

United SDGs

United Nations Office at Geneva · 2016 · ANNUAL REPORT



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(UN Photo: Pierre Albouy)

Foreword

2016 was a momentous year for the United Nations, as it supported Member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are our collective action plan to end extreme poverty, empower women and children, protect the environment and build peaceful and inclusive societies. Together with the Paris Agreement for climate action, the Sustainable Development Goals represent our best chance to forge a sustainable and prosperous future for all.

The year also severely tested the United Nations and its partners. Numerous crises and conflicts killed hundreds of thousands, led to human rights violations and prompted millions to flee their homes. Natural disasters, economic uncertainty and rising inequalities within and between States also contributed to population flows, and to discontent with political institutions.

In spite of these challenges, 2016 also proved that the spirit of international collaboration lives on. The Paris Agreement entered into force, less than a year after its signing by a record number of Member States. That same enthusiasm spurred Member States to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals, which embody a call for global solidarity. This annual report is a testament to the collective efforts of the United Nations Office at Geneva, and its partners in Geneva and globally, for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

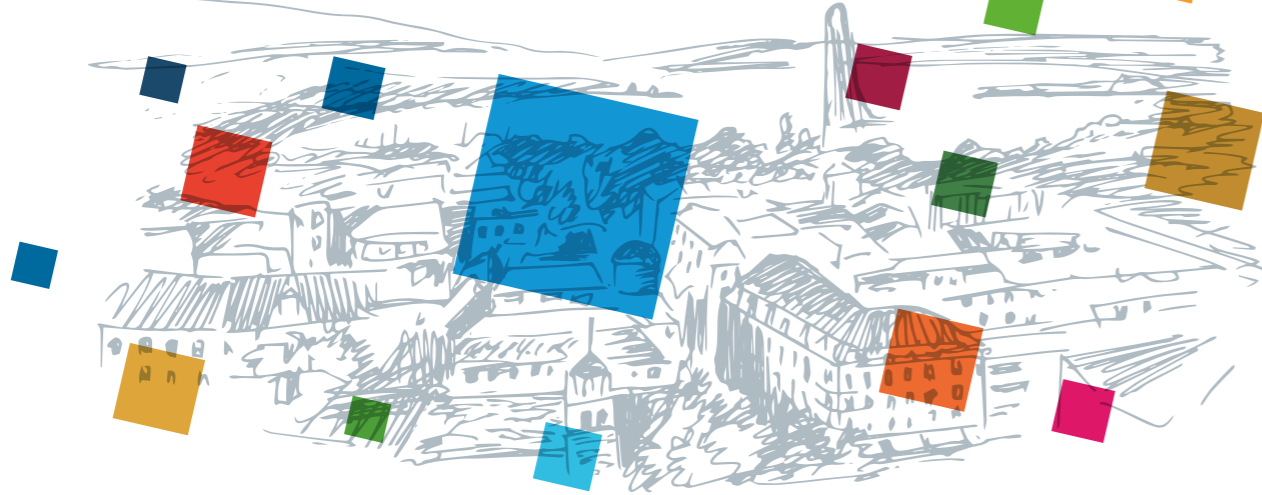
The world has met on the banks of Lake Geneva for over 150 years to tackle its most challenging problems. In spite of seismic changes across time and across the globe, Geneva remains the gathering place of nations. UNOG is at the heart of International Geneva, bringing together a unique mix of actors and providing the critical support necessary for constructive dialogue, innovative thinking and concerted action. In a rapidly shifting media landscape, UNOG disseminates the vital message of the United Nations using both traditional and new media. Through its environmentally conscious modernization of the Palais des Nations and its focus on gender equality, UNOG is leading by example.

As UNOG continues to serve the international community in the years to come, we look forward to further developing the collaboration with our numerous partners in Geneva and beyond. Together we can and will make a lasting contribution to global efforts to have a planet that is safer and more sustainable for future generations.

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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2016 in numbers



International Geneva is a global hub for capacity-building, knowledge dissemination, advocacy and policy development for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2016, over **9,500** people worked for the United Nations system in Geneva in the fields of health, labour, human rights, humanitarian assistance, intellectual property, disarmament and more.

Diversity is one of the defining features of the United Nations. **1,570** UNOG staff, of 111 nationalities and from a wide range of professional backgrounds, provided essential support to the international community. UNOG provided services for **11,800** meetings, nearly **16%** of which took place outside Geneva. On average, **47** meetings were held per working day.

A wide range of administrative and common support services were provided to more than **30** UN entities in Geneva and Bonn and to **126** field offices in **90** countries. Out of the **38** high-level briefings for the international community, **15** were specifically about development and/or the Sustainable Development Goals, and speakers at most briefings touched on the Sustainable Development Goals in one way or another.

Over **100** high-level dignitaries were welcomed to the Palais des Nations in 2016. Heads of State and Government, foreign ministers and many other high-level officials participated in important deliberations taking place at UNOG. **39** new permanent representatives presented their credentials to the Director-General of UNOG to continue the close cooperation of their respective Governments with the United Nations and to promote the ideals of the Organization at all levels.

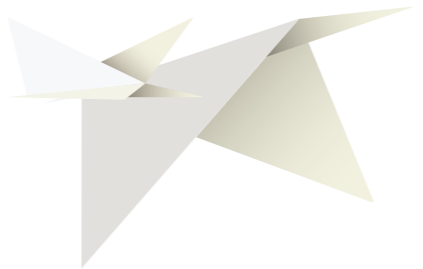
Since taking the Geneva Gender Parity Pledge in July 2015, **100%** of the panel discussions that Director-General Michael Møller has served on have featured panellists of each gender. **47%** of all staff at UNOG are female and **41%** of them are in senior positions.

Director-General Michael Møller delivered **188** speeches, gave **55** interviews and undertook **22** missions to raise awareness about issues of concern to the world community. **79,000,000** words were translated in official documents and publications, making the work of the United Nations widely accessible.

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43,000,000 sheets of A4 paper were printed. This was **40,000,000** fewer sheets than in 2010, saving the equivalent of **299** trees.



8,148 people attended **618** training courses, giving staff, clients and delegates essential skills to work more efficiently towards our common goals.



20 Security and Safety Service personnel provided **118** days of support to **12** field missions, including in Lebanon, South Sudan, Sri Lanka and other locations, facilitating critical work on human rights and on peace and security.

32 Security and Safety Service personnel supported **14** UN conferences outside of Geneva, including the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the World Humanitarian Summit, providing safe and secure environments for essential negotiations and agreements.

76,734 vehicles and **126,347** people were screened on entry to the Palais des Nations, helping to ensure a safe and secure environment for UN activities in Geneva.

410 security officers were trained in areas such as first aid, close protection, fire prevention, tactical baton training 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 to staff of the UNOG Medical Service, ensuring emergency preparedness for staff and delegates in Geneva and those travelling to high-risk locations.

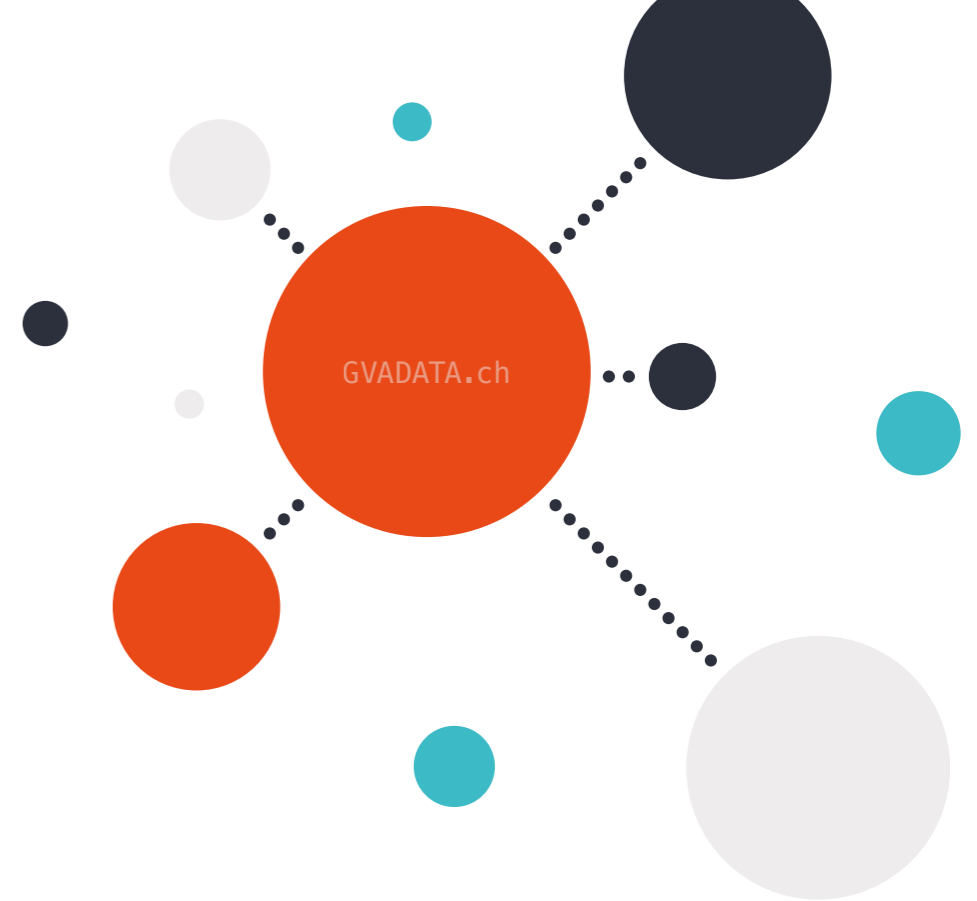
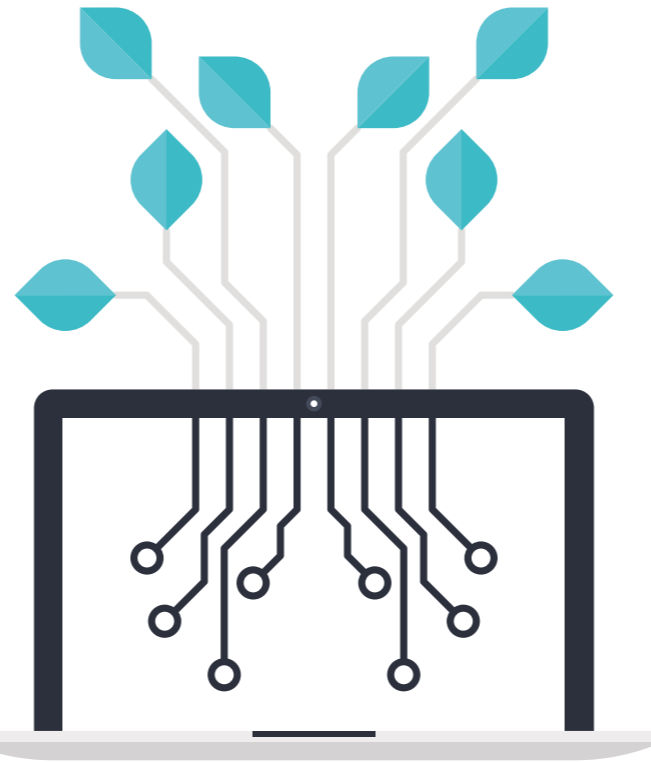


4,277 representatives of **864** non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were accredited to UNOG to take part in UN activities at the Palais des Nations. This was **9.5%** more than in 2015.

75 NGO events were held in the Palais des Nations with the help of UNOG. At least half of them were focused on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Around **50%** of the NGOs accredited to UNOG are based in the Geneva area.

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The UNOG website remained a key source of information, with **2,235,129** visits.

1,099 journalists were accredited to UNOG, covering UN activities in Geneva for a global and diverse audience – a **35%** increase over 2015.

1,876 press releases were published, disseminating the “Geneva Impact” message worldwide.

111,063 people took guided tours of the Palais des Nations to gain in-depth knowledge of the history, work and future of the United Nations.

To make the work of the United Nations accessible to all, **1,749** webcast videos from the Palais des Nations were archived on UN Web TV, with views from **184** countries and an average of **15,432** live views per month.

906 reports, interviews and audio clips from UNOG were featured on UN Radio, for dozens of partner radio stations broadcasting in English, French or other official languages.



87% of the students participating in Young Reporters at UNOG from October to December 2016 agreed that the conferences they attended improved their understanding of the work of the UN and its partners.

Over **100** organizations joined GVADATA.ch – a new gateway to the information and data resources of the UN and its partners for academics, the media, and people working for international cooperation.

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Setting the stage for action

In September 2015, the 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals to end poverty, ensure prosperity for all and protect our fragile planet. These goals represent our common roadmap to a safer and more sustainable future.

Although Member States are the lead actors in this effort, all of us – local governments, the private sector, civil society and individuals – have a role to play. For its part, the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) provides the support services needed for actors to share best practices, exchange ideas and take action on the 169 targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Although the work of UNOG employees is often unseen by the public, it is vital for the United Nations and its partners. UNOG administrators, conference and language specialists, security guards, communication experts, librarians and countless others make possible many of the initiatives of the United Nations system and its partners in Geneva and beyond.



Emergency preparedness through Major Incident Medical Management and Support

Health, security and safety issues have taken on a global dimension, so our responses to crises now need to be approached differently. Therefore, UNOG and the health and emergency services of the canton of Geneva are coordinating more closely. Together, they have identified a number of risks and threats to our common security and stability. UNOG is adjusting some of its emergency plans and arrangements. **The common objective is to be able to work together better to save lives if there should ever be a major incident.**

Against this background, UNOG security and medical personnel joined staff from Geneva's rescue and medical services for a **Major Incident Medical Management and Support (MIMMS)** course, which examined the characteristics of major emergency events, and how to manage them. By training together, they developed a better understanding of each other's capabilities and concerns.

José Gallardo, of the Security and Safety Service, Geneva, said that the main aim was for everyone to have the same vision, the same vocabulary, and the same way of responding to a major incident.

The training programme, which is the only international standard for the medical management of major incidents, was held at the Palais des Nations on 17 and 18 June.

Dr. Laurent Suppan, from the Brigade Sanitaire Cantonale of the Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève, Laurent Perriard, lecturer at the École Supérieure d'Ambulancier et Soins d'Urgence Romande, and José Gallardo, security lieutenant in the Security and Safety Service, Geneva, talking about the Major Incident Medical Management and Support training programme:



Dr. Laurent Suppan (in French)
Listen at: <http://bit.ly/2IOVQhM>



Laurent Perriard (in French)
Listen at: <http://bit.ly/2lSta4r>



José Gallardo (in French)
Listen at: <http://bit.ly/2kNx6lL>



A senior firefighter and paramedic and a senior police officer examine a map of the Palais des Nations. (UN Photo)



A UNOG security officer evaluates the triage of patients. Theme: fire. (UN Photo: Matija Potocnik)



Making the words ring home

“Multilingualism has to be in our DNA,” according to **Corinne Momal-Vanien**, Director of the Division of Conference Management at UNOG and focal point at UNOG for multilingualism. “Simply put, if we only have one way to say things, it will really reduce our ability to serve the people of the world!”

