

RESTORING TRUST

2024 UN Geneva Annual Report



UNITED
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GENEVA

RESTORING TRUST

2024 UN Geneva Annual Report



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Foreword



2024 was another challenging year for us all. Faced with an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape, including rising conflicts, accelerating climate crises, deepening inequalities and emerging technological risks, global cooperation has been tested like never before.

While the mission and values of the United Nations remain more relevant than ever, the rampant spread of misinformation and hate speech has distorted narratives and further cast doubt on global cooperation, putting the international multilateral system at considerable risk. In addition, the severe financial situation of the Organization has placed added pressure on our operations, testing our resilience and resourcefulness.

Despite these challenges, at UN Geneva we have continued to give life to the mission and purpose of the United Nations, delivering on our essential mandates and supporting international cooperation. This year, we facilitated intergovernmental processes in Geneva and beyond, supported UN-led peace processes and made progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. We reached key milestones in the Strategic Heritage Plan and continued our efforts to improve safety, accessibility and diversity at the Palais des Nations. Together with the United Nations family in Geneva, we joined Member States, civil society, academia, the private sector and other partners in their efforts to address global challenges.

These activities, and more, were undertaken with the overarching goal of restoring trust among people and nations, and in the United Nations. By bringing together multilateral stakeholders and encouraging them to engage, while also driving solutions to shared challenges and countering false narratives with trusted information, UN Geneva once again demonstrated its commitment to serving as a pillar of inclusive multilateralism. Our dedication, our workplace, our resources, our expertise and – above all – our staff were instrumental in this endeavour.

As we reflect on the challenges and achievements of 2024, we remain committed to our mission and values. We are more determined than ever to restore trust in multilateralism and accelerate our work towards a more peaceful, just and sustainable world.

 *Tatiana Valovaya*

Under-Secretary-General
Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva
Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament

Highlights from 2024



The Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, delivers a statement during a press briefing on the margins of the fifty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council.

©UN Photo: Pierre Albouy



The President of the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly, Dennis Francis, meets with representatives of Geneva-based non-governmental organizations at the Palais des Nations.

©UN Photo: Elma Okic



To mark World Down Syndrome Day, UN Geneva participates in the #LotsOfSocks campaign and invites its staff members to pick and wear colourful socks to show their support for persons with Down syndrome and raise awareness of Down syndrome.
©UN Photo



As part of the “Meet Genève internationale” exhibition held at Balexert mall, staff members from Geneva-based United Nations agencies and international organizations showcase to visitors the significant work undertaken in International Geneva.
©UN Photo: François Vioud

The Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Rebeca Grynspan, addresses attendees at an event to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the Conference. Seated from left to right are: the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres; the Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research of Switzerland, Guy Parmelin; the President of the Comoros, Azali Assoumani; the President of Madagascar, Andry Nirina Rajoelina; and the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão.
©UN Photo



Members of the Security Council, invited to visit the Palais des Nations by the Government of Switzerland, pose for a group photo. From left to right: the Permanent Representative of Algeria, Amar Bendjama; the Deputy Permanent Representative of China, Geng Shuang; the Permanent Representative of Ecuador, José De La Gasca; the Deputy Permanent Representative of France, Claire Thuaudet; the Permanent Representative of Guyana, Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett; the Permanent Representative of Japan, Yamazaki Kazuyuki; the Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Ignazio Cassis; the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sierra Leone, Timothy Musa Kabba; the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea, Hyun-woo Cho; the Permanent Representative of Malta, Vanessa Frazier; the Deputy Permanent Representative of Slovenia, Ondina Blokar Drobič; the acting Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Fergus John Eckersley; the Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States of America, Lisa Carty; and the Permanent Representative of Mozambique, Pedro Comissário Afonso.
©UN Photo: Elma Okic



The Director of the UN Library and Archives Geneva, Francesco Pisano (centre), guides the Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Fra' John T. Dunlap (right), through a visit of the UN Museum Geneva.

©UN Photo: UN Library and Archives Geneva

At an open house event organized by the Strategic Heritage Plan team ahead of the reopening of the Secretariat Building, the Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, Catherine Pollard (left), and the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya (second from left), speak with the project's art heritage expert, Andrea Hoffmann (second from right), as the project Director, David John McCuaig (right), listens.

©UN Photo: Philippe Morard



The construction of the Portail des Nations Visitor Centre at UN Geneva advances ahead of its planned opening in 2026.

©UN Photo: François Vioud



2024 in numbers

People and operations management

As at 31 December 2024, there were

1,467 staff at UN Geneva, representing **119** nationalities and a wide range of professional backgrounds.

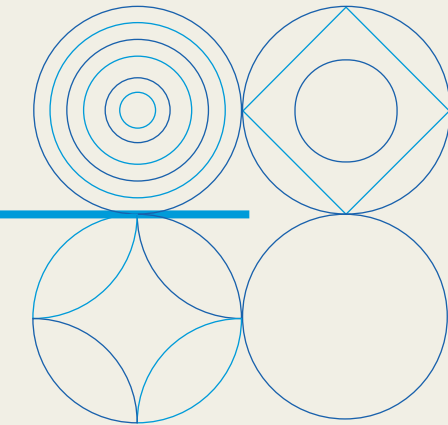
52% of UN Geneva staff were women and **48%** were men.

Payroll services were provided for some **7,500** staff across the United Nations system.

Administrative and operational support was provided to more than **40** UN system entities in Europe and some **60** of their field offices around the world.

The Central Support Services:

- Handled procurements valued at approximately **\$114.8** million
- Issued **24,234** travel requests representing an estimated value of **\$28.15** million, together with **13,114** United Nations travel documents (United Nations laissez-passer and travel certificates)
- Processed **68.9** tons of items through the diplomatic pouches, on behalf of Geneva-based United Nations entities



The Human Resources Management Service provided:

- General human resources management
- Policy and legal services
- Learning and training activities
- Medical and welfare services

The **Client Support Centre** responded to more than **10,028** telephone calls and **129,061** remote service requests. A total of **19,473** in-person consultations were provided.

The Financial Resources Management Service supported:

- Accounts and trust fund management
- Treasury functions
- Payroll and accounts payable services
- Budget management
- The processing of more than **350,000** payments

Health and well-being

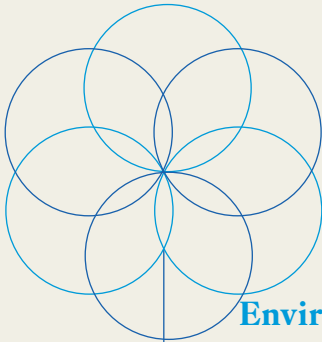
The UN Geneva Medical Service:

- Provided medical support and advice to staff and 24/7 telephone support
- Provided medical-related administrative services for more than **18,000** staff from **35** UN entities in the field and at main duty stations, including the processing of **8,845** medical clearances and **3,588** travel clearances
- Provided **1,464** vaccines for safe travel and prevention of serious disease, **2,188** medical consultations and **535** preventive health consultations

21 webinars and training sessions were provided by the Staff Counsellors Office, attended by **505** people.

20 information announcements, including **12** monthly bulletins, were disseminated by the Staff Counsellors Office.

The **United Nations Staff Mutual Insurance Society against Sickness and Accidents** provided medical insurance for staff, retirees and their dependents, processing more than **550,000** medical invoices for over **36,200** persons.



Environmental awareness

1,715 tons of CO₂ equivalent were emitted by UN Geneva. Most of the emissions were from the consumption of energy for heating and cooling purposes. Through a carbon-offset programme, UN Geneva is climate neutral.

UN Geneva produced **672 tons** of waste, including waste from the Strategic Heritage Plan renovation project. 100% of general office waste was reused, recycled, composted or used for energy recovery.

38,670 m³ of water was used by UN Geneva.

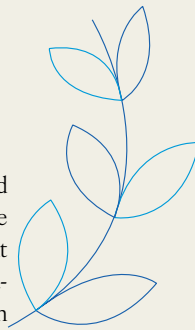
Security and safety

648,041 persons and **235,812** vehicles were screened at the Palais des Nations by the Security and Safety Service.

94,798 identification badges were issued by the Pass and Identification Unit.

325 protective operations were coordinated.

106 training sessions were provided by the Training Unit.



Peace talks

UN Geneva supported talks to advance peace processes in the context of the Geneva International Discussions and in the Sudan:

- Geneva International Discussions: April, June and November
- The Sudan: one round of discussions in “proximity format”: July

UN Geneva also hosted an informal visit of members of the United Nations Security Council to the Palais des Nations. The visit, organized by Switzerland, included a panel discussion entitled “75 Years of Geneva Conventions: A Renewed Commitment to Upholding International Humanitarian Law”.



Conference management

8,505 meetings

were facilitated, of which:

7,719 were in person
10 were virtual
776 were hybrid
1,882 were held outside of Geneva

In 2024, the share of hybrid meetings decreased significantly, from **30%** in 2023 to just **9%** in 2024, following the discontinuation of the hybrid format for official meetings (with or without interpretation) on 22 January 2024 due to the lack of mandate and funding from the General Assembly.

32% of meetings included interpretation services.

458 summary records were produced.

84.1 million words were translated.

The Strategic Heritage Plan project

spent **SwF 37.2 million**

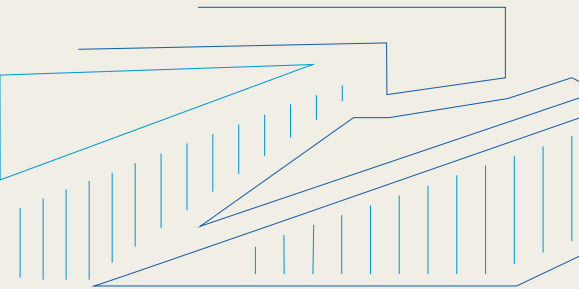
on renovation work on the historic buildings of the Palais des Nations.

The renovated Secretariat Building reached substantial completion on 4 September 2024. The building, which houses office space for more than **900** staff members, was returned to operation.

Preparatory works for the renovation of Building E started in 2024.

2 in-person Strategic Heritage Plan open house events on the renovation of the Secretariat Building in the historic Palais des Nations were held.

Over **40** weekly briefings to update Strategic Heritage Plan focal points on the progress of the renovations were held.



Director-General

Held **66 bilateral** meetings with representatives of Member States from all 5 geographical regions; **19** were with Heads of State and Government, foreign ministers or other high-level dignitaries,

Briefed all **5** regional groups and held several informational sessions with Member States,

Held **60 meetings** with representatives of United Nations entities, other international organizations, members of civil society and private sector institutions, and academics; **29** meetings were with senior United Nations officials and heads of international organizations.

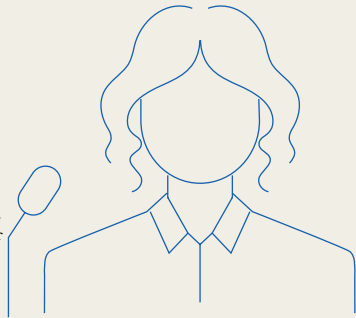
44 new permanent representatives presented their letters of credence, and **3** new permanent observers presented their nomination letters.

17 Executive Briefings were held, with an average attendance of **72** delegations per briefing.

Gave **3** interviews,

Made **308** posts on X, formerly known as Twitter,

Had **160** public speaking engagements, actively contributing to global discussions on climate resilience, gender equality, sustainable development, human rights and peacebuilding, and reinforcing the pivotal role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation and tackling global challenges.



Went on 13 missions:

January

to participate in the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum, in Davos, Switzerland

February

to open the *17 Faces of Action* exhibition, organized by Kenya, UN Geneva and the Swiss Association of Women and Empowerment, in Nairobi

March

to participate in the United Nations Senior Women Leaders' Retreat, in New York

April

to participate in the Venice Biennale, in Italy

May

to participate in the Asian Women's Forum in Samarkand, Uzbekistan

June

to represent the Secretary-General at the twenty-seventh St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, in the Russian Federation

to engage with Rénovation Palais des Nations SA, in Rome

to represent the Secretary-General at the seventeenth edition of the Dubrovnik Forum, in Croatia

July

to engage with the twenty-ninth United Nations Climate Change Conference (also referred to as COP29) Azerbaijan Operating Company and national stakeholders, in Baku

August

to attend the 2024 Olympic Games, in Paris

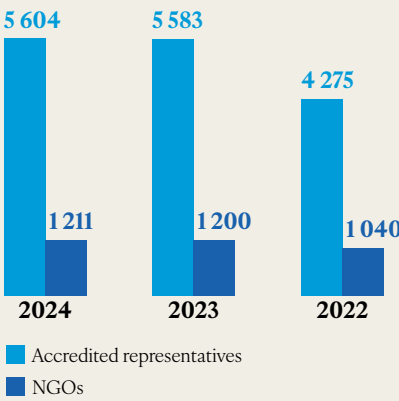
to participate in Swiss Diplomacy Day at the Locarno Film Festival, in Switzerland

to participate in the World Women's Forum and to open the *17 Faces of Action* exhibition, organized by Mongolia, UN Geneva and the Swiss Association of Women and Empowerment, in Ulaanbaatar

to represent the Secretary-General at the 2024 Paralympic Games, in Paris

Liaison with non-governmental organizations

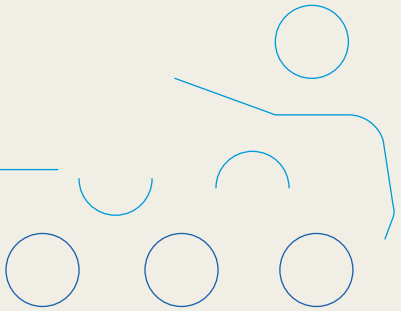
5,604 representatives of **1,211** non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were accredited to UN Geneva. **53** meetings of NGOs were facilitated.



