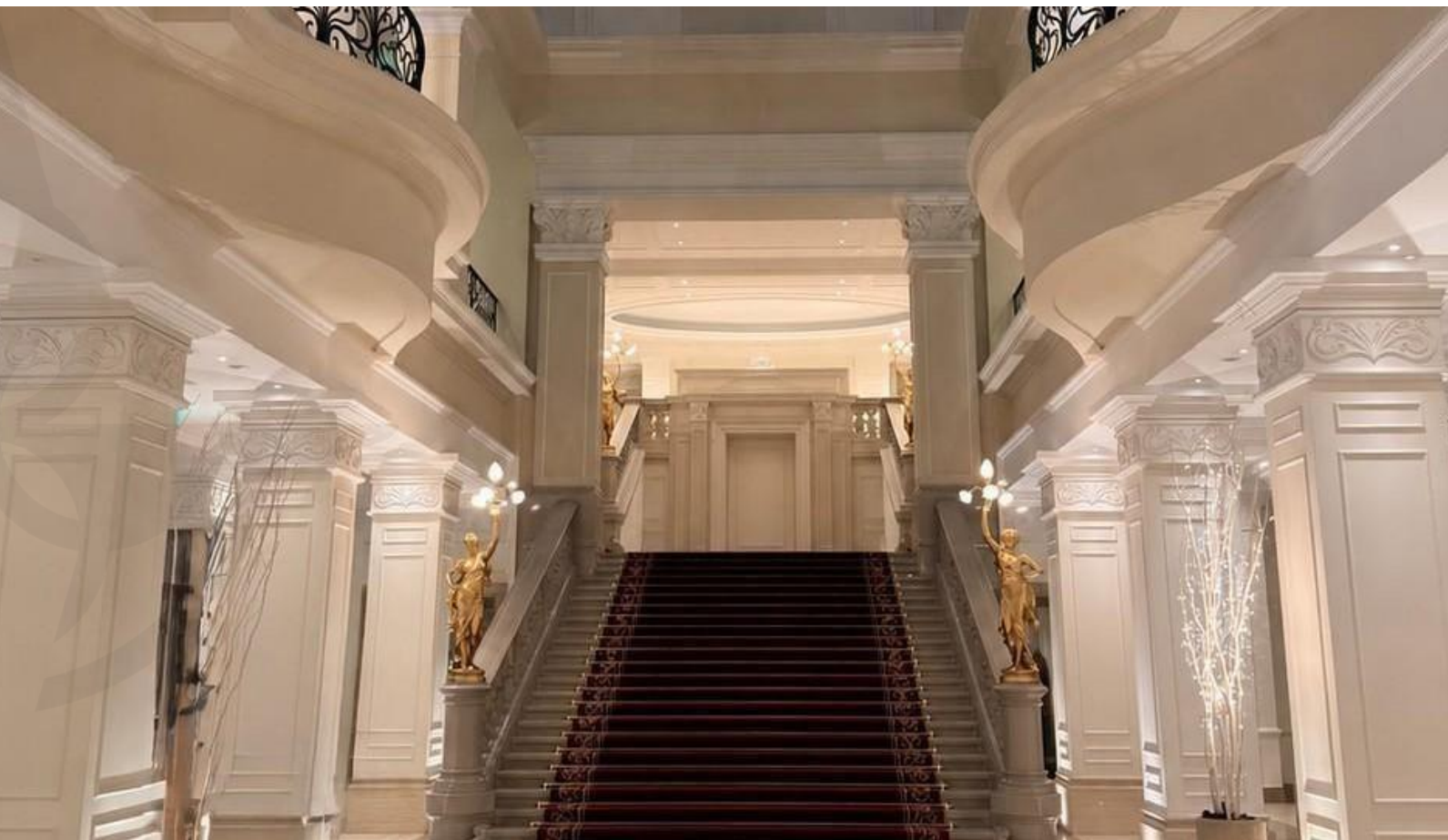


JOINT EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME IN INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT ARBITRATION & COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY

Highlights:

- Key cutting-edge issues in international business, law and diplomacy addressed
- Unparalleled networking opportunities with legendary business elites, seasoned diplomats, and leading legal professionals
- A prestigious official reception at the Palais des Nations on 2 October 2026, during which the Joint Executive Certificates in Commercial Diplomacy will be conferred upon participants



In collaboration with:

Supported by:

A Joint Executive Programme

Developed by **United Nations University for Peace** and **GIOYA Higher Education Institution**, in collaboration with:

- **Shanghai Arbitration Commission – SHAC European Hub**
- **Zhuhai Court of International Arbitration (ZCIA)**
- **Hainan International Arbitration Court (HIAC)**
- **Global Capacity-Building Center for Legal Professional Services**

With expert participations from **UNIDROIT**, **WTO**, **WIPO** and **African Society of International Law (AFSIL)**.

