



CHAPTER 1

REINVIGORATING MULTILATERALISM AND RECOMMITTING TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

As part of its efforts to reinvigorate multilateralism and recommit to the Sustainable Development Goals, UN Geneva services and facilitates multilateral processes at the Palais des Nations and beyond. ©UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré



MARKING INTERNATIONAL DAYS

Every year, International Days and commemorations of important historical events offer timely opportunities for the international community in Geneva to gather and remember.

The ceremonies are generally well attended and constitute a powerful advocacy tool for the United Nations.

International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

The annual ceremony for the [International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust](#) was held in January at the Palais des Nations. The theme of “Home and belonging” provided an opportunity to reflect on what those words meant to the people who lived through the horrors of the Holocaust. Avraham Roet, one of the few remaining Holocaust survivors, shared his harrowing personal story, bearing witness to the strength and resilience of the Jewish people.

In her remarks, the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, raised concerns over the alarming resurgence of xenophobia and discrimination. She echoed the call made by the Secretary-General to counter Holocaust denial and distortion, including through the development and implementation of relevant outreach programmes and activities at UN Geneva to educate future generations about the lessons of the Holocaust. In addition, an art exhibition, entitled *Days Beyond Time – Artist Meets Testimony*, was organized in Geneva by the Permanent Mission of Israel and several partners to mark the commemoration.

Scan the QR code to watch a [recording of the ceremony](#).



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Candles are lit in a ceremony marking the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. From right to left: Holocaust survivor, Avraham Roet; Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya; Permanent Representative of Israel, Meirav Eilon Shahaar; and young people attending the ceremony. ©UN Photo: Violaine Martin

◀ Pianist Amit Weiner, violinist Marc Crofts and singer Yael Yekel perform during the ceremony for the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust in January. ©UN Photo: Violaine Martin

International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda

In April, UN Geneva commemorated the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda with a wreath-laying ceremony at the memorial stele at the Place des Nations, followed by a commemorative event at the Palais des Nations.

After a candle-lighting ceremony and one minute of silence in memory of the many victims who perished during the genocide in 1994, Providence Umugwaneza, a survivor of the genocide, shared her personal story with the hundreds of people who attended the ceremony in person or watched it online. The Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk (through a video message), opened the ceremony. Powerful messages were delivered by the Permanent Representative of Rwanda, Marie Chantal Rwakazina; and a representative of Ibuka – Mémoire et justice (section Suisse), Cynthia Urusaro Imhof.

Scan the QR code to watch a recording of the ceremony.



Participants observe one minute of silence during the commemoration of the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, held at the Palais des Nations. ©UN Photo: Violaine Martin

The Representative of Ibuka – Mémoire et justice (section Suisse), Cynthia Urusaro Imhof, delivers her remarks during the annual commemoration of the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda at UN Geneva. ©UN Photo: Violaine Martin

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

Since the establishment of the first peacekeeping mission in 1948, United Nations peacekeepers have been carrying the torch of peace in some of the most challenging places in the world. In 2023, the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers also served to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of United Nations Peacekeeping. At its annual commemoration, held in Ariana Park in front of the memorial dedicated to those who have given their lives for peace, UN Geneva honoured some 4,300 United Nations peacekeepers who have made the ultimate sacrifice. At the ceremony, UN Geneva also paid tribute to over 2 million uniformed and civilian United Nations personnel who have served and continue to serve under the United Nations flag.

As highlighted by the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, in her remarks, the theme of the 2023 commemoration, “Peace begins with me”, is a reminder that peace begins with each and every one of us – in the choices we make, the values we uphold and the actions we take.

Remarks were also delivered by the President of the Soldiers of Peace International Association, Laurent Attar-Bayrou, and the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, Mohammad Sufiur Rahman, whose country was the largest contributor of uniformed personnel to United Nations peace operations in 2023.

Scan the QR code to watch a recording of the ceremony.



Wreath-laying ceremony in honour of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, in front of the memorial in Ariana Park. ©UN Photo: Violaine Martin

Musical performance during the commemoration of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers in Ariana Park at the UN Office at Geneva. ©UN Photo: Violaine Martin

World Humanitarian Day

This year's World Humanitarian Day in August marked the twentieth anniversary of the devastating terrorist bombing of the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, which killed 22 people, many of whom were UN staff members, including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello. The commemoration, organized by UN Geneva and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, brought together survivors and family members of victims of the attacks at a solemn ceremony to pay tribute to those who had lost their lives in humanitarian service.

In her remarks, the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, acknowledged the inspiring work and legacy of all humanitarian workers around the globe. Mujahed Hassan, a survivor of the 2003 terrorist attack, and Laura Dolci, a family member of a UN staff member who perished in the attack, shared their recollections of the tragic day, 19 August 2003, that divided their lives into “before” and “after”. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk; the Permanent Representative of Iraq, Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa; the Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland, Julien Thöni; and the Head and Representative of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Geneva, Ramesh Rajasingham, similarly recognized the sacrifices of the victims, survivors and their families in their remarks.

Scan the QR code to watch a recording of the ceremony.



The master of ceremonies, Ahmad Fawzi, reads out the names of the United Nations staff members killed on 19 August 2003 in Baghdad as they appear on the screen during the annual commemoration of World Humanitarian Day. ©UN Photo: Lai Sanders



International Day of Peace

Geneva – the location of various entities working for peace, and often referred to as “the capital of peace” – has traditionally been a space for diplomacy and for finding solutions to the challenges and conflicts faced globally. On 21 September, the International Day of Peace, UN Geneva, together with Interpeace and other partners, organized the Geneva Peace Talks, an annual outreach event and a highlight on the International Geneva calendar for over 10 years. The 2023 edition of the Geneva Peace Talks storytelling event was held during the same week as the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in New York, which marked the halfway point of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the Talks were organized around the theme “Actions for peace: our ambition for the #Global-Goals”. Seven speakers from diverse backgrounds discussed their contributions to peace through a series of inspiring talks on the empowerment of women and girls, on nuclear disarmament and on climate change, among other topics.

Scan the QR code to watch a recording of the ceremony.



The seven speakers at the eleventh edition of the Geneva Peace Talks, held at the Palais des Nations on the International Day of Peace ©UN Photo: Lidiya Grigoreva

The Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, addresses the attendees at the 2023 Geneva Peace Talks through a video message. ©UN Photo: Lidiya Grigoreva

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People was marked with a special meeting at the Palais des Nations in November, chaired by the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya. The Director-General read out a message from the Secretary-General, António Guterres, who shared strong concerns over the escalation of tension in the region and called for an end to the occupation and the blockade of Gaza. He also reiterated the importance of moving in a determined way towards a two-State solution, on the basis of United Nations resolutions and international law, with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security, and with Jerusalem as the capital of both States.

The Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, Ibrahim Khraishi, read out a statement by the President of the State of Palestine, Mahmoud Abbas, in which the President called for an end to the occupation of the territory of the State of Palestine and for the international community to hold an international peace conference to salvage the two-State solution based on the 1967 borders.

Scan the QR code to watch a recording of the ceremony.



The Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine, Ibrahim Khraishi, reads out a statement by the President of the State of Palestine, Mahmoud Abbas, at a special meeting marking the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. ©UN Photo: Lai Sanders

The Geneva-based diplomatic community meets to mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People at the UN Office at Geneva. ©UN Photo: Lai Sanders

EXECUTIVE BRIEFINGS: SPREADING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

In 2023, UN Geneva continued to serve as a multilateral platform for knowledge- and experience-sharing by regularly holding Executive Briefings conducted by senior United Nations officials and senior representatives from partner organizations. A total of 11 briefings were held with high-level speakers from the United Nations Secretariat and United Nations system entities, such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Nations University. The events are a key opportunity for these entities and officials to update the diplomatic community in Geneva on achievements and upcoming activities.

Kicking off the 2023 series, in February, the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session, Csaba Kőrösi, briefed Geneva-based representatives of Member States on the priorities of the General Assembly for 2023 and its negotiation processes.

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The Under-Secretary-General for Policy, Guy Ryder, accompanied by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe, Tatiana Molcean (on the left, at the table), and the Chief, Political Affairs and Partnerships Section of the Office of the Director-General, Lidiya Grigoreva (on the right, at the table), conducts an Executive Briefing for the Geneva-based diplomatic community in November.

©UN Photo: Hélène Champenois



PURSuing MULTI-STAKEHOLDER MULTILATERALISM

In another of the Executive Briefings, in May, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the [United Nations Sustainable Development Group](#), Amina Mohammed, updated participants on the preparatory processes in the lead-up to the [Sustainable Development Goals Summit](#) being held in New York in September and on the achievements in and results of the ongoing reform of the United Nations development system and the resident coordinator system.

Closing out the 2023 series, the Under-Secretary-General for Policy, Guy Ryder, visited Geneva in November to present the journey towards the [Summit of the Future](#), to be held in September 2024, and encourage the diplomatic community to contribute to the [pact for the future](#), an action-oriented document expected to be adopted by Member States at the Summit.

In 2023, UN Geneva continued to foster international cooperation by providing a platform for various stakeholders to discuss their concerns and recommendations on the future of multilateralism.

In January, UN Geneva hosted a [high-level meeting](#) organized by the Nizami Ganjavi International Center, which brought together former Heads of State and Government and others. The event, entitled “Picking up the pieces: the challenges of fixing a broken world”, provided a space for participants to reflect on the new global governance architecture needed to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. In her welcome remarks, the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, underlined the indispensable role played by International Geneva in forging a global coalition for the sustainable future of our planet.

Scan the QR code to watch a [video](#) of the event.



The Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, underlined the indispensable role played by International Geneva in forging a global coalition for the sustainable future of our planet.

Representatives of Member States in Geneva participate in an Executive Briefing with the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, Philippe Lazzarini, in October.
©UN Photo: H el ena Champenois



The Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya (centre), with the President of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, Mar a Fernanda Espinosa Garc es (left), and the President of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly, Volkan Bozkir (right), during the opening of the high-level meeting organized by the Nizami Ganjavi International Center.
©UN Photo: Matija Potocnik

In October, UN Geneva joined forces with the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance and the Geneva Office of the United Nations University Centre for Policy Research to organize a seminar around the theme “Towards the Summit of the Future: leveraging security sector governance as a tool for rebuilding trust in the social contract”. The members of the panel, which comprised representatives of academia, government dignitaries and current and former senior United Nations officials, discussed the need to leverage the security sector as an important tool for advancing the [New Agenda for Peace](#). Building upon the latter and the related set of recommendations for the [Summit of the Future](#) to be held in 2024, participants in the discussion emphasized that a new social contract is not only a moral imperative, but also a pragmatic approach to fostering lasting peace, stability and sustainable development for all.



From left to right, the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Nada Al-Nashif, the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, the Director of the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance, Nathalie Chuard, and the Deputy Head of the Policy and Research Division at the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance, Vincenza Scherrer, engage with participants during the opening of the 2023 seminar organized by UN Geneva, the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance and the United Nations University on 10 October. ©DCAF

This year marked the tenth anniversary of [Geneva Peace Week](#). The result of a collaborative effort by 150 organizations, including UN Geneva, the 2023 Geneva Peace Week was held from 30 October to 3 November around the theme “Building trust, building peace: an agenda for the future”. The event provided a momentous occasion to showcase the power of innovation and collaboration in addressing complex global issues, such as climate change, and the role of education in promoting peace. In her opening remarks, the Director-General stressed the importance of multilateral cooperation in the pursuit of global peace and highlighted Geneva’s role as the “capital of peace”.

Scan the QR code to watch the [Geneva Peace Week events](#).



The opening ceremony of the tenth anniversary edition of Geneva Peace Week, held on 30 October at the Maison de la Paix. ©Olivier Chamard

In November, a high-level roundtable devoted to the promotion of conflict prevention through the socioeconomic inclusion of minorities was jointly convened at the Palais des Nations by the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Kairat Abdrakhmanov, and the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya. Participants in the roundtable discussed the measures and policy approaches set out in a new set of thematic recommendations issued by the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities on

the [effective participation of national minorities in social and economic life](#), which are aimed at building more inclusive societies in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. In her remarks, the Director-General recalled that the central promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should be met for everyone, including the poorest, most vulnerable and furthest behind.

Scan the QR code to watch a [recording of the event](#).



Participants in the high-level roundtable “Promoting Conflict Prevention through the Socio-Economic Inclusion of Minorities”, jointly organized by UN Geneva and the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. ©UN Photo: UNECE

FACILITATING EXCHANGES WITH CIVIL SOCIETY FOR AN INCLUSIVE MULTILATERALISM

In 2023, UN Geneva continued to work towards the Secretary-General's vision for an inclusive, networked and effective multilateralism, as set out in [Our Common Agenda](#), particularly by strengthening its engagement and partnership with civil society.

The starting point of this work lies in the [NGO Liaison Unit](#), the bridge between the United Nations and civil society in Geneva. In 2023, the Unit accredited more than 5,500 representatives from 1,200 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and facilitated 50 meetings of NGOs at the Palais des Nations. Hundreds of NGO side events were held at the Palais in the margins of United Nations meetings, such as those of the Human Rights Council. To better support NGO representatives in navigating the complex environment of International Geneva, the Unit developed new tools, such as a monthly newsletter that is shared with civil society actors, a [step-by-step guide for NGOs on organizing meetings at UN Geneva](#) and a [resources catalogue](#) that is available on the UN Geneva website. In addition, videos showcasing the work of civil society in Geneva were promoted on UN Geneva social media channels.

The Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, held her annual meeting with Geneva-based civil society at the beginning of the year to take stock and reflect on UN Geneva's engagements, and to look ahead and discuss the Office's priorities for 2023. The discussion focused on the main concerns raised by NGO representatives, and the Director-General reiterated her commitment to guiding and assisting civil society in its involvement with the United Nations family in Geneva.

In 2023, UN Geneva was able to facilitate exchanges between Geneva-based NGOs and senior United Nations officials based at Headquarters in New York. The forums included a town hall meeting between the President of the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, Csaba Kőrösi, and

civil society organizations in Geneva to discuss the theme "Solutions through solidarity, sustainability and science". This was an opportunity for NGOs to share their recommendations on how to strengthen cooperation between the General Assembly and civil society. NGOs in Geneva also benefited from a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy, Guy Ryder, on the preparations for the Summit of the Future. During the exchange, the Under-Secretary-General outlined the priorities of the Summit and the modalities for civil society to participate in this milestone event.

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The Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, and the Head of the NGO Liaison Unit, Sophie Torelli Chironi, exchange views with civil society representatives in Geneva during the Director-General's annual meeting with NGOs. ©UN Photo: Madeleine Cieniewicz

The President of the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, Csaba Kőrösi, briefs Geneva-based NGO representatives at the Palais des Nations. ©UN Photo: Madeleine Cieniewicz

An NGO meeting held at the Palais des Nations, organized with the support of the NGO Liaison Unit, provided an opportunity for hundreds of students to participate in a Model United Nations exercise and learn more about the work and functioning of the United Nations. ©UN Photo: Sophie Torelli Chironi

SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL LAW AT UN GENEVA

Geneva, which hosts an array of international organizations and multilateral conferences, has long played a pivotal role in shaping critical developments in international law. As part of this history, the annual sessions of the International Law Commission take place at the Palais des Nations and rely significantly on specialized support from the dedicated staff at UN Geneva.

The crucial importance of UN Geneva's legal collections and the library services provided to the Commission was officially acknowledged by the General Assembly in its resolution 77/103:

... Also takes note of paragraph 275 of the report of the International Law Commission, expresses its appreciation to the United Nations Library at Geneva for the dedicated assistance accorded to the Commission, and notes the Commission's emphasis on the need for adequate funding to ensure the continuation of the Library's ability to function as a research library to assist the Commission in the performance of its mandate in the codification and progressive development of international law ...

This year, UN Geneva made significant strides in enhancing these services and collections. A renewed emphasis on multilingualism and a targeted focus on the topics currently on the Commission's agenda were central to these efforts. The return to in-person meetings and the postponement of Building B renovations under the Strategic Heritage Plan project allowed the UN Library and Archives Geneva to provide a dedicated space and facilities, customized to meet the research needs of Commission members and their assistants. During the session, nearly all Commission members used the UN Library and Archives Geneva premises, with many becoming regulars in the reading rooms.

In addition to these core services, UN Geneva organized events and exhibits designed to educate participants and viewers about legal research and to showcase the contributions of International Geneva

to international law. Special exhibitions of the UN Library and Archives Geneva collections were organized, and curated tours were offered for members of the International Law Commission and participants in the International Law Seminar, and to participants in the Annual Course of the International Association of Law Libraries. For the Annual Course, UN Geneva librarians, in collaboration with colleagues from the libraries of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Geneva Graduate Institute, facilitated a unique learning experience for 140 law librarians worldwide, enabling them to explore different areas of international law in the context of the work of multilateral organizations in Geneva.

The impact of these initiatives extends beyond the immediate audience. Through such projects, UN Library and Archives Geneva staff gain invaluable insights into clients' needs and the nuances of UN Geneva's collections. This collaborative approach fosters relationships and partnerships that are integral to ensuring the sustainability and growth of UN Geneva's services in support of international law.



Members of the International Law Commission gather in the UN Geneva Library Events Room for a photograph. ©UN Photo

HUMAN-CENTRED DISARMAMENT: A RENEWED VISION FOR DISARMAMENT EFFORTS

The pursuit of human-centred disarmament remained a paramount objective for the international community. The Geneva branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs played a pivotal role, aligning itself with the Secretary-General's policy brief entitled *A New Agenda for Peace*, which was issued in July. In his vision for the New Agenda for Peace, the Secretary-General emphasizes the importance of a people-centred approach, placing individual well-being at the forefront of international peace and security considerations. The concept entails incorporating into disarmament measures human rights, sustainable development and humanitarian, environmental and other considerations essential for the well-being of people.

UN Geneva hosted significant meetings on this topic in 2023 to contribute to the overarching objective of enhancing global security while safeguarding human well-being. These included the annual *Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons*, which was held in November. Participants at the Meeting underscored the imperative to minimize the human cost of weapons and discussed concerns related to mines and lethal autonomous weapons

systems. The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons emphasizes the importance of balancing military necessity with humanitarian concerns, thereby reinforcing a human-centred approach to disarmament.

At the *Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention*, held at the Palais des Nations in December, participants discussed the threat of biological weapons. The recently created working group on the strengthening of the Convention held three sessions in 2023, tackling issues related to compliance and verification, scientific and technological developments and international cooperation. These events reinforced the commitment to protect human life from the devastating consequences of biological warfare.

The *Group of Governmental Experts on Further Practical Measures for the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space* met at the Palais des Nations from 20 November to 1 December. By fostering dialogue and cooperation in support of the process aimed at preventing an arms race in outer space, the Group seeks to establish norms and rules that prioritize the peaceful use of outer space and mitigate the potential risks associated with the militarization of this frontier.

At these international meetings and others, participants emphasized the inclusion of human-centred disarmament approaches and underscored the importance of fostering a world where peace and the well-being of humanity take precedence over the destructive capabilities of weapons.

During the 2023 annual Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, chaired by the Permanent Representative of Argentina, Federico Villegas, Member States discussed how to address the threat represented by autonomous weapons systems. In these exchanges, the need to protect civilians was always highlighted.

©UN Photo: Mariia Koroleva



UNPACKING DISARMAMENT WITH THE GENEVA DISARMAMENT CONVERSATION SERIES

With an increasing multitude of disarmament meetings being held every year, keeping up with the diverse, technical and rapidly evolving topics under discussion has become increasingly challenging. At the same time, in light of the current international peace and security landscape, understanding the role and potential of disarmament has never been more imperative.