Learning and development

3,502 participants in **312** language training courses, with **303** students in Arabic, **208** students in Chinese, **446** students in English, **1,827** students in French, **232** students in Russian and **486** students in Spanish.

12,019 participants in management and communication lunch-time learning events; more than **6,650** participants in **13** outreach activities; **1,915** participants in training activities across **90** training workshops and **203** hours of coaching.



Library and Archives

9,422 interactions with clients to support their information needs on-site or online

317,215 information sources, including e-books and journal articles, used by clients

11,811 print and digital resources added to the Library catalogue

121,103 views of online research guide pages

9 video tutorials produced to facilitate access to digital resources

Over **80,000** online users generated more than **1,000,000** page views of the online Archives platform and **23,094** page views of the online Archives research guides

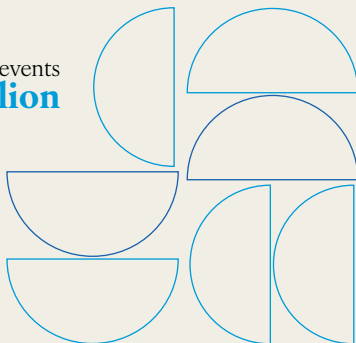
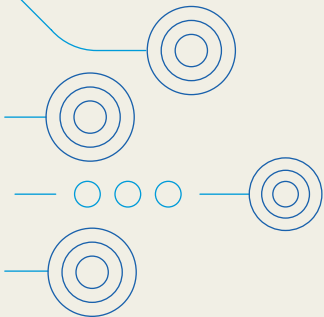
1,213 United Nations official documents (**43,935** pages) were digitized and uploaded to the Official Document System

The Records Management Unit responded to enquiries from **425** clients and transferred **332** linear metres of physical archives and records for management and storage.

Cultural activities

21 cultural activities, **11** special events and **30** side events organized at the Palais des Nations

Nearly **3,000** people attended the events in person and more than **1.5 million** took part in online or hybrid events.



Communications and outreach

2,370,000 followers

across UN Geneva’s 5 main social media platforms as at 31 December:

- X (English): 1,070,000 (+5.3%)
- Facebook: 738,000 (+2.6%)
- Instagram: 378,000 (+3.8%)
- LinkedIn: 169,000 (+34%)
- X (French): 15,000 (+25%)

76 million impressions across the 5 social media platforms (the number of times @UNGeneva posts were seen by social media users)

8 million engagements across the 5 social media platforms (the number of times social media users liked, commented on or shared @UNGeneva posts)

218 television news edits produced and distributed through UNifed

1,382 print and audio stories produced and published on UN News; 713 stories were in English, 663 in French and 6 in other official languages of the United Nations

Podcast production:

28 episodes of the French-language news podcast ONU Info Genève

25 episodes of The Next Page, a podcast on multilateralism

Radio production:

25 live segments of UN Roundup on World Radio Switzerland (WRS)

998 webcast videos produced and published on United Nations Web TV

448 meeting summaries issued to the press and other stakeholders, in both English and French, and viewed almost 480,000 times

1.4 million unique visitors to ungeneva.org, who looked at a total of 4.8 million pages

37,923 visitors to the Palais des Nations took a guided tour and visited the UN Museum Geneva. In addition, the Library and the UN Museum attracted 676 visitors who were not part of the regular tours but visited these facilities specifically, thus increasing the total number of visitors to 38,599

19 information programmes conducted for a total of 496 university and graduate students

53 participants from 42 countries took part in in the sixty-second edition of the Annual Graduate Study Programme, the longest-running educational initiative of the United Nations

3 Ciné-ONU screenings for 657 participants

157 journalists accredited and 592 journalists temporarily accredited

97 hybrid biweekly press briefings held, and subsequent press briefing summaries issued in English

81 press conferences given by officials from United Nations agencies, programmes and funds and Member States

Beyond Lab

4 focus areas:

- Evolving sustainability
- Intergenerational impact
- Affective sciences
- ‘Factor X’ (known unknowns)

introduced in the Beyond Lab’s programme of work and unveiled during its launch event

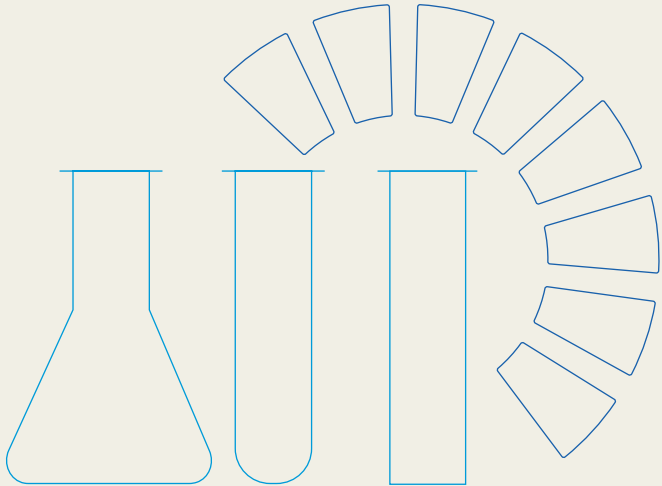
6 new projects and initiatives launched as part of its strategic reorientation:

- What’s Next dialogues
- Hope Method
- Futures Balance
- Residency Programme
- Youth Moving Beyond GDP
- Spillover-Innovation Learning Journey

630 young people from 50 countries submitted essays in response to the Beyond Lab’s global call for youth insights on rethinking economic progress beyond gross domestic product

4 intergenerational dialogues organized as part of the flagship *What’s Next* series

1,000 new followers on the Beyond Lab’s LinkedIn page, a 25% increase from 2023

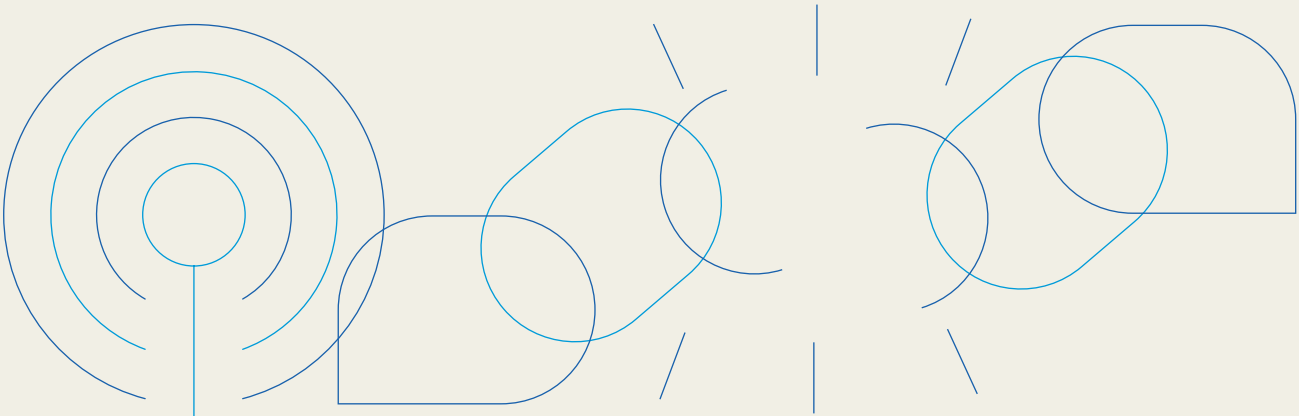


Conference on Disarmament

The high-level segment of the Conference on Disarmament was held from 26 February to 1 March.

49 dignitaries attended in person; 10 participated through pre-recorded video messages.

In 2024, a total of 320 delegates –120 men and 200 women – participated in the Conference on Disarmament. Of the 82 heads of delegations, 59 were men and 23 were women.





CHAPTER ONE STRENGTHENING OUR ECOSYSTEM

The international community gathers at the Palais des Nations on the occasion of the high-level segment of the fifty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council at the Palais des Nations.
©UN Photo: Elma Okic

A year of high-level diplomacy and global impact

In 2024, UN Geneva continued to affirm its role as a global centre for multilateralism, servicing and hosting a series of high-profile international conferences and meetings that shaped international policies and enhanced global cooperation. Among the meetings were those of key Geneva-based entities such as the Economic Commission for Europe, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. UN Geneva’s expertise in conference management, information coverage, security and diplomatic engagement ensured the seamless execution of General Assembly-mandated intergovernmental processes.

Promoting human rights around the world at the Human Rights Council

In February, the high-level segment of the fifty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council took place; Member States, civil society and human rights experts engaged in discussions on pressing human rights issues. Discussions focused on a range of issues, including humanitarian crises, emerging challenges in digital rights, and climate justice, highlighting the Council’s central role in addressing contemporary human rights concerns. In key resolutions, the Council focused attention on measures to enhance climate justice initiatives and protect digital privacy.



The Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, addresses participants at the high-level segment of the fifty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council at the Palais des Nations.
©UN Photo: Elma Okic

Shaping global health policies at the World Health Assembly

In May, the World Health Organization convened its seventy-seventh World Health Assembly at the Palais des Nations, with the theme “All for health, health for all”. Participants discussed and agreed on amendments to the International Health Regulations, further shaping international health policies and strengthening global cooperation on urgent health challenges. Following the adoption of the resolutions, the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, welcomed the “common desire by Member States to protect their own people, and the world’s, from the shared risk of public health emergencies and future pandemics”.



The seventy-seventh World Health Assembly, held at the Palais des Nations, was focused on the theme “All for Health, Health for All”.
©WHO Photo: Antoine Tardy

Charting a new course in the light of the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

In June, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development celebrated its sixtieth anniversary with an event entitled “Charting a New Development Course in a Changing World”, held at the Palais des Nations. The discussions were focused on adapting multilateral trade policies to global shifts, and underscored the Conference’s ongoing contributions to global trade and development. Government representatives, United Nations officials and experts advocated for new trade frameworks to support developing economies and for a renewed multilateralism built on solidarity and equality.



Government officials and heads of international organizations pose for a photo as part of an event at the Palais des Nations to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
©UN Photo: Pierre Albouy

Advancing the rights of workers at the International Labour Conference

The International Labour Organization hosted its annual International Labour Conference in June. The two-week event brought together government representatives, employers and workers to address the urgent need for global action to advance social justice, a call that was underlined by the Director-General of the International Labour Organization, Gilbert F. Houngbo, in his opening address. Key outcomes included progress on regulating biological hazards in the working environment, promoting decent work in the care economy and reaffirming fundamental labour rights in a rapidly changing world.



The Director-General of the International Labour Organization and Secretary-General of the International Labour Conference, Gilbert F. Houngbo, opens the 112th session of the Conference.
©ILO Photo: Violaine Martin

Accelerating climate action in Baku and Riyadh

Beyond the Palais des Nations, UN Geneva was instrumental in the preparations and servicing of the twenty-ninth United Nations Climate Change Conference (also referred to as COP 29) in Baku. Working closely with local stakeholders, UN Geneva contributed to the smooth execution of the conference, providing essential and successful support in conference services, including interpretation, documentation and in-room meeting support, as well as security services. Similar high-quality conference services were also provided during the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, held in Riyadh, reinforcing UN Geneva’s role as a cornerstone of global diplomacy.



The organizers of the twenty-ninth United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Baku, relied on UN Geneva’s provision of high-quality security and conference services to ensure a successful event.
©UN Photo: Aoife Leahy

UN Geneva’s contributions to the Summit of the Future

The Summit of the Future, held in New York in September, shone a spotlight on global cooperation in a rapidly changing world, focusing on sustainable development, peace and security, science and technology, digital cooperation, youth engagement and governance reform.

International Geneva played an important role in the preparatory stages of the event. In a series of events and discussions that UN Geneva facilitated, diplomats, United Nations officials, members of civil society and experts engaged in open conversations. Among other events, the Executive Briefings regularly held at the Palais des Nations provided a trusted platform for inclusive dialogue.

The preparatory process was launched at a briefing in Geneva in November 2023, with the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Policy, Guy Ryder, offering insights into the Summit’s objectives. In January 2024, the Director of the Summit of the Future/Our Common Agenda team, Michèle Griffin, presented the zero draft text of the Pact for the Future, which incorporated diverse stakeholder inputs. The zero draft outlined key areas for international cooperation and reflected perspectives from International Geneva actors, particularly in areas such as human rights, digital cooperation and sustainable development. In February, the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, Dennis Francis, briefed the diplomatic community on the broader intergovernmental agenda.

A pivotal preparatory session in March reflected the multistakeholder approach to drafting the Pact. Mr. Ryder and the co-facilitators of the Summit – the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations, Antje Leendertse, and the Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations, Neville M. Gertze – engaged with Geneva-based diplomats, representatives of United Nations entities and civil society actors.

The instrumental role played by International Geneva in addressing contemporary challenges was also underscored during high-level talks on emerging technologies. Notable events included a meeting of the Secretary-General’s High-Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence in March and an Executive Briefing with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Digital and Emerging Technologies, Under-Secretary-General Amandeep Gill, in August. Discussions at these meetings contributed to further shaping the Global Digital Compact, a key component of the Pact for the Future.

Regional perspectives were integrated through a number of events, including a high-level meeting organized by the Nizami Ganjavi International Center that brought together former Heads of State and Government, among others, to reflect on the future implementation of the Pact for the Future, and a Ecumene Discussion Club round table, which facilitated the inclusion of diverse voices in the global dialogue.

Throughout the year, UN Geneva also actively promoted the Summit, producing informative videos to highlight the Summit’s objectives and the critical role of multilateral cooperation. After the Summit, a follow-up Executive Briefing was held with Mr. Ryder, who emphasized the urgency of implementing commitments and outlined the next steps for diplomatic and civil society engagement.



