

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE  
AT GENEVA

ANNUAL REPORT

2 0 1 4



UNITED NATIONS

- 2** Foreword
- 4** Highlights of 2014
- 7** UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16** Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25** Making conferences  
possible
- 31** Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36** Reaching out to youth
- 40** Spreading the news
- 46** Days of remembrance
- 50** Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54** Pursuit of knowledge
- 62** Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65** Annex

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Working for

**Peace** Rights Well-being

- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



UN Photo: Oleksandr Svirchevskyy

Working for  
**Peace** Rights Well-being

## Foreword

Challenges in our rapidly changing world are increasingly interconnected and so are solutions, relations among States and other actors are being recalibrated and the expectations of individuals transformed through technology. This is a reality that calls for innovative and long-term responses, embedded in multi-stakeholder partnerships and inspired by our shared values of equity, solidarity and justice.

In this reality, the United Nations Office at Geneva works together with all our partners in International Geneva to promote peace, rights and well-being. These collective efforts touch every person on the planet, every day. Through generation of ideas, standard-setting, operational implementation and monitoring of progress, all of our partners in International Geneva help to shape a better future for us all.

The United Nations Office at Geneva provides the essential infrastructure for this work, facilitates inclusive partnerships, nurtures cross-cutting reflection, and plays an instrumental role in opening the activities of the United Nations to the world and mobilizing support for our efforts.

This Annual Report outlines our main activities and achievements in 2014, placing our work in a broader perspective that highlights the impact and relevance of our collective action. All of this has been made possible through the outstanding efforts of our talented and dedicated staff.

As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, we will build on the accomplishments of the past 12 months to strengthen our partnerships, enhance the services we provide and reinforce our global outreach.

We look forward to doing so in close collaboration with all our partners and we are proud to be part of an International Geneva that is essential in building a better world.

Michael Møller  
Acting Director-General  
United Nations Office at Geneva

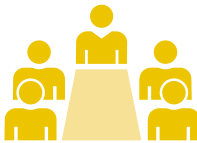

- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



Approximately  
**1,550** staff, representing  
**113** nationalities,  
were working at UNOG



**9,813** staff were working for  
the United Nations system in Geneva

UNOG held or serviced  **9,976**  
meetings  
and translated **223,528** pages  
in house and contractually 


The Palais des Nations welcomed   
**108,000** visitors

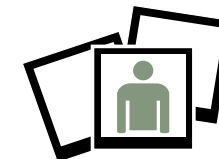



The UNOG website was visited  
**1,809,836** times

 2014 at a glance



**260** press conferences  
were held and **1,484**  
press releases  
were issued 



**5,603** photos were made  
freely available,  
which were viewed **3,104,568**  
times  
on UNOG's Flickr page 

**98**  cultural events were organized



**715** courses and training  
workshops were attended by  
**9,174** participants

- 2** Foreword
- 4** Highlights of 2014
- 7** UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16** Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25** Making conferences  
possible
- 31** Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36** Reaching out to youth
- 40** Spreading the news
- 46** Days of remembrance
- 50** Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54** Pursuit of knowledge
- 62** Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65** Annex





- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## Second Geneva Conference on Syria

UNOG hosted the second Geneva Conference on Syria in 2014. Meetings were held in both Montreux and Geneva and were convened by the UN Secretary-General. Support for this ministerial-level conference was required from across UNOG – from interpreters and translators, and meetings logistics, IT, media accreditation and security staff. The conference encapsulated the essence of International Geneva. It brought together representatives of Member States and numerous organizations, and audiences from around the globe watched via numerous media outlets as the events unfolded. (see page 27)

### Missions in the field

Ensuring the security and safety of staff in the field was a prime task of UNOG's security personnel as they supported the work of the UN in Yemen, the Central African Republic, Libya and other locations. They secured human rights investigations, ensured the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance, and protected UN officials helping to achieve peace in conflict zones. Specialized skills gained in the field broaden the experience of UNOG Security and Safety Service personnel, who return to Geneva with a greater understanding of the UN's work around the world.

### Global Think Tank Summit

The first Global Think Tank Summit in Geneva opened at the Palais des Nations in December. Bringing together the heads of more than 100 leading think tanks, research institutions and UN entities worldwide, the three-day summit brought International Geneva's unique intellectual capacity to the fore as the world searches for innovative, practical policy solutions. (see page 45)



**1**-Cameras focus on Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the second Geneva Conference on Syria (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **2**-UN airplane in the Central African Republic (Photo: Frédéric Le Franc, Central African Republic) **3**-Discussion at the Global Think Tank Summit, held at the Graduate Institute and at UNOG (Panos Pictures: Mark Henley)



- 2** Foreword
- 4** Highlights of 2014
- 7** UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16** Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25** Making conferences  
possible
- 31** Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36** Reaching out to youth
- 40** Spreading the news
- 46** Days of remembrance
- 50** Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54** Pursuit of knowledge
- 62** Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65** Annex



## UNOG opens its gates

In October, more than 2,500 people joined the first training session held in the UN grounds for the traditional Geneva run, the Course de l'Escalade. This popular event provided a great opportunity for international and local Geneva to run together and to showcase their strengths. (see page 129)

## Promoting peace and human rights through culture

On Human Rights Day, and as part of the lead-up to the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, a special concert was held at the Palais des Nations to promote peace and human rights. It was organized by the Onuart Foundation, the Office of the President of the Human Rights Council, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Permanent Mission of Peru, with the support of the Egyptian, Russian, South African and Swiss Governments, the Republic and Canton of Geneva, and the City of Geneva. Taking place in the Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room which was donated by Spain in 2008 through the Onuart Foundation, and featuring world-renowned opera stars, the concert, with its 700-strong audience, was televised live in over 30 countries.

## TEDxPlaceDesNations: Impact

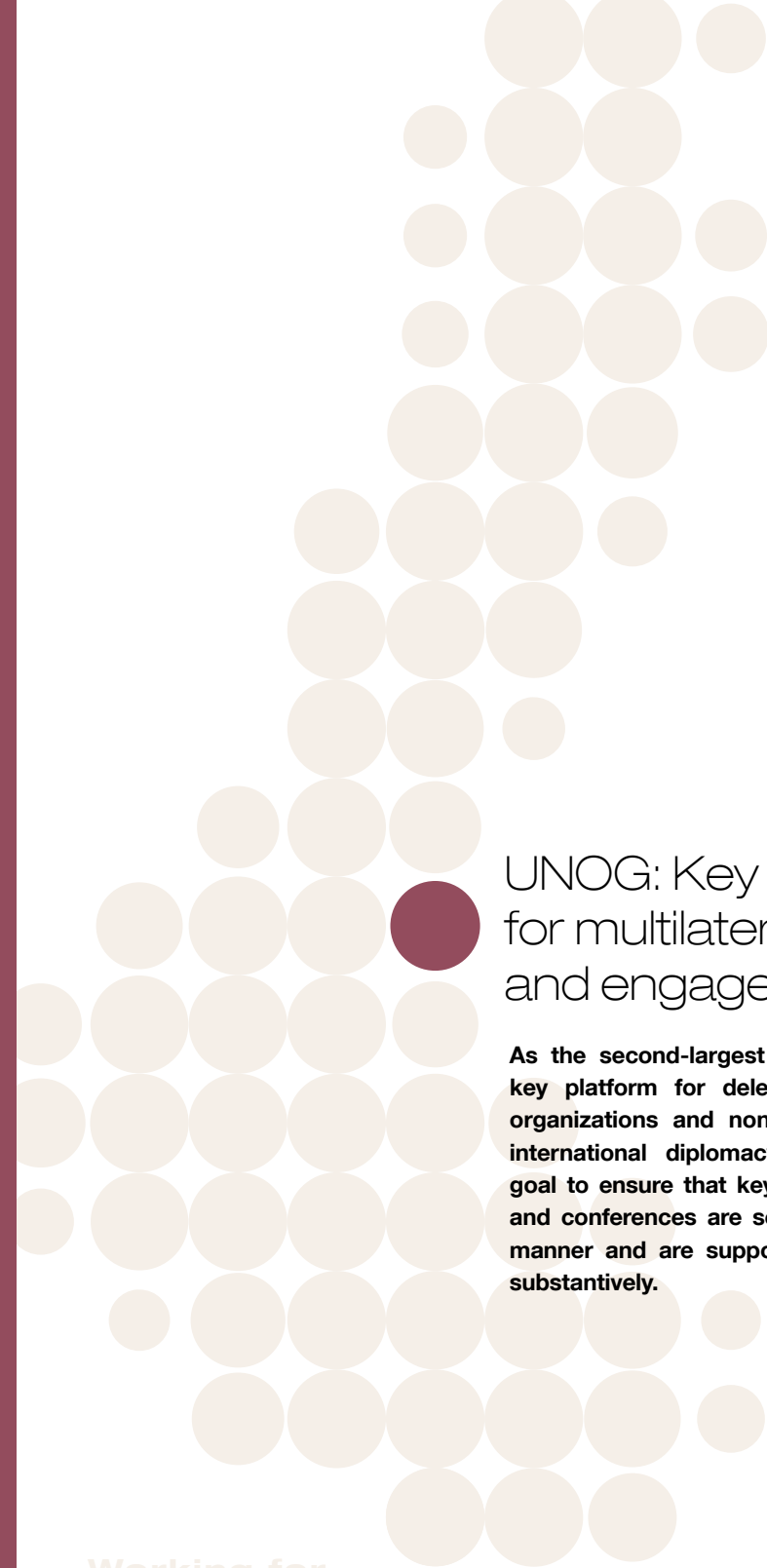
Eleven inspiring speakers showcased International Geneva's impact through powerful stories of people helping people. TEDxPlaceDesNations: Impact – the first TEDx event hosted by the UN in Geneva – brought together 1,300 people in UNOG's Assembly Hall, while thousands of others watched around the world via live webcast. The Twitter hashtag #TEDxNations was the most popular across Switzerland on the day of the event and the following day. (see page 45)

1

2

3

- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## UNOG: Key platform for multilateral diplomacy and engagement

**As the second-largest duty station, UNOG is a key platform for delegates, staff, international organizations and non-State actors to practise international diplomacy. It is UNOG's primary goal to ensure that key international discussions and conferences are served in the best possible manner and are supported both logistically and substantively.**

Working for  
**Peace** Rights Well-being



- 2** Foreword
- 4** Highlights of 2014
- 7** UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16** Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25** Making conferences  
possible
- 31** Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36** Reaching out to youth
- 40** Spreading the news
- 46** Days of remembrance
- 50** Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54** Pursuit of knowledge
- 62** Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65** Annex



## Contributing to the work of the Human Rights Council

In 2014, UNOG hosted and serviced the 25th, 26th and 27th sessions of the Human Rights Council – facilitating the passage of high-level visitors through the protocol and security services, assisting with NGO accreditation, providing conference and documentation support, administering IT and technical support, and webcasting the proceedings. UNOG made great efforts to meet the increased conference workload from the Human Rights Council's universal periodic review.

The first two sessions of the Human Rights Council were attended by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, who ended her six years in office during the summer and was succeeded by Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al Hussein of Jordan. Principal areas of discussion this year included women's rights, the rights of migrants, the right to development, arbitrary detention, privacy in the digital age, and the rights of indigenous peoples.

## Accommodating the reform of the human rights treaty body system

In April, the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/268, concluding a two-year intergovernmental process to make the human rights treaty body system more effective. The resolution gave the ten treaty bodies 20 additional weeks of meeting time and placed some limits on their documentation. UNOG and OHCHR have now completed the painstaking work of identifying slots in the 2015 calendar to accommodate the additional meetings. Given that the treaty bodies account for around 30% of UNOG's documentation workload, UNOG expects the reforms to have a major impact on the documentation flow in 2015.



- 2** Foreword
- 4** Highlights of 2014
- 7** UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16** Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25** Making conferences  
possible
- 31** Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36** Reaching out to youth
- 40** Spreading the news
- 46** Days of remembrance
- 50** Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54** Pursuit of knowledge
- 62** Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65** Annex



## Conference on Disarmament: “Do not wait for others to move. Be the first mover.”

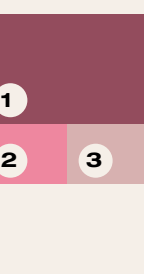
Geneva is the venue of choice for global peace and disarmament diplomacy. Since 1979, it has been the home of the Conference on Disarmament, the single standing multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community.

In an address to the Conference on Disarmament in January 2014, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon reiterated his faith in the Conference. He encouraged the parties: “Do not wait for others to move. Be the first mover.”

In the continued search for a resumption of meaningful negotiations, Michael Møller, Acting Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Conference, made four proposals:

- Considering negotiations on areas of common ground to produce framework conventions, to which additional protocols could be negotiated and added
- Developing politically binding régimes, where possible, while legally binding instruments remain under negotiation
- Establishing an informal working group to review the working methods of the Conference
- Convening the informal Conference on Disarmament Civil Society Forum to exchange ideas and facilitate interaction between the Conference and relevant civil society organizations.

As the home to the secretariats of a number of key disarmament conventions, UNOG serves as a platform for international disarmament efforts. UNOG hosted ongoing discussions on anti-personnel mines, autonomous weapons, biological weapons, cluster munitions, and fissile material for nuclear weapons. For further information, go to [www.unog.ch](http://www.unog.ch).



**1**-High-level segment at the 2014 session of the Conference on Disarmament (UN Photo: Violaine Martin) **2**-Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon speaks at the first plenary meeting of the 2014 session of the Conference on Disarmament (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **3**-John W. Ashe, President of the General Assembly, addresses the high-level segment of the 2014 session of the Conference on Disarmament (UN Photo: Violaine Martin)

- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



**Norman Lizano Ortiz**  
Permanent Mission of  
Costa Rica  
on the Disarmament Fellowship  
Programme



The Disarmament Fellowship Programme is one of the key training programmes for people working on disarmament issues. Participant Norman Lizano Ortiz, from the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica, talks about the programme [here](#).

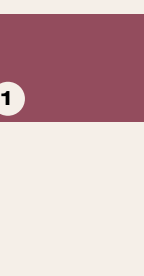
### Killer robots as a key focus

Lethal autonomous weapons systems, also known as “killer robots”, are weapons that can select and attack a target without human intervention. Weapons systems with these capabilities currently only operate in limited environments, but recent trends have rapidly taken the subject out of the realms of science fiction and placed it on the doorstep of the international community. These trends include advances in robotics, increasingly automated features in existing weapons systems, the growing number of active research programmes in this area, and widespread interest, including by non-State actors, in acquiring unmanned weapons systems.

The ethical, technical, military and legal issues raised by killer robots were examined at UNOG in 2014 at a meeting of experts held in accordance with the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The meeting was attended by representatives of States parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the International Committee of the Red Cross and non-governmental organizations. Participants expressed a range of views on the need for measures to restrict the use of autonomous weapons systems and on means of doing so. A key concept to emerge from the discussions was “meaningful human control” – the idea that humans must remain responsible for the selection and engagement of targets. Participants agreed on the need for dialogue to build a common understanding of the nature and the implications of lethal autonomous weapons. The stage was set for meetings on this topic to continue in April 2015.

### Disarmament Fellowship Programme

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs provides training each year to 25 officials from Member States who are working on arms control and disarmament. Since 1979, the programme has trained about 900 public officials from 160 Member States. The selection process reflects the particular needs of developing countries and insists on fair geographic and gender representation. This year, fellows were provided with practical training and detailed information on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation, in relation to the work of UN bodies and international organizations located in Geneva, The Hague, Vienna and New York. They also took part in study trips to China, Germany, Japan and Switzerland.





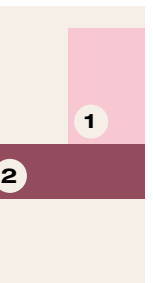
- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## Hosting other major conferences

UNOG provided the venue, as well as essential conference, administrative, logistical, technical and documentation support, for the annual discussions of UN specialized agencies and subsidiary bodies. Among the events hosted in 2014 were the 67th World Health Assembly and the 103rd session of the International Labour Conference.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development celebrated its 50th anniversary at the Palais des Nations in June with an extensive programme of events. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was in attendance. He congratulated the entire staff on UNCTAD's achievements in taking trade and development issues forward.



**1**-UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon speaks at the 50th anniversary of UNCTAD (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **2**-Standing ovation to mark the end of tenure of Navi Pillay as High Commissioner for Human Rights, at the closing of the 26th session of the Human Rights Council (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)

- 2** Foreword
- 4** Highlights of 2014
- 7** UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16** Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25** Making conferences  
possible
- 31** Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36** Reaching out to youth
- 40** Spreading the news
- 46** Days of remembrance
- 50** Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54** Pursuit of knowledge
- 62** Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65** Annex



## Working for the future of Syria

UNOG hosts the office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, as it did for his predecessor, Lakhdar Brahimi, the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria. Security, IT and conference services provide assistance to Mr. de Mistura and his team at all times, supporting him in his mandate to arrive at a solution to the conflict.

The second Geneva Conference on Syria (Geneva II), convened by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as part of efforts to find a political solution to the conflict, opened on 22 January in Montreux, Switzerland, with a high-level meeting of 40 delegations. It then moved to the Palais des Nations, where it continued for several weeks in the form of negotiations between the two sides to the conflict, mediated by the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi. The Conference was a follow-up to the Geneva I round of negotiations held in 2012.

UNOG played a crucial role in the smooth running of the Conference. The Security and Safety Service worked closely with the police of the cantons of Geneva and Vaud to make sure that both phases of the Conference, in Montreux and at the Palais des Nations, went smoothly. UNOG technical staff were on hand at all times to provide support, which included a 24-hour on-site helpdesk. UNOG also made special extra venues available at the Palais des Nations for the latter stages of the negotiations.

