STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND CONSENSUS BUILDING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

18 - 20 October 2016 (3 Days)
Harvard Faculty Club, Cambridge (United States)

A course by

United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC)

in partnership with

Consensus Building Institute
The Consensus Building Institute is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1993 by leading practitioners and theory builders in the fields of negotiation and dispute resolution and affiliated with Harvard and MIT. CBI has decades of experience building skills and competencies for negotiation and consensus building on sustainable development issues for UN and non-UN audiences.

The United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC), through the establishment of the Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development, facilitates comprehensive learning, training, and knowledge management on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
Course Overview

The course builds participants’ capacities to frame sustainable development issues; assess and engage key stakeholders; negotiate agreements; and facilitate the development of multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives. Through real case studies and realistic simulations, participants will deepen their skills in:

- Framing sustainable development goals (SDGs and others) in ways that motivate constructive stakeholder engagement;
- Identifying and assessing key stakeholders on sustainable development issues, and understanding how to leverage areas of potential agreement and address possible conflicts;
- Joint fact finding and analysis to resolve disputes on the economic, environmental and social impacts of proposed policies and actions;
- Interest-based negotiation and mediation to manage stakeholder conflict; and
- Dialogue, trust and relationship building strategies to address underlying conflicts in values, identities and historical legacies.

Participants will also have opportunities to apply frameworks and tools directly to their own current and ongoing challenges, with faculty and peer feedback. On demand post-programme coaching and advising services can also be made available.
At the end of the course, participants will have:

- Explored sustainable development as an ongoing process of negotiation, consensus building and partnership building among stakeholders with diverse economic, environmental and social interests and values;

- Examined the SDGs as an unprecedented opportunity and challenge for consensus building and partnership;

- Gained an understanding of principles, strategies and tools for goal framing and stakeholder assessment through interactive cases, role plays and exercises;

- Practiced applying stakeholder assessment and engagement strategies to their own ongoing work;

- Gained an understanding of and practiced principles for mutual gains negotiation and their application to sustainable development issues;

- Identified opportunities for continuing their learning and peer exchange on stakeholder engagement and consensus building for sustainable development, as part of a community of practice supported by UNSSC and CBI.
Methodology

The training programme will offer a mix of knowledge and skills for assessing, engaging and convening multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives. The course will adopt a blended format of instructional sessions, experience sharing and peer-to-peer learning.

Distinctive to the course, participants will use ongoing, real-world sustainable development cases drawn from the work of UN agencies and partners around the world, and have an opportunity to interact directly with senior UN colleagues who are working on those cases.

Throughout the training programme, participants will also work on their own cases, with a requirement that each participant bring an active case for discussion in a breakout group. The case study training methodology is intended to strengthen analytical as well as problem-solving and decision-making skills, and to provide practical insights to participants that they can apply immediately in their ongoing work.

Target Audience

Senior UN regional, country and program managers (P5 and above) who are working directly with diverse stakeholder on challenging national and regional sustainable development issues.
Course Outline

Day 1: SD as partnership building; Framing sustainable development goals and stakeholder assessment

- Sustainable development and the SDGs as partnership building challenges
- Framing sustainable development goals: using the SDGs to mobilize and engage national sustainable development stakeholders (Case #1 with video discussion)
- Stakeholder mapping and analysis (Case#1 exercise)
- Case clinic (1): first round of participant case presentations and discussions in breakout groups

Day 2: Developing stakeholder engagement strategy; Mutual gains negotiation

- Engaging sustainable Development stakeholders: linking strategy, role and process (Case #2 with video discussion)
- Joint Fact Finding and Analysis (JFFA): a deeper look (Case #2 exercise)
- Negotiating for Sustainable Development: the Mutual Gains Approach
- Negotiating a Sustainable Development Project Agreement (simulation exercise)
- Case clinic (2): second round of participant case presentations and discussions in breakout groups
Course Outline

Day 3: Complex SD negotiations and partnership approaches

- Convening and facilitating complex sustainable development negotiations (Case #3 with video discussion)
- Building through impasse in a complex sustainable development partnership (Case #3 simulation exercise)
- Emerging lessons on partnership building for SDGs implementation
- Case clinic (3): final round of participant case presentations and discussions in breakout groups
- Becoming a community of practice: options for ongoing peer-to-peer engagement with support from UNSSC and CBI

With the intention to strengthen learning retention and application after the end of the course, participants will be granted exclusive access to:

- A protected online knowledge-management platform created to facilitate knowledge sharing and community-based learning;
- A series of follow-up webinars with key speakers on topics directly linked to case studies analysed during the course and relevant for the course.
Cost of Participation

The course is offered at a fee of **USD 3,500** per participant, covering the following:

- Three days of training with a balance of presentations, full group and small group work on case studies and exercises;
- Exclusive access to an online platform and community of practice as well as a series of webinars with key speakers on topics relevant for the course;
- All course materials, resources and contacts.

Participants are expected to cover all travel costs related to their attendance in the course. Accommodation in a hotel in town will be booked in advance by the UNSSC; however, the accommodation costs will be borne by the participants.

Certificates of attendance from the UN System Staff College & CBI will be awarded to participants who complete the course.
The Harvard Faculty Club offers quality dining, meeting, conference, function, and lodging facilities to a broad constituency including Harvard Faculty, alumni/ae, professional staff, long service employees, members of the Cambridge business community, and their guests.

Registration

In order to register for this course, please click here to go to the course webpage. On the course webpage, please click on ‘Sign Up’ and fill in the online registration form. The enrollment deadline for this course is 11 October 2016.
The United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) is the primary provider of interagency training and learning for staff of the United Nations system. Its overall objective is to promote and support UN inter-agency collaboration, increase the operational effectiveness of the UN system as a whole and provide UN staff with the required skills and competencies to face today’s global challenges.

UNSSC conducts a variety of learning and training activities, in Turin and Bonn, UN Headquarters as well as at the regional and country levels. All such activities effectively respond to the cross-agency, far-reaching reform agenda of the United Nations.