Languages play a critical role in development and in diplomacy. The ability to communicate with each other is indispensable to attaining **education for all** and to strengthening international cooperation for a more sustainable world.

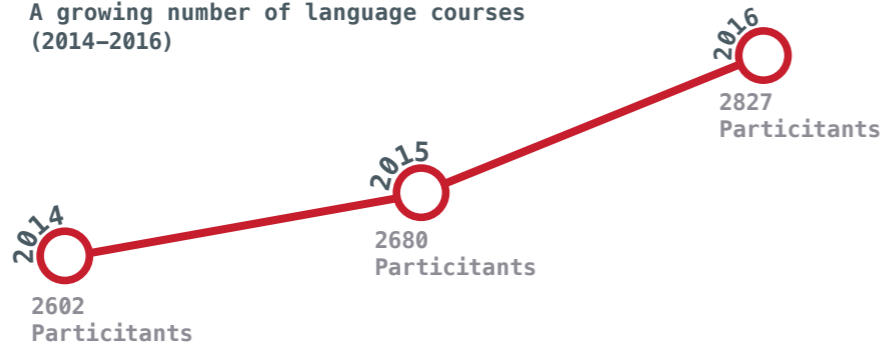
The United Nations Office at Geneva, based in the French-speaking part of Switzerland, a country with four national languages, is committed to investing in a multilingual workforce. To promote linguistic balance, UNOG offers **courses** in the six official UN languages – Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish – to staff members of UN entities and diplomatic missions.

In 2016, for the first time, a semi-intensive French language course was made available, allowing participants to better interact with the Host Country and the many French-speaking partners in International Geneva. “I had the opportunity to work in a multilingual environment for the first time this summer at a French course offered by the United Nations. I find that multilingualism allows us to better understand different cultures, helps to promote

equality among peoples, and gives us an awareness of unspoken cultural rules and different ways of doing things,” said **Crazia Basile**, from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

UNOG plans to expand the semi-intensive course to include all six official languages, thus further promoting intercultural dialogue and linguistic diversity.

A growing number of language courses (2014–2016)



Casilda Regueiro and the Orchestre de Lancy-Genève captivate the audience during an event held on Spanish Language Day. (UN Photo: Pierre Albouy)

Language days

The United Nations Office at Geneva has celebrated **Language Days** since the initiative began in 2010. These unique days are dedicated to promoting the history, culture and achievements of each of the six official United Nations languages. In 2016, colourful events were held at the Palais des Nations on **Chinese Language Day** (19 April), **Russian Language Day** (3 June) and **Spanish Language Day** (13 October).



Youth take on UN issues

The Palais des Nations building itself may be old and historic, but every year it is filled with the new energy of youth.

On 18 April, about 300 interns and other guests came together for the third annual *Interns with a Mission* event. Grinning interns held signs highlighting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, for a social media audience beyond the Palais des Nations that numbered in the thousands. The audience voted “no” to the motion that “The current Sustainable Development Goals framework provides enough opportunities for youth involvement and empowerment”, but agreed that the Goals were an important way to achieve more youth empowerment.

The seventeenth annual conference of the *Geneva International Model United Nations* was held from 7 to 11 March. Three hundred students from 60 countries simulated the meetings of principal United Nations organs, and approved a final document with key policy recommendations.

The sixth iteration of the *Ferney Model United Nations*, organized by the Lycée International de Ferney-Voltaire, took place from 13 to 15 January at UNOG and at the World Meteorological Organization and the World Trade Organization. Six hundred and fifty high school students from 15 countries participated, simulating the work of the General Assembly. They also worked in committees on such topics as terrorism, climate change, migrants and development assistance.

“Be creative, think out of the box and be long-term oriented”

Message from Director-General Michael Møller to the seventeenth annual conference of the Geneva International Model United Nations, 7 March 2016



Participants vote on the motion that “The current Sustainable Development Goals framework provides enough opportunities for youth involvement and empowerment”, at the Interns with a Mission event held on 18 April. (UN Photo: Vadim Isakov)

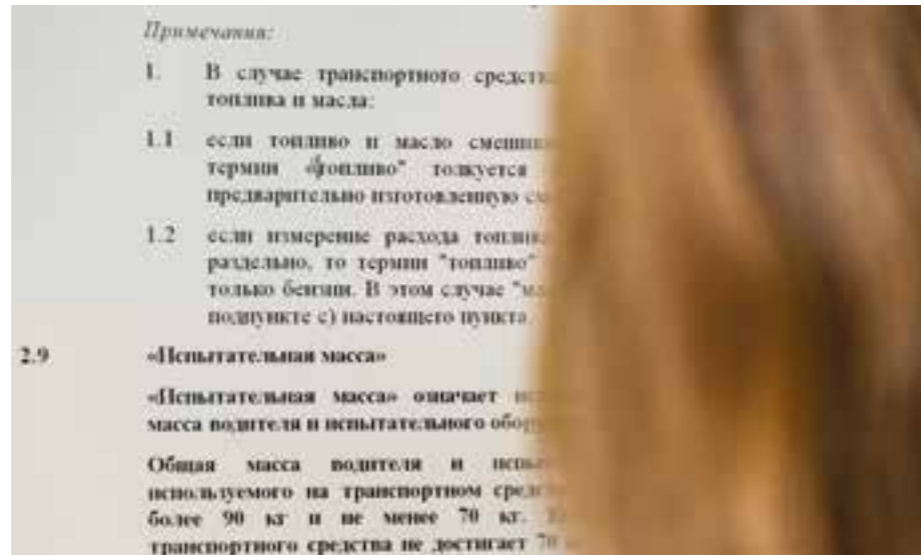
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Linguists explore legal terminology

What is *jus cogens*? What is *erga omnes*? Language professionals working in the area of international law need to know the meaning of such terms and to understand the differences between them. They need to know that *jus cogens* means legal principles that can never be set aside, and covers extremely serious acts such as genocide and torture. And that *erga omnes* means the obligations of a State towards the international community as a whole. And that while *jus cogens* norms also have the character of *erga omnes* obligations, the reverse is not necessarily true.

To explore such questions and the background to them, the English Translation Section hosted five workshops on nine **International Law Commission** topics in 2016, for the staff of UNOG's Languages Service. The workshops helped staff to better understand how the Commission operates, and how the work of the Languages Service feeds into and flows out of the work of the Commission.

UNOG's linguists learned about how topics make it onto the Commission's agenda, how issues mature and morph over time, and how the Commission's output is produced by its members through discussions in plenary meetings and drafting committees. The workshops highlighted the crucial importance of terminology and nuance throughout the process. Participants probed legal terms and shared their experiences of dealing with them. Additional workshops on International Law Commission topics and terminology are planned for 2017.



Russian translator at work (UN Photo: Judy Fadel-Ostojic)

Summaries for the record

Following multilingual meetings can be challenging – interpretation is one of the keys to comprehension. But what about after the meeting? Reviewing a three-hour webcast or digital recording to see the ebb and flow of the debate can be equally daunting. Summary records provide a concise written record of the meeting.

In 2016, the Languages Service produced 629 summary records. Each record is the work of a team of multilingual professionals who are present in the meeting room and turn in their drafts 24 hours after the meeting. A reviser has another 24 hours to integrate the various inputs into a cohesive narrative. Averaging 10 pages, each record captures the essence of the discussion. Summary records open an official window into past meetings.

Learn more about the process of writing summary records and their value to secretariats, delegates, civil society and the public at www.unog.ch/annualreport.



Inside a UNOG interpretation booth (UN Photo: Judy Fadel-Ostojic)



UN-Women liaison office gives women and girls a stronger voice in International Geneva

“If we continue with business as usual, it will take until 2095 to close the gender gap for economic participation and opportunity, and this is simply not good enough”, UNOG Director-General and co-founder of the [International Gender Champions](#) initiative, Michael Møller, said on 6 October at the [inauguration ceremony](#) for the [UN-Women Geneva Liaison Office](#).

The establishment of the UN-Women liaison office at the Palais des Nations, supported by the Swiss Government, is a crucial step towards achieving targets on gender equality within the UN and across the wide range of topics – from disarmament to human rights, trade, health, humanitarian assistance and others – that are defining the global impact of International Geneva. The new liaison office will expand partnerships for the full realization of gender equality by 2030, deepen gender perspectives in Geneva-based intergovernmental processes, strengthen UN coordination and accountability for gender equality, and contribute to gender-responsive implementation of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).



Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN-Women at the inauguration of the UN-Women Geneva Liaison Office (UN Photo: Elma Okic)

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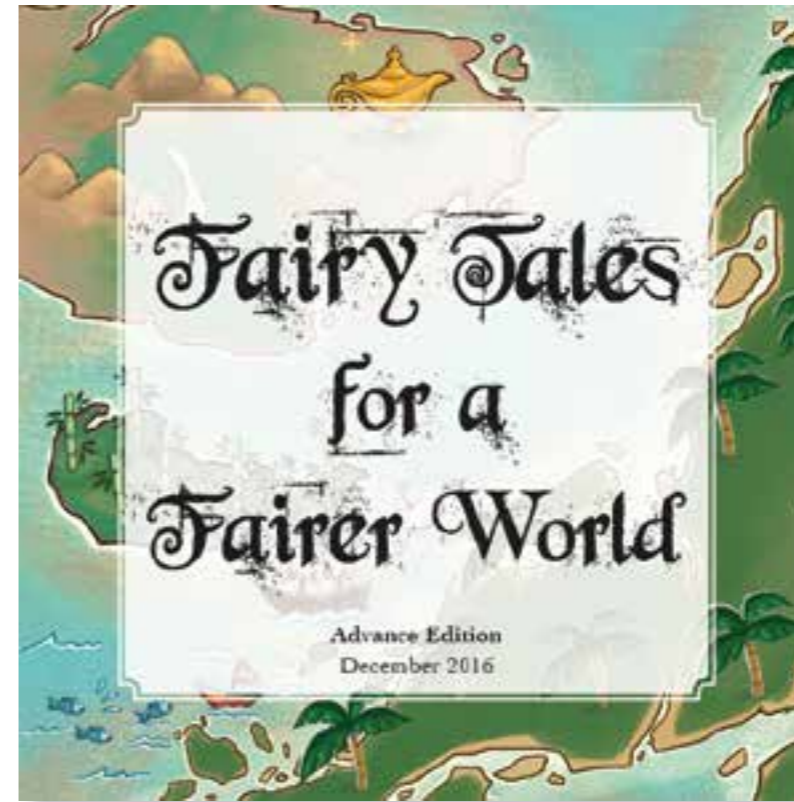
Fairy Tales for a Fairer World

Bringing the Sustainable Development Goals to young readers

According to [UN-Water](#), around 700 million people do not have access to clean water and almost 2.5 billion people do not have access to sanitation. This results in 6 to 8 million deaths per year.

With stark figures like these, the topics of clean water and sanitation need to be raised, even in the most unlikely of places. In December 2016, the Perception Change Project launched the advance edition of the storybook *Fairy Tales for a Fairer World*. The book uses traditional tales from around the globe to creatively bring the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) to younger audiences. Spellbinding stories raising awareness about global challenges such as “access to water”, “water-related diseases”, “water scarcity” and “waste water” are just a few examples of the important topics outlined in this book.

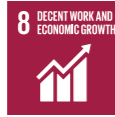
An interactive website is currently being developed to allow readers to scan a QR code associated with each topic. The link will bring them to an online conversation between fairy-tale characters, heads of UN organizations, celebrities, academics, citizens and experts on these global issues, within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. This project will stimulate ideas and motivate all of us to actively participate, join forces, and improve our action on the many challenges facing us.



GOAL 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Water is vital to life and – when it is absent – is at the centre of some of our most pressing challenges. Today, some 700 million people live without access to improved drinking water and almost 2.5 billion people lack access to basic sanitation. The impact of water scarcity goes beyond thirst to threaten every other basic need. It stunts a farmer’s crops, kills a herder’s livestock and sickens a mother’s child. Water insecurity casts ripples across peace and security, development and human rights. It harms development efforts, accentuates disparities of wealth and can contribute to conflict. Sustainable Development Goal 6 calls for universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation by 2030.

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Supporting major conferences

Behind the scenes at the International Labour Conference

Imagine you could only spend US\$2 a day. Would you use it to pay your rent, to buy food or to pay for medical care? This is not a mere mental exercise for nearly half the world's population – billions of people who struggle to support themselves and their families. Then there are more than 200 million unemployed people worldwide, including 75 million youths who are denied the opportunity of a first job and the chance to start an independent life. Decent work and economic growth are foundational to peace, development and human rights. They provide the means for people to live safe, dignified and fulfilling lives.

Over the next 15 years, the global economy will need to create at least 470 million new jobs just to keep up with the rise in the global working age population. Addressing poverty will also depend on improving working conditions for some 780 million women and men below the poverty threshold. Tackling these challenges will require international cooperation in an era marked by global flows of capital, labour and technology. Sustainable Development Goal 8, on decent work and economic growth, provides the framework for action. And Geneva, as home to the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** and an array of other entities, offers the space for deliberation and collaboration.

Held every year in the Palais des Nations, the **International Labour Conference** is an opportunity for the world to address decent work and economic growth. In May and June 2016, over 4,800 delegates from 187 member States gathered in the Assembly

GOAL 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Quality jobs and economic opportunity not only represent sources of livelihood but also serve as powerful markers of personal identity and purpose. About 2.2 billion people, however, live below the poverty line of US\$2 a day and over 202 million people are unemployed. Creating jobs for the rising global population at a time of technological changes will be a major challenge over the coming decades. Failure to act will contribute to the erosion of public trust in institutions and leaders, fuelling social tensions and political conflicts. Sustainable Development Goal 8 calls for the international community to achieve full and productive employment for all by 2030, as well as to protect labour rights and promote small and medium-sized enterprises.

Hall to discuss global supply chains and the importance of decent work for peace, security and disaster resilience. Delegates worked in safety, thanks to the largely unseen efforts of the Security and Safety Service of the United Nations Office at Geneva. Working in collaboration with their ILO counterparts, UNOG's security officers handled accreditation, organized transportation, controlled access and ensured the safety of attendees. UNOG security officers forming part of the

Close Protection Unit made it possible for high-level dignitaries, including the President of the European Commission and the President of Switzerland, to contribute to the discussion.

The International Labour Conference is only one of the 11,800 meetings that were serviced by UNOG in 2016. UNOG provided not only the venue but also essential conference, administrative, logistical, technical and documentation support. UNOG is also working to ensure that the conference rooms, offices and interpretation booths in the Palais des Nations, and all other spaces used by secretariats and outside service providers, meet the most recent standards for accessibility and safety, including for users with disabilities.



