

# What's New?

Updates, news and events from the UNOG NGO Liaison Unit

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

Dear NGOs representatives accredited at the United Nations Office at Geneva,  
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

### **UN liquidity crisis & cost of meetings at the Palais des Nations**

On 17 February, the Director-General of UNOG held her annual meeting with accredited NGOs in Geneva, during which she briefed representatives on the ongoing liquidity challenges that the UN continues to face globally in 2025. She explained that this situation has an impact on mandates delivery, including in International Geneva. Measures are being considered to save the costs, and NGOs will be informed accordingly. The Director-General also reminded that pending a decision from the General Assembly on hybrid meeting modalities, all intergovernmental calendar meetings will be held in person. For non-calendar meetings, including meetings organized by NGOs, the cost of hybrid component increased in 2025 due to a general increase in the price of secure platforms used by the UN. The revised estimated costs for meeting related services is available [here](#).

## **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 for the spring period language classes will end on 4 March. You can find more information and enrol via this [link](#).

## **ECOSOC Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations**

The first 2025 session of the NGO Committee took place from 20 January to 11 February and concluded its session with the following recommendations:

- Out of the 536 applications for consultative status, the Committee recommended 148 and deferred 356 applications for further consideration at its next regular session.
- 31 applications were closed without prejudice after the NGOs in questions failed to respond to queries by the deadline of two business days.
- The Committee took note of five requests for a change of name.
- It also had before it 631 quadrennial reports, of which it took note of 483.

The report of the NGO Committee is available [here](#).

## **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](#).

## **Human Rights Council (HRC)**

The [58<sup>th</sup> regular session of the HRC](#) is currently taking place until 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](#).

## **Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**

The 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the [CRPD](#) will take place from 3 to 21 March and will consider the following states: Tuvalu, Dominican Republic, Viet Nam, Canada, European Union and Palau. The Committee will hold its 20<sup>th</sup> Pre-Sessional Working Group from 24 to 28 March 2025 and will consider the following State reports during the session: Armenia, Egypt, Monaco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Republic of Moldova, Sierra Leone. For more information, please consult the [UN Treaty Body Database, CRPD, 20<sup>th</sup> PSWG](#) and [Informative note for Stakeholders](#).



### **5<sup>th</sup> UN Ocean Forum**

UNCTAD, in partnership with UNDES, FAO, UNEP, DOALOS, the Commonwealth Secretariat, OACPS, and the International Oceans Institute, is organizing the 5<sup>th</sup> UN Ocean Forum from 3 to 5 March in Room XIX, Palais des Nations. Key stakeholders will convene to discuss and propose concrete trade-related measures and calls for action to secure the future of our oceans. More information [here](#) and you can register [here](#).

### **Committee on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)**

The 1<sup>st</sup> session of the [CCW](#) Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons will take place from 3 to 7 March in Room XVIII, Palais des Nations. More information can be found [here](#). NGOs may designate representatives to attend public sessions of the meetings by addressing a letter with the official letterhead of the organization to [ccw@un.org](mailto:ccw@un.org).

### **Human Rights Committee (CCPR)**

The 143<sup>rd</sup> session of the [CCPR](#) will take place from 3 to 28 March and will consider the following States: Albania, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Mongolia, Montenegro, Zimbabwe, Chad, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominican Republic, Jordan, Mauritius, New Zealand, Samoa. For more information, please consult the [UN Treaty Body Database, CCPR, 143<sup>rd</sup> session](#) and the [NGO information note](#).

### **Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED)**

The 28<sup>th</sup> session of the [CED](#) will take place from 17 March to 4 April in Palais Wilson, First Floor Conference Room and will consider the following states: Serbia, The Gambia, Central African Republic, Peru, Belgium, Malta, Croatia, Luxembourg, Togo, Panama, Armenia, Gabon, Montenegro and Argentina. More information [here](#) and you can register on [Indico](#).

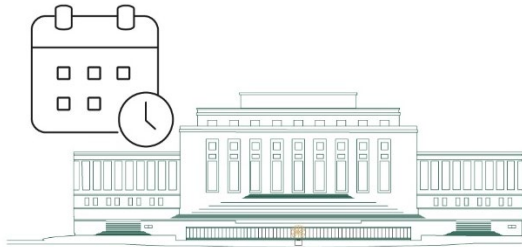
### **World Down Syndrome Day 2025: Improve Our Support Systems**

UNOG will celebrate World Down Syndrome Day 2025 on 21 March under the theme "*Improve Our Support Systems*" with a series of activities at the Palais des Nations. The event includes a morning tour of the Palais des Nations for individuals with Down Syndrome and their families, a celebration and live performance at Bar Serpent, and an afternoon discussion hosted by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Participants are encouraged to wear "Lots of Socks" to raise awareness and join the photo booth to show support. More information here and registration [here](#).

## Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

The Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Region will take place from 2 April to 3 April in the Palais des Nations under the theme “Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs in the ECE region, leaving no one behind”. The will review SDGs 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 14 (Life Below Water), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). More information is available on the [UNECE website](#) and you can register on [UN.Indico](#) until 14 March.

## 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](#).

- **“Portraits of Resilience” exhibition** from 25 March to 2 April by the Permanent Mission of France and the United Kingdom to the Bar Serpent in UN in Geneva. Find out more [here](#) and register [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 (1<sup>st</sup> 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](#).

- 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](#).

## Latest news

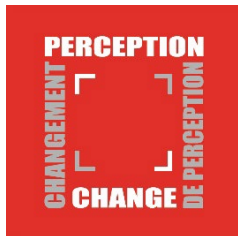
# UN News

Global perspective Human stories

## Beyond Lab



## Perception Change Project



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

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](#).

### **We need your feedback!**

In order to improve the UN Geneva's website ([ungeneva.org](#)), the UN Information Service has launched a short 3-minute **survey** asking for constructive feedback from various stakeholders. The survey can be taken in [English](#) or [French](#).

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.

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 International Geneva.

The latest edition of the *Impact Stories of International Geneva* highlights key initiatives and collaborations shaping global progress. This issue covers efforts in humanitarian aid, sustainability, health and diplomacy, showcasing how international organizations in Geneva are addressing global challenges. Stay informed on the latest developments and contributions from Geneva's international community. [Read here](#) and [Subscribe](#).

## 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 contains a 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](#).

### **Human Rights Impact Stories 2024**

'[Human Rights Impact Stories 2024](#)' is available on [What the treaty bodies do | OHCHR](#). The impact stories highlight the direct impact on victims or positive change in legislation or policy in a state party or impact on the development of international law and jurisprudence to which the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the human rights treaty bodies, special procedures, the UPR, and the Humanitarian Funds have contributed.