

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA



Momentum for multilateralism



2009



UNITED NATIONS

Annual Report

Momentum for multilateralism:
**building global consensus
and capacity for action**
2009



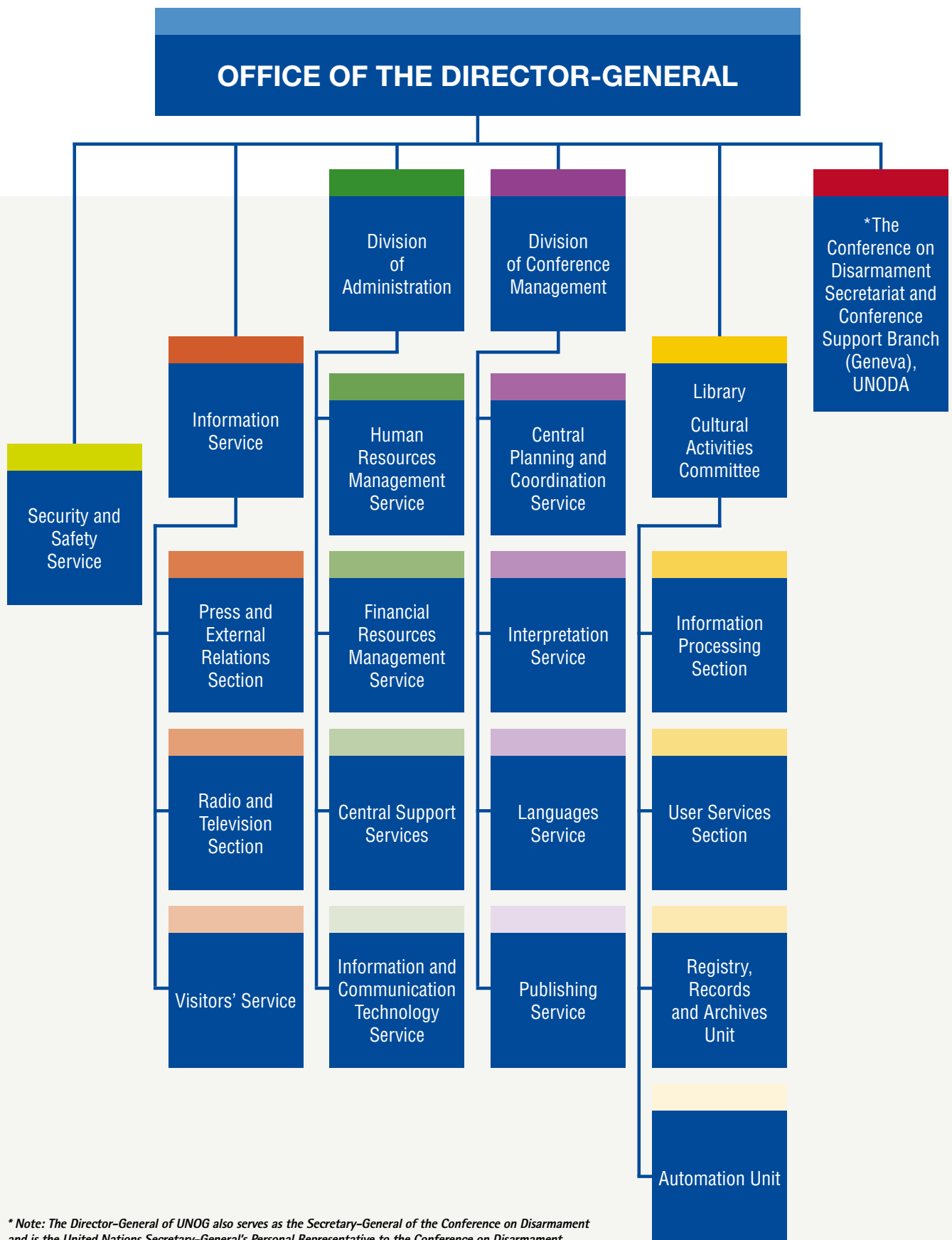
UNITED NATIONS

Geneva, 2009

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Organizational chart of the United Nations Office at Geneva



** Note: The Director-General of UNOG also serves as the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and is the United Nations Secretary-General's Personal Representative to the Conference on Disarmament*

The United Nations Office at Geneva at a Glance – 2009

The People

Staff nationalities represented at UNOG	110
Permanent Missions, Observer Missions and Offices	177
Journalists accredited to UNOG	200
Staff working at UNOG	1 600
Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council	3 283
Staff working for the United Nations system in Geneva	8 500
Visitors to the Palais des Nations	93 000

The Process

United Nations entities that receive administrative and other support services from UNOG	37
Cultural events organized	53
Visits of high-level officials to UNOG	169
Press conferences hosted at the Palais des Nations	237
Total number of courses and training workshops offered	632
Visas secured	747
Press releases and meeting summaries on United Nations activities in Geneva	981
Meetings with interpretation	2 607
Total number of participants in courses and training workshops	7 816
Meetings held at or serviced by UNOG	9 923
Transactions by UNOG Treasury per month	11 354
United Nations official travel	16 818
Users of library services (excluding on-line users)	60 000
Badges issued for conferences	52 819
Pages translated	220 056
Visits to UNOG website	882 677
Regular budget funds managed by UNOG (US\$)	227 000 000

The Premises

Offices at the Palais des Nations	2 800
Size of the Palais and its annexes (square metres)	153 468

Foreword



Momentum for multilateralism: building global consensus and capacity for action

When the foundation stone of the Palais des Nations was laid in 1929, few could have imagined how our world would be transformed over the following 80 years. At the height of colonialism, many nations were not sovereign countries. The world did not possess the technology to channel news across the globe in an instant and connect individuals on all continents. We had yet to experience the destruction and terror of nuclear weapons. Greenhouse gas and emissions were not part of our everyday vocabulary.

Only 53 States in a world of some 2 billion people attended the foundation stone ceremony in 1929. But, they shared with the 192 Member States of today's United Nations, now representing over 6.5 billion global citizens, a clear understanding of our interdependence. They, too, had experienced the horrors of war and violent conflict. They had seen the human toll of a rapidly spreading influenza. They were on the brink of the largest economic meltdown of their century. The Palais des Nations represented their realization that only collective strategies would be effective in the face of these shared threats.

As the challenges before us have grown in complexity and scope, so have our mutual dependence and the need for multilateral action. We are living through a time of multiple crises: economic, financial, food and flu. None of these challenges can be confronted successfully by any one nation acting alone. This is the basis for the momentum for multilateralism that we have witnessed throughout 2009.

At the opening of the General Assembly in September 2009, our leaders reaffirmed their commitment to making the pledges of the Charter of the United Nations a reality for all. They highlighted the central role of the United Nations in shaping solutions for the global common good in our rapidly changing world. And over the past year, the international community has taken important steps in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation, climate change, economic and social development, global public health and food security, acting on this recognition that our fates are interlinked.

As a key centre for multilateral diplomacy, the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) plays a valuable role in supporting, facilitating and implementing this new multilateralism. UNOG provides a forum for building global consensus as the indispensable basis of effective multilateral action. Through its close links with Member States, regional and other intergovernmental organizations, the research and academic community and other civil society actors, UNOG helps to create and consolidate partnerships for results. By reaching out to constituencies across the globe, we make a contribution to raising awareness of the Organization's priorities and mobilizing support for policies and programmes. As a platform for promoting tolerance through cross-cultural dialogue, UNOG helps to cultivate the respect and trust that drive the multilateral process.

With the expansion of the United Nations agenda and the number of people we serve, the character of our work is undergoing significant change. The conference diplomacy that takes place at the Palais des Nations and other venues is now complemented by a large presence in the field, from peacekeeping and humanitarian protection to advancing human rights and development. This ongoing shift towards a more operational engagement, coupled with the need for budget discipline, calls for constant adaptation to strengthen the Organization's capacity for action.

As a major service provider to the United Nations system, UNOG is closely involved in the conceptualization, development and implementation of new management and administrative processes to make the Organization faster, more flexible and more efficient for a greater impact. Making use of the latest technology and know-how, UNOG has been contributing throughout 2009 to the introduction of new human resources practices, resource and knowledge management, and security systems, which are all critical if we are to deliver on the growing mandates and fulfil our mission.

In all of these initiatives, we strive to limit our carbon footprint. With innovative measures, new partnerships and the full support of all staff, UNOG has reduced CO₂ emissions considerably and is fully engaged with the wider United Nations system for a climate-neutral Organization.

Across these activities, the Palais des Nations provides both infrastructure and inspiration to all those who come here in the service of multilateralism. It is our collective responsibility to preserve this unique shared heritage of the international community. In 2009, the first phase of the three-step Strategic Heritage Plan for a comprehensive renovation and refurbishment of the Palais was completed, laying the groundwork for the second phase. UNOG continues efforts, in close collaboration with Member States and United Nations Headquarters, towards implementation of the Plan.

This Annual Report outlines UNOG's efforts in 2009 in support of the renewed momentum for multilateralism and the ongoing reform efforts within the United Nations to meet the demands of our globalized world. Only when we act together, in solidarity and mutual support based on the principles of the United Nations, can we build a world of peace and prosperity for all. UNOG looks forward to working with all stakeholders for durable multilateral strategies to address the challenges of today and tomorrow.



Sergei A. Ordzhonikidze
United Nations Under-Secretary-General
Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva

2009 Highlights

We take pride in our work. Throughout 2009, the Divisions and Services of UNOG have organized, or been involved in, a variety of projects that have helped to take forward the work of the United Nations. This section of our Annual Report includes a selection of activities that each in their own way illustrates the different dimensions of UNOG activities in support of the overall goals of the United Nations.



On 29 May 2009, the 65-member Conference on Disarmament – the world's single multilateral disarmament negotiating body – adopted its first Programme of Work since 1998. This represents progress that could lead to real advances on disarmament and strengthening of international peace and security. The Conference on Disarmament Secretariat, headed by the Director-General in his capacity as Secretary-General of the Conference and Personal Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to the Conference, provided political and practical support and assistance to the Member States throughout the discussions that led to the adoption.



More than 1,000 teenagers from public schools in Geneva and Lausanne took part in a public event organized by the United Nations Information Service (UNIS) to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Each participant received a special edition of the Declaration, illustrated by the famous Swiss cartoonist called Mix&Remix. The students also attended a round table moderated by Swiss journalists, where international experts discussed the values of the Declaration and briefed them on specific human rights. The event served as an important platform for raising awareness among younger generations of the continued need for protection and promotion of human rights – one of the three pillars of the work of the United Nations.



Through the Information and Communications Technology Service (ICTS), UNOG provides technology transfer opportunities to the United Nations family. In 2009, ICTS supported the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in advancing its statistics presentation capabilities, as UNHCR adopted UNOG-developed technology called RefScout. The product is a publically web-based technology, which enables all stakeholders to explore and analyze thousands of records of refugee statistics, through interactive maps, graphs and tables by regions and countries. Accurate data are critical to policymakers to shape sustainable long-term solutions and facilitate humanitarian action.



The Director-General of UNOG is the Designated Official for Security for Switzerland. On 19 February 2009, the Security Management Group, comprised of executive heads of United Nations entities with a presence in Switzerland, endorsed the first-ever Security Plan for Switzerland. The Plan was among the first to be completed within the United Nations system. The UNOG Security and Safety Service compiled this comprehensive security management manual through an inclusive process with input from all United Nations entities and based on a thorough threat and risk assessment. Developed within the context of the continuous strengthening of system-wide security management, the Plan is aimed at ensuring coherence in policy, while taking into account local conditions in its implementation, to ensure the safety and security of all who come to United Nations premises in Switzerland.



On 1 April 2009, the Division of Conference Management (DCM) organized its first-ever welcome briefing for 71 new staff members, which made up almost 10 per cent of the Division's human resources and the largest ever single intake of staff. The new staff members represented many nationalities and levels, embodying the diversity of the United Nations. The programme included presentations about all aspects of the work of DCM, its composition and its main clients, as well as a backstage tour of how and where meetings are organized, interpretation services are coordinated and documents are produced. The briefing helped to facilitate the timely integration of the newcomers and enabled them to contribute more effectively to the work of UNOG.



In May 2009, the UNOG Library hosted, in collaboration with the archives of the International Labour Organization, the annual session of the International Council on Archives, Section of International Organizations (SIO), with participants from 21 international organizations. Researchers explained their needs and expectations in archival research and shared their experience. Experts presented the legal and practical framework for access policies in national archives and intergovernmental institutions. As a result of the session, SIO issued "Recommendations on Public Access to Records and Archives of International Organizations", which now provide a basis for harmonization of policies and rules between organizations to facilitate consultation of records and archives. This will also benefit the many users of the unique material at UNOG.

Chapter I



■ A platform for concerted action: turning words into deeds

The Secretary-General has called for a new multilateralism to address today's pressing challenges, which cut across national borders and institutional boundaries. Inclusive partnerships among all stakeholders – Member States, the United Nations family, other international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector – are essential to achieving the objectives of the United Nations in our era of increased interdependence. As the representative office of the Secretary-General in the heart of Europe, UNOG works to bolster support for this renewed multilateralism.

“ We need a new vision, a new paradigm, a new multilateralism. A multilateralism that is organized around delivering a set of global goods. A multilateralism that harnesses both power and principle. A multilateralism that recognizes the interconnected nature of global challenges. A multilateralism with institutions that have the necessary authority and resources. ”

The Secretary-General's address at the Princeton colloquium, "The Imperative for a New Multilateralism", on 17 April 2009.



The Secretary-General at the Palais des Nations, accompanied by the Director-General.

■ Supporting the efforts of the Secretary-General towards multilateral solutions

UNOG provided essential support for the Secretary-General's six visits to Switzerland in 2009 to promote the work of the Organization and to foster multilateral discussions among stakeholders.

In his capacity as the Secretary-General's representative, the Director-General regularly attends conferences and meetings held by various organizations and receives dignitaries visiting Geneva in order to exchange views and to advance the political priorities of the Organization. Throughout 2009, the Director-General also delivered messages on behalf of the Secretary-General on many occasions.

Visits of the Secretary-General in 2009	
28–31 January	Attending the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland
20–21 April	Participating in the opening ceremony and the High-Level Segment of the Durban Review Conference
18–20 May	Attending the 2009 Plenary Session of the Conference on Disarmament Participating in the 62nd Session of the World Health Assembly (WHA) Launching the I-8 Group on Innovative Financing
5–6 July	Participating in the Second Global Review of Aid for Trade organized by the World Trade Organization (WTO) Attending the High-level Segment of the 2009 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
2–4 September	Attending the World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3)
4–6 October	Opening the ITU Telecom World 2009 Delivering introductory remarks at the third edition of the Geneva Lecture Series

Occasions on which the Director-General delivered messages on behalf of the Secretary-General in 2009	
2 February	Inauguration Ceremony of His Holiness Kirill I, Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia, Moscow
19 March	High-level panel discussion on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – “United against Racism – Dignity and Justice for All”
1 July	Third Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, Astana, Kazakhstan
22–23 July	Opening session of the United Nations International Meeting on the Question of Palestine
19 August	Inaugural World Humanitarian Day, Parc des Bastions, Geneva
19–20 November	First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety, Moscow

High-level visits to UNOG from January to December 2009

High-level visitors	Number of visits
President of the General Assembly	2
Secretary-General of the United Nations	6
Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations	1
Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Heads of State	20
Prime Ministers and Deputy Prime Ministers	6
Ministers for Foreign Affairs	17
Other Ministers and Secretaries of State	27
Other dignitaries	90
Total number of visits	169

The Director-General contributes to efforts to ensure a common approach in the work of the United Nations by participating in the Senior Management Group, a committee of senior United Nations managers that serves as the Secretary-General's cabinet and central policy planning of the Organization.

The Director-General also took part, with other senior United Nations officials from duty stations all over the world, in the annual retreat convened by the Secretary-General, which was held simultaneously in New York and Geneva through videoconference on 7 September 2009. During three thematic sessions, the Secretary-General and senior managers discussed accountability, communication, and working effectively and efficiently.

In 2009, the Director-General also pursued his regular exchanges with the Geneva-based regional groups to brief them on the priorities of the Secretary-General and to address issues of common concern. These dialogues serve to strengthen the links between Member States and the Secretariat.

UNOG continues to liaise with Member States as part of its efforts to facilitate the work of the diplomatic community in Geneva and to find lasting solutions to their concerns. The number of permanent missions, observer missions and observer offices has now reached 177. It is critical that these Government delegates can work effectively in order to advance the multilateral process.

■ Working with the United Nations family

The Secretary-General has repeatedly stressed that system-wide coherence is crucial to the United Nations' effectiveness. Over the past year, UNOG continued to engage closely with the wider United Nations as part of an overall effort towards a more coherent, effective and efficient United Nations system.

UNOG participates in the Executive Committee on Peace and Security (ECPS), a high-level coordinating forum for United Nations departments and programmes to discuss specific issues relating to the maintenance of international peace and security and to plan more coherent approaches in this area.

In this framework, UNOG was invited in 2009 to become a member of the United Nations mediation focal point system set up under the aegis of ECPS. The aim of the United Nations mediation focal point system is to enhance the effectiveness of the Organization in supporting mediation initiatives and to strengthen the mediation capacities of the United Nations and its partners. The mediation focal points meet monthly (via videoconference in the case of UNOG) to identify early entry points for peacemaking and to channel appropriate mediation support to United Nations and non-United Nations mediation efforts. Together, they develop mediation-related policies and guidance, lessons learned and best practices.

In an effort to discuss issues of common concern and to enhance information sharing, joint planning and coordination activities to achieve shared objectives, the Director-General has maintained regular exchanges with heads of United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies based in Switzerland.