Evo Morales Ayma (centre), President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, arrives at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 23 September 2016. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General (centre), meets Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva (left), on 18 November 2016. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



The Director-General, Guy Ryder, speaking at the 105th International Labour Conference (Photo: Crozet/Pouteau/Albouy)

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (foreground, right), and Director-General Michael Møller (foreground, left) head to a town hall meeting with all UNOG staff. (UN Photo: Rick Bajornas)

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UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (right), with Thomas Bach, President of the International Olympic Committee (centre), and Prince Albert II of Monaco (left), a member of the International Olympic Committee, during a visit to the Olympic Museum in Lausanne (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, President of Togo, arrives at the United Nations Office at Geneva to participate in the thirty-first session of the Human Rights Council. (UN Photo: Pierre Alboury)



Princess Charlene of Monaco, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Goodwill Ambassador (left), and Elhadj As Sy, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Secretary-General (right), give first aid training to young volunteers at the Palais des Nations on 9 September 2016, for World First Aid Day. (UN Photo: Violaine Martin)



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and his wife Yoo Soon-taek (foreground) attend a United Nations Orchestra special tribute concert at Victoria Hall in Geneva with UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and violinist Maxim Vengerov at centre stage. Also in attendance were Michael Møller, Director-General of UNOG; Guillaume Barazzone, Mayor of the City of Geneva; François Longchamp, President of the State Council of the Republic and Canton of Geneva; Didier Burkhalter, Federal Councillor, and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs; Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations; Staffan de Mistura, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria; Ivan Pictet, president of the Fondation pour Genève; heads of various international organizations in Geneva; and around 1,500 spectators. (UN Photo: Rick Bajornas)



Faster accreditation and access

It is crucial that delegates coming to meetings at the Palais des Nations, one of the world's premier conference centres, can get in quickly to start the work they have come from around the world to do.

UNOG has built on its relationship with the [European Organization for Nuclear Research \(CERN\)](#) to adapt CERN's long-standing solution for conferences, the tried and tested open-source [InDiCo](#) (Integrated Digital Conferencing) system.

Delegates with an [InDiCo account](#), available to anyone, can send a request electronically to attend a meeting. The secretariat sponsoring the meeting reviews the request. InDiCo lets the secretariat register delegates too. Then security staff receive and review the list of the delegates approved to attend the meeting concerned.

Approved delegates can print out their e-ticket, which has a QR code, or download it onto their mobile phone, and use the fast lanes to present their ID to enter the Palais des Nations. The e-ticket functions much like a boarding pass at an airport. Even if delegates haven't printed out their e-ticket, the time spent waiting for their badge to be printed on-site is reduced from five minutes to 30 seconds.

The Security and Safety Service, Geneva, responsible for getting large numbers of delegates into the Palais des Nations while keeping people safe, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and

Development, faced with the challenge of registering the many thousands of attendees at [UNCTAD XIV](#) in Nairobi in July, were natural partners to pilot InDiCo. The preparations for full implementation of InDiCo, following the success of the pilot, have included the creation of a robust and secure infrastructure. The system is up and running for all UNCTAD meetings in Geneva and during 2017 it will become available for all meetings sponsored by secretariats based in the Palais des Nations.

Corinne Momal-Vanian, Director of the Division of Conference Management, said: "InDiCo is an open-source platform that allows for integrated conference services, and for administrative efficiencies in accrediting conference participants and providing access to conferences. If the system were used across International Geneva, it could eventually serve as a common calendar of meetings, resulting in easier planning and substantial time savings for delegates. With its minimal operating costs and CERN's active maintenance and development of the system, InDiCo is an affordable, efficient, secure and sustainable solution to long queues and administrative workloads."

UNOG identified possible new directions for InDiCo, and CERN is in the process of developing InDiCo 2.0. UNOG's innovations, in the best traditions of open source software,

will be considered in the overall changes that CERN will make to the software. For its part, UNOG plans further enhancements to the system, such as making the system available on a mobile app, and permanent accreditation for journalists and NGOs that is unlinked to specific meetings. Thomas Baron, leader of CERN's Integrated Collaboration Section, spoke of the open and positive collaboration between CERN and UNOG and appreciated the willingness of UNOG to feed the features it had developed back into the basic InDiCo source code.

GOAL 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Sustainable development relies on our collective ability to invest in long-term projects that can boost economic growth, empower communities and facilitate communication. Spending on infrastructure can yield long-term boosts in productivity, income, education and health. Inclusive and sustainable industrial development, meanwhile, provides a source of income for communities, while technological innovation creates future jobs and potential solutions to pressing environmental challenges. Many developing countries, however, suffer from infrastructure constraints that affect firms' productivity by nearly 40%. Meanwhile, the digital divide remains – with more than four billion people left without access to the Internet, 90% of whom live in the developing world. Sustainable Development Goal 9 outlines a range of measures to promote collective investment in our shared future.

The InDiCo workflow

Secretariat



Delegate/Participant

Secretariat

Delegate/Participant



Security



Going digital

The Institutional Memory Section of the Library helps put in place innovative solutions to manage and preserve the legacy of the United Nations.

Unite Docs is the state-of-the-art electronic records system of the United Nations Secretariat. In 2016, it was rolled out with support from the Library of the United Nations Office at Geneva in six departments and services within the Palais des Nations. The system enables UN staff to manage their born-digital records through a common web-based platform. It ensures that the work and activities of UNOG will be preserved and accessible for future needs, while improving operational efficiency and contributing to accountability and transparency.

As custodian of the archives of the League of Nations and the United Nations in Geneva, the Library continues to work on digitization as a means of prolonging the lifespan of unique documents and extending their accessibility worldwide via the Internet. In 2016, a project in collaboration with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum created and published over 52,000 electronic pages of documents relating to the efforts by the League of Nations to protect minorities and refugees in the interwar era. It includes the complete records of the High Commission for Refugees Coming from Germany. All the documents are available online, free of charge, via the Library's [archives catalogue](#).



A group of visitors on a tour of the archives (UN Photo)

A group of visitors on a Library tour (UN Photo: Carla Bellota)



The new loan desk area (UN Photo: Coralie Chappat)



Members of the International Law Commission at work in the Library's legal and political reading room (UN Photo: Irina Gerassimova)



Aesthetics, heritage and high-tech

Functionality and a design that merges innovation and cultural heritage are the hallmarks of the newly renovated room 17 – a generous donation of the United Arab Emirates.

The Emirates Room has state-of-the-art technical features that facilitate the work of UNOG's interpreters and conference staff, which ultimately helps delegates to focus on finding solutions to the world's problems being addressed here in Geneva. The project also shows that UNOG can deliver major renovations within complex and tight timelines.

Maitha Al Shamsi, Minister of State of the United Arab Emirates, and Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, were among the speakers inaugurating the renovated conference room on 13 June 2016.

Liviu Olteanu, a co-organizer of the [Global Summit on Religion, Peace and Security](#), held in the Emirates Room from 23 to 25 November, described the room as a unique and fine jewel which contributed to the summit's purpose and which was inspiring as people came together to work towards peace and a dignified life for all.



Unveiling the Emirates Room plaque, from left to right: Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; Maitha Al Shamsi, Minister of State of the United Arab Emirates; and Obaid Al Zaabi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



The Emirates Room (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)

300 years of history in one room

The Russian Room is one of the most used spaces for high-level talks at the United Nations Office at Geneva. The decoration and furnishing of the 24-square-metre room next to the Council Chamber was first financed by the Russian Federation in 1995, on the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

The Russian Federation has generously renovated the room, giving it a technical refurbishment and adding to the artworks that represent the culture, art and architecture of the country.

The work on the Russian Room started in September 2015 and was completed in February 2016. The furnishings, fittings and lights all underwent renovation and the room was redecorated. The project successfully created an intimate space that showcases the passage of over 300 years of history. The cosy meeting room boasts reproductions of celebrated paintings, as well as furniture of prestigious provenance.

The inauguration of the renovated Russian Room took place on 1 March 2016, with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Sergey Lavrov, in attendance.



The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Sergey Lavrov, inaugurate the renovated Russian Room at the Palais des Nations. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)

International Translation Day

“Connecting worlds” was the theme of this year’s International Translation Day – opening up vital areas of knowledge widely so that people can learn from each other. This is precisely the work of UNOG’s translators and interpreters.

At UNOG, the day was also the occasion to recognize staff for specific efforts made in embracing and working with eLUNa, the computer-assisted translation tool developed in-house for use across UN duty stations. Particular mention went to translators working exclusively with eLUNa and to trainers and resource persons, and to the staff members who work to ensure the correct alignment of text and prepare clean translation memories.

eLUNa helps translators by identifying text that the UN has already translated, incorporating the TAPTA4UN machine translation module which was specifically developed for use with UN documents, and providing built-in access to the UN’s terminology database, UNTERM. It also ensures greater consistency in translated documents.

International Translation Day was celebrated on 30 September 2016.



From left to right: Michelle Keating, Chief of the Languages Service (left), and Corinne Momal-Vanien, Director of the Division of Conference Management (centre), thanking El Khalil Mamoune, reviser of Arabic translations and UNOG gText coordinator, for his contribution to the development of eLUNa (UN Photo: Matija Potocnik)

Getting meeting documents to delegates faster

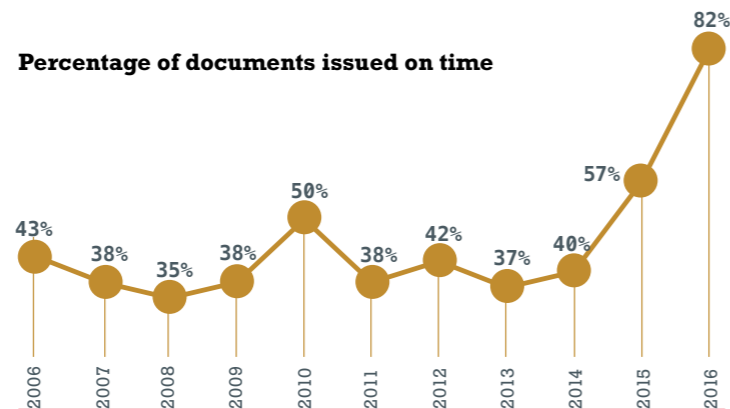
The General Assembly has mandated the Secretariat to issue documents six weeks before meetings open or before a specific agenda item is scheduled for consideration (in the case of some meetings, four weeks before). There was a dramatic rise in 2016 in the on-time issuance rate in Geneva – from 57% to 82%. This builds on the progress already made in preceding years.

The majority of documents in Geneva (68%) originate from outside the Secretariat, such as from Member States, special rapporteurs and technical experts, compared to 7% in New York. This diversity of sources added complexity and challenges to the editing – and particularly to the translation – of the documents. And whereas in New York almost all documents are submitted in English, in Geneva only 77% are: this requires staff to translate from a broader range of languages, and in some cases to go through an intermediate “relay” language.

UNOG’s Division of Conference Management is using decision-support systems that it has developed, such as the [Pipeline Visualization Tool](#), which helps managers make choices about resources and recruitment, and Today, which shows translators what their highest priority is, to support the complex process of delivering multilingual documentation for meetings and help ensure that more documents are issued on time.

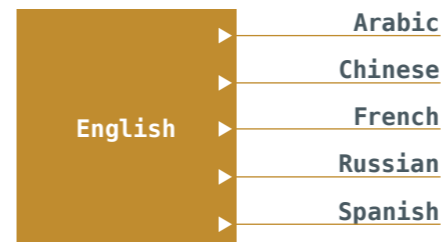
Highly skilled language staff work behind the scenes to translate the documents. They have specialist knowledge of major topics such as human rights, climate change and sustainable energy and are a cornerstone of the communication and cooperation that takes place in the Palais des Nations, one of the world’s foremost conference centres.

Teizu Guluma, who coordinates the submission of documents for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, says: **“The timely issuance of documents is critical, because it allows delegates to send them to their capitals, to gather relevant information and to provide feedback, which in turn allows for more constructive dialogue in meetings and at sessions.”**

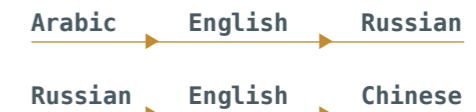


(UN Photo: Vadim Isakov)

Example of direct translation



Example of translation through a relay language



Print and beyond

Dramatic contrasts were plain to see at the Print and Beyond exhibition, which tracked the evolution of publishing at UNOG from black-and-white text-only documents to a broad array of electronic communication tools bringing the UN's messages to the largest possible audience. The exhibition showcased the growing range of design and production services that the Printing Section of the Division of Conference Management provides.

The vintage Heidelberg printing press and the free-standing digital signage totem caught many an eye – one a beauty of yesteryear and the other an epitome of today's fast-paced communication.

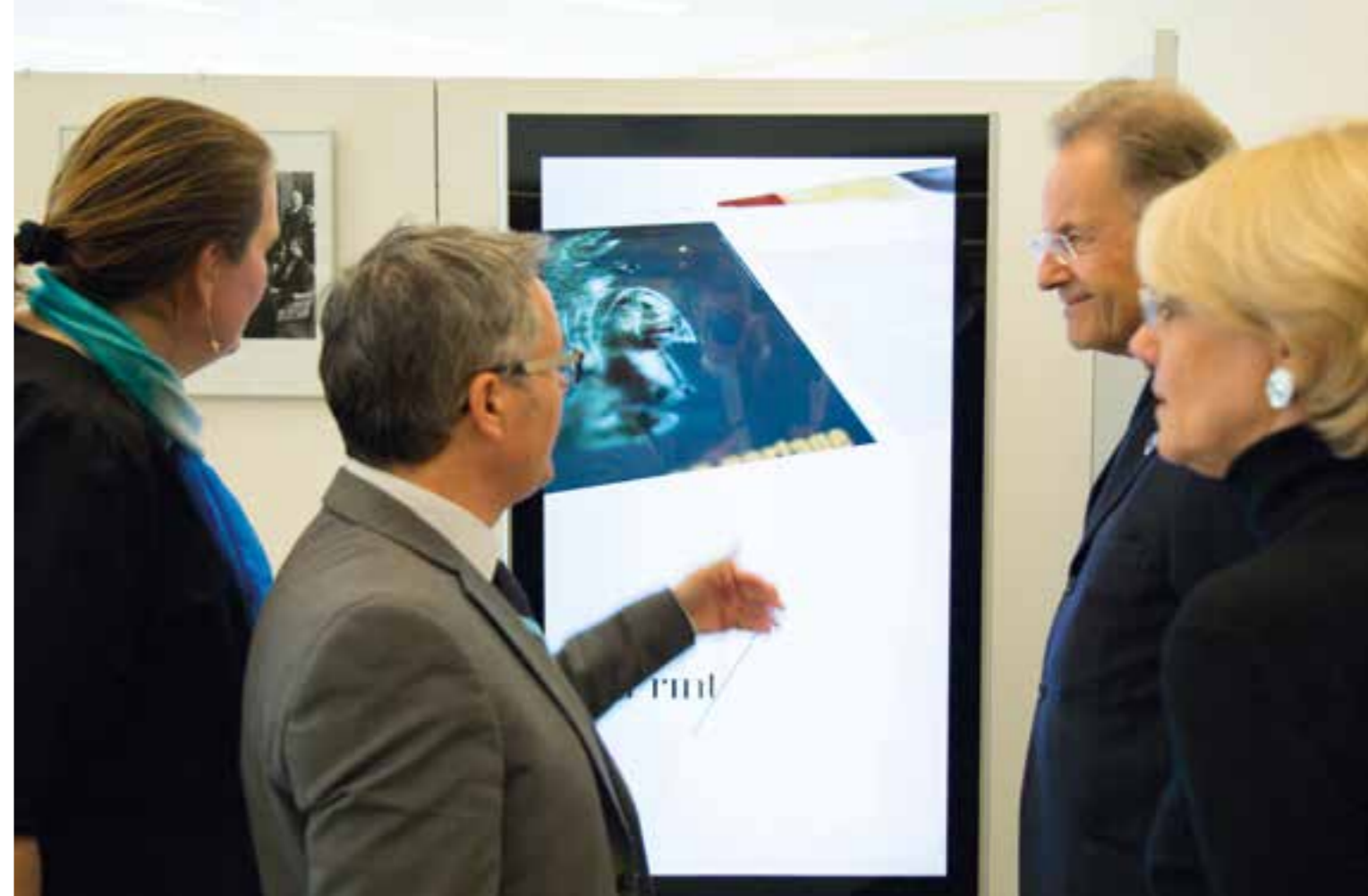
The heavy black and brass Heidelberg platen is a letterpress machine that relies on the same technology that Johannes Gutenberg invented around the middle of the fifteenth century. UNOG purchased it in the 1960s. It remained in use until 2001 – around the same time that UNOG expanded the print operation to include four-colour offset printing.

