

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AT GENEVA
ANNUAL REPORT
2015



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2015

ANNUAL REPORT



United Nations Office
at Geneva



UN Photo: Pierre Albouy

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Foreword

2015 was a milestone year for the United Nations. The Organization celebrated its 70th anniversary and Governments committed their nations to new global partnerships for development, climate action and disaster risk reduction.

Around the globe, numerous crises and conflicts have forced millions to leave their homes in search of a better life. The devastating impact of climate change has been felt on every continent. Throughout the year, the United Nations and its partners worked together to respond to these and other global challenges. The successful adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris climate agreement is tangible evidence of what can be accomplished through unity of purpose and action.

The United Nations Office at Geneva provides a space for dialogue and innovative thinking for this work, and plays a crucial role in opening up the United Nations to the world. UNOG hosted and serviced nearly 13,000 conferences, as well as vital UN-led mediation processes and peace talks. We continued to modernize both our digital and our physical infrastructures to better meet the needs of our clients. On 24 October 2015, 20,000 people came to the Palais des Nations and celebrated the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

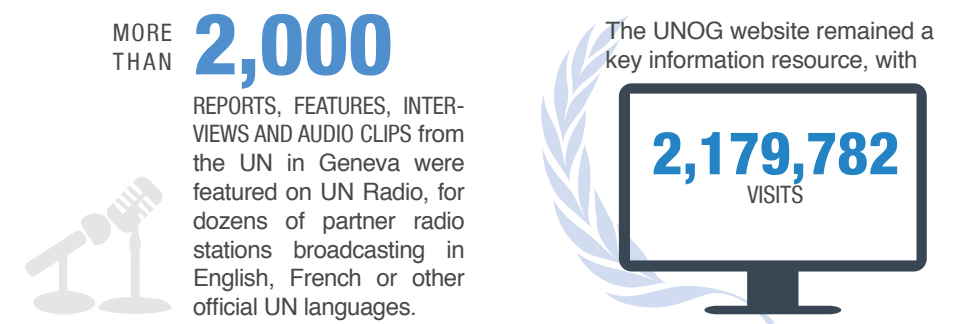
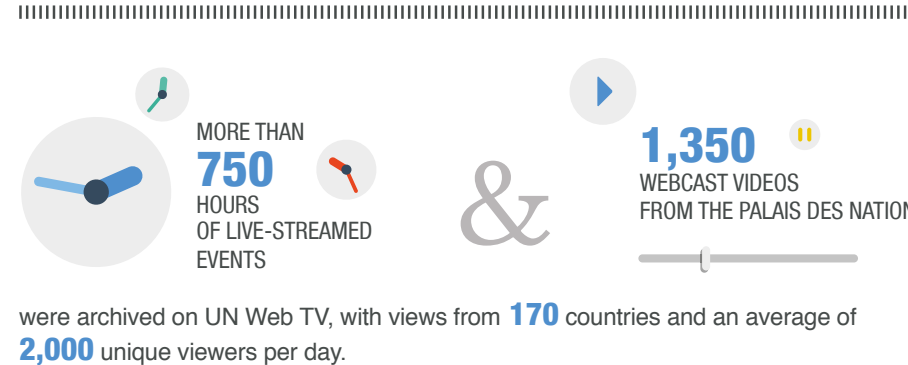
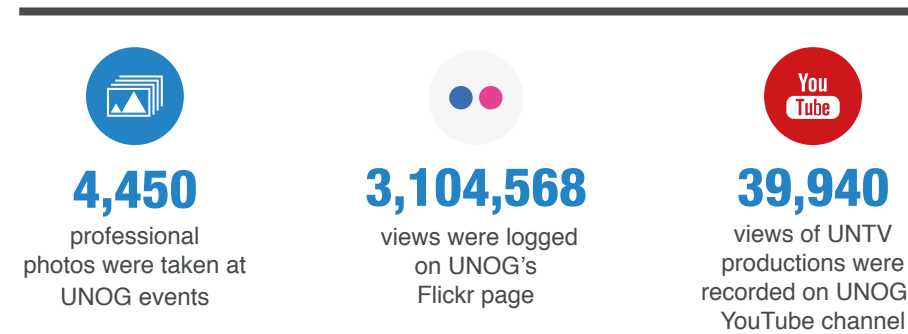
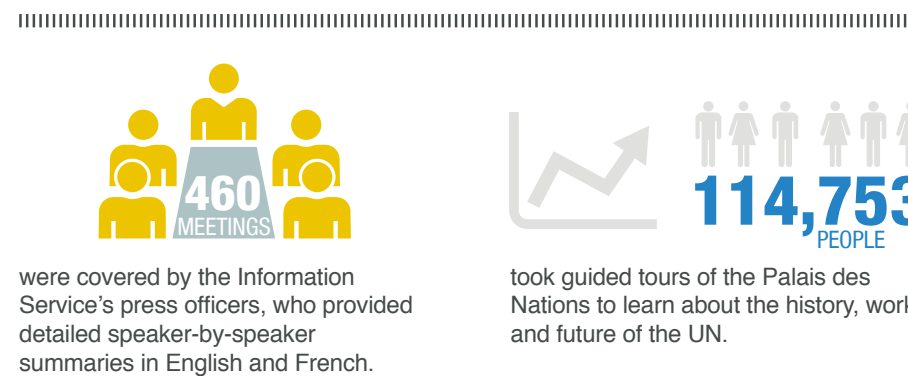
UNOG will increasingly be “in the eye” of international relations in the years to come. As we build on past accomplishments and lay the groundwork for sustainable peace, rights and well-being, we rely more than ever on the expertise and commitment of our many partners in International Geneva and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Møller'.

Michael Møller
Under-Secretary-General
Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva
Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament

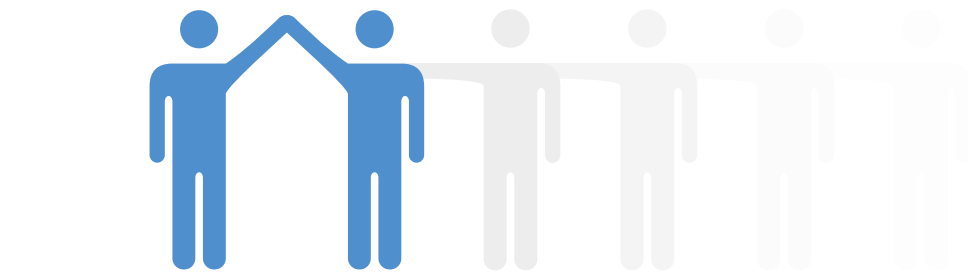
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4,135 representatives of **789** NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were accredited to UNOG to take part in UN activities at the Palais des Nations.

72 NGO events were held in the Palais des Nations to strengthen the voice of civil society.



By providing access to over **70** databases, **70,000** electronic journals, **46** kilometres of books and periodicals in **132** languages, and over **4,000,000** UN documents, the UNOG Library maintained its worldwide reputation as a centre for research and an instrument for international understanding.

70 guided tours, in English, French, Russian and Spanish, helped **1,571** people to discover the Library's history, architecture and services.

1,947 PEOPLE TOOK PART IN **25** PUBLIC EVENTS

There were panel discussions, conferences, workshops, book launches and presentations by great thinkers – turning the Library into a forum for intellectual innovation.

The UNOG Library's Institutional Memory Section is the custodian of the UNOG and League of Nations archives. This invaluable documentary heritage represents **6 KILOMETRES** OF INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY

Researchers accessed over **17,000** files and consulted the online resources **78,000** times.

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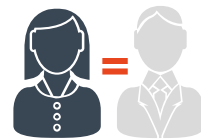
UNOG organized **91** cultural events at the Palais des Nations in cooperation with **72** Member States and international organizations, bringing topics of global concern to the attention of the international community.



25,000 visitors experienced **37** exhibitions, **18** concerts, **14** cultural performances and **22** film screenings at UNOG that showcased the rich cultural heritage and diversity of Member States.



UNOG facilitated the organization of **66** side events requested by **40** Member States and international organizations, which addressed issues discussed at official meetings taking place at the Palais des Nations.



40% of the cultural events organized at UNOG in 2015 highlighted female artists and promoted women's empowerment and gender equality.



UNOG provided services to **12,700** meetings, nearly a quarter of which were outside Geneva.

3,200 meetings were held with interpretation and **9,500** without.

On average, **50** meetings were held per working day.



73,000,000 words were translated in official documents and publications, making the work of the United Nations widely accessible.



38,000,000 sheets of A4 paper were printed. This was **45,000,000** fewer sheets than in 2010, saving the equivalent of **338** trees.

Geneva is a global hub for international cooperation, with almost **1,500** staff, representing **111** nationalities, working at UNOG.

UNOG
1,500 STAFF
111 NATIONALITIES



Decisions made in International Geneva affect every person on the planet and encompass everything from the standardization of road signs to the protection of human rights.

9,443 STAFF WORKED IN THE UN SYSTEM IN GENEVA THROUGHOUT 2015 TO HELP SHAPE A BETTER FUTURE FOR US ALL.

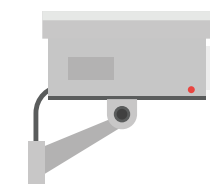


courses, giving staff, clients and delegates essential skills to work more efficiently towards our common goals.



50 Security and Safety Service personnel supported the work of the UN away from Geneva, in the Central African Republic, Libya, Yemen and other locations.

62 Security and Safety Service personnel supported UN conferences outside of Geneva, including COP 21.



270,024 vehicles were screened on entry to the Palais des Nations, helping to ensure a safe and secure environment for UN activities in Geneva.

844 security officers and other UN personnel were trained in areas such as first aid, radio communications, fire prevention and active shooter response.



The Security and Safety Service provided approximately **1,040** hours of security training, including to staff of other Geneva-based UN agencies, funds and programmes and staff of the UNOG Medical Service.

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News

Against a background of profound global transformation, UNOG plays an increasingly important role in multilateral diplomacy and engagement. Throughout 2015, the 70th anniversary year of the United Nations, UNOG continued to support, both substantively and logistically, key international discussions on topics such as disarmament, human rights, mediation, peacebuilding, sustainable development, gender equality, health, labour, trade, and investment standard-setting.

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Special feature

UNOG: a world venue for dialogue and mediation

The United Nations Office at Geneva remains the venue of choice for UN-led mediation processes. Cooperation with the host country, Switzerland, is strong and provides the UN with the required flexibility and support to host negotiations and high-level talks.

Through his Office, the Director-General coordinated, organized and personally oversaw the work of all UNOG divisions and services that delivered “as one” in support of UN mediation efforts undertaken in 2015 in Geneva and in Switzerland as a whole. This was indeed a joint effort: the Division of Conference Management provided interpretation and translation services and conference rooms, while the Division of Administration provided financial authorizations, travel authorizations, catering arrangements, office equipment, specialized IT services and prayer rooms. The Security and Safety Service, together with host country officials, supplied close protection and enacted other security measures. The Information Service provided media coverage, such as press conferences and stakeouts, as well as meeting transcripts, webcasts and social media content. Further to an agreement between the UN’s Department of Political Affairs and UNOG to strengthen Geneva as a hub for mediation while creating a DPA presence in Europe, a senior mediation officer, funded by Switzerland, was deployed to UNOG in 2015 and began extending support to the various talks held in Geneva.

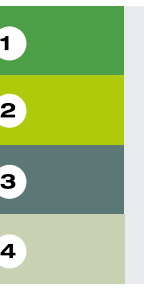
The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria and his office, based in Geneva, continue to strive to find a political solution to this dramatic crisis. Early in May, acting on the Secretary-General’s instructions, the Special Envoy launched the [Geneva Consultations](#), an

extensive round of talks held with Syrian and non-Syrian stakeholders to gauge the willingness of the parties to narrow the gaps in the interpretation of the principles contained in the 2012 Geneva communiqué, which is still the only internationally recognized framework for a settlement in Syria.

In its resolution 2254 of 18 December 2015, the Security Council requested the Secretary-General, through his good offices and the efforts of his Special Envoy for Syria, to convene government and opposition representatives for formal negotiations on a political transition process, on an urgent basis. These are expected to start in late January 2016, with the aim of securing a lasting political settlement of the crisis.

To resolve the crisis in Libya, the [Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya \(UNSMIL\)](#) convened a political dialogue at UNOG between 14 and 17 January 2015. The choice of the Palais des Nations as the venue had important symbolic value, as the negotiation space had been a contested issue among the parties. This meeting was crucial to the launch of the UN-facilitated Libyan Political Dialogue. Four subsequent rounds of dialogue were held during the year, including one for local communities from the Misrata area. After many months of intensive negotiations in Geneva, and in Libya and neighbouring countries, the historic [Libyan Political Agreement](#) was signed, which marked a critical step in Libya’s post-revolution transition and should lead to the formation of a single Government of National Accord.

The first round of the Geneva Consultations on Yemen took place at UNOG from 15 to 19 June. The Secretary-General’s presence and Geneva’s neutral location played an important role in securing the attendance of the



1-Participants at the Libyan Political Dialogue (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **2**-Staffan de Mistura, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria (back to the camera, foreground, second from right), and his team during a meeting with tribal leaders (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **3**-A journalist asks a question at a press conference held on 19 June with Ismail Ould Cbeikb Ahmed, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **4**-Ismail Ould Cbeikb Ahmed, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen (centre), arrives at a press conference with Ahmad Fawzi, Director a.i. of the United Nations Information Service (right). (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)

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parties. The consultations resulted in the reaffirmed commitment of the parties to a UN-led mediation process. The UN's intensive mediation efforts, carried out by the **Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen** and his team, continue to seek the development of a framework for detailed peace negotiations that is based firmly on resolution 2216 of 14 April 2015 and other relevant Security Council resolutions, in order to bring an end to the war and return to a peaceful, political transition. The parties came together again in Switzerland from 15 to 20 December for a productive round of talks that provided a foundation for the next phases of the peace process.

The Geneva international discussions on security and stability and the return of internally displaced persons and refugees in Georgia have been held 34 times since 2008. They are co-chaired by the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union. Four rounds of the discussions were held during 2015. According to the Co-Chairs, hosting the discussions at the Palais des Nations improved the quality of engagement between the participants.

In August, the Geneva-based Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region of Africa convened a meeting of fellow special envoys from the African Union, the European Union, Belgium and the United States of America to exchange views about the situation in the region.

The partnership between UNOG and a number of special envoys, specialized agencies and NGOs active in the field of mediation deepened throughout the year. Thematic meetings and activities explored issues of common interest and were an opportunity to share experiences and knowledge. UNOG organized events,

including for Geneva Peace Week, to discuss the themes of engagement with non-State armed groups, and natural resources and conflict.



1-Staffan de Mistura, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, meeting with Patriarch Cyril Aphrem Karim of the Syriac Orthodox Church (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **2**-Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (centre) meets with the G16 diplomatic group in the Palais des Nations during the Geneva Consultations on Yemen. (UN Photo: Rick Bajornas) **3**-After his visits to Muscat and Aden, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, returns to the Palais des Nations and holds a press conference on 7 December. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **4**-Michael Møller, Director-General of UNOG (centre), opens an event on mediation in natural resource conflicts, flanked by the Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of Mediation, Päivi Kairamo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Finland (second left), and Mehmet Ferden Çarıkçı Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Turkey (second right), and with Enrico Formica, Senior Mediation Officer, Department of Political Affairs/UNOG (left) and Henrik Slotte, Chief, Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch, United Nations Environment Programme (right). (Photo: Permanent Mission of Finland)

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Disarmament: strengthening the voice of civil society

“In the 21st century, it is simply not sustainable to deprive civil society of a say on challenges that concern our very existence and collective future.”

Director-General Michael Møller at the Informal Civil Society Forum on the Conference on Disarmament, 19 March 2015

At the initiative of the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Director-General of UNOG, Michael Møller, the first Informal Civil Society Forum on the Conference on Disarmament was held at the Palais des Nations on 19 March. An opportunity for civil society to engage informally with Member States, the event made a significant contribution to the ongoing efforts to bring forward initiatives to help break the 19-year stalemate in the Conference.

Academics, researchers and activists representing some 30 organizations from over a dozen countries took part in the Forum. Five panels examined particular issues: nuclear disarmament, a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, negative security assurances, the prevention of an arms race in outer space, and perspectives for a way forward.

In a video message, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed that **civil society plays an essential role in all aspects of disarmament**, as a repository of expertise and a catalyst for innovation. Recalling that public advocacy had resulted in some of the most important achievements in disarmament and arms control, the Secretary-General encouraged all delegations to use dialogue with civil society to explore ways to address the impasse in the Conference on Disarmament.

The Forum was made possible thanks to the generous contributions of Finland, India, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland.

To learn more about the Conference on Disarmament and its activities, click [here](#).

The UN and civil society: 70 years of working together

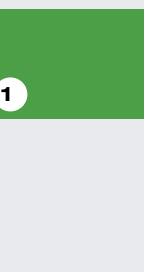
How do we make a difference from Geneva?

Strengthening the partnership between the UN and civil society, and their joint work in Geneva, was the focus of a one-day event held on 22 June at the Palais des Nations. Some 150 participants from permanent missions, civil society, international organizations and academic institutions attended. The event was organized by UNOG together with the World Federation of United Nations Associations, the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service and the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO).

The clear consensus was that civil society involvement underpinned every UN activity, from the maintenance of peace and security, to the realization of development, to the promotion of human rights. Therefore, a dynamic, diverse and independent civil society, able to operate freely and safely, was essential. Civil society input was crucial in improving situations on the ground and in bringing voices and practice from the national and grass-roots levels into intergovernmental debates.

How can we best work together? In their responses to an online survey carried out by UNOG's NGO Liaison Unit, the participants stressed the importance of organizing regular exchanges and discussing concrete actions and proposals to strengthen the partnership between the UN and civil society.

A report summarizing the event is available [here](#).



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SDG 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



UN organizations

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a landmark UN initiative that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has hailed as a universal, integrated and transformative vision for a better world. UNOG served as a facilitator of discussions between New York and Geneva prior to the adoption of the Agenda and in the discussions on implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets.

To improve information flows and build new partnerships, the Office of the Director-General of UNOG held four Executive Briefings for the diplomatic community on post-2015 development planning: one each with Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General, and Susana Malcorra, Chef de Cabinet to the Secretary-General, and two with Amina Mohammed, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General. Monthly videoconferences between Ms. Mohammed and the Geneva diplomatic community were instituted too, in order to improve communication between New York and Geneva and ensure consistent approaches.

UNOG also supported the debate by hosting expert meetings and negotiations on issues related to sustainable development, organized by the many funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other entities based in Geneva. Because the Sustainable Development Goals address so many facets of life, UNOG also drew on the issues raised to shape its extensive programme of cultural activities and Library Talks, expanding the discussion beyond the meeting room.

All of the events provided Member States, Geneva-based UN entities, civil society and the broader International Geneva community with opportunities to exchange their views on the emerging post-2015 development dynamic.

Mapping the Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Office at Geneva mapped out the expertise on the Sustainable Development Goals that exists across the international organizations, NGOs and other institutions based in Geneva. Over 75 organizations took part in the initial mapping, in the run-up to the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda that took place in September 2015. The product was shared with Member States at regional briefings, with Perception Change Project partners, civil society, and many others. The map of Goal 16 (see opposite page) is an example. The Perception Change Project can provide a full map of all the Sustainable Development Goals, upon request.