UNOG as a whole has also continued to cooperate with United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and closely follows the work of the governing bodies and executive boards of United Nations system organizations and related organizations in Geneva. Through this involvement, the Director-General is able to convey the messages of the Secretary-General to the wider community and to keep the Secretary-General informed of developments, particularly in relation to system-wide priorities and to a coordinated response to the food crisis, pandemic influenza, the economic crisis and other challenges facing the international community.



View of the panel at the Launch Ceremony.

As part of these ongoing efforts to facilitate the work of the wider system and to promote system-wide coherence through practical initiatives, the Director-General hosted on 4 November 2009 the official launch ceremony of the United Nations Policy for Post-Conflict Employment Creation, Income Generation and Reintegration. The policy is the result of a study, co-led by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which combines the expertise and good practice of 19 entities across the United Nations family. As the outcome of an inclusive, collaborative project, the policy is aimed at enhancing system-wide coordination and coherence in United Nations peacebuilding efforts.

■ Fostering partnerships with regional and other intergovernmental organizations

UNOG has continued to promote strengthened collaboration with regional and other intergovernmental organizations and to engage them in a more dynamic way.

In December 2008, the General Assembly adopted measures to reinforce the United Nations' capacity for preventive diplomacy, good offices and mediation. In support of these efforts to move from a "culture of reaction" to a "culture of prevention", UNOG hosted the annual high-level Tripartite meeting between the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and



From left to right: OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut; UNOG Director-General Sergei A. Ordzhonikidze; Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Ms. Maud de Boer-Buquicchio.

Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on 3 June 2009. Under the title *Preventing conflicts through the strengthening of democratic institutions: enhancing democratic governance and institutions to reconcile interests and promote non-violent resolution of conflict*, this year's meeting explored how to advance security, development and human rights in the European region.

Over 50 representatives of the United Nations and European-based regional organizations participated in a discussion on how to prevent armed conflict through the strengthening of democracy, and reviewed specific avenues to strengthen their cooperation in this field. The United Nations delegation included representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The participation of two Special Representatives of the Secretary-General (the heads of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo and the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia – Mr. Lamberto Zannier and Mr. Johan Verbeke) allowed for a particular focus on concrete examples and lessons learned through operations on the ground.

In a joint communiqué issued at the end of the meeting, participants concurred that strengthening of democratic institutions would contribute to reducing tensions and would promote stability in all regions by providing effective and equitable means for the peaceful accommodation of competing interests. They reaffirmed that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, separation of powers, democratic elections, the rule of law, transparency, public accountability, and equality in participation in the democratic process remain common features and basic principles of democracy. As in previous years, these conclusions and the salient points of the meeting were conveyed to the Secretary-General as a contribution to his efforts to strengthen the United Nations' capacity for conflict prevention.

The Director-General also continued his regular interactions with the Heads of regional and other intergovernmental organizations with a view to

reinforcing these ties. In this context, he participated on 1 October 2009 in a special ceremony to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the Council of Europe.

■ Enhancing interaction with “Intellectual Geneva”

UNOG continues engaging with a wide range of research and academic institutions based in the region, often referred to as “Intellectual Geneva”. In 2009, through joint seminars, meetings and other events, as well as publications, UNOG was able to foster greater cooperation with a view to reinforcing the links between United Nations policy planning and the research community in the greater Geneva region.

Through its membership of the Advisory Board of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform (GPP), UNOG pursued its efforts to strengthen relations among the humanitarian, development and security actors based in Geneva, many of them actively engaged in peacebuilding activities, and between these actors and relevant United Nations entities in New York. The GPP expanded further in 2009, holding a series of workshops and consultations on various peacebuilding-related issues. It served to channel contributions of the Geneva peacebuilding community to the Secretary-General's report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/63/881-S/2009/304), presented to the Security Council in July 2009.

UNOG consolidated its links to the Swiss academic community through its membership of the Academic Council of the Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS). As part of its efforts to build bridges between Swiss universities and research institutes on the one hand, and practitioners working in international organizations on the other, the SNIS organized in 2009 a series of academic debates on perspectives within international organizations on the financial and economic crisis. UNOG participated in the debate on security implications of the crisis held on 25 September 2009 at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies.

Building on its long-standing cooperation with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and the success of its joint seminars on the different aspects of security sector reform, UNOG co-organized the seventh in a series of annual events, which was held on 14 December 2009.



Panel members at the UNOG-DCAF seminar on 14 December 2009.

The seminar entitled, "Security Sector Reform in Africa: the role and contribution of the United Nations" was co-chaired by the Director-General and the Director of DCAF, Dr. Theodor H. Winkler. The panel discussion was preceded by a keynote speech by Mr. Dmitry Titov, Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Seminar was aimed at identifying ways in which various African stakeholders, the United Nations and other concerned actors can work together to support common peace, security and development goals through effective security sector reform.

■ Facilitating the participation of civil society

UNOG continues to facilitate the participation of NGOs and to encourage activities of civil society in support of the work of the United Nations.

More than three thousand NGOs now have consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). UNOG accredits the representatives of NGOs to enable their participation in deliberations taking place at the Palais des Nations. Throughout 2009, UNOG organized over seventy meetings with civil society organizations, covering all issues on the Organization's agenda.

UNOG provides permanent missions, United Nations staff and the public in general with information and advice on partnership relations of the United Nations with NGOs, especially those with consultative status with ECOSOC. UNOG also maintains the NGO Resources and Services Centre, which has become a focal point for civil society exchange and engagement. The services of the Centre are under ongoing improvement to support better the work of NGOs with the United Nations. Enhancements include broadening access, diversifying documentation and improving internet service and meeting support.

UNOG maintains close links with other civil society focal points in the United Nations to further coherence and to share experience. In this context, UNOG hosted from 29 June to 3 July 2009, with UNCTAD and the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS), the "7th annual Meeting of the Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations Focal Points of the multilateral system". More than 60 representatives of the United Nations system and other international institutions attended the meeting and discussed the implications of the global crisis for participatory governance, and global best practice as well as key challenges in civil society engagement within the United Nations.

Overview of UNOG's work to facilitate participation of NGOs

	Approximates
NGO meetings organized by and with the contribution of UNOG	95
Outreach presentations to NGOs	30
Accreditation of NGOs and civil society representatives	20 000
Information and orientation sessions for NGOs applying for ECOSOC status	45
Responses to NGOs-related queries, including queries through office visits	12 000

With the objective of promoting gender equality and the role of women in a world in crisis, UNOG and the Committee on the Status of Women of the NGO CONGO organized on 8 March 2009 the first commemoration of International Women's Day at the Palais des Nations. The ceremony was followed by an in-depth panel discussion on "The economics of the financial crisis: Gender equality and the role of women". Also on the occasion of International Women's Day, UNOG co-organized, with the NGO Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, a seminar entitled "Getting to peace in the Middle East: the role of women in changing threat perceptions", which placed the emphasis on how threats are interpreted, which in turn create a perceived need for reliance on military means, including weapons of mass destruction, to provide security.

From 20 to 24 April 2009, the Durban Review Conference took place at the Palais des Nations. Aimed at evaluating progress towards the goals set by the World Conference against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, it was organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and facilitated by UNOG. More than 300 NGOs were able to attend plenary sessions and organize parallel meetings and events at the conference.

At the invitation of the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, 100 NGO representatives were hosted by UNOG at a debate on the economic and financial crisis, prior to the "United Nations Conference

on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development", which was held at United Nations headquarters from 24 to 26 June 2009.

From 2 to 3 July 2009, UNOG facilitated the holding of the first "Global Ethics Forum: Business Development–Social Responsibility–Sustainable growth" at the Palais des Nations. The meeting brought together more than 400 directors and managers from the private sector, NGOs, and experts around problems such as "How can corporate social responsibility strategies and practice be made innovative and relevant in times of crises?"

The Annual Substantive Session of ECOSOC, in particular its High-level Segment "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health", received considerable attention from civil society. In collaboration with the ECOSOC Secretariat, UNOG facilitated and coordinated the participation of NGOs in the work of this important United Nations body mandated to debate on economic and social issues and make recommendations to United Nations Member States. Pursuant to ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31, which governs the partnership relations of NGOs with ECOSOC, 8 NGOs were authorized to present oral statements and 33 others submitted written statements, which were then distributed to all the participants and became part of the official documentation of ECOSOC. NGOs were allowed to exhibit innovative projects on health during the Innovation Fair and to organize side events drawing on issues that were on the agenda of the High Level Segment of ECOSOC.

UNOG also held various meetings with NGOs on health-related issues, including one on the "Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members" in collaboration with the Nippon Foundation, and another one on "Computers and global health challenges" in conjunction with the NGO Health Committee.

In partnership with the Spanish Association for International Law of Human Rights, UNOG commemorated the International Day of Peace on 19 September 2009. By decision of the General Assembly, the theme for the 2009 commemoration was "Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation." The commemoration was followed by a roundtable on the same issue, attended by permanent mission representatives, NGOs and United Nations staff.

On the occasion of the sixty-fourth anniversary of the entry into force of the Charter of the United Nations on 24 October 1945, UNOG, together with the Geneva International Model United Nations (GIMUN) organized a conference entitled "Comprehensive Human Security – from Theory to Practice". Following the Director-General's remarks and addresses of other panel members, pressing issues such as environment, health, food, economy, and politics and security were discussed in five small groups. GIMUN will present the outcome of the discussions to the Secretary-General.

In accordance with the will expressed by Member States, UNOG will continue to strengthen its partnership with civil society organizations and provide all the necessary facilities for their activities.

■ Promoting international law

“ Whether we are dealing with climate change, terrorism, the financial crisis, development or humanitarian emergencies, there is always a global dimension to the problem and a local impact. We must connect these levels, and that can only be done through effective multilateral institutions. Multilateralism – based on international law – holds the greatest potential for effective solutions. ”

The Director-General's address at the opening of the annual Geneva International Model United Nations on 16 March 2009.

Promoting the principles of the United Nations Charter and of international law remains fundamental to achieving the Organization's objectives. In this context, UNOG actively supports the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen the rule of law and promote respect for international treaties and other sources of international law.

One of the principal bodies in this regard is the International Law Commission, established by the General Assembly in 1947 as an instrument for the codification and progressive development of international law. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/123 of 11 December 2008, the International Law Commission held its sixty-first session in May/June and July/August 2009 at the Palais des Nations, and UNOG provided support to the Commission to facilitate its work during this period.

Discussions at this year's session focused, inter alia, on the responsibility of international organizations, reservations to treaties, expulsion of aliens, protection of persons in the event of disasters, shared natural resources, effects of armed conflicts on treaties, the obligation to extradite or prosecute and on the most-favoured-nation clause. The Commission established a study group on treaties over time and agreed on a course of action to begin consideration of this topic. The president of the International Court of Justice, Judge Hisashi Owada, addressed the Commission on 7 July 2009. The Gilberto Amado Memorial Lecture was given on 15 July 2009 by Judge José Luis Jesus, President of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, on "advisory opinions and urgent proceedings at the Tribunal".

In conjunction with the meetings of the International Law Commission, UNOG organized the forty-fifth International Law Seminar, which is tailored to postgraduate students of international law, as well as to young scholars or government officials dealing with international law in the course of their work. The participants from different countries in this three-week seminar were exposed to the work of the Commission by attending its public meetings and participating in a programme consisting of a series of lectures delivered by Commission members. Various other lectures and briefings were also organized to introduce the work of other United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Through special sessions of the Seminar held at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and the University of Geneva, cooperation between UNOG and the Geneva academic community was further reinforced.

Special Feature



A new momentum for multilateral disarmament

“To promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world’s human and economic resources...”

The Charter of the United Nations

The purposes of the United Nations include the promotion of international peace and security through disarmament. Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation is the United Nations Secretary-General's priority for action. The Secretary-General presented towards the end of 2008 a five-point proposal to mobilize the international community.

- “Disarmament must be reliably verified.”
- “Disarmament must enhance security.”
- “Disarmament must be rooted in legal obligations.”
- “Disarmament must be visible to the public.”
- “Disarmament must anticipate emerging dangers from other weapons.”



Les Leçons de Salamanque, Council Chamber, José-María Sert.



Photo by Sergio da Silva, President of Club Photo International at UNOG.

On 13 June 2009, the Secretary-General launched the “WMD-WeMustDisarm” campaign

The Secretary-General asked Governments and citizens of the world to focus on the important issues of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation on the International Day of Peace, which was also observed by UNOG on 21 September.

Disarmament and non-proliferation are key to international stability and to advancing development, and represent a core objective for the United Nations.

In 2009, a number of policy statements and initiatives from nuclear and non-nuclear States provided new momentum for disarmament and non-proliferation. Strong support from civil society added to the public visibility of this central challenge.

The Third Preparatory Committee of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) 2010 Review Conference, held from 4 to 15 May 2009, managed to adopt a provisional agenda, concluding its session in a refreshingly positive tone. Following the commitment to a “nuclear-weapon-free world” expressed by President Barack Obama of the United States of America and President Dmitry Medvedev of the Russian Federation during their meeting in London in April 2009, the two Presidents at their meeting in Moscow in July 2009 affirmed the progress in negotiating a successor agreement to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.

The fifth Security Council Summit and the first-ever on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, held in New York on 24 September 2009 and chaired by President Obama, opened a new chapter in the Council's efforts to address disarmament and non-proliferation. The historic Security Council resolution 1887 (2009), adopted unanimously at the meeting, contains measures that Member States could take to strengthen nuclear

non-proliferation policy and common security. All of these developments have brought the issue of disarmament to the forefront of the international agenda.

■ Hosting the Conference on Disarmament (CD)

“ The simple fact is that the Conference on Disarmament remains the world's only multilateral negotiating body on strategic disarmament issues, with both nuclear-weapon States (also those outside of the NPT regime) and non-nuclear-weapon States. ”

The Director-General's address entitled “Creating A Joint Enterprise” at the “Overcoming Nuclear Dangers” conference from 16 to 17 April 2009 in Rome

The CD is the world's only multilateral disarmament negotiating body. Following the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (SSOD I) in 1978, an agreement was reached on its establishment in 1979. The CD has a membership of sixty-five States, including the five nuclear-weapon States and other nuclear-weapon possessors. The CD conducts its business by consensus and reports annually to the General Assembly. Like its predecessors, the CD has an impressive record of achievements:



The eighteen-nation Committee on Disarmament, a precursor to the CD, in session on 18 May 1967.

Landmark achievements

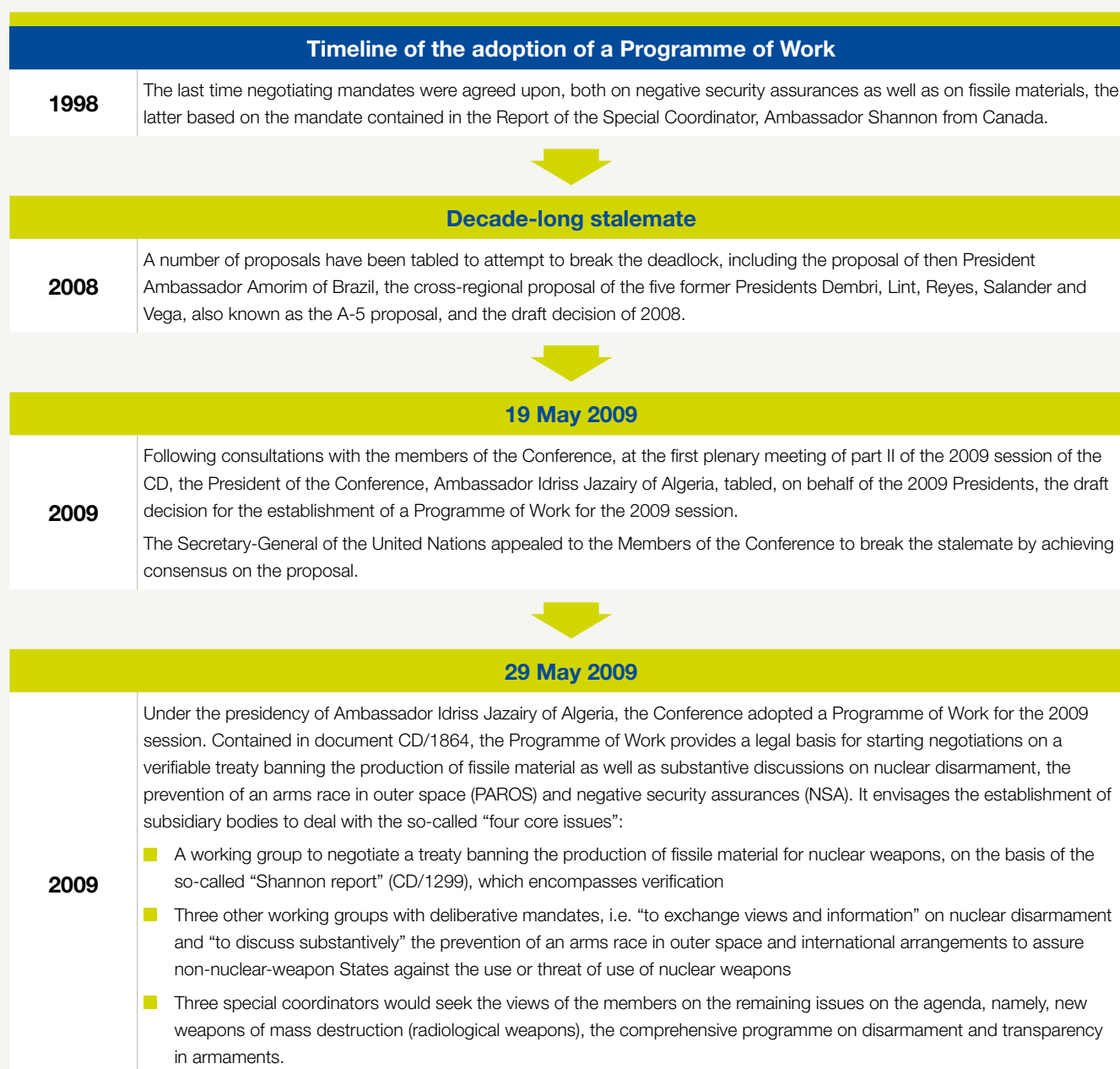
- 1996** States parties to **the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)** agree not to conduct nuclear weapons tests or other nuclear explosions. The treaty's verification regime includes international monitoring; consultation and clarification; on-site inspections; and confidence-building measures.
- 1992** **The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)** bans the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention and direct or indirect transfer of chemical weapons. It also prohibits the use or preparation for use of chemical weapons and the assistance, encouragement, or inducement of anyone else to engage in activities prohibited by the Convention.
- 1977** **The Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques** prohibits hostile use of the environment as a means of warfare.
- 1972** **The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)** is a legally binding treaty that outlaws biological arms.
- 1970** **The Seabed Arms Control Treaty** prohibits the placement of nuclear weapons or weapons of mass destruction on the seabed and the ocean floor beyond a 12-mile coastal zone.
- 1967** **The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons** is designed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons; to provide assurances that the peaceful nuclear activities of States which decide not to develop nuclear weapons will not be diverted to making such weapons; to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and make available the potential benefits of any peaceful application of nuclear explosion technology to non-nuclear States; and to undertake effective measures in the direction of nuclear disarmament.