The President of the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, Dennis Francis, discusses the agenda of the Summit of the Future with representatives of the Geneva-based diplomatic community during a briefing hosted at the Palais des Nations.
©UN Photo: Elma Okic

Supporting peace efforts and humanitarian action

In 2024, the world faced persistent humanitarian crises, which stretched global resources to their limits. Yet the United Nations persevered and continued to provide life-saving aid under increasingly difficult conditions. In Geneva, the United Nations family and its partners reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to humanitarian action, peace efforts and solidarity through key events that underscored the urgent need for collective responses rooted in empathy and sacrifice.

World Humanitarian Day: a call to #ActForHumanity

On 19 August, UN Geneva and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs commemorated World Humanitarian Day with a solemn ceremony at the Palais des Nations. The event built upon a communication campaign entitled #ActForHumanity and amplified the call for an end to impunity for attacks on civilians and humanitarian workers. The observance holds special significance, as 2024 was the deadliest year on record for aid workers. In addition, the event took place against the backdrop of ongoing hostilities in Gaza, where, as at the date it was held, over 280 humanitarian personnel had lost their lives. The Chief of Staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, Ben Majekodunmi, shared poignant stories from Agency staff working in Gaza who had survived attacks.



UN Geneva staff pose for a photo in solidarity with the humanitarian community, as part of the #ActForHumanity campaign launched on World Humanitarian Day.
©UN Photo

Solidarity with the Palestinian people

On 29 November, UN Geneva hosted a special meeting to mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, 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 stressed that the United Nations would continue to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people and their inalienable rights to live in peace, security and dignity.



The Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States, Hichem Bayoudh, reads out a statement during a special meeting marking the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.
©UN Photo: Ania Freindorf

Celebrating 75 years of the 1949 Geneva Conventions

August marked the 75th anniversary of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, a significant milestone for international humanitarian law. On that occasion, UN Geneva welcomed members of the Security Council, at the invitation of the Government of Switzerland, for a visit of the Palais des Nations, including of the newly renovated historic rooms. Following the tour, Security Council members engaged in a panel discussion, organized by the Swiss authorities, entitled “75 years of Geneva Conventions: a renewed commitment to upholding international humanitarian law”. The event offered an opportunity to reaffirm the enduring importance of those foundational treaties in protecting civilians during armed conflicts and highlighted the global community’s responsibility to uphold the principles therein. The day concluded with a ceremony at the Place des Nations, at the foot of the Broken Chair monument.



The Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Ignazio Cassis, delivers remarks during a ceremony held next to the Broken Chair at the Place des Nations to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the 1949 Geneva Conventions.
©UN Photo: Elma Okic

A platform for peace

Throughout the year, UN Geneva serviced a number of multi-stakeholder meetings and events dedicated to the promotion of peace efforts. This included the traditional Geneva Peace Talks, held on the International Day of Peace in September, which fostered an inclusive dialogue on the future of peace with more than 450 participants at the Palais des Nations and additional participants online.

Another annual flagship peacebuilding event was Geneva Peace Week, which took place in October. The event, focused on the central question “What is peace?”, generated discussions on how peace could be redefined, sustained and realized in today’s rapidly changing world. This year’s edition drew over 6,700 people – the highest number of participants since the event’s inception in 2014.

As part of a broader call for peace, International Geneva, with UN Geneva at its core, once again played a central role in preventive diplomacy and regional mediation efforts. UN Geneva hosted a new round of the Geneva International Discussions in November. UN Geneva also provided services to the United Nations-led peace talks on the situation in the Sudan in July. The peace talks were focused on concrete measures for improvements to ensure the safe and unfettered distribution of humanitarian assistance, and options to strengthen the protection of civilians across the Sudan, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2736 (2024).



Led by the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, members of the Security Council visit the historic buildings of the Palais des Nations that have been under renovation.
©UN Photo: Elma Okic

Secretary-General calls for action at the 2024 session of the Conference on Disarmament

In late February, the Conference on Disarmament held the high-level segment of its 2024 session. In a landmark address, the Secretary-General of the United Nations called on the member States of the Conference to break the long-standing deadlock and fulfil the Conference's negotiating mandate. It was the first time in nearly a decade that a Secretary-General had directly addressed the world's only multilateral disarmament negotiating body.

In his remarks, the Secretary-General highlighted the grave risks posed by rising geopolitical tensions, stalled arms control efforts and rapid advancements in military technology. He warned that the international disarmament landscape was deteriorating and stressed that inaction was not an option. The Secretary-General emphasized the need for renewed multilateral engagement to prevent a new arms race. He reiterated the Conference's pivotal role in addressing pressing disarmament challenges, from nuclear risks to emerging threats in outer space.

The Secretary-General's message was clear: the Conference must return to substantive work. His call was answered when, later in the session, member States established five subsidiary bodies to advance work on the agenda items, focusing on issues such as nuclear disarmament, outer space security and conventional arms control. Those bodies then engaged in preliminary discussions and reached consensus on their reports, including with regard to recommendations for the subsidiary bodies to resume their work in 2025. This represented a significant effort to introduce continuity, maintain momentum and restore meaningful progress to the work of the Conference.

By responding to the Secretary-General's call with concrete action, the Conference on Disarmament took an important step towards revitalizing its role in the United Nations disarmament machinery. The next challenge will be to fully resume the negotiating mandate of the Conference and to make progress on measures to enhance global peace and security.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations addresses representatives of member States of the Conference on Disarmament on 26 February.
©UN Photo: Pierre Albouy

“The great tragedy is that in the middle of these crises, the failure of this Conference to reach its objectives as intended has contributed to a growing sense of cynicism about multilateral solutions. ... Humanity needs the Conference on Disarmament to work successfully.”

Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, at the high-level segment of the 2024 session of the Conference on Disarmament.



Strengthening civil society partnerships for the future

In 2024, UN Geneva continued to advocate for the Secretary-General's vision for an inclusive, networked and effective multilateralism, including by supporting the activities of members of civil society, who are key partners in advancing the work and priorities of the United Nations.

With the accreditation of more than 5,600 representatives from 1,210 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the facilitation of 53 meetings of NGOs at the Palais des Nations this year, the collaboration between UN Geneva and civil society continued to grow. UN Geneva's NGO Liaison Unit regularly distributed and maintained useful resources on its website and kept civil society up to date through a monthly newsletter. Civil society meetings facilitated by the Unit were focused on a broad range of topics, including global health, peace, gender, human rights and sustainable development, reflecting the diverse expertise and areas of work of the NGO community. Some of the meetings held were Model United Nations gatherings for young people, which help them to learn more about the principles of the United Nations and how it functions. In addition, NGOs spearheaded several of the commemorations of International Days held at UN Geneva, such as for the International Day of Living Together in Peace, the International Day of Older Persons and the International Day of Conscience.

The NGO Liaison Unit also took steps to bring the work taking place both at UN Geneva and at United Nations Headquarters in New York closer to civil society in Geneva. The Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, held her annual meeting with representatives of accredited NGOs, presenting UN Geneva's priorities for 2024, addressing concerns and reaffirming her commitment to supporting their activities. In addition, several New York-based senior United Nations officials held exchanges with NGOs at the Palais des Nations. Engagements included a town hall meeting with the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, Dennis Francis, to exchange views with civil society organizations in Geneva on the theme “Peace, prosperity, progress and sustainability”, and briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy, Guy Ryder, and the Director of the Outreach Division in the Department of Global Communications, Maher Nasser, on the Summit of the Future and the adoption of the Pact for the Future. These events were instrumental in sharing the perspectives and contributions of Geneva-based NGOs before and after the Summit, which took place in New York in September.



Representatives of accredited non-governmental organizations meet with the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, Dennis Francis, during a town hall meeting at the Palais des Nations.
©UN Photo: Elma Okic

Promoting a sustainable digital future

One of the priorities of the United Nations is to advance an open, free, secure and human-centred digital future, one that is anchored in universal human rights and that enables the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2024, UN Geneva contributed to this by holding strategic events and discussions to explore the role of emerging technologies, particularly artificial intelligence.

In March, the UN Library and Archives Geneva welcomed the members of the High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence for their second in-person meeting. Convened in October 2023 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, the Advisory Body conducted multi-stakeholder engagement throughout the first part of 2024 and produced its final report and recommendations in September, ahead of the Summit of the Future. At UN Geneva, the Advisory Body consulted with several locally based United Nations entities working on artificial intelligence in their fields, which include development, human

rights, health, intellectual property, technology standards, peace and security, and meteorology. The discussions fuelled the recommendations highlighted in the Advisory Body's [final report](#).

In November, the UN Library and Archives Geneva, together with the International Labour Organization, hosted the annual meeting of the United Nations Library and Information Network for Knowledge Sharing (UN-LINKS). UN-LINKS is a platform dedicated to sharing know-how and best practices among United Nations librarians and engaging with local library communities on issues of common interest. This year's edition focused on the critical role of libraries in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. Workshops and discussions were also held to explore the potential of artificial intelligence in enhancing knowledge-sharing and streamlining access to information.



The Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, addresses the members of the High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence during one of their meetings at the UN Library and Archives Geneva.
©UN Photo: UN Library and Archives Geneva

Furthermore, throughout the year, the UN Library and Archives Geneva convened encounters with academia and the private sector on the use of artificial intelligence-driven tools to enhance implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Discussions explored how artificial intelligence can leverage access to institutional memory and help shape policies for a more sustainable future.

With these initiatives, UN Geneva is contributing to an inclusive global framework for digital cooperation, a necessary step to overcome digital, data and innovation divides and to achieve the governance required for a sustainable digital future for all.

Scan the QR code to watch the [2024 edition of the UN-LINKS annual meeting](#).

Katherine Rewinkel El-Darwish, Librarian at the World Trade Organization and President of the Association of International Librarians and Information Specialists (left), Eliza McLeod, co-chair of the 2024–2025 United Nations Library and Information Network for Knowledge Sharing (centre), and Sigrun Habermann, Chief of the Library Services Section at the UN Library and Archives Geneva, deliver opening remarks to participants at the 2024 UN-LINKS annual meeting.
©UN Photo: Adeline Brucato



UN Geneva launches the Beyond Lab to drive sustainable innovation

This year, UN Geneva launched the Beyond Lab, formerly known as the SDG Lab. This marked a new phase in UN Geneva’s commitment to advancing social innovation for long-term sustainability.

The launch event on 30 April brought together partners, stakeholders and long-time supporters, including representatives from Member States, to unveil the new strategy, priorities and visual identity of the Beyond Lab. The Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, introduced the Beyond Lab as a creative and innovative space for exploring fresh perspectives on sustainable development. Key areas of work include intergenerational impact, regeneration, future generations and the role of human emotions.

In her opening remarks, the Director of the Beyond Lab, Özge Aydoğan, underlined that the transformation was more than a re-branding. It reflected more than a year of collaboration with key stakeholders, testing new ideas and concepts to challenge traditional approaches to sustainable development.

A central focus of the Beyond Lab’s new strategy is engaging with young people. Students from the École Internationale de Genève (Ecolint) gave an artistic performance at the launch event to highlight the commitment of the Beyond Lab to intergenerational action.

During the event there were also calls for stronger engagement from Member States and other stakeholders through initiatives such as the Beyond Lab’s What’s Next dialogue series and its Youth Moving Beyond GDP initiative. These efforts are aimed not only at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, but also at driving systemic change for long-term sustainability.



The Beyond Lab, formerly known as the SDG Lab, is a creative and innovative space for exploring perspectives on sustainable development. It was launched on 30 April at the Palais des Nations.
©UN Photo: Beyond Lab



A student from the École Internationale de Genève (Ecolint) delivers an artistic performance during the Beyond Lab launch event.
©UN Photo: Beyond Lab

Rethinking economic systems: from shifting mindsets to systemic change

Building on the success of the 2023 What’s Next series on rethinking economic systems, UN Geneva’s Beyond Lab convened new dialogues on the topic in 2024. These events foster the sharing of unique perspectives and discussions on transforming mindsets and systems to ensure the well-being of people and the planet.

The first dialogue in the 2024 series was held in June, in partnership with the Permanent Missions of Canada and Kenya, and was focused on values-based financing. Participants highlighted the need to redefine economic success and align investments with real community and environmental value, calling for a financial system that prioritizes human and planetary well-being and a triple bottom line approach that balances profit, social impact and environmental sustainability. Key recommendations included regulatory and education reforms to encourage long-term and equitable financial decisions. The discussion also contributed to shaping Member States’ preparations ahead of their participation in the Summit of the Future.

In December, during the Building Bridges week – a sustainable finance initiative supported by UN Geneva through the Beyond Lab – stakeholders from various sectors, including policymakers, economists, investment fund managers, changemakers and youth activists, gathered for a What’s Next event on economic transformation beyond gross domestic product. The discussion was focused on reimagining governance and financial systems to promote equity, environmental sustainability and resilience. Participants addressed systemic barriers such as debt and inequality, the undervaluation of ecosystems, and the importance of intergenerational collaboration. Event participants emphasized the need for a fundamental shift in how societies measure progress, advocating for policies that place human and planetary well-being at the centre of economic decision-making.



Youth climate activist Xiye Bastida, from Mexico, speaks at the December What’s Next event on economic transformation beyond gross domestic product.
©UN Photo: Beyond Lab

Bridging generations: UN Geneva’s local youth engagements

In 2024, UN Geneva doubled down on its commitment to involve youth in global diplomacy, ensuring their active participation in shaping the future through a number of initiatives.

Throughout the year, UN Geneva’s Perception Change Project welcomed more than 200 students from Swiss schools, offering them first-hand insights into international cooperation. Their young minds engaged with United Nations experts on critical issues such as human rights, disarmament and sustainability, bringing inspired future leaders closer to the work of global organizations.

Model United Nations exercises further provided valuable platforms for young students to learn more about the work and functioning of the United Nations. Several of these simulations were held at the Palais in 2024, including one organized by the international high school in Ferney-Voltaire in January and another organized by Moscow State University in March. On United Nations Day, 24 October, the Geneva International Model United Nations held an event at the Palais des Nations to discuss the global refugee crisis and climate migration.

