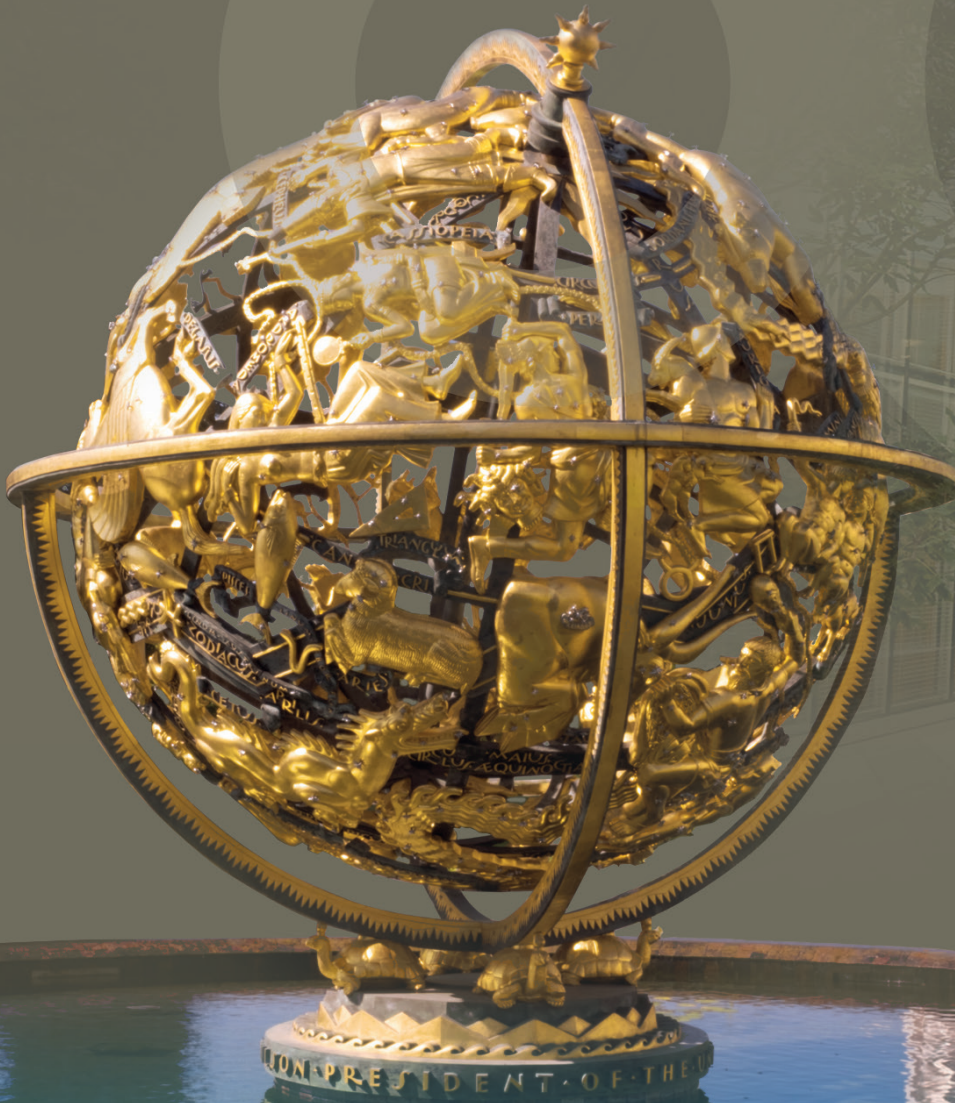


2025 UN Geneva annual report

UN Geneva at 80: building resilient multilateralism for tomorrow



UNITED NATIONS
GENEVA

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Foreword by the Director-General

The year 2025 marked an important moment for the United Nations. As the Organization celebrated its eightieth anniversary, UN Geneva continued to uphold its long tradition as a centre of dialogue, diplomacy, and international cooperation – while adapting to a rapidly changing world and navigating significant transformations at the Palais des Nations.

Despite financial constraints and the operational challenges posed by the Strategic Heritage Plan, UNOG delivered fully on its mandates. Geneva once again remained a leading UN hub, hosting almost 9,000 meetings, welcoming thousands of delegates and facilitating negotiations on issues that shape global peace, human rights, and sustainable development. UN Geneva also continued to serve as a trusted platform for peace and security dialogue, hosting discussions on Cyprus and the Geneva International Discussions, while supporting the work of the Conference on Disarmament. These achievements were made possible thanks to the professionalism, dedication, and resilience of our staff, who ensured continuity of service even as conference rooms were closed for renovation and workspaces were reconfigured.

In 2025, we also strengthened our role as a platform for inclusive and networked multilateralism. Through sustained engagement with Member States, UN entities, civil society, academia, youth, and the private sector, UN Geneva helped advance the priorities of the Organization, including the Pact for the Future and the UN80 Initiative. Our partnerships deepened, our outreach expanded, connecting millions of people worldwide with the work of the United Nations, and our commitment to transparency and public engagement grew stronger.

At the same time, we made significant progress in modernizing the Palais des Nations. The reopening of Building A and the Assembly Hall, the relocation of 46 linear kilometres of library and archival materials, and the advancement of major renovation phases all marked important milestones. The inscription of key human rights archives in the Memory of the World Register of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) further underscored Geneva's role in preserving and promoting the legacy of multilateralism. These efforts are not only about preserving a historic landmark – they are about building a more accessible, sustainable, and resilient home for renewed multilateralism.

As we look ahead to 2026, we do so with a sense of purpose and optimism. The opening of the Portail des Nations will offer a new gateway for the public to engage with the United Nations. The continued modernization of the Palais will strengthen our ability to support diplomacy in the decades to come. And our commitment to inclusion, gender equality, anti-racism, and accessibility will remain central to everything we do.

I am deeply grateful to our staff, our partners across International Geneva and beyond, and the Member States whose trust and collaboration make our work possible. Together, we will continue to uphold the values of the UN Charter and ensure that Geneva remains a vibrant, dynamic, and indispensable hub for multilateral cooperation.

Tatiana Valovaya

Under-Secretary-General

Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva

Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament

Summary

“A resilient, innovative and future-oriented institution that continues to strengthen Geneva’s role as a global centre of multilateralism”

Multilateral leadership

Throughout 2025 – the year in which the United Nations celebrated its eightieth anniversary – UN Geneva demonstrated resilience and adaptability, delivering fully on its mandates despite liquidity constraints, ongoing reform initiatives and operational disruptions associated with the Strategic Heritage Plan.