The Director-General, in his capacity as Secretary-General of the CD and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the CD, is responsible for overseeing the organizational support and assistance provided to it. Throughout 2009, the Director-General continued to strengthen his efforts in generating political will for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. To this end, he has been assisting the 2009 Presidents of the Conference in leading the CD out of the impasse.

Despite its previous successes, the CD had, until 2009, not been able to conduct substantive work for over a decade.

The efforts to adopt a "comprehensive and balanced" programme of work, as a necessary precondition to commence substantive work, had resulted in perpetuating linkages that effectively blocked the CD and created a lack of confidence in its continued relevance.

As a result of vigorous diplomatic efforts both in Geneva and in capitals of the world, increased flexibility by members, an increasingly favourable international climate and high-level support, the CD overcame the 12 years of stalemate with the adoption of a Programme of Work on 29 May 2009.





Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (fifth from left) meets with the Presidents of the 2009 session of the Conference on Disarmament. UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe.

The Director-General has also been working with ambassadors and with various visiting officials and political leaders to encourage high-level speakers to address the CD. Gaining political support has been essential to facilitate consensus

on the commencement of multilateral negotiations. An increasing number of high-level dignitaries addressing the CD is a clear testimony that member States attach great importance to the CD, including the following:

High-level attendance in 2009

3 February	H.E. Dr. Dipu Moni, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh
17 February	H.E. Mr. Espen Barth Eide, Deputy Minister of Defence of Norway
3 March	H.E. Mr. Alberto Van Klaveren, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile H.E. Mr. Vincenzo Scotti, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Italy
5 March	H.E. Mr. Zephyrin Mungongo, Vice-Minister for Internal Affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo
7 March	H.E. Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
17 March	H.E. Mr. Mourad Medelci, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria
19 May	H.E. Ms. Micheline Calmy-Rey, Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland H.E. Mr. Mourad Medelci, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria
4 June	H.E. Ms. Rose E. Gottemoeller, Acting Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, United States of America
30 June	H.E. Mr. Gareth Evans of Australia, co-chair of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament
12 August	H.E. Mr. Jiechi Yang, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China
2 September	H.E. Mr. Michael Spindelegger, Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of Austria

■ Promoting disarmament and non-proliferation

With a view to increasing the political and public profile of disarmament and non-proliferation, UNOG has been systematically focusing on publicizing the extensive work of the United Nations in this field. The disarmament section of the UNOG website (<http://www.unog.ch/>) has become a central information source in this area within the United Nations. It provides the most up-to-date and comprehensive information on the CD as well as on a number of disarmament issues: BWC, the Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention (APLC), the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). A new section was also created for the Convention on Cluster Munitions to help promote the Convention and to provide useful information to member States in their consideration of the Convention. The Director-General also frequently delivers speeches and participates in public discussions. As a result of these concerted communication efforts to promote disarmament, the media coverage of the CD and other disarmament matters increased substantially in 2009:

Selected engagements of the Director-General to promote disarmament and non-proliferation	
24 February	Delivered remarks at the launch of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)-European Union project to promote discussion of an arms trade treaty , Geneva
16 April	Delivered remarks “Creating a joint enterprise” at the “Overcoming nuclear dangers” conference , Rome
18 May	Delivered remarks at the first plenary session of the eighth International Security Forum entitled “Coping with Global Change” , Geneva
15 June	Addressed a conference entitled “Space security 2009: moving towards a safer space environment” , Geneva
12 August	Addressed at a public discussion on “strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime: a blueprint for progress” , Geneva

In addition, on 5 October 2009, together with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, UNOG hosted an open conference, as part of the Geneva Lecture Series, on the theme of resetting the nuclear disarmament agenda. Mikhail Gorbachev was the keynote speaker and more than 1,700 people participated in this event (see page 48-49).

UNOG contributed to the United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament (www.unog.ch/disarmament/fellowship), which was launched by the General Assembly at its first special session devoted to disarmament in 1978 and was implemented by the Geneva branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in 2009.

■ Providing a venue for United Nations disarmament and non-proliferation efforts

In addition to the CD, UNOG hosts various other disarmament-related conferences and events and provides organizational support to UNODA and administrative services to UNIDIR.

Throughout 2009, important progress was also seen in other multilateral disarmament forums:

Moving ahead	
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons	The third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) laid down a solid foundation for strengthening the Treaty regime at the critical review meeting next year. The launch of negotiations on fissile material in the Conference on Disarmament would undoubtedly have the potential of creating a positive rippling effect on other disarmament issues, such as the long awaited entry into force of the CTBT and would most certainly contribute to the success of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.
Anti-personnel Landmine Convention (APLC)	Ten years after its entry into force the Mine Ban Treaty remains an excellent example of effective multilateral humanitarian action to rid the world of a cruel and indiscriminate weapon. APLC is at a crucial juncture in its development. The Second Review Conference in Cartagena, Colombia, provided an opportunity to pave the way for successful action in the next five years.
Convention on Cluster Munitions	The ratification process by States that signed up to the Convention is under way, and it is expected that the required number of 30 ratifications to allow for its entry into force would soon be reached.
Biennial Meeting on Small Arms and Light Weapons	2010 will also be the year for the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to consider progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

■ Moving disarmament from noble aspiration to reality

“ By accelerating disarmament, we can liberate resources that we need to combat climate change, address food insecurity and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Let us unite behind a shared vision of a safer world. Let us find the courage for bold action to make it a reality. ”

The Secretary-General's statement to the CD
on 19 May 2009, Geneva

Member States must foster much needed political will to work towards genuine reductions and an eventual ban of nuclear weapons in binding multilateral conventions.

The CD has a special responsibility as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum and can add significantly to achieving the ultimate goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. The adoption of a Programme of Work in the CD was an important first step and has undoubtedly restored its credibility and that of the disarmament machinery at large. This progress in the CD could make a significant contribution towards a successful 2010 NPT Review Conference. Not only would practical steps have been taken on issues closely connected with the strengthening of the NPT regime, but most importantly, trust would



*"Hope" by José-Maria Sert
Mural painting offered by the Government of Spain to the League of Nations in 1936.*

have been re-established, which could lead to genuine consensus-building across the priorities that are also part of the main bargain of the NPT.

We must disarm!

Chapter II



A forum for negotiations: supporting the multilateral process

As a central forum for multilateralism, we strive to optimize services provided within existing rules and regulations. Over the past years, the growth of the conference servicing workload has outpaced available capacity. Within this context, we continuously review our services to determine how best to target the limited resources for maximum client satisfaction.

Core activities to support negotiations

Language interpretation
Documentation
Translation, editing and publishing
Provision of overall intergovernmental direction for the Organization, managing the calendars and servicing of meetings
Facilitation of major deliberations by providing authoritative advice and secretariat services

UNOG provides infrastructure for multilateral dialogue and conference activities to a global community of stakeholders. Promoting communication and facilitating negotiations are the core activities that

contribute to the achievements of the Organization. In accordance with the resolutions of the General Assembly and administrative rules establishing language arrangements for the various organs and bodies of the United Nations, UNOG works to ensure that all stakeholders, in particular Member States, have access to meeting and documentation services through rational allocation and capacity utilization.

■ Harmonizing global management of meetings

The Palais des Nations serves as an attractive platform for the multilateral process. It provides not only a visible location in which negotiators undertake their work but also the conference planning, coordination and servicing functions required to ensure that meetings are properly scheduled and serviced.

Selected meetings serviced at UNOG in 2009

Regular and special sessions of the Human Rights Council as well as its organizational and informal meetings

Conference on Disarmament

Biological Weapons and the Chemical Weapons Conventions meetings

Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces

International Law Commission

General Conference of the International Labour Organization

Annual Assembly of the World Health Organization

Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission

Various human rights treaty body meetings

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Durban Review Conference II

Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

Mediation meetings between Equatorial Guinea and Gabon

Meetings of the follow-up committee to monitor the implementation of the Greentree Agreement between Cameroon and Nigeria

Meetings of the Organization of the Islamic Conference

Meetings of the League of Arab States

Meetings of the Economic Commission for Europe and its committees

In 2009, UNOG provided conference and documentation support to 8,249 intergovernmental meetings. Efforts were continued towards cost-effective planning and active coordination of all the meetings for which it has servicing responsibility. Regular consultations with United Nations bodies and organs were conducted in order to assess and assist in formulating their concrete conference-servicing needs and entitlements, and achieve maximum use of permanent resources and facilities. These issues were also discussed at the Tenth Coordination Meeting of the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) held in Tunis in July 2009.

The overall planning accuracy factor, i.e. ratio of services planned against services used, was 92.6 per cent for 2009. This is particularly significant as more than 1,955 meetings were cancelled, while another 1,160 meetings were added, which had not been planned.

High priority was accorded to clearing the backlog of the Yearbooks of the International Law Commission (ILC) and requests for proofreading and editing of publications from Geneva-based entities, including the Human Rights Council, UNCTAD and UNIDIR, were promptly met.

UNOG has made great efforts to cope with an increased conference workload deriving from the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council and the establishment of new human rights bodies in Geneva such as the following:

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Forum on Minority Issues

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group to Elaborate a Set of Human Rights Voluntary Goals to be Launched on the Occasion of the Celebration of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

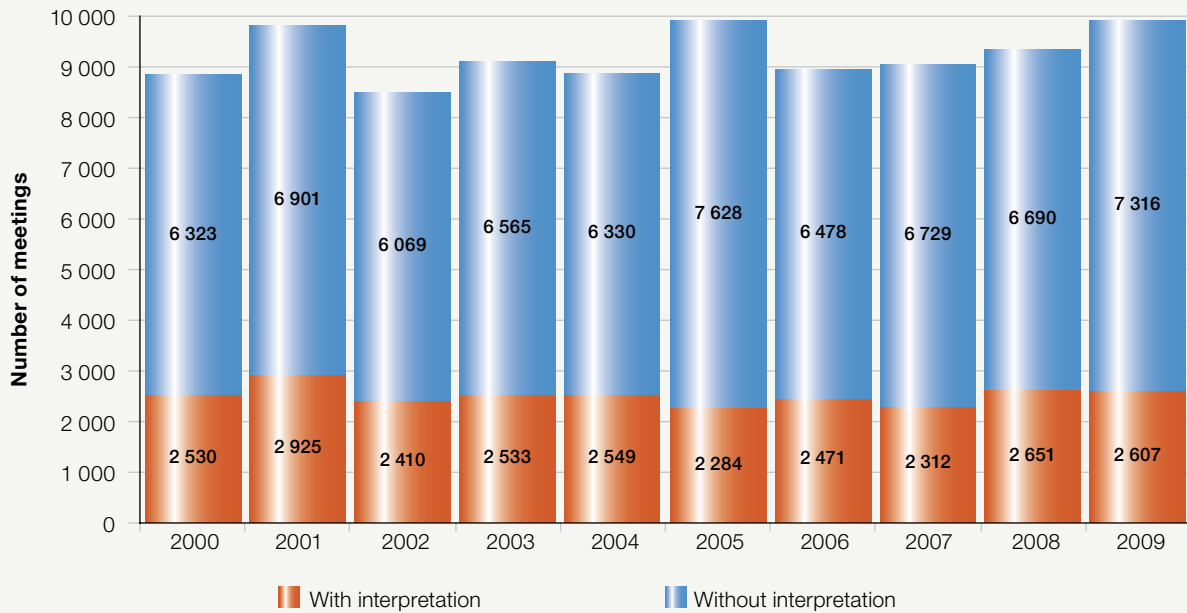
Additional sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child approved by the General Assembly in December 2008

UNOG acts as the primary interlocutor with Governments offering to host United Nations conferences. In that role, it advises host countries on all logistical and human resource requirements for hosting such conferences. Throughout 2009, UNOG successfully coordinated and provided services to a number of such conferences

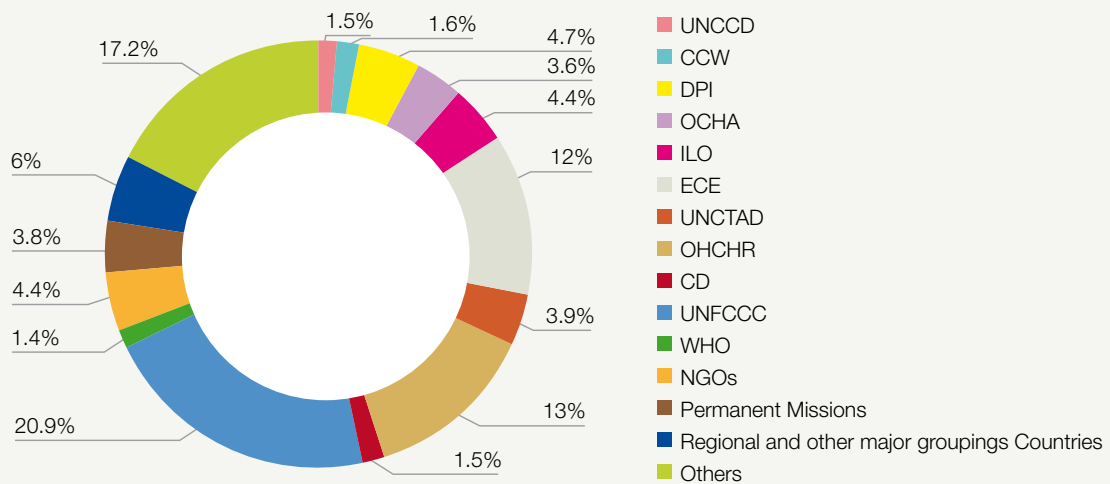


Staff servicing meetings at work.

MEETINGS - HELD AT OR SERVICED BY UNOG 2000 - 2009



MEETINGS - PRINCIPAL USERS FOR 2009



9 923 meetings with and without interpretation
Source: Emeets

outside Geneva (see table below). These activities continue to serve the goal of reinforcing links between the United Nations and its Member States in their joint efforts to find solutions to the problems facing the international community.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Seventh session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) and the fifth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA), Bonn, Germany	29 March–8 April 2009
UNFCCC subsidiary bodies, Bonn, Germany	1–12 June 2009
UNFCCC inter sessional informal consultations of AWG-KP and AWG-LCA, Bonn, Germany	10–14 August 2009
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Ninth session of the Conference of the Parties, Buenos Aires, Argentina	21 September–2 October 2009
UNFCCC resumed ninth Session of AWG-KP and resumed seventh session of AWG-LCA, Barcelona, Spain	2–6 November 2009
UNFCCC fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, Copenhagen, Denmark	7–18 December 2009

The Electronic Meetings Planning and Resource Allocation System (eMeets) database for the management of meetings, as mandated by the General Assembly, has been upgraded to allow input and automated transmission of meetings data for the new Electronic Display System in the Palais des Nations in English and French. Permanent missions and specialized agencies submit requests for meetings and facilities electronically. In addition, the computer equipment in all conference rooms at the Palais des Nations has also been upgraded for the convenience of the delegates attending meetings.