Thanks to a generous contribution from the Federal Government of Switzerland, the Geneva branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs launched the Geneva Disarmament Conversation Series in August. The Series offers an informal forum for discussion of key topical issues for Geneva-based delegates and members of United Nations entities, think tanks, organizations and academic institutions working on human-centred disarmament and the wider peace and security agenda.

Four sessions of the Series were held in 2023. The first addressed the disarmament aspects of the Secretary-General's policy brief entitled *A New Agenda for Peace*, in which disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation are recognized as key enablers of the Sustainable Development Goals, the women, peace and security agenda, conflict prevention and climate security.

At the second session, participants discussed human-centred disarmament and ways to incorporate this approach into the implementation of disarmament measures. They discussed linkages with other domains, including the health sector, as well as victim assistance measures, the role of industry and the private sector and ways to curb increasing military expenditures.

The third session addressed the potential impacts of artificial intelligence on international peace and security, and the types of frameworks needed to respond to the risks emerging from developments in this field. At the event, a representative from the

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ONBOARDING DIPLOMATS AT UN GENEVA: BUILDING KNOWLEDGE AND PARTNERSHIPS

Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator foundation spoke about the foundation's Anticipatory Situation Room and about its most recent annual report on science trends: *The GESDA 2023 Science Breakthrough Radar*.

The fourth and last session of the year was focused on coordination in addressing biorisks, including risks associated with the rapid advancement of biotechnologies and the related dual-use dilemma, in particular with regard to applications in the area of bioweapons. A representative of the World Health Organization gave a presentation on the

United Nations Biorisk Working Group, the inter-agency mechanism established to foster coordination within the United Nations in responding to natural, accidental and deliberate biological events.

The Geneva branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs will continue to hold sessions of the Geneva Disarmament Conversation Series on a range of topics in 2024.

Participants discuss the disarmament aspects of A New Agenda for Peace at the first session of the Geneva Disarmament Conversation Series.
©UN Photo: Mariia Koroleva

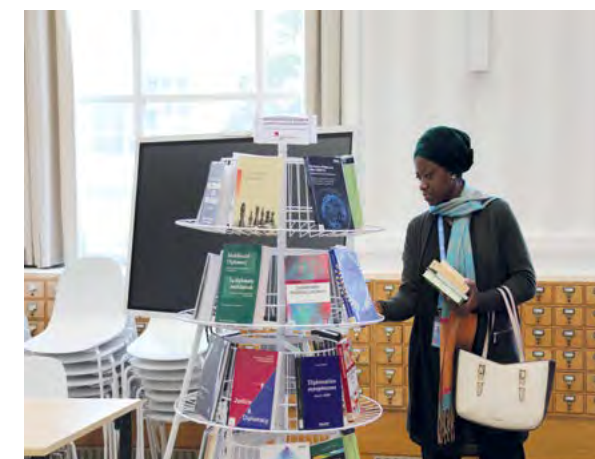


UN Geneva held orientation sessions in May and October to welcome newly arrived permanent representatives and other diplomats. The UN Library and Archives Geneva hosted these comprehensive, insightful and interactive sessions to help diplomats better understand UN Geneva's many functions and services. Participants highlighted the critical value of learning about UN Geneva and the wider family of United Nations entities in International Geneva, and of receiving practical information that would support their multilateral work.

By investing in thoughtful onboarding and capacity-building initiatives such as these, UN Geneva strengthens multilateral cooperation and collective impact. Through orientations, online tutorials and interactive sessions, new diplomats can learn to navigate complex systems and maximize partnerships. UN Geneva also connect them with the tools and information they need, thereby building a more empowered and engaged community that is united by a passion for progress and possibility. Onboarding and continuous learning cement relationships and understanding and encourage purposeful collaboration.

This year, UN Geneva also released a series of video tutorials to help diplomats and researchers better understand available online services and platforms. These tutorials facilitate access to e-resources, journals, United Nations publications and the archives held at UN Geneva on multilateralism and other topics.

In addition, UN Geneva gave online presentations to universities worldwide to explain its archival documents and enhance research on the history of modern multilateralism. The presentations received praise from students and professors, with one attendee sharing that the presentations had made her want to learn more about multilateralism.



Newly arrived diplomats attend the October orientation session at UN Geneva.

©UN Photo

A diplomat browses the selection of books at the UN Library and Archives Geneva during the October orientation session.

©UN Photo

Scan the QR code to watch the [video tutorials](#) about the online services provided by the UN Library and Archives Geneva.



PURSUING GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

In 2023, UN Geneva continued to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women through a number of activities and partnerships.

As an [International Gender Champion](#), the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, remained active in advocating for gender equality and the achievement of [Sustainable Development Goal 5](#). In this endeavour, she enjoyed the enduring support of Geneva-based international organizations and Member States.

In July, following the success of the photo exhibition entitled *Not a Woman's Job?*, organized in 2021 for the wider International Geneva community, UN Geneva unveiled a [spin-off exhibition](#), entitled *Not a Woman's Job? Breaking Barriers in Sports*. Curated in collaboration with the [International Olympic Committee](#) and featuring photos submitted by permanent missions and permanent observer offices to the UN in Geneva, the exhibition celebrates remarkable women athletes who have broken down gender barriers in sports. The photos showcase athletes, coaches, referees and others from diverse backgrounds and sporting disciplines and acknowledge their efforts in reducing gender disparities.

As in previous years, for the [International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#), celebrated in November, UN Geneva joined the global campaign [16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence](#) and participated in several events at the Palais des Nations, together with members of the international community.

Raising awareness among members of the Geneva-based diplomatic community about the need for concerted efforts to eliminate gender inequalities is one of the Director-General's priorities. The number of women permanent representatives and permanent observers serving in Geneva continues to grow – reaching 57 in 2023. The Director-General invited those women to join her for a discussion on

how to translate this shift in representation into a shift in institutional culture and how women leaders can best advance the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

Tackling gender-based disparities and discrimination against women and girls is also an in-house commitment at UN Geneva. In January, UN Geneva conducted a peer review with the UN Office at Nairobi to exchange lessons learned across all United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women ([UN-SWAP 2.0](#)) performance indicators and in the implementation of gender mainstreaming strategies. Thanks to such inter-agency collaborations and increased efforts by all UN Geneva divisions and services, gender parity was achieved across all professional staff levels, six years ahead of the deadline set for the United Nations Secretariat.

As an International Gender Champion, the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, remained active in advocating for gender equality and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5.