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International Geneva Gender Champions

International Geneva Gender Champions is a unique senior leadership network dedicated to making gender equality and the full empowerment of all women and men a priority throughout the multilateral diplomatic community in Geneva. The network draws on the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. Ambassador Pamela Hamamoto, United States Permanent Representative to UNOG, and Michael Møller, Director-General of UNOG, launched this initiative at the Palais des Nations on 1 July.

At the launch, 40 diplomatic missions and 20 international organizations, based in Geneva, unveiled the commitments they had made for the coming year. Director-General Michael Møller announced that he would only accept invitations to serve on panels that had women participants. To change mindsets within the Organization, he pledged to include gender equality in the induction training for all newcomers, and to compile UNOG's gender policies.

By the end of 2015, the initiative had attracted almost 80 International Geneva Gender Champions. To learn more, click [here](#).

UNOG Executive Briefings

The [UNOG Executive Briefings](#), introduced in 2012, quickly grew in popularity and have become a staple of International Geneva. The Executive Briefings are designed to bring to Geneva's diplomatic community and UN system organizations the views of key senior officials of the UN and its partners. This helps to connect International Geneva more closely with the work of the UN globally and to encourage a better understanding of Geneva as the operational hub of the system.

Thirty-one Executive Briefings were held in 2015, and delegates from 149 permanent mission attended. The speakers were from UN system organizations, including

the World Bank Group, major NGOs, think tanks and the academic community. Topics included Afghanistan, the Middle East, the Sustainable Development Goals and their implementation phase, health in the context of the Ebola crisis, disaster risk reduction, environment and climate, economic trends, terrorism, science, internet governance and international justice. In addition, several briefings were held specifically for NGOs.

Geneva Peace Talks

"It's time for peace!" was the theme of the 2015 Geneva Peace Talks. Fourteen speakers from around the world shared [innovative ways](#) to strengthen peace and prevent conflict. They showed that everyone can help to build peace. Graphic recorder Gabriele Schlipf translated the Peace Talks into visual images as the event progressed.

The Peace Talks attracted a diverse audience of about 800 people that included representatives of permanent and observer missions, UN staff members, scientists and students.

UNOG, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform and Interpeace organized the event jointly. It coincided with International Day of Peace and was [broadcast live](#).

A great success in Geneva, the concept has been taken up in other cities. Peace Talks have been held at the Swedish Parliament. The Peace Talks at the United Nations Office at Nairobi in November 2015 brought the event to Africa for the first time.



Making history: raising the flags of the Holy See and the State of Palestine

Acting on General Assembly resolution 69/320 of 10 September 2015, the flags of the Holy See and the State of Palestine were raised for the first time on 13 October 2015 alongside the 193 Member State flags at the United Nations Office at Geneva.

Riyad al-Maliki, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine, and Monsignor Richard Gybra, Deputy Permanent Observer of the Holy See, raised the respective flags and delivered remarks.

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1-Flag-raising ceremony for the Holy See and the State of Palestine (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **2**-Riyad al-Maliki, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine (left), before the raising of the flag of the State of Palestine (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **3**-Monsignor Richard Gybra, Deputy Permanent Observer of the Holy See (centre), before the raising of the flag of the Holy See (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)

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International Geneva: hub for television news and content

In a sign of the continued convergence of television with web and mobile platforms, **UNTV Geneva** ushered in 2015 with the publication on YouTube of the first **TEDxPlacedesNations**, on New Year's Day.

For the 70th anniversary of the UN in October, UNTV Geneva produced more than 70 video clips of **messages** from visiting world leaders and from celebrities such as musicians Juanes, Youssou N'Dour and Miguel Bosé, athletes Marta, Iker Casillas and Tina Maze, and actor Forest Whitaker. Many of these clips had a life far beyond the confines of the television screen: on Facebook, YouTube, web streaming, and the main web pages for the UN's 70th anniversary.

At the same time, core television news services from the UN in Geneva remained in great demand from broadcasters in 2015. These included video news packages, live video links via wireless cellular networks, and satellite transmissions. UNTV boosted its historical partnership with the Geneva-based European Broadcasting Union and its Eurovision News Exchange, installing new high definition cabling that has achieved greater technical quality for the news items produced at the Palais des Nations. One such item was UNTV's live coverage of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas speaking in conference room XX in October – downlinked from Eurovision by 72 television stations from Moscow to Reykjavik to Amman.

“Geneva is a critical location for many non-governmental organizations, the United Nations, the UN refugee agency and the International Labour Organization”, says EBU News Editor Julian Tarrant, “and that means it’s a good location to get sound bites on breaking news stories.”

TV crews from around the world converged on the Palais des Nations for events such as the Geneva Consultations on Yemen, in June. But UNOG was also the setting for lighter viewing: the Travel Channel's *Relocated* series filmed a Geneva episode at the Palais des Nations in July, and part of an upcoming episode of the CBS reality show *The Amazing Race*, which has audiences in the millions, was shot in UNOG's Allée des Drapeaux on a cold Sunday in November.

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Press briefings: communicating as one

UNOG hosts a press corps of some 400 permanently accredited Swiss and foreign correspondents and an additional 716 journalists accredited temporarily during the year. The Information Service held 100 biweekly briefings for accredited journalists in 2015, providing information and in-depth focus on issues as diverse as the refugee and migrant crises, Ebola, and the summits on the Sustainable Development Goals and climate change. The Director of the Information Service chairs the briefings and updates the press on the latest developments and UN priorities, and spokespersons from UN specialized agencies, programmes and funds represented in Geneva brief correspondents on the activities of their respective organizations. In 2015, Geneva-based agencies held 261 press conferences and briefings.

The Information Service issued 2,158 summaries and press releases relating to 460 meetings of the Human Rights Council, the human rights treaty bodies and the Conference on Disarmament, in English and in French. In this way, it kept the media up to date with how States are performing in terms of respecting the treaties to which they are a party in the area of human rights, including those on gender equality, the elimination of racial discrimination and the rights of persons with disabilities.

UN Radio

The UN Radio Geneva team produced more than 2,000 reports, features, interviews and other audio items in 2015 alone, reflecting the sheer scope of the UN's work from its Geneva hub and providing a rich and relevant news resource for dozens of partner radio stations.

1-Abmad Fawzi, Director a.i. of the United Nations Information Service in Geneva, at a press briefing (UN Photo: Violaine Martin) **2**-John Kerry, Secretary of State of the United States of America, at a press conference following an address he had made to the Human Rights Council (UN Photo: Maria Cristina Travaglio) **3**-Journalists covering Director-General Michael Møller's end-of-year press conference (UN Photo) **4**-Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson recalling the core values of the United Nations as he briefs the press on the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **5**-(UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **6**-A journalist reviews photos during a press conference by Claudio Cordone, Director of the Human Rights, Transitional Justice and Rule of Law Division of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **6**-Christiane Taubira, Minister of Justice of France, speaks at a press conference on International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)

From the deadly Ebola virus to efforts to resolve conflicts in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Libya, Mali, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, UN Radio covered the world in 2015 – with reports and interviews in English and French and select audio in other official UN languages.

One of the biggest stories of the year was the global migration crisis and how it played out across Europe. Working closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UN Radio Geneva provided a range of news bulletins and interviews focusing on the plight faced by those making their way by sea to Europe.

The Human Rights Council, meeting in Geneva three times a year, discussed the situation in conflict zones around the world and provided high-demand material for UN Radio. Moreover, the Council's extensive remit gave the UN Radio Geneva team a chance to focus on largely unreported stories. These included horrific attacks in eastern and southern Africa on people with albinism, and the appointment of a new expert, Ikponwosa Ero, to protect their rights.

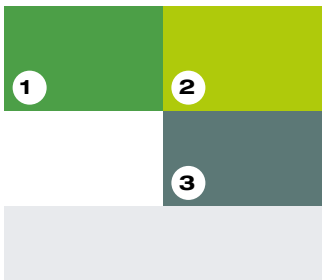
UN Radio Geneva also covered the work of the Conference on Disarmament, including a visit by a delegation of young Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Messengers, and reported on a key meeting on lethal autonomous weapons systems, the so-called "killer robots".



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2015 in photos



1-JANUARY 2015: Staffan de Mistura, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, at a press conference (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **2-FEBRUARY 2015:** Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, at the opening plenary of the Geneva Climate Change Conference, held at the Palais des Nations (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **3-MARCH 2015:** Delegates to the Human Rights Council, wearing the traditional dress of their countries, pose for a group photo after the panel discussion on human rights and climate change. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)

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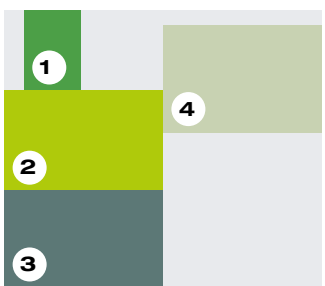
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1-APRIL 2015: Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, with Zamzam Absbir Mobamed Ismail at a tree-planting ceremony and plaque dedication in memory of the late Permanent Representative of Somalia, Ambassador Yusuf Mobamed Ismail, in Ariana Park (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **2-MAY 2015:** Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, welcoming Angela Merkel, Federal Chancellor of Germany, at the opening of the sixty-eighth World Health Assembly (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **3-JUNE 2015:** Ismail Ould Cbeikh Ahmed, Special Envoy for Yemen, during a press conference (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **4-JULY 2015:** Cooling off at the Place des Nations, Geneva (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)

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1-AUGUST 2015: Commemorating humanitarian workers who have lost their lives in the line of duty, at a ceremony held on World Humanitarian Day (UN Photo: Pierre Albouy) **2-SEPTEMBER 2015:** Gabriele Schlipf records the Geneva Peace Talks as visual images. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **3-OCTOBER 2015:** Spectacular venue in the Palais des Nations for the Concert for Understanding of Civilizations and Human Rights (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **4-NOVEMBER 2015:** Universal Children's Day (UN Photo: Coralie Chappat) **5-DECEMBER 2015:** From left to right: Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon; Laurent Fabius, Minister of Foreign Affairs of France and President of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC (COP 21); and François Hollande, President of France, celebrating after the historic adoption of the Paris Agreement on climate change. UNOG provided essential conference, security, documentation and interpreting support for COP 21. (UN Photo: Mark Garten)

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Community

Building strong partnerships to help meet global challenges, while increasing the interaction between international and local Geneva, remained a high priority in 2015. Through a series of original events and initiatives, UNOG showcased the worldwide impact of the activities carried out in International Geneva.

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Special feature

Open Day at UNOG

On 24 October 2015, exactly 70 years after the Charter of the United Nations came into force, close to 20,000 people joined the anniversary celebrations at an Open Day held at the Palais des Nations and in Ariana Park. The event brought together UN entities, other international organizations, permanent missions and non-governmental organizations. There were stands showcasing the work of the United Nations, and a rich programme of activities throughout the day that included film screenings, guided tours, concerts, art exhibitions, photographic exhibitions, lectures, dance performances, and activities for children and adults alike.

The “Rebirth” sculpture by Italian artist Michelangelo Pistoletto was officially inaugurated in Ariana Park at noon; the ceremony was attended by many members of the public and by dignitaries such as former Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Inside, permanent missions, specialized agencies and other partners exhibited their work at more than 80 stands. The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) displayed a three-dimensional simulation of the Large Hadron Collider.

Visitors could also see an exhibition of 26 paintings by Mexican artist Sergio Hernández depicting the country’s popular Day of the Dead. There was a photographic exhibition of the UN’s activities in Cyprus since the arrival of peacekeepers on the island in 1964, and an exhibition of Chinese paintings, calligraphy and furniture.

In Ariana Park, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research demonstrated how drones are used to obtain visuals in difficult-to-reach areas or during crisis situations. The Office of

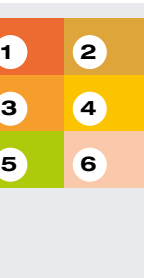
the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees displayed refugee tents and explained how it registers people fleeing conflict and arriving at camps and other host locations.

UN music clubs entertained with classical, choral, rock and pop music, and percussion and jazz. Click [here](#) to see photos and [here](#) to see a video of this memorable day.

#GenevalImpact

“Everything that is done here, in Geneva, has a direct impact on every person on this planet, in any 24-hour period.”

Director-General Michael Møller



1-Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva (left), with Esther Alder, Mayor of Geneva, and Alexandre Fasel, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations Office at Geneva, at the Open Day marking the UN’s 70th anniversary (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **2**-Young “delegate” tests the microphones in the Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **3**-Schoolchildren unveil the “Rebirth” sculpture by Michelangelo Pistoletto. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **4**-The Grand Théâtre de Genève performing “Glory” by choreographer Andonis Foniadakis in the Assembly Hall (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **5**-Crowds fill the UNOG Library on Open Day. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **6**-Geneva’s Jet d’Eau turns blue in honour of the UN’s 70th anniversary (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)

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Visitors to the Palais des Nations

The **Visitors' Service** at UNOG set a new record in 2015 of almost 115,000 visitors to the site. Guided tours are provided in 15 languages and are led by 25 tour guides of different nationalities. They explain the history, structure and activities of the UN system, and of the United Nations Office at Geneva and the wider circle of related organizations that go to make up International Geneva.

More than 1,000 visitors also enjoyed the thematic tours, which focused on the art and architecture of the Palais des Nations, the history of the Palais des Nations (including a guided tour of the League of Nations Museum) and the biodiversity of Ariana Park.

The Visitors' Service surveyed its clients in 2015: 97% of visitors indicated that they had learned interesting facts about the United Nations and 95% of visitors responded positively to the entire tour experience. Over half of the visitors were between the ages of 10 and 40, highlighting the importance of the guided tours as a way of communicating about the UN's work to a new generation of supporters. The largest numbers of visitors came from the United States, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Spain, India, Italy and China. One woman wrote on her survey form: "If only the tour could have lasted much longer! I didn't want it to stop!"

Visiting dignitaries and celebrities took time to tour the Palais des Nations too. They included Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland; Prince Alois of Lichtenstein; members of South Africa's national rugby team, the Springboks; and a delegation of personal chefs to Heads of State, the **Club des Chefs des Chefs**.

Escalade runners fill the gardens of the Palais des Nations

"The smiles of 3,744 participants at the Escalade training, the songs, the hip-hip-hooray at the finish line... all this filled us with joy and confirmed, as if proof was needed, that this training is an event in itself. The magic of the location, the symbolism associated with it and the beautiful scenery were a real delight for all the walkers and runners."

Jean-Louis Bottani, president of the Escalade race organizing committee

UNOG opened the gates to Ariana Park again this year, on Sunday, 8 November, for a training session for the Course de l'Escalade.

3,744 runners and walkers took part in this practice for the traditional Geneva race, over a thousand more than in 2014. The Palais des Nations training session was the fruit of a five-way partnership between the Course de l'Escalade organizing committee, the Swiss Confederation, the Republic and Canton of Geneva, the City of Geneva and the United Nations Office at Geneva.

This year, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the International School of Geneva joined in the organization of the event, offering refreshments at the Place des Nations after the training run. "The involvement of these new partners strengthens the participation of International Geneva in this important event for the city and the region," said Director-General Michael Møller.

The Escalade training session was a day of enthusiastic participation from the international and local community. UNOG looks forward to continuing the tradition in 2016.



1-Cooling off at the Place des Nations on a summer's day (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) 2-Runners pass Michelangelo Pistoletto's "Rebirth" sculpture during the second Escalade training session held in the grounds of the Palais des Nations. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)

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THE PERCEPTION CHANGE PROJECT

2015 RECAP

The PCP network grew to **80** organizations that connect on a regular basis to work on **joint projects**, where synergies are identified and showcased

SOCIAL MEDIA

- 10+ social media campaigns, most notably #GenevaImpact, aimed at amplifying the social media presence of all partners.
- Developed a series of 'Impact infographics' that compile examples from across international Geneva in visual form. These infographics have been linked to the DG's blogs and also systematically tweeted through an ongoing #fridayinfographic campaign.

The PCP speed-networking sessions

- Tested new more-engaging formats that proved successful
- Were targeted to specific media groups (data journalists, Mexican journalists, etc.) and tailored for the different organizations
- Created new relationships with media outlets

Building GENEVA "VOICE"

Huffington Post BLOGS

- The PCP helped to create blogging profiles for several other heads of Geneva-based organizations such as CERN, Interpeace and the Diplo Foundation.
- The PCP has supported the Director-General's blog on The Huffington Post with background research and infographics.

Groundwork done for GENEVA DATA

an up-to-date and evolving guide to data created by **International Geneva**.

- Online portal: GVadata.ch
- Book: personalized binder

CONNECTING WITH PEOPLE AND CREATING AMBASSADORS

With its highly successful book "Recipes for Peace, Rights and Well-being" the Perception Change Project

- engaged over 40 partners to participate in a collective effort
- developed an outreach product that worked for all partners
- designed a "kitchen stand" that took part in a number of high-profile public outreach events, including the Geneva Book Fair, Swiss National Day, Universal Expo in Milan, WTO Open Day and the UN70 Open Day.
- 10,000+ copies of the book have been distributed and the sales of the book have fully recovered its production costs

International Geneva FOOD TALKS

14 International Organizations gave an innovative presentation at Expo Milan, explaining their impact on the food chain "from fork to field"

Interview requests with UNOG DG HAVE STEADILY INCREASED

The PCP was the key partner for the Swiss Mission to coordinate the presence of International Geneva at the largest job fair in Switzerland the Cité des Métiers

Sustainable Development Goals Expertise

The PCP has mapped Geneva expertise of **75+** organizations in SDGs

The PCP was a key partner for the travelling exhibition developed by Fondation pour Genève to mark **the 200th Anniversary of Geneva joining the Swiss Confederation**. The PCP was instrumental in collecting the information for the exhibit becoming an effective crowd-sourcing platform for content from many organizations. The tour visited over **40** cities across Switzerland and visitors also received copies of the recipe book.

Perception Change Project: thinking outside the box

The Perception Change Project, which highlights the collective impact of the work being done in International Geneva, continued to use creativity and outside-the-box thinking in 2015 to change the way the United Nations engages with its partners, the media and the public. The number of partners in the Perception Change Project network grew to 80, up from 49 in 2014. Numerous individuals and entities gave the project their support.

Launched in 2014 by UNOG Director-General Michael Møller, the Perception Change Project ramped up its outreach activities to inspire decision-makers and the general public through a number of innovative initiatives and events, including the "Genève à la rencontre des Suisses" roadshow, the International Geneva Food Talks at Milan Expo 2015, and Cité des Métiers.

The Perception Change Project has also become a strong platform for crowdsourcing content from across International Geneva, and has driven collaboration not only at UNOG but in Geneva and beyond. Its creative team has expanded media outreach by improving coverage of global issues and developing customized events, such as speed networking for journalists. The last speed networking event in 2015 was for Mexican journalists. It was held in Spanish and was organized in partnership with the host country, Switzerland.

A ground-breaking project of the Perception Change Project in 2015 was the mapping of Geneva's expertise on the Sustainable Development Goals. This relevant and timely effort has sparked discussions and created new links between organizations with shared areas of expertise, and is leading to even more organizations coming together for a second, more comprehensive mapping exercise in 2016.



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Genève à la rencontre des Suisses

To mark the 200th anniversary of Geneva joining the Swiss Confederation, the Fondation pour Genève launched *Genève à la rencontre des Suisses*, a bus-based mobile exhibition designed to show the best of Geneva to the rest of the country.

There was exhibition space outside and inside the bus. Outside, exhibition tables were set up, portraying aspects of Geneva's unique identity through the individual stories of nine characters. This illustrated how the different actors in International Geneva contribute to Switzerland's influence and the way it is perceived abroad. Inside, the focus was on the daily impact of International Geneva. Six scenes from everyday life showed how the work of the different international organizations is woven into people's daily routines. Thanks to audio guides available in French, German and Italian, visitors learned about Geneva's impact, from the invention of the World Wide Web, to the protection of nature and biodiversity, to the development of international standards.