The Conference attracted a large media presence. More than 1,000 international journalists were accredited. UNOG organized the logistics of their presence in Montreux, and held press conferences, while maintaining a strong social media presence to communicate the workings of the Conference in real time to audiences around the world. The presence of more than 30 satellite trucks saw the grounds of the Palais des Nations transformed into a broadcast park, with journalists from across the globe sending live around-the-clock reports on the negotiations.

The successful running of the Conference is a testament to the hard work and coordination that took place throughout UNOG and with the Host Country authorities.



**1-**The Secretary-General (left) and the Acting Director-General of UNOG at the second Geneva Conference on Syria (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **2-**Walid Muallem, Foreign Minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, at the second Geneva Conference on Syria (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **3-**Ahmad Al Jarba, of the Syrian opposition, at the second Geneva Conference on Syria (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **4-**Lakhdar Brahimi, Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **5-**Paulo Pinheiro, Chair of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, briefs the press (UN Photo: Violaine Martin)



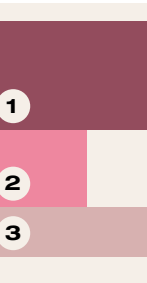
- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



**Vladimir Gratchev**  
Director of the Division of  
Conference Management  
on the second Geneva Conference  
on Syria



The Geneva II Talks on Syria required an enormous amount of preparation and coordination behind the scenes. Vladimir Gratchev explains **here** how it was made possible.



**1**-Journalists wait for officials to arrive at the second Geneva Conference on Syria (UN Photo: Violaine Martin) **2**-In the press room at the second Geneva Conference on Syria (UN Photo: Violaine Martin) **3**-Broadcasters prepare to cover the negotiations on the Syrian conflict (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## Geneva International Discussions

The Geneva International Discussions are a series of regular talks chaired jointly by the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations. They began shortly after the 2008 conflict between Georgia and the Russian Federation and were set up to work towards a solution. The Geneva International Discussions were held four times in 2014; the 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th rounds took place in March, June, October and December, respectively. During the 30th round of discussions, participants in Working Group I assessed the general security situation on the ground as relatively calm, with no major security incidents since October, and continued to draft a joint statement relating to the non-use of force, while participants in Working Group II reviewed humanitarian issues and how they had evolved since the previous round of talks. The participants reaffirmed their commitment to the discussions and underlined their importance in strengthening security and stability and addressing humanitarian needs.

## Supporting the International Law Commission

The mandate of the International Law Commission – to work towards the progressive development and codification of international law – is as vital now as ever. In 2014, UNOG hosted the Commission's 66th session, managing the attendance of the Commission's 34 members. UNOG provided essential administrative support to ensure the smooth running of the conference. The 66th session focused on: the expulsion of aliens, the obligation to extradite or prosecute, the protection of people in the event of disasters, immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction, subsequent agreements and subsequent practice in relation to the interpretation of treaties, the most-favoured-nation clause, provisional application of treaties, identification of customary international

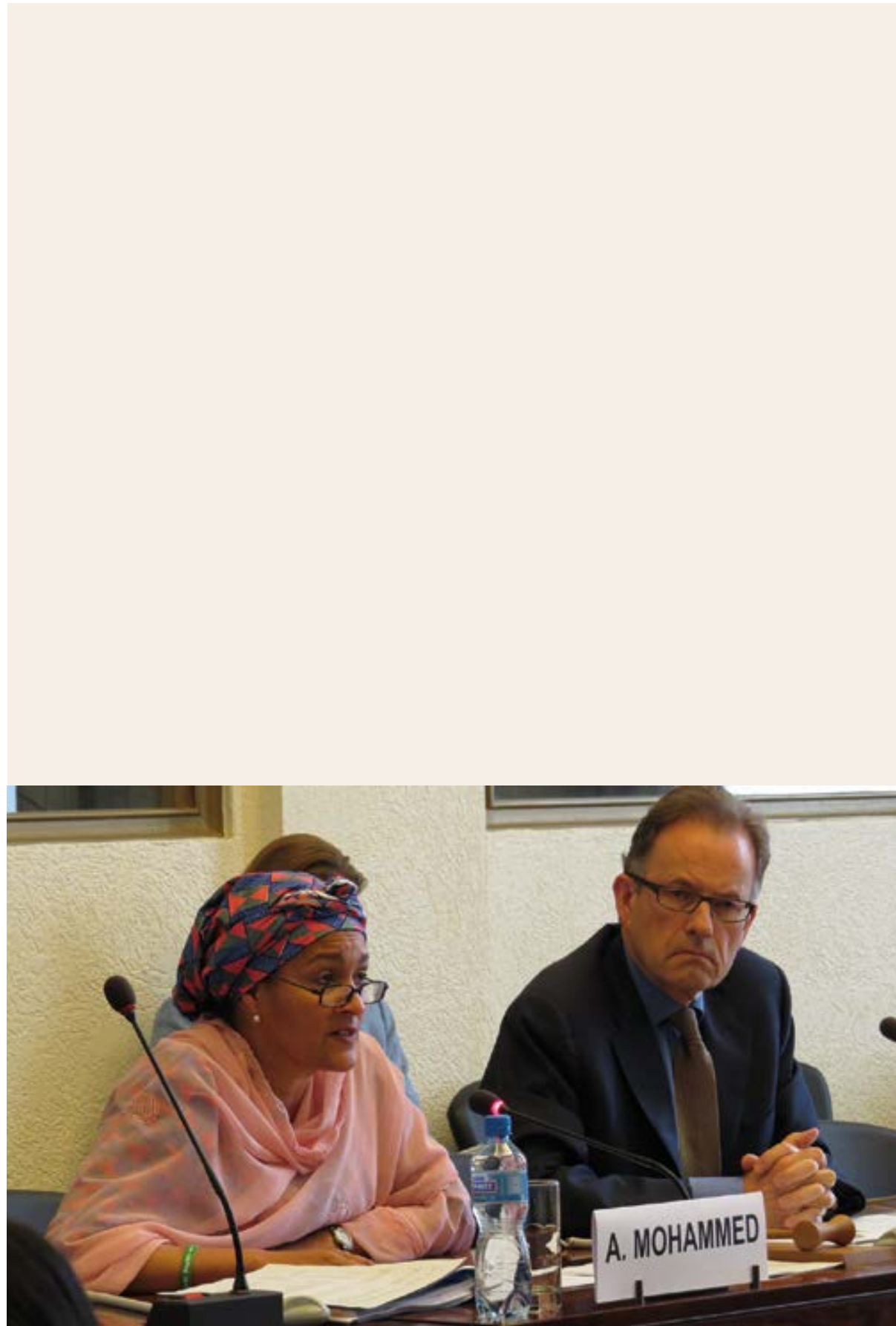
law, protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts, and the protection of the atmosphere.

## UNOG Executive Briefings

The Executive Briefings series is a forum for imparting information to delegates and to heads of international organizations on crucial topics. The series expanded in 2014, featuring 35 briefings on a wide range of peace, rights and well-being issues. The speakers came from UN system organizations, major NGOs and the academic community. Topics included mediation and peacebuilding efforts regarding Libya, South Sudan, Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic, and in connection with the Geneva International Discussions; development; health crises, such as cholera in Haiti; disaster risk reduction; economic trends; and terrorism; as well as organizational issues such as the review of UN peace operations.



- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex

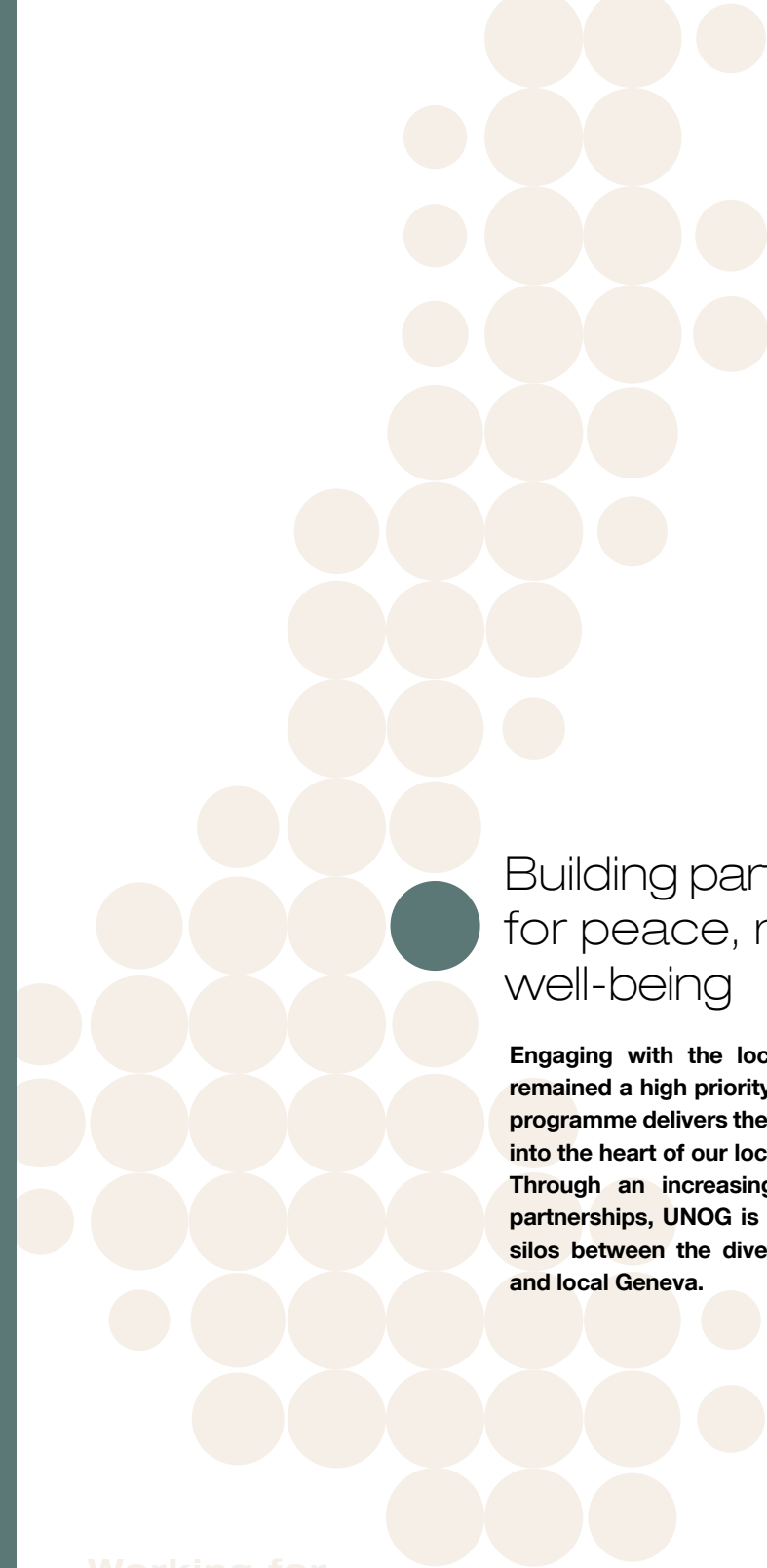


## Towards the post-2015 development agenda

As the United Nations prepares for a decision on the sustainable development goals, which will build on the success and the momentum of the Millennium Development Goals, UNOG has served as facilitator of discussions between New York and Geneva. In order to enhance the information flow, the Office of the Director-General of UNOG organized three videoconferences, and one Executive Briefing in person, with Amina Mohammed, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning.

UNOG also contributed to this crucial debate by supporting the organization of hundreds of expert meetings and negotiations on issues related to sustainable development by the many funds, programmes and specialized agencies based in Geneva. Furthermore, a number of cultural events and library talks brought this issue to the attention of the international community. These very popular events gave Member States, Geneva-based UN entities and the broader International Geneva community the opportunity to exchange views on the evolving post-2015 development agenda.

- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## Building partnerships for peace, rights and well-being

**Engaging with the local and global community remained a high priority in 2014. UNOG's outreach programme delivers the "Geneva impact" message into the heart of our local and global communities. Through an increasing number of events and partnerships, UNOG is helping to break down the silos between the diverse actors in international and local Geneva.**

Working for  
**Peace** Rights Well-being



- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## International Geneva Perception Change Project

The International Geneva Perception Change Project was launched at the beginning of 2014 by Acting Director-General Michael Møller, with support from the Swiss Government.

The project aims to change the perception of International Geneva by spotlighting the relevance and the impact of the collective work done by all the UN system organizations, NGOs and other international institutions based here. It is targeted at the general public, policymakers, and the staff of other UN duty stations, but also at our own colleagues working in Geneva. Changing the perception of International Geneva will ultimately translate into better-informed decisions, increased efficiencies and broader support for our work. The project operates on three main fronts: it orchestrates media outreach efforts, fosters academic research and debate on International Geneva and its impact, and seeks to change people's personal experience and perception of this unique city.

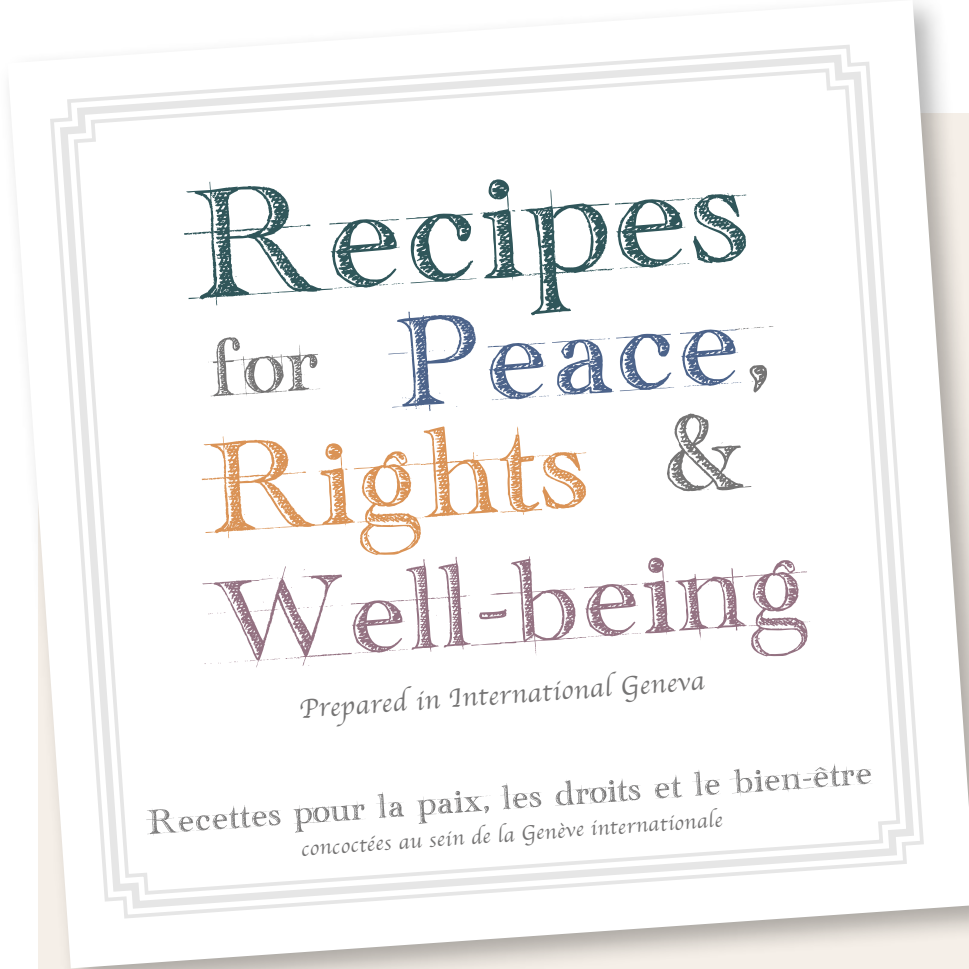
The Perception Change Project has tapped into a common realization that “business as usual” is no longer viable. In less than six months, it has brought together over 50 partners to collaborate on a series of initiatives showcasing the extraordinary substance generated in Geneva and its importance and relevance to people's lives. For the first time, there is a dynamic network of colleagues that meets every week at agenda-setting workshops to orchestrate outreach efforts and set up innovative ways to engage with the media. UNOG is uniquely placed to bring the different actors in International Geneva together and to lead efforts to explain the relevance and impact of our collective work. With a new set of development goals being defined in 2015, it is vital for the world to have a good sense of the expertise

and capabilities present in International Geneva, which will be on hand to serve Member States as they set about turning development goals into reality.

### Media impact and journalist “speed dating”

As part of the Perception Change Project's media outreach activities, two “speed dating” sessions were held with journalists, who came from across Europe to Geneva for two days of intense briefings with heads of organizations, experts and spokespersons. Journalists met with representatives of over 25 organizations and went back home with new contacts and a tremendous amount of information about the work carried out by the different organizations in International Geneva.

- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## A Geneva voice

The Perception Change Project (PCP) has built an online presence with meaningful content, both on social media and in blogs, which has helped to define a “Geneva voice”. Via the #GenevaMeans campaign and the @GenevaImpact account, the PCP partners have published a steady stream of tweets highlighting the impact of the work of International Geneva.



**Perception  
Change  
International  
Geneva**

Since May 2014, Acting Director-General Michael Møller’s column in the Huffington Post has covered such diverse issues as banning nuclear weapons, climate change, and the threat of Ebola.

*“How do we bring the rule of law back into these increasingly violent equations? We must work together to build balanced societies with more respect for the rule of law. (...) Doing so starts at home, in every classroom and by every news outlet.”*

The column is published in English and French, and occasionally in Spanish, German, Italian or Portuguese.