Furthermore, through partnerships with academic institutions such as the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and the Universities of Geneva and Saint Gallen, UN Geneva welcomed several groups of young professionals to the Palais des Nations. They met and engaged with United Nations experts working in diverse fields – humanitarian affairs, trade and development, and human rights. Round-table discussions and meetings with United Nations senior officials offered students direct exposure to global diplomacy and valuable insights into career opportunities.

UN Geneva also took the opportunity to involve younger generations in the various international day commemorations that it organizes. For example, during the World Bee Day celebrations in May, young environmentalists were invited to discuss the importance of safeguarding pollinators and promoting sustainable ecosystems. The event demonstrated how many young people are willing and able to rise to the challenge of addressing climate change with innovative solutions – whether through creating urban beekeeping initiatives, advocating for pollinator-friendly policies or raising awareness on digital platforms.



Students from a local Swiss school listen to a discussion in the Human Rights Council.
©UN Photo



Young people plant bee-friendly flowers in the Ariana Park as part of the World Bee Day celebrations held at the Palais des Nations.
©UN Photo: FAO Geneva

Advancing international law for future generations

In a world increasingly facing distrust in global cooperation and leaning towards unilateral policies, the role of the United Nations in promoting and advancing international law is more crucial than ever. International law underpins the work of the Organization in tackling today’s challenges and upholding the multilateral system established by the Charter of the United Nations.

A key focus for UN Geneva is educating future generations on the importance of respecting international law and of the trust that such respect fosters in the rule of law. Since 1965, the International Law Seminar has been a cornerstone of this mission, welcoming young jurists from around the globe to deepen their expertise. Organized in connection with the annual session of the International Law Commission, the seminar offers participants an opportunity to gain unique perspectives on the work of the Commission and the United Nations, including on the progressive development of international law and its codification.

In 2024, 27 young jurists participated in the fifty-eighth International Law Seminar, held from 1 to 19 July at the Palais des Nations. The programme featured, among other things, plenary meetings, specialized lectures and a visit to the University of Geneva. Topics included the progressive development of international law and the determination of the rule of law. Two working groups were set up: one on the immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction, and one on piracy and armed robbery at sea.

Highlights included a roundtable discussion on the legal implications of sea-level rise and a workshop on the advisory opinion of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on climate change and international law. Participants also attended a conference on the theme “Water, peace, and international law”, organized jointly with Geneva Water Hub, at which they explored the role of international law in transboundary water management and peacebuilding. In addition, the seminar fostered cultural and professional exchange through visits to the World Trade Organization and the Geneva Town Hall.

Young jurists participating in the fifty-eighth International Law Seminar pose for a group photo.
©UN Photo: Lai Sanders



Empowering youth in disarmament discussions

In the Pact for the Future, adopted by the General Assembly in September, Heads of State and Government recognized that “the full, effective, safe and meaningful participation of youth is critical to maintain and promote international peace and security”. In a world filled with geopolitical tensions and uncertainty, the Geneva branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) had already been taking steps in that direction, making a difference by championing members of the younger generations and amplifying their voices.

In March, UNODA launched its call for applications for the second edition of the Youth for Biosecurity Fellowship programme. Over three months (June to August), 20 young scientists from the global South participated in an intensive programme, delving into the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (Biological Weapons Convention) through online courses and expert-led webinars. Their journey culminated in a 10-day field visit to Geneva, where they attended briefings by experts from leading biosecurity and biosafety institutions.

In line with the United Nations Youth Strategy, participants presented their research and shared perspectives at two side events during the fourth session of the working group on the strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention, held from 19 to 23 August. The first event featured interactive presentations by the young scientists, who also showcased posters they had created on new biosafety and biosecurity initiatives. The second event was a dynamic panel discussion with emerging leaders in biosecurity, exploring the crucial role of youth in strengthening global biosecurity.

The students also engaged with UNODA staff, gaining valuable insights into disarmament and the various multilateral agreements discussed annually. These exchanges not only enabled the sharing of valuable knowledge, but also fostered the development of a passion for disarmament advocacy.



Participants in the second edition of the Youth for Biosecurity Fellowship programme during their visit to UN Geneva in August.
©UN Photo: Remi Bacouillard

Youth challenge how we measure progress

As the world grows increasingly aware of the limitations of gross domestic product (GDP) as a measurement of progress, young people are advocating for a broader definition of what truly matters. In February, UN Geneva’s Beyond Lab, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and Rethinking Economics International, launched a global essay competition entitled “What Counts in the Future? A Youth Perspective on Measuring What We Value”.

The competition organizers invited young people to share their perspectives on new frameworks for measuring progress, with a focus on well-being and sustainability. More than 600 essays were submitted, showcasing diverse views on redefining economic indicators to better capture societal and environmental priorities.

Five winners were invited to the Palais des Nations to participate in a high-level dialogue with the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, held in April, and to present their ideas to Member States, policymakers and experts.

These insights laid the foundation for the Beyond Lab’s Youth Moving Beyond GDP initiative. The initiative gained further momentum through other dialogues, including an official side event held during the Summit of the Future Action Days in New York in September.

Youth Moving Beyond GDP encourages meaningful youth engagement in shaping economic policies. Its aim is to complement traditional policymaking processes by fostering intergenerational dialogue and integrating youth-led solutions. The focus of the initiative is to ensure that current and future economic systems reflect human well-being and planetary health, in addition to the traditional financial metrics.

Aligning with global efforts to rethink economic progress, this initiative supports action 53 of the Pact for the Future, in which Member States have committed to developing frameworks that go beyond GDP. As the movement grows, one message is clear: the next generation is not waiting to shape the future – they are already leading the way.

Scan the QR code to read a selection of 10 outstanding essays from the competition.



Winners of the global essay competition present their ideas during a high-level dialogue entitled “What Counts in the Future? A Youth Perspective on Measuring What We Value”.
©UN Photo: Philippe Morard

Youth-led efforts to redefine progress

Young people can be a positive force for development, especially when provided with the knowledge, opportunities and space needed to thrive. With this in mind, UN Geneva's Beyond Lab offers youth a space for their voices to be heard during high-level events, such as the Summit of the Future, held in New York in September. Throughout the Summit, the Lab supported young activists who, as they took to the stage and engaged with delegates and experts, emphasized the need to broaden the definition of economic progress and called for society to move beyond gross domestic product (GDP).

During a side event at the Summit of the Future Action Days – an additional opportunity for United Nations actors to engage with all actors – the Beyond Lab assisted young changemakers as they presented their ideas for new perspectives on progress. At the opening of the Action Days, María Alejandra Pérez Rodríguez, a participant in the essay competition entitled “What Counts in the Future? A Youth Perspective on Measuring What We Value”, organized jointly by the Beyond Lab, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and Rethinking Economics International, highlighted the critical need to invest in care work as a cornerstone of economic and social protection systems.

At a virtual side event, other young essay competition contributors shared their insights on measuring societal progress beyond GDP. Engaging directly with renowned activists, including Kumi Naidoo from South Africa, and Member State representatives from Spain and Zambia, they explored strategies to meaningfully integrate youth voices into policymaking.

The Beyond Lab further demonstrated its commitment to inter-generational equity and inclusive progress through its participation in a high-level panel at the Summit of the Future Action Days. The panel, entitled “Working with Countries to Move Beyond GDP and Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Development”, was a collaborative event organized by the International Institute for Sustainable Development and the International Development Research Centre. During the discussion, Davide Fanciulli, the Lab's lead on intergenerational impact, emphasized the importance of prioritizing values such as sustainability and equity alongside new socioeconomic narratives that focus on collective and community well-being over individual success.



Panellists discuss how to move beyond gross domestic product during a high-level panel discussion at an official side event of the Summit of the Future Action Days.
©Photo: International Institute for Sustainable Development/Earth Negotiations Bulletin, Diego Noguera



CHAPTER TWO

STRENGTHENING OUR SERVICES

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, addresses the press ahead of the sixtieth anniversary celebration of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, serviced and hosted by UN Geneva.
©UN Photo: Pierre Albouy

Integrating diplomats into the Geneva disarmament community

In September, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the Geneva branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) jointly hosted the fifth annual Disarmament Orientation Course. This two-week programme is designed to introduce newly arrived diplomats to the Geneva disarmament community, and to help them integrate into it. It serves as a vital platform for building expertise, fostering connections and strengthening multilateral disarmament efforts.

This year's course featured presentations by leading experts from UNIDIR and UNODA and by senior diplomats who had recently chaired key disarmament meetings. Participants gained first-hand insights into the Geneva-based disarmament landscape and engaged in discussions on pressing global security challenges.

In addition to theoretical knowledge, the course offered practical engagement with Geneva's disarmament ecosystem. Diplomats had the opportunity to meet the UNODA staff who would support them throughout their tenure and help them to navigate negotiations, conferences, working groups, and institutional processes. The course also facilitated peer-to-peer exchanges, enabling diplomats to connect with colleagues from around the world and build professional networks that will be instrumental in their work.

Given that many permanent missions in Geneva do not have specialized disarmament teams, the orientation course is an opportunity to equip participants with essential knowledge on key disarmament issues that they will encounter during their diplomatic careers. These issues include weapons of mass destruction, conventional weapons, outer space security, artificial intelligence, lethal autonomous weapons systems, and explosive weapons in populated areas.

This year, 37 diplomats from 31 States Members of the United Nations benefited from the programme, reflecting the continued commitment of the international community to strengthening diplomatic capacity for disarmament. By providing a solid foundation in both substance and process, the Disarmament Orientation Course plays a crucial role in preparing diplomats to contribute effectively to multilateral disarmament efforts.

Participants in and programme facilitators of the 2024 Disarmament Orientation Course gather for a photograph at the Palais des Nations.
©Natalie Joray



Pioneering solutions through adversity

Faced with challenging times this year, the UN Library and Archives Geneva showcased its resilience and innovative spirit to continue ensuring access to vital knowledge and resources.

Early in the year, the United Nations Secretariat worldwide was affected by a significant liquidity crisis. Economic measures were implemented across United Nations entities to mitigate the impact. At UN Geneva, one step taken was to temporarily relocate the library and archival operations to another building of the Palais des Nations between April and August in order to reduce building operation costs. The UN Library and Archives Geneva team swiftly adjusted and ensured business continuity, moving essential collections, re-establishing services and managing about 4,000 interactions with clients – both in person and virtually, through its website.

In May and June, the International Law Commission held its annual session at the Palais des Nations. As is the case every year, the members of the Commission significantly relied on specialized support from the staff of the UN Library and Archives Geneva. The team re-engineered its client service model to ensure uninterrupted support for the work of the Commission, navigating temporary relocation and logistical challenges with creativity and collaborative flair.

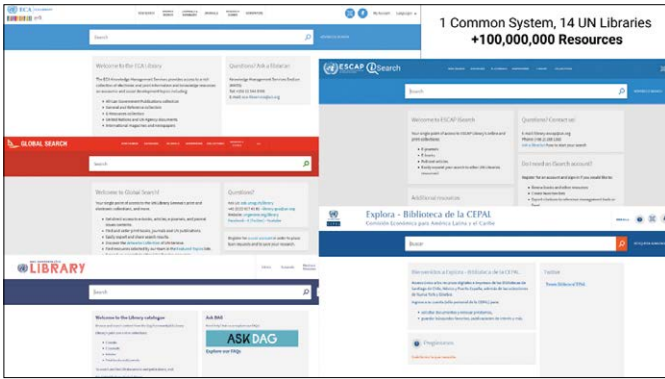
The UN Library and Archives Geneva team further streamlined access to information resources for users by ensuring the smooth and successful integration of the seven regional libraries of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa into UN Geneva's common library management system. This addition expands the network of United Nations partner libraries to 14, allowing



Following the temporary closure of the Palais des Nations building in which the UN Library and Archives Geneva is housed, a reading room was created in the Delegates' Lounge, located in another historical building.
©UN Photo: UN Library and Archives Geneva

staff, delegates and the wider public to access more than 100 million digital information resources through a single platform – the Global Search tool. Supported by UN Geneva staff, the transition was seamless and efficient, reinforcing the commitment of the United Nations to cutting-edge information services.

These initiatives highlight UN Geneva's ability to innovate and adapt in the face of adversity. By combining technical expertise, resourcefulness and cooperation, UN Geneva continues to empower the global United Nations community, ensuring that knowledge on multilateralism is accessible to people around the world.



Fourteen United Nations libraries now use one common, state-of-the-art management system.

Attracting a diverse workforce



Throughout 2024, UN Geneva ramped up its efforts to attract diverse and skilled professionals by forging partnerships with educational institutions and actively engaging in international career days and employment support events. These outreach activities were led by UN Geneva's Human Resources Management Service and carried out in person around the world, reflecting UN Geneva's commitment to building a multicultural workforce rich in geographical and talent diversity.

In Switzerland, UN Geneva participated in four key events: the 2024 International Career Day, UN Career Days at the Geneva Graduate Institute, and two spousal-employment support events organized in partnership with the International Geneva Welcome Centre and the International Dual Career Network. UN Geneva also joined a career fair organized as part of the twentieth Career Development Roundtable in Lithuania, and participated in the fifth UN Job Fair held in China, alongside 20 other United Nations agencies, programmes and funds.

The Chief of the Human Resources Management Service, Nataliya Myronenko, and the Director of the Division of Conference Management, Rima Al-Chikh, traveled to China to visit translation and interpretation universities. They engaged with students and

A staff member from UN Geneva's Human Resources Management Service briefs a student interested in United Nations career opportunities during a career fair event.
©UN Photo

presented the different language careers at the United Nations and the role of language professionals in supporting intergovernmental processes. The pair also delivered keynote speeches during the 2024 conference held by the Conférence Internationale Permanente d'Instituts Universitaires de Traducteurs et Interprètes (CIUTI) in Shanghai, China.