■ Facilitating multilateral dialogue and promoting multilingualism

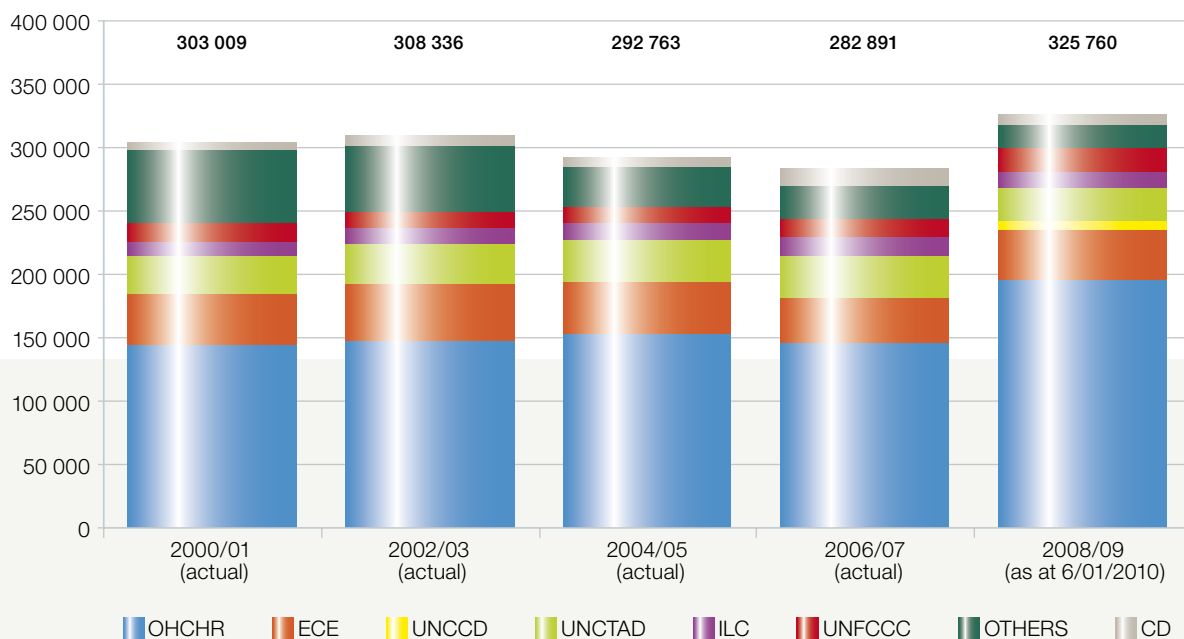
UNOG continues to be a strong proponent of multilingualism and various activities to promote multilingualism were conducted, including the signing of

a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Geneva in July 2009, in order to address the increasing shortages of qualified interpreters and translators. The key objectives are: (a) to ensure better visibility of language career opportunities at the United Nations; (b) to help candidates prepare more effectively for the competitive language examinations; and (c) to explore other potential avenues for cooperation between international organizations and training institutions, for instance in the area of external training for language staff already working in the United Nations and other international organizations.

In June 2009, the University of Geneva hosted the forum of the International Permanent Conference of University Institutes of Translators and Interpreters (CIUTI) on UNOG premises. The forum aims to strengthen links between academic institutions and the United Nations. Recognizing the critical role language professionals play in the work of the Organization, UNOG has multiplied its efforts to reach out to universities – under the University Outreach Programme (UOP) of DGACM – which aims at making language professionals aware of the opportunities that exist at the United Nations, and providing possibilities for students to interact and be trained by in-house United Nations language professionals. The underlying objective of the UOP is to make sure that intergovernmental communication continues in all six official languages of the United Nations and is supported by a linguistic workforce of the highest calibre. Reinforcing quality assurance in the work of the language staff remains a key priority. Towards this end, in addition to UOP, training opportunities for UNOG language staff and strengthening contractual translation are also being vigorously pursued.

UNOG was among 47 different organizations represented at the 2009 International Annual Meeting on Language Arrangements, Documentation and Publications (IAMLADP), which was hosted by the African Development Bank in Tunis in June 2009. IAMLADP is a network of conference service managers focused on sharing best practices. Cross-cutting issues such as training, technology, performance and quality management, digital alternatives to transcribed records, and the *Green Meeting Guide 2009* – which seeks to raise environmental consciousness in planning and conducting of meetings – were discussed.

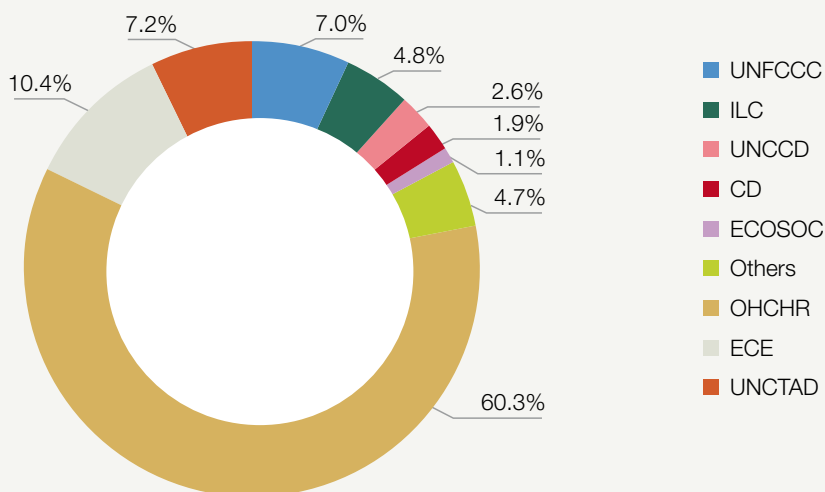
**INTERNAL TRANSLATION/REVISION - MAIN USERS, 2000–2009
(EXPRESSED IN PAGES)**



Delegations from all Member States were invited to meet UNOG interpreters, translators and terminologists and discuss issues with respect to the use of languages under the framework of language-related meetings with Member States. These meetings with Member States generated awareness of multilingualism in the work of the Secretariat, including UNTERM (United Nations Multilingual Terminology Database) and other terminology collections, translation manuals and drafting guidelines. Overall, these meetings contributed to a more holistic understanding of the conference management system at the United Nations.

UNOG continues to make its contribution to special rapporteurs and holders of special procedures mandates of the Human Rights Council. In 2009, a total of 22 human rights missions or field visits to 20 countries or regions were supported. This included two missions to the Gaza Strip to service the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict which conducted interviews and investigations in the region and held public hearings in Gaza City and Geneva. The reports of such trips feed directly into the decision-making process of the human rights mechanism. Conference services were also provided to the Secretary-General during his visit to Ethiopia, and

INTERNAL TRANSLATION/REVISION - MAIN USERS FOR 2009



325 760 pages
Source DRITS, not included the Contractual figures (47 954 pages)



UNOG interpreter at work.



Meeting in session.

to the Geneva International Discussions involving the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the European Union and the United Nations in May, June and November.

Greater emphasis has been placed on staff training with a view to enhancing language skills and increasing ease and reliability in interpretation of speeches and statements. In 2009, 15 interpreters attended advanced training courses at universities in Austria, Spain, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, with further courses planned in Cuba and Spain later in the year. Portable interpretation equipment was also deployed to cover high-level meetings which proved to be promising for the future.

■ Streamlining documentation management

UNOG strengthened its technical expertise and its use of modern equipment to ensure production of high-quality conference documents and publications consistent with twenty-first century environmental norms. As part of an ongoing dialogue on system-wide coherence, a bilingual brochure describing printing facilities and the highly skilled staff in this area was produced and distributed to clients and peers in other international organizations in June 2009. The brochure gives an overview of the activities of the UNOG publishing facility which uses state-of-the-art graphic design, printing and binding equipment.

Environmental concerns are of utmost importance to UNOG conference management operations and are taken into consideration in mitigating their environmental impact (see In focus: Greening the United Nations Office at Geneva).



Printing Section brochure.

Documents were printed in the six official languages for major conferences such as those of the Economic and Social Council, the Human Rights Council and the International Law Commission. Several flagship publications were printed and bound for diverse clients such as UNCTAD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDIR and UNOG.

A revised version of the *Manual on Preparation and Submission of Documentation* has been prepared to facilitate documents submission by clients. The *Manual* provides up-to-date information on authoritative directives, codifies existing practices and standard operating procedures and serves as a teaching tool and reference guide on such matters.

A new forecasting module has been developed for documentation/publication forecasting through the upgrading of the Documents Registration and Information Tracking System (DRITS). This module improves on previous forecasting tools and practices



Document printing service staff at work.

and aims at improving the capacity management and efficiency of the current workflow.

In the framework of the integrated global management (IGM) of conference services, UNOG assisted the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in the design, development and deployment of the Document Control System (DCS) at its headquarters in July 2009. DCS is meant to streamline document-processing, ensure adherence to rules and regulations and aims at improve the capacity and efficiency of the ESCWA Conference Services Section.

■ **Continuously improving overall**

UNOG continues to be innovative in the area of delivery of conference services to Member States and adapts and adjusts its work programme to meet challenges. Client satisfaction surveys focusing on the quality of conference services confirmed that over 96 per cent of clients and Member States were satisfied with the overall delivery of conference services. Discussions are ongoing with conference management duty stations within the United Nations Secretariat to streamline further the qualitative output of the survey results.

In June 2009, UNOG participated with other conference management duty stations in an exercise on the evaluation of the IGM policy of conference services within the United Nations Secretariat by the Office of Internal Oversight Services. Amongst the topics discussed were the four goals of conference management: quality, quantity, timeliness and cost-effectiveness; and inter alia the harmonization of business practices across the conference management duty stations.

Efforts are also being made to strengthen the permanent staffing capacity at UNOG to service the Human Rights Council and its bodies in an efficient and effective manner.

UNOG remains firmly committed to providing high-quality conference services and facilitating the work of Member States.

Chapter III



■ A centre for common services: optimizing results

“ To do the job expected of it, the UN needs a strong, robust empowered Secretariat. My vision is an administration focused on results – efficient, directed, pragmatic and accountable. ”

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

UNOG strives to optimize business practices and to expand the common services platform to the United Nations system in Geneva and beyond. UNOG provides support in the areas of human resources, finance, information and communications technology (ICT), buildings and grounds management, and security and safety that is critical to the efficient day-to-day functioning of the United Nations entities serviced.

■ Consolidating the common services platform

UNOG hosts the secretariat of the Common Procurement Activities Group (CPAG), which serves as an essential platform for coordinating and consolidating procurement activities. Through CPAG, UNOG helps the United Nations system to benefit from economies of scale in the international marketplace by pooling procurement volumes and improving procurement policies, procedures and training programmes. As part of these common service activities, UNOG and UNHCR recently achieved a cost avoidance of US\$ 5.2 million as a result of negotiations with 21 major airlines.

UNOG acts as a lead agency for the procurement of common services among the United Nations system in Geneva. Projects led by UNOG include the procurement of office equipment, supplies and services. During the reporting period, about 3,140 contracts worth over US\$ 50 million were established in this framework. Over 640 tons of mail from 21 Geneva-based United Nations entities were processed. More than 8,000 diplomatic pouches were received and dispatched to some 150 destinations. Over 700,000 internal and external mail items were sorted and distributed for nearly 100 clients through the daily postal and courier services.

■ Ensuring effective and efficient financial management

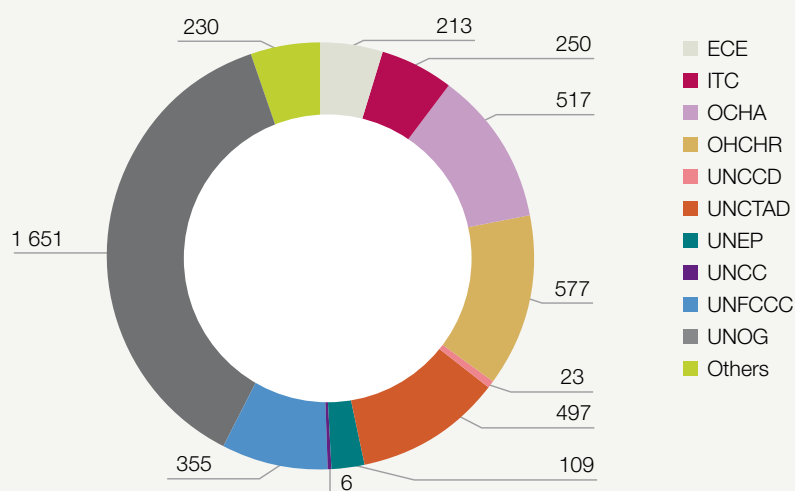
UNOG provides financial management services to over 30 Geneva-based offices and departments as well as to entities located in Turin, Italy and Bonn, Germany. UNOG manages most of their regular programme budget, extrabudgetary resources, treasury and other related financial transactions. In 2009, the related payments processed totalled US\$ 3.8 billion. As at December 2009, there were 4,428 staff members payrolled by UNOG, including 840 staff members stationed outside Geneva at

112 locations worldwide. The medical insurance scheme administered by UNOG covered 21,051 members, of whom 5,167 were retirees. UNOG pays special attention to internal control procedures to mitigate risk and to continuously improve the efficiency and quality of financial services.

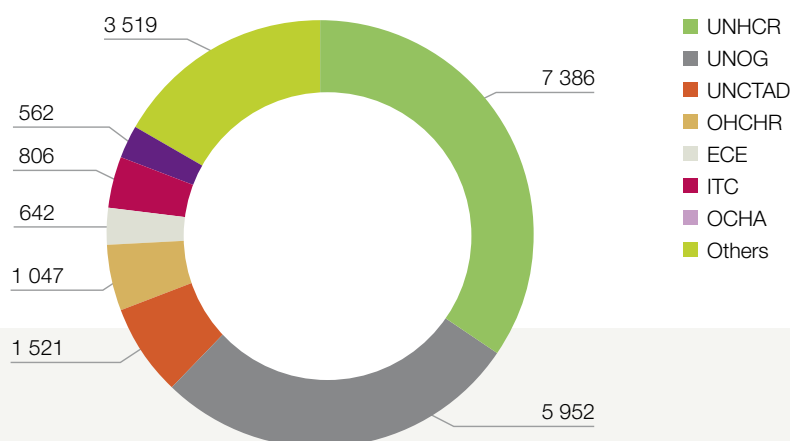
As one of the Steering Committee members, UNOG has made an active contribution concerning the implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) projects. The contributions by UNOG to these projects have been particularly valuable in view of its diverse and complex extrabudgetary operations as a major office away from United Nations Headquarters. Moreover, UNOG plays a leading role in coordinating training in the new ERP projects for all client offices/departments serviced by UNOG as well as in providing related guidance concerning implementation.

During the reporting period, targets were fully met, and sometimes exceeded, in all performance areas. A recent client survey showed very high satisfaction ratings with an average of 93 per cent on the range of services provided.

**PAYROLL-CLIENTS SERVICED BY UNOG (TOTAL : 4 428 STAFF MEMBERS)
DECEMBER 2009**



STAFF MUTUAL INSURANCE SOCIETY AGAINST SICKNESS AND ACCIDENT ENTITIES SERVICED BY UNOG (TOTAL 21 435 MEMBERS INCLUDING 5 273 RETIREES) AS AT DECEMBER 2009



Managing the human capital of the international civil service

“ If we are to attract, recruit and keep the high quality staff the UN needs, we must change our human resources framework and move away from rules that are anchored in the past. ”

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

With considerable delegation of authority from United Nations Headquarters, UNOG delivers integrated, efficient, authoritative and client-oriented services across a spectrum of major human resources management (HRM) issues, including planning, development, administrative support, counselling and the new Administration of Justice system. Approximately 3,500 staff members in more than 30 client departments and offices located in Europe and in 80 field services worldwide benefit from these services. Special arrangements have been made to provide tailored support to different clients, including extending assistance on a 24-hour basis in case of emergencies.

UNOG regularly organizes training sessions and policy meetings to ensure that policies, rules and regulations are interpreted and applied consistently. UNOG has put in place measures to ensure that the Secretariat-wide programmes, including the courses on integrity and harassment in the workplace, are duly implemented in Geneva to raise staff awareness on ethical issues.

One hundred and thirty-five HRM processes have been reviewed to identify best practices and areas for development to further improve efficiency and effectiveness. In the context of the forthcoming Secretariat-wide implementation of the new ERP system, the compendium of these processes has gained added significance. New automated applications, such as the electronic leave request, on-line travel request clearance form, the consultants/individual contractors management system and the internship online application, have been implemented for greater efficiency and to reduce paper-based processes as part of the UNOG greening efforts (see In focus feature on Greening the United Nations Office at Geneva).

UNOG provides a range of career support programmes that serve to underpin the Secretary-General's overall objective to meet the increased expectations of Member States.

UNOG offers language courses in the six United Nations official languages as well as a wide range of substantive skills training and staff development opportunities. Approximately 7,800 clients from Member States, different United Nations entities and other stakeholders in the Geneva international community participated in these activities throughout 2009. UNOG delivered about 130 information technology courses, 210 language courses and 201 courses on management and communication (see table). Mandatory programmes such as competency-based interviewing, ethics and integrity in the workplace, supervisory skills and performance management have been also provided and were well attended.



Staff in training.

Staff development and learning activities

Training areas	Number of participants
Management and communication	3 022
Language training	2 418
Information technology training	983
Pre-retirement seminar	386

UNOG provides a practical mechanism for managers from different entities to meet, exchange knowledge and share best managerial/leadership practices, as well as to discuss common challenges. Several sessions of these "managers workshops" have brought together managers from a wide range of disciplines, which has reinforced the management network in Geneva. Such increased opportunities for interaction and cooperation among senior managers also contribute to greater coherence within the United Nations family in Geneva.

UNOG administers local recruitment tests (clerical, secretarial, accounting and security) as well as the United Nations National Competitive Recruitment Examinations that take place in Geneva. In 2009, around 825 candidates participated in these examinations.

UNOG also implements a range of welfare activities for staff members and their families, including stress management, counselling, informal mediation,

and dealing with the Swiss authorities and those in neighbouring France. Clinical and medico-administrative services are offered by the UNOG Medical Services Section:

Health promotion consultations	45
Medical evacuations	80
Psychological consultations	75
HIV tests	150
Ergonomic evaluations	180
PSA tests	711
Mission briefings	1 025
Medical consultations	2 080
Medical clearances	3 080
Vaccinations	1 390
Medical examinations	2 705
Walk-in clinic	5 700

In response to the H1N1 influenza pandemic, UNOG has reinforced its Pandemic Influenza Plan. The UNOG Medical Services Section serves as the primary information dissemination vehicle about H1N1 for UNOG staff. All essential and critical staff have been identified to ensure business continuity and teleworking capacity has been made fully functional for staff who would have to be evacuated. Emergency contact and communication

systems have also been made functional, the staff and management are kept informed of the different stages of preparedness and the responses, and necessary medical supplies have been stockpiled.