Other heads of Geneva-based organizations have also been contributing to the “Geneva voice”, including the Director-General of CERN, Rolf Heuer, the Executive Director of Interpeace, Scott Weber, and the Executive Director of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, Marc Van Ameringen.

## Recipes for Peace, Rights and Well-being

The Perception Change Project compiled a book of recipes for peace, rights and well-being which features a unique mix of examples of the work done by different organizations across International Geneva together with elaborate menus from the top chefs in town. The book illustrates the ingenuity of International Geneva and its determination to bring peace, rights and well-being to the world. It shares the secret to many successful recipes that have been thought up and tried out in this city and have gone on to change the world.

1

2



- 2** Foreword
- 4** Highlights of 2014
- 7** UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16** Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25** Making conferences  
possible
- 31** Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36** Reaching out to youth
- 40** Spreading the news
- 46** Days of remembrance
- 50** Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54** Pursuit of knowledge
- 62** Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65** Annex



## List of Perception Change Project partners as at December 2014

### Organizations

1. Association de Genève des Fondations Académiques (AGFA)
2. DiploFoundation
3. European Broadcasting Union (EBU)
4. European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)
5. Femmes Africa Solidarité
6. Fondation pour Genève
7. Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
8. Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)
9. Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)
10. GAVI Alliance
11. Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
12. Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
13. ICT4Peace Foundation
14. International Air Transport Association (IATA)
15. International Bureau of Education (UNESCO-IBE)
16. International Civil Defence Organization (ICDO)
17. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
18. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
19. International Labour Organization (ILO)
20. International Organization for Migration (IOM)
21. International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
22. International Trade Centre (ITC)
23. International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
24. Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
25. Interpeace
26. IRIN News
27. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
28. Kofi Annan Foundation
29. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
30. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
31. Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN)
32. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
33. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
34. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
35. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
36. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
37. United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)
38. United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
39. United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
40. United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)
41. United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
42. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
43. United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)
44. Universal Postal Union (UPU)
45. UN-Water
46. Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)
47. World Bank
48. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
49. World Food Programme (WFP)



**1**-Perception Change Project partners at the last workshop in 2014 (UN Photo: Office of the Director-General) **2**-Banners from the #GenevaMeans Twitter campaign (UN Photo: Esther Cappelli)

- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



**Carolina Rodríguez**  
Head, International  
Geneva Perception  
Change Project  
on changing the perception of  
International Geneva



International Geneva represents a unique asset for the international community as a whole.  
Carolina Rodríguez explains **here** how the work of the international community in Geneva touches every person on this planet.

- 50. World Health Organization (WHO)
- 51. World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- 52. World Trade Organization (WTO)
- 53. World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)
- 54. World Future Council

#### Governmental entities

- 55. Canton of Geneva
- 56. Federal Government of Switzerland

## Civil society: broadening the dialogue

In 2014, civil society organizations continued to work actively at UNOG, which is a pre-eminent duty station for NGO participation in the activities of the United Nations. The number of NGO representatives accredited with UNOG this year increased significantly, to 3,356. The NGO Liaison Unit is a dedicated body that is committed to facilitating cooperation between the UN and civil society organizations and ensuring their greater integration. It acts as an entry point for NGOs to participate in UN conferences and to receive guidance on how best to prepare their applications for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

The Liaison Unit also helps NGOs to raise awareness on specific issues in line with UN goals and objectives, by supporting them for the organization of their own meetings at the Palais des Nations. The number of NGO meetings held with the support of UNOG's NGO Liaison Unit has increased significantly, from 64 in 2013 to 76 in 2014. The NGO forum that preceded the Beijing+20 ECE Regional Review Meeting and was held at the Palais des Nations from 3 to 5 November is an example of the active and successful ongoing collaboration between UNOG and civil society. The forum aimed to identify emerging women's issues, and to create a space for open dialogue among NGOs, civil society and other stakeholders. It was attended by more than 600 participants.

NGOs also interacted with Member States directly in major conferences held at UNOG throughout 2014. The 2014 Human Rights Council sessions once again saw the active participation of a large number of NGOs. These sessions remain at the heart of NGO involvement in Geneva, as do the meetings on peace and security and on humanitarian assistance.

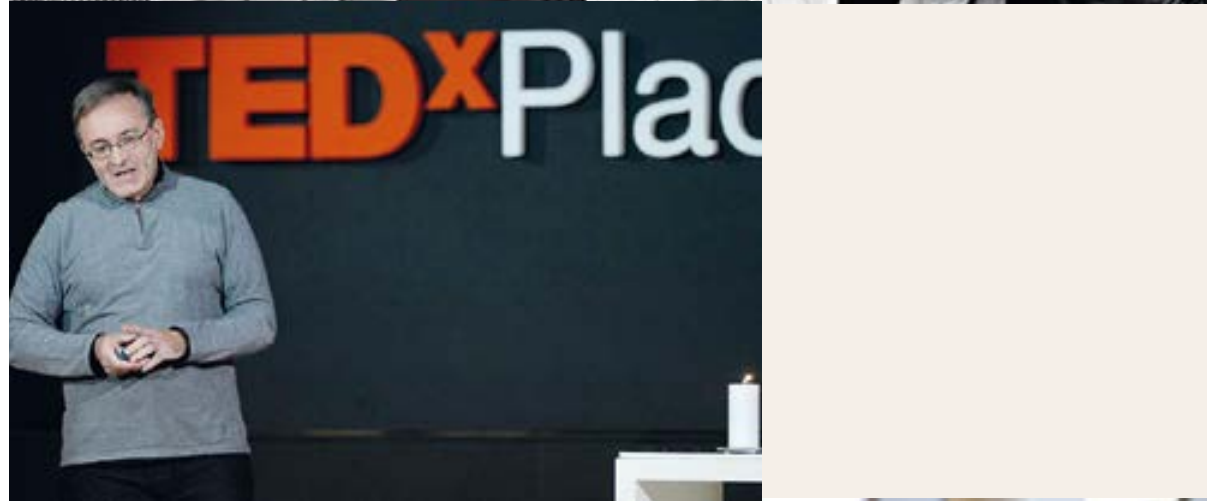


- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## TEDxPlaceDesNations

**x = independently organized TED event** 11 December 2014



### TEDxPlaceDesNations: Impact

In 2014, for the first time, a TEDx event took place at UNOG. TEDxPlaceDesNations: Impact featured 11 talks by remarkable leaders, innovators, humanitarians, entrepreneurs, scientists and peacemakers. TED (standing for technology, entertainment and design) is a non-profit organization devoted to “ideas worth spreading” in the form of short, powerful speeches. TEDx (with the “x” designating an independently organized TED event) is a programme of local events that brings people together to share a TED-like experience. TEDxPlaceDesNations was a team event. It was hosted by UNOG and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and brought together 11 international organizations based in Switzerland, with generous support from the Republic and State of Geneva and the Geneva Welcome Centre, making TEDxPlaceDesNations an inspirational example of International Geneva cooperation.

In the TED spirit, the speakers shared their solutions to some of the greatest challenges of our times, from fighting Ebola to supporting frontline humanitarian workers, from championing women’s rights in Afghanistan and Uganda to protecting civilians in conflict zones, from embracing sustainable cities to advocating for an information revolution for the blind – not to mention innovative ways of using big data and open hardware. The energy and ideas generated by “TEDxPlaceDesNations: Impact” reverberated around the Palais des Nations and far beyond, as was seen during the interval, which featured an interactive Speaker’s Corner, scrolling Twitter walls and an impromptu singalong of *We are the World* led by a flash mob in the Salle des Pas Perdus.

Over 1,300 people attended “TEDxPlaceDesNations: Impact” in UNOG’s Assembly Hall, but thousands

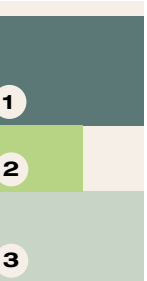
more watched the live webcast from their homes or offices, or attended one of 24 viewing parties organized in 22 cities on five continents, including at the UN and the TED headquarters in New York. The talks had a viral impact on social media too: the hashtag #TEDxNations trended on Twitter as the most popular in Switzerland for two days, and people shared their favourite quotes and ideas for days afterwards. TEDxPlaceDesNations: Impact was a multi-disciplinary celebration of the impact that International Geneva has on the world, and was organized in the broader context of the Perception Change Project.

▶ To play the videos, visit [www.tedxplacedesnations.unog.ch](http://www.tedxplacedesnations.unog.ch).

### Global Think Tank Summit

“Think Tanks, Public Policy and Governance: National, Regional and Global Perspectives” was the theme for the first Global Think Tank Summit, which took place in Geneva from 4 to 6 December and brought together over 60 representatives of leading think tanks, approximately 40 researchers, and the heads of UN entities from around the world, as well as many university students.

Over the course of three days, participants discussed topics high up on the UN agenda in 2014. These included Ebola, climate change, development, regional crises, extremism, terrorism and many others. The participants’ expertise and experience led to innovative ideas being generated, which inspired new approaches to addressing these issues.



**1**-TEDxPlaceDesNations featured 11 remarkable speakers (UN Photo) **2**-Vincent Cochetel, Director of the Bureau for Europe at UNHCR, delivers his talk entitled “Attacks on Humanitarians are Attacks on Humanity” (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **3**-One of 60 volunteers welcomes a TEDx participant to the Palais des Nations (UN Photo: Coralie Chappat)



- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



The event was organized by the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and the University of Pennsylvania's Think Tank Civil Societies Programme, in partnership with UNOG, the Swiss Confederation, the Republic and Canton of Geneva, foraus (a Swiss NGO), the Permanent Mission of the United States of America in Geneva and the Fondation pour Genève.

Discussions were held at the Palais des Nations and the Maison de la Paix. The Global Think Tank Summit was put together in record time, showing the efficiency that can arise when multiple stakeholders work together. It is envisioned to become a regular feature of International Geneva – the leading hub for innovative global solutions.

### Geneva Peace Week

The first Geneva Peace Week was held from 17 to 21 November 2014. It epitomized the cooperation between the various partners in International Geneva. By concentrating nearly a dozen meetings on different peace-related topics into five days, Geneva Peace Week ensured cross-linkages between organizations in Geneva working on conflict resolution and peacebuilding. There were several book launches and expert discussions. The week wrapped up with the annual meeting of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform.

### Geneva Peace Talks

“Let’s Talk Peace!” was the theme of the 2014 Geneva Peace Talks. Speakers shared their experiences of how communication can open up space for resolving conflicts. In keeping with the Peace Talks’ aim of generating fresh thinking, some of these insights came from unusual or unexpected angles. Notable participants included French cartoonist Plantu, former UN interpreter Andrew Brooks, photojournalists Eman Mohammed from Gaza and Mati Milstein from Israel, and former Salvadorean gang member Rafael. The event captured the imagination of the Geneva public and

was broadcast via the web to people around the world. Held on International Day of Peace, the event is a partnership between UNOG, Interpeace (a Geneva-based international NGO) and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform.

### Library Talks

Libraries have always been places for deepening knowledge, inspiring lifelong learning and strengthening communities. Bringing together Member States, research institutions, international organizations and civil society, the UNOG Library Talks series, which has established itself as a trademark for intellectual exchange in International Geneva, conveys a range of different opinions on UN issues to delegates, staff from other international organizations, and the general public. In 2014 there were 25 Library Talks – a significant increase over 2013 – which included discussions on the importance of a spiritual and religious dimension to the rights of human beings, access to justice for people of African descent, and the post-2015 development agenda. The series, which is open to the public, helps reinforce UNOG’s ties with Geneva.



1-UNOG interns during Geneva Peace Week (UN Photo: Kathryn Hennessey) 2-Eman Mohammed, photojournalist, at the Geneva Peace Talks (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) 3-Library Talk (UN Photo: Coralie Chappat)



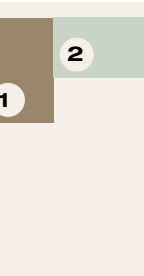
- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## Ciné ONU

Quarterly film screenings + expert-led debates = Ciné ONU. In partnership with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, UNOG inaugurated Ciné ONU Geneva in May 2014, bringing priority UN issues to local audiences. At the launching, Acting Director-General Michael Møller spoke of the importance of initiatives such as Ciné ONU to strengthen ties between International Geneva and the local community.

The first movie was Hollywood blockbuster *12 Years a Slave*, which was followed by a debate on modern forms of slavery. The next screening fell on Nelson Mandela Day, when UNOG showed the documentary *One Humanity*, telling the story of how two star-studded pop concerts drew the world's attention to the need to end apartheid in South Africa. Afterwards, South Africa's Permanent Representative to UNOG, Ambassador Abdul Samad Minty, who features in the documentary, took part in a powerful discussion on racism, alongside compatriot and then-High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay. In September, Ciné ONU Geneva moved into town for the first time, showing the apocalyptic thriller *Snowpiercer* to a city-centre audience eager to get involved in the subsequent debate on tackling climate change.



1-Ciné ONU: *Snowpiercer* (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) 2-At the Ciné ONU screening of *One Humanity* (UN Photo: Pierre-Michel Virot)

- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## Turning visitors into UNOG ambassadors

Every year more than 100,000 visitors from around the world come to the Palais des Nations for a guided tour – not only to admire the historic building but also to learn about the impact of the work carried out within its walls. Thirty knowledgeable guides provide tours in 15 languages, informing visitors about the work carried out at UNOG and inspiring them to be active supporters and ambassadors of the UN in their home countries.

Highlights of the guided tour include the Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room, with its famous ceiling by artist Miquel Barceló; the Salle des Pas Perdus, from where you can see the Celestial Sphere and the Conquest of Space monument; the Assembly Hall, which is the largest room in the Palais des Nations; and the Council Chamber, with murals by José María Sert and home to the Conference on Disarmament, where many historic negotiations have taken place.

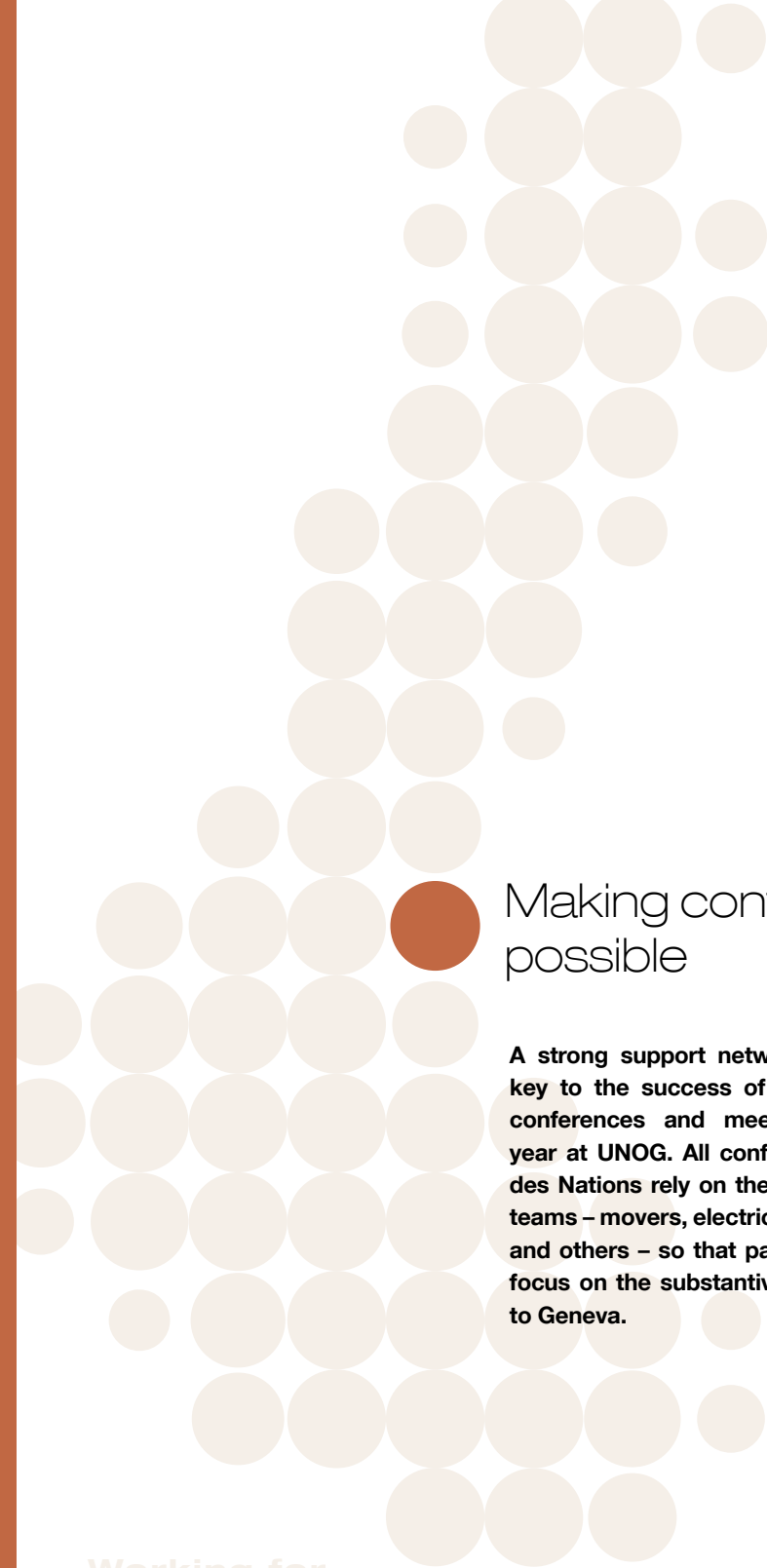
In addition to the guided tour, UNOG offers three thematic tours. The first explores the flora, art, history and innovative management of Ariana Park, within the UN grounds. The second examines the history, architecture and works of art within the Palais des Nations. The third combines the regular guided tour with a special visit to the League of Nations Museum.

