



CONFLUXCENTER

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# COURSE FOR POLITICAL ADVISERS:

*How to Manage the Political Dimension  
in Conflict Resolution & Peacekeeping*

VIRTUAL TRAINING COURSE  
PROGRAM

*20 — 24 May 2024*

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Conflux Center for Intercultural Dialogue and Mediation

# Speakers & Organizers

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## *Senior Mentor:*

**Ambassador Miloš Strugar**  
*UN Senior Mediation Adviser*

## *Facilitators & Lecturers:*

**Miriam Coronel-Ferrer**  
*Professor (Ret.), Department of Political Science, University of the Philippines, Senior Mediation Adviser*

**Issaka K. Souaré, PhD**  
*Senior Mediation Adviser*

**Milena Dragičević-Šešić, PhD**  
*Professor Emerita, University of Arts in Belgrade, UNESCO Chair*

**Ambassador Kishan S. Rana**  
*Professor Emeritus DiploFoundation*

**Ambassador Amr Aljowaily**  
*Visiting Faculty Member at UNITAR's Multilateral Diplomacy Program*

**Renata Avila**  
*CEO Open Knowledge Foundation, International Human Rights Lawyer, Co-Founder - Alliance for Inclusive Algorithms*

**Andrea Tenenti**  
*UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)*

## *Guest Speakers:*

TBA

## *Course Director:*

**Emilija Marić**  
*Conflux Center*

## *Project Officer:*

**Mina Strugar**  
*Conflux Center*



# About the Course

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## *Overall Goal*

The objective of the course is to train political advisers serving in peacekeeping operations, political and peacebuilding missions by enhancing their specific knowledge and skills, and enabling them to develop a deeper understanding of ways to manage the political dimension in a conflict or post-conflict environment.

The course will cover two complementary aspects – operational activities in conflict prevention, management and resolution (mediation, facilitation, negotiation, provision of advice, building rapport and network management, internal and external coordination and cooperation, engaging non-state armed groups and unarmed actors...), as well as conventional diplomatic activities (political reporting, speech writing, public speaking, designing political strategy, liaison with governments...)

Particular attention will be paid to bringing the aspect of culture into political analysis, strategies and activities, with a view to enhancing the necessary skills to establish and maintain an effective intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

Special focus will be placed on the influence of information and communication technologies on the scope of work of political advisers, including opportunities and risks (cyber diplomacy, conflict analysis, use of social media, cyber security...).

The course will also address the role and required skills of political advisers related to public diplomacy, communications with the media, as well as information and reputation management.

## *Learning Objectives*

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

- Apply acquired skills and tools in research, conflict analysis and policy planning;
- Design political strategies to build alliances and create political leverage;
- Monitor, analyze and interpret political developments and events by using relevant skills and techniques;
- Use specific skills to build rapport, create and maintain network of contacts and liaise and coordinate with internal and external counterparts;
- Apply a range of skills, techniques and good practices in political dialogue, negotiation, facilitation and mediation, and use various modalities for greater inclusion of women;
- Identify risks and opportunities of information and communication technologies;
- Apply public speaking, presentation, speechwriting, and reporting techniques, – including preparation, structure, and delivery;
- Provide pertinent advice, offer new ideas and innovative solutions to change the underlying conflict dynamics;
- Identify personal strengths and weaknesses as political advisers;
- Deal with moral and political dilemmas which may arise in conflict management and resolution.



# Course Details

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## *Target Audience*

The course program is designed for mid and senior level political affairs, civil affairs and other civilian, military and police officers serving in peacekeeping operations, political and peacebuilding missions (UN, AU, EU, OSCE etc.), as well as diplomats and those working in public sector, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, or preparing to serve in peace operations. The course is balanced between the operational and tactical level, and most of the conflict management tools are catered to the field work.