UN Geneva remained a leading global hub for multilateral processes, servicing 8,786 meetings, including 2,470 with interpretation, and delivering multilingual conference services that supported major intergovernmental processes in Geneva and beyond. In addition, UN Geneva facilitated multi-stakeholder engagement aligned with the UN80 Initiative and the Pact for the Future.

Transforming the Palais

Major progress was achieved in the implementation of the Strategic Heritage Plan. Building A of the Palais des Nations, including the iconic Assembly Hall, and section AB, returned to service, while Buildings B and E and section S2 were vacated to enable the next phase of work. In parallel, UN Geneva completed the unprecedented relocation of 46 linear kilometres of library materials and extensive archival holdings, safeguarding irreplaceable intellectual heritage while ensuring business continuity. These milestones contributed to the provision of accessible, safe and sustainable workplaces and conferencing facilities while preserving the historic heritage of the Palais des Nations.

Diplomatic engagement

Throughout the year, the Palais des Nations hosted major diplomatic engagements, including high-level discussions on Cyprus, several rounds of the Geneva International Discussions and numerous intergovernmental meetings. UN Geneva also supported multilateral cooperation in disarmament through the Conference on Disarmament, meetings on non-proliferation and arms control and the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Biological Weapons Convention.

The Director-General engaged widely across the United Nations system and beyond, including through 221 multi-stakeholder events, 60 bilateral meetings with States Members of the United Nations, and 18 Executive Briefings connecting senior United Nations officials with the diplomatic community in Geneva.

Global reach

Communications reached global audiences, with content distributed to 830 broadcasters and media organizations in 97 countries and the UN Geneva website recording 4 million views. Outreach remained extensive. The United Nations Information Service in Geneva supported global media through press briefings, webcasts, multimedia coverage of activities and digital platforms, reaching millions of users. More than 46,825 visitors came to the Palais, while the future Portail des Nations Visitor Centre is expected to welcome around 180,000 visitors when it opens its doors in 2026. At the same time, cultural diplomacy, exhibitions and educational programmes connected diplomats, members of civil society, academics and young people with the work of the Organization.

Knowledge & heritage

The UN Library and Archives Geneva further consolidated Geneva’s position as a centre of multilateral knowledge. A landmark achievement was the inclusion of key human rights archives in the Memory of the World Register maintained by UNESCO. Even as physical spaces closed for renovation, the UN Library and Archives Geneva ensured continued global access through virtual library services, digital publications and partnerships with academic institutions.

Innovation

UN Geneva continued to link innovation with long-term sustainability. For example, the Beyond Lab advanced forward-looking initiatives, such as the Youth Network on Beyond GDP, the Futures Balance Tool and the global Beyonds Challenge, positioning Geneva as a hub for intergenerational and sustainability-focused policy innovation.

Institutional resilience

Across UN Geneva, divisions and services ensured the continuity of operations while also advancing institutional priorities, promoting gender equality, strengthening action against racism and working to fulfil environmental sustainability commitments. Security operations ensured a safe environment for staff and delegates.

Looking ahead

These achievements, delivered amid significant challenges, demonstrate UN Geneva’s capacity to adapt, prioritize and continue serving Member States despite severe financial and operational constraints. They reflect a resilient, innovative and future-oriented institution that continues to strengthen Geneva’s role as a global centre of multilateralism.

Snapshot of achievements in 2025

Throughout 2025, UN Geneva delivered exceptionally strong results across a broad range of priorities, including multilateral diplomacy, multilingual conference services, public information, equality and inclusion efforts and the safe, sustainable operation of the Palais des Nations, despite severe financial and operational constraints. These achievements reflected UN Geneva’s continued adaptation to evolving demands, aligned with the UN80 Initiative and future-oriented priorities.

1. Multilateral engagement and partnerships

UN Geneva significantly expanded its role as a multi-stakeholder platform:

- 221 multi-stakeholder events held (up 9% from 2024)
- 60 meetings held with Member States, including 16 with Heads of State or Government
- 1 visit of the President of the General Assembly, 4 visits of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and 3 visits of the Deputy Secretary-General received
- 18 Executive Briefings held for Geneva’s diplomatic community
- 79 meetings of non-governmental organizations and numerous side events facilitated
- Monthly civil society newsletter published and digital resources expanded
- Collaboration through the United Nations-World Economic Forum Strategic Partnership Framework for the 2030 Agenda furthered
- Active role played in Building Bridges 2025, focused on sustainable finance

2. Conference services and multilingualism

UN Geneva maintained its position as the leading conferencing hub of the United Nations:

- 8,786 meetings serviced, including major global conferences (World Health Assembly, International Labour Conference, and sessions of the Human Rights Council and of the Conference on Disarmament) and other meetings
- 88% satisfaction rate achieved in participant surveys
- Transcription of 17,000 hours of meetings in all six official languages of the United Nations carried out using the fully automated speech-to-text (FAST) system
- 99.9% of parliamentary documents issued simultaneously in all mandated languages

3. Administrative and support services

UN Geneva provided comprehensive administrative support in the areas of human resources, finance, information and communications technology, procurement and medical services:

- Full budget executed, under liquidity constraints
- 25+ human resource briefings, 9 Career Tips sessions and Inter-Agency Career Week, with 40,000 participants, held
- 6 client board meetings serviced, and client engagement mechanisms expanded
- 368 language courses delivered, with 4,122 participants
- 1,717 vaccines administered

4. Strategic Heritage Plan

UN Geneva, through the Strategic Heritage Plan, continued to modernize and rejuvenate the Palais des Nations, to leave a legacy for future generations. Major milestones included:

- Reopening of Building A (Assembly Hall) – July 2025
- Return to operation of section AB – September 2025
- Closure of Buildings B and E, and section S2, for renovation
- Relocation of 46 linear kilometres of UN Library and Archives Geneva materials and extensive archival holdings, safeguarding irreplaceable intellectual heritage while ensuring business continuity
- SwF 37.2 million in works delivered in 2025
- Extensive accessibility upgrades completed (ramps, automated doors, adapted furniture and guiding strips)
- Significant advancements made in the work on the Portail des Nations, the new UN Geneva visitor centre, scheduled to open in 2026

5. Communications, media and public outreach

United Nations Information Service in Geneva delivered high-volume, high-impact communications:

161 press briefings, 447 press releases, 511 videos, 904 webcasts and 1,190 radio programmes

Content distributed to 830 broadcasters in 97 countries

Social media reach: 2.6 million followers

Website: 4 million views

Visitor service: 46,825 visitors

Youth engagement as a priority: sixty-third edition of the Annual Graduate Study Programme, Young Activists Summit and multiple student outreach events

6. Centre for knowledge, research and cultural activities

The UN Library and Archives Geneva continued to strengthen its role as an active knowledge hub for the international community and researchers in the areas of multilateralism and international cooperation, through its collections, events, cultural activities and the UN Museum Geneva:

Global recognition received, with the registration of key human rights archives in the Memory of the World Register maintained by UNESCO, strengthening the visibility of UN Geneva’s documentary heritage

Full global access to collections maintained despite building closures, through virtual library services, digital publications and partnerships with academic institutions

Digital access to and research use of the holdings of the UN Library and Archives Geneva expanded

Broad outreach and learning activities delivered, connecting diplomats, civil society and youth with United Nations history and multilateralism

Cultural diplomacy enhanced, with the cultural activities programme, comprising 24 cultural activities, 17 side events and 14 special events

7. Inclusion, gender equality and anti-racism

UN Geneva maintained gender parity at all professional levels and was recognized as a Best Performer in the 2018–2025 cycle of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

Anti-racism efforts included:

High-level commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Implementation of a campaign on anti-racism and mental health

Launch of the UN Geneva training course on addressing racism and racial discrimination

Enhanced transparency regarding the racial and ethnic diversity of leadership

Disability-inclusion efforts included:

Organization of five awareness-raising events marking United Nations-mandated international observance days related to disability inclusion

Improved accessibility through Strategic Heritage Plan renovations

100% coverage of mandated accessibility services, including captioning and sign language interpretation

8. Innovation in advancing beyond the Sustainable Development Goals

The Beyond Lab played a central role in advancing innovation:

Launched the Youth Network on Beyond GDP at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development

Developed the Futures Balance Tool, a model for long-term policy impact, powered by artificial intelligence

Organized the global Beyonds Challenge, for which 409 submissions from 93 countries were received

Hosted major intergenerational dialogues at the Building Bridges 2025 event and in the context of the sixteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

9. Security and safety

Under the authority of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, as the designated official responsible for the security of United Nations personnel and premises in Switzerland, the UN Geneva Security and Safety Service helped ensure a safe and secure operating environment through:

Facilitation of secure access for more than 50,000 delegates and conference participants attending over 1,200 events at the Palais des Nations

Issuance of 12 monthly security reports and 10 events-related security threat information notes

Deployment of 55 officers to 11 major United Nations conferences abroad

Enhancement of cooperation with the Geneva cantonal police (including through a K9 training partnership)

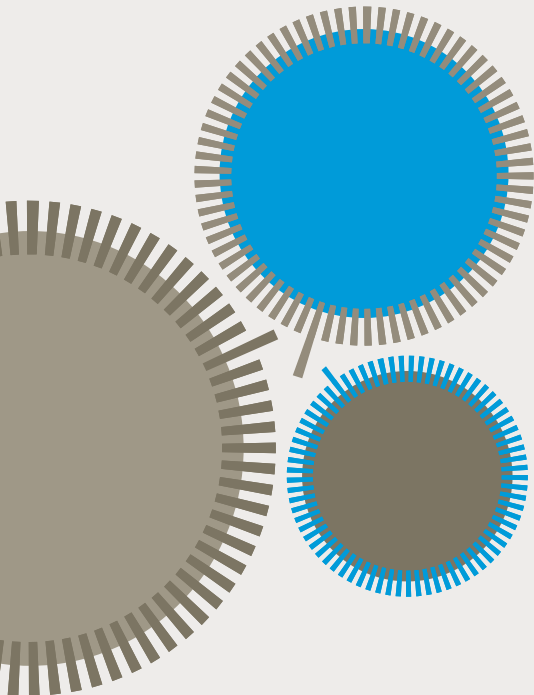
Delivery of 480 individual training sessions for security staff



António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, briefs the press after the informal meeting on Cyprus held in Geneva on 18 March 2025.

©UN Photo / Violaine Martin

2025 in numbers



People and operations management

As of 31 December 2025, there were **1,378** staff at UN Geneva, representing **113** 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 **6,700** staff across the UN system.

Administrative and operational support was provided to approximately **140** UN entities.

The Human Resources Management Service provided:

- General human resources management
- Policy and legal services
- Learning and training activities
- Medical and well-being services
- Professional development and career transition support
- Through **13** global recruitment events, UN Geneva connected with **4,100** prospective candidates across the world.

The Client Support Centre:

- Responded to more than **10,000** telephone calls
- Provided **19,477** in-person consultations
- Issued **6,526** cartes de légitimation

The Financial Resources Management Service:

- Managed accounts and trust funds
- Performed treasury functions
- Processed payroll and accounts payable
- Managed the budget
- Processed more than **480,000** disbursements

The Central Support Services:

- Handled procurements valued at approximately **\$106.6** million
- Issued **22,859** travel requests representing an estimated value of **\$27.98** million, together with **7,369** United Nations travel documents
- Cancelled **14,868** United Nations travel documents (United Nations laissez-passer, United Nations certificates, and United Nations Family Certificates)
- Issued **832** G4 cables and **409** visa notes verbales
- Processed **38.9** tons of items through the diplomatic pouches, on behalf of Geneva-based United Nations entities



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 to **18,020** staff from **37** UN entities in the field and at main duty stations, including the processing of **10,061** medical clearances and 3,309 travel clearances.
- Administered **1,717** travel and preventive vaccines, conducted **1,333** medical consultations and supported **36** medical evacuations

The Staff Counsellor's Office:

- Provided **26** well-being webinars and training sessions attended by **1,103** staff
- Disseminated **20** information announcements, including monthly bulletins
- The United Nations Staff Mutual Insurance Society against Sickness and Accidents provided medical insurance for staff, retirees and their dependants, processing more than **550,000** medical invoices for over **36,200** persons.