*“In that summer of 1978 I could have never imagined that I’d be working here one day. I guess the guided tour did inspire that kid who was visiting with his parents. I hope I’m having the same impact now when I do outreach work in universities.”*

*Enrique Fernández-Vernet,  
Chief,  
Spanish Translation Section*



- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## Making conferences possible

**A strong support network behind the scenes is key to the success of the approximately 10,000 conferences and meetings taking place each year at UNOG. All conferences held at the Palais des Nations rely on the expertise of the technical teams – movers, electricians, technicians, cleaners and others – so that participants in meetings can focus on the substantive work that brought them to Geneva.**

Working for  
**Peace** Rights Well-being

- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## Behind the scenes

Logistical support makes a huge difference to the success of events held at the Palais des Nations. UNOG matches the set-up in rooms and spaces to the requirements of each event. At this year's International Labour Conference, and at the WHO's World Health Assembly, one hall was transformed into a post office and another into a cybercafé, offices were morphed into media centres, and an exhibition space became an open-plan office area with more than 50 workstations. During these conferences, more than 10,000 participants and visitors benefited from UNOG's behind-the-scenes logistics.

IT support ensures that delegates and visitors have access to wireless internet services on secured networks. For major conferences, UNOG's technicians provide on-site helpdesk services to support delegates at all times. They also provide access to desktop computers and photocopiers so that urgent documents can be distributed on time. Other services, such as support for videoconferencing and the provision of telephones, help meetings proceed smoothly.



1-Palais des Nations at night (UN Photo: Pontus Wallsten) 2-(UN Photo) 3-26th session of the Human Rights Council (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) 4-High-level segment of the 25th session of the Human Rights Council (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



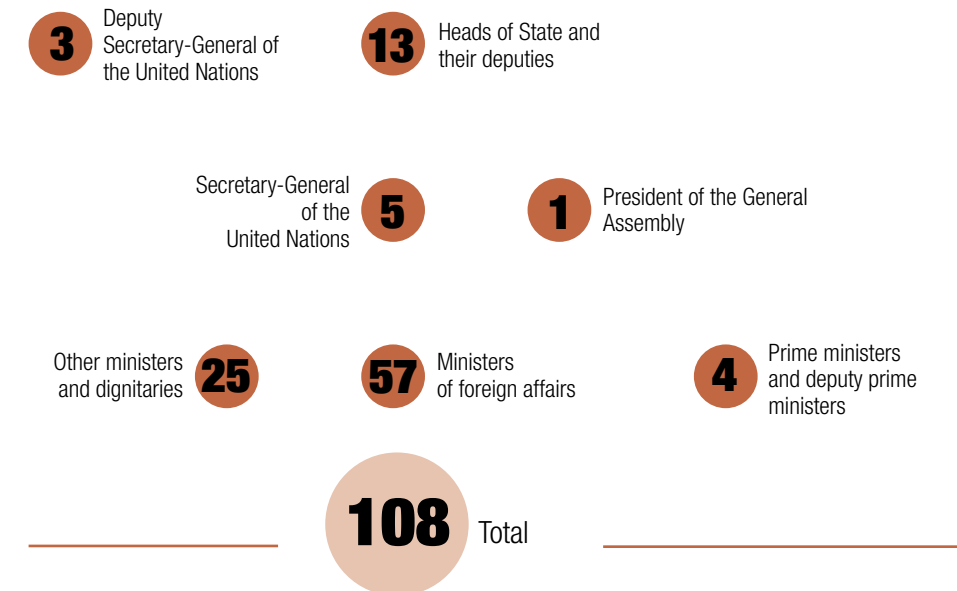
**David Chikvaidze**  
Chef de Cabinet Office  
of the Director-General  
on the P5+1 talks with Iran



The P5+1 talks with Iran in 2013 paved the way for the Iran nuclear talks, which took place in Vienna throughout 2014 and into 2015. David Chikvaidze was a central figure in the organization of the historic first phase, which took place at UNOG. Listen to his account on that first historic encounter [here](#).

UNOG also provides direct support to high-level visitors, such as Heads of State and Government, and foreign affairs ministers. Working together with the permanent missions, UNOG staff ensure that all protocol is adhered to and that visits to the Palais des Nations are as seamless as possible.

### Total number of high-level visits in 2014



**1**-Michael Møller (left), Acting Director-General of UNOG, welcomes Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to Geneva for the 28th special session of the Trade and Development Board and the 50th anniversary of UNCTAD (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **2**-Crown Princess Mary of Denmark at the Beijing+20 ECE Regional Review Meeting (UN Photo: Violaine Martin) **3**-Rafael Correa Delgado (left), President of Ecuador, and Mukbisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, at the 15th Raúl Prebisch Lecture, held during the 50th anniversary of UNCTAD (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **4**-Kofi Annan (seated), former UN Secretary-General, at an event to mark the publication of his latest book, entitled "We the Peoples: A UN for the 21st Century" (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)

- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



### Interpreters at work

▶ As there are six official UN languages, interpreters are crucial in ensuring that meetings run smoothly. **Here** is an insight into their work.



### Robert Dickinson

Translator  
on how translation helps delegates  
work better

▶ Translation is crucial at the UN to ensure that documents are accessible by a wide audience in all six official languages. Listen **here** to Robert Dickinson explaining the process of getting these documents prepared.



### Roberta Brangam

Editor  
on why editing is important  
at the UN

▶ The United Nations produces numerous reports, resolutions and other documents each year, all of which must first pass through an editing process. Roberta Brangam explains the crucial role of this team **here**.



### Milena Vlahovic

Chief of the Meetings  
Management Section  
on innovative approaches to  
organizing

▶ Successful conferences rely on a range of services. Milena Vlahovic gives an insight into some of these **here**.



- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



**Aisha Jeelaan**  
Conference Affairs Officer  
on accessibility at UNOG



UNOG is committed to accessibility for all.  
Watch Aisha Jeelaan talk about the services provided [here](#).



## Making UNOG more accessible

UNOG has made considerable progress towards improving accessibility throughout its premises. Geneva is home to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, which have been a welcome force in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities.

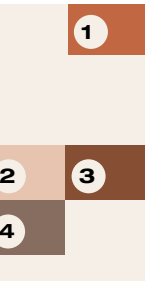
In 2014, efforts went beyond physical accessibility matters such as special priority access lanes, an accessibility

map of the Palais des Nations, and more widespread signage throughout the building, and now extend to services that are available during some sessions of conferences. Increasingly, UNOG is providing services such as real-time captioning and sign language interpretation for mandated meetings, as well as hearing loops and Braille documentation.



## Protection and security at the Palais des Nations

UNOG makes sure that all conferences and meetings at the Palais des Nations happen in a secure and safe environment. In 2014, the Security and Safety Service also had an impact beyond the walls of the Palais, lending its support to the Syrian peace conference in Montreux, UN-Habitat's World Urban Forum in Colombia, the International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa, and the Lima Climate Change Conference in Peru.



**1**-Printing in Braille at UNOG (UN Photo: Jean-Luc La Planeta) **2**-Visit of the President of Italy, Giorgio Napolitano (UN Photo: Jess Hoffman) **3**-UN Photo: Security and Safety Service **4**-From left to right, Neo, Zana, Samba, Cherkhan and Nicki, the UNOG dogs trained to detect explosives (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)

- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



**Security Officer**  
on the specifics of security work at  
the UN



UNOG Security personnel provide support in Geneva and also in the field. Francisco Javier López Roldán talks **here** about the importance of security field missions.



**160 SSS personnel provided support to 30 UN field missions**



**63 SSS personnel provided support to 12 UN conferences outside of Geneva**

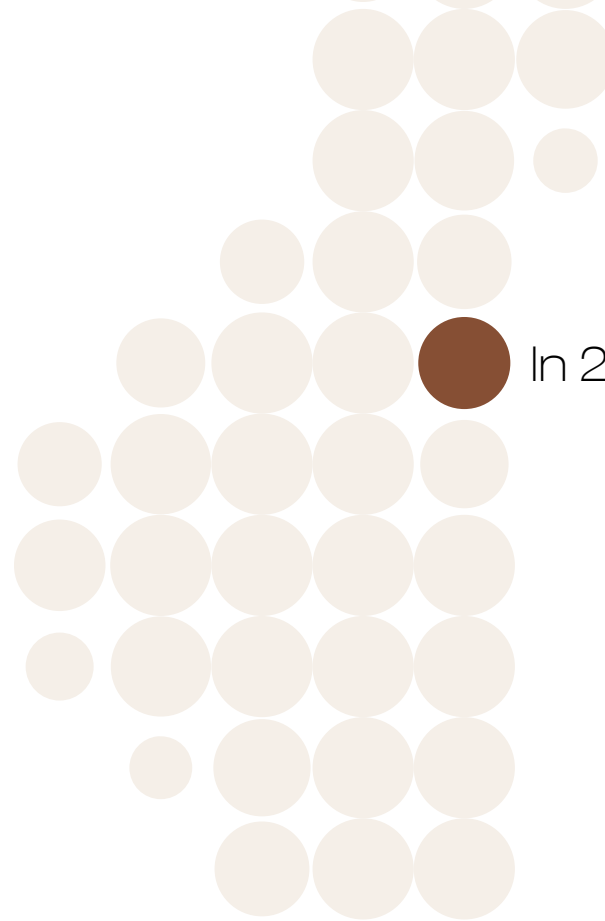
**23,573 badges**



**were issued to UN personnel**



**84,436 badges were issued to conference participants**

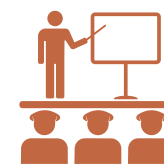


In 2014

**31,992**



**vehicles were screened on entry to the premises**



**342**

**officers were trained in variety of areas**



**48**

**hours of training were given to external organizations**

**263,165**



**calls and**

**131,897**



**alarms**

**were responded to by the Security Control Centre**



- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## Reshaping the way we work

**In response to changing needs and priorities, UNOG has streamlined a number of its internal processes to make them more sustainable, efficient and cost-effective. As technology and information become more accessible, UNOG is reshaping its work procedures to better meet the requirements of delegates, visitors and staff.**

Working for  
**Peace** Rights Well-being

- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## Enhancing services through new technologies

A new and improved UNOG intranet portal was launched in April, which makes it quicker and easier to access essential information. UNOG also led the deployment of iNeed, used for tracking and fulfilling requests for services, and of a new online platform for submitting compensation claims. These new tools allow information to be communicated more effectively, improve consistency and transparency in the delivery of services, and lead to more efficient resource use.

New electronic platforms in UNOG's Languages Service are helping to make sure that conferences are supported by top-quality translation services, and have brought greater efficiencies to document translation. gDoc, the UN's new document management system which was introduced in 2014, has helped minimize paper usage and allows documents to be received and delivered faster. The gText package of translation tools provides state-of-the-art computer-assisted translation and has already significantly enhanced the quality and consistency of translations.

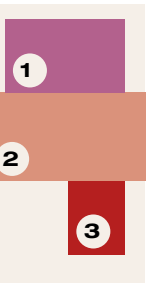
A web-based content management system and internet portal for the United Nations Staff Mutual Insurance Society was developed in 2014. This platform provides better support for UNSMIS members and allows improved communication.

Given the growing threat of cyberattacks, UNOG was the first UN office to install new software to detect and block viruses and malware.

In preparation for Umoja, the UN's new online platform to streamline administrative processes, which is due to be launched in Geneva in 2015, UNOG's online systems have been modified to make the migration process easier. New electronic tools have resulted in better processing of human resources requests, increasing satisfaction among staff and managers. This is already having an impact, seen in significant reductions

in the time to process requests and a decrease in paper use. The process of automation will intensify in 2015.

Expansion of the wireless internet service across the Palais des Nations continued. Now all public areas of the Palais have a Wi-Fi signal, including the outdoor areas between the B and S buildings. Staff and visitors alike have welcomed the extended coverage.





- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## Videoconferences

*\*Due to an increase in Skype usage, fewer formal videoconferences were held in 2014.*

### Videoconferences at UNOG

All UNOG meeting rooms are fully equipped for videoconferencing and feature WebEx connectivity, live streaming for the internet, and videoconference recording. This technology lessens the need to travel, thereby reducing the Organization's carbon footprint and achieving greater cost-effectiveness.

### Administrative services: increasing efficiency

UNOG streamlined its administrative processes and improved the services provided to its clients in 2014 via:

- A new agreement, covering 16 international organizations in Geneva, to make it easier to organize travel and obtain visas
- The new United Nations laissez-passer manager application, which lets offices monitor the status of their applications
- The upgrading of Procure+ (the IT procurement platform) to better match practices at Headquarters in New York

All of these initiatives have enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of UNOG's administrative services and they are all delivering strong results.

### Streamlining financial resource management

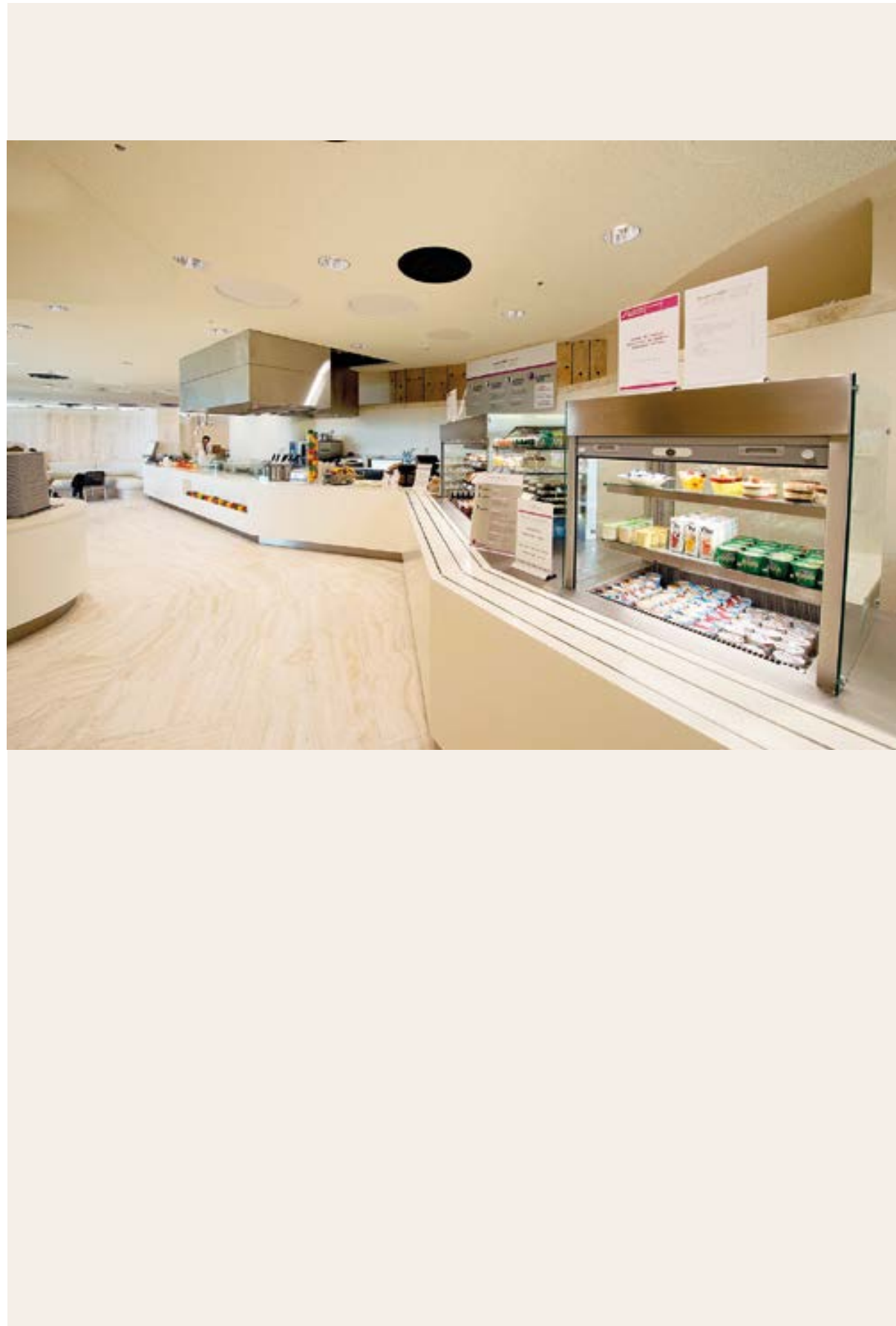
The UN began using the International Public Sector Accounting Standards in 2014 to help ensure better-informed decision-making, improved control of resources and greater transparency. Accounting services were adapted to better meet client needs, and a comprehensive operational guide was prepared specifically for Geneva clients. To help in changing to the new system, UNOG and its clients coordinated the roll-out process. Training sessions, briefing workshops and feedback sessions were held regularly with stakeholders. UNOG also worked closely with UN Headquarters in New York, sharing operational guides

and reviewing and providing detailed feedback on IPSAS, to ensure that the roll-out was as streamlined as possible.

