

# Overcoming Negotiation Deadlocks

## Background

In the context of developing bilateral contractual relations, negotiation has taken a prominent place as a decision-making and regulation process. Also, the challenge of renewed multilateralism is closely linked to the ability of the international community to foster truly productive negotiation processes in a rapidly evolving global context. As the main training arm of the UN, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is responding to this eminent challenge with its ground-breaking training initiative “Overcoming Negotiation Deadlocks” intended to serve the entire community of negotiators worldwide.

## Event Objectives

This course aims to equip participants with practical skills to enhance individual negotiation capacity and lead through situations of deadlock. It will help learners to improve their negotiation performance in order to obtain better outcomes in bilateral and multilateral negotiations, but also to become brokers of agreements when solutions look impossible.

A number of leading academics (**Prof. William Zartman, Nick Coburn-Palo, David Koschel**) and senior practitioners in the field of international negotiations (President Martti Ahtisaari, numerous senior diplomats) contributed to the development and delivery of this course.

## Learning Objectives

Overall, the course aims to equip participants with the conceptual knowledge and practical tools to efficiently overcome deadlocks in negotiations and successfully negotiate towards beneficial outcomes.

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

- Distinguish between different approaches to negotiations, incl. distributive and integrative negotiations;
- Detect ‘psychological traps’ in complex situations and how to avoid them;
- Employ a comprehensive tool box for various negotiation situations and stages, incl. preparation, conduct and closure of negotiation;
- Identify the most effective strategies in specific situations, based on learning experience, case analysis and practitioners’ feedback and advice.

## **Content and Structure**

This e-Learning course aims to equip participants with practical skills to enhance individual negotiation capacity and lead through situations of deadlock, relevant for various professional and personal contexts.

It will help learners to improve their performance as negotiators in order to obtain better outcomes in intergovernmental, intra-organizational, business, or private negotiations, but also to become brokers of agreements when solutions look impossible. As such, course modules will look at key components of effective negotiations, psychological factors that influence our negotiation behavior, and how to negotiate your way through difficult negotiations (incl. preparing for negotiations, “off-the-table” work, and “at-the-table” moves).

## **Methodology**

The course will be conducted in English over a period of four weeks, organized in modules on different topics. The course will be delivered via UNITAR’s e-Learning platform. This pedagogical tool will help participants meet the course’s learning objectives through a self-paced study routine supported by multimedia, optional and required readings, discussion forums, assessment quizzes, and a wealth of other information.