity and knowledge of its governmental representatives concerning applicable disarmament instruments, and practical measures and mechanisms aimed at effectively addressing new challenges in the areas of peace, disarmament and non-proliferation.

Based on these requests and drawing from the recommendations of the UN Study on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Education, UN-LiREC will elaborate and deliver a specialized disarmament course aimed at future diplomats, many of whom will hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament within their own Governments and who will make concrete contributions to the process of deliberations and negotiations on disarmament at the national, regional and international level.

OBJECTIVES

- Increase the disarmament-related knowledge of governmental officials;
- Enable these officials to identify the various disarmament- and security-related positions and to gain a better understanding of the concerns of the international community; and
- Increase the capacity of Member States to implement disarmament-related instruments.

CONTENT AND DESIGN

UN-LiREC will provide the substantive and technical expertise, as well as the financial and logistical assistance for the development and execution of the course curricula and the fielding of the pilot course as follows:

Step #1: Develop course curricula: i) identify specialized regional and international disarmament experts to form part of the UN-LiREC Project Team and ultimately act as course instructors; ii) host a series of drafting committee meetings among the specialized experts to identify the specific topics to be addressed (e.g. arms control and disarmament policies, multi-lateral negotiations on disarmament, agenda items and resolutions of the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, Conference on Disarmament, regional disarmament machinery, nuclear disarmament, etc.) and the modules to be developed; and iii) elaborate the course curricula and post-course evaluation surveys.

Step #2: Carry out pilot course: i) accept nominations for students to participate in the course and to form part of the national and regional pool of disarmament experts; the State will be encouraged to take into account gender equality when nominating candidates to the course on disarmament; ii) identify disarmament- and security-related topics for the elaboration of analytical papers by students relating to disarmament and security; and iii) carry out the first pilot 2-week course.

Step #3: Evaluate pilot course: i) evaluate execution of course modules, efficacy of instructors, relevancy of selected topics and appropriateness of course methodology through interviews and student surveys; ii) compile lessons-learned and best practices; and iii) evaluate applicability of pilot course to other States in the region.

Step #4: Publish and disseminate the analytical papers.

Step #5: Undertake resource mobilization and establish calendar of courses in other States of the region.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Raise the capacity of diplomats to understand various disarmament-related topics, including the importance and benefits of disarmament;
- Create a small pool of future decision-makers with specialized disarmament knowledge at the national level; and
- Increase interest among other States in the region to carry out similar initiatives in the short- and long-term.

BENEFICIARIES

- Students of diplomatic academies; and
- Active diplomats working in the area of disarmament or with interest in the topic.

PARTNERS

UN-LiREC will work with the Conference on Disarmament, regional academic think-tanks, international organizations, and disarmament fellows.

BUDGET

Budget Items in US\$	AMOUNT
Project Personnel	105,000.00
Operations and Implementation Costs	75,000.00
Funding Gap	US\$ 180,000.00