Security and safety

The Security and Safety Service:

- Screened **795,134** persons and **219,519** vehicles entering the Palais des Nations
- Issued **125,916** identification badges
- Supported more than **50,000** delegates and conference participants attending **1,200** events
- Welcomed more than **46,825** visitors through guided tours
- Deployed **55** security officers to **11** UN conferences abroad
- Delivered **480** training sessions
- Issued **12** monthly security situation reports and **10** threat information notes
- Conducted **18** joint K9 training exercises with the Geneva cantonal police



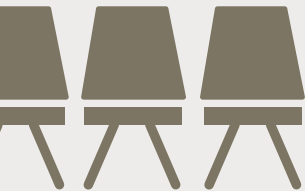


Environmental awareness

1,919 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 512 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.

30,986 m³ of water was used by UN Geneva.



Conference management

The Division of Conference Management:

Serviced 8,786 meetings, including 1,349 outside Geneva

Provided interpretation for 28% of meetings

Produced 316 summary records

Translated 71.4 million words

Strategic Heritage Plan

The Strategic Heritage Plan project invested SwF 37.2 million on renovation work on the historic buildings of the Palais des Nations.

The Strategic Heritage Plan Team:

Completed the renovation of the Assembly Hall and section AB of historic Building A, marking the final phase of the restoration of the Palais des Nations’ principal conference facilities

Began the next phase of the project with the permanent closure of Building E and the start of preparations for its renovation

Welcomed more than 250 staff members and representatives from 25 permanent missions to the Strategic Heritage Plan Open House, celebrating the reopening of historic Building A

Held more than 20 bi-weekly briefings to keep Strategic Heritage Plan focal points informed of renovation progress



Peace

UN Geneva:

Hosted the informal meeting on Cyprus convened by the Secretary-General, resulting in agreement on six trust-building initiatives

Hosted three rounds of the International Geneva Discussions

Co-organized the Geneva Peace Talks (440+ participants) and Geneva Peace Week (3,300 in-person and 2,400 virtual participants), reinforcing Geneva’s role as a global hub for peace dialogue



Director-General

The Director-General:

Held 60 bilateral meetings with representatives of Member States from all 5 geographical regions, including 16 with Heads of State and Government, foreign ministers and other high-level dignitaries

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

Held 61 meetings with representatives of United Nations entities, other international organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia, including 30 with senior United Nations officials and heads of international organizations

Received the letters of credentials of 43 new permanent representatives and the nomination letters of 3 new permanent observers

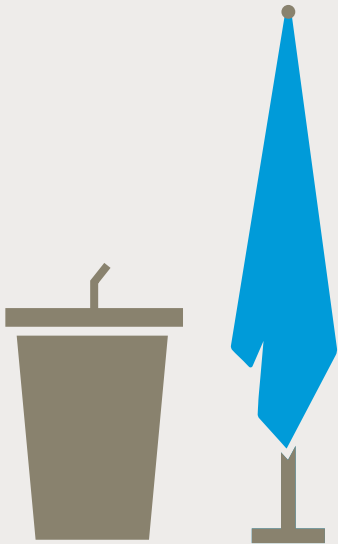
Held 18 Executive Briefings, with an average attendance of 68 delegations

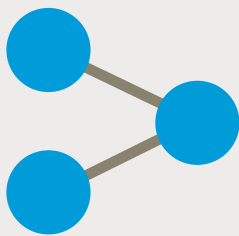
Published 319 posts on X

Participated in 221 events, including 162 speaking engagements or messages of the Director-General

Went on 10 missions:

- Mission 1
January:
Director-General on mission in Davos, Switzerland, to participate in the **Annual Meeting of the WEF and the SRSG Retreat** in Mont Pelerin (21–23 January 2025)
- Mission 2
February:
Director-General on mission in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to open the Exhibition **“17 faces of action”**, organized by UNOG and the Association of Swiss Women and Empowerment (6–10 February 2025)
- Mission 3
March:
Director-General on mission in Baku, Azerbaijan, to participate in the **XII Global Baku Forum** (12–14 March 2025)
- Mission 4
March:
Director-General on mission in New York, USA, to participate in the **United Nations Senior Women Leaders Retreat 2025** (25–30 March)
- Mission 5
June:
Director-General on mission in St. Petersburg, Russia, to represent the Secretary-General at the 28th **St. Petersburg International Economic Forum** (16–21 June 2025)
- Mission 6
July:
Director-General on mission in Dubrovnik, Croatia, to represent the Secretary-General in the **Dubrovnik Forum** (9–11 July 2025)
- Mission 7
August:
Director-General on mission in Locarno, Switzerland, to participate in the **Diplomacy Day** (10–12 August 2025)
- Mission 8
October:
Director-General on mission in Rome, Italy, to the **Sovereign Order of Malta** (4–8 October 2025)
- Mission 9
October:
Director-General on mission in Beijing, China, to participate in the **Global Leaders’ Meeting on Women** (12–14 October 2025)
- Mission 10
December:
Director-General on mission in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, to participate in the High-Level **Forum on the International Year of Peace and Trust** (10–12 December 2025)



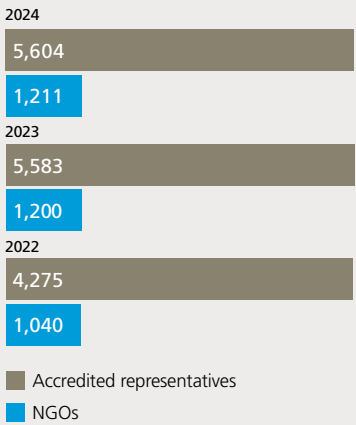


Liaison with non-governmental organizations

UN Geneva:

Accredited **5,603** representatives of **1,220** non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to UN Geneva

Facilitated **79** meetings of NGOs



Learning and development

The Centre for Learning and Multilingualism:

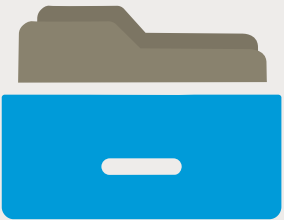
Delivered **368** language training courses to **4,122** participants, including **2,243** students in French, **663** in Spanish, **405** in English, **334** in Arabic, **243** in Russian and **231** in Chinese

Delivered **80** management and communication workshops to **1,918** participants

Supported **59,455** participants through career development and career transition workshops

Welcomed **845** participants to the pre-retirement seminar

Provided **163** hours of career coaching to UN Geneva staff



Library and archives

The United Nations Library Geneva:

Moved over **46** linear kilometres of Library and Archives collections to a temporary location during Strategic Heritage Plan renovation works