■ Delivering quality information and communications technology services

In the area of information and communications technology, UNOG has improved a range of services through its "Good to Better" 2008-2010 programme initiative. "Good to Better", expressed as a three-year strategic plan, aims to achieve an improved alignment with the Secretary-General's information and communications technology strategic plan ("Investing in information and communications technology: information and communications strategy for the United Nations Secretariat" (A/62/793)), and throughout 2009 a number of innovative products were developed and several noteworthy improvements were made.

In addition to providing ICT services to staff, conference participants and visitors, UNOG assisted other duty stations with important ICT undertakings. For the implementation

of General Assembly resolution 63/250 on human resources management, UNOG sent staff to United Nations Headquarters to oversee the development of the required changes in the Internal Management Information System (IMIS). That has contributed significantly to the Secretariat-wide success of the initiative.

■ Reinforcing security and safety

In view of the increasing number of attacks against United Nations personnel and premises in different parts of the world, the Secretary-General has consistently emphasized security and safety as a key priority for the Organization.

The Director-General, in his capacity as the Designated Official for Switzerland, is accountable to the Secretary-General for the safety and security of all United Nations staff members and their dependants in Switzerland, and UNOG is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all who come to the Palais des Nations and its annexes.

UNOG provides a range of services (see table) to ensure the safety and security of staff, delegates and visitors. Over 215 UNOG security staff members from 30

Achievements in the three main areas of the "Good to Better" initiative

<p>Service support and delivery</p>	<p>Construction of a new, state-of-the art data centre, supported by a network operations centre, and an increasing shift from physical servers to virtualized servers have resulted in considerable energy consumption reductions and contributed significantly to the Secretary-General's "Greening the UN" initiative.</p> <p>With H1N1 in the global spotlight, UNOG has developed a new, user-friendly remote access service based on leading technologies, allowing critical staff to perform many of their functions remotely and ensuring business continuity during crisis periods.</p>
<p>Solution development</p>	<p>The "Bern card" management system was built to enable the electronic entry, assessment and transfer of the application data for the cartes de légitimation to the Permanent Mission of Switzerland. This has made UNOG the first international organization that is fully compliant with the new requirements of the Swiss authorities.</p> <p>Products such as workflow systems and other solutions to modernize administrative processes have delivered efficiency and effectiveness gains within UNOG as well as in some other agencies</p>
<p>Management maturity</p>	<p>"Management maturity" was realized through the ongoing use and refinement of existing internal governance mechanisms, important training efforts in industry best practices such as ITIL, COBIT and PRINCE 2, the work of the ICTS Management Board, and progress in the methodology and implementation of the overarching tactical plan, which encapsulates "Good to Better" as a project portfolio of more than 100 projects.</p>



Visitors check in with a security officer.

countries serve at the Palais des Nations, Palais Wilson, the Giuseppe Motta building, the International Trade Centre, International Environment House as well as at the United Nations Children's Fund and UNHCR buildings.

Types of security services

Threat and risk analysis
Fire prevention
First aid
Operations planning and monitoring
Investigation
Close protection
Pass and identification provision
Training
Explosives detection
Radiological, nuclear, biological and chemical detection and decontamination
Traffic and parking control
Perimeter and internal security

Throughout 2009, UNOG provided security services for a number of special events, visits of high-level dignitaries as well as large conferences. Services are also provided to conferences held at other locations around the world and for ad hoc missions, such as human rights fact-finding visits.

In 2009, UNOG security staff contributed to 15 external conferences and over 40 other missions, including several meetings and conferences held in Buenos Aires, Bonn and Barcelona concerning climate change. From 7 to 18 December 2009, UNOG was responsible for security at the fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This important event, the final in a series of climate meetings held around the world in 2009, was attended by over 30,000 participants, including about 138 Heads of State or Government and other high-level delegates from nearly 200 parties, and observers. UNOG planned and executed the security operation in coordination with the Danish police and other United Nations actors.



Security staff in training.

New badges have been issued to all staff and delegates, which improves access control and allows for a better secured perimeter. Anti-intrusion sensors and over 200 CCTV cameras have been installed to improve the effectiveness of security control.

A number of initiatives are under way to strengthen system-wide coherence of security and safety services throughout the United Nations system. As the Designated Official, the Director-General chairs the Security Management Group (SMG), which consists of the executive heads of all Swiss-based United Nations entities. SMG meetings serve as a good platform to evaluate strategic issues vital to the delivery and enhancement of the safety and security of United Nations personnel and premises in Switzerland. In the SMG, security measures and practices are shared and adapted through continuous review.

On 19 February 2009, the first Security Plan for Switzerland was endorsed by the SMG. The Plan represents the first comprehensive security management manual for Switzerland, and was among the first to be completed within the United Nations system (see 2009 Highlights).

The Permanent Mission of Switzerland has helped ensure an open information channel with the law enforcement and emergency services in the host country, which is critical to the safety and security of the United Nations.

Enabling the substantive work of the Organization while ensuring the safety and security of all those who come to the United Nations' premises is the primary concern of UNOG



Security staff at work.

In Focus



Palais des Nations in 1939

■ Preserving the legacy of the international community: a Strategic Heritage Plan for the Palais des Nations

“ For the first time, a building is about to be erected which will be the common property of the peoples united in the same sentiments of confidence and brotherhood. On this solemn day on which we have the honour to see the foundation-stone laid, we pray that it may truly be the symbol of a new age, that it may announce, like so many other buildings in the past, the development of a great and imperishable idea ”

Mirza Mohammed Ali Khan Foroughi
President of the Council of the League of Nations
7 September 1929

The laying of the foundation stone of the Palais des Nations as the headquarters of the League of Nations on 7 September 1929 was the beginning of the construction of a new multilateralism. The Palais des Nations was to be more than an architectural and artistic landmark. It was to become the embodiment of the collective aspirations of the international community for a more peaceful, more prosperous and more just world.

The horrors of the First World War, developments in international communications and trade, and the beginnings of travel over longer distances combined to convince the then world leaders that the destinies of their countries and peoples were linked. The challenges before them could only be confronted effectively through collective action. The Palais des Nations was to be, at once, the symbolic representation of this realization and the platform where multilateral solutions were to be crafted.

■ 1930s infrastructure for twenty-first century activities

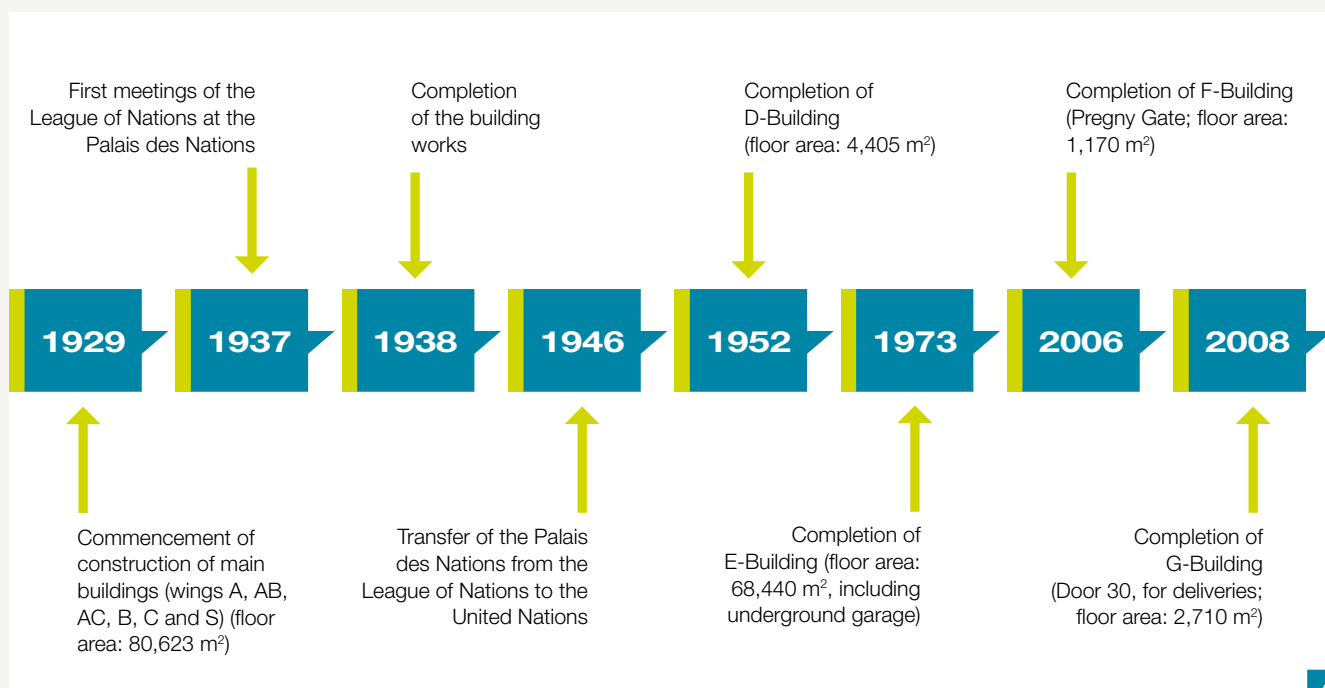
As the founders of the League of Nations saw multilateralism as the future, the Palais des Nations was built to last. But, in 1929, they could not have predicted the expansion in multilateral collaboration after the Second World War with the founding of the United Nations. Fifty-three States were members of the League when the foundation stone was laid and membership reached

60 when the League was at its largest. From the original 51 United Nations Member States in 1945, today's Organization comprises 192 Members. World population has grown from an estimated 2 billion people in 1929 to close to 7 billion today, dramatically increasing the number of people served by the Organization.

While the Palais des Nations was built for conference diplomacy, this important element of the United Nations' work is now coupled with wide-ranging field operations. The development in the breadth of the Organization's mandates has brought new needs for operations and communications features, and for greater flexibility in terms of office space use that could not have been envisaged in 1929.

The majority of the buildings at the Palais des Nations site now face considerable maintenance challenges stemming from age, intensive use over the past seven decades and the cumulative effect of diminishing funding for maintenance purposes. The main building and its annexes have been maintained to the extent possible with the available means. While certain rooms and other parts of the complex have been subjected to partial updating and renovation, many critical infrastructure features were part of the original construction.

The equipment and installations at the Palais des Nations such as lifts, water pipes, electric wiring and sanitary installations are in various degrees of deterioration.



Timeline for the construction of the different parts of the Palais des Nations.



Laying of the foundation stone of the Palais des Nations, 7 September 1929.

Many of the materials are not durable and are disintegrating. Most of the windows in the old Secretariat building date from the 1930s and are outdated. Poor insulation and insufficient temperature control mechanisms result in loss of energy, and consequently, in excessive greenhouse gas emissions.

Ad hoc solutions based on the current approach of including resources in the biennial programme budget to meet the most urgent alteration, improvement and

major maintenance requirements are no longer sufficient to ensure the long-term sustainability of the facilities. In the short to middle term, this lead to safety and security hazards, with serious financial and environmental implications, cause suboptimal working conditions affecting the efficiency of the services provided, and increase maintenance and operating costs. In the longer term, the building itself and the unique heritage that it represents are at stake.



First Assembly of the League of Nations in the new Palais des Nations, 1937.

■ A Strategic Heritage Plan to protect the legacy of the international community

A significant renovation and rehabilitation of the Palais des Nations site and its infrastructure is needed for its long-term protection. If not looked at in a systematic way and addressed through a well-developed long-term programme, the site will continue to deteriorate, and operating and maintenance costs are likely to continue to escalate progressively. The longer it takes before such a comprehensive overhaul is undertaken, the more serious the challenges and the more costly the exercise will become.

The Director-General is working closely with Member States and relevant parts of the United Nations Secretariat towards the implementation of a Strategic Heritage Plan for the renovation, rehabilitation and restoration of the Palais des Nations site to preserve the unique heritage, maintain continued functionality and contain maintenance and operating costs. It would be an initial investment, which would yield long-term savings and significantly lower the carbon footprint of UNOG.

Reflecting the commitment of Member States to safeguarding this collective heritage, a Group of Friends of the Palais des Nations came together in early 2008 to provide guidance and support for the development and implementation of the Strategic Heritage Plan. The Group of Friends is open to all Member States, who are invited to the meetings that take place on an ad hoc basis.

UNOG has drawn on the experience of the Department of Management at United Nations Headquarters, in particular the Office of the Capital Master Plan and the Office of Central Support Services, to ensure that relevant experience in the conception and execution of renovation on this scale be integrated into the Strategic Heritage Plan. Important lessons from the Capital Master Plan project include the need for a strong focus on planning, thorough technical analysis of the challenges and a realistic costing of options for Member States to consider. In addition, taking into account suggestions and ideas put forward by Member States through the Group of Friends, a three-phase Strategic Heritage Plan has been formulated:

Overview of the three-phase Strategic Heritage Plan			
	Phase 1 - Initiation	Phase 2 - Planning	Phase 3 - Execution
Scope and objectives	Initial basic assessment of the type and scope of the challenges and terms of reference (TRs) for a larger study	Based on the TRs of the foundational phase 1 study, a conceptual engineering and architectural study outlining the challenges, describing appropriate remedial action and likely time frames, providing possible options, with estimated costs (-/+ 20%) for Member States' consideration	The scope of the actual renovation will be determined on the basis of the outcome of the phase 2 engineering and architectural study, subsequent discussions among Member States of options and following the results of the individual Requests for Proposal to be launched
Cost	US\$ 150 000	Estimated requirements for the conceptual engineering study at US\$ 1.1 million, including the cost of the internal resources required to manage the project (1 D-1 and 1 GS, 10 work-months respectively)	The estimated cost will depend on the scope of the renovation, as determined by Member States
Funding source	Contributed by the Government of Switzerland in December 2008	The request for funding of US\$ 1.1 million has been included in the proposed programme budget for the 2010-2011 biennium for the consideration of Member States (A/64/6 (sect. 33) and Add.1)	To be determined by Member States
Time frame	After a competitive bidding process, the study began in June 2009, and the final report was delivered on 28 August 2009	The conceptual engineering study will be completed in late 2010 at the earliest	Depending on the outcome of the discussions on funding, the implementation of the Strategic Heritage Plan could start after 2013

■ Taking the first foundational step

In December 2008, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Federal Councillor Micheline Calmy-Rey, informed the Director-General of Switzerland's decision to finance the study of the foundational phase 1 with a contribution of US\$ 150,000, on an exceptional basis and to avoid any further delay in the beginning of the critical initial study. This generous contribution from the host country marked the official start of the implementation of the three-phase Strategic Heritage Plan, and a competitive bidding process was initiated.

Also in December 2008, a series of special tours of the Palais des Nations were conducted by the UNOG technical experts to show Member States in greater detail the threats to the long-term preservation of the building. Many Member State representatives took this opportunity to gain a more detailed understanding of the scope and complexity of the structural problems.

The special tours were followed up by a meeting of the Group of Friends on 6 February 2009 at the invitation of the Director-General. On this occasion, the Director-General explained the three-phase Strategic Heritage Plan and expressed appreciation to the Government of Switzerland for enabling the Plan to be commenced. All Member States present stressed their commitment to the protection of the Palais des Nations and its unique

legacy, and noted their support for the Plan as the means to achieving that objective. The Executive Director of the Capital Master Plan also provided a briefing on the large-scale renovation of the United Nations Headquarters building and outlined applicable lessons for the Strategic Heritage Plan of the Palais des Nations.

Upon selection of an engineering firm, in accordance with standard procurement procedures, the foundational phase 1 study began in June 2009. The final report was delivered to UNOG on 28 August 2009, and Member States were briefed on the results during various meetings. The 594-page document included comprehensive terms of reference for a recommended subsequent multistep planning phase.

Based on the initial basic assessment of the state of the buildings and the infrastructure of the entire compound, the report concluded that the Palais des Nations in its current state could not, without significant work, fulfil its mandated objectives and did not live up to new standards with respect to energy consumption or offer present-day functionalities for its users. It further underlined the urgent need to conduct a more in-depth evaluation of the Palais des Nations site. It also identified a number of urgent infrastructure problems, to be addressed while the phase 2 study was under way.

Main challenges identified in the phase 1 report

Challenge	Consequences	Impact
<p>Insufficient or non-existent insulation</p> <p>Energy inefficient windows</p> <p>Insufficient capacity for differentiating heating and cooling in different parts of the building, depending on need and exposure to natural sunlight</p>	<p>Increased greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption</p>	<p>Excessive heat in summer and cold in winter</p> <p>Possible use of electric heaters in summer or fans in winter to compensate</p> <p>Safety hazards through risk of breaking of glass or excessive condensation</p>
<p>Insufficient waterproofing of roof surfaces in buildings A and E</p>	<p>Flooding in offices</p> <p>Damages to the structure</p>	<p>Risk of need to vacate certain zones and offices</p>

Building on the results of the initial assessment, the proposed commencement of the planning phase of the Strategic Heritage Plan foresees the completion of a conceptual engineering and architectural study as a first important milestone and decision point for consideration by Member States. The key deliverables envisaged for the proposed first milestone in the planning phase are highlighted in the table below:

Key deliverables for the first milestone in the planning phase

1. Establishment of key performance objectives in terms of functionality of the premises, energy performance, quality of interior environment and security, as well as longevity and durability;
2. Identification of major operational issues and critical security risks and proposal of strategies to mitigate impact on operations;
3. Comprehensive, high-level assessment of the renovation, rehabilitation and restoration needs of the Palais des Nations;
4. Different options and technical alternatives;
5. Alternative concepts and implementation strategies to execute a renovation, rehabilitation and restoration programme at the Palais des Nations; and
6. Recommendation of the concept deemed most appropriate for necessary renovation, rehabilitation and restoration works, including project priorities, high-level outline of a project plan with organisation and management of the project, a provisional timeline and a rough order of magnitude of the possible project cost.