Furthermore, UN Geneva partnered with the University for Peace in Costa Rica and IE University in Spain to deliver targeted training sessions for master's degree students. Staff members from the Human Resources Management Service provided guidance and advice on applying for employment at the United Nations. Together with students they explored the key skills, competencies and values sought after at the United Nations.

Collectively, these outreach events engaged over 7,000 people, equipping them with concrete insights on how to forge a professional path at the United Nations.

New four-legged recruits join the security team

In 2024, UN Geneva enhanced its security by expanding the DetEx K9 Unit of the Security and Safety Service with two new Labrador retrievers: Bridgette and Twix. They join other dogs in the team in strengthening security at the Palais des Nations, reflecting UN Geneva's commitment to preventive security measures.

The new dogs and their handlers underwent extensive training with the Geneva cantonal police. This training partnership ensured that the new team members were well versed in the latest detection and intervention techniques. Their specialized training enables rapid response to potential risks, adding an extra layer of protection that complements other protocols.

The DetEx K9 unit plays a crucial role in detecting potential threats and ensuring a safe environment for United Nations personnel, delegates and visitors. This expansion underscores UN Geneva's dedication to advanced and proactive security strategies.



Twix (left) and Bridgette (right) are the two newest members of the DetEx K9 Unit of the Security and Safety Service.
©UN Photo



Setting the standard for career and talent development

In October, UN Geneva's Human Resources Management Service took centre stage, winning two awards at the twentieth annual Career Development Roundtable in Vilnius. This annual global conference brings together international organizations from around the world and is aimed at fostering excellence, innovation and achievements in the field of human resources.

In 2024, four awards were given out, in the following categories:

- Innovation in Recruitment
- Employee Engagement
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Decade of Excellence – a special category this year to honour initiatives with lasting impact.

UN Geneva won the Employee Engagement award, for its Career Tips Thursday initiative, and also won the Decade of Excellence award, for its Programme for Emerging Women Leaders (EMERGE).

The Career Tips Thursday series was developed by UN Geneva in 2021 to increase career development guidance and support for staff. The sessions, held online, are designed to equip staff with valuable resources to manage their career trajectory within the United Nations system. The series has since grown and is now organized in partnership with other United Nations entities. The monthly sessions reach, on average, more than 1,000 staff members globally.

EMERGE is a joint initiative developed by UN Geneva and 10 other United Nations entities. Created in 2016, the programme is aimed at empowering women staff at the P3 level to expand their leadership skills and advance their career within the United Nations system. To date, 17 system entities have participated in six editions of this ambitious programme. Following the latest edition, organized in September, 77 per cent of the participants reported advancements in their career; 79 per cent of those obtained a promotion.

Beyond the awards, these initiatives stand out because of the spirit of co-creation and collaboration encouraged by UN Geneva. By joining forces and sharing expertise and information, UN Geneva and its partners are setting the standard for career and talent development across the United Nations system.



Members of UN Geneva's Human Resources Management Service (HRMS) receive the Employee Engagement award at the 2024 Career Development Roundtable in Vilnius. From left to right: Chief of the Centre for Learning and Multilingualism, Thomas Neufing; EMERGE Team Lead from the Centre for Learning and Multilingualism (Management and Communications Unit), Jesús Guerrero; EMERGE Team Lead from the Human Resources Management Service (Vacancy Management Unit), Valentina Cocco; and Chief of the Human Resources Management Service, Nataliya Myronenko. ©UN Photo

Embracing a forward-thinking culture with Modern Agile methodologies

In line with UN 2.0, the Secretary-General's vision for a modernized United Nations system, UN Geneva is actively taking steps towards a more forward-thinking culture that values agility, learning and curiosity. To do so, UN Geneva is applying Modern Agile methodologies to boost team performance, adaptability and resilience.

Since 2022, the Human Resources Management Service has offered four distinct training modules in that area:

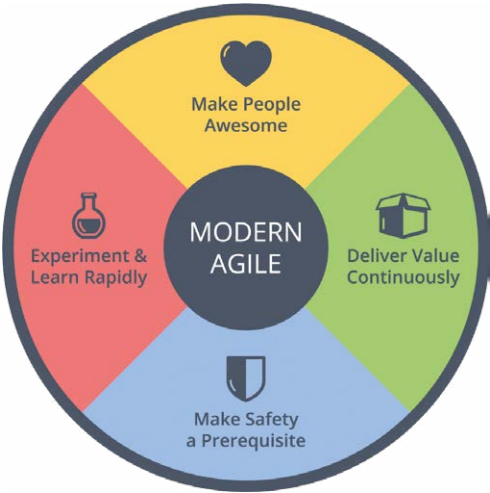
- Agile Mindset
- Priority Setting and Reduction
- Team Connection Points: Huddles and other meetings
- Iterations and Retrospectives

In 2024, 17 workshops, each covering a specific module, were held, reaching 206 participants and introducing the Modern Agile mindset, which thrives on uncertainty and complexity. Workshop moderators followed a flexible approach, allowing teams to choose the tools and techniques that best suited their needs. With robust support from colleagues in the Human Resources Management Service and targeted follow-up sessions, teams across the United Nations system are integrating these new ways of working in order to maximize their value and impact.

By embracing Modern Agile methodologies, UN Geneva is equipping itself to tackle the complexities of modern working environments and to deliver significant results, fostering a growth mindset in tandem with psychological safety and alongside a steady focus on end users. UN Geneva's teams are ready for the future. This transformation is not just about keeping up – it's about staying ahead.



Mercedes Rodriguez, Staff Development Assistant in UN Geneva's Human Resources Management Service (left), delivers a training session to UN Geneva colleagues on how to boost team performance. ©UN Photo



Wheel diagram representing the four principles of the Modern Agile methodology.

Commitment to quality in conference services

For many years, International Geneva, with UN Geneva at its heart, has been a prime venue for multilateral discussions, particularly thanks to its unique ecosystem of stakeholders and the prominent role it plays in a range of global issues. In this context, UN Geneva has gained significant experience in providing conference services, becoming a centre of excellence in conferencing. In 2024, 8,505 meetings were organized by UN Geneva’s [Division of Conference Management](#), 7,719 of which were held in person.

With such experience, UN Geneva has built a strong reputation as a quality service provider, which it continually seeks to improve. Feedback from meeting participants, including members of permanent missions, national delegations and client secretariats, is regularly collected through client surveys and is used to enhance service quality and support the work of intergovernmental and expert bodies meeting in Geneva and beyond.

A register of compliments and complaints allows UN Geneva to systematically review written feedback received from permanent missions and client secretariats, providing insights for further improvement. The Division of Conference Management, in coordination with its parent department, the [Department for General Assembly and Conference Management](#) (DGACM), also regularly conducts self-evaluations of key aspects of its operations. Results lead to actionable recommendations and targets for improvement, which are integrated into the annual work planning process.

In addition, global evaluations conducted by DGACM across all four duty stations help to enhance operations in Geneva. More than 40 standard operating procedures have been developed to streamline operations and ensure consistent service delivery. The Division of Conference Management is also involved in several global initiatives to upgrade DGACM’s tools, aimed at boosting service quality for Member States.

UN Geneva is also dedicated to high-quality translation and interpretation services to support seamless multilingual communication. Internal quality control mechanisms ensure that all interpretation services meet high standards. Interpreters are evaluated regularly, and future recruitment is influenced by their performance. Even with these rigorous controls, several challenges such as speech speed and sound quality continue to impact interpretation services.

On the translation side, the Division of Conference Management has implemented guidelines and employs advanced tools such as the United Nations computer-assisted translation interface (eLUNA) and the [Terminology Portal](#) (UNTERM), enabling continuous professional development and ensuring ongoing excellence in translation services.

Through continuous efforts, UN Geneva remains committed to delivering reliable, effective and multilingual conferencing services.



Conference room equipment is designed to ensure proper sound, allowing interpreters in the booth to deliver quality services.
©UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré

Expanding digital innovations of meeting information

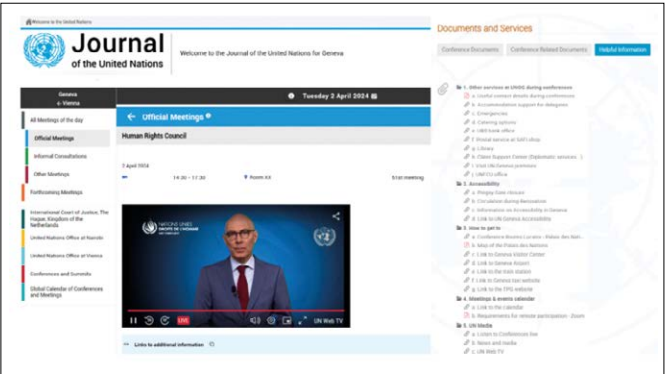
Digital Recordings Portal

In 2024, the scope of the Fully Automated Speech-to-Text (FAST) project was expanded, making transcripts of recent meetings held at UN Geneva available in all six official languages of the United Nations. Since 2019, the FAST project has provided searchable, machine-generated meeting transcripts to help delegates, United Nations staff and other participants capture important content, review meeting deliberations and report on outcomes.

In July, the [Digital Recordings Portal](#) on the UN Geneva website was updated to incorporate the FAST expansion and is now also available in all six official languages. The Portal is a permanent home for all transcripts of meetings. This development is part of a conscious effort by UN Geneva to cater better to a linguistically diverse audience, thereby fostering a greater global exchange of ideas and information.

Journal for Geneva

The *Journal of the United Nations* is an official United Nations publication that dates back to 1945. At that time, it was known as the *Journal of the Preparatory Commission* and was published daily as the Commission met in November and December 1945 to set the stage for the first sessions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. In January 1946, when those bodies convened their first sessions, separate journals were published for each of them. In 1951, they were merged into one single *Journal of the United Nations*.



The daily *Journal* publications included programmes of meetings, the meeting agendas, summaries of previous meetings and lists of related documents; this is still the case today on the website of the *Journal of the United Nations*. For almost 80 years, the *Journal* has provided valuable, up-to-date coverage of the work of the United Nations.

In 2018, the multilingual website of the *Journal of the United Nations* was launched, covering the six official languages of the Organization. Since then, the website has been continuously improved, enabling readers to access all relevant information for meetings held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

In April 2024, a new milestone was reached for the *Journal* with the expansion of its reach to encompass all four duty stations served by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. UN Geneva joined the launch and was added to the coverage list; information for all meetings taking place in Geneva can now be conveniently accessed alongside that of New York on the *Journal* website. As an added feature for users, the website has allocated webcast capability (when available) and a link to “Documents and Services”.

The global *Journal* is an invaluable resource for Member States, technical and substantive secretariats of intergovernmental meeting bodies, United Nations staff and the public at large.

Scan the QR code to access the [Journal of the United Nations](#).

The *Journal of the United Nations* is now available in all six official languages of the United Nations and across all four United Nations duty stations – Geneva, Nairobi, New York and Vienna.

Streamlined security: the digital transformation of the Pregny Pavilion

In September 2024, following its renovation, the Pregny Pavilion marked the first anniversary of the implementation of UN Geneva's digital badging system. This cutting-edge system has revolutionized access control at the Palais des Nations by streamlining the registration and entry process for staff, visitors and delegates. Thanks to the integration of an enhanced preregistration system, waiting times at the gate have been significantly shortened, ensuring a smoother flow of people into the campus.

A central feature of the upgraded system is the installation of multiple X-ray scanners, guaranteeing thorough bag screening and further reinforcing security by detecting prohibited items more effectively. In addition, the installation of clear signage and digital information screens further improve the user experience, guiding visitors seamlessly through the entry process and reducing the need for assistance from security personnel.

These advancements not only boost efficiency but also heighten security standards for UN Geneva. By leveraging modern technology and optimizing existing infrastructure, the digital badging system has significantly enhanced overall safety and convenience when entering the Palais des Nations. Looking ahead, UN Geneva remains committed to regularly assessing and refining these systems to uphold the highest standards of security and operational excellence.

Scan the QR code to watch a [video](#) about the digital badging system.



The upgraded screening system at the Pregny Pavilion includes multiple X-ray scanners, enabling thorough and effective screening. ©UN Photo

Navigating the Palais des Nations: UN Geneva's new and accessible signs



Signage indicating the way to key locations around the Palais des Nations and estimated walking times were installed across the premises. ©UN Photo



The Braille orientation tables placed throughout the Palais des Nations campus include Braille labels, allowing individuals with visual impairments to find their way. ©UN Photo

With a campus that spans 6 hectares, it is not always easy to find your way around the Palais des Nations. In 2024, UN Geneva enhanced its wayfinding system in and outside the different buildings located on its campus, making it easier and quicker for delegates, visitors and staff to find their way.

New directional signage was installed outside to indicate the way to key locations around the premises and estimated walking times, allowing visitors to plan their routes more effectively. In addition, digital directory screens were placed inside each newly renovated building. These screens can be easily updated, thereby ensuring accurate information at all times. The numbering system for the conference rooms was also improved: to enhance readability and ease of navigation, all room signs now show Arabic numerals alongside the traditional Roman numerals.

In addition to general improvements, UN Geneva has taken significant steps to ensure that the Palais des Nations is accessible to everyone, including persons with disabilities. In collaboration with experts and users, new wheelchair-accessible pathways and entrances have been tested and implemented across the various buildings. A wayfinding path for individuals with visual impairments has been installed, providing a structured and safe route for them to independently navigate the Palais des Nations. UN Geneva has also placed Braille orientation tables at key points along this path. These detailed maps have been produced using a Braille embosser to tactually represent topographies, and sit alongside Braille labels to identify key features of the campus.

Through this new and improved system, UN Geneva wishes to offer all campus users an easy and enjoyable wayfinding experience at the Palais des Nations.