Supported **7,318** client interactions

Provided access to **256,866** information sources

Added **35,409** print and digital resources to the catalogue

Acquired **5,694** new collection items

Recorded **99,148** views of online research guides

Digitized **2,638** UN official documents and **3,743** archival documents

Delivered **17** training sessions

Generated **1.1** million page views by **468,800** users on the online Archives platform

Digitized **884** UN official documents for the Official Document System, a total of **18,985** pages

Processed more than **500** client queries and transferred **321.3** linear metres of archives

Communication and outreach

2,581,000 followers across UN Geneva's 5 main social media platforms as at 31 December:

X (English): **1,119,000** (+4.3%)

Facebook: **834,000** (+14.3%)

Instagram: **432,000** (+14.3%)

LinkedIn: **201,700** (+19.6%)

X (French): **16,740** (+13.2%)

The United Nations Information Service in Geneva:

Generated **82.1** million impressions (the number of times @UNGeneva posts were seen by social media users) across the 5 social media platforms and **3.1** million engagements (the number of times social media users liked, commented on or shared @UNGeneva posts) across the 5 social media platforms



Produced **221** television news edits for UNifeed

Published **1,325** print and audio stories on UN News: 716 stories were in English, 603 in French and 6 in other official languages of the United Nations

Produced around **40** episodes of the French-language news podcast ONU Info Genève and 26 episodes of *The Next Page*, a podcast on multilateralism

Produced **30** live segments of *UN Roundup* on World Radio Switzerland

Produced **904** webcast videos for UN Web TV

Issued **326** bilingual meeting summaries to the press and other stakeholders, in both English and French. The documents were disseminated to the press, non-governmental organizations and permanent missions

Welcomed **2.47** million unique visitors to ungeneva.org, who visited **4.1** million pages

Welcomed **46,825** visitors on guided tours in 12 languages. These included special events such as tours developed for World Down Syndrome Day. Around 80% of the groups visiting UNOG are made up of pupils and university students

Conducted **8** information programmes for 202 students

Hosted **52** participants from 41 countries through the Annual Graduate Study Programme

Organized **4** Ciné-ONU screenings attended by **657** participants

Accredited **182** resident journalists and **601** temporary journalists

Held **95** hybrid press briefings and subsequent press briefing summaries issued in English

Hosted **70** press conferences given by officials from United Nations agencies, programmes and funds and Member States

Distributed content to **830** broadcasters and media organizations in **97** countries

As part of the Visitors' Service, the Library and Museum welcomed **16,933** visitors before closing for renovations in June. Since then, the online Museum experience has been viewed **13,578** times, while temporary exhibitions at the Palais attracted **14,456** visitors.

Cultural activities

UN Geneva:

Organized **24** cultural activities, **14** special events and **17** side events

Reached nearly **5,000** in-person participants and more than **1.5** million participants during online and hybrid events





Beyond Lab

Through innovative research, intergenerational dialogue and strategic partnerships, the Beyond Lab advanced new approaches to sustainable development and long-term policymaking.

— **1,000+** members from **90+** countries joined the Youth Moving Beyond GDP Network.

— **409** submissions from **93+** countries were received through the Beyonds Challenge, with more than **65%** originating from the global South.

— **20+** stakeholder workshops informed the development of the Futures Balance prototype, now integrated into the first European Union Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness.

— **100+** participants took part in the “What’s Next on Beyond GDP” dialogue.

— The Hope Project launched its first empirical pilot study and developed the first Constructive Hope Scale.

— The Beyond Lab’s LinkedIn community grew by more than **1,450** followers.



Conference on Disarmament

The high-level segment of the Conference on Disarmament continued to serve as a key platform for States to articulate their national priorities and commitments on disarmament at the senior level.

— The 2025 high-level segment was held from 24 to 28 February, with **52** dignitaries attending in person and **6** participating through video messages. Additionally, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the General Assembly also spoke at the high-level segment.

— In 2025, a total of **237** delegates – **139** men and **98** women – participated in the Conference on Disarmament. Of the **87** heads of delegations, **63** were men and **24** were women.



Ivan Pictet, President of Fondation pour Genève (on the left) and António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations (on the right), visit the Portail des Nations construction site, Geneva, 17 March 2025.
©UN Photo / Violaine Martin

Strengthening our mission

Throughout 2025, UN Geneva provided a platform for Member States and stakeholders to address global challenges through dialogue, negotiation and collective action. From peace talks and disarmament discussions to commemorations, international observances and major global conferences, these moments reflect both the breadth of the United Nations mandate and the enduring importance of multilateral cooperation.



United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, addresses the 2025 high-level segment of the Conference on Disarmament.



Executive briefings

Multiple dates

UN Geneva’s executive briefings provide the diplomatic community with opportunities to engage directly with senior United Nations officials on key global issues. In 2025, briefings included updates on the UN80 Initiative from the Under-Secretary-General for Policy, Guy Ryder.

©UN Photo



Support for human rights conferences

Throughout the year

Throughout 2025, the Division of Conference Management supported the regular and special sessions of the Human Rights Council, including discussions on the situations in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and in El Fasher, Sudan. The Division also serviced meetings of the human rights treaty bodies and the universal periodic review, helping support accountability, dialogue and the implementation of international human rights commitments.

©UN Photo



Servicing of major conferences worldwide

Multiple dates

UN Geneva supported two major sessions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2025: the sixty-second session of the subsidiary bodies, held in Bonn, and the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP30), held in Belém, Brazil. Drawing on months of preparation and the expertise of the Division of Conference Management, UN Geneva delivered conference services to more than 56,000 registered delegates at COP30, the second-largest session of the Conference of the Parties in history. The thirtieth session concluded with the adoption of the Belém Political Package.

©UN Photo



Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust

27 January

UN Geneva marked the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust under the guiding theme “Holocaust remembrance for dignity and human rights”. The ceremony featured statements from United Nations officials and delegates and testimony from a Holocaust survivor, reaffirming the importance of remembrance and the defence of human dignity.

©UN Photo

Conference on Disarmament

24 February

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, addressed participants during the high-level segment of the 2025 session of the Conference on Disarmament, the world's sole multilateral negotiating forum on disarmament issues.

©Jean Marc Ferré



Human Rights Council

24 February

The Secretary-General, António Guterres, addressed participants during the high-level segment of the fifty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council, which brought together world leaders, ministers and senior officials to discuss pressing human rights challenges.

