

What's New?

Updates, news and events from the UNOG NGO Liaison Unit



1st February 2025

Dear NGOs representatives accredited at the United Nations Office at Geneva,
The entire NGO Liaison Unit team sends its very best wishes for 2025, a year in which the United Nations will celebrate its 80th anniversary. On this important milestone, the United Nations Office at Geneva looks forward to continuing the collaboration with civil society towards a more peaceful, just and prosperous world.
The NGO Liaison Unit is pleased to share some updates, news and events taking place at the UN in Geneva in the coming weeks.
With very best regards.

Updates from the NGO Liaison Unit



UNITED NATIONS
GENEVA

2025 accreditations and access to the UN premises

- Information on how to apply for grounds passes at the UN Headquarters in **New York** is available on the [webpage of the NGO Branch](#) of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The page also contains the latest instructions regarding participation in meetings in New York and reminds NGOs that they are responsible for maintaining and updating their main contact email address on their profile in the [iCSO](#) system at all times to enable the UN to communicate critical information as and when necessary.

- Information on how to apply for grounds passes at the United Nations in **Vienna** is available [here](#).
- The procedure governing the 2025 accreditation of NGOs to the United Nations Office at **Geneva** is available on the [UN Geneva website](#).

The NGO Liaison Unit will continue to do its utmost to process accreditation requests in a timely manner, but delays can be expected during this peak period. NGOs are kindly requested to plan accordingly. Once requests are approved, NGO representatives are invited to collect their grounds pass at the Pregny Pavillion in person. More information is available [here](#). Please refer to the [Security information](#) page of the UN Geneva website for the most up to date information on modalities to enter the Palais, including prohibited items in the UN premises.

UNOG Director-General's annual meeting with civil society

The UNOG Director-General's annual meeting with civil society will take place on 17 February from 3 to 4.30 p.m. in Room VII, Palais des Nations. This meeting will be an opportunity to exchange on UN priorities and UNOG activities in 2025 and the participation of civil society in the work of the United Nations. Please ensure that the 2025 annual accreditation of your NGO representatives is finalized as only NGO representatives in possession of a valid grounds pass will be able to attend.

UNOG Language Training Programme

Multilingualism is a core value of the United Nations. In Geneva, NGOs have access to language courses in the six UN official languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. The enrolment period for the spring period language classes is from 10 February to 4 March. You can find more information and enroll via this [link](#).

Reopening of the Delegates' Lounge

The Delegates' Lounge, also known as the *Salon Suisse*, officially reopened on Monday, 13 January 2025. Located in Building AC, the lounge was gifted by Switzerland and has long been a favored meeting space for delegates and staff. The lounge is opened Monday to Friday from 8.30 a.m. 3 p.m.

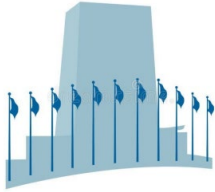
2025 regular session of the ECOSOC Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

For those who missed it, you can (re)watch the recordings of the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs' discussions, taking place on 20-24, 30-31 January, 3 and 11 February in New York, on the dedicated DESA [webpage](#).

Survey on the NGO Liaison Unit Newsletter

Every month for almost 2 years, NGOs have been receiving this monthly newsletter. In order to improve it, we would greatly appreciate NGOs feedback by filling in this [2-minute survey](#). The NGO Liaison Unit wishes to thank all NGO representatives who already took the time to fill in the survey.

Are you in New York in February?



UN Civil Society Townhall

The Civil Society Unit in the UN Department of Global Communications organizes a two-part Civil Society Townhall on 12 February from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the UN Headquarters in New York, Trusteeship Council Chamber. The first session will be a discussion with the President of the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Philemon Yang, on his priorities and civil society engagement. The second session will be a segment on the role of civil society engagement in the implementation of the Summit of the Future's Pact for the Future and other Summit outcomes, and also a moment to showcase civil society contributions towards inclusive multilateralism. More information and registration (before 6 February) is available [here](#).

You can also watch the event live on [UN WebTV](#).

Upcoming meetings and conferences



As the second largest UN duty station and one of the major conference centers in the world, UN Geneva provides a key platform for international dialogue and diplomacy. Please find the full calendar of meetings and conferences taking place at UN Geneva on the following [webpage](#).

Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

- The 90th session of the [CEDAW](#) will take place from 3 to 21 February and will consider the following states: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nepal, Belarus, Luxembourg, Belize Congo, Sri Lanka and Liechtenstein. Informal public meetings with NGOs will be held on 3 February from 3 to 4.30 p.m., and on 10 February from 3 to 4.30 p.m. You can find more information [here](#) and the NGO informative note [here](#).
- The Committee will hold a half-day of general discussion on gender stereotypes on 17 February, from 3 to 6 p.m. in Room XXIII. More information is available [here](#).
- The 92nd pre-sessional working group of the CEDAW will take place from 24 to 28 February and will adopt lists of issues on Iraq, Kenya, Lithuania, Togo and Zambia. They will also adopt lists of issues prior to reporting on Austria, Dominica and Qatar. Read more information [here](#) and the NGO informative note [here](#).

Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

The 100th pre-sessional Working Group of the CRC will take place from 3 to 7 February at the Palais Wilson. The Committee will consider the following states: Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ghana, Malaysia, Maldives, Norway, Qatar, Romania and Uganda. More information [here](#) and the event in Indico [here](#).

Working Group on Business and Human Rights

The 40th session of the Working Group on the Issue of Human Rights and Transnational Corporations and other Business Enterprises will take place from 3 to 7 February at the Palais des Nations. More information [here](#) and registrations will be available [here](#).

Geneva Interfaith Dialogue

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Jordan, is organizing the 10th Edition of the Geneva Interfaith Dialogue on 7 February from 3 to 6 p.m. in Room XXIV, Palais des Nations. More information and registration [here](#).

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)

The 77th session of the CESCR will take place from 10 to 28 February and will consider the following states: Croatia, Peru, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Rwanda, Philippines and Kenya. The Committee will also adopt lists of issues on Cabo Verde, North Macedonia and Turkmenistan, and conduct follow-up to concluding observations for Serbia and Uzbekistan. You can read more information [here](#) and the NGO informative note [here](#).

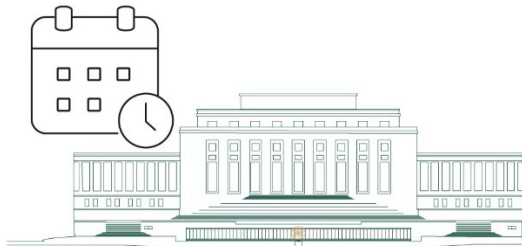
Human Rights Council (HRC)

- The [58th regular session of the HRC](#) will take place from 24 February to 4 April in Room XX, Palais des Nations. NGOs in ECOSOC consultative status accredited at UNOG may participate as observers. More information on the participation modalities can be found on the [HRC webpage](#). Registration via [Indico](#).
- In addition, the **7th intersessional meeting** for dialogue and cooperation on Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will take place on 11 February from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Room XX, Palais des Nations, under the theme "Leaving no one behind: the role of human rights in reforming the sovereign debt architecture and going beyond GDP". More information [here](#).

Conference on Disarmament

The 2025 [Conference on Disarmament](#) High-Level Segment will take place from 24 February to 28 February in Room XIX, Palais des Nations. NGOs wishing to listen to this single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community may do so through the [UNOG live audio](#) streaming service which is provided for public plenaries. [Audio recordings](#) (with transcript in English, French and Spanish) of public plenary meetings will also be available.

Upcoming events



From cultural celebrations to film screenings, discussions or commemoration of international days, the events calendar at UN Geneva is never empty.

Cultural activities / Knowledge and Learning Commons

The UN Library & Archives offers cultural and informational events such as exhibitions, panel discussions, or film screenings. The Cultural Activities Programme provides a cultural diplomacy space to share art and culture at the Palais des Nations. Please note that NGOs wishing to organize a cultural event should seek patronage from a permanent mission or an international organization affiliated with the UN, as detailed [here](#).

- To subscribe to the **Cultural Activities newsletter**, click [here](#).
- For other UN Library & Archives **cultural and informational events** check [Indico.UN](#).
- To subscribe to the UN Geneva **Archives newsletter** please click [here](#).
- To subscribe to the **Knowledge and Learning Commons newsletter** [here](#).

Ciné ONU holds free film screenings regularly and invites the public for a discussion with panelists. For upcoming screenings, please click [here](#).

