

UPEACE WEEKLY SUMMARY



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Pictured: Students from the joint UPEACE–UNITAR programs during their academic visit to Geneva and in sessions with representatives from the United Nations, WTO, WIPO, and ICRC.

UPEACE-UNITAR Students Embark on Transformative Immersive Academic Journey to Geneva

This week, UPEACE Permanent Observer to the UN in Geneva, Ambassador David Fernandez-Puyana welcomed participants of our joint master's programs with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to Geneva! This immersive field trip provided a unique opportunity for them to explore key institutions within the international system firsthand.

During their visit, the group engaged in insightful briefings, dynamic academic exchanges, and tours of prominent offices, including the United Nations in Geneva (UNOG), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The UPEACE–UNITAR joint programs offer both Master's (M.A.) and Certificate Diploma options in hybrid, online, and in-person formats. These programs blend rigorous academic training with UNITAR's practical approach, covering essential topics such as Development Studies and Diplomacy, International Law and Diplomacy, International Law and the Settlement of Disputes, and Gender and Development.

[Find out more](#)



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Successful Conclusion of the Second International Academy on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling



Pictured: Authorities from the organizing institutions alongside participants of the second cohort of the Academy.

With immense pride and enthusiasm, we celebrated the graduation of the second cohort of the International Academy for Specialized Training on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants at the main University for Peace (UPEACE) campus in San José, Costa Rica.

Over four intensive weeks, 39 dedicated criminal justice professionals from various Latin American countries engaged in a high-level training program. This edition of the Academy was made possible through a strategic partnership between UPEACE, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), INTERPOL, and the Government of Canada, via the Turquoise Project.

The closing ceremony featured esteemed guests, including UPEACE Rector Francisco Rojas-Aravena; UNODC Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer and UPEACE graduate Carlos Andres Pérez Gallego, and Criminal Intelligence Officer at INTERPOL's Anti-Trafficking and Smuggling Unit, Salvador Briseno. They commended the new graduates for their dedication, commitment, and active participation, emphasizing the need to strengthen regional networks and sustainable strategies to combat transnational organized crime. From all of us at UPEACE, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to this exceptional cohort!

UPEACE Department of Environment and Development Launches its Annual Report

The Department of Environment and Development at the University for Peace is proud to present its 2024-2025 annual report, a publication that brings together the year's main achievements, initiatives, and experiences.

In this edition, you'll discover insightful research projects and publications from our dedicated academic staff, along with a variety of engaging activities held both on and off campus. It also features inspiring stories from current students and graduates, offering reflections on sustainability, environmental justice, and social transformation.

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UPEACE Champions Environmental Activism Alongside UN Costa Rica



Pictured: Ariela Fernández, Director of Communications, alongside Juan Bautista and representatives from the UN Costa Rica Communications Group and its agencies.

Today, the Communications Group of the United Nations Office in Costa Rica held a significant dialogue with environmental activist Juan Bautista (@Juambacaminando). This meeting focused on effective communication strategies, particularly how to leverage social media platforms as powerful tools for reporting injustices and violations of laws and rights. The group addressed the urgent need for the legal and judicial systems to adapt in order to better protect environmental activists.

Representing the University for Peace (UPEACE), Ariela Fernández, Director of Communications, emphasized the role of education and communication in raising public awareness and fostering support networks for human rights and environmental defenders, and the importance of young voices willing to take risks and use their individual and collective voices to amplify and visibilize injustices.

This meeting exemplifies UPEACE's commitment to promoting inclusive dialogue, supporting peaceful activism, and building strategic alliances to safeguard those who champion environmental justice.

[Who is Juan?](#)



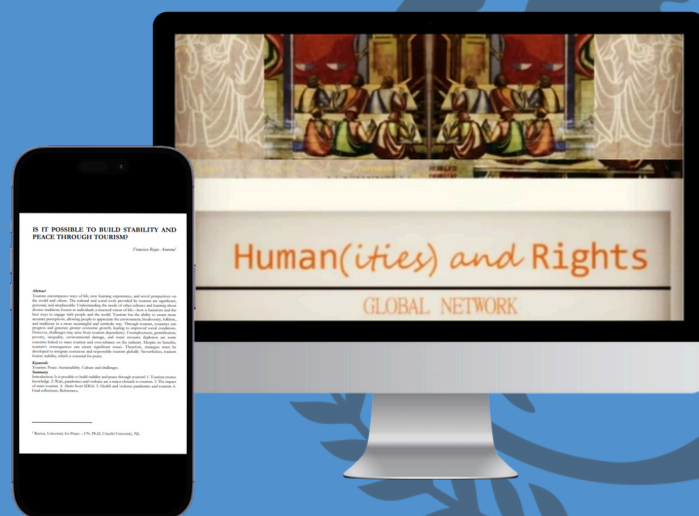
Interested in exploring critical perspectives on pressing global issues?

UPEACE Rector Dr. Francisco Rojas and Vice Rector Dr. Juan Carlos Sainz-Borgo have contributed to the latest volume of the University of Salamanca's *Humanities and Rights Global Network Journal* with their articles "Is it possible to build stability and peace through tourism?" and "The School of Salamanca with special reference to the right to peace"

[Rector's Article](#)



[Vice Rector's Article](#)



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