©UN Photo



Informal meeting on Cyprus

18 March

The Secretary-General, António Guterres, met with Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders, as well as representatives of Greece, Türkiye and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, during the informal meeting on Cyprus held at the Palais des Nations. The discussions formed part of ongoing United Nations efforts to support dialogue, confidence-building and a peaceful settlement of the Cyprus issue.

©UN Photo / Violaine Martin



International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

21 March

UN Geneva marked the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination through an event bringing together leaders, staff, delegates and youth representatives. More than 200 participants engaged in discussions on inclusion, anti-racism and the shared responsibility to promote dignity, understanding and belonging.

©UN Photo



50 Years of the Biological Weapons Convention

26 March

The commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Biological Weapons Convention – a cornerstone of global biological disarmament – not only brought the international community together in Geneva in 2025 but also engaged stakeholders worldwide. The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs delivered 23 technical and legislative assistance activities across several regions, reaching 820 participants, and convened three official meetings, each attended by approximately 120 delegations and 450 participants, thereby reinforcing the Convention’s vital role in international security and cooperation.

©UN Photo



“What’s next on beyond GDP”

26 March

The Beyond Lab and the International Institute for Sustainable Development jointly convened an event entitled “What’s next on beyond GDP”. Participants at the event explored pathways towards more inclusive and sustainable economies and outlined a road map for advancing alternative measures of progress and prosperity.

©Jeanne Crommelynck



Reflection on the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda

14 April

UN Geneva commemorated the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, honouring the victims and reflecting on the lasting impact of the genocide perpetrated against members of the Tutsi minority by the Hutu extremist-led Government.

©UN Photo



International Law Seminar

30 May

Held alongside the seventy-sixth session of the International Law Commission, the fifty-ninth International Law Seminar brought together young international lawyers from around the world, particularly from developing countries. The Seminar provides participants with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of international law, the work of the Commission and the activities of international organizations based in Geneva.

©François Vioud



World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

29 July

The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, welcomed parliamentary leaders from around 120 countries to the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The Conference concluded with a call for renewed global unity and stronger parliamentary engagement with the United Nations in addressing shared challenges.

©Inter-Parliamentary Union

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

3 June

UN Geneva marked the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers with a flag-raising and wreath-laying ceremony at the United Nations memorial in Ariana Park dedicated to personnel who have lost their lives in the service of peace. Under the theme “The future of peacekeeping”, the event honoured the service and sacrifice of peacekeepers over the past 76 years.

©UN Photo



Intergovernmental negotiating committee on plastic pollution

5–14 August

From 5 to 14 August 2025, the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution met at the United Nations in Geneva to advance negotiations on an instrument to end plastic pollution. More than 2,600 delegates, experts, activists and other stakeholders participated in the discussions.

©UN Photo



World Humanitarian Day

19 August

UN Geneva marked World Humanitarian Day by honouring the humanitarian workers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. A commemorative ceremony paid tribute to the 22 humanitarian workers killed in the 2003 bombing of the Canal Hotel in Baghdad and highlighted the continuing importance of protecting humanitarian personnel worldwide.

©UN Photo



Geneva Peace Talks

1 September

The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, addressed participants at the Geneva Peace Talks, highlighting the importance of dialogue, justice and respect in building a more peaceful and resilient world.

©UN Photo

Geneva Peace Week

13 October

During Geneva Peace Week, participants gathered at UN Geneva to reflect on the theme “80 Years of UN multilateralism: reinforcing a timeless framework for global peace”. The discussion examined the contribution to peace made by the United Nations, the challenges facing multilateralism today and opportunities to strengthen international cooperation for the future.

©GCSP / Florian Golay





UNCTAD16

20–23 October

The sixteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD16) brought together delegations from 170 countries at the Palais des Nations. The conference concluded with the adoption of two outcome documents: the Geneva Consensus and a political declaration aimed at strengthening multilateral cooperation on trade and development.

©UN Photo



Beyond gross domestic product at UNCTAD16

21 October

During UNCTAD16, UNCTAD and the Beyond Lab convened an official parallel event on moving beyond gross domestic product as a measure of progress. During the discussion, policymakers, experts and youth representatives explored how indicators of well-being, equity, sustainability and resilience could help inform decision-making.

©Kristin Faessen



The United Nations at 80

24 October

To mark the eightieth anniversary of the United Nations, the exhibition *Shared Lives, Shared Future* opened at the Palais des Nations in October 2025. Through more than 200 stories from contributors from all 193 Member States, the exhibition illustrated how the work of the United Nations shapes lives and communities around the world. The anniversary was also celebrated with the traditional United Nations Day Concert at Victoria Hall, performed by the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande.

©UN Photo



International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

28 November

Representatives of Member States, observer organizations and civil society gathered at the Palais des Nations for the annual commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, reaffirming support for the rights of the Palestinian people to dignity, justice and self-determination.

©UN Photo

Staff visit Building A during the August 2025 Open House, passing through the Pas perdu near the iconic Assembly Hall, which has since resumed hosting conferences.

©Philippe Morard

Chapter 2

Supporting our ecosystem

Multilateralism is sustained not only by negotiations, but also by the relationships, exchanges and partnerships that connect people across borders and generations. Throughout 2025, UN Geneva brought together and supported youth, diplomats, academics, civil society and local communities through exhibitions, dialogues, cultural initiatives and learning opportunities, helping to strengthen the ecosystem that supports international cooperation.



High-level meeting: from promise to impact

16 January

Participants gathered at the Palais des Nations for the high-level meeting on the theme “From promise to impact: implementing the Pact for the Future and COP29 commitments”, organized by UN Geneva and the Nizami Ganjavi International Center. The event brought together leaders and experts to advance dialogue on multilateral cooperation, sustainable development and climate action.

©Nizami Ganjavi International Center

17 Faces of Action exhibition

5 February

The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, opened the *17 Faces of Action* photo exhibition, which highlighted the importance of the role of women in advancing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. This inspiring exhibition showcased stories of women driving progress on gender equality and sustainable development.

©Lidiya Grigoreva



Broken Chair reopened

20 May

The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, joined Handicap International Suisse and partners at the reopening of the Broken Chair monument on the Place des Nations. A symbol of resilience, humanitarian action and the fight against landmines and cluster munitions, the monument remains one of Geneva’s most recognized landmarks.

