



**PRESS RELEASE**

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# **Gender Goes Wiki**

## *UN-INSTRAW Creates a new Interactive e-Tool to Promote Trainings*

[Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic] - As a groundbreaking initiative, the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW) launches today the first-ever [Gender "Wiki"](#), an online tool facilitating and increasing the exchange of knowledge-sharing on capacity-building activities and resources worldwide.

Through a free Internet downloadable wiki software, this kind of website allows users to add, remove, edit and change all content quickly and easily. "There are two key aspects that make a "wiki" different to a "normal" website. First, anyone has the right to contribute to it, and that is actually what makes the wiki", explained Anna Maron, UN-INSTRAW wiki specialist. "Second, there is the lack of hierarchical structure. Unlike in "traditional" websites which show the track you followed to get there, all the pages in the wiki are linked in a network", she said.

In its efforts to embrace the new technologies for empowering women, the UN-INSTRAW has developed this first-ever "wiki" specifically devoted to gender issues for all NGOs, popular organisations, universities and UN agencies around the globe. Organisations can publicise their training courses, publications and other capacity-building materials, in English and Spanish and soon in French.

With currently more than 300 resources, UN-INSTRAW's "[Gender Training Wiki](#)" shows an interactive world map displaying institutions offering gender trainings and upcoming capacity-building events. This new technology tool also contains an automatically generated calendar of trainings, a section for upcoming online training courses on gender, a directory of institutions providing training courses in that field as well other gender related training materials.

Through the use of the wiki tool, UN-INSTRAW aims to increase the visibility of gender initiatives by breaking through the "unidirectionality" of the Internet and promoting greater participation of Internet users. "The "wiki" can help to create a two-way communication through which it is easy for anyone to add information on new training activities or materials. Changes, such as the editing of dates or places can be easily done from your own computer", Natividad Fernández of UN-INSTRAW's Capacity-building Unit pointed out.

"Creating this virtual community of knowledge opens up the ownership of the tool to belong to everyone, not just UN-INSTRAW that set it up. This way information on training reaches a wider audience and the materials are more rapidly disseminated", she added.

For technical details, please contact Nati Fernández ([nfernandez@un-instraw.org](mailto:nfernandez@un-instraw.org)) or Anna Maron ([amaron@un-instraw.org](mailto:amaron@un-instraw.org)). The UN-INSTRAW's Gender Training Wiki can be visited at following URL: [http://www.un-instraw.org/wiki/training/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://www.un-instraw.org/wiki/training/index.php/Main_Page)

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INSTRAW is the only United Nations Institute devoted to serve as a vehicle at the international level to promote and undertake research and training programmes to contribute to the advancement of women and gender equality worldwide.