The International Geneva Perception Change Project was a key partner from the outset, helping to source the examples that illustrated the work of over 30 international organizations. In addition, more than 10,000 copies of *Recipes for Peace, Rights and Well-being*, in French, German and Italian, were distributed during the tour, which visited over 40 towns across the country.

The Director-General of UNOG, Michael Møller, joined the tour for a number of its stops, taking time to talk with residents from towns as far as from Geneva as Kreuzlingen and Brunnen, as did other leaders such as former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the Director-General of the International Labour Organization, Guy Ryder, and the Director-General of the International Organization for Migration, William Lacy Swing.

The touring exhibition drew big crowds, and saw close cooperation between Geneva and the local communities, and among the international organizations taking part.

Recipes on the road

In early 2015, the International Geneva Perception Change Project published the second edition of *Recipes for Peace, Rights and Well-being*. This expanded edition, available in English, French, German and Italian, was the result of collaboration between more than 50 partners, including international organizations, NGOs, Swiss Government entities, and the private sector.

Giving a taste both of fine food and of the expertise and far-reaching impact of International Geneva, *the recipe book went on tour*, to five different locations. It was presented to the public at the International Geneva Kitchen, a stand designed by the Perception Change Project, which was set up at the:

- Geneva Book and Press Fair (29 April-3 May)
- Open Day at the World Trade Organization (14 June)
- Swiss National Day celebrations at Parc La Grange (1 August)
- Swiss Pavilion at Milan Expo 2015 (19 and 20 September)
- Open Day at UNOG, celebrating the 70th anniversary of the UN (24 October)

The kitchen stand caught people's attention and sparked an appetite for learning more about the work of International Geneva. There was a host of activities for children that in fact drew in people of all ages: making play-dough "peace" macaroons, and playing ring toss and a card-matching game. The kitchen became an important venue for International Geneva and the public to meet and literally made the work of International Geneva "digestible" to all.

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1-(Photo: Fondation pour Genève) 2-From top centre to bottom right: Arancha González, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre; Rolf-Dieter Heuer, Director-General of CERN; Michael Møller, Director-General of UNOG; Mukbisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; and Martin Chungong, Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (UN Photo: Perception Change Project)

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International Geneva Food Talks at Milan Expo 2015

In the Swiss Pavilion of the Expo, on 20 September, speakers from 14 Geneva-based organizations showcased International Geneva's contribution to our food and nutrition, from the angle of human rights, humanitarian assistance, standards, trade, and preservation of the environment. "The speakers went into complex topics but they made them fun and easy to understand", said one visitor.

The Perception Change Project partners ran an International Geneva kitchen stand in front of the Pavilion throughout the weekend. They talked about International Geneva with visitors to the Expo and offered them games and publications, including the book *Recipes for Peace, Rights and Well-being*.

International Geneva at Cité des Métiers

Cité des Métiers is the biggest job fair in Switzerland. It takes place in Geneva every three years and attracts more than 80,000 visitors. In 2015, the "guest of honour" was International Geneva. The Permanent Mission of Switzerland, working together with the International Geneva Perception Change Project, the Eduki Foundation, the Geneva Welcome Centre and the Fondation pour Genève, arranged for a strong presence by the organizations in International Geneva to highlight their vital work and provide opportunities for them to explain how to become part of the teams.

Over a dozen organizations, including UN entities, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), showcased different types of jobs that support the international organizations' work for peace, rights and well-being.

Engaging activities drew people into the serious work that such jobs involve. UNOG's Security and Safety Service featured prominently at the fair. Students were able to try on security equipment, such as bulletproof vests and helmets, and climb into a UN Land Rover. Almost 2,000 young people benefited from a joint UNOG-CERN training session on first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. And there were demonstrations by UNOG's K9 explosive detection team, carried out jointly with the firefighting team from CERN.

Adults and children alike appreciated the interaction with the security officers, who described their training and experience in Geneva and in countries such as the Central African Republic and South Sudan, and with UNOG's interpreters, translators and editors, and took away with them a fuller understanding of the impact that these staff members make through their work.

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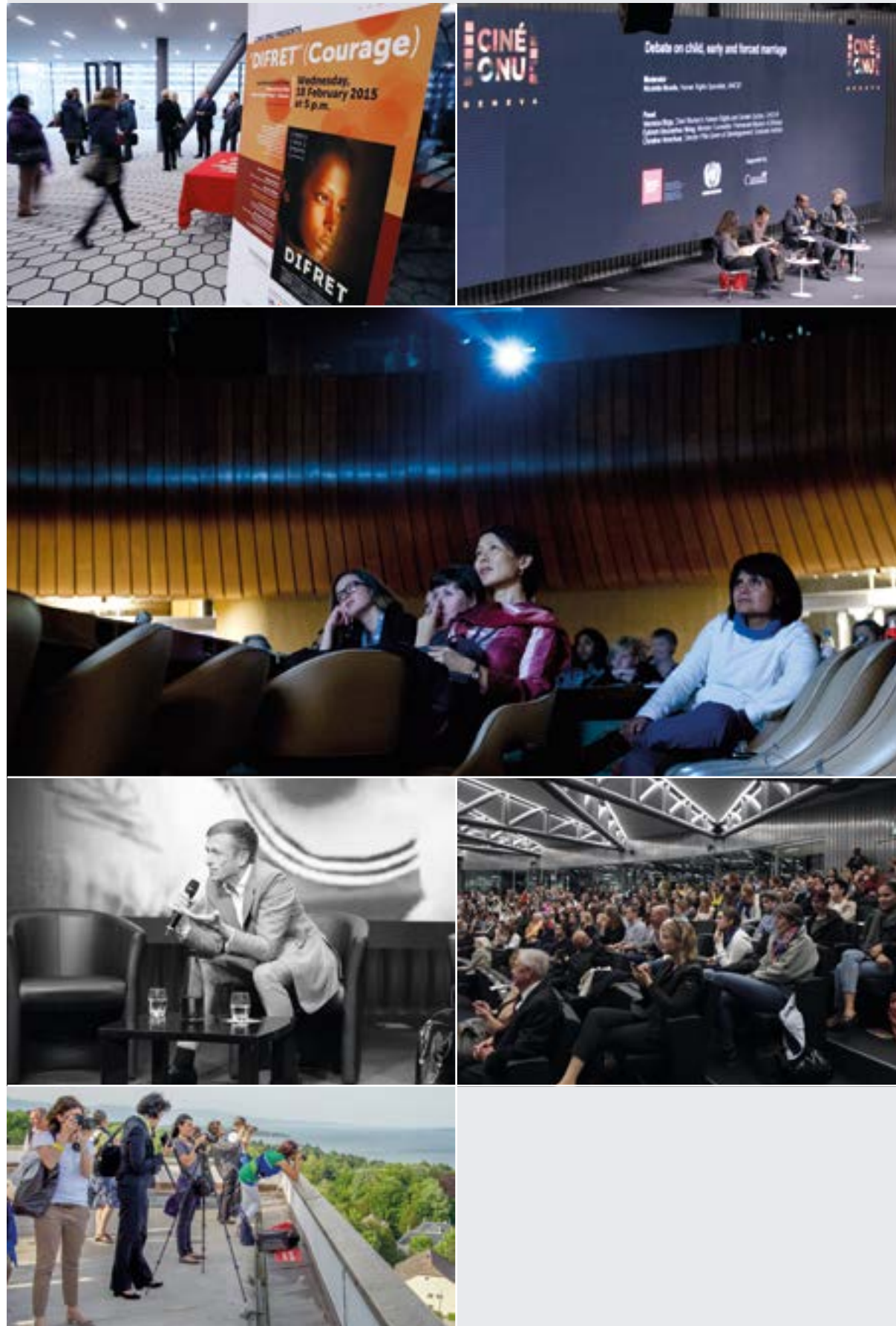
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Ciné-ONU Geneva

Ciné-ONU Geneva uses film to tell powerful stories on UN themes. The screenings are followed by expert-led interactive discussions. The United Nations Information Service in Geneva launched this initiative in 2014 in collaboration with the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. Since then, UNOG has been welcoming diverse local audiences to the events, where they have discussed issues of global importance, from women's empowerment to sustainable development to peacemaking.

Difret, the story of an Ethiopian woman lawyer who defends a 14-year-old girl charged with the murder of a man who attempted to abduct her for a forced marriage, drew an audience of 500 and led to a rich discussion about how the United Nations should tackle gender discrimination.

On a similar theme, *Men and Women*, which screened on International Women's Day, depicted the consequences of gender inequality on societies and economies worldwide.

The lush setting of a national park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, home to the world's last colony of mountain gorillas, was depicted in *Virunga*. Shown on World Environment Day, the film was an occasion for experts and members of the public to share their insights on how countries in conflict could achieve sustainable economic development while protecting their natural resources.

The 2015 programme wrapped up with a very personal story of one man's dedication to establishing an International Day of Peace and day of global ceasefire, in *The Day After Peace*. The subject and director of the film, activist Jeremy Gilley, was there to explain how "everybody can do something for peace" – an inspirational message given during Geneva Peace Week.

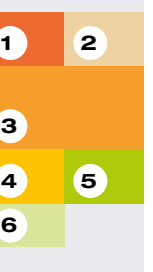
1-Ciné-ONU at the Maison de la Paix (UN Photo: Pierre Albouy) 2-Debate on child, early and forced marriage, following the Ciné-ONU screening of "Difret" (UN Photo: Pierre Albouy) 3-Screening of "Women and Men" at the Palais des Nations (UN Photo: Violaine Martin) 4-Jeremy Gilley, British peace activist and filmmaker, at the Ciné-ONU Geneva showing of "The Day After Peace" (UN Photo: Raiani Sibien) 5-Audience at the Ciné-ONU Geneva screening of "The Day After Peace", at the Graduate Institute (UN Photo: Raiani Sibien) 6-Club Photo International (UN Photo)

Club Photo International

UNOG's Club Photo International was founded in 2006 for Geneva-based staff members of UN system organizations, permanent missions and NGOs accredited to the UN, who are interested in photography.

Club Photo International kicked off the year with its annual exhibition, which showcased entries from its "Doors and Windows" photo contest.

Open Day at UNOG was held on 24 October, coinciding with the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations. The Club celebrated by holding a photo competition for visitors, and received 64 entries that vibrantly illustrated visitors' impressions of the event. There was a virtual exhibition of photographs on peace, rights and well-being – the three pillars that represent the collective work of International Geneva – and a photo shooting session for visitors.



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UNOG Library: a leading library in International Geneva

A mainstay of delegates and UN staff, the UNOG Library is also a valuable resource for the private sector.

On 21 May, a group of Geneva-based Procter & Gamble employees visited the Library and were given a tour. Twice a year, the multinational company offers its staff a study day. When asked why they chose to spend their study day at the UNOG Library, Frank Arendt, Associate Director, said that they wanted to visit “the leading library in International Geneva”.

He observed that “libraries are a rare location where know-how and quiet come together, allowing you to develop thoughts that otherwise might be lost”.

Library events

More than 2,000 people, including members of the diplomatic community, the UN staff and civil society, and academics, have registered their interest in public events at the Palais des Nations that promote debate on key UN issues.

The **Library Talks** series, now in its sixth year, included panel discussions, book launches, performances and conferences, in an informal setting. There were 23 Library Talks in 2015. The programme reflected the world’s new priorities as encapsulated in the Sustainable Development Goals. Of particular interest were the launch of *The Politics of Humanity: The Reality of Relief Aid*, a book by Sir John Holmes, former Emergency Relief Coordinator; a presentation by Norwegian politician Torild Skard on her book *Women of Power*; and the celebration of International Day of Peace, which focused on women’s strategies for peace for future generations. As recognition of the UN’s past 70 years forms the basis for its future work, the programme also featured *Histoire(s) des Nations Unies*, an event that told the stories of outstanding personalities who have helped shape the United Nations.

A brand new feature, Reading Room Stories, provides a rare opportunity for members of the public to get up close and personal with change makers who share their life stories and inspire passionate debates about the global challenges we are facing. This year’s pilots, which featured UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Ivonne A-Baki and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, Lenín Moreno Garcés, received enthusiastic feedback, and the series of events is to continue.

In 2016, the Library will further expand and diversify its outreach programme. It will offer Member States a space for informal exchange and dialogue in support of the 2030 Agenda, mobilizing the knowledge they need to help realize the Sustainable Development Goals. Other new events will link up the arts with peacebuilding, and will bring to UNOG iconic figures in sustainable development, among them trendsetters in the creative economy.

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Cultural diplomacy in the service of peace, rights and well-being

For nearly 15 years, UNOG's **Cultural Activities Programme** has fashioned a vibrant showcase that celebrates the rich cultural heritage and diversity of Member States. Through events such as art exhibitions, concerts, film screenings and other forms of cultural expression, the Cultural Activities Programme has actively promoted the United Nations agenda for peace and dialogue among nations.

In collaboration with Geneva-based permanent missions and international organizations, UNOG hosted a total of 91 cultural events at the Palais des Nations in 2015. These had a basis in key concerns of the United Nations, including cultural heritage and preservation, multilingualism, peace, human rights, the rule of law, humanitarian relief, youth issues, gender equality and women's empowerment, the environment, food security and sustainable development.

In 2015, the Cultural Activities Programme also helped organize 66 side events to conferences and meetings being held at the Palais des Nations, at the request of 40 Member States and international organizations.

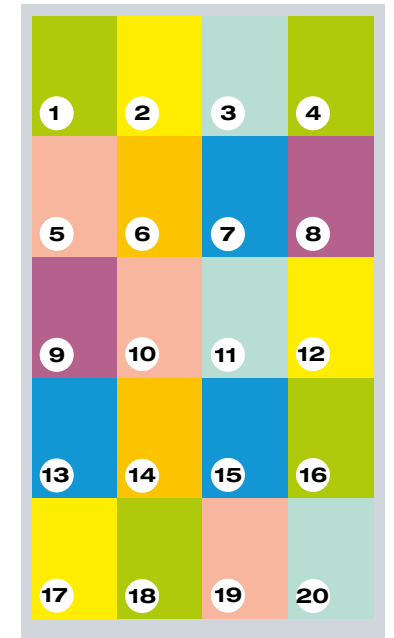


1-Daniel Barenboim conducts the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra in rehearsal for the Concert for Understanding of Civilizations and Human Rights. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **2**-On Open Day at UNOG, the Tagel Quartet performs "Wanderlust: a musical journey through Germany". (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **3**-Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, and the permanent representatives of the Permanent Five to the United Nations Office in Geneva, lock hands as a symbolic gesture of their collective commitment to the United Nations Charter, before the joint Permanent Five concert to mark the 70th anniversary of the United Nations. From left to right: Michael Møller, Director-General of UNOG, Wu Hailong, Permanent Representative of China, Elisabeth Laurin, Permanent Representative of France, Alexey Borodavkin, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation, Julian Braithwaite, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Pamela Hamamoto, Permanent Representative of the United States of America. (UN Photo: Coralie Chappat) **4**-Cityscapes from Polish artist Wioletta Jaskólska's "Ville au Palais, Palais en Ville" exhibition (UN Photo: Katherine Lybarger) **5**-Her Image, Her Voice, Her Story: an exhibition of Wayne Quilliam's photographs of Australian indigenous women (UN Photo: Coralie Chappat) **6**-Visitor admiring "The Circle of Life" by Indian photographer Hardik Gaurav, at the exhibition entitled "What does peace look like?" (UN Photo: Coralie Chappat)

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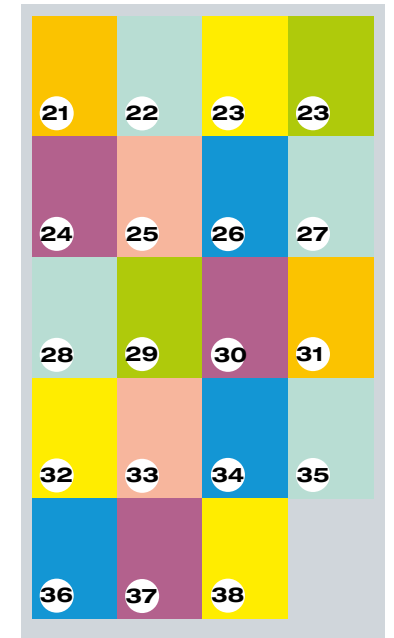


Cultural activities organized
by Member States and
international organizations
in 2015



