

VACANCY BRIEF

Senior Researcher, Multilateralism and Global Governance

Full time, based in New York



About UNU-CPR

[United Nations University Centre for Policy Research \(UNU-CPR\)](#) is a think tank within the United Nations that carries out policy-focused research on issues of strategic interest to the UN and its Member States. The Centre prioritizes urgent policy needs requiring innovative, practical solutions oriented towards immediate implementation and sustainability over the long term.

With offices in New York and Geneva, on-the-ground research activities in Latin America, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa, and a wide range of partnerships worldwide, UNU-CPR is a global think tank designed for networked solutions.

“UNU-CPR is uniquely placed to respond to today’s shifting multilateral environment. Our contributions to global policy debates strengthen the evidence base for policymaking and are helping to shape new approaches as the UN leans into emerging policy areas.”

- David Passarelli, Director, UNU-CPR



UNU-CPR's Vision

Facing a moment of deep geostrategic uncertainty and fragmentation in the multilateral system, Secretary-General Guterres has called for an ambitious programme of action. His *Common Agenda* is a vision of an inclusive, networked, effective, multilateral system, able to respond to cross-cutting challenges in a flexible and dynamic manner.

Our priorities are guided by this vision. Our research identifies misalignment, best practices and challenges now and on the horizon. We work with UN partners and Member States to develop and disseminate networked solutions that support the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and position the UN to lead global efforts to build a more just and peaceful world.

Our Research Programmes

UNU-CPR organizes its research under three broad pillars which reflect the major debates, policy needs and strategic objectives in UNU-CPR's key stakeholder communities.

1 Equitable Development

The relaunched Equitable Development pillar focuses on global economic cooperation and the political economy of development, with a strong emphasis on sustainable finance, multilateral development bank reform and changes to the international financial architecture.

Research lines developed in the Equitable Development pillar will explore macroeconomic trends, institutional governance reform and opportunities to unlock finance for sustainable development. The pillar will support efforts to reform and evolve institutions, coalitions and agendas that share the ambition of closing development finance and governance gaps. Research themes include climate finance, international tax cooperation, international monetary policy, reform of the global debt and trade architectures, as well as new regional approaches to financial integration.

2 Conflict Prevention and Sustaining Peace

Preventing violent conflict has been a UN priority for decades and remains a core aspect of the organization's work. Conflict risks do not emerge in isolation, but are the result of interdependent dynamics, deeply rooted structural drivers, shocks to fragile systems and the political decisions of leaders.

UNU-CPR's work in this area includes in-depth field-driven research on conflict dynamics, armed groups and transborder issues like arms flows, organized crime and illicit financial networks, and climate-security dynamics. Our work with UN peacebuilding entities involves not only drawing our best practices, but also developing innovations to enhance the UN's peacebuilding and peacekeeping capabilities.

3 Anticipatory Action and Innovation

The Anticipatory Action and Innovation research pillar offers solutions that help the UN become a more future-oriented organization, prepared for emerging challenges and capable of innovating to meet them. This work involves guidance in the use of predictive analytics, identifying new trends that may affect the work of the multilateral system and offering innovative solutions based on adaptation, mitigation and resilience.

The pillar also explores the ethics, policy and global governance of Artificial Intelligence – advancing proposals to support an open, free, secure and human-centred digital future that works for all. Driving this work is a commitment to ensuring that the benefits of the digital age are not captured by a few at the expense of the public interest.



Meet the Senior Resident Team



David Passarelli
UNU-CPR Director



Adam Day
Head of UNU-CPR
Geneva Office



Erica Gaston
Head of Conflict
Prevention and
Sustaining Peace
Programme



**Eleonore
Fournier-Tombs**
Head of Anticipatory
Action and Innovation
Programme



**Christina
McElwaine**
Chief Operations
Officer



Jack Durrell
Head of
Communications

Senior Non-Resident Fellows

Charles Hunt

Chido Mutangadura

Sophia Dawkins

Grazia Pacillo

Recent Initiatives

Stress Testing the UN's Regional Prevention Approaches: This initiative examined the UN's regional conflict prevention strategies, a key area of investment by the United Nations. It addressed the question: How can the UN better integrate its regional prevention work to more effectively respond to major crises? The project developed a cross-regional understanding of how UN investments at the regional level could support risk mitigation and conflict prevention in different contexts, and also how the UN's regional approach on humanitarian, development and security tracks connect to each other and to national efforts.

Research Lead to the Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board (SAB): UNU-CPR is responsible for consolidating and conveying new scientific breakthroughs to members of the SAB, appointed by the UN Secretary-General to provide independent insights on trends at the intersection of science, technology, ethics and governance, and support UN System organizations in anticipating, adapting to and leveraging scientific advancements.

Thematic Reviews for the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO): PBSO have commissioned UNU-CPR to conduct Thematic Reviews that examine projects supported by the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) – identifying lessons learned and providing recommendations to improve practices and programming. Recent Thematic Reviews have explored the implications of climate change for peacebuilding and synergies between human rights and peacebuilding.