Scan the QR code to watch a [video](#) showcasing the newly installed Braille orientation tables.

Progress on the new Portail des Nations Visitor Centre

The Portail des Nations Visitor Centre will be UN Geneva’s new dedicated entry point and space for visitors. The Visitor Centre will serve to strengthen outreach efforts and will provide a unique opportunity for the public to learn about the United Nations family. This project was made possible by a generous donation from the Fondation Portail des Nations.

The construction of the Portail des Nations Visitor Centre, which includes several pavilions, began in April 2024. The first phase saw the completion of two pavilions dedicated to the user experience; construction of the third pavilion and the main building with the lobby is currently under way.



The construction site of the new Portail des Nations Visitor Centre, viewed from a crane.
©Charles Pictet Baptiste Broillet Architectes Associés

The visitor experience is being developed in close collaboration with various United Nations entities in Geneva. The Visitor Centre will feature three immersive rooms to offer visitors an engaging journey through the activities of the United Nations and their global impact. In the first room, visitors will hear Geneva-based United Nations experts presenting the workings of multilateral diplomacy and its direct impact on everyone’s lives. The second room will showcase inspiring stories of successful United Nations partnerships and initiatives. In the third room, visitors will be invited to participate in a simulated vote on a General Assembly resolution.

Once completed, the new Visitor Centre, alongside the existing guided tours of the Palais des Nations, will better enable the public to engage with the work of the United Nations. The opening of the Portail des Nations Visitor Centre is expected in early 2026.



The Portail des Nations Visitor Centre, shown here under construction, is expected to open in 2026.
©UN Photo: Charbel Jabbour

Reopening of the Secretariat Building

In September, the meticulous renovation works of the Secretariat Building, also known as Building S1, were completed, marking an important milestone for the Strategic Heritage Plan (SHP) project. The lean construction management methodology adopted in 2023 by the leaderships of both SHP and its contractor, Rénovation Palais des Nations, was instrumental in the efficient and successful renovation of the Secretariat Building, as well as related staff moves.

The Secretariat Building of the Palais des Nations was originally built in the 1930s to house the Secretariat of the League of Nations. In the late 1940s, the building became the European Office of the United Nations. Today, it remains a prominent part of the Palais des Nations and is home to over 900 staff.

In 2024, following the completion of the renovation of the Secretariat Building, a transition period commenced. This involved final testing and preparations carried out by UN Geneva colleagues from various services such as facilities management, conferencing support, and safety and security. This phase was completed in November; subsequently, United Nations staff, including from the Office of the Director-General of UN Geneva, the Geneva branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, moved into the newly renovated offices.

The Strategic Heritage Plan renovation project has an intricate task: modernizing the historic Palais des Nations and improving its safety and accessibility, all while preserving its original architecture and heritage. Therefore, a significant part of the renovation works of the Secretariat Building took place behind the scenes due to the constraints inherent in heritage preservation. Work undertaken included the replacement of the heating, plumbing and electrical systems, as well as the installation of fire protection systems. More visible works were also carried out, such as the creation of meeting spaces, hybrid offices for collaborative working, kitchens and lock-down and fire protection doors.



The Secretariat Building in the 1930s.
©UN Photo: UN Geneva Archives



The Office of the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, located in the Secretariat Building, in the 1930s.
©UN Photo: UN Geneva Archives



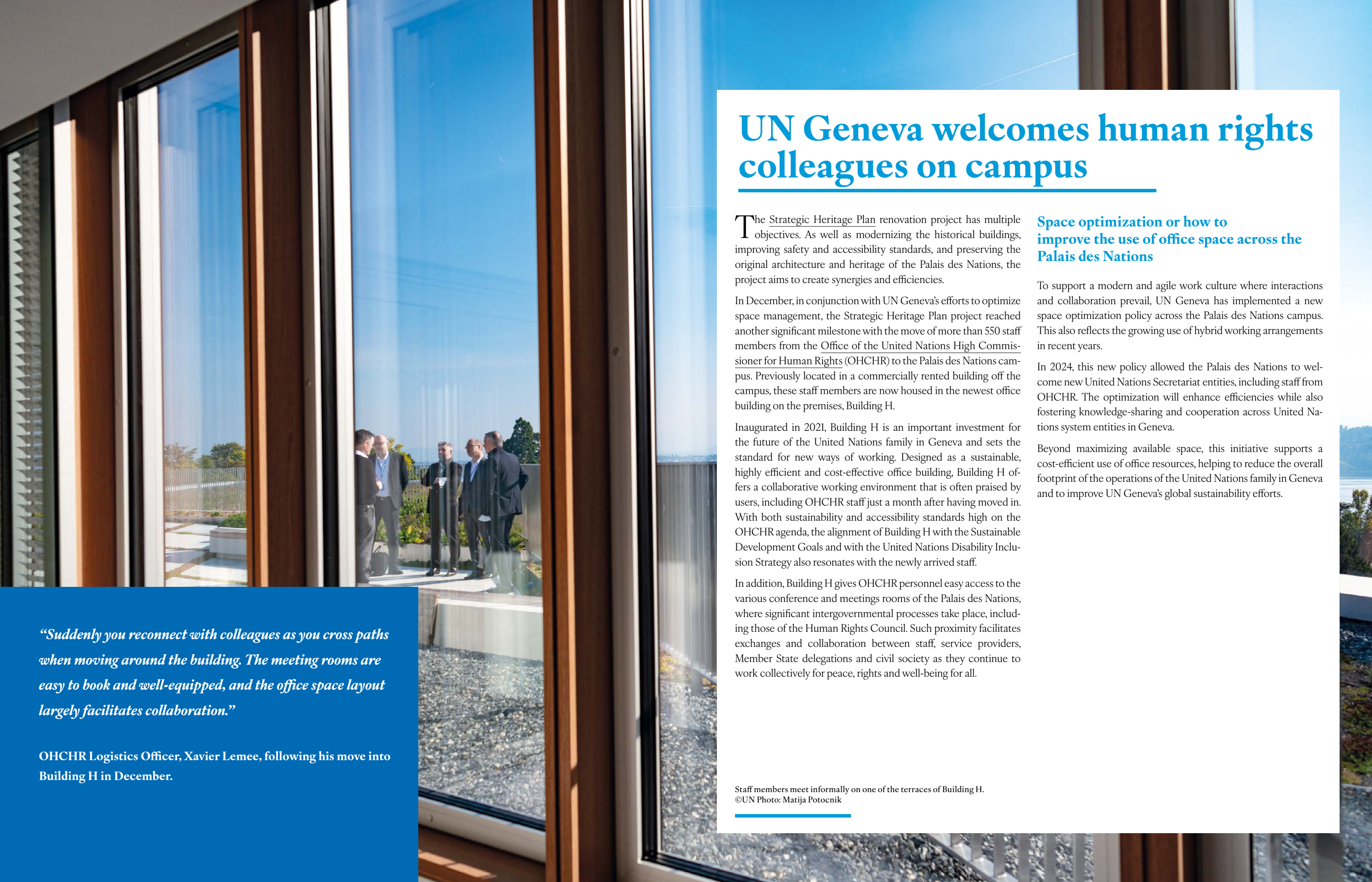
The Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, holds weekly meetings with her senior management team in her newly renovated office.
©UN Photo

The Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya (right), and the Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland, Anna Ifkovits Horner (left), cut a ribbon during a ceremony to mark the reopening of the Secretariat Building.
©UN Photo: Strategic Heritage Plan



“I am very proud of the SHP team and our UN Geneva colleagues for their dedication and hard work, which led to the completion of the renovation of Building S1. It is great to see the building buzzing with activity as it did before the start of the renovation.”

Strategic Heritage Plan Project Director, David McCuaig, at an event marking the reopening of the Secretariat Building.



UN Geneva welcomes human rights colleagues on campus

The Strategic Heritage Plan renovation project has multiple objectives. As well as modernizing the historical buildings, improving safety and accessibility standards, and preserving the original architecture and heritage of the Palais des Nations, the project aims to create synergies and efficiencies.

In December, in conjunction with UN Geneva's efforts to optimize space management, the Strategic Heritage Plan project reached another significant milestone with the move of more than 550 staff members from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to the Palais des Nations campus. Previously located in a commercially rented building off the campus, these staff members are now housed in the newest office building on the premises, Building H.

Inaugurated in 2021, Building H is an important investment for the future of the United Nations family in Geneva and sets the standard for new ways of working. Designed as a sustainable, highly efficient and cost-effective office building, Building H offers a collaborative working environment that is often praised by users, including OHCHR staff just a month after having moved in. With both sustainability and accessibility standards high on the OHCHR agenda, the alignment of Building H with the Sustainable Development Goals and with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy also resonates with the newly arrived staff.

In addition, Building H gives OHCHR personnel easy access to the various conference and meetings rooms of the Palais des Nations, where significant intergovernmental processes take place, including those of the Human Rights Council. Such proximity facilitates exchanges and collaboration between staff, service providers, Member State delegations and civil society as they continue to work collectively for peace, rights and well-being for all.

Space optimization or how to improve the use of office space across the Palais des Nations

To support a modern and agile work culture where interactions and collaboration prevail, UN Geneva has implemented a new space optimization policy across the Palais des Nations campus. This also reflects the growing use of hybrid working arrangements in recent years.

In 2024, this new policy allowed the Palais des Nations to welcome new United Nations Secretariat entities, including staff from OHCHR. The optimization will enhance efficiencies while also fostering knowledge-sharing and cooperation across United Nations system entities in Geneva.

Beyond maximizing available space, this initiative supports a cost-efficient use of office resources, helping to reduce the overall footprint of the operations of the United Nations family in Geneva and to improve UN Geneva's global sustainability efforts.

“Suddenly you reconnect with colleagues as you cross paths when moving around the building. The meeting rooms are easy to book and well-equipped, and the office space layout largely facilitates collaboration.”

OHCHR Logistics Officer, Xavier Lemee, following his move into Building H in December.

Staff members meet informally on one of the terraces of Building H.
©UN Photo: Matija Potocnik

Preparing for the last phase of the renovation works

The renovation of Building E is the last phase of the Strategic Heritage Plan project. In 2024, preparatory works – also referred to as early action works – were launched ahead of the renovation scheduled to take place in 2025.

Building E was built in the early 1970s and is composed of two main parts: a conferencing centre with 11 meeting rooms, and a tower housing office spaces. The centerpiece of the building is a large, glazed façade overlooking the Alps and Lake Geneva. At the time of construction, the building’s double-glazed windows were the largest ever made in Europe. The renovation of the façade as part of the Strategic Heritage Plan project will preserve the existing heritage features and provide improved energy performance. Brise-soleils will also be installed, ensuring solar protection for staff, delegates and visitors.



The lakeside façade of Building E dates from the early 1970s and includes 24 large, double-glazed windows.
©UN Photo: Matija Potocnik

The preparatory works launched this year by the Strategic Heritage Project team included the removal of two existing double-glazed windows, which were replaced with a mock-up. This will allow construction experts and heritage authorities to assess the quality and mechanical behavior of the components, which is an essential step prior to the replacement of the entire façade. Fences, including some specifically designed to absorb noise, were also installed around the perimeter this year to facilitate the works, including the delivery and removal of materials, and to ensure the safety of construction workers, staff, delegates and visitors.



As part of the preparatory works of the Strategic Heritage Plan, two of the existing double-glazed windows are removed by a contractor.
©UN Photo: Strategic Heritage Plan



A mock-up of the renovated façade windows is installed. Building and heritage experts will review the mock-up before launching the production of the rest of the windows that will constitute the renovated façade.
©UN Photo: Strategic Heritage Plan

The green revolution: pioneering sustainability at the Palais des Nations

In 2024, a new environmental policy was developed at UN Geneva to guide the mainstreaming of environmental sustainability considerations into its work and operations. Approved by the Director-General of UN Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, the policy formalizes sustainability efforts and initiatives launched in previous years and provides a framework and overarching principles to further align UN Geneva’s practices with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Building upon the 2019 environmental policy for the United Nations Secretariat, the new policy takes the local context into account, setting principles and objectives at all levels and calling for systematic and continuous improvements. Its launch in October encouraged several teams at UN Geneva to integrate environmental sustainability into their daily work.

For example, in 2024, UN Geneva’s Security and Safety Service expanded its fleet of electric vehicles with three new Renault cargo-type electric cars. This decision was the latest step in a commitment to reduce overall costs, optimize the fleet size according to operational needs, and minimize the impact of the fleet on the environment, particularly its CO₂ emissions. Since 2018, the vehicle fleet has been reduced from thirteen to eight, with five of these vehicles now electric and one hybrid. Additionally, the team increasingly uses electric bikes, allowing security officers to move around the Palais des Nations campus in an environmentally friendly way. These efforts have contributed to a significant 46 per cent reduction in fuel consumption for the Service since 2018, while supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and enhancing the health and well-being of UN Geneva staff.

Efforts have also been made to preserve biodiversity on the Palais des Nations campus. In September, UN Geneva’s Facilities Management Section and the staff-led Gardening Club, in partnership with the Republic and Canton of Geneva, installed an insect hotel on the premises. The insect hotel is made of eco-friendly materials: the structure was built with local and sustainable wood, while branches, hay, pinecones, bricks and clay pots constitute “furniture”. These natural, discarded and reusable materials provide comfortable habitats for local insects, enhancing their conservation.

Reusing and recycling is also a priority at UN Geneva. In November, UN Geneva colleagues joined forces to collect second-hand stationery items. Staff moves across the campus throughout the year left many items behind that were still functional and in good condition. Through this initiative, a selection of office supplies was made available to all staff on campus, promoting the use of second-hand items, reducing overall waste and ensuring cost savings for the Organization.

