

Common Secure: Cybersecurity Solutions for the UN Family

Today, UNICC is *de facto* the primary provider of shared cybersecurity services to UN system organizations. As a member entity of the UN family, UNICC is intimately familiar with the needs and requirements of the system and manages a cybersecurity service catalogue of over two dozen cybersecurity services used by more than 50 UN organizations, agencies, and entities.

Furthermore, its shared services model translates to lower costs for each client with every additional subscription to its services. UNICC has experienced a 500% increase in the consumption of its cybersecurity services over the past four years, yielding significant economies of scale, naturally promoting a coordinated and needs-based approach to its service offerings and contributing to the coherence, consistency, and complementarity of its services to augment existing capacities and efforts within its client and partner organizations.

UNICC currently has – by a tenfold margin – more cybersecurity experts than any other UN agency or entity of the system. With over 200 cybersecurity practitioners focusing on building, implementing, and managing cybersecurity solutions and over 50 years of experience as a key strategic technology partner to UN system organizations, UNICC functions as a hub for cybersecurity expertise and operational capacity to deliver solutions to shared challenges within the UN system.

UNICC hosts an annual [Common Secure](#)

[Conference](#) with the goal to bring its cybersecurity partners together to increase the UN family circle of trust, share intelligence on cyber practices and provide feedback on UNICC Common Secure services. The multi-day workshop blends UN Agency participation with Member States, academic, regional and vendor participants and speakers with feedback, presentations and input with closed and public sessions.

The [2022 Conference](#) was a joint partnership with UNDP's Cybersecurity for Developing Nations programme and FIRST, including a jam-packed week of specialized and public events held from 3 to 7 October in Valencia, Spain, where UNICC's Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence is also located.

Goals of the conference were to share cybersecurity thought leadership and best practices, enhancing collaboration within the UN system and with national and international Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs).

The conference witnessed attendees (physically and virtually) from nearly 40 UN organizations, keynote speakers and guests from CERTs, academic institutions and top technology companies to share cybersecurity issues, opportunities and solutions, including cybersecurity threats impacting the UN system and the measures they take to mitigate these threats.

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2022 UNICC Highlights



Photos: UNICC (all)

Gender, Equity and Inclusiveness

Ending discrimination is crucial to an equitable, sustainable future and it is an accelerator towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UNICC has made gender, diversity and inclusiveness central to its mission.

Internally, the organization is focusing on increasing its gender and diversity rates. UNICC's Director Sameer Chauhan is a member of the International Gender Champions (IGC) network. Under his leadership, the organization is implementing the Gender Parity Strategy, designed to achieve gender parity across UNICC by 2028. In 2022, the organization reached **35%** representation of women among staff, with **55%** of new hires being women.

UNICC also champions gender, diversity and inclusiveness in its outreach and advocacy, through strategic partnerships and alliances with a growing number of organizations and collaborative activities worldwide.

As an extension of UNICC's commitment to fostering partnerships with academic institutions, the organization collaborated with Columbia University to bring together

students, alumni and experts from around the world to the **SDG global challenge Think-a-Thon**, aimed at finding solutions to contribute to SDG 5: Gender Equality and SDG 13: Climate Action.

UNICC co-hosted an **International Day of the Girl** event that convened 70 women and girls in New York City. The theme for this event was 'Our time is now – our rights, our future' and it was organized in partnership with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), NYC Mayor's Office for International Affairs, Infosys Foundation USA and Micro:bit Educational Foundation.

UNICC is also collaborating with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the **Equity 2030 Alliance**, an initiative to build an equitable future for all by including the gender perspective in the design of science, technology and financing solutions. The Alliance seeks to accelerate actions to normalize gender equity by introducing data-driven arguments and strategies for an inclusive, sustainable, and gender-equitable future where women's voices are heard, their needs are met and their potential is fulfilled.

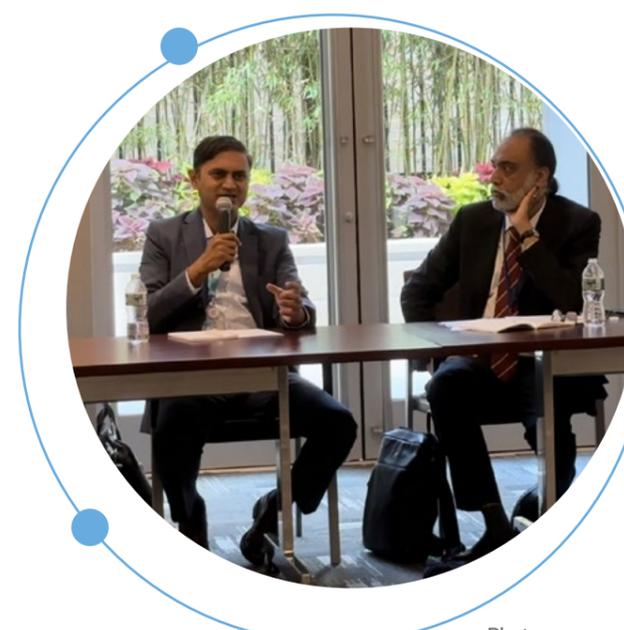


UNICC women staff gender ratio evolution (last 6 years)

Greening UNICC – Sustainable Technology

After launching a collaboration with UN Environment Programme (UNEP) in 2021, UNICC is pleased to be contributing to the Greening the Blue initiative and providing inputs on the organization's carbon footprint and greening measures.