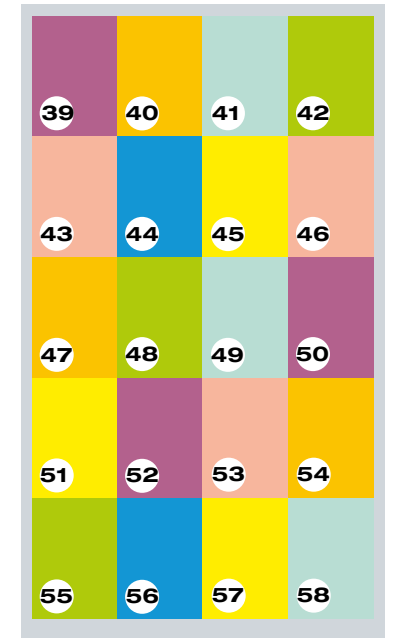
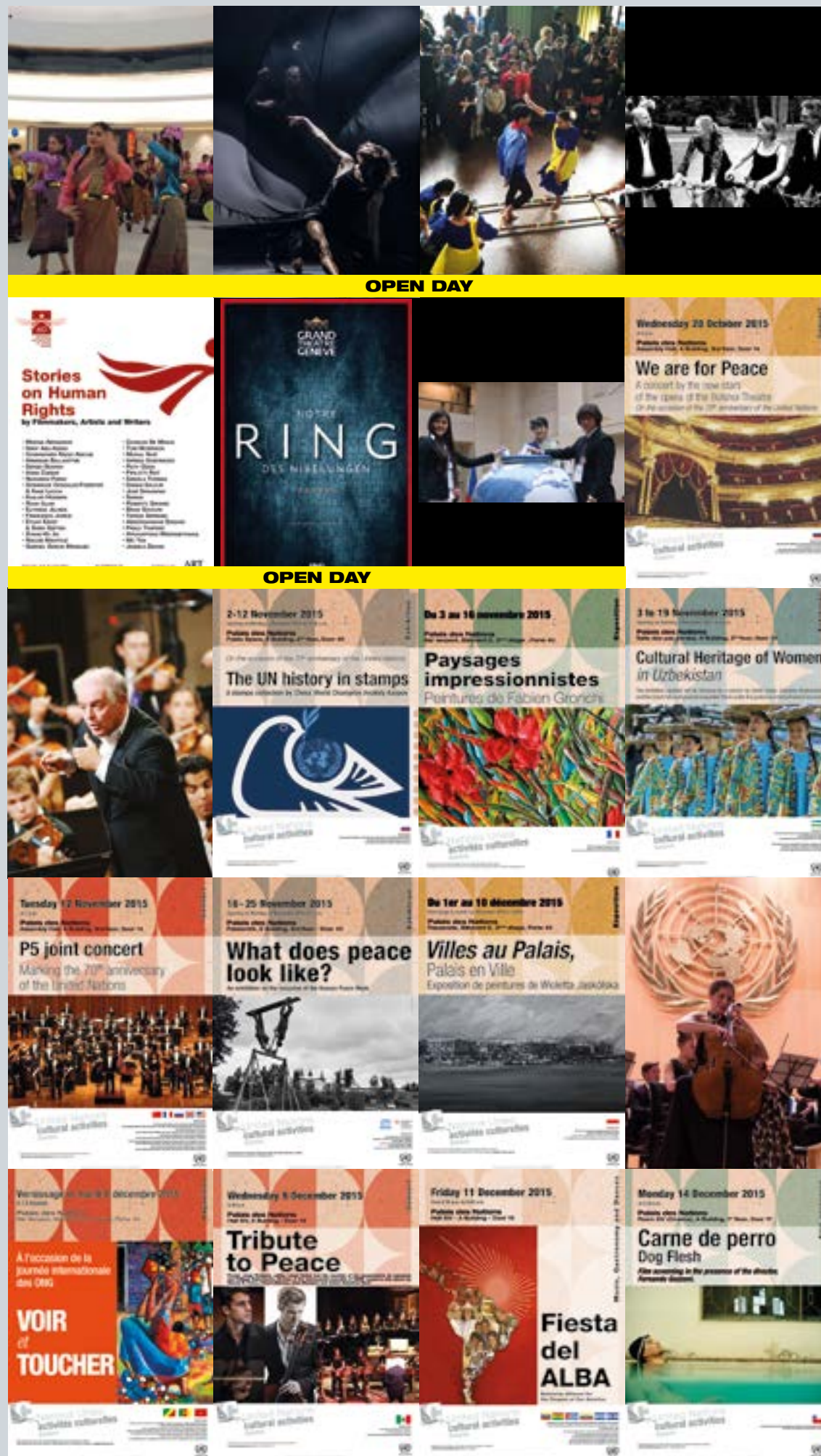
1- Exhibition (Poland, European Union): Exhibition marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of Jan Karski and the 2015 observance of International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. **2-** Exhibition and art performance (UNAIDS, Djibouti, Germany): Exhibition of the work of five African artists and a collective artistic performance led by Canadian artist Jacques Newashish, to honour women victims of violence. Organized to coincide with International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation. **3-** Concert (Georgia, Lithuania): Concert by Georgian and Lithuanian pianists Ilia Lomtadze, Milda Daunoraitė and Kasparas Mikužis, held on Lithuania's national day. **4-** Exhibition (International Development Law Organization, Italy, Netherlands, Paraguay): Photographic exhibition exploring the twin challenges of the rule of law and sustainable development, as seen through the eyes of photographers, curated by Shabidul Alam of Majority World. **5-** Exhibition (Latvia): The Latvian tradition of working with amber. The exhibition coincided with the Latvian presidency of the Council of the European Union. **6-** Exhibition (International Organization of la Francophonie, Mali): Photographic exhibition documenting the preservation of ancient manuscripts from the Malian city of Timbuktu, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. **7-** Concert (Switzerland): Concert of the United Nations Orchestra conducted by Antoine Marguier. The concert featured Swiss soprano Eva Fiechter and music by Swiss composers. **8-** Exhibition (Oman): Exhibition featuring works by Omani painters and photographers. **9-** Exhibition (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Canada, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Israel, Sierra Leone): Exhibition of photographs by Patricia Willocq to promote understanding and tolerance towards people with albinism. **10-** Exhibition (International Organization of la Francophonie, Morocco): Exhibition showing the universality of art and human rights. Moroccan painter, writer and sculptor Mabi Binebine curated the exhibition, which featured paintings, sculptures and installation art. **11-** Concert (International Organization of la Francophonie, Senegal, Switzerland): Concert given by internationally acclaimed Senegalese artist Youssou N'Dour on International Day of la Francophonie. **12-** Exhibition and concert (Economic Commission for Europe, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Poland): Exhibition focusing on forests and their wider role in society, and highlighting the connections between forests and gastronomy, as a reflection of a people's culture and heritage. Concert by the Polish Forest Band. **13-** Exhibition and concert (Romania): Exhibition of paintings and sculptures showing the vision of 80 artists from 60 countries. Concert of folk music from the Romanian city of Aiud. Organized for the 60th anniversary of Romania's UN membership and the 70th anniversary of the UN. **14-** Poetry (Oman): Poetry event at which each performer read out a poem conveying the concept of cultural diversity, in the language of his or her choice. **15-** Exhibition (Timor-Leste): The cultural heritage of Timor-Leste, revealed through a display of ethnographic artefacts. Co-curated with the Museum of Cultures in Basel. **16-** Exhibition (Slovakia): Exhibition of glass sculptures by Slovak artist Ján Zoričák. Curated by Ivan Jančár, director of the Bratislava City Gallery. **17-** Exhibition (United Nations Mine Action Service, Japan): Exhibition of drawings by children and young people, held to coincide with International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. **18-** Exhibition (China): Exhibition of Chinese paper cuts, held to coincide with Chinese Language Day. **19-** Film (Singapore): Screening of "Ilo Ilo", a film by Singaporean director Anthony Chen, winner of the Caméra d'Or for Best First Feature Film at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival. **20-** Film Festival (Belarus, Russian Federation): A selection of seven Russian and Belarusian films on themes connected with the Second World War: "The Brest Fortress", "Fate of a Man", "White Tiger", "Stalingrad", "They Fought for Their Country", "The Cranes are Flying" and "In the Fog".

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21- Concert (Czech Republic, Mexico, United States of America): Symphony No. 9 by Dvořák and Danzón No. 2 by Márquez, played by the Orchestra of the University of Geneva conducted by Sébastien Brugière. **22-** Exhibition (United Nations Women's Guild): Paintings, sculptures and jewellery showcasing the talents of members of the Women's Guild. **23-** Exhibitions and concert (Russian Federation): Concert by Russian singer Oleg Pogudin on Russian Language Day. Four exhibitions: the Russian avant-garde in drawings, mountain landscapes by photographer Dimitri Kuznetsov, Russian books, and themes in Russian folklore as painted by children. **24-** Exhibition (Australia): Exhibition by Australian photographer Wayne Quilliam celebrating the diversity of Australian indigenous women. **25-** Concert and exhibition (Poland): Performance by Polish interpreter of the works of Chopin, Marek Drewnowski, marking the 70th anniversary of the memorable concert given by Arthur Rubinstein at the San Francisco Conference in 1945. Photographs of Arthur Rubinstein complemented Marek Drewnowski's concert. **26-** Film (Estonia, Georgia): Screening of the Estonian-Georgian movie "Tangerines" by Georgian director Zaza Urusbadze, nominated for Best Foreign Language Film for the 87th Academy Awards, in 2014. **27-** Exhibition (United States of America): Exhibition by American photographer Fred Lonidier, exploring the world of labour and unions in the United States through the artistic lens of contemporary photography. Part of a larger retrospective dedicated to Fred Lonidier's artwork that was held at the Centre de la photographie Genève. **28-** Film festival (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam): Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) presented nine movies reflecting the cultural diversity and dynamic film production in South-East Asia. **29-** Exhibition (Ecuador): Exhibition of paintings by Ecuadorian artist Pavel Égüez, dedicated to victims of violations of human rights. **30-** Exhibition (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Finland, Guatemala, Mexico, Norway): Photographic portraits of indigenous people at UN meetings in Geneva and New York, as well as photographs depicting their everyday lives, to mark the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples. **31-** Concert (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, UNESCO): Renowned pianists Alexander Gbindin, Bishara Haroni, Stanislav Khristenko, Yaron Kohlberg and François-Xavier Poizat play together to mark International Day of Peace and the 70th anniversary of the UN. **32-** Exhibition (Georgia): Art exhibition dedicated to building bridges of understanding and friendship between war-torn communities. **33-** Exhibition and dance performance (Russian Federation): Paintings and dance performances by children studying at Studio Obraz, the Russian art school. **34-** Exhibition and dance performance (Economic Commission for Europe): Exhibition of cardboard sculptures, showing creative approaches to interpreting and communicating urban development challenges. The opening of the exhibition featured a dance performance. **35-** Exhibition and food tasting (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations): Exhibition highlighting the importance of soil for food and nutrition security, and its role in combating and adapting to climate change. The event marked both World Food Day and International Year of Soils. **36-** Exhibition, calligraphy workshop, tea ceremony, concert and Chinese chess games (China): There were several interactive presentations at Open Day at UNOG to demonstrate the traditions behind important elements of Chinese cultural heritage. **37-** Exhibition (Mexico): Exhibition of paintings by Mexican artist Sergio Hernández held to coincide with the Day of the Dead, a festival honouring deceased ancestors that was placed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2008. **38-** Exhibition (Andorra): Exhibition of paintings showcasing the work of 31 artists, from every continent, who gathered in Ordino, Andorra, in 2014 for a cultural exchange supported by the Andorran National Commission for UNESCO.

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39- Dance (Thailand): Traditional Thai drumming and dancing by the Klong Yao Troupe from Basel. **40- Dance (Switzerland):** Performance by the dancers of the Grand Théâtre de Genève Ballet Company, choreographed by Andonis Foniadakis and accompanied by music by Georg Friedrich Händel arranged by Julien Tarride. **41- Dance (Philippines):** Traditional Filipino dance performance by the Filipino Catholic Community of Geneva Dance Group. **42- Concert (Germany):** German classical-music repertoire (works by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Händel, Mendelssohn-Bartoldy, Pachelbel and Schumann) performed by the Tagel Quartet under the direction of Patrick Schleuter. **43- Film (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights):** Collection of 21 short films inspired by the themes of culture, development, the environment, gender, participation, and dignity and justice, made by internationally acclaimed filmmakers, artists and writers. **44- Film (Switzerland):** Documentary showing the extraordinary adventure that the Grand Théâtre de Genève had in 2013 and 2014 while preparing its new production of Richard Wagner's "Ring of the Nibelung". Filmmaker Chantal Chappot presents all the twists and turns of this very special endeavour. **45- Reading (Japan):** Ceremony at which students from countries in the Asia-Pacific region shared their visions for world peace and environmental protection, and then placed pebbles in the Blue Star of Life vase located in the Hall of the Council Chamber. The event was held in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the UN. **46- Concert (Russian Federation):** Concert by new stars of the opera of the Bolsboi Theatre, marking the 70th anniversary of the UN. **47- Concert (Secretary-General of the United Nations, President of the Human Rights Council, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, Egypt, Peru, Switzerland):** Daniel Barenboim conducted his West-Eastern Divan Orchestra at a special concert held in the Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room of the Palais des Nations. The event was broadcast globally on 10 December 2015 – Human Rights Day. **48- Exhibition (Russian Federation):** Exhibition of commemorative stamps issued to mark UN anniversaries and historic UN events. Part of the personal stamp collection of Russian chess champion Anatoly Karpov. **49- Exhibition (France):** Exhibition of colourful landscape paintings by French artist Fabien Gronchi. **50- Exhibition and concert (Uzbekistan):** Photographic exhibition showing the cultural heritage of women in Uzbekistan in all its richness and diversity. The opening featured a concert by the singer Zulaykho Boykhonova and the "Ofarin" folk ensemble. **51- Concert (China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America):** The Geneva missions of the Permanent Five organized a concert by the Symphony Orchestra of the National Ballet of China. It was conducted by Zhang Yi and featured pianist Mélodie Zhao. **52- Exhibition (UNESCO, Austria):** A selection of shortlisted entries for the Alfred Fried Photography Award 2014. The exhibition was held in November, in conjunction with Geneva Peace Week. **53- Exhibition (Poland):** Cityscapes of various European cities, including Geneva, by Polish artist Wioletta Jaskólska. **54- Concert (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies):** French-Belgian cellist Camille Thomas performed with the United Nations Orchestra at the opening of the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. **55- Exhibition (Cameroon, Congo, Morocco):** Artworks by Cameroonian, Congolese and Swiss women artists. **56- Concert (Mexico):** Classical concert featuring Mexican pianist Jorge Viladoms, Swiss cellist Lionel Cottet and the young musicians of the Conservatoire de Lausanne. **57- Concert, dance and gastronomy (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua):** The Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA) held the second "Fiesta del ALBA" at the Palais des Nations. **58- Film (Chile):** Screening of the film "Carne de Perro" by Chilean writer and director Fernando Guzzoni.

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Youth

To connect with the energy, imagination and initiative of the largest generation of youth in the world's history, UNOG continued to expand its programmes for schoolchildren, outreach to graduate students, fellowship programmes, and series of seminars. Children as young as 10 were educated on the work of the United Nations and encouraged to join the dialogue on global issues.

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Special feature

300 Geneva schoolchildren celebrate Universal Children's Day at the Palais des Nations

Some 300 children and their teachers gathered at the Palais des Nations on 20 November to celebrate **Universal Children's Day**, which marks the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989.

UNOG organized the event in partnership with the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**. Also on the programme were visits to the UNOG Library and Archives, the Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room, and the permanent UNICEF exhibition in the visitors' centre, as well as a guided tour of the Palais des Nations.

Addressing pupils and teachers from 11 schools, UNOG Director-General Michael Møller said: "While this is an occasion to celebrate the progress made in the lives of children around the globe, it is also an opportunity to remind ourselves that the world must still be made into a better place for all children."

Océane from Ecole Farny, Mathéo from Institut Florimont and Tasha from Externat des Glacis, pupils at three of the schools taking part in the commemoration, read out a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations: "This year's observance falls at a time when 60 million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes, more than at any time since the Second World War, and almost half of them are children fleeing oppression, terrorism, violence and other violations of their human rights. Today, we reaffirm our obligation to do everything in our power to enable all children to survive and thrive, learn and grow, have their voices heard and reach their full potential."

The schoolchildren, aged 10 to 12, participated actively in discussions on the rights of the child, which were facilitated by staff from the UNOG Library and representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF and Save the Children. They enjoyed the demonstration of UNICEF's **School in a Box**, and appreciated, as one student put it, "learning about children in difficult situations and what is being done to help them". The winners of a **drawing competition** with the theme "What the United Nations means to me" were announced and the Director-General presented them with their awards. The UNOG Library gave out copies of a book containing the 30 best drawings, as a souvenir of the visit.



1-Michael Møller, Director-General of UNOG, with Océane, Mathéo and Tasha, after their reading of the UN Secretary-General's message on Universal Children's Day (UN Photo: Coralie Chappat) **2**-Representatives of UNICEF demonstrating the School in a Box, on Universal Children's Day (UN Photo: Coralie Chappat) **3**-Mock session of the Human Rights Council held on Universal Children's Day. The children loved using the microphones, learning how the UN works and hearing how decisions are made. Future diplomats? Future UN staff? (UN Photo: Coralie Chappat)

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Disarmament fellowships

The General Assembly, at its first special session devoted to disarmament, in 1978, established the [United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament](#). The programme is managed in Geneva by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. Every year, 25 young officials working on arms control and disarmament take part in the 10-week-long programme, which takes them to Geneva, Vienna, The Hague and New York as well as to several Member States.

Since its inception 36 years ago, the programme has provided practical experience and knowledge on the work of the UN and other organizations on disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation and international security to 930 officials from 163 Member States. It has been recognized, in an internal evaluation, as the best programme of its kind within the UN system.

#KidsWannaKnow

Young participants in #KidsWannaKnow, a joint initiative of the [Perception Change Project](#), the [Eduki Foundation](#) and [Greycells](#), seized the opportunity to interview current and former staff of international organizations on video. The schoolchildren showed remarkable depth and curiosity when unpacking hefty topics like disarmament, peace, and human rights.

Jean-Marie Fakhouri, when asked by 14-year-old Daniel Amoti what the most fascinating thing had been during his career at the UN refugee agency, said: "I have worked with refugees from around the world, and what really struck me is the courage of these people, people like you and me, who lead a normal life and then, overnight, through no fault of their own, their life is turned upside down. They find themselves far from their country and their family... But they keep hope that one day they will be able to make a fresh start and offer their children a future."

Another interviewer, 11-year-old Chouaïb Serir, got a first-hand account from a former secretary-general of the Inter-Parliamentary Union about promoting democracy and human rights around the world.

Sharing stories and knowledge across generations is timeless. In these conversations, the real and extraordinary experiences of staff of international organizations sparked the interest of the young and showed them how they too could contribute to a sustainable future.

Check out the interview highlights on [YouTube](#) (in French) or in our [iBook #KidsWannaKnow](#)".

Interns with a Mission

The popular Interns with a Mission event, now in its second year, brought together around 300 interns from UN entities, permanent missions and NGOs across Geneva on 25 June. It was organized by a dynamic group of interns, with the support of the Permanent Missions of Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland and Switzerland and the Permanent Delegation of the European Union, and in collaboration with UNOG.

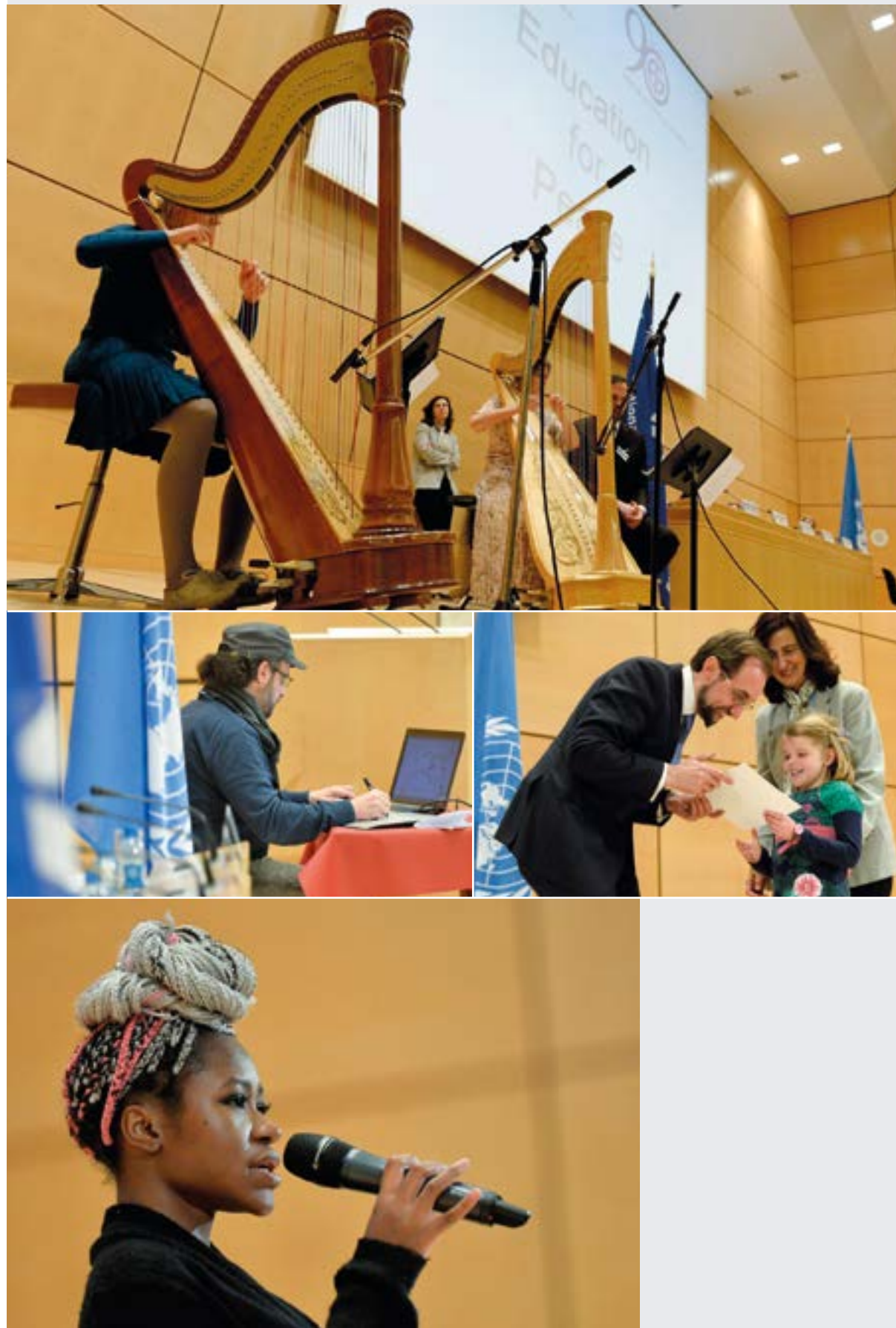
The event provided an opportunity for the interns to discuss challenges facing the UN, on the 70th anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter. Showing his continued commitment to the internship experience in Geneva, the Director-General of UNOG joined the high-level panel alongside the President of the Human Rights Council and the Permanent Representatives of Ecuador, Ireland and Sierra Leone.