(Photo above) The Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya (right); the President of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach (second from right); and the Permanent Representative of France, Jérôme Bonnafont, at the opening of the *Not a Woman's Job? Breaking Barriers in Sports* exhibition. ©UN Photo: François Vioud

(Photo below) At an event at the Palais des Nations, organized by the Permanent Delegation of the European Union and the Geneva office of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), attendees were invited to add orange flowers to a canvas to form the word "no", symbolically planting the seed for a world free of violence against women and girls. ©UN Photo: Lidiya Grigoreva

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: A PERFECT MATCH FOR EUROPEAN FOOTBALL'S MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Few sports can match football's unrivalled global appeal and power for positive change. The United Nations is therefore forging strong links with the industry – and with footballing communities everywhere – to promote shared values within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In March, staff members of the United Nations Information Service in Geneva visited one of Spain's top football clubs, Real Betis Balompíe in Seville, to showcase the UN "Football for the goals" initiative on behalf of the Organization at a conference hosted by the [European Football for Development Network](#).

The #Morethanfootball gathering was an opportunity for Information Service representatives to meet dozens of footballing stakeholders and establish new partnerships to help end poverty, improve health and education, promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, create decent work and peaceful

and inclusive societies, tackle climate change and protect the environment and human rights. Supporting sustainable development is already a way of life for many local football clubs, leagues and associations all over Europe, so it was also a chance to learn more about the power of grass-roots activism.

Through "Football for the goals", the United Nations will work to develop further joint efforts to leave no one behind, with the involvement of players, unions, media partners and fans.

Scan the QR code to find out more about "Football for the goals".



UN Geneva staff member Daniel Johnson speaks about "Football for the goals". ©Photo: European Football for Development Network



BRINGING THE 2023 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS SUMMIT – AND MOMENTUM – TO GENEVA

This September marked eight years since the adoption of the 17 [Sustainable Development Goals](#). To commemorate the halfway point to the 2030 deadline for achieving the Goals, the President of the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly convened the 2023 [Sustainable Development Goals Summit](#) on 18 and 19 September in New York. UN Geneva's [SDG Lab](#) used this important milestone to engage the International Geneva community and beyond in key information-sharing and thought leadership activities in the lead-up to, during and after the Summit.

Together with its institutional partner, the [International Institute for Sustainable Development](#), the SDG Lab organized online briefings to [share expectations of the Summit](#) and to [provide a recap and analysis](#) of outcomes. These two virtual gatherings were attended by stakeholders from around the world, which provided an opportunity for the representation of diverse perspectives.

On 16 September, the SDG Lab convened a youth-focused workshop in New York, entitled "Manifesting new sustainability values: from aspirational envisioning to practical policymaking", as an official side event of the Sustainable Development Goals Action Weekend that preceded the Summit. The [workshop](#) provided an interactive space for participants to envision a world that genuinely reflects the values and priorities of younger generations and to discuss what policies are needed to make such a world a reality.

Back in Geneva – and honouring the role of UN Geneva as a hub for networked multilateralism – the SDG Lab, together with the [Geneva Graduate Institute](#) and the [United Nations Development Programme Geneva](#) office, organized the Geneva Sustainable Development Goals Day on 28 September to bring together the International Geneva community for discussions on how to advance action on the Goals. A highlight of the day was an [intergenerational dialogue](#) between students from



Participants attend a youth-focused workshop organized by the SDG Lab, "Manifesting new sustainability values: from aspirational envisioning to practical policymaking", held at United Nations Headquarters on 16 September. ©UN Photo: Edward Mishaud

Swiss universities and senior representatives from International Geneva on keeping commitments alive for a sustainable future.

Finally, the SDG Lab penned a [thought leadership piece](#) from the perspective of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit as if the event were a person. The letter, addressed to representatives of Governments, the United Nations and other organizations, was aimed at spurring greater discussion on what is needed to prioritize long-term sustainability. The letter also urged Member States to look ahead to the 2024 Summit of the Future and its focus on meeting the needs of the present while safeguarding the planet for future generations.

SETTING SUSTAINABLE FUTURES IN MOTION

After six impactful years as a collaborative, multi-stakeholder innovation space to advance the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) within International Geneva, the SDG Lab, in the Office of the Director-General, embarked on a “2.0” transformation journey. In recognition of the escalating complexity and interconnectedness of global challenges, the Lab is being revitalized, evolving into a multi-stakeholder “think and do tank” dedicated to advancing long-term sustainability while contributing to systems change. This transformation is grounded in the core of sustainable development as articulated in the [Brundtland Report](#), published in 1987, which emphasizes the imperative of meeting today’s needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own.

As part of its new strategy, the SDG Lab is focusing on three key lenses to shape the future of sustainable development. These lenses are aligned with the approach outlined by the Secretary-General in his report entitled “[Our Common Agenda](#)” and offer an International Geneva perspective.

The first lens is focused on assessing the intergenerational impact of actions and policies, including

by working more closely with young people and making space for future generations. The second lens builds upon the idea of going beyond current economic systems and moving towards regenerative sustainability. This also includes rethinking what societies value and how growth is measured. Through its third lens, the Lab is exploring the role of emotions and affective science and their impact on sustainability by connecting evidence with policy design and action.

As part of the new strategy, the SDG Lab launched “What’s Next”, a new dialogue series that brings marginal concepts to the centre of the sustainable development discussion, with the aim of uncovering new approaches to sustainability. Other initiatives highlighted in 2023, and that will be further discussed and developed, include a pilot residency programme; an accountability framework for long-term sustainability anchored in intergenerational equity; an advocacy framework to promote constructive hope; and an alliance for a post-2030 framework.

This strategic evolution delineates a roadmap for the SDG Lab 2.0 towards shaping a sustainable, inclusive and optimistic future in which current and subsequent generations can thrive.



Panellist Garrette Clark (right), of the United Nations Environment Programme, shares her perspective on the topic of affective sciences, joined by Branka Zei Pollermann, a Geneva-based linguist and psychologist (left) and Disa Sauter (centre), an associate professor at the University of Amsterdam, during the SDG Lab’s “What’s Next” event on emotions and sustainability, held on 29 November 2023 at the Palais des Nations. ©Aimée Bamu

SHAPING THE LONG TERM: SDG LAB’S NEW SERIES EXPLORES WHAT’S NEXT FOR SUSTAINABILITY

UN Geneva’s [SDG Lab](#) launched its “What’s Next” series, a new dialogue and ideas forum designed to explore and demystify emerging sustainable development trends and to engage key stakeholders in dynamic conversations and collective intelligence on the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) and long-term sustainability.

A key part of the new strategy adopted by the SDG Lab, the series delved into new perspectives on sustainability and unpacked themes such as regenerative development, future generations, intergenerational impact, and emotions and affective sciences. The conversations on these topics, and on other topics being explored by the SDG Lab, are meant to inform sustainable development strategies and actions over different time horizons, but with an emphasis on long-term impact.