■ Our common heritage: our collective responsibility

The Palais des Nations ties together the lessons of the past, the efforts of today and the vision of a better tomorrow. It is an illustration that lasting results are built over time – through multilateral action, and with patience and persistence. UNOG is proud to hold this unique heritage in trust. The Palais des Nations belongs to the international community; it is a shared obligation to preserve it.

The Strategic Heritage Plan represents the foundation for a sustainable future for the Palais des Nations in the service of security, development and human rights for all.



"Building the Palais des Nations" by Massimo Campigli. Mural painting acquired by the League of Nations in 1937.

In Focus



The Palais des Nations in summer.

■ Greening the United Nations Office at Geneva

“ Put simply, climate change will rewrite the global equation for development, peace and prosperity in the twenty first century. ”

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
The Road to Copenhagen: Meeting the Climate Challenge
(3 October 2009)

Climate change is a defining challenge of our age. Together with the wider United Nations system, UNOG is working towards climate neutrality in its operations to set an example by limiting our collective carbon footprint in line with the Secretary-General's priorities.

As a major service provider, UNOG integrates the greening dimension in all areas of its work, from conference management to administration, and library



Sheep grazing on the lawn of the Palais des Nations.

and information services. Over the past eight years, UNOG has cut electricity and fuel consumption by 20 per cent and water consumption by just over 40 per cent. This impressive reduction in CO₂ emissions has been achieved through a combination of institutional measures, innovative partnerships with the host country and civil society, and a transformation of work processes – installing solar panels, restricting air conditioning, improving thermal insulation, buying fuel-efficient vehicles, providing incentives to staff to use sustainable modes of transport, separating waste and using sheep to cut the grass. Creativity and a readiness to embrace change have been critical.

With the firm commitment and active participation of staff, UNOG continued building on these accomplishments throughout 2009, as its efforts took on added significance in the run-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, which took place from 7 to 18 December 2009.

From early 2009, the Palais des Nations has been heated with natural gas instead of fuel, which has significantly reduced emissions of carbon dioxide, as well as oxide, dioxide and sulphur dioxide. In addition, there is no longer any need for delivery of oil in vehicles, which added to greenhouse gas reductions. The Natural Gas Project is the result of a partnership with the main utility provider in Geneva, Services Industriels de Genève.

Advantages and savings in the context of the Natural Gas Project

Advantages	Reduced carbon dioxide emissions
Without Natural Gas Project	5 500 metric tons of CO ₂ /year
With Natural Gas Project	4 220 metric tons of CO ₂ /year
Savings	1 280 metric tons of CO ₂ /year
Savings (percentage)	23.27%

On 28 March 2009, UNOG together with United Nations Headquarters and other United Nations offices, switched off all lights for one hour as part of Earth Hour 2009. Led by the World Wildlife Fund, the Earth Hour initiative reached over 1 billion people in 4,000 cities in 88 countries worldwide, sending a clear message to world leaders of concern over climate change.

In June 2009, the Geneva-Lake-Nations (GLN) project became operational and was officially launched on 29 July 2009 in a ceremony in which the Director-General and Mr. Robert Cramer, Councillor of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, participated. On this occasion, the Director-General also signed the Copenhagen: Seal the Deal campaign. Through GLN, the Palais des Nations is now supplied with water from Lake Geneva for cooling of the premises and uses 100 per cent renewable energy. As in the case of the Natural Gas Project, GLN represents



The Director-General signs the Copenhagen: Seal the Deal campaign (29 July 2009).

an innovative partnership with the Services Industriels de Genève. It is estimated that the global reduction of costs for the Palais des Nations, calculated over a 16-year period, will come to approximately 60,000 SwF per year.

Advantages and savings in the context of GLN

Advantages	Reduced electricity consumption	Reduced water consumption	Reduced maintenance costs
Without GLN	15 100 MWh/year	150 000 m ³ /year	SwF 45,000
With GLN	14 610 MWh/year	142 000 m ³ /year	SwF 30,000
Savings	490 MWh/year	8 000 m ³ /year	SwF 15,000
Savings (percentage)	3.25	5.33	33.33
Estimated cost avoidance (2007 prices)	SwF 64,778	SwF 21,256	SwF 15,000

In a second phase, the GLN grid will be used to supply heating for the new buildings in the Nations area, including the Sismondi College, the "Maison de la Paix" and the planned extension of the World Trade Organization.

Also in June 2009, UNOG was awarded the prestigious Nature Reserve Certificate by the Swiss non-profit organization, Fondation Nature Et Economie. This well-known environmental quality label is awarded to entities

that protect nature and contribute to biological diversity by managing at least 30 per cent of the green areas around buildings in a natural manner. The many initiatives of UNOG to qualify for the Certificate include, among others, avoiding pesticides, utilizing compost and making use of sheep instead of lawnmowers. As a result of these concerted efforts over several years, visitors can enjoy the rich biodiversity of the 46-hectare park, with trees over 100 years old, more than 68,000 m² of lush grassland and a large variety of flowers.



The Nature Reserve Certificate awarded to UNOG.



The Natural Gas Project construction site.

In the area of conference management, materials purchased and production processes comply with modern environmental standards. Publications and documents are printed on uncoated paper whose pulp originates from sustainably managed forests certified by the Forest Stewardship Council and/or the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes and the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme certification. Recently installed digital printing machines, accounting for 40 per cent of overall production, consume 45 per cent less energy and produce 90 per cent less ozone than equivalent machines in their class. The use of outdated films and chemicals has been eliminated from the plate-making process and the computer-to-plate processer uses no chemicals in the production of printing plates. All waste materials are recycled or disposed of in line with Swiss environmental regulations.

Improvements in the field of information and communications technologies include the construction of a new, state-of-the-art data centre supported by a Network Operations Centre and a gradual shift from physical servers to virtualized servers. The innovations will result in significant savings in energy consumption.

In 2007, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board (CEB), chaired by the Secretary-General, decided to move all organizations belonging to the United Nations system towards climate neutrality for facility operations

and travel by the end of 2009. In response to the CEB decision, the Director-General has established the UNOG Climate Neutral Task Force, which in 2009 compiled the first-ever Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory for UNOG. As UNOG provides buildings and travel services to a large number of United Nations entities, the inventory included greenhouse gas emissions for travel for 18 United Nations entities and for building management for 19 entities. The inventory was included as part of Copenhagen Climate Neutral UN report presented at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. It will be updated annually to track performance over time.

As it provides an analysis of the current pattern and size of emissions, the inventory is an important tool for identifying potential for reductions and setting priorities for action. Based on the results of the inventory and experience so far in reducing emissions, UNOG will compile a Climate Neutral Strategy to be implemented throughout 2010. The Strategy will be based on input and ideas from all UNOG divisions and services, and will include practical measures, recommendations, reduction targets derived from the baselines determined in the 2009 inventory, and deadlines for implementation.

In the framework of system-wide efforts to incorporate the greening dimension in all aspects of the work of the Organization, UNOG is now a member of the Geneva Environment Network. Bringing together some

Elements of the UNOG Climate Neutral Strategy to be developed and implemented in 2010

Pillar	Areas of operation	Measures under consideration
Physical assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Buildings ■ Equipment ■ Vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Installation of additional solar panels for hot water production ■ Creation of 233 additional parking spaces for bicycles and 64 for motorcycles, as well as additional showers
Management processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Procurement ■ Travel ■ Management systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Suggested use of train to destinations within a certain distance
Organizational culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Day-to-day office behaviour and corporate culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Establishment of green task forces in all divisions ■ Introduction of a printing policy to manage printing and copying ■ Introduction of sustainable procurement training for all buyers

50 organizations engaged in environmental issues within and outside the United Nations system in Geneva, the Geneva Environment Network functions as an inter-agency coordination and partnership-building mechanism in this critical area. UNOG is exploring with the Geneva Environment Network and other United Nations entities based in Geneva the possibility of marking World Environment Day on 5 June 2010 to highlight the United Nations family's collective efforts for environmental sustainability.

The deteriorating state of the Palais des Nations and its energy-inefficient infrastructure continue to limit significantly the extent of achievable carbon emission limitations. Climate neutrality can only be realized through a complete renovation of the buildings to ensure compliance with current energy efficiency standards. This concern is being addressed within the context of the Strategic Heritage Plan, as described above, which is essential for sustainable preservation of the buildings and optimum energy performance.

UNOG continues to share its experience, within and outside the system, to inspire and encourage all who come to the Palais des Nations to apply the same principles in their activities and provide further impetus for a greener United Nations in the collective efforts to combat climate change. UNOG is not only changing policies and practices, but strives to change mindsets and habits. The future of the planet depends on it.

“ At the Palais des Nations, we do face particular challenges in reaching climate neutrality. Close to 80 years old now, the Palais was built long before climate, carbon and emissions became part of the political and public vocabulary. This is another reason that we are committed to the implementation of our Strategic Heritage Plan for the sustainable preservation of the Palais. ”

The Director-General at the inauguration of the Geneva-Lake-Nations Project (29 July 2009)

Chapter IV



United Nations radio staff at work.

A hub for communications and advocacy: engaging our global constituencies

Public support is essential for United Nations activities to have an impact. Knowledge of the scope and results of programmes and policies facilitates the realization of our objectives. Effective communication strategies on priority issues that reach and engage all stakeholders are therefore a central element in our efforts.

UNOG helps to increase the visibility of the Organization's work among all stakeholder communities through press releases, publications, radio and television material, information programmes, the UNOG website, special events and commemorations. The emphasis is on demonstrating its relevance to people's everyday lives and on building new generations of support for the work of the Organization.

Communicating on the work of the Organization

Throughout the year, UNOG issued some 981 press releases and meeting summaries, with a focus on raising awareness of the work of the Conference on



United Nations TV staff webcast meetings.

Disarmament, the Human Rights Council, the human rights treaty bodies and the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

UNOG produces and distributes television, radio and photo material, and provides studio and transmission facilities to broadcasters and accredited correspondents. Extensive radio and television coverage is distributed mainly through United Nations Radio in New York, UNIFEED (a United Nations television satellite transmission service which allows

television broadcasters to access news material provided by United Nations organizations), and through the European Broadcasting Union's Eurovision network.

Audio-news reports and interviews on major United Nations events and activities in Geneva are transmitted for use by United Nations Radio and for broadcasting by radio stations around the world. Television production services are provided to a number of departments and specialized agencies.



United Nations TV staff in the studio.

In 2009, UNTV provided television coverage for the webcasting of the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference and the Review Conference itself, all Human Rights Council sessions and Universal Periodic Review meetings. Based on this coverage, several video and radio reports were later produced in both English and French.

UNTV produced a number of compilations covering the Geneva International Discussions, the H1N1 pandemic and several major press conferences, including the Secretary-General's visits to Geneva. More than 3,000 photos of the above events were sent to the United Nations photo library. In addition, an archiving project of video footage was launched. UNTV also participated in a filming mission to Cyprus for the 21st Century United Nations Television Series and provided items for the United Nations in Action series and CNN's World Report to bring the different dimensions of the Organization's work to as large and varied an audience as possible.

■ Facilitating the work of the global media

“ At a time of economic crisis and other serious threats, it is crucial to support a free and independent media so that people can better understand the events that shape their lives, and the choices they face. ”

The Secretary-General's remarks on World Press Freedom Day
(7 May 2009)

The international press plays an important part in disseminating news about the activities of the United Nations to the wider public. More than 200 permanently accredited journalists work at the Palais des Nations. Another 250 or so come for temporary assignments. UNOG provides them with offices and a documentation centre to facilitate their work of reporting on United Nations efforts, and enables their access to the latest information on topical issues through press conferences and other press encounters.



The Secretary-General, accompanied by the Director-General, meets members of the Association of Correspondents Accredited to the United Nations, on 4 July 2009. UN photo/Mark Garten.



The Secretary-General addresses a press conference at UNOG on 4 July 2009. UN Photo/Mark Garten.

Given that an estimated two thirds of the Organization's activities take place in Geneva, UNOG cooperates closely with the public information services of other United Nations entities present in the city to formulate comprehensive, coordinated, coherent and carefully designed system-wide communication strategies to achieve the greatest possible impact. Through press briefings held twice a week, chaired by UNOG and attended by spokespersons from Geneva-based United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, the press is kept informed about the latest developments and ongoing efforts of the United Nations.

UNOG organizes press conferences to enable permanent missions and other international organizations based in Geneva to address the press corps to explain their activities or positions on international affairs. UNOG also organizes press conferences for visiting United Nations officials and experts, as well as specialized press conferences on topics of interest to the media and for launching of major reports. Two hundred and thirty-seven such targeted press conferences took place at the Palais des Nations in 2009.

In 2009, the adoption of a Programme of Work by the Conference on Disarmament after more than twelve years of stalemate, the Durban Review Conference, the Geneva International Discussions, the celebrations of the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the substantive session of the Economic and Social

Council attracted particularly intense media attention from outlets across the globe.

■ Connecting with the public

By building bridges to the general public, UNOG contributes towards consolidating support for the activities of the United Nations.

Launched in 2008 by UNOG and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the Geneva Lecture Series aims to bring awareness of pressing global challenges to a wide audience in Geneva and beyond. The lectures are open to the general public and present a unique forum for exchange. In its first year, the inaugural lecture on the Millennium Development Goals delivered by the Secretary-General and the second edition by two Nobel Prize laureates, Shirin Ebadi and Wole Soyinka, on human rights attracted considerable attention and brought to the Palais des Nations many people who had never had an opportunity to visit the United Nations.

Building on these successes, a third edition of the series was organized on 5 October 2009 on resetting the nuclear disarmament agenda with a keynote speech by former President of the Soviet Union and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Mikhail Gorbachev, and participation by the Secretary-General. In his remarks, the Secretary-General called for world leaders to exercise much-needed

political will to work towards genuine reductions and an eventual ban of nuclear weapons. Mr. Gorbachev declared that nuclear weapons must be destroyed and the world must be rid of this threat. His keynote address was followed by a public debate with more than 1,700 people in attendance – the biggest audience to date. The discussions underscored the importance of nuclear disarmament in strengthening our common international security objectives, as well as confirming the urgent need to revitalize the international disarmament agenda. High-level media coverage of the event was made possible with the contribution of the various event partners, including the Swiss authorities and local media.

Guided tours of the Palais des Nations, offered in some 15 languages, continue to serve as an important outreach tool. The tours give the public an opportunity to relate to the Organization through learning about its history and work. In 2009, UNOG received close to 100,000 visitors. The new Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room with Miquel Barceló's cupola has been added to the regular guided tour of the Palais des Nations and has attracted a significant number of visitors. An additional 39 short briefings were organized for group visitors.

Throughout the reporting period, UNOG also organized 49 individual information programmes lasting from one to five days, providing an introduction to the work of the United Nations family in Geneva, tailored specifically to the needs of diplomats, civil servants, representatives of non-governmental organizations and students from around the world. The information programmes represent a particularly valuable avenue for different stakeholders to engage directly with United Nations experts.

■ Promoting greater openness and transparency through the UNOG website

The UNOG website (www.unog.ch) remains an indispensable information tool for permanent missions, conference delegates, media, academia and research institutions, United Nations staff and the general public. Providing up-to-date information on the functions and activities of the Office, it is accessed close to 10,000 times a week from visitors from all parts of the world who wish to keep abreast of the latest developments.



UNOG tour guide at work.

With a view to promoting greater openness and transparency, UNOG is working to ensure access, manage content efficiently and broaden its outreach in all regions. The UNOG website is undergoing constant refinement to integrate as much information as possible, including through webcasting, audio, video and photographic material, which all enhance the multilingual web-accessible nature of the site.

Following a public survey conducted to further improve the utility, depth and reach of the website among the different user groups, a number of new functions have been added, including RSS feeds, online event registration applications and online surveys. Technical upgrades and enhancements have been made to facilitate proper access to the information provided. As a result of these combined ongoing efforts, use has more than doubled over the past three years: from 6,173,607 page hits in 2006 to 13,478,156 in 2009.

	Number of unique visitors	Number of visits	Number of pages
January–December 2006	330 681	574 490	6 173 607
January–December 2007	345 248	590 822	9 392 815
July 2007–June 2008	464 748	787 035	11 925 737
July 2008–June 2009	507 174	882 677	13 478 156

In the context of efforts to strengthen information-sharing mechanisms within the United Nations family in Geneva, UNOG, in close cooperation with other organizations, has developed a consolidated web calendar of United Nations system meetings taking place in Geneva. This calendar, which is accessible from every page of the UNOG website, contains information on meetings of the organizations of the United Nations system in Geneva viewable on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. The calendar is maintained and updated by UNOG with information provided by the organizations concerned or gathered from information publicly available on their websites. UNOG is currently examining the possibility of upgrading the system to one that would allow for the automated transfer of data from the websites of other United Nations entities to that of UNOG. It is hoped the new tool will also serve to underpin efforts to enhance United Nations system-wide coherence.

■ Raising awareness through commemoration

A number of international days were observed at the Palais des Nations in 2009 to raise awareness of specific issues and to promote the work of the Organization. These events provided an opportunity to reflect on lessons learned and challenges ahead for the international community, and to further publicize particular issues on the United Nations agenda. Several events were organized in collaboration with Member States or civil society organizations, serving to strengthen UNOG's partnerships with different stakeholders in support of the work of the Organization.



Children at the 2009 commemoration of the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda.