Reflecting on the strides made in 2024, it is clear that the commitment of UN Geneva to environmental sustainability is not just a policy, but a practice embedded in daily operations. From reducing the carbon footprint with electric vehicles to enhancing biodiversity with eco-friendly initiatives, every effort contributes to a greener, healthier future. These achievements are a testament to the dedication of UN Geneva and its staff to remaining steadfast in the mission to align practices with the Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring that the Palais des Nations stands as a beacon of sustainability for years to come.



The insect hotel installed by members of the UN Geneva Gardening Club in Ariana Park.
©UN Photo



Staff from UN Geneva’s Security and Safety Service showcase their new electric vehicles and bikes in front of the Alley of Flags.
©UN Photo



CHAPTER THREE

STRENGTHENING OUR MISSION

The Geneva Peace Talks, an annual flagship event at UN Geneva, offer the international diplomatic community an unique opportunity to reflect on its mission towards a more peaceful, just and sustainable world.
©Interpeace: Antoine Tardy

Honouring and remembering

Every year, UN Geneva marks important historical events and International Days. These gatherings offer the multilateral community a space to commemorate and remember. They also constitute a powerful advocacy tool for the United Nations.



©UN Photo: Elma Okic

In January, UN Geneva held the annual ceremony for the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. Holocaust survivor Martha Raviv (left) shared her poignant testimony with event moderator and United Nations Information Service in Geneva staff member, Margaux Creagh (right). Under the theme “Recognizing the extraordinary courage of victims and survivors of the Holocaust”, the discussions emphasized the collective responsibility to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive.

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



©UN Photo: Irina Popa

In April, the Geneva-based diplomatic community traditionally gathers at the Palais des Nations to commemorate the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. In 2024, the ceremony provided an opportunity for genocide survivors to share their stories – a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the power of forgiveness. During the event, the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya (right), was joined by a member of the Geneva Grand Conseil, Angèle-Marie Habiyakare (left), the Permanent Representative of Rwanda, James Ngango (second from left), a survivor of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, Clarisse Naila Petrus (centre), and the President of IBUKA-Mémoire et Justice-Section Suisse, César Murangira (second from right), to light candles and stand, together with the audience, for a minute of silence.

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



©UN Photo: Emmanuel Hungrecker

Every year on 29 May, UN Geneva marks the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. The event is held to remember and honour the more than 4,000 United Nations peacekeepers who have lost their lives serving for peace. It is also an opportunity to commend the uniformed and civilian personnel who continue to serve under the United Nations flag, often in the world’s most fragile political and security situations. In 2024, more than 76,000 peacekeepers were deployed in 11 missions around the world. As part of the annual commemoration organized at the Palais des Nations, Major General Germaine Seewer and the President of the Soldier of Peace International Association, Laurent Attar-Bayrou, laid a wreath, paying tribute to all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of peace.



©UN Photo: Irina Popa

In August, the United Nations family in Geneva gathered at the Palais des Nations to commemorate World Humanitarian Day. The observance took place against the backdrop of the ongoing hostilities in the Gaza Strip, where more than 200 United Nations personnel had lost their lives at that time. The event also marked the twenty-first anniversary of the devastating suicide bombing of the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, which caused the death of 22 people, many of whom were United Nations staff members. The Permanent Representative of Iraq, Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa, laid flowers in front of the remnants of a United Nations flag destroyed in the bombing, in the presence of the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Nada Al-Nashif, and the Representative of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Geneva, Ramesh Rajasingham.

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





©Interpeace: Antoine Tardy

To mark the International Day of Peace, celebrated annually on 21 September, UN Geneva and its partners, including Interpeace, organized the Geneva Peace Talks. The 2024 edition of this outreach event focused on the theme “The Future of Peace”. Nine speakers from diverse backgrounds shared their personal stories on the frontlines of peacebuilding, linking the past, present and future of peace. The Peace Talks came at a pivotal moment – just four days later the Summit of the Future took place in New York, at which the Pact for the Future was adopted.

Scan the QR code to watch a recording of the Geneva Peace Talks.



©UN Photo: Ania Freindorf

In November, UN Geneva marked the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People with a special meeting at the Palais des Nations. The Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, chaired the meeting and read out a message from the Secretary-General, António Guterres, who expressed concern over the devastating humanitarian situation in Gaza and reiterated the commitment of the United Nations to realizing the vision of two States – Israel and Palestine – living side by side in peace and security, with Jerusalem as the capital of both States. The Permanent Representative of Namibia, Julia Imene-Chanduru (shown on screen in this image), delivered a message of support in her capacity as co-chair of the meeting and representative of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

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



Preserving the past: a digital journey

To restore trust and confidence in the United Nations and its work, UN Geneva is taking steps to preserve information integrity and combat the spread of misinformation. These efforts include preserving the institutional memory of the Organization.

Over the past decade, the UN Library and Archives Geneva has revolutionized access to the history of the United Nations by digitizing historical archives, records and unique documents, both from the League of Nations and from the United Nations. Available to all through the UN Archives Geneva platform, these documents offer unique historical insights into the evolution of global cooperation. They also foster a deeper understanding of the role of the United Nations in shaping diplomacy.

In 2024, several resources were added to the platform, including UN Geneva’s correspondence related to non-governmental organizations, dating from 1946 to 1973 and archives from the International Bureau for Declarations of Death, which consolidated post-war missing person declarations made between 1952 and 1973, offering insights into reconstruction efforts in Europe.

An additional 7,200 index cards from United Nations Headquarters were also digitized. These cards document League of Nations files that were temporarily transferred to New York after the creation of the United Nations, bridging two pivotal eras in multilateralism.

The archives collection was further enriched by private donations. Dominique Föllmi, former President of the Council of State of Geneva and President of the organizing committee for the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations in Geneva, donated various documents related to the events held in Geneva to celebrate that anniversary in 1995. Personal archives, including correspondence, speech transcripts and reports, from Edith Ballantyne, an advocate for disarmament and women’s rights, were also added to UN Geneva’s digital collection.

UN Geneva’s efforts to preserve institutional memory also extend to historical research. The fourth volume in the United Nations Historical Series, entitled *Communicating the League of Nations: Contributions to a Transnational Communication History of the League of Nations in the Inter-War Period (1920–1938)*, examines the innovative communication strategies of the League of Nations, highlighting its role in shaping public relations in diplomacy.

By digitizing archives, describing collections and publishing groundbreaking research, UN Geneva ensures that its legacy remains accessible to the general public and provides insights into and greater knowledge of the role of the United Nations in modern multilateralism.



The fourth volume of the United Nations Historical Series, *Communicating the League of Nations*, was published by the UN Library and Archives Geneva in 2024.
©UN Photo: UN Library and Archives Geneva

Bridging the past, present and future of multilateralism through modern media

In 2024, UN Geneva further developed its outreach by harnessing the power of modern media to engage diverse audiences. In particular, the UN Library and Archives Geneva brought the history and future of multilateralism to life through innovative storytelling, podcasts and digital initiatives.

Among them, *HiSTORIES*, an online series of short videos, uncovered key moments in multilateral history. From the fight against slavery to the unique influence of cartoons in shaping global cooperation and a century of advocating for the rights of children, *HiSTORIES* episodes connected past achievements to present challenges, deepening viewers' understanding of the evolution of international cooperation.

Meanwhile, the reach of the podcast series *The Next Page* continued to expand, with episodes downloaded in 126 countries. Twenty-five episodes were released this year, covering a wide range of topics and showcasing the dynamism of multilateralism. Highlights included dialogues with Permanent Representatives from Barbados, Chile, China and France, and conversations on the Pact for the Future and youth engagement.

Some episodes of the podcast series bridged historical events and current challenges, while others explored emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and their impact on diplomacy and international relations. Thought-provoking episodes on long-term governance and peacebuilding were also produced, offering listeners insights into the enduring mission of the United Nations.

By leveraging digital media products such as *HiSTORIES* and *The Next Page*, UN Geneva is ensuring that its messages reach audiences around the world. These initiatives not only spotlight the work of the United Nations and its achievements, but also spark dialogue on the evolving landscape of multilateralism, providing a bridge between the past, present and future of international cooperation.



An episode of *HiSTORIES* created this year was dedicated to the centenary of the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child by the Assembly of the League of Nations in September 1924.

Scan the QR code to watch *HiSTORIES* episodes.



One of the podcast episodes of *The Next Page* produced this year was a conversation, in French, with the Permanent Representative of France, Ambassador Jérôme Bonnafont.

Scan the QR code to listen to episodes of *The Next Page*.



UN Geneva: a global news hub

This year, United Nations Television (UNTV) Geneva further enhanced its role as a reliable source for news about the work undertaken by United Nations entities and partners based at the European Headquarters of the Organization.

UNTV Geneva provides a platform for spokespersons who are in the field and close to hostilities to connect with journalists in the newly renovated Press Room at the Palais des Nations through live video link, allowing them to report the latest developments directly from places such as Haiti, Myanmar, the Sudan and Ukraine. In 2024, the response of the United Nations to the conflicts in the Middle East, including the war in Gaza, dominated these press encounters. This frontline content, now more readily accessible than ever for the journalists accredited to UN Geneva, was broadcast this year in 90 countries and on more than 670 television channels.

The state-of-the-art Press Room, renovated in 2023 as part of the Strategic Heritage Plan project, features four semi-automatic television cameras and a multilingual conferencing sound system, all operated from a control room adjacent to the interpreters' booths.

Live coverage from the Palais of Nations is shared with the European Broadcast Union (EBU) through a fibre-optic link and offered to all accredited Geneva-based news agencies, ensuring the immediate global transmission of video feeds. Edited UNTV news packages are available for download to support national and international media outlets as they cover the news of the United Nations in Geneva. Audiovisual content is also freely accessible on the UN Geneva multimedia platform, UNifeed and UN Web TV.



In a significant development and to answer a growing demand, UN Geneva is also increasingly publishing real-time updates on UN News, the official news service of the United Nations.

Beyond emergencies and conflict zones, UNTV Geneva has provided a rich array of news leads throughout the year. Key topics included climate-crisis updates from the World Meteorological Organization, reports on avian influenza and tobacco from the World Health Organization, migration and refugee stories from the International Organization for Migration and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and reports on the AI for Good Global Summit from the International Telecommunication Union.

UNTV Geneva continues to be a vital source of timely and impactful news, keeping the world informed about the critical work of the United Nations.

Technicians from the United Nations Television team run the audiovisual equipment in the recently renovated Press Room at the Palais des Nations as the Information Service's biweekly press briefing is on air.
©UN Photo

UN Geneva's video series hub: bringing global stories to life

In late 2024, UN Geneva launched a video series hub as part of the News & Media section of its website. The new platform, developed by the United Nations Information Service in Geneva, connects audiences with the work of the United Nations through powerful visual storytelling. The hub houses all of UN Geneva's video series, offering a clean, user-friendly experience that highlights the impact and aspirations of the United Nations.

The hub features series such as the following:

- Hard Choices, which explores the global cost-of-living crisis.
- Geneva Witness, spotlighting remarkable individuals in International Geneva.
- Intern Testimonials, a series made by interns to showcase their inspiring journeys at UN Geneva.

In addition to the productions of the Information Service, the hub hosts videos from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Human Rights Council and the UN Library and Archives Geneva. This joint venture provides a lasting platform for these videos, extending their reach beyond a social media post.

3 Minutes was the latest project of the Information Service added to the hub. Launched in September, the monthly series consists of bite-sized explainer videos, each under three minutes, which delve into major United Nations themes and events for a deeper understanding. In 2024, 3 Minutes covered timely topics such as the Summit of the Future; disinformation, as part of Global Media and Information Literacy Week; Universal Children's Day; and the experiences of migrants.

Suitable for a wide audience, but especially targeted at young people, the 3 Minutes videos contain easily digestible content and avoid institutional jargon. They are presented in a dynamic format with many illustrations and are promoted across social media and YouTube to maximize reach.

3 Minutes is a bilingual show, hosted by English-speaking and French-speaking presenters, with subtitles to emphasize the multilingual nature of the United Nations. This approach broadens the show's appeal, extending its impact beyond International Geneva. A dedicated team at the Information Service handles all aspects of production, from research, writing and design to filming and editing.

The video series hub and its innovative content support UN Geneva's efforts to engage with the public, to communicate the priorities and messages of the United Nations and to make complex issues accessible and relatable. This initiative not only informs but also inspires, reinforcing the commitment of the United Nations to addressing global challenges through collective action.



The presenters of 3 Minutes film the show's episodes in the United Nations Television Geneva studio at the Palais des Nations.
©UN Photo

Strengthening trust through engagement, education and diplomacy

In 2024, UN Geneva ramped up its efforts to foster trust in multilateralism through dynamic public engagement, educational initiatives and events that underscored the importance of international cooperation.

Empowering minds globally

The UN Library and Archives Geneva hosted online learning sessions to introduce students and researchers to its rich archival resources. Participants delved into platforms like the [UN Archives Geneva](#), which showcases historical documents from the League of Nations and the United Nations, and the [UN Digital Library](#), a repository of official United Nations documents, publications and speeches. Globally accessible, these resources preserve and share the institutional heritage of the United Nations.



Journey to the Summit of the Future

In preparation for the Summit of the Future, which was held in New York in September, the UN Library and Archives Geneva produced a video series entitled *Journey to the Summit of the Future*. The series tackled key themes that are shaping the global agenda, including restoring trust in multilateralism, engaging young people in decision-making, strengthening the global financial architecture, and addressing the intersection of climate change and gender equality. The episodes provided valuable insights for Member States and the general public alike, sparking informed dialogue on these important issues.

The Director of the UN Library and Archives Geneva, Francesco Pisano, and Associate Librarian, Natalie Alexander, record an episode of the video series *Journey to the Summit of the Future*.
©UN Photo: UN Library and Archives Geneva

Amplifying young people's voices

On the [International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace](#), UN Geneva spotlighted youth perspectives by inviting graduate students from diverse backgrounds to engage with United Nations officials. Students debated the evolution of international cooperation and posed questions to the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, who reflected on their insights in a dedicated video. The initiative highlighted the importance of intergenerational dialogue in UN Geneva's efforts to strengthen multilateralism.