### Consolidating procurement activities

The Common Procurement Activities Group, the secretariat of which is managed by UNOG, has contributed greatly to the consolidation of procurement activities. CPAG is leading efforts towards a simplification and harmonization of procurement practices. CPAG aims to build more effective, coherent and better-performing business practices and to lower the cost of commonly required goods and services for all its members via volume purchase agreements. Using a "delivering as one" concept, CPAG members collaborated on more than 22 procurement projects in 2013. The estimated cost avoidance was over \$30 million, in respect of travel services and airline negotiations, electricity supplies, ICT goods and services, office supplies and other goods and services.

- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



UNOG continues to explore all avenues conducive to a more efficient use of available resources. As a result of joint airline negotiations, UNOG has established 16 agreements with major carriers and alliances. In 2013, a cost avoidance of approximately CHF 17,000,000 was achieved through corporate fares purchased by international organizations in Geneva, travel agent fares, creative ticketing and the use of low-cost carriers. In the same year, UNOG achieved significant cost avoidances in other areas, such as mail services (CHF 763,965), courier services (CHF 1,276,985), photocopying services (CHF 1,338,632), the diplomatic pouch (CHF 458,716), electricity (CHF 420,961), desktop computers (CHF 1,753,587), laptop computers (CHF 1,571,631), office supplies (CHF 208,435), toner and inkjet cartridges (CHF 447,540), the Novell licensing agreement (CHF 225,391) and heating oil (CHF 144,186).

### Supporting UN staff

More than 700 training courses were offered in 2014 by UNOG's Staff Development and Learning Section, ranging from career development seminars to information sessions on UNOG's internal justice system. New programmes were introduced to support the UN's emergency preparedness efforts. Gender Awareness in the Workplace was a notable new course, which was developed to promote gender mainstreaming and awareness.

UNOG's Medical Service responded to the Ebola threat by deploying the Ebola health risk mitigation plan for staff travelling to Ebola-affected areas. In addition, it provided information sessions to UN staff members in Geneva. The Medical Service also helped protect the health and well-being of more than 10,000 staff members serving in Geneva-based UN organizations and in field locations around the world via daily consultations (the walk-in clinic), periodic check-ups, thematic conferences and workstation assessments.

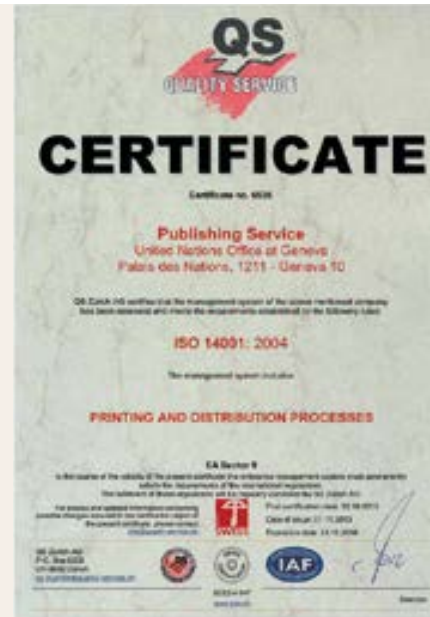
The Security and Safety Service ran an extensive programme to make sure that its staff have the most up-to-date tools to do their job. To round out the training package, exercises were carried out with the Host Country and other UN entities in Geneva on vehicle searches, first aid and the detection of suspicious packages.

### Green catering

UNOG worked to minimize the environmental impact of the cafeteria. There was also a focus on self-sustainability for the different catering activities. A new catering contract saw the use of more organic and locally produced food and more fair trade products, and opened up new culinary options. In cooperation with the Geneva Green Group – made up of colleagues from across the UN family in Geneva plus the United Nations Environment Programme's sustainable UN coordinator – a composter was installed to treat organic waste. Food waste from the cafeteria is now composted and used for UNOG's parks and gardens.



- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



**Houria Chouari**  
Documents Assistant of  
the UNOG Printing Section  
on ISO certification



ISO Certification is key to the continuous improvement of quality services at UNOG.  
Listen to Houria Chouari talk about the importance of ISO Certification [here](#).

## Sustainable publishing

During 2014, the Printing Section of the Division of Conference Management continued to enhance its technical expertise and its use of modern equipment. Documents were printed in the six official languages for major conferences. Alongside its printing and binding of flagship publications, the Printing Section is moving towards the production of digital publications that are accessible via numerous electronic devices.

The Printing Section and Distribution Section successfully completed an audit of their Environmental Management System in October. The auditor praised the high level of motivation of the staff and commended their commitment to continuous improvement of work processes and procedures. At the end of the audit, it was recorded that the publishing operations of the Production and Support Service remain fully compliant with ISO 14001:2004, received in October 2014.



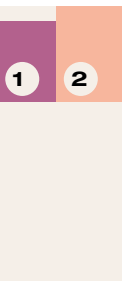
## Pipeline Visualization Tool

UNOG is finalizing the development of new software that will make it easier to get documents into delegates' hands for meetings. Delegates coming to the Palais des Nations need to have all the documents relevant to their meeting and to be able to choose which of the six official UN languages they want to read them in. For this to happen, a lot of work has to be done behind the scenes, in a situation where workloads are more volatile than before and resources are short.

The Pipeline Visualization Tool graphically displays the current and projected workload of the translators, as well as the number of staff available to do the job. It helps managers spot spikes in demand early so they can plan how to fill the gaps. It flags the latest possible date that a section should start working on a given document in order to meet the delivery deadline. The Pipeline Visualization Tool takes information from gDoc, the UN's global documentation planning and processing system.



The life of a document is a long one, from drafting through to distribution.  
Listen [here](#) to Hendrik Colas explaining the importance of the final step in this lifecycle.



- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## Reaching out to youth

**Against the background of the largest youth population the world has ever seen, bringing the work of the United Nations to younger generations is essential for shaping new ideas. Through a growing number of programmes for local schoolchildren, outreach to graduate students, fellowship programmes, and seminars, young people were encouraged to join the dialogue and participate in many of the discussions on priority UN issues.**

Working for  
**Peace** Rights Well-being



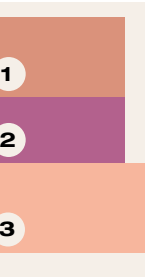
- 2** Foreword
- 4** Highlights of 2014
- 7** UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16** Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25** Making conferences  
possible
- 31** Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36** Reaching out to youth
- 40** Spreading the news
- 46** Days of remembrance
- 50** Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54** Pursuit of knowledge
- 62** Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65** Annex



## Strengthening links with local youth

The spotlight was on 600 teenagers when UNOG hosted the opening of the Ferney Model United Nations conference at the beginning of 2014. We also helped the Geneva International Model United Nations, a locally based organization run by students, to hold several conferences, on topics such as human trafficking and children's rights. Conferences like these give a taste of what it's like to be in the shoes of a diplomat. Students debate pressing world issues and get the opportunity to explore their interest in the work and the impact of the UN.

A human rights week was organized with a local school, the Institut Florimont. A competition for schoolchildren was held in partnership with the Eduki Foundation; its theme was freedom of expression on the internet – limits and opportunities for young people. UNOG staff were invited into classrooms to teach students about subjects such as LGBT rights and child soldiers. And UNOG continued its strong partnership with the International School of Geneva, which included giving presentations to students and taking part in the launch of the school's Guiding Principles for Learning in the 21st Century.



**1**-Opening of the Ferney Model United Nations conference (UN Photo: Pierre Albouy) **2**-The Acting Director-General meets students from John F. Kennedy International School (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **3**-Participants in the 2014 Geneva International Model United Nations (Photo: Steve Tunzi)



- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## Deepening education through experience

### Students' League of Nations

The Students' League of Nations, which was named in honour of the League of Nations, is a realistic simulation of the General Assembly of the United Nations. It was held at the Palais des Nations from 15 to 17 December. The conference brought together students aged between 16 and 20 from schools around the world, with the majority however coming from the International School of Geneva, the main organizer of the event. They drafted and discussed resolutions on issues such as Ebola, the conflicts in the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine, the need for strong democracies, climate change, and the question of the reform of international financial institutions.

The Acting Director-General welcomed the enthusiasm and engagement of the students, affirming that *"we will not all win Nobel Prizes but we can all make a real and lasting difference for others when we get involved"*.

### Graduate Study Programme

Youth is a priority UN issue, so it was only natural that this year's Graduate Study Programme should have the theme "Empowering youth: how can the UN lead the way forward?" Sixty-five postgraduate students, of 44 nationalities, travelled to Geneva to take part in the intensive two-week programme. They heard from the youth representatives of 19 UN agencies in Geneva, learning about each organization and about specific youth issues that each one deals with. Among the highlights were a seminar by UN Envoy on Youth Ahmad Alhendawi and a question-and-answer session with Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson. Mr. Eliasson encouraged the young people to be proactive, telling them: *"Nobody can do everything, but everybody can do something"*.

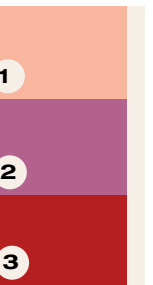
Creative thinking and teamwork skills emerged as students worked together, led by moderators from the UN agencies. The students were given assignments on how the UN should address the themes of climate change, educational curricula, the digital divide, civil society activism and youth unemployment. They presented an inspiring body of final work, with communications strategies, proposals for action plans, a short film, and even a draft youth policy for Member States.

### UNOG information programmes and the UN Geneva Seminars Series

UNOG's information programmes and the UN Geneva Seminars Series promoted the "Geneva impact" message to small but influential groups with a potentially wide global reach.

Sixty-three lectures were held in 2014 as part of the information programmes. The largest audience for the information programmes is university students – notably from New York University, the Oxford University Foreign Service Programme, Trinity College Dublin, and the University of Tokyo – who are briefed by UN officials and civil society representatives on crucial issues.

The UN Geneva Seminars Series offers a way for UNOG to deepen young people's knowledge about the UN's activities, priorities and challenges. The seminars in 2014 were on internet governance and disarmament.



1-Graduate Study Programme, with Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson and staff of the United Nations Information Service (Photo: Pierre-Michel Viot) 2-Awards ceremony for the competition on the theme of freedom of expression on the internet (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) 3-Graduate Study Programme closing ceremony (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



### International Law Seminar: 50th anniversary

The International Law Seminars have given generations of young international lawyers the chance to follow debates at the International Law Commission and to better understand how it works. The first International Law Seminar was held in 1965, making 2014 the 50th anniversary year. A special session with former participants was held this year, which coincided with the visit to the International Law Commission of Peter Tomka, President of the International Court of Justice and a former seminar participant.

This year's participants observed the Commission's plenary meetings and attended special lectures given by Commission members, senior officials of international organizations and professors of international law. They produced two reports and sets of recommendations, on the protection of the atmosphere and immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction, which were transmitted to the Commission.

UNOG also called on members of the International Law Commission to invite Governments to make voluntary contributions to the Seminar Trust Fund, to widen the programme's reach and accessibility. Fourteen scholarships were awarded this year to deserving participants, primarily from developing countries.

*"I was able to actually see, in real life, how international law is codified and progressively developed."*

*International Law Seminar participant*

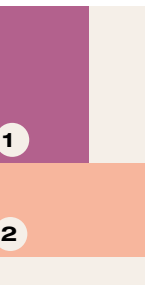
*"The International Law Seminar gives a unique opportunity to witness the creation of international law, to learn, and to exchange ideas and international legal practice among the best-known professionals in the field."*

*International Law Seminar participant*

### UNOG Internship Programme

The Internship Programme remains an important feature of life at UNOG. Interns come from around the world to work and learn alongside experienced professionals. They amass valuable knowledge and skills to assist them in their future careers and gain a better understanding of how the UN functions.

Recognizing the substantial contributions that interns make to the Organization, UNOG has been keen to ensure that they receive better support. A new guide has been posted on the UNOG website, which gives prospective interns more information and also looks at practical considerations. A group of interns worked with UNOG to organize the first Interns with a Mission networking event, which was held at the Palais des Nations in April. This event brought together nearly 300 interns from across International Geneva, to build a strong sense of community and to discuss how the next generation of leaders and diplomats see the future of the UN. The event was a real success and many of the interns expressed a desire to see similar events take place on a regular basis in the future. UNOG is following up on this.



- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



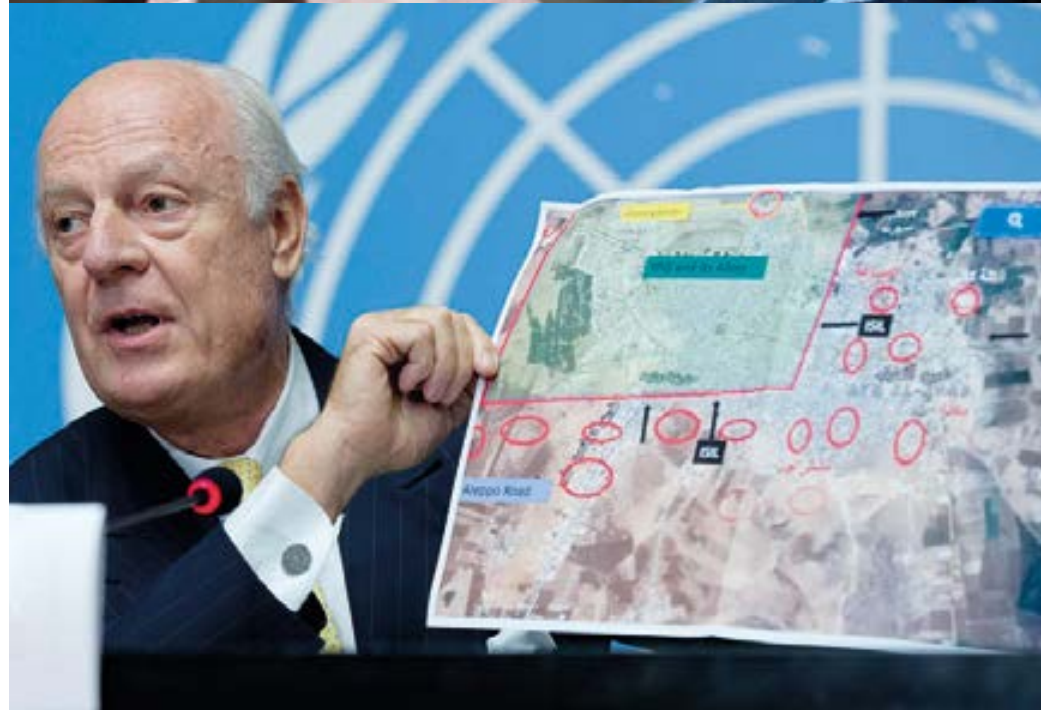
## Spreading the news

**Regular press briefings, radio features and UNTV documentaries – bolstered by almost 100,000 followers of @UNGeneva on Twitter and 26,000 likes on Facebook – help UNOG to reach new audiences and to keep Geneva and the world informed of the work being done here. The driving principle is to link the UN, through its programmes, with the peoples of the world.**

Working for  
**Peace** Rights Well-being



- 2** Foreword
- 4** Highlights of 2014
- 7** UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16** Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25** Making conferences  
possible
- 31** Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36** Reaching out to youth
- 40** Spreading the news
- 46** Days of remembrance
- 50** Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54** Pursuit of knowledge
- 62** Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65** Annex



## Social media

For the general public, the everyday work of the UN can sometimes be a bit of a mystery, so the use of Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and other platforms helps get the word out. Easily digestible bite-sized messages are an engaging and efficient way for staff and partners to see what's happening at UNOG, to read what senior leaders are saying, and to have their own say. UNOG publishes a fast-paced mix of news, campaigns, photos and live-tweeted events, in both English and French.

The @UNGeneva Twitter account, as of December 2014, had 93,000 followers. UNOG's presence on other social media platforms, which include Facebook, YouTube and Flickr, also has a broad reach.

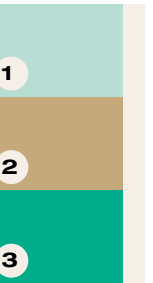
Social media knows no geographic barriers or time zones, so offices away from New York – such as UNOG – are crucial partners in getting information onto platforms like Facebook or Twitter. Geneva and New York are now working together more closely than ever to cover major world events – from the Secretary-General's visits, to the Geneva Conference on Syria, to Ebola news conferences – in real time. Sharing photos and videos from around the world makes the work of the UN come alive online.

## Press

UNOG provides an array of services to help journalists get the news out. In 2014, UNOG accredited 2,343 correspondents and auxiliaries, as well as TV crews and print and broadcast media organizations from every continent, to facilitate their coverage of the work of the UN in Geneva. These journalists also cover the UN's work in the field, especially that of the humanitarian agencies.

The UN speaks with one voice at the twice-weekly press briefings, as spokespersons from all the UN agencies, funds and programmes in Geneva come to the Palais des Nations to brief the media. Increasingly, UN field staff and senior personnel, such as the Secretary-General's special representatives, talk to the Geneva press corps – in person or by audio link – about what is really happening on the ground, for example in the Syrian refugee crisis, Iraq, the Central African Republic, or the response to Ebola.

UNOG also holds press conferences and stakeouts (ad hoc press conferences) for permanent missions and for organizations such as the World Economic Forum and the International Committee of the Red Cross, to launch reports and to provide briefings on latest developments.



**1**–Corinne Momal-Vanien, Director of the United Nations Information Service at Geneva, during a press briefing on Ukraine (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **2**–Swiss President Didier Burkhalter briefs the press at the second Geneva Conference on Syria, Montreux. (UN Photo: Violaine Martin) **3**–Staffan de Mistura at his first Geneva press conference in the role of Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## UNTV and UN Radio

UN radio, television and photographic coverage is broadcast globally. News material about major issues and events in Geneva is seen in flagship news programmes on every continent. Feature stories are produced here about underreported UN activities and neglected problems. Print and online media around the world publish UN photos, and people watch the webcasts of Human Rights Council meetings. UN officials and delegates respond to top broadcasters' questions in live and recorded interviews from UNOG's radio and TV studios.