©UN Photo

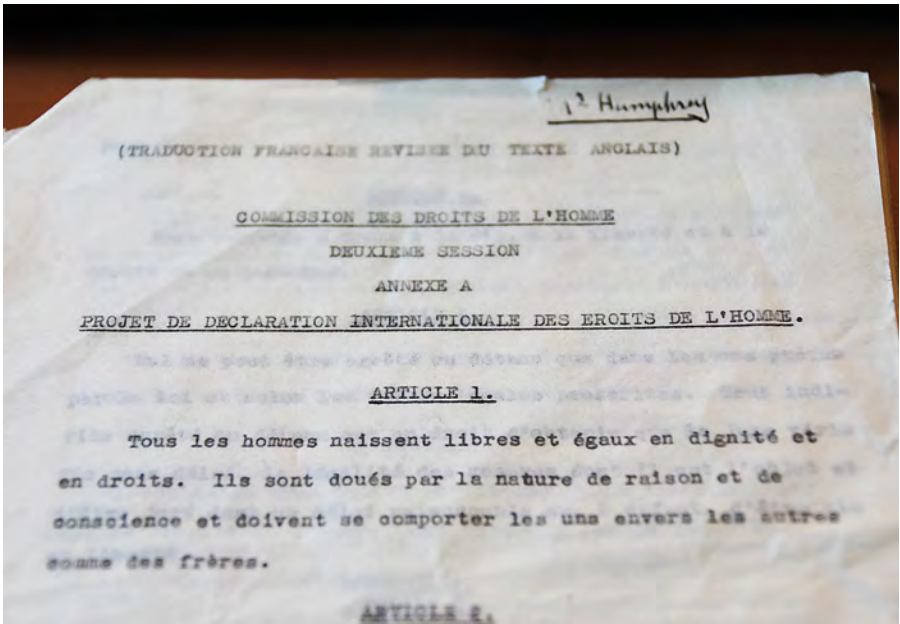


Memory of the World Register

10 June

In 2025, the archives and official documents related to the drafting of the International Bill of Human Rights, held by the UN Library and Archives Geneva, were included in the Memory of the World Register, maintained by UNESCO. The inclusion recognizes the global significance of these unique collections and their contribution to the world’s documentary heritage.

©UN Photo





Women leading in multilateralism exhibition

24 June

The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, opened the exhibition *Not a Woman’s Job?: Women Leading in Multilateralism and Diplomacy* at the Palais des Nations. The exhibition highlighted the contributions of women leaders to diplomacy and international cooperation while exploring the evolving role of women in multilateralism.

©UN Photo



Mix & Mash

25 June

As part of the celebrations for the eightieth anniversary of the United Nations, UN Geneva relaunched the Mix & Mash event. Bringing together colleagues, diplomats, local organizations and community partners, the event encouraged new conversations and interaction between International Geneva and the local community, with a view to building connections, one conversation at a time.

©Ali Khaffane



UN80 youth event

26 June

As part of the celebrations for the eightieth anniversary of the United Nations, UN Geneva and the Geneva Graduate Institute convened a dialogue on the future of multilateralism. At the event, diplomats, United Nations staff and young people explored youth perspectives on global challenges and the role of future generations in shaping international cooperation.

©UN Photo



10 Years of International Gender Champions

3 July

The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Tatiana Valovaya, participated in an event marking the tenth anniversary of the International Gender Champions initiative. Founded in Geneva, the initiative brings together leaders from international organizations, Governments and civil society to advance gender equality and foster inclusive leadership.

©UN Photo



Annual Graduate Study Programme

30 June–11 July

The sixty-third edition of the Annual Graduate Study Programme brought 52 participants from 41 countries to the Palais des Nations under the theme “UN80: building our future together”. Facilitated by 37 speakers, moderators and mentors, the programme offered participants an opportunity to deepen their understanding of multilateralism and global cooperation.

©UN Photo



What’s next on accounting for the future?

30 September

At Building Bridges 2025, UN Geneva and its partners convened “What’s next on accounting for the future?”, a Beyond Lab discussion exploring how Governments, international organizations, young people and the financial sector can better integrate long-term perspectives into policy and decision-making.

©Patrick Anderseck



Vigne des Nations ceremony

9 October

To mark the eightieth anniversary of the United Nations, the United Nations and the canton of Geneva presented the 2024 vintage of the Vigne des Nations to UN Geneva, in recognition of the enduring contribution made by the United Nations to peace, human rights and sustainable development.

©Etat de Genève / Laurent Chiu

Health Day

16 October

As part of the United Nations system workplace mental health and well-being strategy, the UN Geneva Medical Service, together with Clinique La Lignière, hosted a wellness day at the Palais des Nations, offering staff free health screenings, advice and resources to support physical and mental well-being.

©UN Geneva Medical Service



Centre for Digital Humanities and Multilateralism partnership

Ongoing

The UN Library and Archives Geneva strengthened its partnership with the Centre for Digital Humanities and Multilateralism at the Geneva Graduate Institute with regard to digitizing selected United Nations documents and archives and developing new tools for research and access. These efforts are helping preserve institutional memory while enabling new analysis of multilateralism and international relations.

©UN Photo



Multilingualism and Language Days

Multiple dates

UN Geneva celebrated multilingualism throughout the year through the observance of the six United Nations language days and International Mother Language Day. Activities included cultural events, awareness-raising campaigns and interactive initiatives promoting linguistic diversity and the role of languages in fostering dialogue and mutual understanding.

©UN Photo



Promoting disability inclusion

Multiple dates

Through exhibitions, awareness-raising campaigns and immersive virtual reality experiences, UN Geneva promoted greater understanding of disability inclusion throughout 2025. These initiatives engaged staff, delegates, members of non-governmental organizations and the public, encouraging dialogue on accessibility, representation and inclusive participation.

© Pauline Delrue



Cultural activities

Ongoing

Through its cultural activities programme, UN Geneva continued to provide a platform for artistic expression, dialogue and cultural exchange. In 2025, exhibitions organized with Member States and partners included *From Imaginary to Reality*, showcasing contemporary Estonian art, and *Portraits of Resilience*, a powerful photography exhibition highlighting the experiences and resilience of survivors of torture.

©UN Photo



Gender equality and women's empowerment

Ongoing

Through initiatives promoting gender equality and inclusive leadership, UN Geneva continued to support efforts to challenge stereotypes and expand opportunities for women across the multilateral system.

