



United Nations University Jargon Buster

Launch Invitation
Tuesday, 10 November 2015, 11:30

UN Regional Information Centre,
8th Floor, Entrance C2, Rue de La Loi 155, Brussels

The United Nations University (UNU) Jargon Buster is a glossary of social, political and economic terms: an offline app with instant search and filtered browsing. Available for free on Android and iOS, it features 200 terms with definitions, all cross-referenced with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), plus 250 UN acronyms.

WHY? In our interconnected world, global discussions rely on a shared understanding of key concepts. Yet people use similar concepts in different ways, particularly when they come from different backgrounds. This app is a tool for bridging divides – both within the UN and between the UN, academia and the general public. It is also timely: with terms cross-referenced with the SDGs, it can be a unique tool for UN civil engagement.

WHO? For anyone who needs an offline UN glossary anywhere in the world – at a conference or in the field – be they students, scientists, journalists or policymakers.

HOW? The app gathers knowledge and recommended resources from five UNU sites: in Belgium (UNU-CRIS), Iceland (UNU-GEST), Japan (UNU-IAS), Malaysia (UNU-IIGH), and the Netherlands (UNU-MERIT – the lead institute for this app).

The screenshot displays the app's interface on a mobile device. The top status bar shows the time as 16:11 and 15:48. The app header includes the title 'United Nations University Jargon Buster' and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. A search bar is present at the top of the main content area. On the left, there is a navigation menu with an 'a-z' index and a 'Filters' button. The main content area shows search results for 'Brain gain' and 'Climate change (IAS angle)'. Each result includes a definition, a source (UNU-MERIT and UNU-IAS respectively), and a 'Share this term' button. Below the 'Brain gain' result, there are 'Related SDGs' icons for '10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES' and '16 PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS'. Below the 'Climate change (IAS angle)' result, there are 'Related SDGs' icons for '13 CLIMATE ACTION', '14 LIFE BELOW WATER', and '15 LIFE ON LAND'.

Speakers

Afsané Bassir-Pour, UNRIC

[Afsané Bassir-Pour](#) is the Director of the United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe (UNRIC) in Brussels, Belgium since 2006. She was the diplomatic correspondent of the French daily *Le Monde* from 1988 to 2006, for which she covered in particular the Human Rights Council, WTO and World Economic Forum. Ms. Bassir-Pour will open the event with a few words of welcome.

Dr. Michaella Vanore, Maastricht University

[Michaella Vanore](#) is a migration specialist at Maastricht University, the Netherlands. Her research mainly focuses on Moldova and Georgia, and she is co-author of several research and policy reports for UNICEF, the International Organization for Migration, and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Dr. Vanore will explain the importance of using correct terminology – e.g., migrant or refugee, trafficker or smuggler – amid the recent ‘Mediterranean crisis’.

Howard Hudson, United Nations University

[Howard Hudson](#) is the Editor and Communications coordinator at UNU-MERIT, the United Nations University institute in Maastricht, the Netherlands. He previously worked for Amnesty International Headquarters, Chatham House, and the European Parliament, and has twice represented UNU at the UN Communications Group in Geneva. Mr. Hudson is responsible for the design and delivery of the UNU Jargon Buster. He will explain why it is needed, who will use it, and how it can be expanded to cover more UN(U) work – particularly in the context of the SDGs.

A light lunch will follow at 12:00
Registration is required: benelux@unric.org

For more details and to download the app:
<http://www.merit.unu.edu/app/>