UNOG's support for the event is part of its wider efforts to review and improve its [internship programme](#). Following a successful launch in April 2014, Interns with a Mission is now established as an annual fixture at the Palais des Nations. For more impressions from the event, visit the [Interns with a Mission Facebook page](#).

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Education for Peace

“There is no investment today more crucial to tomorrow’s peace than an education that fosters tolerance, openness, inclusion and respect for human rights,” remarked UNOG Director-General Michael Moller at the opening of the Education for Peace conference.

Several hundred people attended the conference, held on 14 January, including teachers and other staff members from the International School of Geneva, students and their parents, members of the city’s wider academic community, UN staff, delegates from the permanent missions, journalists and representatives of International Geneva. It was hosted jointly by UNOG and by the International School of Geneva, the oldest and largest such school in the local area, and commemorated the 70th anniversary of the UN and the 90th anniversary of the School.

Presenting the keynote speech, Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, said he hoped his lecture would create discussion and debate in the classroom in the months and years ahead. He went on to say: “May every educator become a human rights defender and every educational institution a zone of tolerance and dignity. And may the students who benefit from this work use the values that they have learned to create greater peace in the world.”

Hani Abbas, a Syrian-Palestinian cartoonist from Yarmouk Camp in Damascus, who is living in Switzerland as a refugee, took part in the conference as a representative of the Geneva-based organization Cartooning for Peace. In an inspirational speech, he paid tribute to the victims of the attack on Charlie Hebdo in Paris, which had taken place just a week

earlier, and spoke about the importance of freedom of expression. He drew a peace-themed cartoon live on stage in the Assembly Hall, and then announced the names of the schoolchildren winning prizes in the Education for Peace cartoon competition.

Pupils from the School also presented their “education for peace” manifesto and had the chance to voice their opinions on the subject. The evening concluded with the inauguration of a special exhibition in the Salle des Pas Perdus depicting the 90 years of the School’s history alongside a timeline of key UN events.



1-Musical interlude by harpists Mary Brice and Jobannie Jacot at the Education for Peace conference (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **2**-Hani Abbas, one of the two winners of the 2014 “Prix international du dessin de presse”, draws a cartoon at the Education for Peace conference. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **3**-Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein (left), United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, with a prizewinner at the Education for Peace conference (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **4**-Frema Assamoah, a student at the International School of Geneva, performs a cappella at the Education for Peace conference. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)

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Reaching out to our audiences

An estimated 2,500 people from as far away as Brazil, China and Kenya attended one of the more than 80 [information programmes](#) that the United Nations Information Service in Geneva ran in 2015 on UN themes and issues. They included university students, diplomats, public servants, and representatives of NGOs and other associations.

Local children often take part in commemorative events on international days observed by the UN, in the Model United Nations or in the popular “shadowing” programme. UNOG staff are also invited into classrooms to teach students – and often the teachers – about a wide range of issues, such as children’s rights, child soldiers, climate change and anti-discrimination campaigns.

Aside from the regular programmes that last from one to three days, the Information Service also organizes more intense seminars for graduate students. In 2015, 35 students from the Center for Global Affairs at New York University attended a one-week session at the Palais des Nations to further their knowledge of UN activities – the twentieth such visit.

The 7th annual [UN Geneva Seminars Series](#), which targets academics, graduate students, teachers and other experts, was held on 8 and 9 December with a focus on sport and development. About 40 participants discussed how sport can influence a wide range of issues, including health, development and the peace process.

Graduate Study Programme

The [Graduate Study Programme](#), coordinated by the United Nations Information Service in Geneva, turned 53 this year. This is an intense two-week “summer school” for up to 100 outstanding young people, built around a United Nations theme. This year’s programme, held from 6 to 16 July, looked at the post-2015 development agenda and was titled “From millennium goals to sustainable goals: crafting new development goals for the future we want”. The participants came from 47 countries and from every continent.

They attended seminars given by experts from 18 international organizations. One of the most powerful and memorable talks was from chief UNHCR spokesperson Melissa Fleming, who told the story of a hero on a refugee boat who saved a child and stirred a continent.

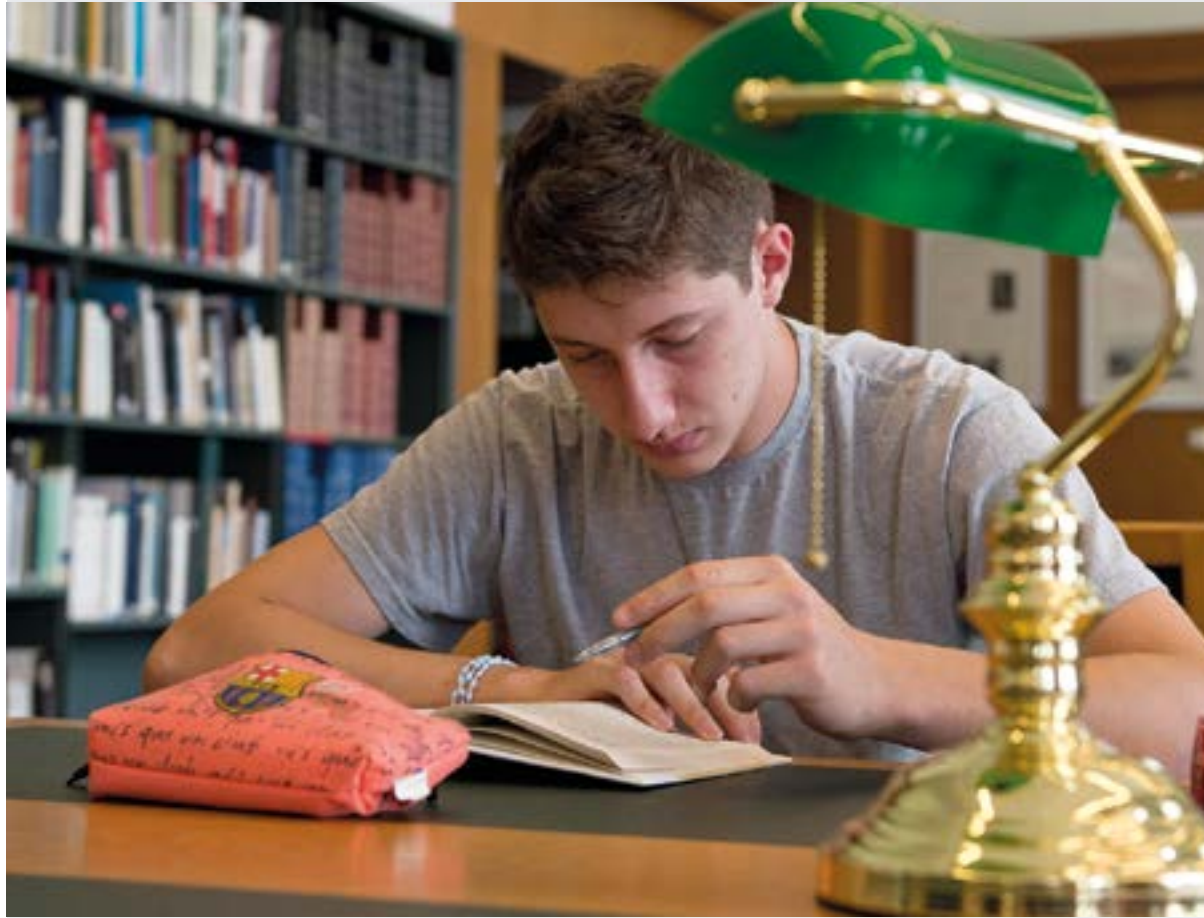
UNOG believes that a study programme should be an exchange of knowledge, and should provide a chance to experience the challenges and benefits of working in a multilingual, multicultural and multi-ethnic environment. In addition to attending lectures, the participants worked on a UN-related project and presented their results in a formal plenary, allowing UNOG to benefit from their innovative approaches and ideas.

Participants in the programme return to their home countries and academic institutions as “UNOG ambassadors” – informed and engaged on UN issues. They also benefit from the Graduate Study Programme network – a participant-led alumni group with an online presence on a UNOG-created [Facebook page](#), where information can be shared and discussions continue long after they bid farewell to the Palais des Nations.

Listen to the participants in the 53rd Graduate Study Programme sharing their experiences [here](#).

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Reaching out to potential language staff

For talented students, outreach events open a window on a career at the UN. For the UN, outreach events forge contacts with the staff of tomorrow.

Outreach takes many forms, such as visits by staff members to universities, placing qualified students in a work situation at the UN for several weeks, and teaching how interpretation and translation are done at the UN.

Further information about outreach is available on [video](#) at the UNOG website.

Translation interns

UNOG regularly hosts interns interested in a career in languages at the UN. [Translation interns](#) work as part of the translation team alongside experienced professionals. They receive feedback on their work from revisers and advice on developing their careers.

Bringing youth and heritage together

Students from local secondary schools had the rare opportunity of working directly with materials from the League of Nations archive at workshops that the UNOG Library hosted during 2015. The idea behind the initiative? Learning from the past in order to better understand the future.

The workshops were held in partnership with the University of Geneva. They were part of [Rencontres de Genève: Histoire et Cité](#), a festival with activities centred around the history of International Geneva and the building of peace.

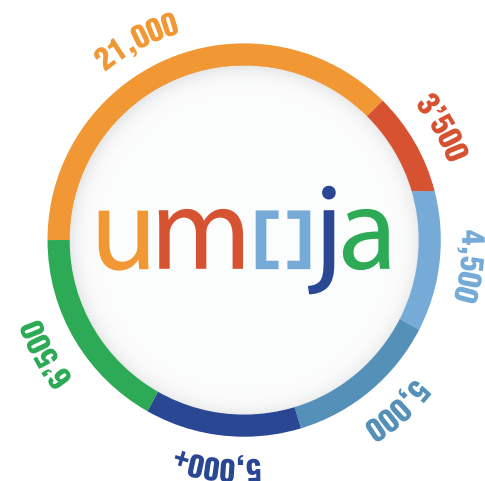
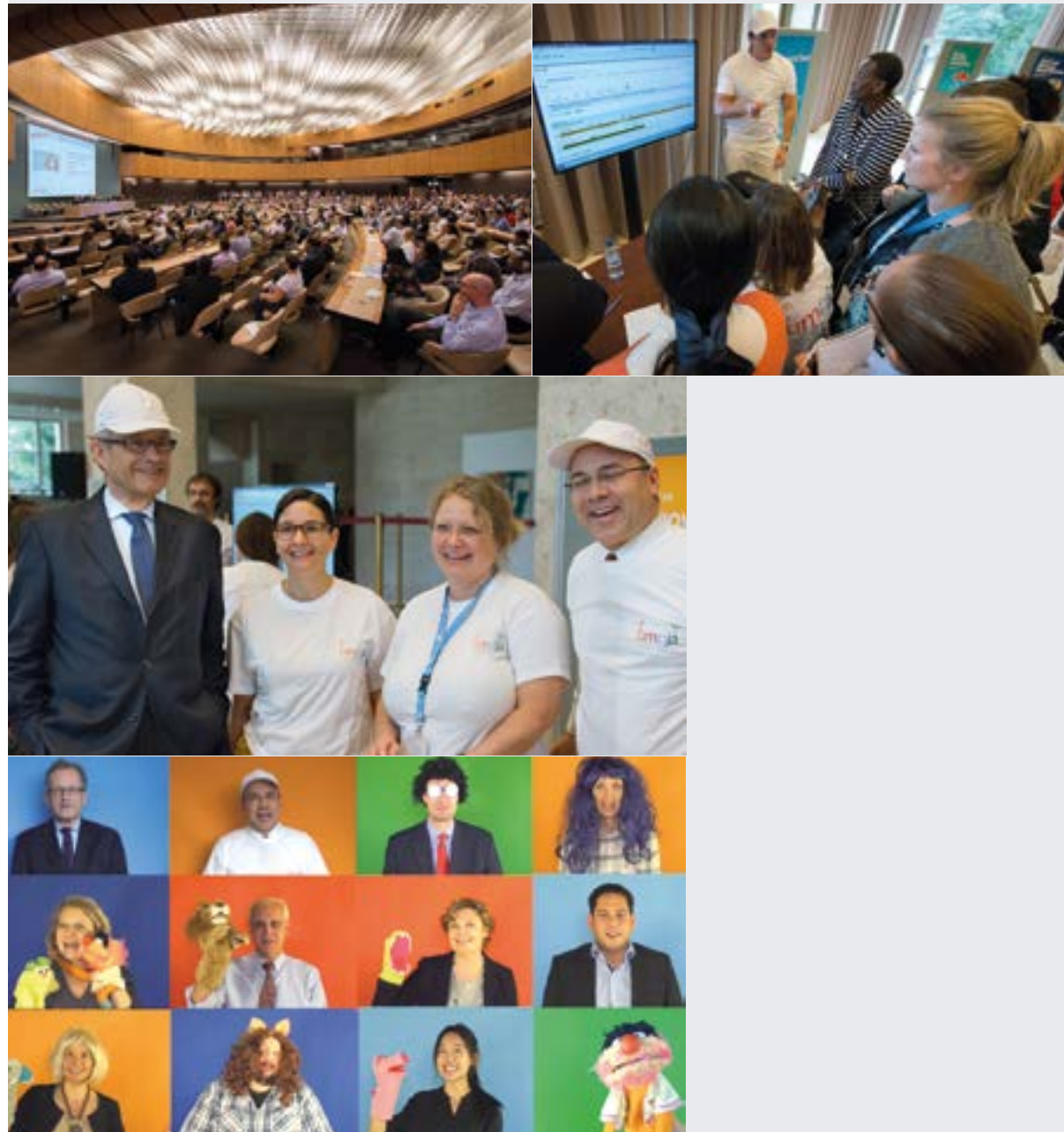
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Innovation

To better meet the challenges of today and the future, UNOG is developing innovative approaches to sustainable infrastructure, training, and business technologies. In 2015, UNOG overhauled its work practices with the adoption of Umoja, the UN's enterprise resource management system that enables high-quality and cost-effective service delivery to clients, and offered a variety of new tools for delegates, visitors and staff.

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- 3,500** staff attended face-to-face Umoja training sessions
- 4,500** travel requests processed in the Umoja travel module
- 5,000+** clients supported by the Geneva Umoja Team
- 5,000** payroll transactions in Umoja each month
- 6,500** Umoja support tickets issued and problems resolved in Geneva
- 21,000** enrolments in online courses about Umoja

Special feature

Transforming the United Nations into a more modern and flexible organization: Umoja goes live in Geneva

Umoja, an administrative reform initiative designed to help the UN operate more efficiently, was successfully launched on 3 June for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (in cluster 3) and on 9 November for the United Nations Office at Geneva (in cluster 4). Support for both **deployments** was provided by the Geneva Umoja Team.

The transition to Umoja was an immense undertaking for UNOG. The Geneva Umoja Team worked tirelessly, sometimes around the clock, to make Umoja's "go-live" a success. The team coordinated seamlessly with business streams, administrative services and the 30+ clients located in Geneva, Bonn and The Hague to bring Umoja across the finish line.

"With Umoja becoming operational, the UN makes a giant stride towards becoming an organization on the cutting edge of the business technologies required in the 21st century to meet the expectations of our Member States," said Michael Møller, Director-General of UNOG. To reach this milestone, UNOG set up the Geneva Umoja Deployment Centre, where staff from different support services provided hands-on assistance with the new platform.

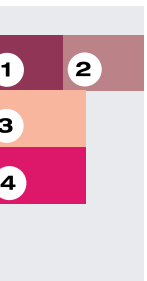
Umoja has transformed the way the UN does business, for example through the introduction of paperless processes and the innovative restructuring of certain service areas. UNOG provided extensive training, both in person and online, to get more than 5,000 staff members ready to use the new system. The Geneva Umoja Training Team developed a tool that generated an individual training plan for each staff member, based on the roles that they had been assigned in Umoja. About 3,500 participants attended face-to-face training sessions and more than 21,000 online courses were completed, giving Geneva the highest training rate out

of the UN duty stations where Umoja was introduced in 2015.

Geneva established an effective network of "super users", who provide administrative support to other users. These 228 staff members received more in-depth training and took part in periodic meetings, which prepared them to give hands-on assistance to their colleagues once Umoja was up and running. The super users proved indispensable when all general support systems were overwhelmed immediately after the go-live.

Communications to staff about Umoja and how to be prepared for it were another important element of UNOG's implementation strategy. Regular town hall meetings and two open days were held and useful information was continuously shared to keep staff and managers informed about Umoja-related issues. To celebrate the successful implementation of this dramatic change, UNOG developed a short **go-live video**.

As with any major change, stabilization of the new system will take time and will require the continuous efforts of all involved. Umoja is more than just new software: it is a new tool that will foster a larger business transformation. While challenges always outweigh the expected benefits at the start of a major transformation, UNOG is already observing some improvements. The payroll is running successfully and on time in Umoja and with fewer exceptions than in the previous system. So far, however, Umoja requires noticeably more manpower than the previous system. Challenges for 2016 include standardizing business processes, implementing successful reporting, managing the administrative support backlog, and getting used to working on a global system rather than a local one.



1-Town hall meeting on Umoja (UN Photo: Matija Potocnik) **2**-Umoja Open Day (UN Photo: Matija Potocnik) **3**-From left to right: Michael Møller, Director-General of UNOG, Daniela Wuerz, Umoja communications focal point, Sabine Bhanot, Umoja training coordinator, and Clemens Adams, Director of the Division of Administration, celebrate the launch of Umoja at UNOG. (UN Photo: Matija Potocnik) **4**-Geneva Umoja go-live video

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Communicating about change

As we marked our 70th anniversary, and looked back at our collective achievements, we were keenly aware that we live in a changing world. If the United Nations is to remain a competitive and relevant organization, it needs to change in step with the realities of today.

Three major projects at UNOG, each one related to a different kind of change, picked up pace in 2015. **Umoja** signals changes in our digital infrastructure, the **Strategic Heritage Plan** is the blueprint for changes in our physical infrastructure and the **Perception Change Project** addresses changes in our mindsets and in how we and our clients perceive our work.

Although each one has its own objectives and targets a specific area, they face a common challenge: effective communication about the project to our colleagues and external partners. Communicating about changes is not always easy, and may require significant collaboration among departments to make sure that people receive all the information they need. That's why the Umoja, Strategic Heritage Plan and Perception Change Project teams came together to work out how to communicate about their projects in a coordinated way, and decided to set up “change infobooths”.

