



COLUMBIA | SIPA

Kent Global Leadership Program on Conflict Resolution

2026

KENT GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



CONFLICT RESOLUTION SUMMER TRAINING

JUNE 1-5, 2026

International Affairs Building
420 West 118th Street
New York, NY 10027

www.sipa.columbia.edu/kent-program
All inquiries should be addressed to:
guehennokentdirector@columbia.edu



ANNOUNCING: KENT SUMMER TRAINING JUNE 1-5, 2026

The Transformation of Conflict: Responding to an Age of New Vulnerabilities

The five-day **tuition-free** Kent Conflict Resolution Summer Training will take place in-person in New York between **June 1st-June 5th, 2026** and combines experiential skills building and expert panel discussions. This intensive course will familiarize a select group of mid-career diplomats with the emerging dynamics of 21st century conflict and the tools, knowledge, and negotiating techniques that are necessary to address these dynamics. Specifically, participants will engage with the opportunities provided by “**The Golden Triangle**,” a reference to the synergistic potential for cooperation between stakeholders in government, civil society, and the private sector. Participants will receive a packet of training materials before arriving in New York. Those who successfully complete the training will receive a Certificate of Participation from Columbia University’s **School of International and Public Affairs**.



The 2026 Summer Training will focus on **The Transformation of Conflict: Responding to an Age of New Vulnerabilities**. Great power conflict is back, and the battlefield has expanded dramatically. How can nations adapt to new types of warfare such as AI-powered autonomous weapons, cyberattacks and disinformation? As trade is increasingly weaponized, will the threat of economic peril dictate security arrangements? How will the UN and other international institutions adapt to this new landscape? Does international law still function in an age of unilateralism? Do we need to revisit long-accepted notions of sovereignty to fight back?



APPLY NOW! ►►►►►►►►►►

Applications for the Summer 2026 cohort are now open!

To apply, please submit a CV, cover letter, and TWO letters of recommendation (one from a direct supervisor) to guehennokentdirector@columbia.edu by **December 1, 2025**. Questions regarding the program or the application process should be directed to the email above.

ABOUT THE TRAINING:

The training centers around an **in-depth simulation and a case study**, which are augmented by **high-level panels** featuring senior officials from governments and international organizations, CEOs of major corporations, and leaders of prominent NGOs. As a distinctive feature of the training, the simulation will bring to the world of diplomacy some of the methods used in business schools. Last year's simulation and case study centered around the training's overarching theme of **Early Warning: The Race to Forecast Conflict in an Era of Rapid Change**. The simulation took the form of a Peace Summit in Geneva, asking participants to come together as political, military, business, and civil society stakeholders to address a persistent conflict between two countries at differing levels of technological sophistication. The crisis was triggered by disinformation and cyber-attacks related to a migration pattern which threatens to upend the ethnic balance in both countries.