Journey through 100 Years of Multilateralism: (Re)discover the UN Museum Geneva

The UN Museum is hosting the exhibition "100 Years of Multilateralism in Geneva". The exhibition features historical treasures and explores Geneva's crucial role in multilateral diplomacy and its influence on global cooperation. The UN Museum (1st floor, Building B, Palais des Nations) is operating Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and opened to NGOs representatives in possession of a valid access badge. More information [here](#).

Latest news

UN News

Global perspective Human stories

The **UN Information Service in Geneva** provides a comprehensive range of public information services, focused on Geneva-based UN activities, including:

- [Meeting summaries](#) and [Press releases](#).
- Live stream [UNTV's broadcasts](#) of major meetings.
- "[Happening at UN Geneva](#)" section our website.
- Video stream of the UN Geneva press briefings from our "[Focus On](#)" tab.
- Podcasts produced in Geneva and across the globe on a dedicated [webpage](#).

PODCAST ONU Info Genève – The Kofi Annan Changemakers

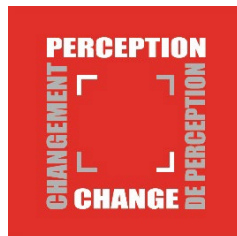
The latest episode of the *ONU Info Genève* podcast welcomes Sylvain Obedi Katindi and Cédric Bichano from the Kofi Annan Foundation's 'changemakers' initiative, two young leaders committed to justice and inclusion. This program supports young activists who, through their initiatives, are shaping a fairer and more inclusive world. Listen on [PodBean](#), [Spotify](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#).

Beyond Lab



The Beyond Lab is UN Geneva's collaborative space leading on social innovation for long-term sustainability. The goal of the Beyond Lab is to make sustainability a way of life by influencing policies and decision-making in an inclusive, intergenerationally equitable way. Visit the Lab's website, thebeyondlab.org, for an overview of its focus areas, initiatives, and updates on activities. The Lab team has also a [brochure](#), providing an at-a-glance overview of its work.

Perception Change Project



Based at the Office of the UNOG Director-General, the [Perception Change Project \(PCP\)](#) leads creative communication initiatives to highlight the importance of the work done in Geneva.

The booklet "[170 Actions to Reduce Inequalities](#)" offers practical steps for everyone to address social, economic, and political disparities worldwide. It provides individuals, organizations, and policymakers with concrete actions to promote inclusivity, equal opportunities, and justice. Whether you're advocating for fair wages, supporting marginalized communities, or influencing policy, this handy guide helps turn awareness into action for a more equitable society.

International Geneva



The [Genève internationale website](#) serves as an information platform dedicated to Geneva-based global players becoming aware of the resources available to them and bringing their work and achievements to the fore. In the continuity of its endeavor to promote International Geneva's organizations and those who commit to a better world, the website presents a new series of high-level contributors to its [Interview column](#). Whether Humanitarian aid, Gender Equality, Peace and Security, Health, or Human Rights are at stake, "The Interview" shines a light on their activities, goals, principles, alliances, vision, and what "keeps them awake at night."

International Geneva Welcome Centre



UNOG works in close collaboration with the International Geneva Welcome Centre (CAGI), which assists NGOs established or wishing to set up in the Geneva region and supports the accommodation of visiting delegates during their participation in an international conference. Please consult the [CAGI's website](#) to learn more about these services.

If you are attending a conference in Geneva, please consult CAGI's "[Practical Guide for Delegates](#)" for useful tips and advice to better prepare your trip and your stay in Switzerland and don't hesitate to visit CAGI at the Delegates Information Desk in the Palais des Nations.

News from the network



NGO events at the Palais

All public events organized by NGOs at the Palais des Nations are available on [Indico.UN](#).

Human Rights Economy Updates

The OHCHR Development and Economic and Social Rights Branch team is presenting the first edition of the human rights economy newsletter, sharing their work on furthering this innovative economic approach. You can read the full version in 10 languages [online](#).

International Contest for Minority Artists 2025: Belonging, Place and Loss

On the occasion of minorities day, OHCHR and its partners announce the launch of the fourth edition of the International Contest for Minority Artists (2025). Artists who identify as belonging to a national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minority are invited to submit high-quality electronic images of up to five works of art related to the 2025 theme of the Contest. Applications for the Contest should be submitted on the website of [Freemuse.org](#) before 1 March. More information [here](#).