The infobooths were designed to highlight the five most important points that people should know about these projects, and they also show how UNOG is working with change on multiple fronts. The booths were constructed in-house from recycled materials, making them an almost no-cost product. The approach used in designing and producing the booths is testament that UNOG is changing the way it does business and moving towards a more integrated, collaborative and resource-efficient way of working.

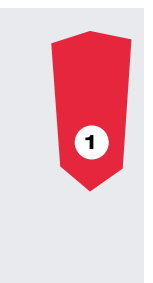
Having received positive feedback from staff and visitors alike, the Umoja, Strategic Heritage Plan and Perception Change Project teams will continue collaborating in order to ensure that staff are continuously kept informed of important change initiatives affecting the UN in Geneva.

The CERN model as a template for global cooperation on sustainable development

UNOG and CERN continued to strengthen their cooperation in science, technology, innovation and education, as well as in peace and sustainable development, throughout 2015.

The value of the CERN model of cooperation for building trust across boundaries and for strengthening the provision of global public goods in a rapidly changing international context was explored at a symposium on 2 November designed to contribute to realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The event was co-hosted by UNOG and CERN and was organized with the support of France and Switzerland. It brought together policymakers, scientists and representatives of civil society to look at how to build synergies across communities in order to move forward with global objectives. The aim was to add fresh voices to the debate that could help in shaping creative approaches and building new partnerships to address the challenges of today.



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UNOG first aid training courses have helped to save lives

Training course on the use of defibrillators

A two-hour training course entitled “Introduction to the use of defibrillators” was set up in 2011. Its purpose is to learn and practise all the emergency procedures to be performed in the event of cardiac arrest, using manikins and training defibrillators.

A shorter training course on the same subject is also available to staff in the form of a one-hour lecture. It covers the essential things to be aware of in the event of cardiac arrest, including how to alert the emergency services and what to do until the arrival of their specialized staff. This brief training course is also provided to the Visitors’ Service guides and meeting servicing assistants.

To date, some 600 UNOG staff members have benefited from one of these training courses and eight public access defibrillators have been installed in the Palais des Nations.

Training course on what to do when a person is choking

A 15-minute training course was introduced in 2014 to explain what steps to take when an adult or child is choking. In 2015, the training course was held in a public place, Door 6, so that all those who were interested could take part. The training course was also provided for the restaurant services staff.

Contributing to the UN’s emergency response efforts

UNOG’s Division of Administration offers a number of services allowing staff members to be safely and efficiently deployed to some of the world’s most difficult emergency situations. The Human Resources Management Service provides special 24-hour support that the [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs \(OCHA\)](#) uses to develop emergency rosters of staff who are ready to be deployed at a moment’s notice. In 2015, there were 15 emergency deployments – 12 to the Central African Republic and 3 to Nepal.

The UNOG Medical Service provided training in 2015 in Ariana Park, on first aid in the field, to 16 staff members on OCHA’s emergency roster. It also prepared and distributed fact sheets with the latest health recommendations for staff deployed in specific regions. OCHA subsequently transmitted the fact sheets to its staff worldwide and made medical kits available.

The Medical Service worked with the [United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response](#) and [United Nations Volunteers](#) on medical coordination for the deployment of 98 staff to Liberia, 45 to Guinea and 43 to Sierra Leone. Beyond the [Ebola crisis](#), the Medical Service provided a comprehensive set of services to some 4,000 international UN volunteers in 2015.

The [Staff Development and Learning Section](#) supported the UN’s emergency efforts by developing learning programmes to better service colleagues in the field via online platforms and webinar solutions. In addition to developing intensive distance-learning programmes for Arabic, English, French and Spanish to make rapid language immersion easier, SDLS is currently piloting a number of targeted management and development programmes to better support staff carrying out emergency and humanitarian response work.

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I saved a life

Account by Cyrille-Lazare Siewe,
United Nations Environment
Programme

I saw a man (55-60 years old) who, after he had put his shopping into his car, passed out while he was pushing his shopping trolley back to the entrance of the shopping mall where I was standing. Suddenly he slowed down, collapsed and fell down near me clutching his chest. He showed all the signs of a heart attack.

Since I had attended the UNOG training course on cardiac defibrillators, I knew how to recognize such devices. One of the pieces of advice that our trainer had given us was to look out for defibrillators in places we frequented. I had noticed that there was one near the entrance of the shopping mall. So I rushed to fetch the defibrillator — which was less than 10 metres away — removed the plastic cover and switched it on. I told the man's wife, who was panicking, to let me deal with the situation and to call the fire brigade immediately. After removing the man's shirt, I placed the electrodes on his chest, charged the device and delivered the shock. I must say that the devices are relatively easy to use. Of course, the manual had explicit instructions about how to position the electrodes, but I did not have time to read it.

After delivering the first shock, I followed up with the chest compressions that we had also learned during the UNOG training course and that I know

how to do quite well because I also did some first aid training several years ago. A few minutes later, the man opened his eyes. I asked his wife to talk to him, he whispered something. I continued the chest compressions until the firemen arrived shortly after. Once there, they took charge of the situation and I explained how the man had passed out and what I had done.

The training offered by the UNOG medical service is very important. If I had not done the training, I would have still helped the man as I had already done a first aid training course. However, because that was long ago, I would not have achieved the same results, especially since, at that time, first aid training did not cover how to use a defibrillator. I think it would be good if this type of training could be more widely disseminated within UNOG, I strongly recommend that. We ourselves, our relatives or colleagues could all suffer a heart attack one day.

Saving a colleague from choking

Account by Pamela Cramer,
Office for the Coordination of
Humanitarian Affairs

The quiet of an ordinary afternoon was broken by the sound of my colleague almost retching with the frustration of trying and failing to fill her lungs. I ran to her office with two others and found her choking. I said what I could to calm her and I let her know I was about to act. Then I grasped her from behind and formed a tight fist against her sternum, which I struck with my other fist. I did this a second time, with some force. The object obstructing her windpipe was released and she returned to breathing normally. She was impressively calm for someone who had been through such a trauma.

It was possible to resolve this drama, brought on by an ordinary piece of chocolate, thanks to the excellent full-day emergency first aid training I had received 18 months earlier from the medical team in the Palais des Nations. The training was designed for experts on the OCHA emergency roster who were liable to be deployed in the near future to the deep field. Chief medical officer Pascal Achard and nurses Dominique Vanzo and Jennifer Underhill delivered the training. It was Dominique who showed us how to prevent choking by using the Heimlich manoeuvre. His demonstration and explanation made a lasting impression on me.

I'm thankful to have learned some highly practical skills from our medical experts. This incident was a salutary reminder of how very important it is to be able to apply

basic first aid, even in what appear to be everyday circumstances. On the day in question, the "deep field" turned out to be my very own office in Geneva.

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Saving lives through preparedness

Ensuring that UNOG Security and Safety Service personnel have the most up-to-date tools and training is key to meeting both current and future security needs. The 2015 training programme included comprehensive instruction on first aid, fire prevention, screening for biological and radioactive hazards and weapons, and use of the emergency trauma bag which contains life-saving equipment and medical supplies.

Essential training exercises were also conducted with the Host Country and other UN entities in Geneva. A highlight was a simulation exercise that took place on 25 August with the security forces of the Host Country in which there was a VIP helicopter evacuation from the Palais des Nations.



1-Contents of the emergency trauma bag (UN Photo) **2**-Helicopter evacuation exercise, being carried out by the Host Country and UNOG's Security and Safety Service (UN Photo)

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Our part in greening the United Nations and promoting biodiversity

As part of the UN's goal to become climate-neutral, UNOG has developed a strong greening policy that applies both to the Palais des Nations and to the park that surrounds it. Sustained efforts meant that UNOG's energy consumption between 2010 and 2015 decreased by 30% in respect of fuel and 9% in respect of electricity. This was made possible by renovating existing spaces with newer, more energy-efficient equipment, installing new technologies such as solar panels for electricity and water heating, and using lake water for cooling. The Building Management System is at the heart of UNOG's greening efforts. It continuously monitors conditions, and controls heating, cooling and lighting throughout the Palais des Nations to ensure that resources are used as efficiently as possible.

Greening and sustainability were key objectives in the renovation of Hall 13/15 of the Palais des Nations. This 2,400-square-metre space includes five new meeting rooms of different sizes and configurations, as well as a flexible space for gatherings and events. Energy-efficient equipment was also used for the installation of new bathrooms and elevators in the Palais des Nations.

UNOG places special emphasis on biodiversity and green groundskeeping. In 2015, over 30,000 bulbs were planted in Ariana Park, thanks to a generous donation. The extensive planting of flowers is one of the many features that make the Palais des Nations such a unique conference venue and working environment. On the esplanade of the Cour d'Honneur, flower beds were created

inside grass squares. They are perceived by the eye as a field of flowers from the ground and as geometric shapes from above. The flower beds were planted for much more than just their beauty: with 14 types of flowers that nurture honey bees and other insects, they contribute to the biodiversity of Ariana Park. They are also environmentally friendly, as they require less water than the grass they replaced.

To further expand the biodiversity of Ariana Park – a veritable botanical garden in its own right – 27 different kinds of fruit trees were planted in 2015 on the large wildflower meadow beneath Villa la Pelouse. Apples, quinces, plums, pears, cherries and many other kinds of fruit now grow there. In 2016, a flower prairie will be created.

UNOG will continue to improve energy efficiency in its renovation projects, and to comply with the Host Country's regulations on sustainability and greening.



1-Building Management System (Photo: United Nations Information Service in Geneva) 2-A greener and more sustainable Hall 13/15 (UN Photo) 3-UNOG gardener in Ariana Park (UN Photo) 4-(UN Photo) 5-Cour d'Honneur (UN Photo: Philippe Hug) 6-(UN Photo: Pierre Masson) 7-(UN Photo: Stephanie Loose) 8-UNOG gardener watering the newly planted fruit trees (UN Photo)

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UNOG social media
accounts



@UNGeneva
@UNOG_DG
@UNOGPolitical
@UNOGLibrary
@GenevaImpact



UNGeneva
UNOGLibrary



UNGeneva



UNISGeneva



UNinformationGeneva

“UN Geneva” is also on:



New UNOG calendar app



The UNOG calendar is now available as an application for mobile devices. Delegates, journalists, representatives of NGOs and members of the public have downloaded the app, which was launched in June 2015. Users have expressed appreciation for the quick access that it provides to information about events and meetings held by UN system organizations in Geneva.

The app provides a list of events that users can filter by type (conferences and meetings, press and media, cultural events or other events), by time band (daily, weekly or monthly) or by organization. There is a map for each event, showing the location of the meeting room.

The calendar app is available via a [link on the UNOG website](#). Information downloaded remains in the app for offline consultation. Specific events can be saved as favourites (“my events”) for quick reference.

The application is available in English and French.

Transforming data into knowledge

A strong research base is vital to development. By putting its collections, experience and spaces at the service of researchers, the UNOG Library helps spark the innovation that feeds economic growth.

The Library’s [Unified Resource Management System](#) is a web-based tool that helps make the leap from stored information to new knowledge. In 2015, it received a quarter of a million hits.

Innovation in communications: using social media for inclusiveness

Social media is empowering, accessible, and with an internet connection, largely free. For the United Nations, social media platforms are an important tool for communicating with constituents around the world, and for building communities of supporters for far-reaching initiatives such

as the Sustainable Development Goals. Using UNOG’s accounts on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#), [Periscope](#), [Flickr](#) and Snapchat, we can invite everyone into the Palais des Nations virtually and take them to the heart of our work.

Enter “UN Geneva” into a search engine and the top hits will be UNOG’s social media platforms. By the end of 2015, UNOG had 167,000 followers on its @UNGeneva Twitter account. Forty thousand people were following the UN Geneva Facebook page and were sharing posts in their news feed that reached an average of 170,000 other users and often more. There had been over 40,000 views of its videos on YouTube. UNOG reaches a wide and influential global audience, publishing a fast-paced mix of news, coverage of high-level events, campaigns, behind-the-scenes content, photos and videos, in English and French.

A key part of UNOG’s communications work is to engage young people on UN issues. With more competition than ever for attention, it is vital to provide the key facts clearly and concisely under an eye-catching headline, together with a great photo or video message. People are keen to help UN stories to “go viral”, and social media allows people to feel consulted about UN actions and involved in them. Social media is also a chance to show the human face of the Organization: the view from behind the podium or what’s happening outside the meeting room. The effect is greater transparency, and for people around the world, a better understanding of how the UN operates.

Digital diplomacy plays an important role too: with [62 permanent missions](#) to UNOG now on Twitter, the way Member States engage with each other and with the UN is changing. For an event such as Open Day at UNOG, it allowed a new level of cooperation and a chance for everyone to shine a spotlight on their work, no matter how limited their resources.

Listen [here](#) to UNOG’s social media coordinator, Gisella Lomax, discussing the advantages and opportunities of reaching out through social media for large international organizations.

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UNOG's annual report: from aide-memoire to interactive multimedia app

In May 1995, UNOG issued a black-and-white pamphlet giving information about its operations and its relationship with Headquarters in New York and the rest of the UN system. This text-only aide-memoire was a traditional author-centred narrative. Rich in background information, it described reform efforts, as well as the UN's 50th anniversary celebrations.

Twenty years later, in March 2015, UNOG released its 2014 annual report in hard copy, as an online interactive pdf and as a multimedia app for mobile devices. Photos and infographics brought a visual dimension to the text, highlighting the impact and relevance of UNOG's activities. The interactive pdf included links to videos and background information. The app added interactive features, such as photo galleries, hotspots and panoramas.

We designed the app to let the viewer control the flow of information, share it on social media and send comments directly to UNOG. This multimedia format created a layered experience for the viewer, who could quickly scan the information and, as interest and time allowed, explore the varied content in depth.

This 2015 annual report continues the multimedia, viewer-centred approach, relaying the serious work of UNOG in an engaging way.

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Making it work

A strong support network behind the scenes is key to the success of the nearly 13,000 conferences and meetings that take place each year at UNOG and also away from Geneva. Throughout the year, UNOG provided essential conference, administrative, security, logistical and technical support to ensure the smooth running of these events.

United Nations Office
at Geneva

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Special feature

UNOG supports climate action at COP 21

At the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, also known as COP 21, all nations of the world found consensus in a historic agreement to tackle climate change. The Paris Agreement was born after two weeks of intense negotiations, and was hailed as a “monumental triumph” by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The success of the conference was in no small part due to the hard work of many United Nations staff members behind the scenes and at the conference site in Le Bourget. They included around 150 UNOG staff who travelled on mission to Paris to provide essential security, conference, documentation, interpretation and communication support.

Staff from UNOG’s Security and Safety Service spent up to four weeks at Le Bourget, fulfilling various roles across the site: from carrying out security checks on up to 24,000 delegates, journalists and staff who came in daily through the access control area, to the sensitive work of taking care of delegations – particularly on the opening day when an unprecedented 150 Heads of State attended. They also gave security briefings to some 800 UN personnel who had come to work at Le Bourget from offices around the world, including representatives of funds, programmes and agencies. One security officer who was able to see a TV screen in the access control area described the moment that the Paris Agreement was adopted: “I heard the applause through the monitor, and I felt proud to have been a part of this process.”

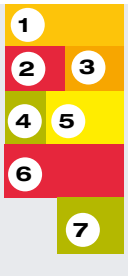
A member of the United Nations Information Service in Geneva joined the Department of Public Information delegation to provide social media coverage of the Conference, which

reached millions and featured Snapchat videos of the Secretary-General being interviewed by Leonardo DiCaprio, Twitter messages from Heads of State, and behind-the-scenes insights from Le Bourget. The result was a far-reaching digital presence that contributed to the high profile that COP 21 kept in the world’s media for the two-week duration and beyond.

A team of some 60 interpreters also took part, covering all six official UN languages. The interpreters worked around the clock to make sure the all-night negotiations could continue; these were at their most intense on the Friday before the deal was agreed. Despite the complexity and pressure of the event, they kept their enthusiasm. One said: “I not only felt inspired by the importance of the occasion, but proud to contribute to a major diplomatic achievement.” Some found themselves unexpectedly in the limelight, as television channels carried their voices across the world. A number of the interpreters received congratulations via text message from family and friends who had just heard their voices on television, and one interpreter who had delivered the Russian-language version of President Obama’s address received a congratulatory text message from Mikhail Gorbachev, last president of the Soviet Union.

One of the 20 documentation officers had the key role of printing and distributing the final Paris Agreement. Reflecting on that moment, he said: “I knew that I was handing out the world-climate-saving historical blueprint, unanimously agreed upon by 193 nations, with the presence and influence of 156 Heads of State. COP 21 will forever remain a highlight in my United Nations career.”

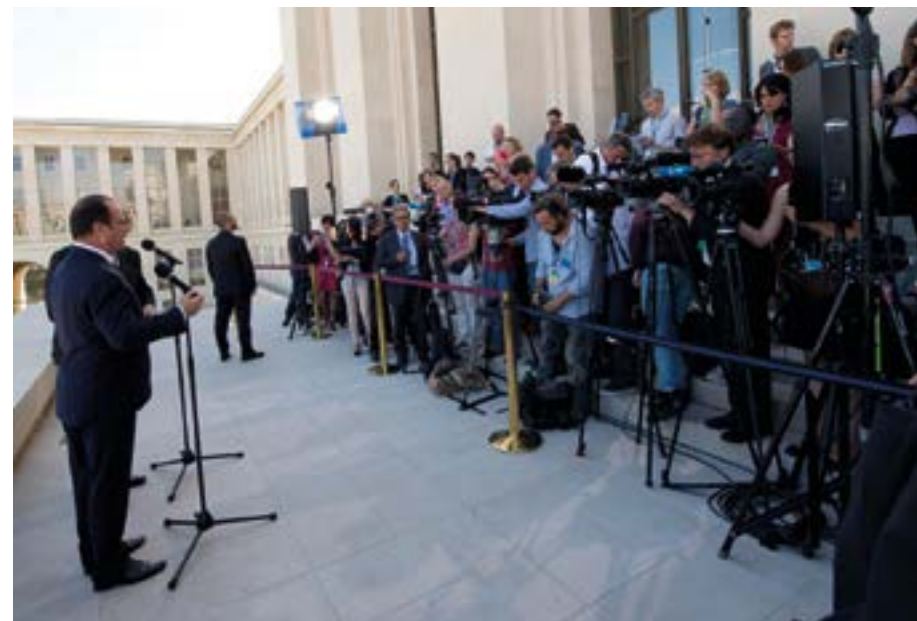
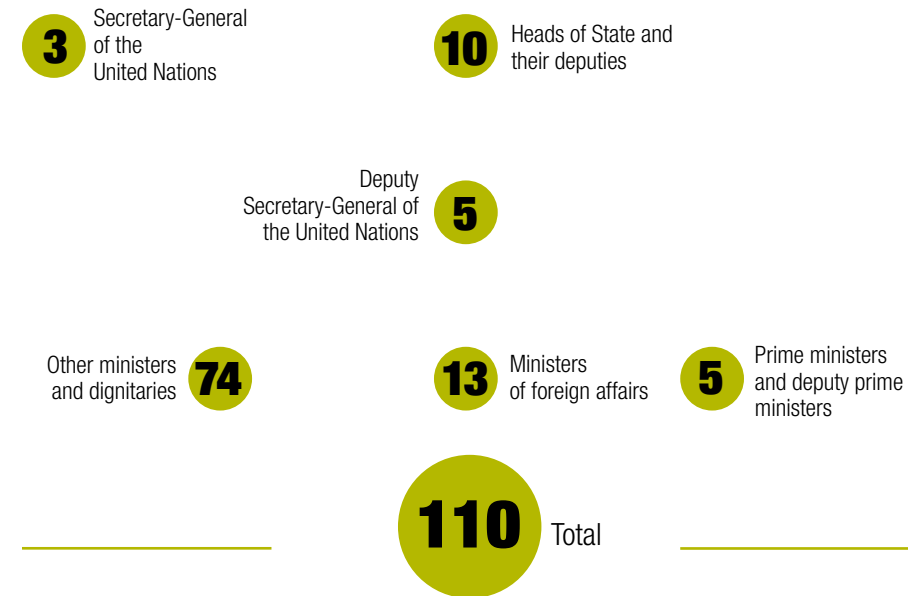
To stay up to date with the latest news on climate change, click [here](#).