Strategy Framework

This programme is part of the ongoing collaboration between the **UN University for Peace** and **GIOYA Higher Education Institution**, focused on the field of **Commercial Diplomacy**.

Within this framework, the two institutions are jointly advancing a series of international initiatives that include high-level events, applied research activities, and the development and delivery of an **Executive Doctorate in Commercial Diplomacy**.

This emerging academic initiative is distinguished by the calibre of its international faculty, the active engagement of public institutions and private sector organisations, and the integration of real -world strategic perspectives into its content.

Programme Overview

A high-level international executive programme designed to combine **investment arbitration, commercial diplomacy, and institutional engagement** across two strategic European hubs:

- **Malaga – Investment Arbitration, ISDS & Commercial Diplomacy**
- **Geneva – Institutional Engagement & UPEACE - GIOYA Graduation Day at UN Geneva**

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Why Malaga

Malaga has been selected as the European hub of the **Shanghai Arbitration Commission (SHAC)**, representing its first official presence abroad. This positioning makes Malaga a growing reference point for international arbitration and cross-border investment dispute resolution.

Why Geneva

Geneva represents one of the world's leading centres for international institutions and multilateral governance, particularly in areas related to trade, diplomacy, and global economic coordination, making it a natural environment for advanced engagement in Commercial Diplomacy.

The programme is designed for senior professionals, executives, institutional representatives, legal experts, and decision-makers operating in complex international environments.

Main Speakers and Lecturers

To be confirmed



Maria Chiara Malaguti: *President Emerita of the UNIDROIT Governing Council and Professor of International Law, senior advisor of the World Bank, with a distinguished role in shaping global legal frameworks and international economic governance. President of the GIOYA – UPEACE Doctorate in Commercial Diplomacy.*



Xiaohong Liu: *Professor appointed by the UN University for Peace for the Executive Doctorate in Commercial Diplomacy joint degree GIOYA HEI – UN University for Peace. Former President of Shanghai University of Political Science and Law and President of the Shanghai Arbitration Commission. Leading authority in Private International Law, International Economic Law and International Commercial Arbitration. Member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR, and of the International Commercial Expert Committee of the Supreme People's Court of China.*



Otaviano Canuto: *Former Vice President of the World Bank and Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund, he is a globally recognised economist with extensive experience in international finance, development policy, and economic governance. Professor at GIOYA HEI.*



Evarist Bartolo: *Former Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of Malta and long-standing member of government, with a central role in international diplomacy and European relations, Chair of the Ethic Committee and Member of the academic senate of GIOYA.*

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Jorge Castro: *Director, Legal Affairs Division, World Trade Organisation (WTO). He brings extensive experience in international trade law, dispute settlement and capacity-building within the multilateral trading system. He has held senior roles across the WTO Secretariat, including as Counsellor in the Legal Affairs Division and as Head of the Course Design and Training Section.*



Rocco Palma: *Diplomat and Senior legal Officer at UNIDROIT, with extensive knowledge in investor-State disputes and advisory roles in high-level cross-border arbitration proceedings, Professor at GIOYA HEI.*



Randa Jamal: *Senior official within the United Nations Development Programme, with leadership responsibilities in regional programmes focused on governance, economic development, and institutional cooperation.*

Distinguished Guests — UPEACE & GIOYA Graduation Day, Geneva

On 2 October 2026, participants will exceptionally take part in the UPEACE & GIOYA Graduation Ceremony and the Official Reception at the Palais des Nations, alongside a high-level, invitation-only audience. Among the distinguished guests expected to attend:

Laurea Honoris Causa Recipients



Bruno Ceretto: *Leading figure of Italian wine and of the international prestige of the Langhe. Honoured for embodying a model of entrepreneurship in which business excellence is inseparable from beauty, cultural heritage and profound respect for territory, preserving identity, refinement and values across generations.*



Giancarlo Minardi: *Founder of the Minardi Formula One Team. Recognised for an extraordinary career shaped by entrepreneurial vision, technical innovation and unwavering ethical integrity, and for a legacy defined by mentorship, fairness and a lasting commitment to the highest values of sport and enterprise.*

GIOYA Academic Senate — Members

- Maurits van Rooijen – Chair of the GIOYA Academic Senate; Rector, University of Europe for Applied Sciences
- Maria Chiara Malaguti – President Emerita, UNIDROIT; President of the GIOYA-UPEACE Executive Doctorate in Commercial Diplomacy