## *Content and Structure*

The virtual course will take place over a period of five days, from **20 – 24 May 2024** via the **online platform Zoom**. The training will consist of lectures and facilitated discussions by senior experts and practitioners in the field, and the activities are devised to be highly interactive through discussions, Q&A sessions, group work, role-play and hands-on exercises and assignments. A virtual space will be provided for group discussions and best practices and experience sharing among the participants under the guidance of the senior mentor.

Upon completion of the course, certificates of participation will be issued in PDF, and a hard copy can be sent via post upon request.

## *Technical Requirements:*

In order to join the virtual training, all attendees should have access to the internet and a personal computer (laptop), with an operational camera and microphone (external or internal). A stable internet connection is essential in order to minimize the chances of stutter or disconnection. It is advisable that the participants download the Zoom application (free of charge). It is also possible to join a meeting directly from a web browser, but the meeting experience and available features are limited. The participants will receive all necessary information in the joining instructions prior to the start of the course.



# Course Program

## DAY 1

20 May 2024

09:00 – 09:15

*Opening & Introduction  
Agenda & Program of Work*

09:15 – 09:30

*Tour de Table  
& Expectations*

09:30 – 10:30

**SESSION 1:**  
*“Role & Core Functions of  
Political Advisers”*  
**MILOŠ STRUGAR**

10:30 – 10:45

COFFEE BREAK

10:45 – 11:30

**SESSION 2:**  
*“Working with the Host  
Government,  
Armed Groups & Non-State  
Unarmed Actors”*  
**MIRIAM CORONEL FERRER**

11:30 – 11:45

COFFEE BREAK

11:45 – 12:30

**EXERCISE 1:**  
*“Does Talking to Extremist  
Armed Groups Advance or  
Harm a Peace Process?”*  
— *Work in groups*

12:30 – 13:30

LUNCH BREAK

13:30 – 14:30

**SESSION 3:**  
*“Political Analysis — Tools,  
Skills & Techniques”*  
— *Including Case Studies*  
**MILOŠ STRUGAR**

14:30 – 14:45

COFFEE BREAK

14:45 – 16:00

**EXERCISE 2:**  
*“Political Analysis”*  
— *Work in groups using a  
fictitious scenario*

## DAY 2

21 May 2024

09:00 – 10:00

**EXERCISE 2 CONTD.:**  
*Presenting group work*

10:00 – 10:15

COFFEE BREAK

10:15 – 11:00

**SESSION 4:**  
*“Providing Political Advice  
— What Constitutes Good  
Advice?”*  
**KISHAN S. RANA**

11:00 – 11:15

COFFEE BREAK

11:15 – 12:00

**EXERCISE 3:**  
*“Providing Political Advice”*  
— *Work in groups using a real  
case scenario*

12:00 – 13:00

LUNCH BREAK

13:00 – 13:45

**SESSION 5:**  
*“Conflict Prevention —  
Framework & Approaches”*  
**MIRIAM CORONEL FERRER**

13:45 – 14:00

COFFEE BREAK

14:00 – 14:45

**SESSION 6:**  
*“Designing a Political Strategy  
— Creating Alliances &  
Political Leverage”*  
**MILOŠ STRUGAR**

14:45 – 16:00

**EXERCISE 4:**  
*“Designing a Political  
Strategy” — Work in groups  
using a fictitious scenario*

## DAY 3

22 May 2024

09:00 – 10:00

**EXERCISE 4 CONTD.:**  
*Role-play using a fictitious  
scenario*

10:00 – 10:15

COFFEE BREAK

10:15 – 11:00

**SESSION 7:**  
*“Political Dialogue —  
Creating Narratives, Crafting  
Messages, Writing Briefing  
Notes, Talking Points &  
Records”*  
**MILOŠ STRUGAR**