1-UN security and safety staff from various duty stations, including UNOG, pose for a photograph at COP 21 (UN Photo) **2**-Documentation officers from UNOG hand out copies of a new draft agreement at COP 21 (UN Photo: Hendrik Colas) **3**-French interpreter from UNOG, Olga Markides, putting language labels on booths (UN Photo: Delphine Brunel) **4**-Delphine Brunel, of UNOG, interpreting President Obama’s address into French (UN Photo: Delphine Brunel) **5**-(UN Photo: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) **6**-COP 21 opening plenary (UN Photo: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) **7**-UNOG social media coordinator Gisella Lomax helps Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, to record a “climate action” video message on a Twitter mirror for the 5.5 million followers of the @UN Twitter account. (UN Photo: Natabara Rollosson)

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Total number of high-level visits in 2015



Supporting major conferences

UNOG plays an important, often invisible role in supporting major conferences and events that meet the evolving needs of organizers, delegates and participants. It provides the venue, as well as essential conference, administrative, logistical, technical and documentation support, for the annual discussions of UN specialized agencies and subsidiary bodies. UNOG is also working to ensure that the conference rooms, offices and interpretation booths, and all the other spaces used by the secretariats and by outside service providers, meet the most recent standards for accessibility and safety, including for users with disabilities.

Among the events hosted in 2015 were the 68th World Health Assembly, at which Angela Merkel, Federal Chancellor of Germany, gave an opening address on 18 May, and the 104th session of the International Labour Conference, which opened on 1 June. A number of high-level guests, including François Hollande, President of France, Juan Carlos Varela Rodríguez, President of Panama, and Kailash Satyarthi, 2014 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, addressed the Conference. Other major events included the Economic and Social Council's Humanitarian Affairs Segment, held on 17-19 June, the 66th session of UNHCR's Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, held on 5-9 October, and the 10th UNCTAD Debt Management Conference which was held on 23-25 November and featured a keynote address by Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland.

UNOG also continued to provide crucial support to the [Human Rights Council in 2015](#). Servicing the Council's 28th, 29th and 30th sessions involved facilitating the passage of high-level visitors through the protocol and security services, assisting with the accreditation of non-governmental organizations, providing conference, documentation, IT and technical support, and webcasting the proceedings.

To support the growing demand for videoconferencing, UNOG's Information and Communication Technology Service installed new videoconferencing equipment in 2015 in meeting rooms I, IV, VII and IX. Videoconference links with other duty stations were also greatly improved. Furthermore, the telephone system for listening to conferences remotely was upgraded. This service is available at any time by dialling +41 22 917 0901 or, from within UNOG, extension 70901.

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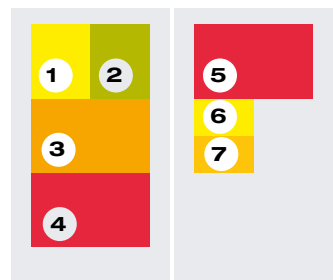
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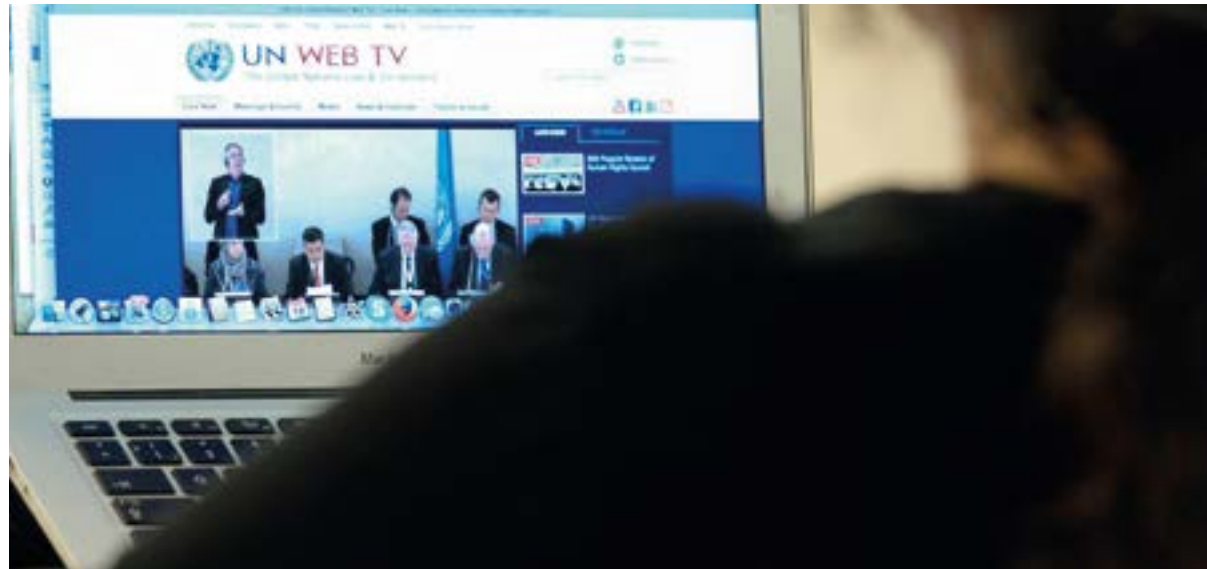
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1-Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland, speaks at the 10th UNCTAD Debt Management Conference. (UN Photo: Jean-Philippe Escard) **2**-Nicolás Maduro Moros, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, addresses a special meeting of the Human Rights Council. (UN Photo: Jess Hoffman) **3**-Mahmoud Selman Abbas, President of the State of Palestine, during a special meeting of the Human Rights Council (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **4**-Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, speak to the press about the world's humanitarian crises. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **5**-Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, welcomes Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, at Geneva Airport. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **6**-Session of the Economic and Social Council's Humanitarian Affairs Segment (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **7**-High-level segment of the 28th session of the Human Rights Council (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



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Nous remercions les représentants de la société civile, une société active et énergique... *[énergique]*
... should be aligned with the Rome Statue... *[Statute]*
I would like to thank everyone present for attending this meeting; you are welcome to it. *[you are all very welcome]*
New projects that the charity is running include vocational training for graduating students and chicken farms to be managed by their mothers. *[the students' mothers]*
Pour établir des prévisions, il faudra effectuer la collecte de dattes aussitôt que possible. *[données]*
Any further developments will be dully reported at the next session. *[duly]*

UN webcasting

In 2015, more than 750 hours of live events were webcast from the Palais des Nations and over 1,350 videos were archived on UN Web TV – an increase of more than 100 hours of coverage from Geneva since 2014. The special focus of the webcasting remained the Human Rights Council sessions in the Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room and the media conferences in room III. These rooms are equipped with automated camera systems. The Human Rights Council webcasts draw the largest live audience, averaging 2,000 unique viewers per day from more than 170 countries.

For many stakeholders, webcasts mean better access to the UN's meetings in Geneva. "Through having the webcast, I am able to share with my colleagues, and with our members what their government has said about human rights in their countries," says Amnesty International advocacy adviser Marianne Lilliebjerg, "and I am also able to share with them what statements we have made on their behalf".

Additional highlights in 2015 were the Geneva Peace Talks, followed by twice as many viewers as the 2014 talks, the "Pianists for Peace" concert, streamed simultaneously on UN Web TV and YouTube, and the UNOG-CERN symposium.

Edited documents, clear communication

The UN has its own editorial standards. They have been developed to ensure consistency in text and in the way it is presented, and they are also a reference point for institutions that are not part of the UN.

Editors are language professionals who ensure clarity and accuracy, resolve ambiguities and apply correct UN terminology. Editors work in their own native language.

The documents and publications edited at UNOG support the work of the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the human rights treaty bodies, the International Law Commission, the Joint Inspection Unit and other Geneva-based UN bodies, and the issues dealt with are frequently in the world news.

Editing is an important ingredient for translating documents and publications into the other official UN languages, because it gives translators correct and cohesive text to work with.

Edited versions provide interpreters with correct country-specific terminology, and help them to understand the details of discussions they will have to interpret.

UNOG's Editing Section edits in all six official languages. It hosts interns, does outreach within the UN system for authors of documents, and regularly provides editorial support to the Economic Commission for Africa, particularly for its annual conference of ministers held jointly with the African Union.



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The right words: UN terminology available to all

An English-language translator working on an urgent human rights report written in Russian comes across the word **возмещение**. She finds that in the past it has been translated mostly as *reparation*, but sometimes as *redress*. These two words have different meanings in English. Why the discrepancy in the translations? Which is right for this report?

Her French-language colleague working on a study of unfair trade practices comes across the term *price fixing*, and immediately thinks of the French *entente sur les prix*. But do the two mean the same thing? Always? Translators and editors need fast, reliable answers if they are to meet tight deadlines.

When you translate over 70 million words a year on such a vast range of subjects, consistent terminology across all six official languages is vital. Otherwise, things quickly get complicated.

In recent years there has been a shift away from separate glossaries for each combination of languages, towards rich terminological data in a centralized database. To reach the state of the art, the challenge was to develop a global database for United Nations terminology that is searchable through a single portal. Geneva's new Terminology Unit is one of the key players bringing this multi-year endeavour to fruition, along with teams in New York, Vienna and Nairobi and at the regional economic commissions.

Geneva's terminologists verified the compatibility between their existing terminology database and the database for the new UN-wide portal, and resolved the conflicts. Then they played an important role in testing and debugging the new database and portal. In July 2015, the project took a big leap forward with the migration of nearly 100,000 records from the Geneva terminology database to the UN global database.

Today, the new **UNTERM portal** is the principal terminology resource for authors across the UN system as they prepare information and reports for Member

States, and for translators, editors and interpreters. It is freely available for everyone to use. A demonstration video is available [here](#).

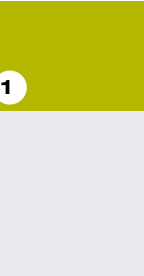
TAPTA4UN: helping to create the best possible translation

Machine translation for the general public is now booming. This is thanks in part to Google Translate, which is based on the statistical approach rather than the older rule-based approach. With the statistical approach, the better the raw material is, the better the end result will be.

TAPTA4UN – *try it!* – is a machine translation system that is the result of collaboration between the World Intellectual Property Organization and the UN. It uses the statistical approach and, crucially, its memory is fed only with UN documents. This makes it the most accurate system for machine translation at the UN.

Letting the software take care of mechanical tasks means that translators can focus their energies on the aspects of translation that only humans can do. This way, translators can create the best possible text.

Another advantage of TAPTA4UN is that it is integrated into a broader computer-assisted translation tool called eLUNa, which brings together machine translation, previously translated texts (bitexts), and correct, verified terminology. In TAPTA4UN, when the automatic translation of a sentence is correct, the translator just has to click on Apply to validate it. If it needs a minor correction, the translator makes that adjustment. If the software comes up with a translation that is incorrect, it is better to retranslate the sentence from scratch.



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Supporting UN field missions

UNOG's Security and Safety Service provided 112 personnel to support UN work in the Central African Republic, Libya, Yemen and other locations in 2015. Their responsibilities included coordinating the close protection of high-level UN officials, making security assessments, planning and undertaking missions, liaising with government and local officials, and above all, ensuring the safety and security of UN staff in the country.

Also, for the first time, two officers from UNOG served as trainers for the UN's Security Certification Programme, in Bangui, Central African Republic.

The Security Certification Programme is organized by the Department of Safety and Security in New York. The training session was held on 11 and 12 May, at the headquarters of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). In an interview, Sergeant Maurizio Enna was asked about his experience of being an instructor on a field mission, and said: "I am convinced that the real work of UN security officers is not in headquarters locations where the living and working conditions are easy. It is in the field that we find the true sense of our mission."

International Law Commission

The mandate of the International Law Commission – to work towards the progressive development and codification of international law – remains vital. In 2015, UNOG hosted the Commission's 34 members at the 67th annual session.

The 67th session focused on: 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, the protection of the atmosphere, crimes against humanity, and *jus cogens*.

The UNOG Library played an important role in supporting the International Law Commission's work. Commission member Sir Michael Wood said that the legal section of the library was an excellent resource and that he hoped the library would continue to be funded adequately.

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UNOG Library: sharing knowledge and expertise since 1919

“The emergence of a new post-2015 development agenda and a rapidly evolving global context makes access to knowledge and information for key actors more essential than ever. High-quality knowledge and information is central to the effectiveness and overall success of the United Nations in implementing the new development agenda.”

Report of the Secretary-General on the consultations on research, training and library services.

When it comes to finding relevant information, experience is crucial. With collections dating back to 1919, the UNOG Library is the UN's oldest and largest, and the scale of its operations and range of its services are without equal in the UN system.

The UNOG Library offers an information network that spans the globe, with full access to e-resources from all mobile devices. It has paper collections which, if laid out in a single row, would stretch for over 46 kilometres. Attracting more than 50,000 customers a year, the UNOG Library has a leading role as a centre for international research and understanding.

Libraries without borders

Periodicals, books and electronic information are spread widely across the many UN libraries. In these days of globalization and limited resources, instead of duplicating collections, we are sharing collections.

The United Nations Library and Information Network for Knowledge Sharing (UN-LINKS) is the forum for libraries of the UN system or associated with the UN to share know-how and best practices. The UNOG Library, the oldest and largest library in the diverse network, is the current Chair of UN-LINKS. At its meeting

held on 26-28 August in Hamburg, Germany, UN-LINKS brought together 35 senior managers and information professionals from 28 organizations to discuss practical cooperation on substantive and technical issues.

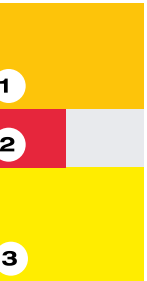
Taking part were the UNOG Library, the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, the United Nations Library in Vienna, the Library of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Library of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Library of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Library of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

The participants agreed to establish procedures by which UN libraries can obtain materials for employees and authorized library users via interlibrary loan and other document delivery methods. Libraries in all UN duty stations are putting this arrangement into action.

International cooperation in archiving

The UNOG Library was elected to the board of the Section of International Organizations – part of the International Council on Archives – in recognition of its expertise in preserving institutional memory. The International Council on Archives promotes professional and scholarly cooperation between archivists.

In the context of the Digital Secretariat initiative, which will reduce the use of paper and implement paperless projects, and in order to determine best practices for this important venture, UNOG took part in the 41st annual meeting of the Section of International Organizations, held at the European Central Bank from 10 to 14 June, which examined the future of archives in the digital era, access to archives, and cooperation between international organizations.



1-The UNOG Library paper collections (UN Photo: Ursula Moehrle) 2-Celebrating International Day of Happiness with the UN Choir Geneva, at the UNOG Library (Photo: UNOG Library) 3-Consulting a newspaper in the Periodicals Reading Room (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)

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Timeless

UNOG promoted the enduring values of the United Nations Charter with celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of the UN and a number of international days and commemorative events. The Strategic Heritage Plan, a major project to renovate, restore and modernize the Palais des Nations for future generations, also remained a central focus in 2015.

United Nations Office
at Geneva

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Special feature

“I survived because of solidarity”, said Henri Borlant, the last living French survivor of Auschwitz, at the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

2015 saw the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, but also the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp. The United Nations Information Service in Geneva held an event on 27 January to mark **International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust**, during which the last living French survivor of Auschwitz, the remarkable Henri Borlant, shared his moving testimony. More than 500 people attended the ceremony, which included a concert of classical music.

The next day, Mr. Borlant told the story of his internment at Auschwitz and his escape, to 250 students from high schools in Geneva and neighbouring France, who were particularly moved when he showed them his tattooed identification number. The students also watched *The Last Flight of Petr Ginz*, a film about a brilliant Jewish boy who perished in the gas chambers of Auschwitz at the age of 16. By the age of 14, Petr Ginz had written five novels and kept a diary about the Nazi occupation of Prague, and by the age of 16, he had produced more than 170 drawings and paintings, edited an underground magazine in the Theresienstadt Ghetto and written numerous short stories. The film is a story not only of tragedy but also of celebration, a testament to how a boy’s sense of wonder and creative expression represent the best of what makes us human.

A group of students aged around 12 visited UNOG to learn about the Holocaust through art, in a way appropriate to their

age. They explored the work of Petr Ginz, and also visited the exhibition entitled “The World Knew: Jan Karski’s Mission for Humanity”. The exhibition tells the story of Jan Karski, who risked his life to make sure that the whole world knew about the horrors of the Holocaust. It was organized by UNOG’s Cultural Activities Programme and was made possible by the help of the Permanent Delegation of the European Union and the Permanent Missions of Israel and Poland.



1-(Source: UN) 2-Henri Borlant, a Holocaust survivor, speaking at the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) 3-Chamber music ensemble of the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) 4-Observance of International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, in the Assembly Hall (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) 5-Students take photographs with Henri Borlant, the last living French survivor of Auschwitz. (UN Photo: Gisella Lomax)

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STRATEGIC HERITAGE PLAN
SAFETY | SUSTAINABILITY | PATRIMONY



SHP OBJECTIVES

KEY DRIVERS

Preservation of the historic site by providing much-needed upgrades to the existing facilities that will allow it to function safely and efficiently for generations to come

Safer buildings through the correction of fire safety deficiencies and the removal of hazardous material

Increased accessibility for persons with disabilities

EXPECTED BENEFITS

Reduced operating costs through greater energy efficiencies and the consolidation of UN Secretariat operations

More functional and modern conference facilities

Additional and more flexible workplaces, with 25% office space efficiency gains (700 additional staff)

WHAT COMES NEXT?

2016: Completion of the design and the tender documentation for the new building, which will be used as swing space while the existing buildings are being renovated

2017: Selection of a construction contractor for the new building

2018: Completion of the design and selection of a contractor for the renovation of existing buildings

2019: Completion of the new building, which will start to be used as swing space

2019: Renovation of existing buildings begins

2022: Dismantling of the E building tower once the swing space is no longer needed

2023: Completion of the overall project

Strategic Heritage Plan

“The Palais des Nations is an important element of the heritage of Geneva and of Switzerland, but also of all Member States of the United Nations, and we have a duty to preserve and modernize it.”
Michael Møller, Director-General of UNOG

The foundation stone of the Palais des Nations was laid in September 1929 by the League of Nations, which had chosen Geneva as its headquarters in recognition of the city’s unique tradition of international diplomacy. Dissolved in April 1946, the League of Nations handed over its properties and assets to the United Nations Organization. The European Office of the United Nations was created in the Palais des Nations, formally becoming the United Nations Office at Geneva in 1966.

Today, the overall complex is 600 metres in length and has a total area of 234,000 square metres. There are 34 conference rooms, and offices for some 2,800 people, making the Palais des Nations the largest United Nations centre after the Headquarters in New York and one of Europe’s biggest conference centres.

Most of the buildings date from the 1930s and have not had a comprehensive renovation since then. The implementation of the Strategic Heritage Plan is essential for the Palais des Nations to continue to serve as a safe, cost-effective and sustainable conference centre that supports the UN’s mission of working for peace, rights and well-being.