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- Francisco Rojas Aravena – Rector, UN University for Peace (permanent seat in the Senate)
- Evarist Bartolo – Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta; Chair of the GIOYA Ethics Committee
- Vincenzo Poerio – CEO, Tankoa Yachts; Chair of the GIOYA Yachting World School
- Jean-Paul Laborde – Former UN Assistant Secretary-General; Ambassador, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean
- Julio Andrade Ruiz – Deputy Director, CIFAL Global Network, UNITAR
- Stefano Bresciani – Full Professor of Business Management, University of Turin
- Annamaria Poggi – President, Fondazione CRT, Full Professor of Constitutional Law, University of Turin;
- Patrizia Polliotto – Corporate and banking lawyer; Secretary General, Fondazione CRT
- Cristina De Donà – CEO & Board Executive Adviser; former VP, Prada Group
- José Calderón – Former NBA player; founder of The Embassy
- Samer Salameh – Executive Chairman & CEO, Gasia Energy
- Lucio Tonello – Dean, GIOYA Higher Education Institution

Selected High-Level Institutional Guests



Alexander Mejia: *Director of UNITAR's Division for People and Social Development and Managing Director of the CIFAL Global Network. A senior United Nations official with more than 15 years of service, he leads international capacity-building initiatives across sustainable development and social inclusion. His career also includes senior roles in diplomacy, finance and public administration, including service as Ecuador's Vice Minister of Economy.*



Tatiana Valovaya *(to be confirmed): 13th Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva and the first woman to hold the position. She brings more than 35 years of experience in public service, diplomacy and journalism. Before joining UN Geneva, she served as a Member of the Board (Minister) of the Eurasian Economic Commission, with responsibility for integration and macroeconomic affairs.*



Ambassador Xiangchen Zhang *(to be confirmed): Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization. He previously served as Vice Minister in China's Ministry of Commerce and as China's Permanent Representative to the WTO. With more than 30 years of experience in international trade, negotiations and policy research, he has held senior roles in WTO affairs and economic cooperation. He holds degrees in Law, International Relations and International Politics from Peking University.*

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The event will also bring together athletes, representatives of international sports federations, Permanent Representatives of United Nations Member States to the United Nations Office at Geneva, and senior industry leaders.

Programme Format

The programme is designed as a **high-level executive experience**, combining:

- advanced academic and practice-inspired [operational] content
- direct exposure to international legal and institutional environments
- a uniquely curated and **exclusive networking ecosystem**

Participation is highly selective, ensuring:

- quality of interaction
- depth of peer exchange
- access to senior-level professional relationships

The structure integrates:

- executive learning sessions
- institutional access and visits
- curated networking opportunities
- dedicated time for reflection and strategic interaction

Programme Structure & Calendar

Day 0 — International Travel & Arrival

23 September 2026

Shanghai → Malaga

Evening

- Official welcome by the organisers
- Informal orientation and first networking moment

PART I – INVESTMENT ARBITRATION, ISDS & COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY

Malaga

Day 1 — Investment Arbitration: Systems & Power Structures

24 September 2026

Content

- Architecture of international investment law and protection regimes
- Evolution and strategic role of Investor to State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) in global investment flows
- Interaction between investors, States, and arbitral institutions
- Arbitration as a geopolitical and economic tool in the context of regulatory and geopolitical complexity

Experience

- Opening session: Professor Xiaohong Liu & Professor **Maria Chiara Malaguti**
- Participant introductions
- Programme alignment

Evening

- **Official welcome with authorities**

JOINT EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME IN INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT ARBITRATION & COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY

Day 2 — Treaties, Contracts & Strategic Litigation

25 September 2026

Content

- Investment treaties design, standards of protection, and interpretation
- Investment contracts design, standards of protection, and interpretation
- Strategic positioning of treaties/contract disputes (investor vs State) vis-à-vis emerging challenges
- Analysis of landmark arbitration cases and procedural strategies

Experience

- Case-based executive workshops
- **Visit to the Arbitration Tribunal of Malaga**

Day 3 — Free Day & Optional Visits

26 September 2026

A free day. An optional programme of visits will be proposed, on an individual basis and outside the official programme:

- optional individual visit programmes (not included in the official programme)
- personal reflection and peer interaction
- informal networking
- independent immersion in Malaga's Mediterranean environment

Day 4 — Free Day & Optional Visits

27 September 2026

A second free day designed for:

- optional individual visit programmes (not included in the official programme)
- strengthening professional relationships
- consolidation of insights and personal time

JOINT EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME IN INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT ARBITRATION & COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY

Day 5 — Arbitration in Practice: Procedures & Decision-Making

28 September 2026

Content

- ICSID and UNCITRAL procedural systems
- Constitution and dynamics of arbitral tribunals
- Jurisdictional thresholds and admissibility challenges
- The merits phase: claims and counterclaims, defences, objections
- Evidence, hearings, and advocacy strategies
- Awards and their recognition and enforcement