Syrian negotiations, the Ebola epidemic, the humanitarian crises in Africa, and the Gaza, Iraq and Ukraine conflicts headed the news agenda in 2014. Major broadcasters including the BBC, Al Jazeera, Japan's NHK and China's CCTV, and news agencies and services such as Eurovision, Reuters TV, Associated Press Television News, Agence France-Presse, Xinhua and Spain's EFE distribute UNTV stories and frequently request more coverage.

A UNTV team travelled to India and Nepal with the Water and Sanitation Collaborative Council to produce features on menstrual hygiene management, an often-taboo subject that blights the lives of countless women and girls, and on the provision of toilets, a sometimes neglected Millennium Development Goal. UNOG also highlighted an Economic Commission for Europe programme designed to protect people and the environment against industrial accidents and to increase safety and cooperation between different countries in this area.

UN radio journalists in Geneva produce news programmes, interviews and features, in English and French, for dissemination by UN Radio in New York. As well as covering UN activities in Geneva, they report on humanitarian and socioeconomic activities throughout the world, focusing especially on the situation of vulnerable people.

UN radio, television and webcast coverage of the plight of refugees, displaced people, and victims of natural disasters and conflicts helps to draw the world's attention to their need for emergency aid and for respect of their basic rights.

UNOG also reached new audiences in 2014 via "What's on at the UN in Geneva", a weekly feature on local station World Radio Switzerland.



**Andrew Martin**  
UNTV Producer  
on the making of the International  
Geneva video



Andrew Martin from UNTV talks **here** about the International Geneva film currently being produced.

1

2



- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



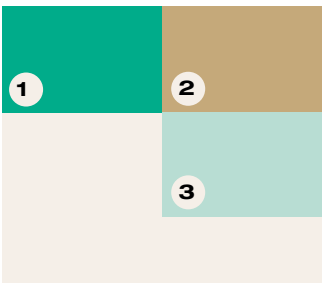
## Twelve best photos of 2014



**Jean-Marc Ferré**  
Photographer  
on the specifics of working as  
a photographer at the UN



Photographs are an important way of documenting conferences and events.  
Go behind the scenes with photographer Jean-Marc Ferré as he explains the ins and outs of this job. Watch what he has to say [here](#).

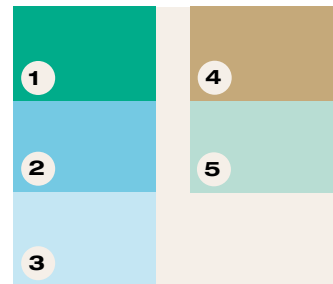


**1**-A journalist studies a newspaper during the second Geneva Conference on Syria (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **2**-View of the media at a press conference by Lakhdar Brabimi, Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **3**-Spring at the Palais des Nations (UN Photo: Violaine Martin)



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE  
AT GENEVA  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2 0 1 4

- 2** Foreword
- 4** Highlights of 2014
- 7** UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16** Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25** Making conferences  
possible
- 31** Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36** Reaching out to youth
- 40** Spreading the news
- 46** Days of remembrance
- 50** Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54** Pursuit of knowledge
- 62** Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65** Annex

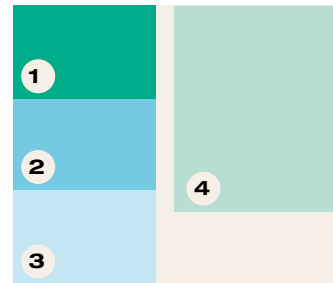


**1**-Commemorating International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **2**-At the 26th session of the Human Rights Council (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **3**-Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General, addressing the 52nd Graduate Study Programme, at the Palais des Nations (UN Photo: Pierre Michel Viot) **4**-Navi Pillay at a special sitting of the 26th session of the Human Rights Council marking the end of her tenure as High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **5**-Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al Hussein, High Commissioner for Human Rights, at a press conference shortly after his appointment (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE  
AT GENEVA  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2014

- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



**1**-Training session for the traditional Escalade run, in Ariana Park (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **2**-TEDxPlaceDesNations co-organizers and hosts Corinne Momal-Vanian and Melissa Fleming (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **3**-Students at the 1914–2014 contest launched by Swiss President Didier Burkhalter (UN Photo: Pierre Albouy) **4**-Plaque in remembrance of victims of the Algiers bombing, unveiled on World Humanitarian Day 2014 (UN Photo: Anne-Laure Lechat)

- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## Days of remembrance

**International days draw the world's attention to key global issues and remind us of the great sacrifices, and the loss, of many. In 2014, UNOG was graced by touching memorial services, colourful events and poignant speeches. These occasions brought international and local Geneva together in celebration, mourning and reflection.**



- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

There are, today, some 116,000 men and women actively serving in 16 peacekeeping missions on four continents. UNOG marked International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers with a panel discussion and a flag-raising ceremony in Ariana Park, on 3 June. This year's theme was "United Nations Peacekeeping: A Force for the Future". As we look ahead, the United Nations will need to further develop existing partnerships with individual countries and regional organizations, explore the usage of new technologies and constantly improve efficiency. Female peacekeepers are encouraged to act as role models to inspire women and girls to push for their individual rights.

## World Humanitarian Day

Coming just weeks after the loss of colleagues in the conflict in Gaza, this year's observance of World Humanitarian Day was especially moving. The day, which was marked on 19 August, included a screening of the film *Voices from the Field*, which celebrates the achievements and sacrifices of humanitarian workers. It also featured an interactive, high-level debate as part of the worldwide Messengers of Humanity campaign, which stressed how each and every person can act as a humanitarian, in different contexts. The debate was moderated by Rick Brennan, Director of the Department of Emergency Risk Management and Humanitarian Response at the World Health Organization. William Lacy Swing, Director-General of the International Organization for Migration, was among the panellists.

A plaque was unveiled in an emotional ceremony in memory of the 17 UN colleagues killed in the attack on the UN office in Algiers on 11 December 2007. The ceremony was attended by the families of some of the victims of the

Algiers bombing and of the bombing of the UN office in Baghdad in 2003, who travelled to Geneva for the occasion, as well as by some of the survivors. The plaque was unveiled beside the remnants of the UN flag that flew in Algiers on that day, which is on permanent display at UNOG.



- 2** Foreword
- 4** Highlights of 2014
- 7** UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16** Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25** Making conferences  
possible
- 31** Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36** Reaching out to youth
- 40** Spreading the news
- 46** Days of remembrance
- 50** Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54** Pursuit of knowledge
- 62** Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65** Annex



## Holocaust Remembrance Day

Holocaust survivor Helga Pollak-Kinsky and curator Hannelore Brenner-Wonschick attended the 27 January opening of an exhibition entitled “The Girls of Room 28, in Remembrance of the Children of the Theresienstadt Ghetto”. The pictures came to the Palais des Nations as part of a joint initiative of the Permanent Delegation of the European Union and the Permanent Missions of Israel and the Czech Republic. On 28 January, an official ceremony was held in the Assembly Hall to mark International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. Attended by 1,000 guests, it included a stirring concert with musicians from Israel and Germany.

## International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda

2014 witnessed a difficult anniversary, 20 years after the genocide in Rwanda. International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda was observed in the Assembly Hall of the Palais des Nations on 9 April.

The moving commemoration, organized jointly by UNOG and the Permanent Mission of Rwanda, included a lighting of candles with the Kwibuka flame, symbolizing remembrance and resilience, and a choral performance. Part of the Kwibuka20 series of events, the commemoration in Geneva served as a stark reminder of the importance of protecting the rights of individuals across the world.

## International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Ministers convened at the Palais des Nations to discuss the policies and initiatives needed for channelling investment into the sustainable development goals, at UNCTAD’s landmark World Investment Forum which was held from 13 to 16 October coinciding with the observance of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Increased investment by multiple actors will help in the eradication of extreme poverty and the achievement of sustainable development worldwide.

Simultaneously, work by local schoolchildren on the theme of sustainable development was exhibited at UNOG.

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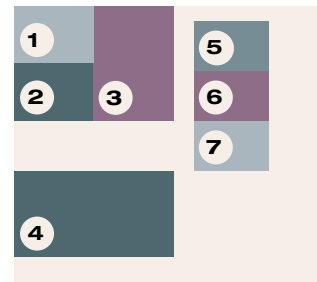
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- 2** Foreword
- 4** Highlights of 2014
- 7** UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16** Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25** Making conferences  
possible
- 31** Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36** Reaching out to youth
- 40** Spreading the news
- 46** Days of remembrance
- 50** Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54** Pursuit of knowledge
- 62** Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65** Annex

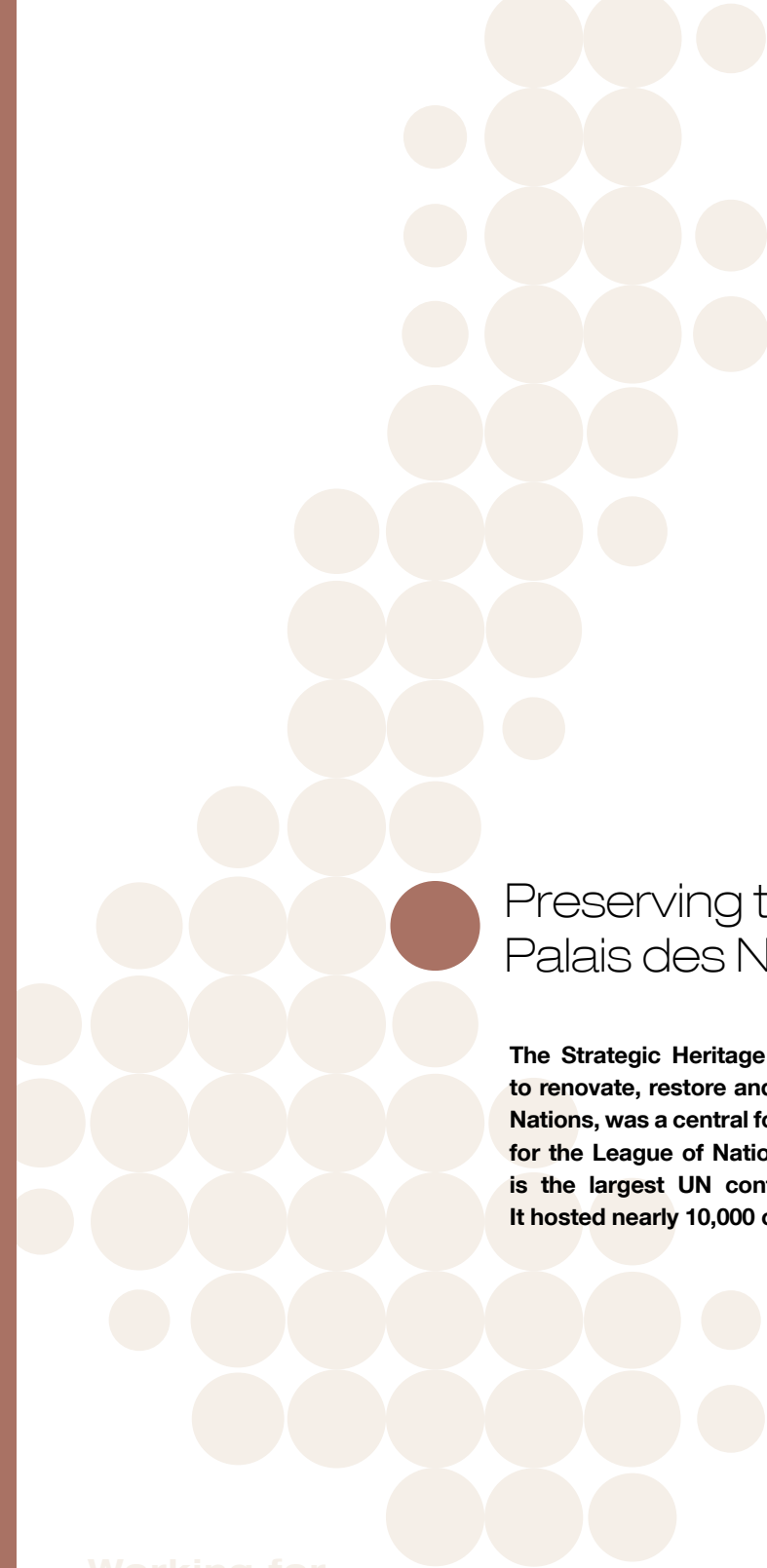


## Other days of remembrance



**1**-From the photographic exhibition entitled "Women in Mine Action: Both Halves of the Sky Deserve All the Earth", on International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (UN Photo: Violaine Martin) **2**-International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (UN Photo: Sushma Janardhana) **3**-Leading tenor and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, Juan Diego Flórez, with soprano Fatma Said and the Harmonia Symphony Orchestra, during the "Culture for Peace and Human Rights" concert on Human Rights Day (Onuart Foundation: Franziska Cook) **4**-Ceremony on the Place des Nations in honour of UN staff killed in Gaza (UN Photo: Pierre Albouy) **5**-Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon gives an address at the "Wild and Precious" exhibition held on World Wildlife Day (UN Photo: Violaine Martin) **6**-Slimane Chikh, Ambassador, Permanent Observer of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, on International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (UN Photo: Pontus Wallsten) **7**-International Women's Day, which coincided with National Dress Day and the 25th session of the Human Rights Council (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)

- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## Preserving the Palais des Nations

**The Strategic Heritage Plan, a milestone project to renovate, restore and modernize the Palais des Nations, was a central focus in 2014. Originally built for the League of Nations, the Palais des Nations is the largest UN conference centre in Europe. It hosted nearly 10,000 conferences in 2014.**

Working for  
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- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## Strategic Heritage Plan

The Strategic Heritage Plan is being put into action to preserve the architectural heritage of the buildings and to ensure that the facility can continue to serve as a hub for multilateral diplomacy. Specifically, the Strategic Heritage Plan aims to:

- Renovate the buildings as necessary to bring them into compliance with relevant fire, health and safety regulations;
- Modify the buildings as necessary to improve access for persons with disabilities;
- Repair and update the building enclosure and the electrical, mechanical and plumbing systems to meet relevant building codes and reduce energy costs;
- Optimize the use of the available interior spaces and conference facilities, providing flexible and functional offices and conference rooms;
- Preserve the heritage, prevent irreversible deterioration or damage, and restore and maintain the capital value of the Palais des Nations and its contents;
- Address a growing problem of lack of space for staff members of the United Nations Secretariat and for liaison offices of UN funds, programmes and agencies;
- Consolidate, to the extent feasible, the activities of the UN Secretariat in Geneva.

During 2014, a dedicated project management team was assembled. A contract was awarded for an architectural firm to develop the master plan as well as the first phase of what is planned to be a four-phase project. Work is now well underway on the design phase.

Sustainability is a core objective of the UN and of the Strategic Heritage Plan; for this reason, a number of “greening” initiatives have been put in place. For example, over the past 12 years, UNOG has lowered its carbon emissions by 38% via reduced consumption of electricity, fuel and water.

Thanks to the energy efficiency project that UNOG carried out in 2013 and 2014, carbon emissions at the Palais des Nations are expected to fall further in the years to come. The improvements, which reduce heating and lighting costs, were made possible by a generous donation from the host country, Switzerland.

1

2



- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex

## Major works in 2014 included



1

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Completion  
of the Allée des Nations

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Renovation  
of existing sanitary  
columns  
in the C building

2

2

Third phase of  
replacement of the main  
sewers in  
the Cour d'Honneur

4

4

Removal of hazardous  
materials on the 3rd floor  
of the E building

5

5

Optimization of the  
existing office space in the  
E building

6

6

Emergency  
repairs in  
the underground  
garage of  
the E building

7

7

Creation of  
the Pasta Corner at the  
Serpent Bar



- 2** Foreword
- 4** Highlights of 2014
- 7** UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16** Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25** Making conferences  
possible
- 31** Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36** Reaching out to youth
- 40** Spreading the news
- 46** Days of remembrance
- 50** Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54** Pursuit of knowledge
- 62** Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65** Annex



## Member States leave their mark on the Palais des Nations

Member States have made important contributions to the ongoing efforts to modernize and preserve the Palais des Nations. The generous renovation and refurbishment of conference rooms are a splendid addition to the rich cultural heritage that characterizes the Palais. They contribute significantly towards lowering the overall cost of the Strategic Heritage Plan and are an excellent example for other Member States to follow. Recent donations have been made by the Governments of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. Other significant donations have been generously made by the Governments of Azerbaijan, Morocco, Romania and Spain, among others.

### Kazakh Room

Funded by Kazakhstan, this renovation and refurbishment project transformed room XIV into a multi-purpose room with interpretation booths and video projection equipment to accommodate meetings, press conferences and cultural events.

### Turkmen Room

Funded by Turkmenistan, this project was for the partial refurbishment of room I and the upgrading of its audiovisual equipment. It involved the repairing and restoring of furniture, and the installation of curtains and a darkening system. The room features artwork and decorations that reflect Turkmen culture.

### What comes next?

2015 will be another exciting year for the Strategic Heritage Plan, with the design, including the master plan and the concept design, to be completed. The in-depth assessments of the buildings and the site, which took place throughout 2014, will be analysed so that designs can be accurately created. A detailed cost estimate will be made and financing strategies will be finalized. The preliminary risk assessment and the risk management strategy will also be completed.