©UN Photo



United Nations Women's Guild-Geneva bazaar

9 December 2025

Held in and around the newly reopened Assembly Hall, the annual United Nations Women's Guild-Geneva bazaar celebrated the diversity and generosity of the international community. Coinciding with the eightieth anniversary of the United Nations and the fifty-fifth anniversary of the Guild in Geneva, the event continued to raise funds for educational and humanitarian projects supporting women and children around the world.

©UN Photo

Streamlining our services

Behind every conference, negotiation and public event is a network of services that keeps International Geneva running. In 2025, UN Geneva reopened historic spaces, expanded digital and hybrid meeting capabilities, improved accessibility, strengthened sustainability efforts and enhanced services for delegates, staff and visitors. Together, these initiatives helped ensure that the Palais des Nations remains fit for purpose in its ninth decade.

Throughout 2025, the Palais des Nations welcomed delegates, visitors and members of the public through conferences, guided tours and special events.

©UN Women/Amanda Voisard



Welcoming the world

Ongoing

Throughout 2025, the Palais des Nations welcomed delegates, visitors and members of the public through conferences, guided tours and special events. More than 50,000 delegates and conference participants attended 1,200 events, while over 46,825 people participated in guided tours, reflecting UN Geneva’s commitment to openness, accessibility and public engagement.

©UN Photo



Dual-career support

25 March

For internationally recruited United Nations staff, a partner’s career matters as much as their own. UN Geneva, together with the International Dual-Career Network, welcomed 45 spouses and partners to the Palais des Nations for hands-on guidance on navigating the Geneva job market. With expert tips and the sharing of one staffer’s inspiring four-year journey to a United Nations contract, the message was clear: persistence pays.

©UN Photo



Conference services across International Geneva

Ongoing

Meetings management, interpretation, documentation and in-room support provided by the Division of Conference Management enabled the work of Geneva-based entities throughout 2025, including 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. These services helped ensure the smooth functioning of multilateral processes across International Geneva.

©UN Photo



Assembly Hall reopening

29 July

Renovated under the Strategic Heritage Plan, the Assembly Hall reopened in 2025 with modern audiovisual, accessibility and safety upgrades while preserving its historic character. Originally inaugurated in 1937, it remains the largest conference room at the Palais des Nations and a flagship venue for multilateral diplomacy. Its reopening enabled the return of large-scale conferences and events, supporting more than 50,000 delegates and participants attending over 1,200 meetings throughout the year.

©Philippe Morard



Oath of Office and Long-Service Awards

28 October (Long-Service Awards); 17 November (Oath of Office)

In 2025, more than 60 newly appointed staff took the Oath of Office, formally joining the United Nations, while 621 colleagues were recognized during the annual Long-Service Awards ceremony. Together, these milestones reflect the commitment and dedication of the people who sustain the work of UN Geneva.

©UN Photo

Hybrid meeting spaces

Ongoing

A major milestone in the modernization of Building S was reached in 2025, with the opening of 14 fully equipped meeting rooms. Designed to support flexible and hybrid collaboration, the new spaces enhance the range of digital services available to meeting and event organizers at the Palais des Nations.

©Mircea Saptelei



Biodiversity at the Palais

Ongoing

The UN Geneva gardening team created biodiversity-friendly “dead hedges” by reusing garden waste collected on the grounds of the Palais des Nations. The initiative provides a habitat for insects, birds and small animals while supporting soil health, carbon capture and more sustainable landscape management.

©UN Photo



Career Development Roundtable

19–21 November

UN Geneva participated in the 2025 Career Development Roundtable in Madrid, which brought together more than 320 human resources leaders from 60 international organizations. Discussions focused on topics including artificial intelligence in the context of human resources, workforce mobility and the future of talent management across the multilateral system.

©UN Geneva Centre for Learning and Multilingualism (CLM)



Strengthening Spanish language skills and multilingualism

27–28 November

Supported by the Permanent Mission of Spain, UN Geneva’s Centre for Learning and Multilingualism brought together diplomats and United Nations staff in a workshop to enhance their Spanish communication skills, in particular to cut through institutional jargon to craft clearer messages. The workshop explored techniques for clear and effective writing, including with regard to message structure, audience-focused communication and the responsible use of artificial intelligence tools.

©UN Geneva Centre for Learning and Multilingualism (CLM)



Strengthening K9 security cooperation

Ongoing

In 2025, the UN Geneva Security and Safety Service and the Geneva cantonal police formalized their long-standing partnership through a new K9 cooperation agreement signed at the Palais des Nations. The collaboration was further strengthened through 18 joint training exercises and the certification of two UN Geneva K9 handlers, enhancing security coordination within International Geneva.

©UN Photo



Energy efficiency

Ongoing

Building H achieved significant energy savings in 2025 through the optimization of occupancy sensors and lighting controls. By reducing lighting timeouts from 30 to 10 minutes, UN Geneva recorded verified annual energy savings of approximately 40,000 kWh, supporting the environmental objectives of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

©Matija Potocnic



Reopening of Room XIV (the Kazakh Room)

8 December

Following extensive modernization, Room XIV (the Kazakh Room) reopened in 2025. Equipped with upgraded technology, improved accessibility and enhanced acoustics, the renovated space is once again available for cultural events, film screenings and other gatherings at the Palais des Nations.

©Andrew Martin



Reopening of the Delegates' Restaurant

December

After a five-year closure during the renovation of Building A, the Delegates' Restaurant reopened in 2025. Long considered a gathering place for the diplomatic community, the renovated space combines modern facilities with historic character. Archival photographs displayed throughout the restaurant celebrate its history and the legacy of diplomacy at the Palais des Nations, from the League of Nations to the present day.

©Mircea Saptelei



Reducing single-use plastics

Ongoing

During the fifth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, UN Geneva piloted measures to reduce single-use plastics in catering by replacing disposable packaging with reusable alternatives where feasible. Several of these measures have since been permanently adopted.

©UN Photo



Portail des Nations Visitor Centre

Ongoing

In 2025, the Portail des Nations – the future United Nations visitor centre – project reached a major milestone with the completion of construction and preparations for the inauguration of the centre in June 2026. The centre is expected to welcome around 180,000 visitors each year. Work focused on refining the visitor experience, immersive exhibitions and public engagement features, creating a new gateway to the Palais des Nations and the work of the United Nations.

©Charbel Jabbour

The interactive version of the Report, as well as an accessible PDF version of it, is available from the 2025 UN Geneva Annual Report website.

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