In the years after the Heidelberg machine was retired from service, the Printing Section converted to a fully electronic workflow, investing in graphic design and desktop publishing. The first e-publications were interactive PDFs, which represented an advance over static digital files.

In the past two years, the Printing Section has branched out into a range of media – apps, videos, 360° photographs, aerial footage, and content for interactive touch screens – to serve the communication needs of the UN in Geneva. And today's proliferation of online products means that physical items, such as business cards, posters and bookmarks, are in high demand to direct users to digital points of interest.

The Printing Section also supports UNOG's commitment to accessibility, producing materials in Braille for people who are unable to use visual communication.

The Print and Beyond exhibition was held from 18 to 27 October. It coincided with International Print Day, 19 October.



From left to right: Kira Kruglikova, Chief of the Production and Support Service, and Mark Murphy, Chief of the Printing Section, viewing a digital signage totem showcasing in-house design work, in conversation with Michael Møller, Director-General of UNOG, and Corinne Momal-Vanian, Director of the Division of Conference Management. (UN Photo: Vadim Isakov)



The Heidelberg platen printing press that served UNOG from the 1960s until 2001. (UN Photo: Mark Murphy)



70 years of UNOG history

A timeline of the Palais des Nations

2016 marked the seventieth anniversary of the League of Nations handing over the Palais des Nations to the United Nations. The Palais has undergone immense change over the past 70 years. But it retains poignant reminders of the past, such as the foundation stone laid by the League of Nations in 1929, which is still visible in the Concordia meeting area directly below the Assembly Hall. Embedded in the stone is a time capsule containing memories from the past: a list of the members of the League of Nations, coins from every Member State and a copy of the Covenant of the League of Nations. The stone remains at the heart of the 46-hectare complex, which saw significant expansion in the 1950s and 1960s. The same paintings that stood witness to disarmament negotiations in the 1930s still adorn the walls of the Council Chamber at today's disarmament meetings. Delegates discuss twenty-first century problems on

their mobile phones, as they walk past the twentieth-century phone booths still visible throughout the Palais. A myriad of countries, cultures and viewpoints converge at over 12,000 conferences held each year at the Palais des Nations, which is imbued with a rich sense of history and yet at the cutting edge of current affairs.

Now the Palais des Nations is undergoing renovation, as part of the Strategic Heritage Plan launched in 2015 and in line with Sustainable Development Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities. More modern and sustainable infrastructure will help protect the irreplaceable heritage and make the buildings a state-of-the-art

workplace for delegates and UN staff. The renovations to the Secretariat buildings and the work for the protection of Library archives and the further reduction of energy costs and consumption are scheduled for completion by 2023. Disability access will be increased substantially throughout the Palais des Nations. Asbestos will be removed. There will be a new press conference room, and an extension to the cafeteria to accommodate up to 700 more people. Over 1,500 UN staff will work together in a new permanent building. Such renovations benefit Member States, international organizations and all those who use the space. These modern additions will retain touches of history, such as the stained glass installed in 1938 that will remain in the Press Bar and the furniture from 1936 that will still grace conference room III.

Take a peek at these rooms and more by visiting the interactive timeline at <http://bit.ly/2hERY0U> or scanning the QR code.



Artist's impression of the Palais des Nations in 2023, after the Strategic Heritage Plan has been put fully into effect.



The League of Nations laid its foundation stone in September 1929. Construction was completed in 1936. (League of Nations archives)

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Collaborating for safe cities

Fast urbanization means that much of the implementation of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) will occur at the city level, and that city administrations and mayors are growing in importance. **UNOG is a convergence point for representatives of cities, researchers working on urban safety and experts in peacebuilding.** The shared ambition is to fulfil [Goal 11](#), of making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, and [Goal 16](#), of promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Since 2014, UNOG has worked with the [Geneva Peacebuilding Platform](#) and the [United Nations Human Settlements Programme \(UN-Habitat\)](#) to facilitate the [Technical Working Group on the Confluence of Urban Safety and Peacebuilding Practice](#), which brings experts together with city representatives to help find solutions to the risks of insecurity and violence in cities.

In 2016, this process culminated in a conference, [Reviewing the State of Safety in World Cities: Safer Cities +20](#). It took place at the Palais des Nations and the Maison de la Paix from 6 to 8 July, and its success prompted the organizers to plan follow-up meetings, to be held in Geneva every two years. The conference took stock of 20 years of the UN-Habitat [Safer Cities Programme](#), drew together expertise collected through the Technical Working Group, and served as a lead-up to the Habitat III conference held in Quito in October that adopted the New Urban Agenda to promote sustainable urbanization.



(UN Photo: Kibae Park)

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Getting the words right in Marrakech

Making history... facilitating the work of the meetings we service... with civil society, a young and energetic process... These are some of the impressions of UNOG interpreters and documents management staff who brought their specialist skills and knowledge to Marrakech in November for the twenty-second Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP).

UNOG provides the climate conferences with continuity. Its interpreters in Marrakech deployed expertise built on their participation in the arc of the climate negotiations, stretching back in some cases to the Copenhagen conference of 2009.

GOAL 13: CLIMATE ACTION

Climate change is the leading challenge for the international community in the twenty-first century and only a concerted global response can address its causes and impacts. Climate change does not respect national borders; emissions anywhere on our planet affect people everywhere. Individuals feel its impact in every country and on every continent, with the poorest and most vulnerable among the most affected. To address climate change, Member States came together in December 2015 to adopt the Paris Agreement, in which they agreed to limit the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C. In 2016, States ratified the agreement in record time and it came into force in November 2016. Implementing the Paris Agreement is vital for the success of all of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Interpretation allows delegates to speak and listen in their native language or a language they feel comfortable in and to concentrate on the substance of the communication. It removes a major barrier from negotiations that are by their nature complex and difficult.

Listen to the audio interviews with interpreters Carolina López Uribe and Neil Cumming and documents assistant Nadine Mattana, who describe their experiences of the Marrakech conference.



Recyclable materials were used at the conference. (UN Photo: Kira Kruglikova)



Interpretation booths at the Marrakech climate conference (UN Photo: Kira Kruglikova)



Carolina López Uribe
(in English)
Listen at:
<http://bit.ly/2lbgaxC>



Nadine Mattana
(in French)
Listen at:
<http://bit.ly/2kBSM3J>



Neil Cumming
(in English)
Listen at:
<http://bit.ly/2kB0DN6>



[Through interpretation], delegates... can remove one layer of difficulty and one layer of stress and can freely express their thoughts... and can also understand what the others say.

The whole world was meeting to make decisions on issues that affect us all.

I do this job because I love it.

The statements of the planet's leaders go through us interpreters... that's why we tend to feel that we're part of history and that we participated in it, because their voices go through us!

The city was decorated in the colours of the COP, with flags everywhere... the COP logo was even on all the taxis.

The Geneva Negotiating Text became the Paris Agreement.

In Paris there was a whole team of translators from Geneva to translate urgent texts, whereas in Marrakech the teams worked from Geneva in the evenings and the weekend.

I started following the UNFCCC process in 2015, first here in Geneva when there was the initial meeting on the negotiating text, and then a few times in Bonn, then Paris, and seeing that through to Marrakech.

One very clear difference between Paris and Marrakech was the shift from finding a framework for agreement, towards implementation.

It's quite unprecedented, I think, to have an agreement be signed and ratified and enter into force that quickly.

I also feel as though, when working on drafting texts and when precise language is needed, working in multiple languages... helps provide an extra layer of reflection... and can help clarify the text and make it more precise.



Where peace happens

Conflicts are intensifying and devastating the lives of millions. Deaths in war-ravaged countries have more than tripled over the past decade. Half of all refugee children are out of school – a crippling legacy for the next generation. We are losing count of the number of people driven to the edge of survival.

In response to this haunting reality, Governments, international organizations and world leaders created the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) to end poverty, protect the planet and nurture peaceful and inclusive societies for all. In line with those aims, the United Nations plays an indispensable role in bringing warring parties to the negotiating table.

Throughout 2016, the United Nations Office at Geneva hosted the [Intra-Syrian Talks](#). Discussions between the [Government of the Syrian Arab Republic](#) and the [opposition](#) focused on political transition, governance and constitutional principles. At the conclusion of the third round, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria shared a [mediator's summary of common points](#) reached between the parties. Meanwhile, the International Syria Support Group set up two task forces to oversee the delivery of much-needed [humanitarian](#) aid to thousands of Syrians in besieged areas, as well as to work towards a cessation of hostilities.

Other than the Intra-Syrian Talks, the Geneva International Discussions, on security and stability and the return of internally displaced persons and refugees in Georgia, continued to be convened at the Palais des Nations on a regular basis, and different rounds of negotiations took place in the politically and even geographically constituted Greater International Geneva, including those on Yemen, [Cyprus](#), the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Great Lakes region of Africa.

The Palais des Nations is a conducive environment for negotiations, thanks to its

well-tested infrastructure, and its skilled personnel who include mediation experts, communications specialists, conference officers, technicians, language specialists and many more. UNOG is dedicated to improving its ability to provide highly specialized support to mediation processes. In February 2016, UNOG inaugurated a renovated meeting area – a space in the Palais des Nations specifically designed to facilitate conflict mediation and negotiations – appropriately named “Concordia”. It proved an ideal location for the Intra-Syrian Talks in 2016.

Supporting Member States in their efforts to reach [Sustainable Development Goal 16](#), on peace, justice and strong institutions, requires that the entire United Nations system work

across divides. The Department of Political Affairs and UNOG, for example, have joined forces to bolster Geneva as a hub for peacemaking. Since 2015, a senior political affairs officer, generously funded by the Government of Switzerland, has been working in the Office of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva to provide technical and operational support to peace processes, strengthen mediation capacity, develop synergies, and offer mediation guidance and advice on best practices. The United Nations has also intensified its partnerships with think tanks and non-governmental organizations working in Geneva for peace. A number of these organizations now collaborate with UN envoys in their efforts to prevent conflict and restore peace around the world.

2016 has been a fruitful year in our collective pursuance of peace and conflict resolution in Geneva. The Sustainable Development Goals framework will provide new momentum to these efforts and UNOG will continue to exercise its convening power to bring people together in response to the complex challenges of our time.

GOAL 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Peaceful and inclusive societies, access to equitable justice for all and the building of accountable and reliable institutions at all levels are vital for sustainable development. This is because the rule of law and development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Education, for example, suffers in times of conflict, with 50% of children in conflict-affected countries leaving primary schools in 2011. An educated population, meanwhile, plays an important role in holding leaders and institutions to account. Tackling the loss of some US\$1.26 trillion a year for developing countries to corruption, bribery, theft and tax evasion, meanwhile, would release resources vitally needed for sustainable development. Sustainable Development Goal 16 outlines a wide range of targets to help Member States forge a more peaceful, inclusive and equitable future.



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (centre), the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mustafa Akıncı (left), and the Greek Cypriot leader, Nicos Anastasiades (right), shake hands during the Cyprus talks in November 2016. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)

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A K9 dog stands guard during a press stakeout with the delegation of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, on 18 March 2016 at the Intra-Syrian Talks. (UN Photo: Anne-Laure Lechat)



Jan Egeland, Special Advisor to the Special Envoy for Syria (left) and Staffan de Mistura, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria (right) during a press conference following the Task Force on Humanitarian Access in Syria on 25 February 2016 (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



A close-up during a press conference on 14 April 2016 with Staffan de Mistura, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, at the Intra-Syrian Talks held in Geneva (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)

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Making peace visible

Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies can be noisy or quiet. It requires both public advocacy and discreet mediation: UNOG does it all. UNOG hosted and supported a number of mediation processes in 2016, but it also talked peace with thousands of delegates and visitors.

At Geneva Peace Week, from 7 to 11 November, nearly 50 events featuring more than 100 expert speakers generated new ideas and new partnerships for building peaceful and inclusive societies. UNOG co-facilitated the week with the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. Equally successful, the fourth Geneva Peace Talks, held on International Day of Peace, 21 September, attracted over 500 people to the Palais des Nations. They were streamed online, and gathered more than 22 million impressions on social media under #GVAPeaceTalks. At a time of complex challenges and conflicts, the inspirational speakers gave much-needed examples of how, when and why peace happens. The collaboration between UNOG, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform and Interpeace on this event has been further strengthened through an exchange of letters between the three partners, which will be the basis for future Geneva Peace Talks. Adding another dimension to UNOG's engagement on the question of building peace, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Tunisian Quartet spoke on 21 April at the Geneva Lecture Series, in the Palais des Nations. The lecture series is co-organized by UNOG and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The Nobel peace laureates shared their impressive experience on how civil society can help to bring about peace.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon spoke at the Geneva Conference on Preventing Violent Extremism, co-hosted by the United Nations and the Government of Switzerland on 7 and 8 April at the Palais des Nations. UNOG provided conference services, protocol assistance, and security and public information services, thus helping Member States on their way to a more coherent response to the violent extremism that is a major challenge to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16.