Educational diplomacy at the UN Museum Geneva

UN Geneva also leveraged the [UN Museum Geneva](#) as a hub for education and diplomacy. Special guided tours for permanent mission staff and United Nations staff garnered significant interest. Staff of Geneva-based permanent missions even integrated visits to the Museum into their learning activities and end-of-year reflections. These tailored visits demonstrated the role of the Museum in showcasing the evolution of the city of Geneva as a global diplomacy centre, reinforcing its long-standing value in promoting multilateralism.



A group of students visits the UN Museum Geneva.
©UN Photo: UN Library and Archives Geneva

Building understanding of disarmament through conversation

In an era of complex disarmament issues and a rapidly evolving peace and security landscape, the Geneva branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) welcomes increased curiosity and questions on the role of disarmament. The branch is making strides in its efforts to expand its outreach activities and build understanding of disarmament. The Geneva Disarmament Conversation Series, supported by the Government of Switzerland, plays a crucial role in this effort.

The Conversation Series provides an informal platform for a wide audience, including Geneva-based delegates and members of United Nations entities, think tanks, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions, to engage in discussions on disarmament. In 2024, six sessions of the Conversation Series were held. They covered a range of topics, including the environmental impact of weapons and the linkages between disarmament and human rights. Other discussions were focused on the New Agenda for Peace, the threat of improvised explosive devices, and the role of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects in environmental protection. The sessions offered participants the chance to pose questions to and gain insights from experts, fostering a deeper understanding of topical disarmament issues and their impact on global peace and security.

As part of its outreach efforts, UNODA also hosted a public information exchange on the regulation of incendiary weapons, held during the 2024 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects. Experts shared the latest developments, enhancing transparency and information integrity for participants.



The Chief of the Geneva branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, Mélanie Régimbal, and the Head of Research, Innovation, Standards, and Operations at the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, Armen Harutyunyan, at the session on the environmental impact of weapons held as part of the Geneva Disarmament Conversation Series.
©UN Photo: Mariia Koroleva

Immersion in diplomacy: putting multilingualism into action

At UN Geneva, multilingualism is integral to daily operations. English and French, UN Geneva’s two working languages, are both used and promoted.

To further encourage the use of French by the wider International Geneva diplomatic community, UN Geneva, in partnership with the International Organisation of la Francophonie, designed and hosted a dynamic two-day, in-person workshop simulating a diplomatic summit in French on the topic of “The challenges of diplomacy in the age of artificial intelligence”.

The Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, and the Permanent Representative of Lebanon and Chair of the Group of Francophone Ambassadors, Salim Baddoura, welcomed participants to the workshop. Both acknowledged the robust and effective partnership between the International Organisation of la Francophonie and UN Geneva in their opening remarks, and both committed to further promoting multilingualism and advocating for the role of French in diplomacy. In addition, they underlined the need to reinforce the use of French in international organizations.

The group of 15 participants was composed of diplomats, first and second secretaries, counsellors and representatives from permanent missions, as well as staff members of international organizations, including UN Geneva. The participants took on roles as delegates of fictional countries and engaged in lively debates, crafted national stances and formed strategic alliances, all exclusively in French.

The event was a success, enabling participants to effectively practise their ability to navigate complex multilateral discussions and perfect their diplomatic French – a language of precision and nuance. It also allowed participants to develop their French language skills specifically with regard to the pressing topic of artificial intelligence, an increasingly important issue on the agenda of international organizations. By bringing together various stakeholders, the workshop fostered connections, broke down silos and created networks across International Geneva.



As part of the simulation of a diplomatic summit in French, participants represented fictional countries and engaged in dynamic debates on the topic of “The challenges of diplomacy in the age of artificial intelligence”.
©UN Photo: Centre for Learning and Multilingualism

Championing gender equality through art

Gender equality is at the heart of the three pillars of the United Nations: human rights, development, and peace and security. In his report *Our Common Agenda*, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, made an ambitious commitment to place women and girls at the centre of renewed multilateralism.

In this context, UN Geneva continues to make significant strides in championing gender equality in its daily work, including through outreach and art initiatives. In 2022, at the initiative of the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, the exhibition series *17 Faces of Action* was launched. Organized in collaboration with Member States and the Swiss Association of Women and Empowerment, the series recognizes the important contribution of women to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



The Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, speaks with a visitor at the *17 Faces of Action* exhibition in Nairobi.
©UN Photo: Elena Zhelokhovtseva

The initiative was further expanded in 2024, spotlighting inspiring stories of women in powerful national exhibitions in three countries. In February, the initiative arrived at the University of Nairobi, shining a light on the tremendous progress made by Kenya in fostering gender equality and its determination to eliminate gender-based violence. Then in May, the exhibition was held in San Salvador. There, building upon a rich national history, portraits showed remarkable women who shattered gender barriers, paving the way for progress and inspiring generations to dream big and make a difference. Lastly, in August, the exhibition travelled to Mongolia, where it was displayed at the Chinggis Khaan National Museum in Ulaanbaatar. The photos presented powerful women whose roles shaped national identity and progress, serving as a contemporary reflection of the ongoing commitment of the Government of Mongolia towards gender equality.



A ribbon is cut to officially open the *17 Faces of Action* exhibition in El Salvador. From left to right: the coordinator of international relations at the Dr. José Matías Delgado University, Rebeca González, the Cheffe de Cabinet of the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Lidiya Grigoreva, the Mayor of La Libertad Sur, Henry Flores, and the President of the Swiss Association of Women and Empowerment, Victoria Desyat.
©Swiss Association of Women and Empowerment



The Mongolian edition of the *17 Faces of Action* exhibition on display in Ulaanbaatar.
©UN Photo: Elena Zhelokhovtseva

In July, at the Palais des Nations, UN Geneva, together with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), launched *Not a Woman's Job? Changing Faces of Science and Tech*. This new sequel of the *Not a Woman's Job?* photo exhibition honoured women who have made remarkable contributions to the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The exhibition comprised 112 photos, including 74 submitted by permanent missions, 19 by ITU and 19 by CERN. This year's edition aimed to challenge outdated stereotypes about women working in STEM, to celebrate their professional contributions and to inspire younger generations to pursue similar careers.



The Deputy Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union, Tomas Lamanauskas, delivers remarks at the opening of the *Not a Woman's Job? Changing Faces of Science and Tech* photo exhibition.
©UN Photo: François Vioud



Promotion visual for the *Not a Woman's Job? Changing Faces of Science and Tech* exhibition.

An earlier spin-off of the same exhibition, *Not a Woman's Job? Breaking Barriers in Sports*, originally unveiled in 2023, was displayed in Paris in July and August, ahead of the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. A selection of 13 portrait photos from the original exhibition, which had been jointly organized by UN Geneva and the International Olympic Committee, was installed on the perimeter fence of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. The portraits, which celebrated athletes from all over the world, resonated with locals and tourists as they attended the Olympic and Paralympic celebrations.

The *Not a Woman's Job?* exhibition series contributes to global efforts to bridge the gender gap in the work sphere, regardless of the field. It also sends a strong message to young women around the world that talent and skills transcend gender.

Scan the QR code to discover the virtual exhibition [*Not a Woman's Job? Changing Faces of Science and Tech*](#)



Pedestrians discover the portraits of women athletes displayed on the perimeter fence of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs in Paris.
©Judith Litvine/MEAE

Peace begins with her

Since 1977, every year on 8 March many countries and communities around the world celebrate International Women’s Day. In 2024, UN Geneva partnered with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and others to organize a unique event entitled “Peace Begins with Her”. The event, comprising an art installation and a panel discussion, reaffirmed the critical role of women in peacebuilding and conflict resolution and amplified calls for women’s full and meaningful participation in peace processes.

To celebrate the women tirelessly working for peace around the world and to highlight their diversity, a special mosaic art project, entitled *Peace Begins with Her*, was erected by the Inside Out initiative. Fifty-six portraits of women peacemakers and peacebuilders were installed on the large glass facade of Uni Mail, the main building of the University of Geneva. Students, visitors, senior United Nations officials and activists joined the interactive art installation; their 180 portraits were added to the large-scale mosaic as a pledge to support the vital role of women in peace.

The panel discussion, on the importance of promoting the participation of women in peace and security, was also hosted at the University of Geneva. Representatives from UN Geneva’s host country, Switzerland, and from the United Nations system and academia, discussed the challenges and stakes involved in integrating women into peacekeeping and conflict-resolution processes. In her welcome remarks, the Director of the United Nations Information Service Geneva, Alessandra Vellucci, speaking on behalf of the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, highlighted the tangible and positive impact of the inclusion of women in peacekeeping operations. She stressed that the achievement of gender equality, whether in peace and security or in other fields, remained a necessary foundation for a better world.

A month-long “Peace Begins with Her” digital campaign was also carried out jointly in March by UN-Women, UN Peacekeeping and UN Geneva across their wide range of social media channels, using the hashtags #PeaceBegins and #WomenPeaceSecurity.

Scan these QR codes to see social media posts published on the occasion



Scan the QR code to watch the panel discussion.



A month-long digital campaign, entitled *Peace Begins with Her*, was shared across a wide range of social media channels.



INSIDE OUT is a global and participatory art project that allows individuals and communities to spark collaborations and conversations by displaying large-scale black and white portraits in public spaces.

To celebrate International Women’s Day, a mosaic of large black-and-white portraits of women peacemakers and peacebuilders was installed on the glass facade of the main building of the University of Geneva.
©UN Photo

“Multilateral and inclusive partnerships, with women fully involved, are key to creating conducive conditions for sustainable peace and development.”

Director of the United Nations Information Service in Geneva, Alessandra Vellucci, at the “Peace begins with her” panel discussion.

Bringing local and international Geneva together

The *Meet Genève internationale* exhibition, held from 16 to 20 April at Balexert – the largest shopping mall in French-speaking Switzerland – was a dynamic public outreach initiative. Set in the spacious atrium of the mall, the event provided an ideal environment for engaging the public and raising awareness about the vital work of Geneva-based United Nations entities and other international organizations.

Jointly organized by UN Geneva’s Perception Change Project and the United Nations Information Service in Geneva, the event highlighted how global efforts have an impact on local communities. In particular, it showcased the significant work undertaken by the entities and organizations that make up International Geneva and its far-reaching effects around the world.

Sixteen organizations participated, including non-United Nations entities such as the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Geneva Welcome Centre (CAGI) and the organizers of the geneveMonde.ch platform, reflecting the diverse landscape of International Geneva. Attendees showed interest in the global initiatives presented, asked thoughtful questions and engaged in meaningful discussions.

Balexert received over 135,000 visitors during the five-day event, a significant increase from the previous week’s 125,000 visitors. This surge in foot traffic highlighted the event’s success in capturing public interest and sparking curiosity about the work undertaken by international organizations.

The initiative was more than just an exhibition: it connected International Geneva with local Geneva, reinforcing a shared commitment to tackling global challenges through collective action. It also served as a platform for fostering dialogue and strengthening collaboration among participating organizations.

Feedback from both the public and exhibitors was overwhelmingly positive. Many entities and international organizations expressed interest in enhancing inter-agency cooperation and expanding outreach efforts in the future.

Scan the QR code to watch a video of the event’s opening day



Balexert shopping mall hosted the *Meet Genève internationale* exhibition in April. ©UN Photo: François Vioud

The UN Geneva art collection returns to the historical buildings

As well as being an excellent example of 20th century architecture, the Palais des Nations is home to a significant art collection. With paintings, sculptures, artworks on paper and fabric, ceramics, photographs and more, the collection represents the diversity and richness of the world's cultures. The collection comprises over 2,000 works dating from the era of the League of Nations to the present day, and is managed by the UN Library and Archives Geneva.

During the renovation works taking place as part of the Strategic Heritage Plan project, many of the artworks usually displayed in the buildings of the Palais des Nations were removed and securely stored. A temporary heritage storage facility was built on the campus to protect the collection throughout the renovation. The facility was kept under security control and with hydrometrical monitoring to ensure stable storage conditions. Artworks were handled into and out of the facility with the utmost care, thanks to a team of fine arts technicians and a specialist artwork moving company.



A large porcelain vase gifted to UN Geneva in 2017 by the President of China, Xi Jinping, is returned to its original location in Building S1 following the completion of renovation works.
©UN Photo: Strategic Heritage Plan

In 2024, following the completion of the renovation works in some parts of the historical buildings, some of the artworks have been reinstalled in their original location; others will be returned at a later stage. To optimize the display of these items throughout the Palais, a task force was established, chaired by the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, and composed of representatives of various UN Geneva services. The group assesses and advises the Director-General on where to display the artworks, taking into consideration their nature, size, geographical representation and artistic significance.

Scan the QR code to [discover the UN Geneva art collection](#).



The oil painting *Trzy element* ("Three elements" – water, fire and love) by Alfred Lenica is hung by fine arts experts in one of the staircases of Building S1.
©UN Photo: Strategic Heritage Plan



A large illustration of the architectural design for the Palais des Nations, imagined by architects Henri-Paul Nénot and Julien Flegenhaimer, hangs near the office of the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, in the Secretariat Building.
©UN Photo: Strategic Heritage Plan



A series of twenty-two lithographs by Robert Rauschenberg adorns a corridor in Building S1. Prior to the Strategic Heritage Plan project, the artworks were displayed in Building A, near the Assembly Hall.
©UN Photo: Strategic Heritage Plan

The interactive version of the Report is available from the 2024 UN Geneva Annual Report website, where you can also download an accessible PDF version of the Report.

<https://www.ungeneva.org/annualreport>

