Unitar Online Catalogue

Doha World Negotiation Day 2026 - IN PERSON participation

Multilateral Diplomacy

Deadline: 29 Nov 2026

Type:	Conference
Location:	Doha, Qatar
Date:	7 Dec 2026
Duration:	1 Days
Thematic Area:	Peace, Security, Law and Multilateral Diplomacy, , Conflict Prevention, Mediation and Peacemaking, , Peace Operations and Peacekeeping, , Multilateral Diplomacy and Negotiation, , International Law and Treaty Implementation, , Rule of Law and Justice
Website:	https://unitar.org/sustainable-development-goals/multilateral-diplomacy/our-por…
Price:	$0.00
Event Focal Point Email:	dwnd@unitar.org
Partnership:	Doha Forum

BACKGROUND

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is proud to announce the sixth edition of World Negotiation Day with the

generous supported by the Doha Forum. Doha World Negotiation Day 2026 will take place in collaboration with the much-anticipated Doha Forum, in Doha (Qatar) on December 7th 2026 at Sheraton Grand (Doha Forum).

At a time of heightened geopolitical polarization, increasing fragmentation and declining confidence in multilateralism, trust has emerged as a defining challenge for contemporary diplomacy. In an increasingly complex international environment, the ability to build and sustain trust is essential not only for preserving dialogue, but also for enabling effective negotiation, fostering consensus and advancing collective action. DWND will examine trust-building as a critical foundation for effective multilateral negotiation. It will explore how Member States, international organizations and other stakeholders can rebuild confidence in diplomatic processes, collective commitments and the institutions that underpin the multilateral system. DWMD will also examine what trust means in today's multilateral context, the factors that have contributed to its erosion, and the practical approaches through which it can be strengthened. Particular attention will be given to the role of inclusive and transparent decision-making, credible institutions, principled leadership and sustained dialogue in bridging divides and supporting negotiation outcomes that are legitimate, durable and responsive to shared challenges. DWND will also reflect on the role of the United Nations, regional organizations and other key actors in managing crises, upholding international law and renewing commitment to cooperation in a fragmented world.

Bringing together senior decision-makers, global leaders and leading voices in multilateral diplomacy and negotiation, the event will provide a forward-looking platform to consider how diplomacy can adapt to current geopolitical realities while remaining anchored in trust, accountability, dialogue and shared responsibility.

EVENT OBJECTIVES

In line with UNITAR's core mandate, the aim of Doha World Negotiation Day is to foster a culture of peace, diplomacy, and cooperation, and to empower and build the capacities of diplomats and negotiators who are instrumental in carefully balancing national and collective interests.

Doha World Negotiation Day 2026 will conclude by bestowing the "Doha Best Negotiator of the Year" Award - a prestigious distinction given to one exceptional negotiator who has displayed exemplary skills and achievements on the international stage. Selected by a renowned international jury composed of prominent negotiators and diplomatic leaders, the award honors individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, creativity, and resilience in navigating complex negotiations and finding peaceful solutions to challenging global issues.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

15.00 Opening Ceremony

Doha Forum Representative (TBC)

Mr. Rabih El Haddad, Director, Division for Multilateral Diplomacy, Head, Representation Office in New York, UNITAR

15.15 Key Note Speech

H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa, Former President of the UN General Assembly, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Former Minister of National Defense of Ecuador

15:25 Fireside Chat with Guest Speaker - Rebuilding Trust in Multilateralism: Credibility, Inclusion and Accountability

Moderator: Liz Métraux, UN Foundation

15: 45 Trust-Building as a Foundation for Effective Multilateral Negotiation: Shaping the Future of Diplomacy

This panel will examine the roots of declining trust in multilateral diplomacy and its implications for negotiation processes. The discussion will explore how renewed trust among Member States and other stakeholders can create stronger

conditions for dialogue, facilitate consensus-building and support the achievement of credible, lasting agreements. This panel will also focus on practical and forward-looking approaches to restoring confidence in multilateral negotiation. It will explore how diplomacy can be revitalized through more inclusive decision-making, stronger respect for international law, credible institutions, practical cooperation and renewed commitment to shared responsibilities. The discussion will consider how trust-building can help bridge divides, manage competing interests and support negotiation outcomes that are legitimate, actionable and responsive to today's global challenges.

Moderator: Liz Métraux, UN Foundation

17.15 Award Ceremony and Closing speeches

Mr. Rabih El Haddad, Director, Division for Multilateral Diplomacy, Head, Representation Office in New York, UNITAR

Doha Forum Representative (TBC)

17.30 Reception

Please note that prior to the main event a **Masterclass** (in partnership with Qatar Debate) will take place **from 11:00 to 12:30.** This optional session will provide participants with an opportunity to explore key aspects of negotiation across cultures.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Participants are invited to joint the Doha World Negotiation Day on 7th December 2026 at Sheraton Grand (Doha Forum) in Doha, Qatar.

Kindly note that UNITAR will **not** cover accommodation, visa arrangements, travel expenses or insurances for participants. Should you prefer to join the live stream, please register here.

The event is made possible by the generous support of the Doha Forum.