In addition to the many events taking place in Geneva, the UNOG Director-General represented the Secretary-General, and participated in his own capacity, at various events in the region, promoting peace, rights and well-being and highlighting the importance of preventing conflict by implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressing the Geneva Conference on Preventing Violent Extremism (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



Ouided Bouchamaoui, President of the Tunisian Union of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts (second from left), speaking at the Geneva Lecture Series (UN Photo: Elma Okic)

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Director-General's missions in 2016

Warwick Economics Summit
United Kingdom

Speaking engagement at the University of Oxford
United Kingdom

Speaking engagement at the International Institute for Strategic Studies
United Kingdom

Meetings at the European Union
Belgium

Sixth high-level meeting of the Inter-Regional Dialogue on Democracy
France

Lecture at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies Europe
Italy

Workshop on promoting a culture of change in the United Nations system
Italy

Meeting
Holy See

Munich Security Conference
Germany

International Peace Bureau World Congress
Germany

Key conferences in Switzerland, including the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos

Europe Whole, Free and at Peace – 2040 international conference to mark the 25th anniversary of Lithuania's UN membership
Lithuania

European Newspaper Congress
Austria
Annual Security Review Conference of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
Austria

2016 Bled Strategic Forum
Slovenia

Tenth plenary session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean
Albania

Building a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World international conference
Kazakhstan

17th Syri Symposium
Greece

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Geneva and human rights

“We will not enjoy development without security, we will not enjoy security without development, and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights.”

– Former Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan

Human rights are fundamental to the success of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), which sees peace, development and human rights as interdependent. The Sustainable Development Goals, with their emphasis on universality and “leaving no one behind”, incorporate the insights and spirit of human rights.

In 2016, the international community marked the tenth anniversary of the Geneva-based [Human Rights Council](#). Over the last decade, the Council has grown into the premier forum for human rights. Its more than 1,000 resolutions shape global norms, and its [universal periodic review](#) is an unprecedented mechanism that brings global attention to the human rights situation in all 193 Member States of the United Nations.

Behind the scenes, UNOG audiovisual technicians, communication specialists, security guards, translators and many others provide the often unseen – but vital – support services necessary for the Human Rights Council to meet and work on behalf of us all. While the number of Council meetings has gone up by 20% between 2012 and 2016 at a time of ever-tightening budgets, UNOG remains committed to providing the essential services to the Council.

The shores of Lake Geneva are home not only to the Human Rights Council and the [Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights](#), but to non-governmental organizations dedicated to the defence of our common dignity. In 2016, International Geneva marked the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of two critical elements of the International Bill of Human Rights: the [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) and the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#). The year also saw the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the [Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment](#). These agreements are cornerstones of the protection of human rights and will continue to guide our collective efforts for human dignity.

The opening day of the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



Voting on a resolution on the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, during the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



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Assistance to participants during the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



A UNOG security officer stands guard during the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



A UNOG staff member distributes multilingual documentation during the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)

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Conference on Disarmament

“The world is overarmed and peace is underfunded.” – Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

In 2015, global military spending reached almost \$1.7 trillion. This represents a daily expenditure of \$4.6 billion on defence, more than the annual budget of the United Nations. In spite of financial constraints, the world is spending more on its armed forces than it did at the end of the cold war. This spending spree comes with real opportunity costs, as military funding could instead be used to address the root causes of conflicts, such as poverty, inequality, environmental degradation and weak governance.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development holds that there cannot be progress on development or human rights without peace and security. Disarmament is integral to peace and security. It removes the tools of war, builds trust between parties and contributes to the rule-based international order envisioned in Sustainable Development Goal 16. In an increasingly multipolar world, disarmament requires a multilateral approach and the Palais des Nations is home to the only multilateral forum on the issue: the [Conference on Disarmament](#).

The General Assembly created the Conference on Disarmament in 1979 after the success of other Geneva-based disarmament efforts. In the preceding years, the shores of Lake Geneva had witnessed milestone negotiations, including those that had led to the [Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons](#), which seeks to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament as well as general and complete disarmament. The 65 member States of the Conference on Disarmament meet to discuss critical disarmament problems, including nuclear disarmament, prevention of an arms race in outer space and transparency in armaments.

The Director-General of UNOG, Michael Møller, serves as Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and as the personal representative of the UN Secretary-General to the Conference. In June 2016, Mr. Møller organized the second [Conference on Disarmament Civil Society Forum](#) to facilitate dialogue between member States of the Conference and civil society. The discussion allowed civil society to share their expertise on a range of issues – including new technologies that challenge existing international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and the link between the Sustainable Development Goals and disarmament. The new technologies include lethal autonomous weapons systems, or “killer robots”, that would identify and attack a target without human intervention.

In 2016, Geneva also hosted the Open-ended Working Group to substantively address concrete effective legal measures, legal provisions and norms that will need to be concluded to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons. The discussions added a new dimension to the deliberations on making the world free of nuclear weapons, reinforcing Geneva’s role as a global hub for disarmament.



United Nations Peace Messenger Michael Douglas at an event, organized by the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs at the Palais des Nations, to mark the launch of the disarmament section of the UNOG Bookshop and to honour the winners of the United Nations Poster for Peace contest (UN Photo: Pierre Albouy)

Working with civil society on the Sustainable Development Goals

Drawing on multiple areas of expertise, civil society was an eloquent voice in formulating the Sustainable Development Goals. And now, it is a key contributor to the partnerships that are building the road to 2030. **Geneva is the most important operational hub of the international system, with the Palais des Nations at its heart, and a fertile ground for building partnerships among Governments, the private sector, civil society, UN entities and other actors.** UNOG fosters engagement with civil society, inviting people from all walks of life to come to the Palais des Nations and be part of the dialogue.

The **NGO Liaison Unit** is the first point of contact for civil society actors wanting to strengthen their engagement with the United Nations system in Geneva. **Consultative status** with the Economic and Social Council is the formal framework that opens the way for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to participate fully in shaping the UN agenda and advancing UN goals and objectives. In 2016, the Liaison Unit advised more than 60 NGOs on how to apply for this status. Once an NGO obtains consultative status, its representatives can be accredited to three UN duty stations – New York, Geneva and Vienna – and can receive passes that let them readily participate in dialogue throughout the year. The number of accredited NGOs grows every year: there were 9.5% more in 2016 than in 2015.

The Liaison Unit is a “one-stop shop” that helps on a daily basis with enquiries such as “can my NGO organize a conference at the Palais des Nations?” (the answer is yes) and “how can an NGO representative attend meetings at the Palais des Nations?”. It provides logistical assistance, and coordination with relevant UNOG services, as well as **answers to many questions online.**

In 2016, the Director-General of UNOG met twice with the Geneva NGO community to

hold dialogues on the UN’s agenda and priorities. A record 290 NGO representatives took part, up from 75 in 2014 and 168 in 2015. Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals was discussed at both meetings.

Among the events held at the Palais des Nations in 2016 was a briefing for the Geneva NGO community, on 15 April, with the **Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, David Nabarro. Dr. Nabarro gave an overview of his activities to galvanize action around the 2030 Agenda, with an emphasis on partnerships for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and on his work relevant to Geneva-based actors, and had a dialogue with 70 NGO representatives. On 30 May, a briefing was held with Bruce Jenks, Senior Adviser to the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, and colleagues, on the implications of Agenda 2030 for the financing of the United Nations development system. And before the start of the June session of the Human Rights Council, the World Young Women’s Christian Association held a first-of-its-kind youth forum, which produced a **declaration** on how the Council could address youth voices and issues and presented it to the Human Rights Council and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

GOAL 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Sustainable development will depend on the ability of Governments, international organizations, the private sector and civil society to collaborate and share information at all levels, like never before. Revolutionary political, economic, social and technological changes make traditional top-down approaches to development outdated. Urgent action is needed instead to break down bureaucratic and national divides and to encourage partnerships between the public and private sectors, regional and national governments, and officials and civil society leaders. Private individuals, meanwhile, have a vital role to play as citizens, consumers, advocates and volunteers. We all have our part to play to make this planet safe, sustainable and fair for future generations. International Geneva is a partnership hub where new synergies are created every day.

“Without progress on gender equality, goals on health, education, reduced inequalities and others will not be achievable”

Director-General Michael Møller addressing the Forum on the Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls in a Sustainable Development Perspective, 10 October 2016

NGOs and UNOG in 2016



UNOG helped the NGO community to organize **75** conferences, panel discussions, seminars and workshops, at least ½ of which dealt with mobilization to implement the Sustainable Development Goals



UNOG processed accreditations for **864** NGOs, giving **4,277** NGO representatives access to the Palais des Nations on an annual or a temporary basis



About **1/2** the NGOs accredited to UNOG are based in the **Geneva** area



UNOG Director-General Michael Möller and representatives of civil society at the biannual meeting held on 25 February (UN photo: Audrey Djouadi)

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Continued cost avoidance in travel services

Airline negotiations are conducted under the umbrella of the Common Procurement Activities Group, which includes 18 international organizations based in Geneva. There are currently 23 corporate fare agreements signed or under negotiation with major air carriers. The discussions are led by UNOG, which represents the interests of all participating organizations throughout the negotiation process.

The cost avoidance in 2016 achieved by the Common Procurement Activities Group in the area of travel is estimated at SwF 17.3 million, representing approximately 17% of the combined net air travel spend of the international organizations in Geneva.

Most of the cost avoidance is generated by the agreements established with three major European airlines and with carriers from the Middle East-Gulf region. Agreements with smaller carriers have also proved to be highly cost-effective in regard to travel to certain specific regions. In collaboration with United Nations Headquarters, Common Procurement Activities Group member organizations have recently established the first truly global agreement, which has been made available to all duty stations. Another important development is the first agreement with a major low-cost carrier. In addition to discounted corporate fares, the Common Procurement Activities Group negotiates flexible fare conditions, which are also an important source of savings for the member organizations.





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2

Spreading the word

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will only succeed if enough people take action.

In 2016, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for at least two billion people around the world to become aware of the Sustainable Development Goals by the end of 2017. This equates to more than a quarter of the world’s population. The United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) plays a vital role in this outreach effort. Drawing on both traditional and social media, UNOG is spreading the word about the Sustainable Development Goals and about the vital work of the United Nations system and its partners.

UNOG is also breaking down barriers between the United Nations and the public by opening the doors of the Palais des Nations and inviting young and old alike to contribute their passion and insight. The United Nations will succeed in the twenty-first century only if it can make its voice heard in an increasingly interactive and non-hierarchical media landscape.





People living in poverty discuss their struggle – and solutions

Being poor is not just about not having enough money.

It also means not having access to decent housing – struggling to find a place to live while trying to keep a job and fulfil obligations.

It means being told things like “we’re tired of your unstable situation”, when work colleagues find out that you have been living in temporary shelters.

Over the past 25 years, the number of people in the world living in poverty has fallen by a half. But too many – over 830 million – still live in poverty. That’s why the commitment to “end poverty in all its forms everywhere”, the very first of the Sustainable Development Goals, is so important.

Several people living in poverty in Switzerland offered eye-opening accounts of how their condition affects their housing situation, their professional lives and their work interactions, at the commemoration for **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**, on 17 October.

UNOG and the non-governmental organization **ATD Fourth World** organized the event, held at the Palais des Nations. Its theme was “Moving from humiliation and exclusion to participation: ending poverty in all its forms”. Representatives of the 17th October Coalition, a group of 13 NGOs working with people living in poverty in Geneva, as well as Agnès Dumas, the ATD Fourth World representative for Switzerland, spoke about the lack of access to adequate and decent housing. Radek Maturana, an assistant director at the Social Services Department of the City of Geneva, explained the city’s strategy and actions for improving the housing situation of people living in poverty, and stressed the need for greater dialogue between authorities and key groups.



People living in poverty in Switzerland give accounts of the many difficulties they face on a daily basis. (UN Photo: Pierre Albouy)

GOAL 1: NO POVERTY

Although the international community cut extreme poverty by more than half between 1990 and 2015, more than 830 million people worldwide continue to live on less than US\$1.25 a day. Addressing poverty in all its dimensions is fundamental to our collective efforts to build a safe and sustainable world, because the manifestations of poverty are far-reaching. Destitution leads to hunger, limits access to education and basic services, and breeds the kind of discrimination and inequality that can lead to conflict. Building on the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals, Sustainable Development Goal 1 calls for the elimination of extreme poverty for all people everywhere by 2030.

“The full participation of persons who are living in poverty, especially in regard to decisions affecting their lives and communities, must be at the centre of policies and strategies that aim to build a sustainable future,” stressed UNOG Director-General Michael Møller. The discussions also focused on the possibility of developing approaches to poverty and urbanization that would help turn the unstoppable growth of cities and urban areas into opportunities that leave no one behind.

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“The Letter’s Colours”, an exhibition organized by the Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty, shed light on actions and initiatives to fight poverty and on the courage and determination of those who take on this work. The exhibition showcased extracts from ATD Fourth World’s regular *Letter to Friends Around the World*, which describes specific situations experienced by individuals and groups working to end extreme poverty. The extracts were accompanied by drawings by H el ene Perdereau.

Learning about overcoming extreme poverty, at the exhibition titled “The Letter’s Colours”. (UN Photo: Pierre Albouy)

The Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Rwanda, Fran ois Xavier Ngaramb e, speaking about poverty from experience (UN Photo: Pierre Albouy)



A short film showed how Rwanda is tackling housing problems in a participatory way: local authorities are getting together with NGO representatives and people in remote and substandard housing in order to work together towards an upgrade of their living conditions, as part of the country’s large-scale housing modernization project. Fran ois Xavier Ngaramb e, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Rwanda, delved into his own personal experience and that of his country in trying to improve conditions for people living in poverty.



Equipping future leaders to zero in on hunger

The [Perception Change Project](#)¹ and the [Eduki Foundation](#)² gave students with an interest in journalism, the media, communication and international affairs the opportunity to become “real-life” reporters for UNOG via the “Young Reporters at UNOG” project. The students, aged from 15 to 19, attended monthly topic-centred press briefings.

The June briefing focused entirely on food security.³ Representatives from three of the Perception Change Projects’ [partners](#) – the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Trade Centre and the Economic Commission for Europe – gave presentations on their work and answered the students’ questions.

On the basis of these interactions, some students wrote articles about their experience and what they had learned about International Geneva’s role in tackling food insecurity.⁴ “As part of the introduction, the moderator indicated our role: ‘Ask questions that upset, disturb, destabilize.’ So this is journalism, destabilizing our interlocutors; this is a very interesting game, in which I will take part with pleasure”, wrote Yannis Trophardy from the Lycée International de Ferney-Voltaire in his report on the briefing.

This exercise nurtured communication and writing skills. It also stimulated the students’ interest in food security, and spread among their peers an appreciation for the urgent work of the international community to reach zero hunger. The [Zero Hunger Challenge](#) is a mission to end hunger that was launched by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in 2012. With all five elements of the challenge integrated into the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations believes that it is possible to eradicate hunger⁵ within a generation.