11:00 – 11:15

COFFEE BREAK

11:15 – 12:00

**SESSION 8:**  
*“Intercultural Dialogue in  
Conflict Management &  
Resolution”*  
**MILENA DRAGIĆEVIĆ ŠEŠIĆ**

12:00 – 13:00

LUNCH BREAK

13:00 – 13:45

**SESSION 9:**  
*“Negotiation Process,  
Approaches,  
BATNA & ZOPA”*  
**MILOŠ STRUGAR**

13:45 – 14:00

COFFEE BREAK

14:00 – 14:45

**SESSION 10:**  
*“Negotiation —  
Skills, & Techniques, Culture-  
Based Negotiation Styles  
& Approaches, Barriers, &  
Communication Skills”*  
**MILOŠ STRUGAR**

14:45 – 16:00

**EXERCISE 5:**  
*“Applying Negotiation Skills &  
Techniques”*  
— *Work in groups using a  
fictitious scenario*

# Course Program

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## DAY 4

23 May 2024

09:00 — 11:00  
EXERCISE 5 CONTD.:

*Role-play using a fictitious scenario*

11:00 — 11:15  
COFFEE BREAK

11:15 — 12:00  
GUEST SPEAKER:

*“In My Experience...”*  
TBA

12:00 — 13:00  
LUNCH BREAK

13:00 — 13:45  
SESSION 11:

*“Designing Mediation Process — Whom to Include in Mediation Process, & How”*  
ISSAKA K. SOUARÉ

13:45 — 14:00  
COFFEE BREAK

14:00 — 14:45  
SESSION 12:

*“Mediation — Skills & Techniques”*  
ISSAKA K. SOUARÉ

14:45 — 16:00  
EXERCISE 6:

*“Applying Mediation Skills & Techniques” — Work in groups using a fictitious scenario*

## DAY 5

24 May 2024

09:00 — 11:00  
EXERCISE 6 CONTD.:

*Role-play using a fictitious scenario*

11:00 — 11:15  
COFFEE BREAK

11:15 — 12:00  
SESSION 13:

*“Writing Speeches — Messaging, Language & Style”*  
AMR ALJOWAILY

12:00 — 13:00  
LUNCH BREAK

13:00 — 13:45  
SESSION 14:

*“Public Speaking — Press Conferences, Interviews & Relations with the Media”*  
ANDREA TENENTI

13:45 — 14:00  
COFFEE BREAK

14:00 — 14:45  
SESSION 15:

*“Influences of Media, Information & Communication Technology & Artificial Intelligence on the Work of Political Advisers — Cyber Diplomacy & Cyber Security”*  
RENATA AVILA

14:45 — 15:00  
COFFEE BREAK

15:00 — 16:00  
CASE STUDIES:

*“How to Address Political, Legal, & Moral Dilemmas in the Work of Political Advisers”*  
MILOŠ STRUGAR

16:00 — 16:15

*Coffee Break & Evaluation*

16:15

*Course Wrap-Up & Q&A with Senior Mentor*

# *Additional Information*

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## *Registration:*

Registration is open until **17 May 2024** and can be done via the following link:

<https://www.confluxcenter.org/events/application-form/>

Upon online registration, participants will receive an invoice, pre-course video, audio and reading materials, as well as information on how to use Zoom. The pre-course materials will also be available on Conflux Center's website. Instructions on how to use Zoom will also be presented during the introductory session of the course.

### **COURSE FEE:**

1,250 USD

Conflux Center alumni are eligible for a 20% discount.

Partial subsidy could be available at a later stage. Those interested in a partial subsidy should send their CV and a motivation letter not later than **6 May 2024** to [office@confluxcenter.org](mailto:office@confluxcenter.org).

Conflux Center will not provide refunds for customers who face technical issues beyond its direct control. It is recommended that all prospective participants test Zoom for free at Zoom.us prior to confirming their payment.

- The participants should be relieved of their regular work duties for the duration of the course.
- The course is conducted in English and translation is not provided.
- All specified times are in accordance with CEST (Central European Summer Time) / UTC+2 (Coordinated Universal Time) time zone.
- We reserve the right to modify the course program at any time.

For further details about the course, please contact us at:

[office@confluxcenter.org](mailto:office@confluxcenter.org) or **+381 63 130 89 97**



