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SERIES ON POLICY AWARENESS AND TRAINING IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

*Organized by the ICT Task Force, Intel Corporation and UNITAR
under the auspices of the Working Group on Informatics*

Seminar on Policy Awareness and Security Issues in Information Technology

Friday, 19 November 2004

United Nations Headquarters, New York

INFORMATION NOTE

INTRODUCTION

The ICT Task Force, Intel Corporation and UNITAR launched this new series in 2002 in accordance with the mandate given to the United Nations ICT Task Force for the development of a Policy and Training Programme for Ambassadors and Diplomats at the United Nations, and under the auspices of the ECOSOC Working Group on Informatics. After the overwhelming success of last year, the organizers are happy to offer the series again in 2004.

FOCUS AND OBJECTIVES

In the current environment, diplomats and decision-makers are not only required to master the use of information technology in their daily work, but they also have to be aware of, and address, new challenges. Therefore the series has three objectives: (a) To enable diplomats to the United Nations in New York to acquire specific computer skills and be exposed to workings of the Internet; (b) To raise awareness and understanding of policy and security issues related to the information society; (c) To continue providing input in preparation for the World Summit for Information Society to be held in 2005.

Seminar on Policy and Security Issues in Information Technology

Due to the critical importance of this area to all Member States, and the sponsors' commitment to awareness-building on these issues, the series offers a high-level seminar module entirely devoted to policy and security issues on the Internet. This module also aims at providing input for the preparation for the upcoming IT World Summit in 2005. The focus of this seminar varies from cycle to cycle, and ranges from a host of security issues to the issues of development and digital divide. The seminar is primarily targeted at ambassadors and senior diplomats. It is addressed by recognized experts in the subjects. The material of the seminars is compiled on CD-ROMs to be distributed among the participants as reference material as well as posted on the website at: www.un.int/unitar/patit/NYtraining/module5.htm

TRAINING MATERIAL

Participants in the programme are provided with a comprehensive set of training materials on CD ROM as well as in print. The material used is developed in close conjunction with the resource persons and is posted on the Web at www.un.int/unitar/patit/ for further dissemination.

PARTICIPANTS

The programme has been developed for ambassadors and diplomats from permanent missions to the United Nations in New York, but is open to the United Nations staff as well as members of non-governmental organizations.

RESOURCE PERSONS

The programme resource persons are coordinated by UNITAR and Intel, and the series is conducted in close cooperation with various partners from within and outside the United Nations system. Resource persons - practitioners and academics specialized in the field of communication technologies - are drawn from the private as well as the public international sector such as the World Bank and other United Nations agencies. Speakers are also invited from the academic and other private sector organizations.

WORKING LANGUAGE

The programme will be conducted in English.