Participants engage in an exercise during the SDG Lab’s first “What’s Next” event on 12 June at the Geneva Graduate Institute, which focused on future generations through the lens of an intergenerational dialogue. ©UN Photo: SDG Lab



“Halfway to the deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals, we are not on track. To course correct and arrive on a pathway towards sustainable development in 2030 and beyond, we need a mindset change. This must include rethinking our economic systems to achieve the SDGs and serve people and the planet.”

Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, at the SDG Lab’s “What’s Next” event on rethinking economic systems



Master's students from the Geneva Graduate Institute ask questions about the role of art and media as tools in emotional responses to sustainability during the SDG Lab's "What's Next" event on emotions and sustainability, held on 29 November at the Palais des Nations.
© Aimée Bamukunde

The "What's Next" series, which commenced in June with an event, co-hosted with the [Geneva Graduate Institute](#), was aimed at [exchanging views on the concept and policy approach of future generations](#) through an intergenerational dialogue. It emphasized the need for greater accountability and for advocacy in favour of incorporating youth perspectives into policy design to counter short-term thinking and actions. Panellists recommended increasing youth representation, promoting the use of futures thinking and empowering individuals as proactive agents of change for long-term sustainability.

The series continued in October with a high-level dialogue on the need for a [paradigm shift in economic systems](#). After opening remarks by the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, participants in the session explored how concepts such as going beyond gross domestic product can refocus economic systems to work for – rather than against – people and the planet. Participants broadly agreed that reimagining economic systems involves more than measurement; it requires a deep consideration of societal priorities and values.

At the end of November, the 2023 edition of the "What's Next" series concluded with a multifaceted

discussion, organized in collaboration with the [European Federation of Psychologists' Associations](#), on how tapping into [emotions can support a broader societal transition](#) towards long-term sustainability. Panellists and participants, who included representatives of academia and the United Nations, stressed the importance of better understanding how emotions can be used in communications, awareness and behavioural strategies to promote long-term sustainable actions.

In total, the three "What's Next" events in 2023 reached over 200 individuals in International Geneva and beyond.

UN GENEVA'S ENGAGEMENT FOR A GREENER, MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

In 2023, UN Geneva signed two landmark environmental documents: an [Ambition Négawatt Vision charter](#) and the [2050Today Charter](#).

The [Ambition Négawatt Vision charter](#) is an agreement with the [Services Industriels de Genève \(SIG\)](#), Geneva's local energy provider. Signed on 1 November by the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, and the Director-General of SIG, Christian Brunier, the charter underlines a shared commitment to environmental protection and sustainable development. The partnership will provide UN Geneva with specialized energy management training by SIG experts to better optimize energy use across the Palais des Nations campus. General training and coaching will be provided to UN Geneva staff in order to increase their knowledge of energy management, including with regard to electricity use, heating, cooling, ventilation and lighting.

The [2050Today Charter](#), signed on 5 December, establishes a framework for Geneva-wide environmental action by international organizations. [2050Today](#) is a climate action forum in which United Nations entities, other international organizations and permanent missions come together with private and civil society entities to tackle climate change by measurably reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The forum offers advice and support from technical experts working for the local authorities and in academic institutions such as the University of Geneva. More importantly, it provides a space for Geneva-based organizations to collaborate through thematic working groups on energy management, waste management, food and biodiversity.

The Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya (centre), signs the [Ambition Négawatt Vision charter](#), accompanied by the Director-General of the [Services Industriels de Genève](#), Christian Brunier (right), and the Chief ad interim of the [Engineering Unit at UN Geneva](#), Gaëtan Rouault (left). ©UN Photo



These collaborations align with the ambitious objectives and targets set out in the [United Nations Secretariat Climate Action Plan 2020–2030](#) and the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). They also position UN Geneva as a leader in energy efficiency and sustainability. These are critical steps for the United Nations as it works towards transforming its operations to achieve an ambitious reduction in greenhouse gas emissions while generating benefits for sustainable development efforts overall. UN Geneva is further developing action plans to tackle important emission sources and target the areas that consume the most energy; its lighting systems will soon be upgraded, and its solar photovoltaic power generation capacities will be expanded.

To improve its energy efficiency and sustainability, UN Geneva installed 460 square metres of solar panels on the roof of its new Building H. In total, the Palais des Nations features 3,683 square metres of solar panels. ©UN Photo



“Our partnership clearly demonstrates a commitment to using energy responsibly. It is a promise to future generations to preserve the planet that we share”.

Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, during the Ambition Négawatt Vision charter signing ceremony.

ENSURING SAFE CONFERENCES, MEETINGS AND VISITS

In 2023, UN Geneva’s Security and Safety Service provided security for over 980 conferences, ensuring a safe and secure environment for all occupants and users of the Palais des Nations. Of these conferences, 38 special events, including the [World Health Assembly](#), the [Human Rights Council sessions](#) and the [International Labour Conference](#), required enhanced security, with the presence of additional uniformed Security and Safety Service personnel and local police.

In addition, Security and Safety Service personnel were deployed to secure conferences and events held outside Switzerland. These included the [Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries](#), held in Doha from 5 to 9 March; the [World Investment Forum](#), held in Abu Dhabi from 16 to 20 October; and the [twenty-eighth United Nations Climate Change Conference](#) (also referred to as COP 28), held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 30 November to 13 December.



Members of UN Geneva’s Security and Safety Service coordinate security at the World Investment Forum. ©UN Photo

The Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Rebeca Grynspan, speaks with UN Geneva Security and Safety Service personnel at the World Investment Forum. ©UN Photo

SPOTLIGHT ON

UN Geneva's contribution to the implementation of "Our Common Agenda"

Published in 2021 at the request of the General Assembly, the report entitled "[Our Common Agenda](#)" outlines the Secretary-General's vision for the future of global cooperation. A wake-up call to accelerate the implementation of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), the report shares recommendations to respond to current and future challenges in four broad areas across the [12 commitments of the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations](#).

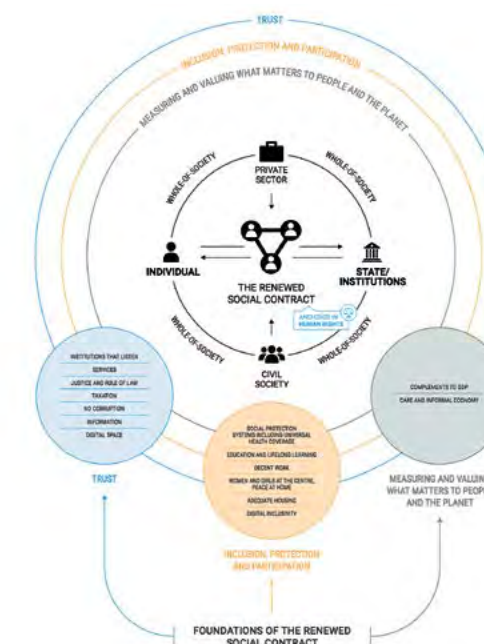
Committed to supporting the Secretary-General in his vision, in 2023, UN Geneva continued to leverage its engagement with key stakeholders in support of the report's recommendations.