Some international days observed in 2009

General Assembly resolution 60/7	27 January	International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust
General Assembly resolution 32/142	8 March	United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace
General Assembly resolution 2142 (XXI)	21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
General Assembly resolution 58/234	7 April	International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda
	25 May	Africa Day
General Assembly resolution 57/129	29 May	International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers
General Assembly resolution 49/214	10 August	International Day of Indigenous People
General Assembly resolution 63/139	19 August	World Humanitarian Day
General Assembly resolution 47/196	17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
General Assembly resolution 36/67	21 September	International Day of Peace
General Assembly resolution 2782 (XXVI)	24 October	United Nations Day
General Assembly resolution 32/40 B	29 November	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
General Assembly resolution 423 (V)	10 December	Human Rights Day

■ Reaching out to young people

Half the world's population is under 25. They represent the power to shape and change our world and will carry forward the work of the Organization. UNOG therefore strongly supports initiatives aimed at rallying young people behind the principles and ideals of the United Nations as part of its particular responsibilities towards succeeding generations.

In July 2009, UNOG organized its forty-seventh Graduate Study Programme, which brought together postgraduate students from around the world for three weeks to study the work of the United Nations in detail. Seventy carefully selected students from 41 countries participated in the programme under the theme "The United Nations: working to reduce the impact of the economic crisis on human rights, development and the environment". Senior experts from various areas of UNOG and other Geneva-based United Nations entities delivered lectures and engaged in discussions with the participants. A comprehensive report written by the students was published and distributed to all participants, Permanent Missions in Geneva, the offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) throughout the world and United Nations Information Centres. Following the conclusion of the Programme, these graduates will now help to sensitize others in their countries and communities to the efforts of the United Nations.

On 10 July 2009, UNOG received 42 students in the 9th Summer Course on International Humanitarian Law from the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Italy. The Director-General briefed them on the humanitarian activities of the United Nations and its work to ensure respect for international humanitarian law.

“ The United Nations is both a unique and powerful instrument. But, it needs the support of all people to be able to realize its full potential and make a real difference. And I know that with talented, dedicated, creative and compassionate young leaders and global citizens like you, we will be leaving it in the best of hands. ”

The Director-General's closing remarks at the Global Model United Nations (7 August 2009)



Students at a public event at the Palais des Nations.



Students at the first annual GMUN Conference.

From 5 to 7 August 2009, the first annual Global Model United Nations (GMUN) Conference was held at the Palais des Nations. It focused on "The Millennium Development Goals: lifting the bottom billion out of poverty". About 400 students from 57 countries were selected by various organizers of existing Model United Nations to attend the GMUN Conference. Acting as diplomats representing different countries, the participants took part in simulated sessions of the United Nations General Assembly and other multilateral bodies in the system. A new set of rules of procedure that more closely reflect the present deliberative process used at the United Nations was introduced at the GMUN Conference. The outcome, such as resolutions and recommendations, were made available to the press and public, with the prospect of being channelled into the preparatory work for the high-level meeting on the Millennium Development Goals in 2010.

On 16 March 2009, over 100 students from around the globe took part in the Annual Conference of the Geneva International Model United Nations (GIMUN) at the Palais des Nations. As an association entirely run by students, GIMUN works towards engaging youth worldwide in the United Nations and helps to increase understanding of its functioning through simulated debates mirroring United Nations General Assembly plenary sessions, the Security Council and other intergovernmental organs.

On the occasion of the 64th Anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations on 24 October 1945, UNOG and GIMUN co-organized a conference entitled "Comprehensive human security: from theory to practice". This event gathered many students and academics at the Palais des Nations who reflected on the concept of human security and its application to the work of the United Nations.

From 5 to 17 July 2009, UNOG contributed to the annual Quaker United Nations Summer School in Geneva, which brought together around 30 young people to learn about the work of the United Nations.

From 14 to 15 December 2009, UNOG hosted the sixteenth General Assembly of the Students' League of Nations, organized by the International School of Geneva and attended by over 200 students from secondary schools in different parts of the world.

The UNOG Library tailors activities to reach younger generations by providing specific tours of the Library and its archives to hundreds of students from academic institutions around the world. Some later become regular users of the reading rooms, collections and services of the Library, further reinforcing UNOG cooperation with the research and academic community.

Chapter V



Left: The Library catalogue room at the time of the League of Nations

Right: UNOG Library welcome desk in 2009.

■ A nexus for knowledge-sharing: from collections to connections

“ I want the United Nations to be a powerhouse of ideas, a platform for debating them, and a safe haven for honest exchanges. I look forward to encouraging this process and building on this important United Nations tradition. ”

The Secretary-General's remarks at the launch of "United Nations Ideas that Changed the World", published by the United Nations Intellectual History Project (14 September 2009)

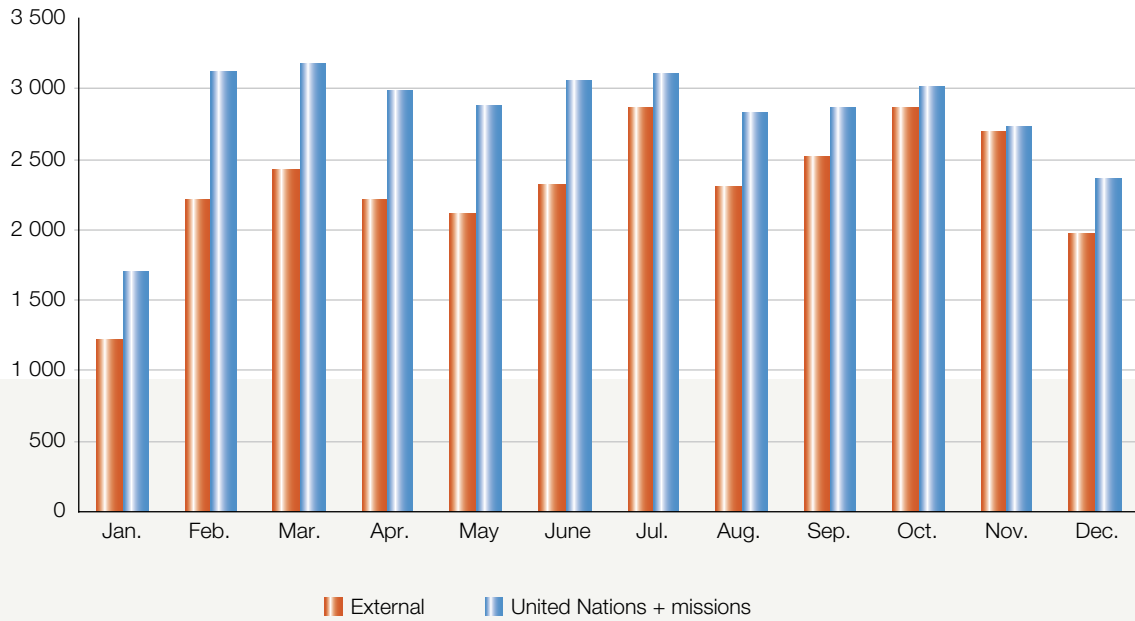
Guided by its original purpose to serve as a centre of international research and an instrument of international understanding, the UNOG Library has become a nexus for knowledge-sharing in our era of information and communications technology.

With 56 linear kilometres of documents, archives and publications, the UNOG Library is the largest in the United Nations system. Combining collections and connections, it provides a rich variety of knowledge products to more than 60,000 users, facilitating informed policy and decision-making. A central library for the United Nations family in Geneva, the Library is also widely used by representatives of Member States and the research and academic community as an integral part of "International Geneva".

■ Providing efficient and reliable access to information

The UNOG Library continually enriches its collections from multiple sources. While maintaining efficient access to information on the library premises, it provides an

MONTHLY BREAKDOWN PER USER CATEGORY, 2009



ever-greater range of online resources through innovative use of ICT, including a secure remote access service for staff members on mission or away from the office. The same service could be extended to permanent missions.

With a view to better meeting user needs, in 2009 the UNOG Library purchased more than 2,000 books, covering all fields related to United Nations activities and complementing the existing print collection of approximately one million volumes. Following the integration of the UNHCR Library collections in 2008, the UNOG Library further broadened its collection in the field of refugees.

Newly subscribed databases	Keesing's
	Facts On File
	Contemporary Women's Issues
	Africa Confidential
	Oxford Islamic Studies Online
	Latin American Newsletters
	Oxford Reports on International Law
	Le Petit Robert & Le Grand Robert
	The Hague Academy Collected Courses

The UNOG Library also increased its collection of electronic journals and databases, which now comprises more than 70 open access and subscribed databases, including the newly subscribed databases in the table opposite. By integrating print and electronic statistical resources from UNECE and UNCTAD, the Library extended the breadth of

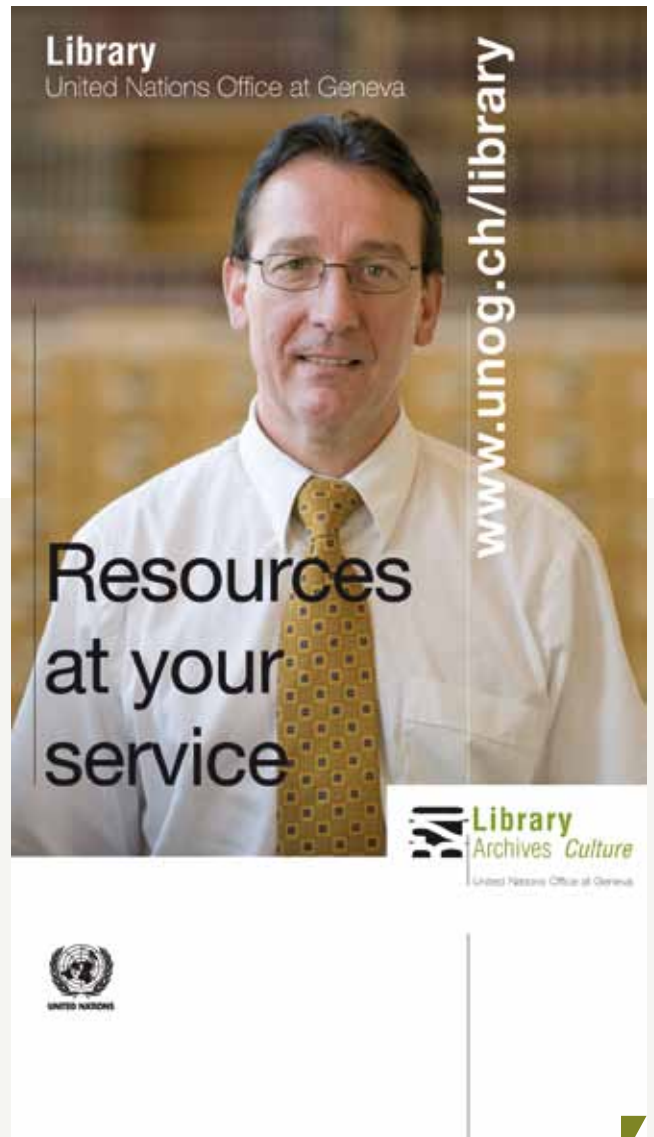
its statistical resources and helped to make these statistics more easily accessible through a more central location. The collection now includes statistical publications from countries and industries for which there previously was little or no coverage.

As illustrated in the chart below, usage of electronic resources has greatly increased since the last reporting period.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES CONSULTATIONS BY SUBJECT AREA



Over the past 12 months, 5,000 United Nations documents have been indexed to improve their accessibility, and guidelines for indexing human rights treaty body documentation were further developed to facilitate research in this area.



UNOG Library information handout cover.

■ Promoting knowledge management

The UNOG Library has established itself as a knowledge management facility. It is one of the two Geneva members of the Working Group on Knowledge Management established by the United Nations Office for Information and Communications Technology at United Nations Headquarters. It also cooperates closely with the Dag Hammarskjöld Library at Headquarters in elaborating a new enterprise content management system.

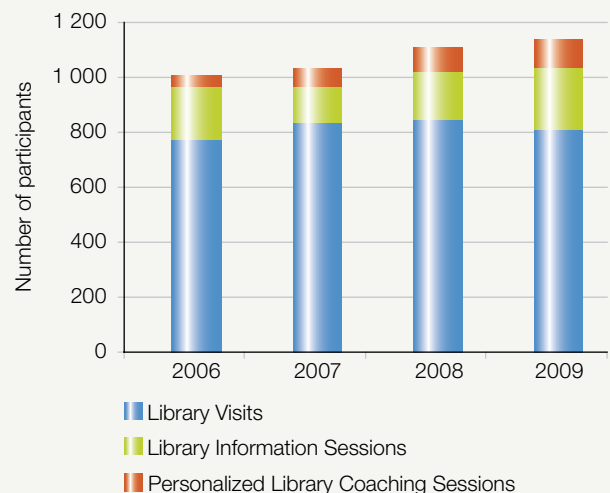
The UNOG Library has further enhanced its personal knowledge management programme to both delegates and staff. In 2009, UNOG librarians offered personalized coaching sessions to 103 Library users. In support of this programme, the Library has developed new coaching modules tailored to the needs of different groups and individuals.

Sample information sessions

“Get your books@UNOG Library”

“Get your news@UNOG Library”

“Lost in UN documentation? Ask your librarian”





UNOG Library informational tours.

The UNOG Library has produced a range of brochures, posters and knowledge pointers to inform as many users as possible about its products and services. The aim is to facilitate learning and reinforce the effective use of available knowledge so as to increase efficiency and effectiveness in the Organization's work.

In a continued effort to improve records management at UNOG, a records management toolkit has been created and disseminated via the iSeek Intranet (see below). Filing plans for six UNOG services were established, providing staff with clear filing structures for their current paper and electronic records. Filing plans also help to save floor space and protect the confidentiality of documents.



■ Preserving the institutional memory of the international community

The UNOG Library is the custodian of a rich collection of documents and archives from important historical periods starting in the 1850s and covering the time of the League of Nations, the inception of the United Nations and the activities of the Organization until today. The UNOG Library maintains and makes these invaluable documentary resources accessible to a wide variety of users. In 2009, in recognition of their historical value for the international community, the League of Nations archives were inscribed in the Memory of the World Register of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Established in 1995, the Register aims at preserving and disseminating valuable archival holdings and library collections worldwide.

Throughout 2009, the UNOG Library digitized 7,238 United Nations documents as part of efforts to safeguard United Nations documentation for the future. These are now publicly accessible through the Official Documents System. The UNOG Library works in coordination with the Dag Hammarskjöld Library as part of a common digitization programme mandated by the General Assembly.



UNOG Library computer room.

The UNOG Library's partnerships were expanded through cooperation with a Geneva academic institution called the Groupe d'Histoire des Organisations Internationales, which brings together researchers and archivists to promote information exchange and academic collaboration on the subject of international organizations. In this context, the UNOG Library, together with the archives of the International Labour Organization (ILO), hosted an international conference on access to records and archives, which produced recommendations that will benefit the many users of the unique material at UNOG (see 2009 Highlights).

The dilapidated state of the Palais des Nations is seriously threatening the wealth of shared institutional memory of the international community, which is safeguarded by the UNOG Library. In 2009 alone, 1,000 linear metres of archival records vulnerable to flooding were temporarily relocated from areas of the Palais des Nations to ILO. This represented a considerable investment in terms of staff resources. Over the years, thousands of documents in the archive area of the Palais des Nations have been damaged. The long-term protection of these irreplaceable records depends on the implementation of the Strategic Heritage Plan for the Palais des Nations (see In focus).

A bridge between cultures and communities – UNOG Cultural Activities Programme

Art and culture are valuable vehicles for dialogue that can help to build mutual understanding across civilizations. UNOG facilitates intercultural engagement through its Cultural Activities Programme, enabling Member States to share their culture and heritage and to highlight key issues on the United Nations agenda. At the heart of these efforts lies UNOG's commitment to cultural diversity, respect and tolerance.

Established formally in the International Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations in 2001, the Programme has received continuous support from Member States. In 2009, UNOG hosted a total of 53 events representing the active participation of 34 Permanent Missions and 10 international organizations.

The wide spectrum of activities included exhibitions, concerts, film presentations and cultural talks, each bringing a unique perspective to the international community.

- Following the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, many events focused on the human rights theme, including the rights of women, children and prisoners, and the link between climate change and human rights.
- In connection with the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (7-18 December 2009), a large number of activities touched on themes of "greening", conservation and climate change, further bringing environmental concerns to the attention of the international community.

Together, these many and varied events underscored openness, respect and aspiration for freedom, progress and human dignity as hallmarks of all civilizations, uniting the human family across all boundaries.

With the support of Member States and the United Nations system, UNOG looks forward to enhancing the Programme and inspiring people beyond the Palais des Nations through this valuable forum.



L'art et la culture sont de précieux outils de dialogue qui peuvent contribuer à renforcer la compréhension mutuelle des civilisations. L'ONUG favorise les échanges interculturels par le biais de son programme d'activités culturelles, qui permet aux États Membres de partager leur culture et leur patrimoine et de mettre en lumière des préoccupations essentielles de l'Organisation. L'engagement de l'ONUG en faveur de la diversité culturelle, du respect et de la tolérance est au cœur de ce programme.

Officiellement mis en place en 2001 à l'occasion de l'Année internationale pour le dialogue entre les civilisations, le Programme reçoit le soutien constant des États Membres. En 2009, l'ONUG a accueilli 53 manifestations au total, avec la participation active de 34 missions permanentes et de 10 organisations internationales.

Parmi le large éventail d'activités programmées figurent des expositions, des concerts, des présentations de films et des débats culturels, qui apportent à chaque fois un éclairage différent à la communauté internationale.