Experience

- Morning executive sessions
- Afternoon: **Malaga & Marbella institutional and economic environment exposure**

Day 6 — Geopolitics, Trade Systems & Commercial Diplomacy

29 September 2026

Morning Executive Sessions

- Commercial diplomacy within global geopolitical competition
- Trade systems, power dynamics, and strategic influence
- Multilateral governance and the role of international organisations
- Interaction between diplomacy, markets, and regulatory frameworks
- Trade and Peace

Afternoon

- Case-based executive workshops on commercial diplomacy in practice

JOINT EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME IN INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT ARBITRATION & COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY

Day 7 — Institutional Strategy & Global Negotiation Ecosystems

30 September 2026

Morning Executive Sessions

- Strategic engagement with international institutions
- Government-investor-organisation interface
- Advanced negotiation in complex cross-border environments
- Public-private coordination in global economic diplomacy

Afternoon

- Advanced negotiation simulation and strategic roundtable

PART II – COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY IN ACTION & INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Geneva

Day 8 — Transition to Geneva & WTO Executive Workshop

1 October 2026

Morning: Transfer from Malaga to Geneva

Afternoon

- Executive workshop on the World Trade Organization and the multilateral trading system
- Dialogue with WTO experts on the new era of Commercial Diplomacy

Day 9 — GIOYA Celebration Day at UN Geneva

2 October 2026

Institutional Experience

- Participation in the afternoon Annual Graduation Ceremony of GIOYA and UPEACE
- Keynote address by the Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization – "Commercial Diplomacy: New Era"

JOINT EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME IN INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT ARBITRATION & COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY

- Conferment of the GIOYA Laurea Honoris Causa and Honorary Degrees
- **Conferral of the Joint Executive Certificates in Commercial Diplomacy** upon programme participants, in a dedicated moment of the GIOYA-UPEACE Graduation Day, distinct from the Laurea Honoris Causa conferment
- Engagement with a **high-level, invitation-only audience** of institutional and private leaders

Certificates ceremony. The **Joint Executive Certificate in Commercial Diplomacy** is presented to participants in person during the **GIOYA–UPEACE Graduation Day at UN Geneva** (2 October 2026), within a dedicated segment of the ceremony, before the high-level institutional audience gathered at the Palais des Nations.

Evening

- Exclusive Official Reception (19:30) in honour of the graduates – approximately 150 senior guests, including ambassadors, institutional partners and international executives.

Day 10 — Free & Reflection in Geneva

3 October 2026

A dedicated open day for:

- personal reflection
- peer interaction
- informal networking
- independent immersion in Geneva's international environment

Day 11 — Return Travel

4 October 2026

Departure from Geneva – participants travel onward to their destinations of choice

Learning Experience

Participants benefit from:

- advanced executive-level content
- direct exposure to arbitration and institutional environments
- high-level peer interaction
- curated access to international organisations
- a unique combination of legal, diplomatic, and geopolitical perspectives

Certification

From arbitration practice in Malaga to direct engagement with global institutions in Geneva, this programme offers a unique executive pathway across international law, investment strategy, and commercial diplomacy.

Participants will receive a **Joint Executive Certificate in Commercial Diplomacy** issued by:

- **United Nations University for Peace**
- **GIOYA Higher Education Institution**

Conferral at the GIOYA–UPEACE Graduation Day. The certificates are conferred upon participants in person during the **GIOYA–UPEACE Graduation Day at UN Geneva on 2 October 2026**, in a dedicated moment of the ceremony at the Palais des Nations — distinct from the Laurea Honoris Causa conferment — before a high-level, invitation-only audience of institutional and private leaders.

Academic Value & Progression

For participants who choose to continue their academic journey with GIOYA or the UN University for Peace, the programme may:

- be recognised as **academic credits**
- contribute to a **reduction in the duration** of selected programmes
- represent a **first step within advanced academic pathways for executives**, including the Executive Doctorate in Commercial Diplomacy

Fast-Track to the Joint Executive Doctorate in Commercial Diplomacy

For participants who wish to continue into the **Joint Executive Doctorate in Commercial Diplomacy** – a highly selective qualification with **double accreditation (European validation and UPEACE validation)** – this programme opens a privileged pathway.

The **certificate obtained in this Executive Programme**, combined with a **minimum of 10 years of relevant professional experience** related to the doctoral research project, entitles the candidate to the **recognition of one full year of the doctoral pathway**. The Doctorate can therefore be completed in **two years instead of three** – a substantial reduction in tuition fees and in the time required to obtain this prestigious and highly selective title.

GIOYA ensures alignment with European higher education standards, while the University for Peace brings both academic recognition and institutional relevance within the United Nations system.

JOINT EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME IN INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT ARBITRATION & COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY



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