Impact from partners

The [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#) (FAO) aims to achieve food and nutritional security for everyone, facilitate access to food and improve food production. It has made great strides, through initiatives such as the [Committee on World Food Security](#), an inclusive international and intergovernmental platform to achieve food security and nutrition for all, and with the fight against hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean, the region that has shown the most progress in reducing the percentage of people suffering from hunger over the past 20 years.

As its Trade for Sustainable Development initiative shows, the [International Trade Centre](#) (ITC) is dedicated to building sustainable agricultural production and trade, which support food security, and to strengthening the capacity of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in developing and least developed countries. ITC works with value-chain actors to improve production and business practices in agriculture. This includes capacity-building initiatives designed to improve the ability of these enterprises to meet sustainability and food-safety standards. Ensuring access to information and transparency on the requirements of voluntary standards are crucial to achieving more sustainable agriculture. ITC’s [Standards Map](#) identifies standards for producers, exporters, policymakers and buyers, and covers issues such as food quality, food contamination and workplace hygiene.

The [Economic Commission for Europe](#) (ECE) develops standards to ensure quality where the production and sale of food is concerned. ECE ensures that elements such as packaging, food storage and transport are regularly checked and comply with its standards. The standards aim to create a common language for trade across borders. ECE takes into account the concerns of consumers, producers and retailers regarding the origin, quality, safety and waste of food.

GOAL 2: ZERO HUNGER

World hunger is an ongoing global crisis, although the international community has made headway by cutting the proportion of undernourished people in developing regions by nearly half since 1990. Today, around 800 million people are still undernourished: this blight kills some 3.1 million children each year. With the world population expected to grow to 9 billion by 2050, sustained effort and innovation from the United Nations and its partners will be needed to feed humanity and address the underlying causes of food insecurity. Building on the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals, Sustainable Development Goal 2 calls for an end to hunger for all people everywhere by 2030.

¹ The Perception Change Project was launched by the Director-General of UNOG, Michael Møller, in 2014. The project aims to highlight the impact of the work done by International Geneva, which is made up of all the UN and international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other institutions and partner organizations based in Geneva.

² The Eduki Foundation aims to promote education and awareness about international cooperation and the work of international organizations, among young people. It helps foster ongoing relationships between students and international organizations through activities such as visits and training.

³ “Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.” – World Food Summit, of 1996. The four pillars of food security are availability, access, utilization and stability.

⁴ Food insecurity results from a variety of factors, including mismanagement and over-exploitation of farmland, poor-quality soils, lack of access to water, climate change and more. Its duration is dependent on a number of factors, which splits it up into two general types – chronic food insecurity and transitory food insecurity.

⁵ Hunger: Today there are around 800 million people who go hungry, and 2 billion who suffer from micronutrient deficiencies – a lack of the essential vitamins and minerals needed by the body in small amounts for proper growth and development.

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Food events attended by the Perception Change Project team and partners

2016 was the [International Year of Pulses](#). ECE and FAO held a culinary event – “Nutritious seeds for a sustainable future” – on 19 April to celebrate pulses, a traditional superfood. The Perception Change Project had a stand at the event, where it offered its book *Recipes for Peace, Rights and Well-being*.

The [Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition](#) and the [Global Health Centre](#) of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies hosted the first [#UrbanNutrition](#) talk in Geneva on 10 November. The theme was “Protecting our planet’s health: growing cities, poor nutrition, what can be done?”, with the discussions focusing on how we can improve the nutrition of vulnerable urban populations.

“Good nutrition is decisive for everything in life. We are working together with different stakeholders on this issue and building trust among them. I believe that good nutrition is not only a maker of development but also a marker of development. Promoting good nutrition and fighting poverty go hand in hand.”

- Gerda Verburg, coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition movement



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Healthy bodies, healthy planet

According to the World Health Organization, inactivity is the world's number four risk factor for mortality, causing an estimated 3.2 million deaths each year. One in four adults and more than 80% of adolescents are not active enough. Promoting the benefits of sport and physical activity is vital to our collective efforts to reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by one third by 2030, as envisioned in Sustainable Development Goal 3.

In 2016, staff from the United Nations Office at Geneva and members of the international community took part in a number of sports-related events held at the Palais des Nations and around the city of Geneva. These included a slow biking contest at Cycling Festival Europe, a commemorative event on the awarding of the Olympic Cup to the United Nations and the presence of the Olympic flame at UNOG, a powerful taekwondo demonstration, an event to mark International Day of Yoga, and the third Escalade run training session held in the scenic Ariana Park.

GOAL 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Protecting the health and well-being of people of all ages around the world is vital for sustainable development, as healthy populations are more stable, more productive and better able to allocate resources for other pressing concerns. Global collaboration on health issues has already yielded progress. Maternal mortality, for example, has fallen by nearly 50% since 1990, while 17,000 fewer children die each day than in 1990. In spite of these successes, more than 6 million children under the age of five still die every year, while only a half of the women in developing regions receive adequate health care. Pandemics, antimicrobial resistance, neglected tropical diseases, cancers and chronic illnesses, meanwhile, are only some of the vital issues that require international cooperation under Sustainable Development Goal 3.

Support for refugees from our partners



The International Olympic Committee invited refugee athletes, who would otherwise not have been able to compete, to participate in the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro under the Olympic flag.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, and the President of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, at "Celebrating the Olympic Spirit", held at the Palais des Nations on 29 April 2016. The event was organized by UNOG and its partners the International Olympic Committee, the Rio 2016 Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Government of Brazil, the Permanent Mission of Brazil and the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



The World Taekwondo Federation established the Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation to raise awareness of the condition of refugees and to promote their well-being through sports – the first time that an international sports federation has established a fund for this purpose.

A powerful taekwondo demonstration and “crash course” in the martial art, organized jointly by the World Taekwondo Federation and UNOG, was held in the Cour d’Honneur of the Palais des Nations on 18 May 2016. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



On 6 November 2016, UNOG opened its doors for the third consecutive year for a Course de l’Escalade training session, welcoming 2,700 participants. The training session not only encouraged physical exercise, but also fostered closer ties between International Geneva and the local community that it is a part of. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



The United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace Youth Leadership Programme, already in its fifth year, explores methods of conflict resolution and social integration through sport, welcoming participants from several countries around the globe, including refugee youth.

On 19 June 2016, UNOG and the Permanent Mission of India hosted an event to celebrate International Day of Yoga. Participants were given a lecture and demonstration on this ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice. (Photo: Sandip De)

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Education for peace, rights and well-being

“Education is the greatest resource you can have. You can lose everything – your home, your money, everything. But no one can take your knowledge. It’s baggage that’s easy to take with you and that can open a lot of doors.”

That’s what Widad Bachayani told 250 young migrants, refugees and asylum seekers attending Geneva schools who took part in “Educating the Future” – a special event held at UNOG on 16 September. Syrian-born Bachayani, now a Swiss citizen, works in the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria.

Education is key to successfully integrating migrants and refugees in their host societies and to helping them unlock future opportunities. With this in mind, UNOG worked hand in hand with the **Espace Entreprise** branch of the City of Geneva’s department for secondary education and with the **Accueil du Postobligatoire** school and the **Eduki Foundation** to bring these young people to the Palais des Nations for a fun-filled competition in the morning, which included a photo contest and a quiz, and an awards ceremony in the afternoon honouring the winners.

The event took place three days before the first United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants. The summit, which was held in New York, resulted in the 193 Member States of the United Nations signing the **New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants**, a plan for addressing large movements of refugees and migrants.

Through the Information Service, UNOG creates many opportunities year-round to enhance the educational experience of its young audiences, making sure that human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals are on the programme. Teaming up again with the Eduki Foundation, UNOG hosted an awards ceremony on **International Mother Earth Day** – 22 April – for the participants in a Swiss national competition on the Sustainable Development Goals. More than 1,500 students aged between 10 and 19 had submitted projects and artwork on Switzerland’s four priority goals: **peace, water, equality and health**.

Most of the nearly 80 UNOG information programmes each year focusing on the work of the UN and its agencies are directed at groups of high-schoolers and university students. UNOG representatives also carry out visits to local schools, together with speakers from specialized agencies, to brief students on key challenges – for example the briefing given in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration as part of Human Rights Week at Geneva’s Institut Florimont in February. The children were interested to realize that actually most of the people in the room were migrants, and the question “who here is a migrant?” was met with many more raised hands at the end of the presentation than at the beginning.

Graduate students are also on UNOG’s radar. The **Graduate Study Programme**, the UN’s longest-running educational programme which is now in its fifty-fourth year, welcomed some 70 enthusiastic and motivated graduate students from over 30 countries in July. The students learned about the challenges of humanitarian assistance and development from representatives of over a dozen international organizations and by collaborating among themselves in five different working groups under expert supervision.



Young migrants, refugees and asylum seekers took the chance to discover the United Nations and UNOG at the “Educating the Future” event. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)

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Mobilizing our knowledge

“High-quality knowledge and information is central to the effectiveness and overall success of the United Nations in implementing the new development agenda” (consultations on research, training and library services: report of the Secretary-General, A/70/79-E/2015/70).

The **Library** of the United Nations Office at Geneva is a world-renowned competency centre that maintains and mobilizes UN knowledge and the memory of the Organization to support Member States and to serve researchers both inside and outside the UN system. The wealth of knowledge kept by the Library and Archives, which includes the historical archive of the League of Nations, is a valuable asset for the international community and especially for countries and organizations implementing global policy frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Around 50,000 users benefited in person from the Library and Archives resources in 2016, while the online resources were accessed over 200,000 times. The Library continues to improve its capacity to respond rapidly to users' questions. A new integrated library system and **global search engine** provides a one-stop shop for the entire contents of the Library and enables users to pinpoint and access resources both quickly and accurately. As of November 2016, the new system allows the Library of the United Nations Office at Geneva and its New York counterpart, the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, to offer a unified search environment for users around the world.

The Library is also a forum for intellectual outreach and substantive discussions on matters that are crucial to the UN system and the international community. Of these, two major concepts are chosen each year. In 2016, these were “gender” and the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. Three thousand seven hundred people attended 36 public events organized by the Library, which included Library Talks, book presentations and launches, seminars and storytelling. These events are opportunities for diplomats, visitors and UN staff to hear from and interact with experts and intellectuals from around the globe, who are invited to share their insights, experiences and points of view in an informal space reserved for frank, non-political discussions.



Library event with (from left to right) Francesco Pisano, Director, Library of the United Nations Office at Geneva; Yasmine Sherif, human rights lawyer, and vice-president of the Global Center for Justice and Humanity; and José Ramos-Horta, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and Chair of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations. (UN Photo: Fjorela Pahumi)

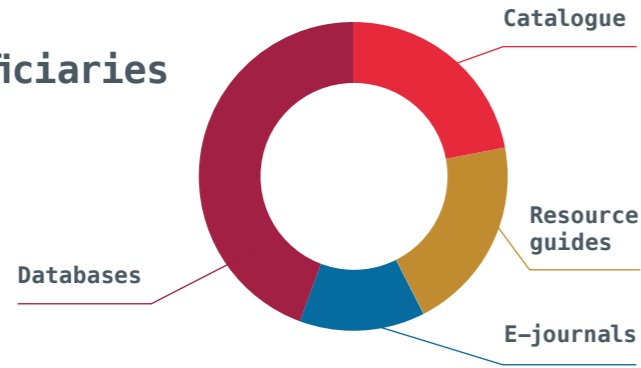


Participants and speaker at a Human Library event organized with the CAUX-Initiatives of Change Foundation (UN Photo: Leselle Panuncillo)

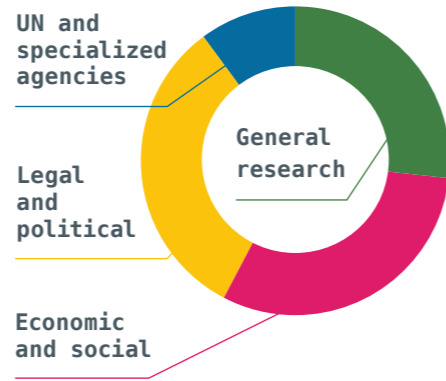
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2016 Library beneficiaries

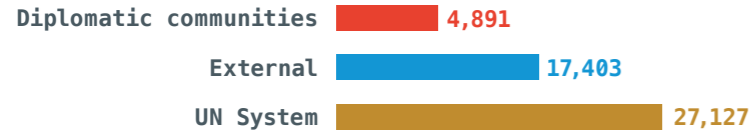
Remote access



Top research topics



49,421 beneficiaries



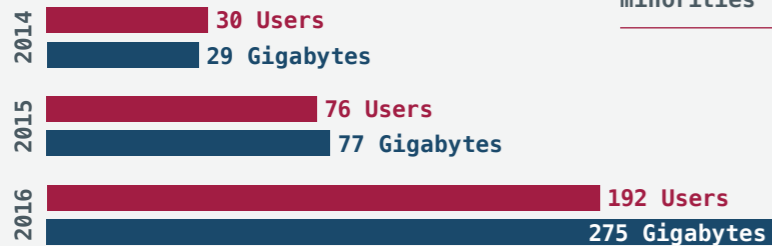
Archives

490,005
Online consultations
62,771
Paper file consultations

Top archive research topics



E-records management

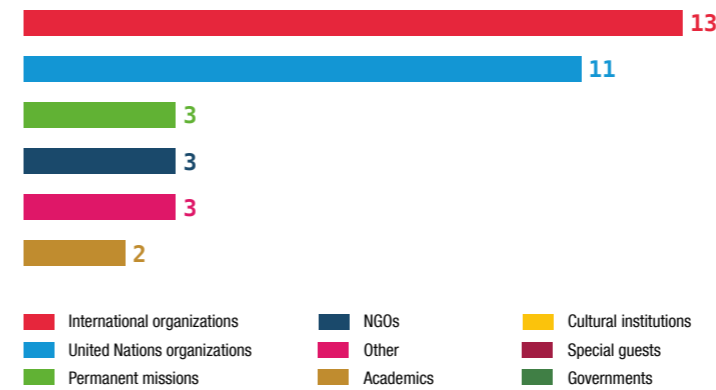


2016 Library events

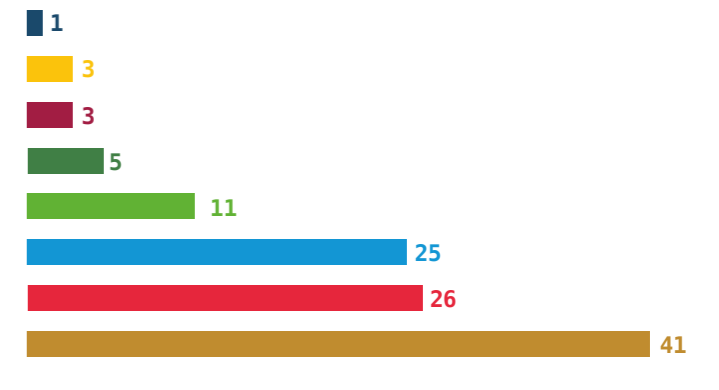
36 events
3,273 attendees



Our co-organizers



Our panellists



New museum

In May, the **United Nations at Geneva Museum** reopened its doors with a **new permanent exhibition** and redesigned space to provide increased opportunities to host workshops and group educational activities.

