

# Lex International Fund

## International law on weapons and war: A training course for journalists

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### Programme Overview

This intensive two-day course offers senior journalists unprecedented access to leading experts on international humanitarian law, weapons regulation, and conflict accountability at the United Nations in Geneva. Organized by Lex International Fund in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the programme provides the analytical framework and specialized knowledge needed to report authoritatively on today's most pressing security challenges.

### Why This Course Matters

From Ukraine and Gaza to Venezuela and Greenland, from autonomous weapons systems to nuclear deterrence, today's conflicts and hot topics demand sophisticated reporting that goes beyond the headlines. The international legal architecture governing armed conflict—the UN Charter, Geneva Conventions, weapons treaties, and accountability mechanisms—is an increasingly important issue for journalists to navigate.

This course helps with that. Whether you're covering geopolitics, security, humanitarian crises, or technology, understanding the legal frameworks that govern state behavior and constraints (or lack of constraints) on the conduct of war is essential for providing your audiences with meaningful context.

### What You'll Gain

**Expert Access:** Direct briefings from UN officials, leading international lawyers, government representatives, and experts who shape global policy

**Practical Knowledge:** Concrete understanding of treaty regimes, enforcement mechanisms, and diplomatic processes that you can apply immediately in your reporting

**Source Network:** Connections with specialists, government representatives and fellow journalists covering international affairs across major outlets

**Enhanced Credibility:** Authoritative grounding in international law that will strengthen your analysis and distinguish your reporting

## Programme Content

The two-day course combines expert presentations with interactive discussion, covering:

### Foundations of International Law in Armed Conflict

- The UN Charter framework: use of force, self-defense, UN Security Council and General Assembly authority
- International humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions
- When and how international law applies in modern conflicts

### Weapons Regulation and Emerging Technologies

- Nuclear weapons treaties and deterrence doctrine
- Conventional weapons: landmines, cluster munitions, and incendiary weapons
- Autonomous weapons systems and AI in warfare

### The Diplomatic System

- How multilateral negotiations work in practice
- Treaty development and implementation
- Key actors: states, UN agencies, international organisations, and civil society

The program will also include opportunities to discuss how to frame, pitch, and write stories on international law in regards to weapons and armed conflict in ways that are relevant and engaging for audiences.

## Practical Details

**Dates:** 2-3 March 2026

**Location:** United Nations, Geneva

### What's Included:

- Full course participation
- Dinner (2 March evening)
- Lunches on both course days
- Travel support available (economy flights and accommodation) for those who require it

**Application:** <https://forms.gle/r1wv3DVVaKxumCKr7>

**Application deadline:** Sunday 8 February

## Who Should Apply

This course is designed for experienced journalists who:

- Report on international affairs, security, geopolitics, humanitarian issues, or technology for established news organizations
- Have published or broadcast work within the past year on relevant topics
- Seek to deepen their expertise in international law and armed conflict
- Are committed to producing informed, rigorous coverage that holds states and institutions accountable
- Can demonstrate editorial support or assignment interest for future coverage in this area

We welcome applications from reporters, correspondents, editors, and multimedia journalists across all platforms—print, digital, broadcast, and podcast.

## About the Organizers

**Lex International Fund** is a philanthropic fund dedicated to strengthening international law. At Lex, we seek to help reverse the trend toward a worsening global security situation and breakdown of trust in frameworks and institutions by helping shift the narrative around international law and supporting new coalitions of actors. We work with civil society movements, international organizations, governments, media, businesses and scientists to shape global norms and create bold, innovative solutions to global challenges. Lex International Fund is hosted by the Swiss Philanthropy Foundation. [www.lexinternational.org](http://www.lexinternational.org)

**United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)** is an autonomous institute within the United Nations conducting independent research on disarmament and security. Based in Geneva, UNIDIR generates knowledge and promotes dialogue to advance international peace and security. [www.unidir.org](http://www.unidir.org)

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**Questions?** Contact [info@lexinternational.org](mailto:info@lexinternational.org)

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