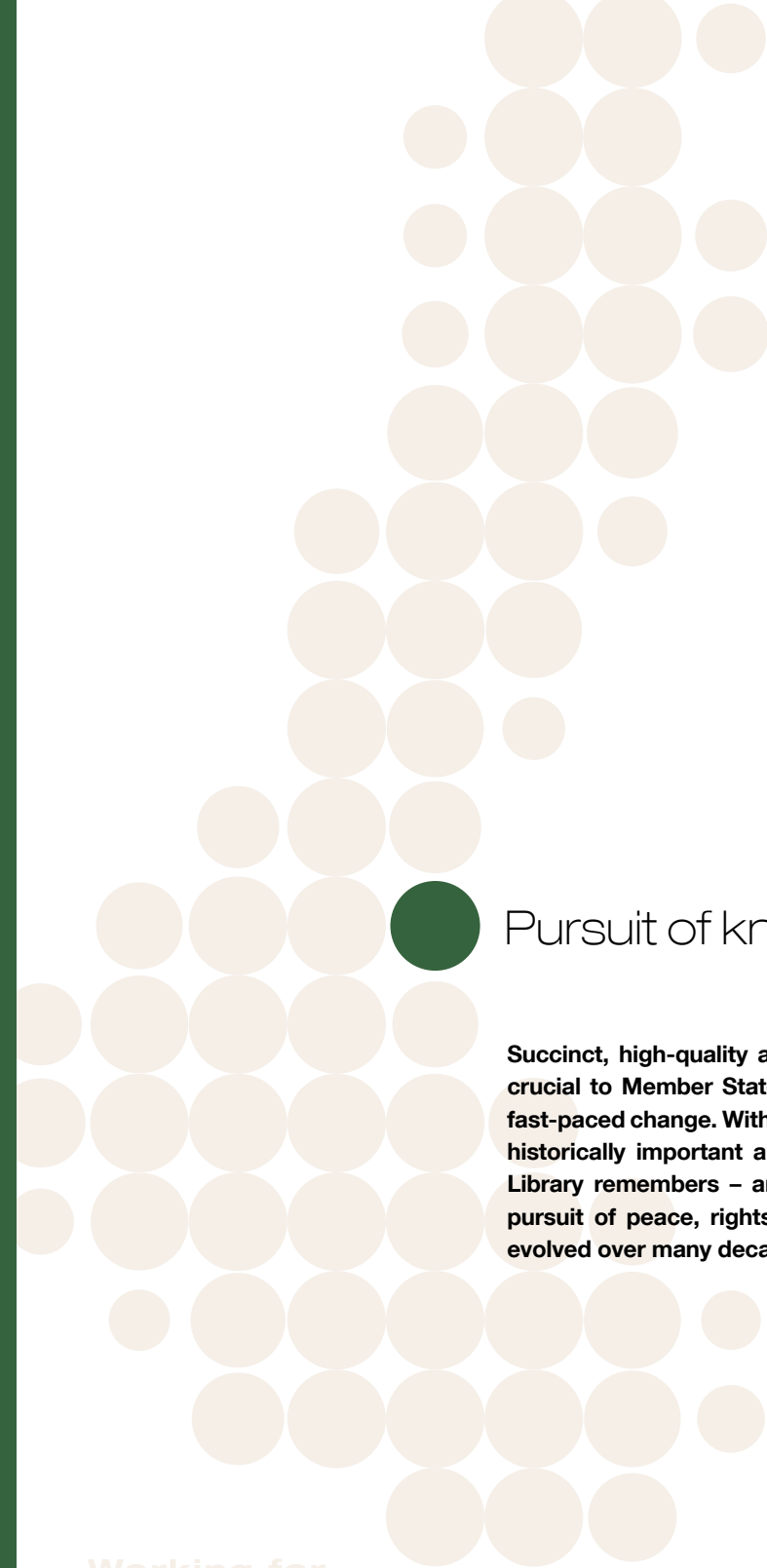
The project management team will expand as of 2015. The team will prepare all the documentation for putting the construction contract out to tender, while continuing to coordinate and assess all design work. A specialized design firm will work alongside the project management team to design the new permanent building and the renovations for the A building, and to fire-protect the historical archives in the B building.

1

2

3

- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## Pursuit of knowledge

**Succinct, high-quality and relevant information is crucial to Member States' ability to keep up with fast-paced change. With its prestigious collections, historically important archives, and museum, the Library remembers – and tells – the story of the pursuit of peace, rights and well-being as it has evolved over many decades.**

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**Peace** Rights Well-being



- 2** Foreword
- 4** Highlights of 2014
- 7** UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16** Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25** Making conferences  
possible
- 31** Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36** Reaching out to youth
- 40** Spreading the news
- 46** Days of remembrance
- 50** Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54** Pursuit of knowledge
- 62** Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65** Annex



## Advanced information tools for effective dialogue

Access to information is fundamental to human development and plays a key role in economic growth and social development. Founded as the Library of the League of Nations in 1919, the UNOG Library has served the international community for nearly a century. Since its inception, the UNOG Library has earned a worldwide reputation as a centre for research and an instrument of international understanding. In fulfilling this essential role as a modern centre for research and dialogue in multilateral relations, the UNOG Library continues to transform itself into a state-of-the-art digital library and platform for knowledge exchange while preserving access to the vital legacy of the past. Committed to building upon tradition and encouraging innovation, in 2014 the UNOG Library implemented a unified resource management system, which constitutes the backbone of a digital library.

Global Search (<http://librarycat.unog.ch>) is the quickest way to find needed information and the easiest way to discover additional relevant materials. Research Guides (<http://libraryresources.unog.ch>), curated by a dynamic corps of professionals, points researchers to key UN documents and other resources, by topic.

- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



**Sébastien Vernay**  
Welcome Desk of the  
UNOG Library  
on the Library's history and services



The UNOG Library is unique for a variety of reasons.  
Sébastien Vernay tells us why **here**.

## Preserving world memory

The UNOG Library signed a collaboration agreement in 2014 with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for the digitization of historic League of Nations archives related to Jewish populations during the interwar period. This is an important step for preserving world memory, and for developing global knowledge about the protection of refugees.

In 2014 Lithuania finalized the digitization of its archives held at the UNOG Library, and Georgia is planning to follow suit in 2015, on the basis of agreements signed by these countries in the preceding years.

Collaboration on digitization is being explored with other countries, such as Austria, China, Finland, Germany, Greece, Japan and Poland, which have expressed an active interest in consolidating their national archives. Access to digitized resources will help facilitate research, promote the importance and visibility of United Nations institutional memory, and provide greater access to information related to national and international history.

The UNOG Library – in cooperation with UN Headquarters – is also in charge of digitizing historic official documents in Arabic, Chinese and Russian.

## League of Nations Museum

The Library has developed the League of Nations Museum as a tool to convey the history of international organizations to students, educators and the general public. That history is part of the history of all peoples. Visiting the League of Nations Museum is a unique way to get a better understanding of the goals and actions of the UN today. The Museum also helps stimulate debate about the workings of the international system.

The Museum actively encourages visits by young people. In 2014, UNOG collaborated with the editors of the *Guide du Routard* as they put together their next Geneva guide. This will attract more school and university students, who will bring with them their questions about the role and the actions of the UN.



**1-** (UN Photo) **2-**Letter of resignation of James G. McDonald, High Commissioner for Refugees (Jewish and Other) Coming from Germany, from 1936. Included in the UNESCO Memory of the World register in 2010, the letter is one of the most valuable objects in the UNOG Library. It summarizes the situation in Germany at the time, urges the League of Nations to take forceful political action to condemn Germany's policies, and tenders his resignation. (UN Photo) **3-**At the launch of the collaborative project between the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Institutional Memory Section of the UNOG Library, from left to right: Blandine Blukacz-Louisfert, Chief, Institutional Memory Section of the UNOG Library; Peter Mulrean, Chargé d'affaires, Permanent Mission of the United States of America; Michael Möller, Acting Director-General of UNOG; and Radu Ioanid, Director, International Archival Programs Division, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (UN Photo)



- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## Supporting cultural diplomacy

Tracing its roots to the United Nations Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations in 2001, the Cultural Activities Programme has grown over the past decade from a small operation coordinating a few activities, to a sophisticated programme that operates on numerous platforms and reaches far beyond the walls of the Palais des Nations. In 2014, UNOG hosted a total of 98 cultural events.

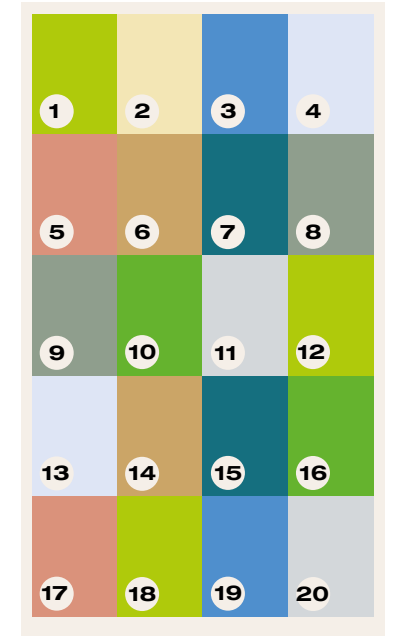
The Cultural Activities Programme is a vehicle for Member States and international organizations to celebrate cultural diversity and highlight global priorities – through art, photographic exhibitions, musical performances, films and conferences.



- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



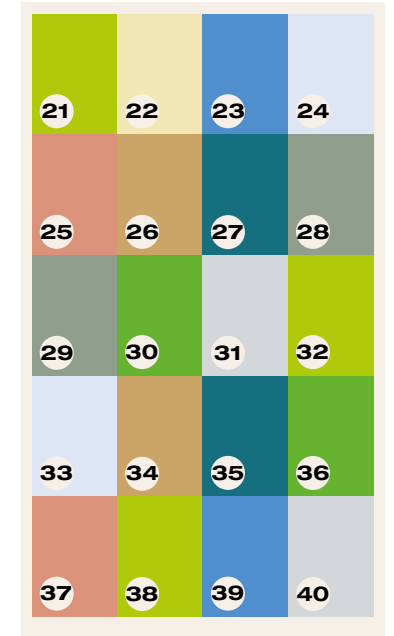
Cultural activities organized  
by Member States and  
international organizations in  
2014



**1-Exhibition (Czech Republic, European Union, Israel):** Exhibition in remembrance of the children of the Theresienstadt Ghetto, coinciding with International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. **2-Exhibition (Canada, Senegal, Togo):** Exhibition bringing together African and Canadian artists to raise awareness against female genital mutilation. **3-Film and Exhibition (ECE):** Film screening and photographic exhibition by Helen Kirwan and Simon Pruciak, coinciding with the 76th session of ECE's Inland Transport Committee. **4-Exhibition (African Union, Canada, Ethiopia, Finland, Honduras, Italy, Netherlands, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Uruguay, Yemen, IPU, OHCHR, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO):** Photographic exhibition by Stephanie Sinclair documenting the global issue of child, early and forced marriage. **5-Exhibition (Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, CITES):** Photographic exhibition organized in partnership with the Good Planet Foundation, coinciding with World Wildlife Day. **6-Exhibition (Hungary):** Exhibition of works by world-renowned photographer Robert Capa on the 60th anniversary of his death. **7-Exhibition (European Union, Greece, Uruguay):** Photographic exhibition by Dyonisia Alexiadi on children's rights around the world. **8-Concert (International Organization of la Francophonie, Mali, Switzerland):** Concert by Malian artist Salif Keita to celebrate International Day of la Francophonie. **9-Exhibition (Burundi, Holy See, Italy, Uganda):** Photographic exhibition documenting the work of AVSI, an NGO that helps people in situations of deprivation grow with dignity via development projects. **10-Exhibition and Music (Council of Europe, Turkey):** Exhibition of paintings by Stela Vesa and violin concert by Deniz Toygur to raise awareness of the campaign for the ratification and implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, coinciding with International Women's Day. **11-Conference, Exhibition and Fashion Show (Italy, Russian Federation, Switzerland, ECE, FAO):** Series of events on the theme of fashion and forests, with the participation of Michelangelo Pistoletto, coinciding with International Day of Forests. **12-Exhibition, Gastronomy and Concert (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan):** A rich tapestry of handicrafts, national food and traditional music on the occasion of International Day of Nouruz, which is included on UNESCO's list of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity. **13-Theatre (Italy, Switzerland, United Nations Women's Guild):** Theatrical performance by Italian playwright Serena Dandini consisting of a series of monologues by female victims of domestic violence, read by well-known international personalities, coinciding with the 25th session of the Human Rights Council. **14-Exhibition (Ukraine):** Cultural exhibition on Ukrainian poet, prose writer, painter and thinker Taras Shevchenko, on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of his birth. **15-Exhibition (Japan, United Nations Mine Action Service):** Exhibition of photos by renowned photographers showcasing female empowerment, positions held by women in the area of mine action, and the promotion of gender balance. **16-Exhibition (China):** Exhibition retracing the evolution of Chinese characters, coinciding with Chinese Language Day. **17-Concert (United States of America):** Concert by the UN Music Ensemble and the Evaristo Pérez Quintet, on UNESCO's International Jazz Day, to raise awareness of the virtues of jazz as an educational tool and a force for peace, unity, dialogue and enhanced cooperation among peoples. **18-Exhibition (United Nations Women's Guild):** Exhibition of paintings, sculptures, jewellery and flower arrangements, showcasing the talents of Women's Guild members. **19-Poetry and Music (Turkmenistan):** Poetry and music event to celebrate the 290th anniversary of the birth of Turkmen poet Magtymguly Pyragy. **20-Exhibition (Israel):** Exhibition of photographs by Ziv Koren taken at the Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel, and of children's drawings from this hospital.



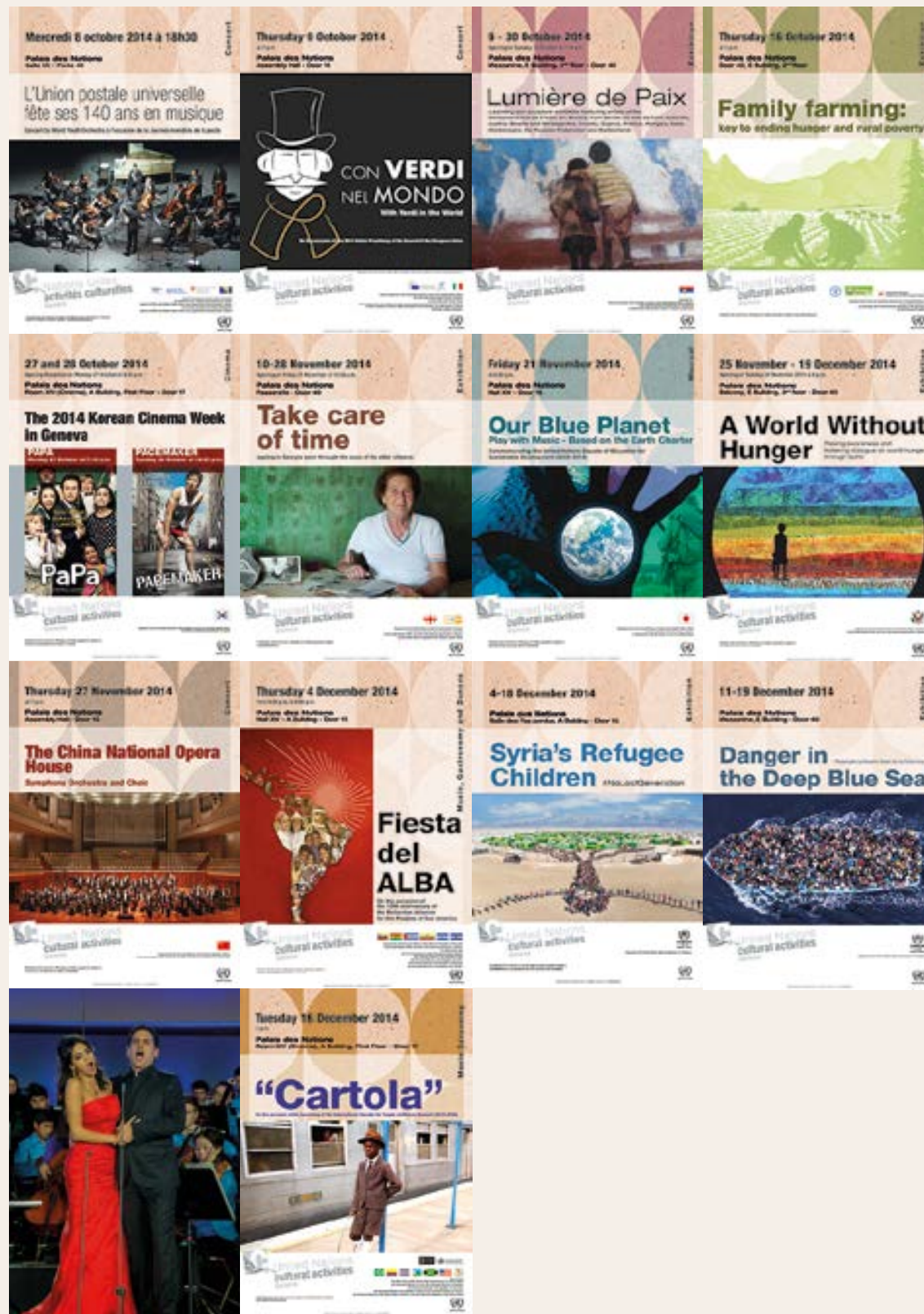
- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



**21-Exhibition (Poland, United States of America):** Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Polish American artist Lubomir Tomaszewski on the value of peace. **22-Exhibition (France):** Exhibition of photographs by Marcel Crozet, coinciding with World Environment Day. **23-Theatre and Exhibition (Russian Federation):** Celebrating Russian Language Day with a theatrical performance by the Chekhov Moscow Art Theatre, an exhibition of paintings by Alex Doll and Tatiana Vavrzhina, and an exhibition of Russian books. **24-Exhibition (Mexico):** Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Mexican artist Saúl Kammer. **25-Exhibition (UNHCR):** Presentation of the Ideas Box, a portable multimedia kit for refugees, developed by Libraries without Borders with the support of UNHCR. **26-Concert (Russian Federation, UNCTAD):** Concert of Russian classical music to mark the 50th anniversary of UNCTAD. **27-Theatre (Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Maldives, Montenegro, Netherlands, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom, United States of America):** Theatrical performance to raise awareness about violence against women and girls. **28-Exhibition (Mexico):** Exhibition of paintings by Mexican artist Pedro Trueba. **29-Concert (Switzerland, United States of America):** Concert of American folk music by the chamber choir of the University of Geneva. **30-Exhibition (Ethiopia):** Photographic exhibition highlighting world heritage sites in Ethiopia, coinciding with Ethiopia's national day. **31-Exhibition (Ecuador, UNHCR):** Exhibition of arpilleras (narrative textiles) developed in Ecuador through a programme initiated by the Women's Federation of Sucumbios with the support of UNHCR, for recovery from sexual and gender-based violence. **32 - Concert (Lithuania, United Kingdom):** Accordion concert performed by London-based Lithuanian artist, Martynas Levickis. **33-Concert (United States of America):** Concert of American jazz music by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Faculty Jazz Ensemble on the Independence Day of the United States of America. **34-Concert (Romania):** Concert celebrating the anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations, with choirs from Australia, Canada, Romania, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America, plus the United Nations Choir. **35-Exhibition (Barbados, New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland, Small Island Developing States, UNCTAD):** Exhibition of photographs depicting small island developing States and disaster risk reduction, which illustrate the inherent vulnerabilities of small island developing States. **36-Exhibition (UNOG):** Exhibition of 31 black-and-white and colour prints showing how art can promote the fight against HIV/AIDS and thereby contribute to social change. **37-Exhibition (Islamic Republic of Iran):** Exhibition of paintings by Iranian artist Mahmoud Zendebroudi (Zende). **38-Exhibition (Council of Europe):** Exhibition of paintings by Italian artist Amedeo Besana. **39-Exhibition (China):** Exhibition of pictures taken by young Chinese photographers. **40-Dance (ECE):** Performance by British dance group Magic Movers, on International Day of Older Persons.



- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



41	42	43	44
45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52
53	54		

**41**-Concert (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Switzerland, UPU): Concert of classical music performed by the World Youth Orchestra, for World Post Day and the 140th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union. **42**-Concert (Italy): Concert of music by Giuseppe Verdi performed by the Orchestra dell'Opera Italiana of Parma to mark the 2014 Italian presidency of the Council of the European Union. **43**-Exhibition (Serbia): Painting and sculpture exhibition featuring artists of the Uroš Predić Art Society from Serbia, as well as artists from Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, the Russian Federation and Switzerland. **44**-Exhibition and Gastronomy (FAO, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies): A photographic exhibition and a reconstituted local farmers' market organized for World Food Day and International Year of Family Farming. **45**-Cinema (Republic of Korea): Screening of the movies "Papa" and "Pacemaker" during Korean Cinema Week. **46**-Exhibition (Georgia, ECE, UNFPA): Photography exhibition dedicated to ageing in Georgia, by Georgian artist Mzia Lekveishvili. **47**-Musical (Japan): Musical performance by Classic Live for the United Nations on the theme of environmental protection, to commemorate the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014). **48**-Exhibition (Italy, United States of America): Quilt exhibition created by artists from Italy and the United States to raise awareness of and foster dialogue on world hunger. **49**-Concert (China): Concert of Chinese and European classical music performed by the symphony orchestra and choir of the China National Opera House. **50**-Concert, Dance and Gastronomy (Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cuba, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela): A gastronomic, musical and dance party to mark the 10th anniversary of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA). **51**-Exhibition (UNHCR): Exhibition organized by UNHCR in collaboration with the Play Foundation to mark the 25th anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and in support of the No Lost Generation campaign for Syrian refugee children. **52**-Exhibition (UNHCR): Exhibition of photographs raising awareness of the situation of refugees in the Mediterranean Sea. The exhibition is part of a project developed by photographer Massimo Sestini for the Italian navy. **53**-Concert (Egypt, Peru, Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland, OHCHR): Classical music concert featuring tenor Juan Diego Flórez, soprano Pretty Yende, soprano Fatma Said, bass Sergei Artamonov, and the Harmonia Symphony Orchestra under conductor Pablo Mielgo. Co-organized with the Onuart Foundation, with the support of the Republic and Canton of Geneva and the City of Geneva. The concert was broadcast live on Human Rights Day. **54**-Gastronomy and Cinema (African Union, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Jamaica, United States of America, OHCHR): Presentation of national dishes related to the cultural heritage of people of African descent, followed by the screening of a film on Brazilian samba singer and composer Cartola, to mark the launch of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024).



- 2** Foreword
- 4** Highlights of 2014
- 7** UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16** Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25** Making conferences  
possible
- 31** Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36** Reaching out to youth
- 40** Spreading the news
- 46** Days of remembrance
- 50** Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54** Pursuit of knowledge
- 62** Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65** Annex



## Gifts made to the UNOG art collection in 2014

The UNOG art collection, which is managed by the UNOG Library, has grown over the years thanks to generous donations made by Member States and members of the UN system. It now comprises hundreds of paintings, drawings, sculptures, tapestries and other objects from all over the world. The collection can be seen in the Palais des Nations and in Palais Wilson and Ariana Park. In 2014, the following donations were made:

### Waka (canoe)

Made by New Zealand woodcrafter Jared Mulinder, this canoe is a rich symbol of New Zealand's indigenous Maori culture.

### Cycladic Idol

Donated by Greece, this white Penteli marble replica of an authentic Cycladic idol is a beautiful addition to UNOG's art collection. The original statue dates back to the Early Cycladic II period (ca. 2800–2300 BC). Cycladic idols have been discovered throughout the Cyclades, a group of islands in the south-western Aegean, and right across the Mediterranean.

### Drum

This replica of the renowned Đông Sơn bronze drum is one of the finest examples of the rich culture and history of Viet Nam. The drums were made by the Đông Sơn culture, in the Red River Delta of northern Viet Nam, from about 600 BC or earlier until the 3rd century AD. They represent one of the culture's finest examples of metalworking.

### Celestia

This triptych, made up of three abstract photographs on metal, was created in 2014 by French artist Marcel Crozet.

## Human Dignity

This beautiful painting by Iranian artist Mahmoud Zendebroudi (Zende) transcribes a famous poem by Saadi, a poet of the 12th century. The poem is emblematic of cosmopolitanism. It suggests that human beings, despite national boundaries and differences, are really parts of a single whole. It also conveys the idea that the members of the whole have equal relationships and responsibilities to one another.



**1**-Drum donated by Viet Nam on 17 March 2014 (UN Photo: Coralie Chappat) **2**-Waka (canoe), by Jared Mulinder, donated by New Zealand on 27 January 2014 (UN Photo: Coralie Chappat) **3**-Celestia, by Marcel Crozet, donated by France in June 2014 (UN Photo: Coralie Chappat) **4**-Cycladic Idol, donated by Greece on 5 March 2014 (UN Photo: Coralie Chappat) **5**-Human Dignity, by Mahmoud Zendebroudi, donated by the Islamic Republic of Iran in September 2014 (UN Photo: Coralie Chappat)

- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



## Starting the preparations for UN70

2014 saw the UN's 69th anniversary. The Palais des Nations opened its gates to more than 2,500 runners for the Escalade training session, more than 500 staff gathered for a photo, and the grid was laid out for the monumental UN70 sculpture, "The Rebirth". As the Organization moves into its 70th year, it will celebrate past achievements, assess its shortcomings and prepare for future challenges.

Working for  
**Peace** Rights Well-being



- 2 Foreword
- 4 Highlights of 2014
- 7 UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16 Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25 Making conferences  
possible
- 31 Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36 Reaching out to youth
- 40 Spreading the news
- 46 Days of remembrance
- 50 Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54 Pursuit of knowledge
- 62 Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65 Annex



For a time-lapse video of the shooting, go to [www.youtube.com/user/UNinformationGeneva](http://www.youtube.com/user/UNinformationGeneva)



**First-ever Course  
de l'Escalade training  
session at UNOG**



A training session for the Course de l'Escalade was held at the Palais des Nations for the first time in 2014. Watch how the day unfolded and hear from some of the participants [here](#).

**Over 500 staff members unite  
for UN Day**

As part of United Nations Day, more than 500 staff members posed for the first-ever UNOG staff photo. A great kick-off to our 70th anniversary celebrations.

The UN 69th birthday celebrations and the UN70 photo made a real buzz on social media. There was a wave of UN birthday tweets and photos on Twitter at the hashtag #HappyBirthdayUN.

**Palais des Nations opens its  
gates: International Geneva  
gets into practice for the  
traditional Escalade run**

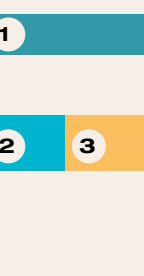
*"I am very happy the first Escalade training session is taking place in Ariana Park, and to welcome our Genevois friends to this beautiful setting. I hope this will become a tradition and a great example for increased interaction between international and local Geneva."*

*– Acting Director-General  
Michael Møller*

On 12 October, UNOG welcomed more than 2,500 runners and walkers to a training session for the traditional Geneva run, the Course de l'Escalade. This was the first such training session to be held in the UN grounds. Thanks to the excellent collaboration with the Swiss Confederation, the Canton and City of Geneva, and the Escalade team, the event was a tremendous success.

Starting the celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of the UN, the Escalade training session was an opportunity for the UN family to engage with the Geneva public and to highlight the impact of our collective work.

The Escalade training session was a day of enthusiastic participation, and it garnered much positive feedback.



**1**-UN Day staff photo (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **2**-After the training session for the Course de l'Escalade, on the Place des Nations (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **3**-During the training session for the Course de l'Escalade, in the grounds of the Palais des Nations (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



- 2** Foreword
- 4** Highlights of 2014
- 7** UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16** Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25** Making conferences  
possible
- 31** Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36** Reaching out to youth
- 40** Spreading the news
- 46** Days of remembrance
- 50** Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54** Pursuit of knowledge
- 62** Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65** Annex

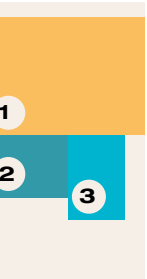


## “The Rebirth”

“The Rebirth” will be a monumental sculpture. It will stand in the grounds of the Palais des Nations and is being built as part of the UN’s 70th anniversary celebrations. “The Rebirth” has been designed and donated by world-renowned Italian artist, Michelangelo Pistoletto, and the finished product will be inaugurated on UN Day in 2015. In December 2014, the project was launched at an Executive Briefing and by the artist placing flags in the shape of the monument in Ariana Park.

The rebirth symbol embodies the purpose and mission of the United Nations: finding balance between diverging ideas, creating a new world of harmony through a dialogue of opposites, bringing diversity together, providing inspiration for alternative ways of governance and policies, and promoting inclusive and sustainable development. It symbolizes the rebirth of society, and will be a reminder to staff, delegates and visitors of the need to “meet in the middle”, to bridge distances and find harmony.

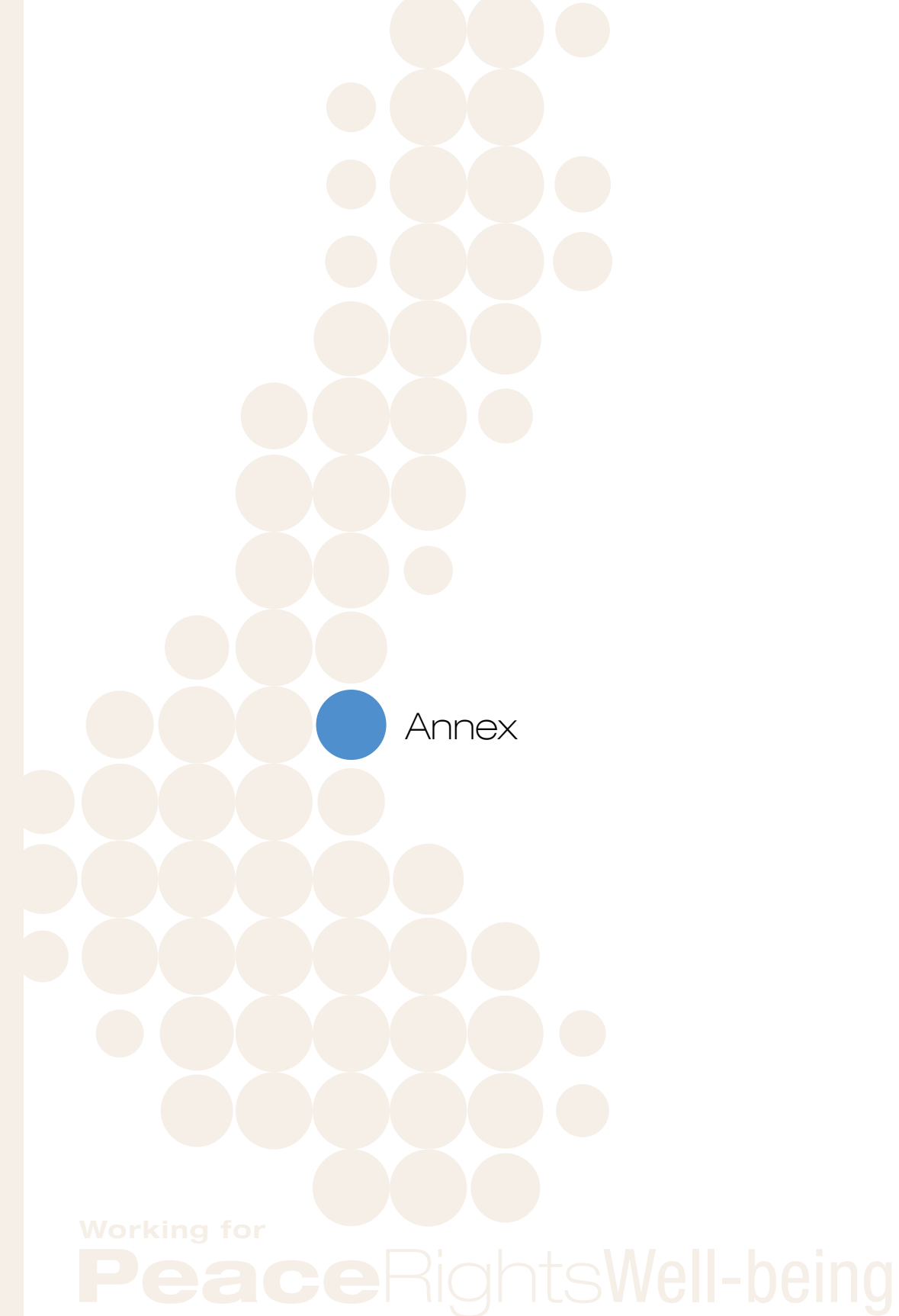
The sculpture will unite all Member States, as it will be made up of 193 large stones; one originating from each country. It will therefore send a strong message that the United Nations remains firmly committed to the values of its Charter and to addressing the new challenges of our ever-changing world in more effective ways.



**1**-Visualization of “The Rebirth”, by Michelangelo Pistoletto, which will be unveiled on 24 October 2015. (Photo: Città dell’Arte, Fondazione Pistoletto) **2**-Artist Michelangelo Pistoletto at the planning phase of “The Rebirth” (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **3**-Michael Möller, Acting Director-General of UNOG, looks on as artist Michelangelo Pistoletto places flags to outline “The Rebirth”. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



- 2** Foreword
- 4** Highlights of 2014
- 7** UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16** Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25** Making conferences  
possible
- 31** Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36** Reaching out to youth
- 40** Spreading the news
- 46** Days of remembrance
- 50** Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54** Pursuit of knowledge
- 62** Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65** Annex



- 2** Foreword
- 4** Highlights of 2014
- 7** UNOG:  
Key platform for  
multilateral diplomacy and  
engagement
- 16** Building partnerships  
for peace, rights and  
well-being
- 25** Making conferences  
possible
- 31** Reshaping the way  
we work
- 36** Reaching out to youth
- 40** Spreading the news
- 46** Days of remembrance
- 50** Preserving  
the Palais des Nations
- 54** Pursuit of knowledge
- 62** Starting  
the preparations  
for UN70
- 65** Annex

## United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) - Organizational Chart

### The Director-General

#### Security & Safety Service

#### Information Service

- Press & External Relations Section
- Radio & Television Section
- Visitors' Service

#### Division of Administration

- Central Support Services
- Financial Resources Management Service
- Human Resources Management Service
- Information & Communication Technology Service

#### Division of Conference Management

- Central Planning & Coordination Service
- Interpretation Service
- Languages Service
- Production & Support Service

#### Library & Cultural Activities Committee

- Information Technology Unit
- Library Services Section
- Institutional Memory Section
- Strategic Planning, Programme Evaluation & Outreach Section

#### \*Conference on Disarmament

*\*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, which is serviced by the Geneva Branch of ODA.*

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UNOG Security Control Centre (24/7)  
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For job opportunities:  
<http://careers.un.org>

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### Connect with the United Nations Office at Geneva

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@UNOGLibrary  
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UNOG Library  
Cultural Activities  
Programme –  
United Nations Office at  
Geneva

On YouTube:  
[https://www.youtube.com/user/  
UNinformationGeneva](https://www.youtube.com/user/UNinformationGeneva)

On Flickr:  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/unisgeneva>