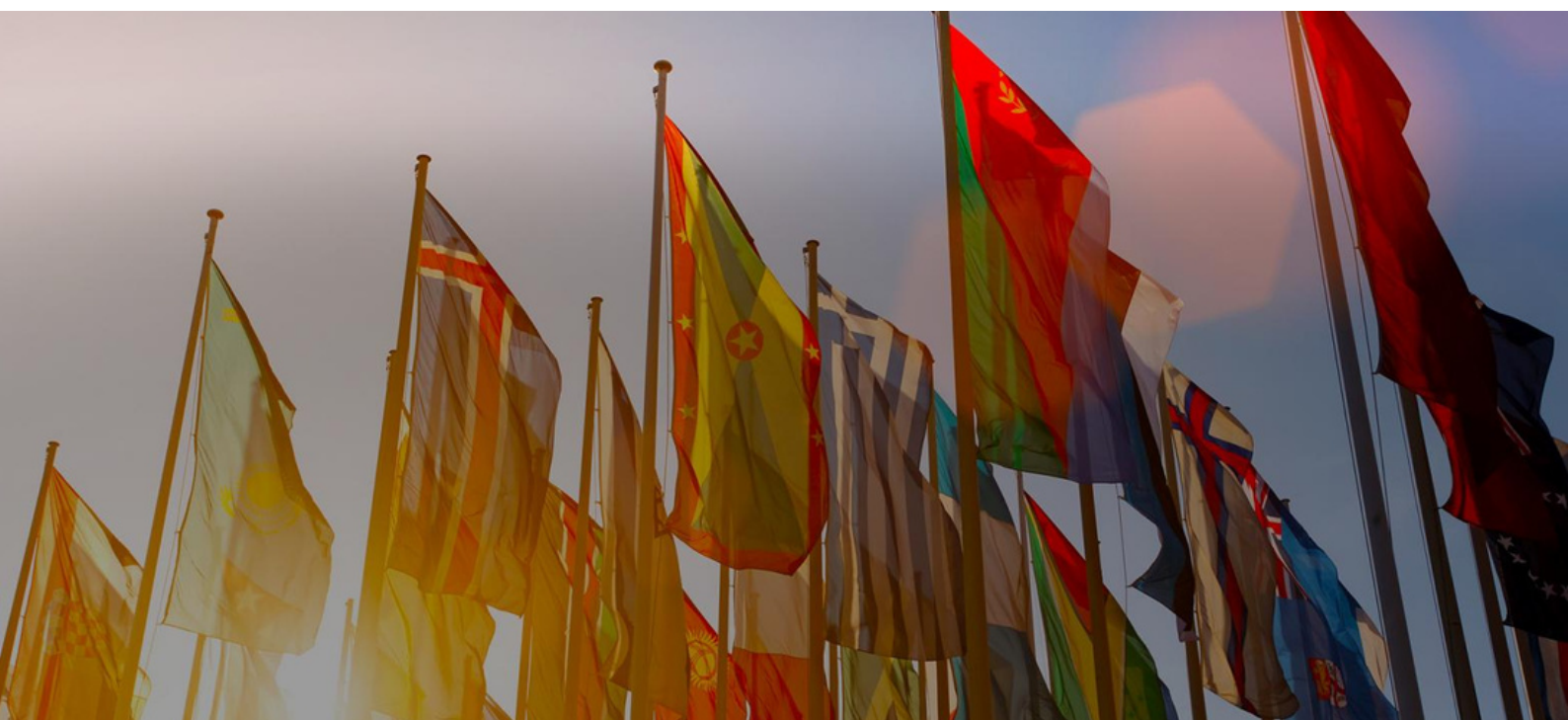
Recordings of sessions from last year's summer training are available [here](#)

ABOUT THE KENT PROGRAM:

The Kent Global Leadership Program on Conflict Resolution is the product of a fortunate encounter:

- The **School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA)**, whose approach to education is to combine the academic rigor and innovative spirit of Columbia University with the policy focus of practitioners who bring to the classroom the experience and challenges of a changing world. The history of the school is intimately linked to the United Nations – its founding dean, Andrew Cordier, had been a close adviser of Dag Hammarskjöld – and whose student body, coming from more than 70 countries, reflects that international outlook; and
- A generous donor, **Muhtar Kent, retired Chairman and CEO of The Coca-Cola Company**, who throughout his career has demonstrated a deep commitment to international cooperation and a conviction that business has a particular responsibility in helping build peaceful societies.

The Kent Program has the ambition to help prepare the next generation of global practitioners for the increasingly complex challenges posed by contemporary conflict. In addition to an annual summer training for promising young diplomats, the Kent Program sponsors on-campus events and workshops during the academic year, a visiting professorship, fellowships for outstanding SIPA graduate students, and original research in conflict and peacebuilding.





Dean, School of International and Public Affairs, and Adlai E. Stevenson Professor of International Relations, Columbia University

FAQs

This program is designed for promising young diplomats serving in overseas missions or in the foreign ministries of their home countries. Candidates are expected to have some years of professional experience and a demonstrated commitment to international conflict resolution and peacebuilding, as well as be strongly recommended by their respective missions/ministries.

Thanks to the generosity of the donor, this training is offered by Columbia University to participating diplomats free of charge. Attendees are, however, expected to cover their travel and lodging costs in New York. In exceptional cases, financial aid may be granted; upon acceptance into the training, attendees may inquire for more information.

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