

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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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“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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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