One of the main focuses of UNICC's sustainability efforts are its four data centres, all of which are actively monitored and reporting on emissions. Factors such as green procurement practices, the use of energy-efficient products, sourcing sustainable energy, efficient cooling solutions and even balanced server placements in the racks all contribute towards green data centres.



Photos: UNICC/Ouyang



UNICC and the Global Digital Compact

UNICC is strongly committed to the Common Agenda's Global Digital Compact led by the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology. Following concerted efforts across the UN family like the Secretary-General's Data Strategy for Action by Everyone, Everywhere, the Secretary-General's Strategy on New Technologies and the UN 2.0 Quintet of Change, UNICC is developing strategic partnerships across the UN technology landscape, supporting the digital transformation of the UN system and working closely with Member States to address some of the urgent issues related to these processes. As the UN system embarks on a new chapter in its digitalization journey and looks forward to the Summit of the Future in September 2024, UNICC remains a decisive stakeholder.

iReport, an Early Warning and Response Tool for the EC-UNDP Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance

UNDP and the European Union (EU), through the EC-UNDP Joint Task Force on Electoral Assistance, partnered with UNICC to develop an early warning and early response solution: the iReport.

This web platform and mobile app allows relevant national authorities and non-governmental organizations to jointly report risks and incidents of electoral and/or gender violence for prompt and coordinated verification and, ultimately, response, enhancing decision-making processes in real time.

The iReport solution is flexible and responsive, ensuring its suitability for a variety of contexts. Since the iReport's initial deployment in early 2021, it has been utilized in elections

in Ethiopia, Zambia and Honduras, with plans of imminent release in Liberia and other countries.

Over the course of the past two years, as product development continues, improvement follows. The iReport platform for Liberia has interesting new developments oriented towards providing a publically accessible front-end for citizens to be aware of latest developments. The risk forecasting section allows users to check and compare current risks with forecasted risks, calculated through an algorithm. Lessons learned from each country are continuously leveraged to inform new implementations in new countries.

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Cybersecurity Services and Data Solutions at the UN Climate Change Conference COP27

UNICC provided cybersecurity services and data solutions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the conference COP27, in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

UNICC was part of the Security Operations Centre (SOC) team that supported UNFCCC and the Government of Egypt during COP27. UNICC vetted the cybersecurity arrangements in place and participated in security operations during the event to ensure a safe information and cyber environment for participants and delegates.

UNICC also provided data and analytics services to support the coordination of UNFCCC's Conference Affairs, ICT and

Operations teams, optimizing information on participants, enhancing data quality, and providing sophisticated insights that allowed data-driven decision-making. The team on-site also responded to ad-hoc requests, building and updating dashboards with participant information such as vaccination status and exceptions lists.

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Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation through the CADRI Tool

UNICC has been working with CADRI, the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative, to provide digital solutions for disaster resilience. Founded by three UN organizations (OCHA, UNDP and UNDRR), CADRI is a global partnership led by the United Nations and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movements systems that gathers 20 humanitarian and development organizations.

UNICC has helped CADRI custom-build and host a tool for capacity diagnosis and

planning. The CADRI Tool is used to guide assessors and planners in the application of an analytical frame to identify critical capacity gaps and create development interventions to address them.

The CADRI Tool guides teams to conduct capacity diagnosis processes at the country level. It provides users with a wealth of thematic resources to support countries in implementing disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation initiatives.

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Service Management Solution for WTO

The digital transformation the World Trade Organization (WTO) Secretariat relies on how well the transformation contributes to its mandate and how this will function internally. Similar to other international organizations, WTO Members States expect the Secretariat to optimize the value they are getting from their contributions and to unleash the talent of its staff.

This is where WTO tapped UNICC to deliver its integrated, cost-efficient service management solution, assessing and assisting with updating a ten year old system. The UNICC ServiceNow solution, with full cloud security, UN system cost-efficiencies through its strategic agreements and full business process support, allows organizations

like WTO to digitize and automate siloed processes, dramatically improving the service management experience across the organization.

The platform optimizes processes, connects data and organizational entities and accelerates innovation at scale with a single platform for digital business. On top of this, monitoring and reporting tools mean that WTO has metrics at their fingertips to meet indicators with quality performance data. Coupled with a procurement effort to source the service centre with a lower cost base, WTO is well on the way to a real digital transformation in how internal business solutions and services are delivered to its staff.

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Photos:
UNICC (left)
UN Photo/Garten (right)