In "Our Common Agenda", the Secretary-General identifies **the renewal of our social contract** as the best way forward in tackling today's challenges and realities. The approach is focused, at its core, on people and human rights, and is aimed at strengthening trust in institutions, ensuring inclusion and fighting discrimination.

Since the launch of the report, UN Geneva has embedded the Secretary-General's vision in its activities, providing guidance and related tools to achieve inclusive societies for all and ensure that no one is left behind. An active knowledge hub for all stakeholders to learn more about multilateralism and its history, UN Geneva offers access to conferences and meetings and to information and documentation on a wide range of issues, including disarmament, peace and security, social and humanitarian affairs, human rights, health and intellectual cooperation. For almost 80 years, UN Geneva has been a modern centre for research and dialogue in the field of international relations, and it continues to fulfill that role today.

In addition to having an exceptional historical heritage and a wide range of resources, UN Geneva also engages in strong communication and outreach efforts on the role and work of the United Nations system and its partners. UN Geneva shares various multimedia products and coverage of the outcomes of multilateral intergovernmental discus-

sions globally, on behalf of the United Nations family in Geneva and others, fostering greater transparency for the general public and helping to rebuild trust in global multilateral institutions. Through its coverage of the discussions that take place at the Palais des Nations and in similar international forums on issues such as human rights, climate action, gender equality and sustainable development, UN Geneva communicates knowledge and information in a clear, coherent and action-oriented manner that encourages people, particularly younger generations, to get involved.



Infographic from the "Our Common Agenda" report, describing the renewal of the social contract. [Link here](#).

Maria Ressa, Vice-Chair of the Internet Governance Forum Leadership Panel and 2021 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, is interviewed by UNTV colleagues at UN Geneva. The interview was [shared](#) with the wider public, along with various other multimedia products.

©UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré





The moderator of the 2023 edition of the Young Activists Summit (far left) and young activists honoured for their impactful work engage in discussion. UN Geneva acknowledges the important role of young people in rethinking and reshaping future paradigms and regularly organizes or hosts important youth-oriented events at the Palais des Nations. ©UN Photo

The Secretary-General's vision also recognizes **the paramount role of young people in rethinking and reshaping future paradigms**. Young people can be a positive force for development when provided with the knowledge and opportunities they need to thrive.

To this end, UN Geneva opens its doors every year to support youth participation in multilateral diplomacy through a number of programmes and events, such as the [Young Activists Summit](#), the [Graduate Study Programme](#), Model United Nations gatherings and [Young Reporters at the UN](#). These targeted activities facilitate exchanges with younger generations and allow UN Geneva to incorporate the perspectives of future generations into its work. Outside its doors, UN Geneva is also very active in engaging with schools, universities and other academic institutions in Geneva and beyond to introduce students to the importance of multilateralism and encourage them to get involved. These initiatives, including the [UN@school programme](#), bring United Nations experts directly to students, providing an interactive platform for discussion, helping young people deepen their understanding

SOLIDARITY BETWEEN GENERATIONS



Decisions made today will define the future for younger and future generations.



SOLIDARITY WITH YOUNGER GENERATIONS

-  Voice and participation
-  Quality education
-  Sustainable jobs

SOLIDARITY WITH FUTURE GENERATIONS

-  Long-term thinking
-  Represent future generations



SAFEGUARDING THE FUTURE

-  HEALTHY PLANET
-  STRONG INSTITUTIONS
-  HEALTH, SOCIAL PROTECTION
-  EDUCATION, WORK
-  PREPAREDNESS

Infographic from the "Our Common Agenda" report, describing the deepening of solidarity between generations that is necessary for a renewal of the social contract. [Link here](#).

of various topics and fostering their engagement in global issues. Following the recommendations made in "Our Common Agenda", recent exchanges with students and other young people have focused on future values, priorities and the transformative forces shaping modern multilateralism.

Another paramount aim of the Secretary-General's vision for the future of global cooperation is to **build a more networked, inclusive and effective multilateralism**.

Often referred to as the operational hub of the multilateral system, International Geneva, with UN Geneva at its heart, supports the fostering of partnerships, knowledge exchange and collaborations on a wide range of subjects, including peace and security, human rights, sustainable development and climate action. Geneva's unique ecosystem of actors comprises over 100 international organizations, 183 Member State representations, over 750 NGOs, a dynamic private sector and prominent academic institutions, all of which have a strong collaborative culture. This ecosystem has progressively grown, positioning the city as a centre of multilateral discussions on the actors' various areas of expertise, and continues to grow. As part of this ecosystem, UN Geneva is able to maintain and strengthen exchanges, partnerships and collaborations and build synergies with these various actors. Working together, the actors advance international cooperation and deliver global public goods, thereby contributing to a more networked, more inclusive and more effective multilateralism.

Furthermore, with the [New Agenda for Peace](#) as a guide, UN Geneva serves as a central venue for international diplomacy in the field of peace and security. Peace talks and mediation events are regularly hosted at the Palais des Nations, along with various conferences and meetings attended by actors working on the peace and security agenda in Geneva. Home to the [Conference on Disarmament](#) – the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating body of the international community – and the Geneva branch of the United Nations [Office for](#)

Disarmament Affairs, UN Geneva also provides substantive and organizational support for a wide range of multilateral agreements in the field of disarmament.

As UN Geneva continues to contribute to building a more networked, more inclusive and more efficient multilateralism, it has also become the venue of choice for discussing emerging topics, such as global health, the development of artificial intelligence and digital governance, that will likely dominate the global agenda in the coming years and that will shape the future of global cooperation.

