

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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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