- Au lendemain du sixième anniversaire de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme, de nombreuses activités ont porté sur le thème des droits de l'homme, notamment les droits des femmes, des enfants et des détenus, ainsi que sur les liens existant entre les changements climatiques et les droits de l'homme.
- Parallèlement à la Conférence des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques tenue à Copenhague (7-18 décembre 2009), un grand nombre d'activités ont porté sur les thèmes du «tournant écologique», de la préservation de l'environnement et des changements climatiques, appelant ainsi davantage l'attention de la communauté internationale sur les problèmes environnementaux.

Toutes ces activités nombreuses et variées ont mis l'accent sur l'ouverture, le respect et l'aspiration à la liberté, au progrès et à la dignité humaine en tant qu'éléments caractéristiques de l'ensemble des civilisations qui unissent les êtres humains au-delà des frontières

Avec l'appui des États Membres et du système des Nations Unies, l'ONUG compte améliorer le Programme d'activités culturelles et se servir de ce précieux outil pour mobiliser les esprits au-delà du Palais des Nations.

Un pont entre les cultures et les communautés - le programme d'activités culturelles de l'ONUG

2009 Cultural Activities organized by Member States and International Organizations

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

Israel

Le Ghetto de Varsovie, 1939-1943 and Retour à Auschwitz

Documentary exhibitions organized on the occasion of the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

Israël

Le Ghetto de Varsovie, 1939-1943 et Retour à Auschwitz

Expositions documentaires organisées à l'occasion de la Journée internationale dédiée à la mémoire des victimes de l'holocauste

Canada and the World Meteorological Organization

Our Polar Heritage

Exhibition of photographs by Christian Morel, depicting scientists at work in the polar regions and celebrating the close of the International Polar Year

UNOG Library

Pax Mundi: Le Livre d'or de la Paix

Exhibition from the collection of the UNOG Archives

Austria

Art in Prison

Winning artworks from the first ever international art competition for prisoners

Moldova

Tara Mea: Mon Pays

Exhibition of photographs on the occasion of the 650th anniversary of the constitution of Moldova and of the Spring festival Martisor, opened with a Pan pipes recital by Constantin Moscovich

Italy

Barriers

An exhibition of photographs by Michele Caracciolo di Brienza



Italie

Barriers

Exposition de photographies de Michele Caracciolo di Brienza



Canada et Organisation météorologique mondiale

Notre patrimoine polaire

Exposition de photographies de Christian Morel qui montrent des scientifiques au travail dans les régions polaires, à l'occasion de l'Année polaire internationale



Bibliothèque de l'ONU

Pax Mundi : Le Livre d'or de la paix

Exposition de photographies provenant de la collection d'archives de l'ONU



Autriche

Art in Prison

Œuvres d'art primées au premier concours d'art international pour détenus



Moldavie

Tara Mea : Mon Pays

Exposition de photographies à l'occasion du six cent cinquantième anniversaire de la Constitution de l'État moldave et de la Fête du printemps Martisor, ouverte par un Récital de flûte de Pan de Constantin Moscovich

JANVIER

FÉVRIER

MARS

Activités culturelles organisées en 2009 par des États Membres et des organisations internationales

MARCH

APRIL

Maldives

Turning the Tide: Human Rights in the Face of Climate Change

An exhibition of photographs taken by young people for an international competition



Maldives

Turning the Tide: Human Rights in the Face of Climate Change

Exposition de photographies prises par des jeunes participant à un concours international

France, Djibouti and the International Organization of La Francophonie

L'intratable diversité du monde : Adresse à l'universalité, a debate between Edouard Glissant and Stéphane Hessel, moderated by Joëlle Kuntz

Cultural conference on human rights and universality



France, Djibouti et Organisation internationale de la Francophonie

L'intratable diversité du monde : Adresse à l'universalité, débat entre Edouard Glissant et Stéphane Hessel, animé par Joëlle Kuntz

Conférence culturelle sur les droits de l'homme et l'universalité

Azerbaijan

Mugham, featuring Nazakat Teymurova accompanied by Aliagha Sadiyev and Khayyam Mammadov

Concert of Azerbaijani traditional music



Azerbaïdjan

Mugham, chanté par Nazakat Teymurova, accompagnée d'Aliagha Sadiyev et Khayyam Mammadov

Concert de musique traditionnelle azerbaïdjanaise

Spain

Pinturas de Juan Martinez

Exhibition of artworks on the theme of human rights, featuring a reading of poems by J.M. Caballero Bonald, A. Gamomeda and Juan Gelman in the Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room



Espagne

Pinturas de Juan Martinez

Exposition d'œuvres d'art sur le thème des droits de l'homme, avec lecture de poèmes par J. M. Caballero Bonald, A. Gamomeda et Juan Gelman dans la Salle des droits de l'homme et de l'alliance des civilisations

Turkey

Recital by Esin Talinli, (soprano) and Şenol Talinli (tenor), accompanied by Fügen Serbest (piano)

Opera recital featuring renowned Turkish performers



Turquie

Récital de Esin Talinli (soprano) et Şenol Talinli (ténor), accompagnés par Fügen Serbest (piano)

Récital d'opéra donné par des artistes turcs renommés

Rwanda

100 Nights

Documentary exhibition on the occasion of the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda

Rwanda

100 Nights

Exposition documentaire à l'occasion de la Journée internationale de réflexion sur le génocide au Rwanda en 1994

MARS

AVRIL

APRIL

Armenia

New Names of Armenia

Classical and traditional music by Armenia's young musical talents



Arménie

New Names of Armenia

Musique classique et traditionnelle jouée par de jeunes musiciens arméniens

Switzerland and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Feel the World

Panoramic photographs from across the world by Swiss photographer Frank Baumann, presented on the occasion of the Durban Review Conference



Suisse et Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme (HCDH)

Feel the World

Photographies panoramiques du monde entier prises par le photographe suisse Frank Baumann, présentées à l'occasion de la Conférence d'examen de Durban

Bulgaria

Les lettres de la Bulgarie: Alphabet de l'Europe

Exhibition of graphic posters on the occasion of the Day of the Slavonic Alphabet, Bulgarian Enlightenment and Culture, with a flute recital by Simeon Shterev



Bulgarie

Les lettres de la Bulgarie : Alphabet de l'Europe

Exposition d'affiches graphiques à l'occasion de la Journée de l'alphabet cyrillique, de l'éducation et de la culture bulgares, avec Récital de flûte de Simeon Shterev

MAY

United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

Walking as one... from the Slums of Nairobi to the Summit of Africa

Photographic exhibition organized by the Kilimanjaro Initiative to raise awareness of the challenges faced by young people in African slums



Bureau des Nations Unies pour le sport au service du développement et de la paix (UNOSDP), Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (PNUE), Programme des Nations Unies pour les établissements humains (ONU-Habitat)

Walking as one... from the Slums of Nairobi to the Summit of Africa

Exposition de photographies de l'ascension du Mont Kilimandjaro en 2009, organisée par la Kilimandjaro Initiative afin de sensibiliser aux problèmes rencontrés par les jeunes vivant dans les bidonvilles d'Afrique

JUNE

Holy See

Espoir et dignité pour chaque enfant

Exhibition of photographs celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child



Saint-Siège

Espoir et dignité pour chaque enfant

Exposition de photographies commémorant le vingtième anniversaire de la Convention des Nations Unies relative aux droits de l'enfant

AVRIL

MAI

JUIN

JUNE

JULY

Russia

My Homeland is Within My Soul: Art without Borders

Exhibition of 20th Century Russian art from the collection of the Museum of Avant-Garde Mastery, Moscow, including works by Chagall, Soutine, Rothko, Modigliani and Delaunay



Russie

Ma patrie est dans mon âme : Art sans frontières

Exposition d'œuvres d'art russes du XX^e siècle provenant de la collection du Musée d'art d'avant garde de Moscou, qui comprend des œuvres de Chagall, Soutine, Rothko, Modigliani et Delaunay

The International Organization of La Francophonie and UNOG

Miquel Barceló: dialogue avec Edouard Glissant sur la création artistique dans le monde contemporain

Cultural conference held in the Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room, under Barceló's ceiling



Organisation internationale de la Francophonie et ONUG

Miquel Barceló: dialogue avec Edouard Glissant sur la création artistique dans le monde contemporain

Conférence culturelle organisée dans la Salle des droits de l'homme et de l'alliance des civilisations, sous le plafond peint par Barceló

Mozambique

Makonde Art: Cultural Heritage of Northern Mozambique

"A Better Future Through Art": Exhibition of sculptures and paintings from the Nairucu-Arts Centre



Mozambique

Makonde Art: Cultural Heritage of Northern Mozambique

«A Better Future Through Art»: Exposition de sculptures et de peintures provenant du Nairucu Arts Centre

Poland

Piano recital by Reiko Nezu

Concert to celebrate the approach of "2010, The Year of Frédéric Chopin"



Pologne

Récital de piano de Reiko Nezu

Concert donné en vue d'annoncer l'année Frédéric Chopin en 2010

Kyrgyzstan

Kambarkan

Kyrgyz Folk Group performing traditional music from across central Asia



Kirghizistan

Kambarkan

Groupe populaire kirghize jouant de la musique traditionnelle d'Asie centrale

United States of America and UNOG

Let the World In: a Commemorative Exhibition of the works of Robert Rauschenberg

Exhibition of prints from UNOG's Tribute 21 collection and the U.S. Mission's ROCI collection



États-Unis d'Amérique et ONUG

Let the World In: a Commemorative Exhibition of the works of Robert Rauschenberg

Exposition d'œuvres provenant de la collection «Tribute 21» de l'ONU et de la collection Rauschenberg Overseas Cultural Interchange (ROCI) de la Mission permanente des États-Unis d'Amérique

JUIN

JUILLET

activities

JULY

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER

Colombia

Choquibtown: from the Pacific Coast of Colombia

Concert mixing North American hip-hop and traditional rhythms with salsa, songo, funk, Jamaican ragga and electronic music



Colombie

Choquibtown : de la côte pacifique de la Colombie

Concert mélangeant hip hop nord-américain et rythmes traditionnels, accompagnés de salsa, songo, funk, reggae jamaïcain et musique électronique

Ecuador

Nature Créatrice

Exhibition of abstract paintings by Carolina Alfonso de la Paz on the occasion of the bicentennial of the independence of Ecuador



Équateur

Nature Créatrice

Exposition de peintures abstraites de Carolina Alfonso de la Paz à l'occasion du bicentenaire de l'indépendance de l'Équateur

UNOG

Greening the United Nations in Geneva

Exhibition on the occasion of the launch of the Genève-Lac-Nations project



ONU

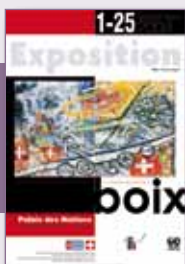
Tournant écologique aux Nations Unies à Genève

Exposition à l'occasion du lancement du projet Genève-Lac-Nations

Switzerland and Cuba

Le monde est peinture

Exhibition of paintings by Carlos Boix focusing on climate change and environmental concerns



Suisse et Cuba

Le monde est peinture

Exposition de peintures de Carlos Boix illustrant les changements climatiques et les préoccupations environnementales

Republic of Korea

Beautiful Mind Charity

Chamber ensemble performing classical music



République de Corée

Beautiful Mind Charity

Ensemble de chambre jouant de la musique classique

UNOG Library

Building for Peace: Palais des Nations 1929-2009

Documentary exhibition on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the Palais des Nations



Bibliothèque de l'ONU

Bâtir pour la paix : Palais des Nations 1929-2009

Exposition documentaire à l'occasion du quatre vingtième anniversaire de la pose de la première pierre du Palais des Nations

JUILLET

AOÛT - SEPTEMBRE

turelles 2009

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

Peru and Switzerland

Des Andes aux Alpes

Paintings and sculptures by Peruvian and Swiss artists, reflecting the different environments and landscapes in each country and celebrating 150 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries



Pérou et Suisse

Des Andes aux Alpes

Peintures et sculptures d'artistes péruviens et suisses, illustrant l'environnement et les paysages différents de chaque pays et commémorant cent cinquante ans de relations diplomatiques entre les deux pays

Azerbaijan

Jazz Wind from the Land of Fire

Jazz duo featuring Salman Qambarov on piano and Rain Sultanov on saxophone



Azerbaïdjan

Jazz Wind from the Land of Fire

Duo de jazz constitué de Salman Qambarov au piano et de Rain Sultanov au saxophone

Colombia

Nuestra vision ancestral del territorio

Photographic exhibition of Colombia's indigenous communities from the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta



Colombie

Nuestra vision ancestral del territorio

Exposition de photographies de communautés de communautés autochtones colombiennes de la Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta

Spain

Conmemoración del 70° Aniversario del Exilio Español del 39

Conference: El Museo del Prado en el exilio: La exposición de Ginebra de 1939, and film screening: Salvemos el Prado to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Spanish Exile



Espagne

Conmemoración del 70° Aniversario del Exilio Español del 39

Conférence : El Museo del Prado en el exilio: La exposición de Ginebra de 1939, et projection du film documentaire Salvemos el Prado à l'occasion du soixante-dixième anniversaire de l'exil espagnol

Malta

Expression, Personality, Emotion

Animal portraits by photographer Joe Zammit-Lucia, promoting the conservation and protection of endangered species



Malte

Expression, Personality, Emotion

Portraits d'animaux réalisés par le photographe Joe Zammit Lucia, en faveur de la préservation et de la protection des espèces en danger

France

Rio Delafeuille: Parcours d'un humaniste devenu artiste

Paintings and installations by Rio Delafeuille, French-Haitian artist



France

Rio Delafeuille: Parcours d'un humaniste devenu artiste

Exposition de peintures de Rio Delafeuille, artiste franco haïtien

AOÛT - SEPTEMBRE

OCTOBRE

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

One Planet, One Chance

Photographic exhibition of portraits by Patrick Wallet showcasing UNDP's project to plant 5 million trees throughout the world



Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD)

One Planet, One Chance

Exposition de portraits photographiques réalisés par Patrick Wallet, illustrant le projet du PNUD de planter 5 millions d'arbres à travers le monde

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Through Their Eyes

Images of the economic situation of women in Central Europe, the Balkans and Central Asia



Commission économique pour l'Europe de l'ONU (CEE-ONU)

Through Their Eyes

Images de la situation économique des femmes de pays en développement d'Europe centrale, des Balkans et d'Asie centrale

Montenegro

Johannes Brahms performed by Boris Kraljevic

Piano recital dedicated to the works of Johannes Brahms



Monténégro

Johannes Brahms joué par Boris Kraljevic

Récital de piano consacré aux œuvres de Johannes Brahms

Germany

From peaceful revolution to German Unity

Documentary exhibition on the twentieth anniversary of the re-unification of Germany



Allemagne

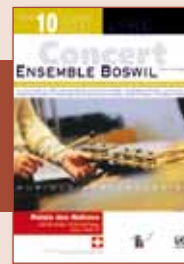
From peaceful revolution to German Unity

Exposition documentaire sur le vingtième anniversaire de la réunification de l'Allemagne

Switzerland

Boswil Ensemble

Performance of music by contemporary Swiss composers



Suisse

Ensemble Boswil

Concert de musique de compositeurs suisses contemporains

OCTOBRE

NOVEMBRE

NOVEMBER

United States of America

Making a Healthier World for Our Children: An Exhibition of American Quilts in support of The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Display of quilts and textile handicrafts



États-Unis d'Amérique

Making a Healthier World for Our Children: Exposition de patchworks américains au profit du Fonds mondial de lutte contre le sida, la tuberculose et le paludisme

Exposition de patchworks et de produits artisanaux en tissu

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the European Commission and the International Organization of La Francophonie

L'Orchestre des Jeunes de la Suisse romande
Performance of Mozart, Bartók and Strauss



Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance (UNICEF), Commission européenne et Organisation internationale de la Francophonie

L'Orchestre des Jeunes de la Suisse romande
Œuvres de Mozart, Bartók et Strauss à l'occasion du vingtième anniversaire de la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant

Spain

This is me

A film screening organized with the Spanish Cinema School Orson the Kid



Espagne

This is me

Projection de film organisée avec l'école de cinéma espagnole Orson the Kid

China

Wushu

Performance of Chinese martial arts by the Chinese Wushu Association



Chine

Wushu

Spectacle d'arts martiaux chinois donné par la Chinese Wushu Association

China

The Charm of Macao

Exhibition in commemoration of the tenth Anniversary of Macao's return to China



Chine

The Charm of Macao

Exposition à l'occasion du dixième anniversaire de la restitution de Macao à la Chine

NOVEMBRE

DECEMBER

Brazil

The Year My Parents Went on Vacation

A screening of the film by Cao Hamburger



Brésil

The Year My Parents Went on Vacation

Projection d'un film de Cao Hamburger

Afghanistan

L'Afghanistan, un autre regard

Exhibition of paintings of the Afghan landscape by Bernard Ponty and Mamoun Etemadi with photographs by Emmanuel Bouyx



Afghanistan

L'Afghanistan, un autre regard

Exposition de peintures de paysages afghans de Bernard Ponty et Mamoun Etemadi et de photographies d'Emmanuel Bouyx

Brazil

AMRIK: Arab Presence in South America

Exhibition of photographs depicting the influence of Middle Eastern culture on Latin America



Brésil

AMRIK: Arab Presence in South America

Exposition de photographies illustrant l'influence de la culture moyen-orientale en Amérique latine

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Gateways to Conservation: Connecting People with Nature

Photographic exhibition created in cooperation with the Wildlife Conservation Society



Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture (UNESCO)

Gateways to Conservation: Connecting People with Nature

Exposition de photographies organisée en coopération avec la Wildlife Conservation Society afin de sensibiliser aux enjeux mondiaux de la préservation

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