



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.
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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.



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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.





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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