Progress in 2015

UNOG made significant progress on the Strategic Heritage Plan in 2015. In addition to comprehensive renovations of the Palais des Nations building complex, the project includes the construction of a new building and the dismantling of the upper seven floors of the E building office tower. The following milestones were achieved:

- The General Assembly, in its resolution 70/248, approved the scope and schedule of the project, as well as its total estimated cost of CHF 836.5 million.
- The governance structure of the project was established, with a steering committee and an advisory board.
- The design and location for the new building were selected. It will be constructed next to the current E building.
- The feasibility study and in-depth site assessments and surveys were completed.
- The design master plan and the concept design were established and approved.
- Detailed design of the new building and renovation of the A and B buildings began.
- The Swiss Government reconfirmed its support for the Strategic Heritage Plan by offering an interest-free loan of CHF 400 million, a crucial contribution allowing the project to move forward on schedule.
- The Strategic Heritage Plan team is consulting extensively with staff, management and other stakeholders on the development of the design to ensure that the project meets all functional requirements and provides a safer, better-functioning and more efficient and accessible working environment.

Updated information is available on the Strategic Heritage Plan [website](#).

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Vision of a new humanity

Standing on the grassy slope in front of the Celestial Sphere in Ariana Park, world-renowned Italian artist Michelangelo Pistoletto, together with UNOG Director-General Michael Møller, Italian Ambassador and Permanent Representative Maurizio Serra and former Secretary-General Kofi Annan, inaugurated, on 24 October, a fitting tribute to the United Nations on 70th anniversary of its founding: a sculpture called “Rebirth”, donated by the artist.

The design was inspired by the mathematical sign for infinity. The sculpture is made up of 193 different stones, one for each Member State of the United Nations. Each stone weighs about 400 kilograms.

The sculpture features three circles: one symbolizes nature, one technology, and the third “new humanity”, where people work together to bridge differences for a more just and sustainable future.

“My dream is that the United Nations will bring us to this vision of a new humanity”, says the artist, arguing that people need to be “freer, but also more responsible”.

The “Rebirth” project in Ariana Park is an initiative of the United Nations Office at Geneva and the Economic Commission for Europe and was realized in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Italy. The installation was overseen by Cittadellarte-Fondazione Pistoletto, of Italy, and Art for the World, of Switzerland.

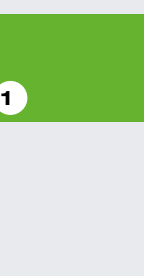
To view a short film on the making of the sculpture, click [here](#).

Fortieth anniversary of the Biological Weapons Convention

26 March 2015 saw the 40th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, more commonly known as the [Biological Weapons Convention](#). There are currently 173 States parties to the Convention and nine signatory States.

This was the world’s first treaty to ban an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. It was negotiated in Geneva over a period of three years by the predecessor to today’s Conference on Disarmament. The Convention’s [Implementation Support Unit](#) is based at UNOG.

To mark the anniversary, a commemorative event was held on 30 March in the Council Chamber of the Palais des Nations, the same room in which the [Convention](#) was originally negotiated. A montage of the event is available [here](#).



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International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda

“Remembering is important, because if you don’t remember, you don’t know where you are going.” – A survivor of the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda

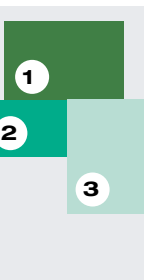
Mathilde Muhongerwa survived the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. She stayed alive in the midst of the massacres in which more than 800,000 of her compatriots – overwhelmingly Tutsi, but also moderate Hutu, Twa, and others – perished in less than three months.

Ms. Muhongerwa shared her harrowing and deeply moving story of survival, described the horrors of being buried alive, and delivered a message of tolerance and anti-discrimination, at a ceremony held at the Palais des Nations on 9 April to mark [International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda](#).

“The 100 days of horror in Rwanda is a stain on our collective conscience”, said Director-General Michael Møller, as the United Nations in Geneva paid tribute to the victims, pledged support for the survivors, and recognized the determination of the people of Rwanda in rebuilding their lives and their country after this dark chapter in its history.

Paying tribute to Ms. Muhongerwa and all other genocide survivors, Mr. Møller said: “As the human family, we need to draw inspiration from the survivors to have the courage to take early and decisive action in the face of human rights violations and incitement that far too easily can escalate into atrocity crimes. And as individuals, we must draw inspiration from their humanity, to ensure that we are guided by our own moral compass to react in the face of injustice, intolerance and inhumanity – wherever and whenever we may encounter it.”

1-Observance of International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **2**-François Xavier Ngarambé, Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) **3**-Mathilde Muhongerwa, a survivor of the genocide, speaks at the Palais des Nations on International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



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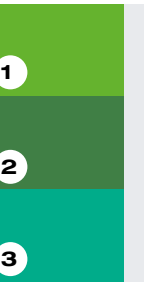


Together for peace: commemorating International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

Did you know that since the first peacekeeping operation commenced in 1948, more than 1 million men and women have donned the blue helmet and served as peacekeepers? This by far surpasses the total number of staff who have worked for the UN in all other capacities worldwide.

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers was on 29 May. The day was commemorated in Geneva on 2 June, at a ceremony in Ariana Park organized together with the International Association of Soldiers for Peace. The UN flag was raised and a wreath was laid, to pay tribute to the 125,000 peacekeepers serving in 16 UN operations around the globe and to honour the memory of the more than 3,400 men and women – including 126 in 2014 – who have lost their lives in the cause of peace.

A panel discussion with the theme “UN70 and UN peacekeeping past, present and future” looked at challenges that peacekeeping faces, in the light of the increasing demands on peacekeepers and the changing nature of conflicts. The panel noted that robust peacekeeping required unequivocal political and financial support from all stakeholders, as well as better training and equipment. Panellists emphasized that the keeping and building of peace was closely interlinked with human rights, humanitarian assistance and the rule of law.



1-(UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) 2-Commemorating International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, in Ariana Park (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré) 3-(UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)

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Commemoration of the 70th year of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki

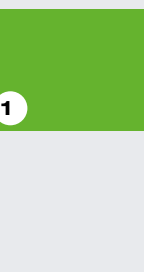
A delegation of Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Messengers delivered a petition in August to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs calling for a world free of nuclear weapons. The group, made up of high school students from Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Fukushima and other prefectures of Japan, included several second- and third-generation descendants of the victims and survivors of the atomic bombings.

Led by Tadako Kawazoe, a *hibakusha* (survivor), who had lived through the nuclear attack as a young child, the group met Marco Kalbusch, Officer-in-Charge of UNODA Geneva. The Peace Messengers presented their own stories and their visions for a world without nuclear weapons, and indicated that since 2001 their group had gathered 1,337,598 signatures in support of the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The Peace Messengers also presented UNODA with over 1,000 hand-folded paper cranes, as a symbol of their wish for peace and a nuclear-weapon-free world. Their gesture was based on an ancient Japanese legend that promises that a wish will be granted to anyone who makes a thousand of the origami birds. Origami cranes have become symbols of peace since Sadako Sasaki, a child survivor of the Hiroshima bombing who contracted leukaemia, folded paper cranes in the hope of being cured.

The Permanent Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament, in collaboration with UNOG, hosted a screening of the documentary *What Happened That Day*, followed by a panel discussion chaired by Ambassador Toshio Sano of Japan. Directed by Masaaki Tanabe, a survivor from Hiroshima, the film recreated the Hiroshima bombing through computer-generated graphics, allowing viewers to

see the impact and aftermath of the blast. Three Peace Messengers then spoke about their movement and underscored the urgency of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The event concluded with a panel discussion on the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, and a discussion between the students, delegates and NGO representatives on the future of nuclear disarmament.



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Inspiring the world's humanity: heroes honoured on World Humanitarian Day

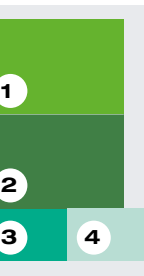
In 2014, 325 humanitarian workers were the victims of major attacks: 121 lost their lives and 120 were kidnapped. Over 3,000 humanitarian workers – nationals and internationals alike – have been victims of violent acts since 2000.

“We must do better to protect the humanitarian workers on the frontlines”, said Director-General Michael Møller to UNOG staff and humanitarian partners gathered on 19 August to honour all people who have lost their lives in humanitarian service and to celebrate the spirit that inspires humanitarian work around the world. This year’s World Humanitarian Day was dedicated to the selfless people who become heroes by saving lives, reducing suffering and restoring dignity to the unprecedented number of people affected by crises today.

The prestigious Sergio Vieira de Mello Award was presented on World Humanitarian Day to the Interfaith Peace Platform from the Central African Republic for promoting reconciliation and peace between the country’s warring groups. The Interfaith Peace Platform was established in 2013 by Dieudonné Nzapalainga, Catholic archbishop of Bangui, Oumar Kobine Layama, imam, and President of the country’s Islamic Council, and Nicolas Guerekoyame-Gbangou, pastor, and President of the Evangelical Alliance of Central Africa, to actively promote dialogue, starting at the grass-roots level, as a preventive measure against religious-based violence, and to pursue peace across the country. Following the example of the archbishop, who sheltered the imam in his house

at risk to his own life, churches and mosques protected tens of thousands of people who had sought sanctuary within their walls.

The designation of 19 August as World Humanitarian Day is an echo of that date in 2003 when 22 people died in an attack on the UN headquarters in Baghdad, including Sergio Vieira de Mello, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.



1-Observance of World Humanitarian Day at the Palais des Nations (UN Photo: Pierre Albouy) **2**-Debate on the impact of the Sustainable Development Goals on humanitarian work, held on World Humanitarian Day (UN Photo: Pierre Albouy) **3**-Presentation of the Sergio Vieira de Mello Award at the Palais des Nations on World Humanitarian Day. The winner in 2015 was the Central African Republic's Interfaith Peace Platform, established by Oumar Kobine Layama, imam and President of the country's Islamic Council (left), Dieudonné Nzapalainga, Catholic archbishop of Bangui (centre), and Nicolas Guerekoyame-Gbangou, pastor and President of the Evangelical Alliance of Central Africa (right). (UN Photo: Pierre Albouy) **4**-Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (left), and António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (right), on World Humanitarian Day (UN Photo: Pierre Albouy)

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International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

UNOG marked [International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People](#) on 30 November with a special meeting. Director-General Michael Møller presided over the event and read out a message from the Secretary-General. There were also messages from the representatives of two committees working for the rights of the Palestinian people: the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

Speeches were delivered by representatives of the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Non-Aligned Movement, the African Union, the World Young Women's Christian Association (on behalf of the non-governmental organizations accredited to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People), and the State of Palestine.

The event was well attended, with representatives of 83 Member States and 15 international organizations present, highlighting the interest and support of the international community with regard to the plight of the Palestinian people and their future.

Preserving heritage of Georgia and Lithuania

The UNOG Library hosted two specialists from the National Archives of Georgia for four weeks in February to digitize documents of Khariton Chavichvili, a prominent Georgian journalist and diplomat whose papers are preserved at the Palais des Nations. The specialists returned to Georgia with the digitized content, which will be indexed by the National Archives of Georgia and then made available publicly online by the UNOG Library.

A collaborative digitization project that the UNOG Library undertook with the Central State Archives of Lithuania was also completed in 2015. Over 35,000 pages of archives relating to Lithuania's activities at the League of Nations are now available globally via the [archives catalogue](#).

Securing the safe voyage of international treasures

As the keystone of the improved international relations in Europe from 1925 to 1930, the [Locarno Treaties](#), which followed on from the Treaty of Versailles, in many ways marked a high point of the League of Nations. The negotiators of the Locarno Treaties received the Nobel Peace Prize, in 1925 and 1926. In cooperation with the Archives of the City of Locarno, UNOG archives [staff personally brought the original treaties to Locarno](#) for an exhibition celebrating the 90th anniversary of their signing.

1

2

1-Ibrahim Khraishi, Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations Office at Geneva (left), with Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (right), on International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)
2-Colin Wells, Chief of the Archives Management Unit, and Rodolfo Huber of the Archives of the City of Locarno. (UN Photo: Ruth Hahn-Weinert)

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Donations of artworks and artefacts to UNOG in 2015

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 organizations of the UN system. It now comprises over 2,000 paintings, drawings, sculptures, tapestries and other artefacts from all over the world. Items from the collection can be seen in the Palais des Nations, Palais Wilson and Ariana Park. In 2015, the following donations were made:

Replica of the Magna Carta

The Magna Carta, meaning the “Great Charter”, is a milestone in the history of human rights. Originally issued by King John of England as a practical solution to the political crisis he faced in 1215, the Magna Carta established for the first time the principle that everybody, including the king, was subject to the law. The donation of a replica of the Magna Carta to UNOG, by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, marked the 800th anniversary of the document receiving the royal seal.

“The Rest”

“The Rest” was painted by Kazakh artist Nelly Bube. Born in 1949 in Karaganda, Nelly Bube studied art in Almaty and since 1998 has been a member of Kazakhstan’s Union of Artists. She is a painter, graphic artist and book illustrator. In the mid-1990s, she created a series of works that blended handicrafts and painting. She spoke of the “lovely and unique world of female nomads – a subject of my admiration. I admire their way of life, which is at one with nature, and their ability to create harmony and beauty all around them.”

“Dream”

This small wooden sculpture by Romanian artist Stefan Balog was displayed in the Intercultural Links art exhibition, from 23 to 27 March. The exhibition was a celebration of the 70th anniversary of the UN and the 60th anniversary of Romania’s membership

in the UN. In bringing together artworks from all around the world – from 94 artists from 60 UN Member States – Romania wished to demonstrate that dialogue among civilizations could be established in various ways, art being one of the most potent. Stefan Balog, the president of Romania’s Inter-Art Foundation, named the statue “Dream” to send the message that we have to dream for a better world, without wars and with peace and development for every human being.

“Rebirth”

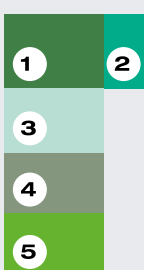
To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, Italian artist Michelangelo Pistoletto donated his “Rebirth” sculpture to UNOG, through the Government of Italy. He unveiled the sculpture on Open Day at UNOG, on 24 October. Consisting of 193 stones, one for each Member State, “Rebirth” is located in Ariana Park, where staff, delegates and visitors can be reminded of the need to “meet in the middle” to bridge divides and find harmony.

The installation of the sculpture also marks a symbolic step in the renaissance of the Palais des Nations, which is to undergo major renovations in the coming years – a “rebirth” of sorts for this foundation stone of diplomacy, world peace and development.

“Homenaje al trabajador migrante”

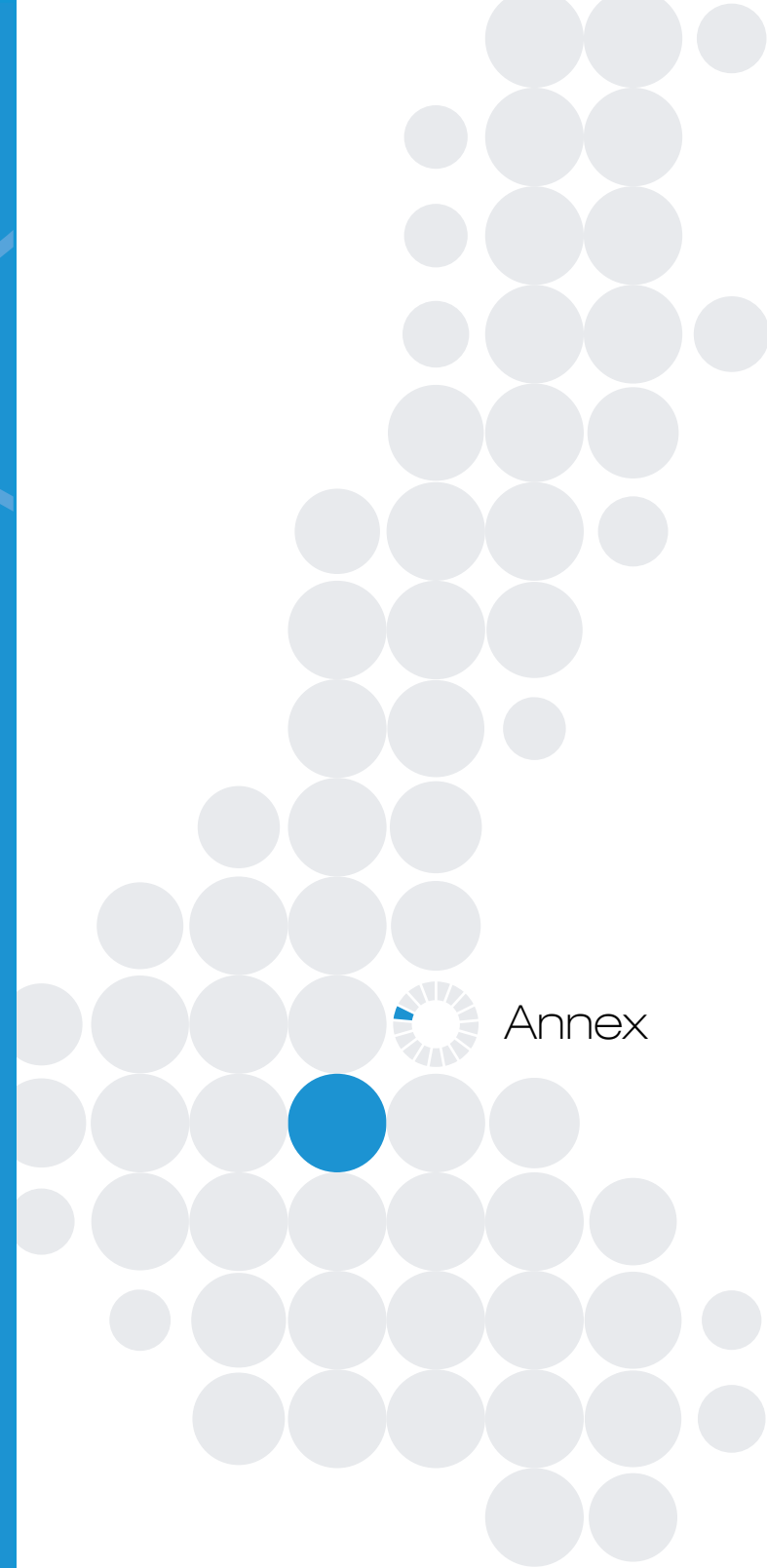
Argentina donated the mural “Homenaje al trabajador migrante” (Tribute to the Migrant Worker) to UNOG to mark the 70th anniversary of the UN and the 25th anniversary of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

The mural is dedicated to migrant workers and was created by Argentinian artist Munú Actis Goretta, who worked outdoors with her assistant for two weeks in November putting it together in its permanent location. It depicts the sacrifice of all immigrants: those of the past and the present, and those who, in the future, anywhere in the world, may be forced to leave their homes because of a lack of work.



1-Replica of the Magna Carta, donated by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UN Photo) 2-“Dream”, a sculpture in wood, donated by Romania (Photo: Permanent Mission of Romania) 3-“The Rest”, donated by Kazakhstan (UN Photo) 4-“Rebirth”, donated by Michelangelo Pistoletto and Cittadellarte-Fondazione Pistoletto (UN Photo: Harry Kendall) 5-“Homenaje al trabajador migrante”, donated by Argentina (Photo: Permanent Mission of Argentina)

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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

- Strategic Heritage Plan
- 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 the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.*

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