High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism (HLAB): The HLAB was established by the UN Secretary-General and builds on his *Common Agenda*, a vision for a more inclusive, networked and effective multilateral system. UNU-CPR led the HLAB Secretariat and worked with experts and Board co-Chairs, Former President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and Former Prime Minister of Sweden, Stefan Löfven, to develop and promote governance solutions on issues of global concern. The report, *A Breakthrough for People and Planet*, and its solutions contribute to the 2024 Summit of the Future.

Senior Researcher, Multilateralism and Global Governance

About the Position

The Senior Researcher, Multilateralism and Global Governance, will support strategic convenings and research investigating the rise and effectiveness of issue-based coalitions, regional institutions, and political leadership on issues of global concern, and how these developments challenge the United Nations to evolve its priorities, operations, and programmes to remain fit for purpose. This research will explore innovative approaches to global governance, more equitable approaches to decision-making in international institutions, and strategies to strengthen multilateralism.



Responsibilities

Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Director of UNU-CPR, the Senior Researcher will:

Develop impactful research projects

- Develop and propose research projects with clear beneficiaries and a theory of change.
- Identify priority policy processes, institutions, and States that will benefit from the research.
- Leverage and build upon existing UNU-CPR networks and existing research initiatives.
- Define target policy audiences, drawing on UNU-CPR's network and your own; develop a clear engagement strategy; demonstrate uptake of research findings and recommendations.
- Identify synergies with research programmes across UNU and across UNU-CPR and invest in joint research projects and collaborative fundraising.

Support management at UNU-CPR

- Support the UNU-CPR Director and administrative/management personnel as required to ensure sound and effective management and administration of the Centre.
- Contribute to quality assurance processes that ensure high-quality outputs at UNU-CPR.

Produce and disseminate targeted research, analysis, and commentary to UNU-CPR stakeholders

- Deliver a range of publications—long-form, editorial, and collaborative works—that have high uptake potential in the UN system, targeted Member States, or other relevant organizations.
- Contribute to enhancing UNU-CPR's visibility by serving as an expert contributor on high-level panels, expert roundtables, and in the media.
- Foster research collaborations that will consolidate expertise on issues relevant to the themes of multilateralism and global governance.
- Organize high-level meetings and events drawing together key UNU-CPR stakeholders.

Project fundraising

- Identify donors, fundraising pathways, and new partners to support individual projects.
- Contribute to the diversification of UNU-CPR's donor pool and build ties to relevant foundations.

Support requests from UNU Headquarters

- Be available to support the UNU Rector/UN Under-Secretary-General and Headquarters colleagues on any substantive and administrative requests that may be made, including system-wide initiatives.

Perform other duties as assigned by supervisors

Values

- **Inclusion:** Take action to create an environment of dignity and respect for all, regardless of age, culture, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, gender expression, geography, grade, language, nationality, racial identity, religion, sex, sex characteristics, sexual orientation, social origin or any other aspect of identity.
 - **Integrity:** Act ethically, demonstrating the standards of conduct of the United Nations and taking prompt action in case of witnessing unprofessional or unethical behaviour, or any other breach of UN standards.
 - **Humility:** Demonstrate self-awareness and willingness to learn from others.
 - **Humanity:** Act according to the purposes of the United Nations: peace, dignity and equality on a healthy planet.
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Experience

- Extensive knowledge of the United Nations, its principal agencies and bodies as well as programmes and operations in your area of expertise, ideally covering one or more of the following themes: international cooperation and development, economics, human rights, international public policy and management, global governance.
- Familiarity with and, ideally, experience of UN-Member State dynamics and inter-governmental processes.
- Between 5–7 years of relevant policy research experience, or a combination of professional and research experience.
- Exceptional drafting ability and experience drafting/editing academic reports and shorter communications, including experience translating research for policy communities.
- Demonstrated success in fundraising and in managing donor relations.
- Excellent analytical and presentation skills.
- Self-direction and the ability to establish priorities, multitask and report work activities to management in a timely and proactive manner, and work within tight timelines.
- Solid interpersonal and problem-solving skills demonstrated by the ability to work in a multicultural environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity and gender parity.
- Comfort with a range of research methodologies and data analysis methods.

Education and certification

A PhD in a relevant academic discipline is strongly preferred but may be substituted by an advanced degree and a strong publication record and professional experience in a relevant field, including but not limited to economics, law, political science, international relations, international development, or public policy.

Location Requirement

This is a full-time position based in New York requiring a minimum number of days in office and frequent in-person meetings at the United Nations. Work from a remote location is not possible, nor is telecommuting for this role. Any candidate not able to commit to a full-time role in New York City will be disqualified.

Language requirements

- Fluency in English is required.
- Knowledge of another UN official working language is an asset.

For more information on the
vacancy and to apply:

[https://careers.unu.edu/o/
senior-researcher-unu-cpr](https://careers.unu.edu/o/senior-researcher-unu-cpr)