The new exhibition shows how the experience of the League of Nations influenced the creation of the United Nations as well as the work of the international community from the end of the First World War to today. Interactive touch screens and multimedia content help illustrate the significance of both organizations.



Poster from the Department of Public Information, 1947, displayed in the museum's permanent exhibition

Visitors look at artwork during an "open house" at the United Nations at Geneva Museum to mark International Museum Day. (UN Photo: Carla Bellota)



"In this exhibition you see the link between past and present, which is incredibly important if we are going to energize our young people to be an actor in the future, so that they see the amazing things that the system has done, since the beginning of the League of Nations and right through to the United Nations – for them, their fellow human beings and their children,"

said Director-General Michael Møller at the inauguration of the museum.

Director-General Michael Møller visits the reopened museum, on 20 May. (UN Photo: Coralie Chappat)



Girl takeover

"A girl takeover like today makes me realize that when girls like me are given a moment to be in charge, we can make a difference, and the world listens," said 17-year-old Jennie, a member of Plan International's **Youth Advisory Panel** in Sweden, and "Director-General" of the United Nations Office at Geneva for a day.

Jennie was one of 300 girls who had the opportunity to "take over" the functions of a high-level personality to gain an understanding of the work and to offer suggestions through a "youth lens". The event was organized by Plan International for the **International Day of the Girl Child**, a day dedicated to restating the equality of girls and women around the world. The 2016 theme of **Girls' Progress = Goals' Progress** placed the commemoration within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals.

During her interview with Michael Møller, the Director-General of UNOG, Jennie asked probing questions about girls, youth and the United Nations in general. She shared her plans to help shift the world's mindset on gender equality and discussed with the Director-General how youth can play a leading role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in women's empowerment.



Students flush with success on World Toilet Day

It's not often that you'll hear the United Nations encouraging toilet talk, but that's exactly what happened at a special event at the Palais des Nations. And in case you were wondering why you hadn't heard about this new policy directive, don't panic; the event in question was World Toilet Day.

Commemorated on 19 November, the focus in 2016 was on toilets and jobs. About 2.4 billion people lack proper access to toilets – an everyday problem that's high on the Sustainable Development Goals agenda and is addressed in **Goal 6, on clean water and sanitation**. Latest data suggest that nearly two in five workplace deaths are caused by disease transmission at work, while lack of access to water and poor sanitation costs the global economy an estimated \$260 billion a year.

UNOG lent its support to World Toilet Day by hosting an exhibition entitled "Game of Trônes", a playful poke at the hit TV show with a very similar name, and an allusion to the porcelain thrones that so many people still lack around the world today. The installation was the brainchild of students from the Aimée-Stitelmann school in Geneva. They decided to design their own bespoke toilet cubicles to raise awareness about the lack of adequate facilities worldwide, after winning a competition on sustainable development organized by key UNOG partner the **Eduki Foundation**. Memorably, one loo was made for up to three friends to sit down together should they so wish; visitors were also encouraged to leave their own graffiti messages, inspired by World Toilet Day, on the walls. It was this cubicle that UNOG Director-General Michael Møller visited.

At the launch of the exhibition, Mr. Møller praised the way the initiative had encouraged youngsters to think about such issues. He also highlighted how sanitation – or the lack of it – continues to impact on people's livelihoods and the workplace, before repeating the call for the international community to ensure universal access to toilets by 2030, as set out in Sustainable Development Goal 6.

Those sentiments were echoed by Jonathan Han of the Permanent Mission of Singapore, who commented that "toilets save lives". Mr. Han went on to underline how women and girls are disproportionately affected by the absence of safe toilets, which undermines their right to health and education and leaves them at risk of sexual violence. He also explained that this is why Singapore strongly advocated a stand-alone Sustainable Development Goal on water and sanitation, and why his country – one of the most water-scarce in the world – remains committed to working with international partners to promote sustainable urban water management and sanitation for all.

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Business as a driver for sustainable development

Concerns about sustainability shape business risks and opportunities in the twenty-first century. Shortages of natural resources, political instability and epidemics in one part of the globe quickly reverberate through international supply chains to impact upon businesses in another. Consumers and investors, meanwhile, draw on rapid information flows to demand that firms make ethical decisions wherever they trade. Today's business leaders recognize that their long-term successes hinge on our collective ability to make the world more sustainable, safe and fair. In other words, they depend on the success of the Sustainable Development Goals. The future of the Sustainable Development Goals, meanwhile, relies in part on the capacity to mobilize the resources, expertise and innovation of the private sector. This is the message that the United Nations Office at Geneva communicated in its outreach to business leaders in 2016 as it built partnerships for sustainable development.

GOAL 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

If the global population were to reach 9.6 billion by 2050, the equivalent of nearly three Earths would be necessary to provide the natural resources needed to maintain current lifestyles. Meeting rising consumer expectations on our ever more crowded planet will be a daunting challenge in the coming decades. Doing so will require sustainable consumption and production – “doing more and better with less”. It will depend on cooperation across supply chains and collaboration between producers and consumers to reduce resource use and degradation, and pollution. Failure to act, on the other hand, will fuel conflicts over limited resources within and between States. Sustainable Development Goal 12 calls on Member States to achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources by 2030.

In January 2016, for example, UNOG Director-General Michael Møller advocated for sustainable development at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos. While there, he helped create the Global Sustainability Index, a mechanism that measures the social responsibility of businesses. It evaluates whether entities are engaged in environmentally sound and sustainable practices, and whether firms support social justice and benefit local communities. At Davos, UNOG also provided the logistical and protocol support that made it possible for United Nations

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to attend. His voice on behalf of sustainable development made it a recurrent theme in the 2016 discussions, where the “Pledge 1%” initiative was created, which encourages firms to give 1% of their time to help others.

Throughout the year, the Director-General repeatedly advocated for the Sustainable Development Goals to business leaders, most notably at the Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services in May and the British Swiss Chamber of Commerce in June. In his speeches and one-to-one interactions with business leaders, the Director-General emphasized that the Sustainable Development Goals and smart business practices are mutually beneficial. “Climate action” and “Sustainable cities and communities” (Goals 13 and 11), for example, address the risks posed by the increase in natural disasters, which can be debilitating for businesses, while “Peace, justice and strong institutions” (Goal 16) encourages the rule of law sought by businesses. UNOG’s engagement with private sector leaders also touched on other topics, such as the International Gender Champions initiative that now counts over 120 champions, including firms such as IKEA Switzerland.



UNOG Director-General Michael Møller with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the World Economic Forum in January 2016 (UN Photo: Rick Barjonas)

Serious fun on a bike

Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, positions his turquoise bike on the white line. The whistle blows to start the race. The Director-General stands on the pedals, leans slightly forward over the handlebars and totters within his designated lane. His competitors, Geneva Conseiller d'État Luc Barthassat and Ambassador Roderick van Schreven of the Netherlands, alternately smile and grimace in concentration as they exhibit similar strategies. The point of this "slow bike" race is to reach the finish line last. All three wear bright orange sweaters – gifts from the Dutch host of the event, [Cycling Festival Europe](#).

Participants cycled from the Place des Nations to the Parc des Bastions, tried slow biking and experimented with riding unusual bikes. Children took bike tests to see how well they could cycle.

The Permanent Mission of the Netherlands organized the event in Geneva, together with a number of local partners, on 14 April 2016. With 5.5 million more bicycles than people, the Netherlands offers Cycling Festival Europe as a platform to promote cycling right across the continent, from Portugal to Romania to Estonia.

UNOG continues to encourage UN staff and the wider Geneva population to ride bicycles – both traditional and electric – to work. Cycling contributes to healthier staff members, and to lower exhaust levels and therefore to Sustainable Development Goal 13, on combating climate change.



UNOG Director-General Michael Møller and Geneva Conseiller d'État Luc Barthassat neck and neck in the slow biking contest at Cycling Festival Europe, organized by the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands and local partners on 14 April 2016 in Geneva's Parc des Bastions. (UN Photo: Pierre Albouy)

Geneva goes to the movies to help save our planet

What do a bird and an expert on glaciers have in common?

Both have good reason to worry about climate change, and both have given moviegoers convincing arguments why they should care.

Red, the hero of *The Angry Birds Movie* and an honorary United Nations ambassador, was in Geneva over the summer to raise awareness about the importance of protecting our planet and to promote the Sustainable Development Goals. Some 400 people attended the open-air screening of the movie on 8 July, as [Ciné-ONU Geneva](#) partnered with CERN's international film festival Ciné Globe – featuring movies inspired by science and promoting UN themes.

Children and adults happily took selfies standing alongside Red and the Sustainable Development Goal of their choice, as UN staff encouraged them to do what they can individually to help solve the world's most pressing issues, including climate change.

The following evening, close to 400 people attended a screening of the documentary *La Glace et le Ciel* (Ice and the Sky), by French director Luc Jacquet. The film tells the story of French glaciologist Claude Lorius and his pioneering work in the icefields of Antarctica. Lorius managed to reveal the impact of human activity on climate change in a way not done before. He discovered that each air bubble trapped within the polar icefields was an air sample from the past – some of them dating back years, centuries or millennia. Acting upon that discovery, he was able to go more than 400,000 years back into our climate history and to correlate his findings with the impact of human activity.

Partnering with CERN's film festival enabled Ciné-ONU Geneva to be part of a large community event and to reach out to a wider public. Moviegoers discussed the Sustainable Development Goals with UN representatives on-site.



An artistic lens for life below water

Going below the surface of the water... with 11-, 12- and 13-year-olds as our guides.

Stunning artwork was created by youngsters who took part in the Eduki Foundation's [Sustainable Development Goals: Imagine the Switzerland of Tomorrow](#) competition, under the patronage of the Director-General of UNOG. The competition encouraged young people to join the dialogue on sustainable development. Staff members and visitors to the Palais des Nations had a chance to admire the images as part of an Earth Day exhibition.

"You have put your creativity at the service of an action plan for humanity, for the planet and for prosperity: the Sustainable Development Goals," said Corinne Momal-Vanian, Director of the Division of Conference Management, to the young artists at the awards ceremony for the competition's winners on 22 April. "Both demanding and generous, you are not afraid of pointing out the obstacles and the problems, while proposing solutions. Your artwork sends a clear message: you are ready to work hard to put the world on a sustainable path."

GOAL 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

The world's oceans are critical to life as we know it. With oceans making up three quarters of the Earth's surface, their chemistry, currents and temperature are vital to the global systems that produce oxygen, water, weather and much of our food. Over 3 billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods, while oceans serve as the largest source of protein for humanity. Oceans also absorb some 30% of the carbon dioxide emitted through human activity. These bodies of water help to buffer the impact of global warming, while suffering often-overlooked damage. Sustainable Development Goal 14 calls on Member States to take significant measures by 2030 to protect this shared resource.



"Water about our Water?", a collective work by students of the International School of Geneva



800 species in Ariana Park

Did you know that we are home to an apiary that produces some 700 kilos of honey each year?

The apiary, located in Ariana Park, which surrounds the Palais des Nations, was gifted by Switzerland in 2012 to mark its tenth anniversary as a Member State of the United Nations. It houses half a million bees, working around ten queen bees. The honey is harvested twice a year, in June and August, and is packaged in pots with a label in the UN's six official languages that reads "For a sweeter world".

The bees do particularly well in Ariana Park owing to its impressive biodiversity: there are over 800 species in the park, including majestic trees over a hundred years old and many different species of flowers. This biodiversity did not just happen by chance, but as a

GOAL 15: LIFE ON LAND

Deforestation, soil degradation, desertification and the loss of biodiversity pose major challenges to sustainable development and to the lives of millions of people around the world. Forests are home to 80% of all terrestrial species and support the livelihoods of 1.6 billion people, yet 13 million hectares of forests are lost every year. Although 2.6 billion people depend on agriculture, soil degradation is affecting 52% of the land used for agriculture, threatening its future. Of the 8,300 animal species currently known, 8% are extinct and 22% are at risk of extinction. Sustainable Development Goal 15 includes a series of targets that are aimed at preserving our biological diversity for future generations.

result of a concerted effort over a period of several years: gardeners actively maintain the wildflower meadows, avoid pesticides, fertilize the land with compost, and use sheep as autumn-time lawnmowers! Sheep are released onto the grounds of the Palais in October and November each year to graze the meadow, cut the grass in an ecologically sustainable manner and provide natural fertilizer for the grass and flowers that will grow in the spring.

In its other efforts to protect land, promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and halt biodiversity loss, UNOG joined the authorities and people of Geneva on 22 April to celebrate [Earth Day](#) – the same day that the historic [Paris Agreement](#) to fight climate change was opened for signature in New York.

At the Palais des Nations, Earth Day celebrations began with the opening of an exhibition by Bolivian artist [Roberto Mamani Mamani](#), whose vibrant, arresting paintings inspired by his indigenous heritage promote living in harmony with Mother Earth. Later that day, experts discussed issues related to access to water, from a human rights perspective, at a seminar open to the public. And more than 700 children, including [Marta Reguero](#), a 15-year-old student of the International School of Geneva, came to the Palais with their teachers and parents to celebrate their commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals and to take part in the awards ceremony for the winners of the [Imagine the Switzerland of Tomorrow](#) art competition, organized in partnership with the Eduki Foundation. Marta won first prize out of 1,500 entries from five Swiss cantons. One day she aspires to work with the United Nations and tackle the problems that inspired her art creation.



A black kite flies over Ariana Park. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



Peacocks in Ariana Park (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



UNOG "lawnmowers" (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)

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Hiroshima sapling planted to symbolize peace

Every year, the Earth loses 13 million hectares of forests – a landmass the size of England – threatening a vital resource in the fight against climate change as well as in the struggle to preserve our planet’s rich biodiversity. Forests cover 30% of the Earth’s surface, but they are home to an estimated 80% of its terrestrial species of plants, insects and animals. In recognition of the importance of forests, Sustainable Development Goal 15 calls on Member States to sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss.

In October 2016, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon planted a special tree in Ariana Park: a sapling from one of the ginkgo bilobas that survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945. Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui, the president of Mayors for Peace, gave the tree to the United Nations to serve as a reminder of the need to abolish nuclear weapons, and of the existential threat that nuclear weapons pose to all forms of life. The sapling also represents the urgent need to preserve biodiversity. The ginkgo biloba is a threatened plant species, the last survivor of one of the oldest tree families on the planet and a living link to an era before dinosaurs. Its presence on the grounds of the Palais des Nations is a reminder of the need to abolish nuclear weapons and of the vital need to stand up for biodiversity.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon plants a ginkgo biloba sapling in Ariana Park. (UN Photo: Rick Bajornas)



51 | SPREADING THE WORD



World Press Freedom Day: meet the foot soldiers of democracy

“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.” – Universal Declaration of Human Rights

On World Press Freedom Day – 3 May – UNOG hosted a series of events showcasing cartoonists’ work in support of peace and human rights.