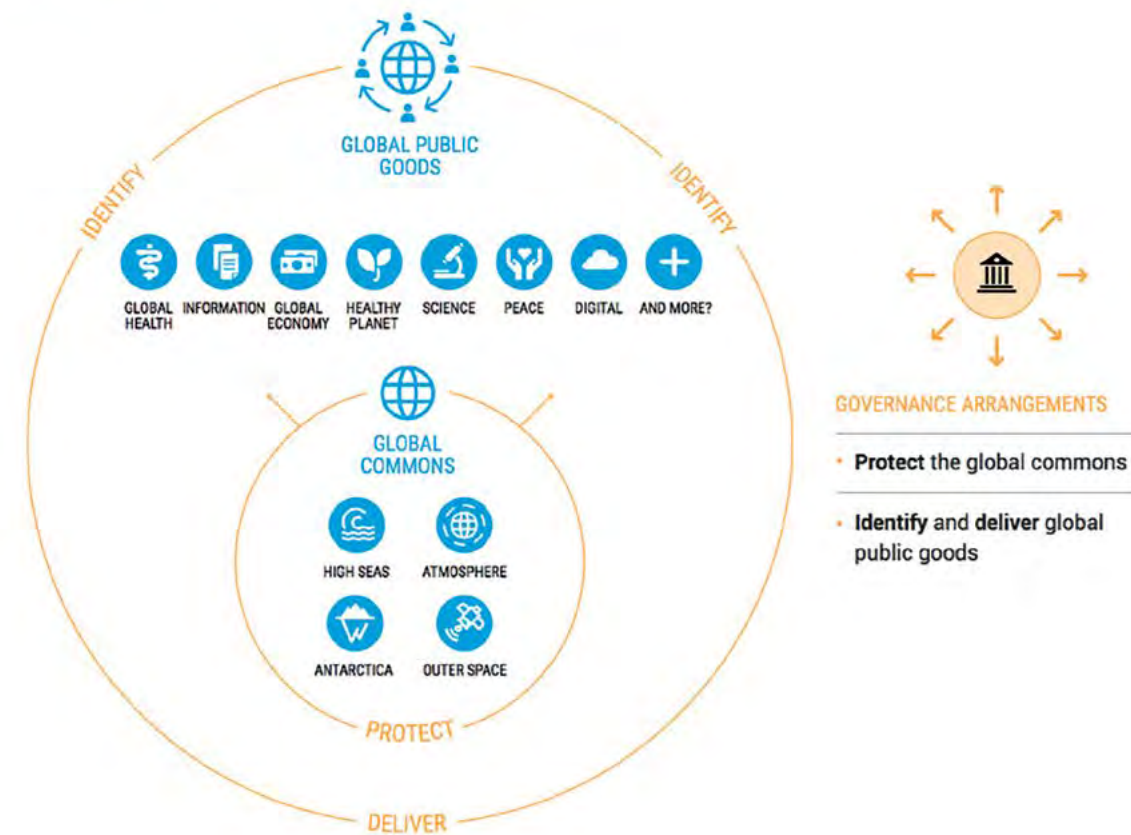


Home to the Conference on Disarmament – the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community – UN Geneva, through the Geneva branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, supports a range of multilateral agreements in the field of disarmament and hosts disarmament-related conferences.

©UN Photo: Violaine Martin

GLOBAL PUBLIC GOODS AND THE GLOBAL COMMONS

DELIVER AND PROTECT



Infographic from the “Our Common Agenda” report, identifying the global public goods and the global commons. [Link here.](#)

“Our Common Agenda” also includes the Secretary-General’s vision for a **modernized United Nations**, one that is fit to tackle today’s and tomorrow’s challenges.

UN Geneva is ensuring that it remains fit for the future by upgrading its facilities and services and enhancing its resources. Approved by the General Assembly in 2015, the Strategic Heritage Plan is aimed at renovating and upgrading the Palais des Nations campus to better support multilateral diplomacy. As part of the improvements under the project, new audiovisual systems have been

installed in conference rooms to ensure inclusive participation. The renovations of office spaces were designed to ensure that offices are fit for new and future ways of working and that safety and accessibility standards are met, while still preserving heritage elements.

In parallel, building on its analytical capacity, UN Geneva launched phase two of the Conferencing Today and Tomorrow initiative – also known as CTT-2 – to review lessons learned in conference organization during the coronavirus disease

(COVID-19) pandemic. The analysis provided grounds to develop key recommendations for conference organization in the future, further supporting the common vision of Geneva as a hub for modern conferencing. Additionally, strategic foresight workshops were held to build foresight capacity in conferencing and develop appropriate strategies. CTT-2 is an outlet to track innovation in conference organization and build awareness and partnerships within UN Geneva and across International Geneva to leverage new technologies and working methods.

UN Geneva is also determined to cultivate an organizational culture that focuses on agility, creativity, learning and adaptability. Following the positive introduction of a culture change programme, UN Geneva is strengthening its implementation of the Agile methodology and supporting initiatives to bolster collaboration and innovation,



At the InnoVent 2: Innovation in Conferencing event, organized as part of the Conferencing Today and Tomorrow initiative, participants from the International Geneva conference network, experts on the future of meeting organization and United Nations staff discussed the latest post-pandemic trends, developments and innovations in conferencing.
©UN Photo: Matija Potocnik

particularly through the use of artificial intelligence, data analysis and digital transformation.

UN 2.0 is the Secretary-General's vision for a modernized United Nations system empowered by cutting-edge skills and a forward-thinking culture to achieve better results, improve support to Member States and have a greater impact on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

More than halfway to the deadline set in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, much remains to be done to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. UN Geneva is supporting the Secretary-General's vision, as presented in the "Our Common Agenda" report, by pioneering efforts to implement his recommendations and by serving as a pillar of inclusive multilateralism and a catalyst for building a better world for people everywhere.

Quintet of cutting-edge skills

 <p>DATA</p> <p>Building modern data skills and culture is integral to our mission. It means enhancing our capabilities to gather, process, and use data from diverse sources. It is about transforming raw data into valuable insights that drive smarter decisions and impact.</p>	 <p>DIGITAL</p> <p>Developing digital skills and culture means embracing technological advancements and integrating them seamlessly into our work processes. It is about leveraging digital tools and platforms to enhance efficiency, foster collaboration, and amplify results.</p>
 <p>INNOVATION</p> <p>Cultivating innovation skills and culture is about fostering environments that encourage creativity, risk-taking, and continuous learning. It goes beyond simple problem-solving - it's about viewing challenges as opportunities for groundbreaking ideas and solutions.</p>	 <p>FORESIGHT</p> <p>Instilling a culture of foresight means equipping ourselves with the capacities to discern emerging trends, anticipate potential shifts, and respond proactively. It signifies a commitment to long-term thinking, strategic planning, and readiness for a spectrum of possible futures.</p>
 <p>BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE</p> <p>Nurturing behavioural science skills and promoting a culture of behavioural insight goes beyond understanding human actions. It is about applying knowledge of human behaviour to design evidence-based strategies and interventions that encourage positive change.</p>	 <p>READ THE ONE-PAGER</p> <p>Download the one-pager on the quintet of cutting-edge skills and forward-thinking culture.</p>