World-renowned press cartoonists Plantu (Jean Plantureux) of the French daily *Le Monde*, and Liza Donnelly, best known for her work for the iconic weekly magazine *The New Yorker*, spoke at a powerful Ciné-ONU screening of the documentary *Cartoonists – Foot Soldiers of Democracy*, at the Cinémas du Grütli in Geneva. “The name of this movie is very appropriate,” said Plantu. “It’s been 10 years since we created *Cartooning for Peace*, where we mixed cartoonists of different origins – Muslims, Christians, Jews, agnostics, atheists – in order to build a bridge where others try to create a divide.”

The International Press Cartoon Award, presented by Cartooning for Peace, went this year to Kenyan cartoonist Gado and Malaysian cartoonist Zunar. And the discussion held at the Palais des Nations on the topic “Cartooning against intolerance” shed light on cartoonists from different regions of the world and was an opportunity to reflect together on the issues of freedom and boundaries.

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Art in the service of diplomacy and dialogue

The Palais des Nations and Ariana Park which surrounds it are home to over 2,000 works of art, donated throughout the history of the League of Nations and the United Nations. In recent years UNOG has become a vibrant space for cultural diplomacy events, at the initiative of Member States and international organizations. In 2016, the Library welcomed almost 12,000 people to 101 events, at which 58 Member States and 29 international organizations shared artistic and cultural treasures with the diplomatic community, visitors and UN staff and contributed to promoting peace through dialogue among civilizations. These initiatives are an effective way of opening up the Palais des Nations to the public and building bridges with the local community.

The cultural diplomacy events held in 2016 comprised events held as part of the [Cultural Activities Programme](#), and side events. In all, there were 60 art exhibitions, 14 film screenings, 19 concerts, three artwork donation ceremonies, and five other types of performance, namely poetry readings, calligraphy writing, a fashion show, a martial arts demonstration and a yoga demonstration. The number of events organized by several Member States working together is also growing, further enhancing dialogue between nations and cultures.



Traditional Mexican coloured sawdust carpet – part of an exhibition to mark World Soil Day (UN Photo: Mylène Della Monica)



Musically gifted children from disadvantaged families in Switzerland, after their performance in a symphony orchestra in the Assembly Hall (UN Photo: Ivanna Petrova)



A woman admires a painting at the opening of an exhibition of works by Ross Rossin. (UN Photo: Mylène Della Monica)

"Ángel de la Paz", a donation from the Permanent Mission of Guatemala (UN Photo: Anastasiya Kotlova)



"The Dove", a donation from the Permanent Mission of Montenegro (Photo courtesy of the Permanent Mission of Montenegro)

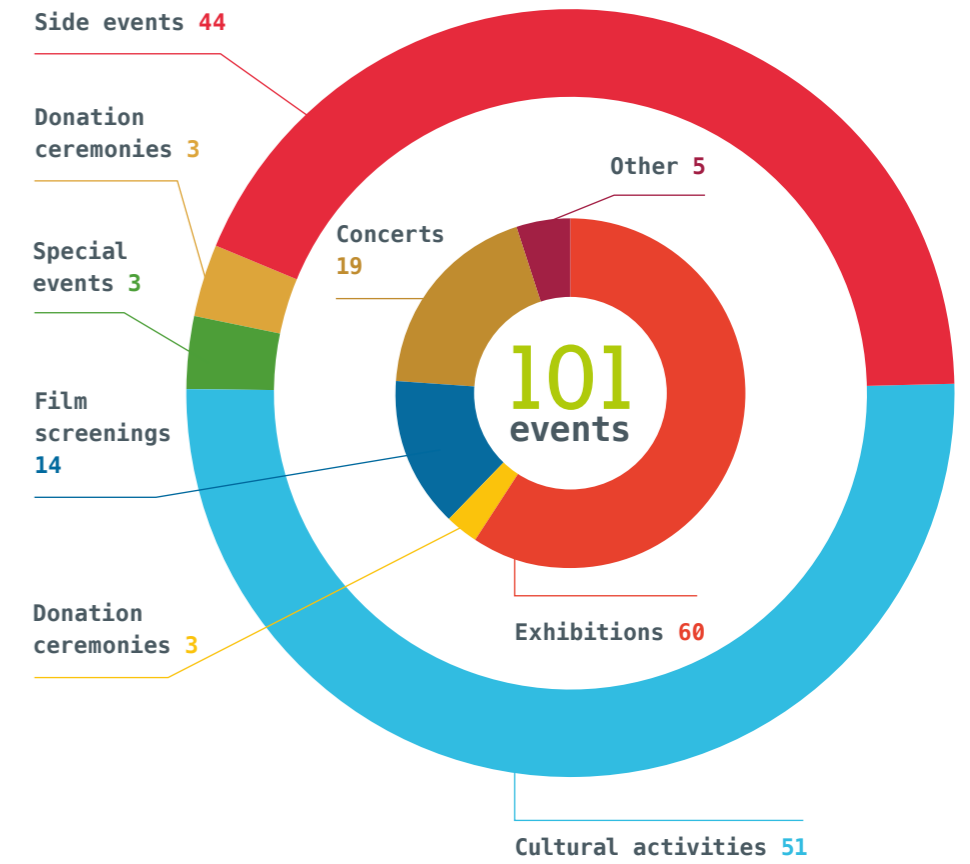


"Qvevri", a donation from the Permanent Mission of Georgia (Photo courtesy of the Permanent Mission of Georgia)



2016 Cultural events

101 events
11,900 attendees



Organized with

58 Member States

29 International organizations

17 Events were jointly organized

Towards coherence across International Geneva in policy and action for the 2030 Agenda

Throughout 2016, UNOG continued to champion cooperation and the building of partnerships in and beyond Geneva – particularly to facilitate the efficient implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. This included regular regional group briefings for Member States, meetings with non-governmental organizations, and joint communication efforts via the Perception Change Project, as well as a number of other key activities.

UNOG's Executive Briefings, for example, are a springboard to the work of enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development, articulated in target 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Speakers share their specialist knowledge of major issues with diplomats and representatives of UN entities and partner organizations, and then take part in a discussion, usually chaired by Director-General Michael Møller.

Sustainable development was the theme of no less than 15 of the 38 Executive Briefings held in 2016, and speakers at most of the briefings touched on the Sustainable Development Goals in one way or another. Other issues examined included various conflicts in the world, refugees and migrants, collaboration with regional organizations, and disarmament.

The Director-General also holds informal luncheons with the heads of international organizations based in Geneva to discuss current activities and identify synergies. There is usually a brief presentation on a specific subject, by one of the invitees and occasionally by a particular guest, which the group then discusses over lunch. Guest speakers in 2016 included David Nabarro, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The initiative is highly effective, as the informal setting of the luncheons allows the organizations' leaders to give their feedback on innovative ideas and to explore avenues for increased collaboration between organizations.

Furthermore, the Director-General set up the SDG Lab, operational since December 2016. This small team, funded through extrabudgetary contributions from Member States and other partners, aims to support implementation of Agenda 2030 by intensifying collaboration and policy coherence on the Sustainable Development Goals across the public and private stakeholders of International Geneva and beyond.



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Living by our values

The United Nations can only succeed if it lives up to the letter and spirit of its founding principles and if it adapts to a rapidly changing world.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development hinges on breaking down silos and fostering innovative thinking and fluid coordination. If the United Nations is to convince its partners to re-examine the way they do things, it must show that it can also think and operate differently.

The United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) is working to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals and reform its operations to fit the twenty-first century. UNOG's renovation of the Palais des Nations incorporates environmental concerns and cutting-edge information technology, while remaining focused on improving access for people with disabilities.

Its gender policy and leadership role in the International Gender Champions initiative, meanwhile, make it a leader on gender equality.



Disarmament fellowships

Every year, the United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme offers training to 25 national officials from Member States, particularly developing countries.

The programme fosters greater awareness of the importance and benefits of disarmament and a better understanding of the concerns of the international community in regard to disarmament and security. It enhances the knowledge and skills of fellows, allowing them to participate more effectively in disarmament efforts at all levels.

Managed in Geneva by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the programme has trained 956 public officials from 165 States since its establishment by the General Assembly in 1978. A large number of the fellows are now in positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament within their own Governments.

Go to www.unog.ch/annualreport to hear Reto Wollenmann, a disarmament fellow in 2007, and Rana el Khoury, a disarmament fellow in 2015, talk about their experiences.



The 1377th plenary session of the Conference on Disarmament, Palais des Nations (UN Photo: Elma Okic)

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International Gender Champions - Geneva

"If we want to achieve 'Planet 50-50 by 2030', we have to 'Step It Up for Gender Equality' right now!" – said Michael Møller, Director-General of UNOG, and Pamela Hamamoto, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United States of America, in a [joint message](#) on [International Women's Day](#), 8 March.

International Gender Champions – Geneva has entered its second year and has been successful beyond expectations. The initiative celebrated its first anniversary in October 2016, and published its first [annual report](#) on 2 November 2016, which reviews its achievements and future goals.

Over the year, more than 300 commitments were made. They reflect the latest thinking of some of the world's major international organizations on gender. Though this is tailored to each organization, common themes have emerged, such as recruitment and promotion of talented women, changes in organizational culture, women's representation in delegations, and the development of policies or strategic frameworks on gender and diversity. One hundred and twenty-six Champions have now joined the initiative – more than doubling the initial membership of 60 Champions in October 2015. Sixty are permanent representatives, 40 are heads of international organizations, and 26 are heads of civil society organizations including non-governmental and governmental organizations, academic institutions and private companies. Two thirds are men.

The initiative has already had a visible impact, particularly in the field of panel parity. A detailed survey has shown that Champions have taken the panel parity pledge to heart, and that while there is an overall 3:2 ratio of men to women in panel discussions organized in International Geneva today, Champions have intervened frequently to change the composition of panels and these interventions have been successful in most cases. Collaboration groups have been established among participating entities to exchange best practices. Presentations by academic experts to these groups have been organized to facilitate their discussions and contribute to the development of a solid community of practice. Building on these achievements and on the emergence of International Geneva as a gender hub, the initiative will work, during its second year, to make concrete advances in the agenda for gender equality in some of the areas of particular focus for organizations in International Geneva, namely health, trade, and science and technology.

A New York chapter of the initiative will be launched officially during the session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) in March 2017, and the movement may be replicated in other international hubs. This simple yet effective model can contribute to meaningful change towards gender equality, which Member States have placed at the core of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

A New York chapter of the initiative will be launched officially during the session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) in March 2017, and the movement may be replicated in other international hubs. This simple yet effective model can contribute to meaningful change towards gender equality, which Member States have placed at the core of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

GOAL 5: GENDER EQUALITY

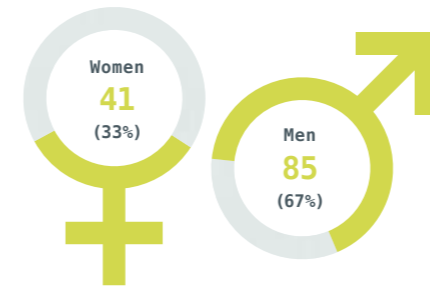
Gender equality is a key element both in the Sustainable Development Goals and in their precursor, the Millennium Development Goals, because it is essential to forging a safe, sustainable future. Equality between the sexes is not only a fundamental human right; it is also a requirement to unleash the often-overlooked potential of half of humanity. In spite of significant progress in recent years, about one third of developing countries have yet to achieve gender parity in primary education and women remain underrepresented worldwide in both political and economic decision-making bodies. Sustainable Development Goal 5 calls for an end to all forms of discrimination, violence and harmful practices against women and girls by 2030 and for women's voices to resonate in leadership circles.

Who are the Gender Champions?



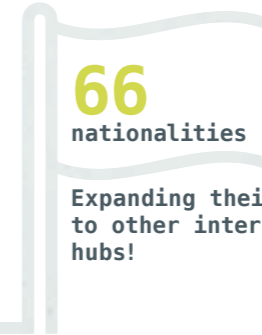
126 champions

united and committed to breaking down gender barriers



How did they become Gender Champions?

- 1 They signed the Panel Parity Pledge
- 2 They took two additional SMART commitments
- 3 They advocate for gender equality



66 nationalities

Expanding their network to other international hubs!

Leading different organizations

60 (48%)

Ambassadors

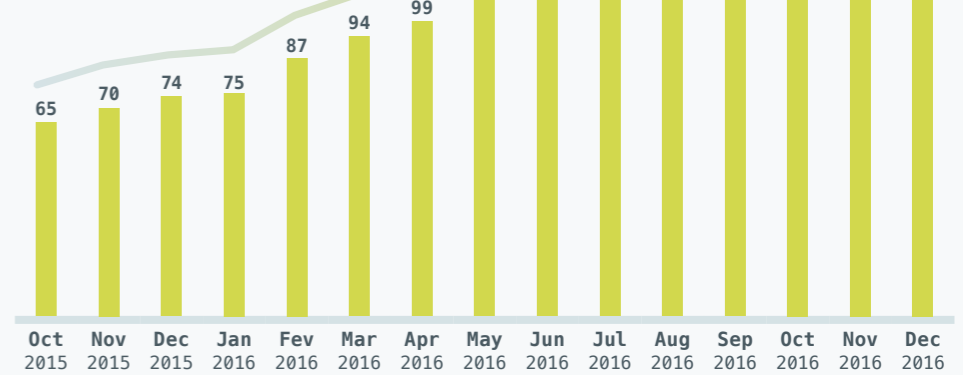
40 (32%)

Heads of international organizations

26 (21%)

Leaders of civil society and business

Number of members since the Geneva launch



facebook.com/GVAGenderChamps

@INTGenderChamps

genderchampions.com

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Policy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2016-2020)

Director-General Michael Møller proudly promulgated the first **UNOG gender policy** – one of his commitments as an **International Gender Champion** – “because it’s 2016 and it’s long overdue”.

The policy is designed to establish an inclusive and enabling organizational culture free from gender bias and discrimination. It aims to improve the representation of women at all levels so that we can reach gender parity, and to ensure gender equality and the empowerment of women in the work of UNOG.

There are great challenges for UNOG in bringing about this kind of transformation. So the gender policy sets out measures to tackle these, such as a clear accountability framework, the public reporting of baseline statistics, and alignment with the **UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women**.

The gender policy is also about changing little things in the way we operate on a daily basis – such as how we schedule meetings, and whom we task to take notes – which can have a big impact on women’s ability to forge ahead in their careers.

The International Gender Champions community applauded the UNOG gender policy. Nevertheless, the Director-General cautioned that “the policy will make a difference only if all of us at UNOG, managers and staff members, men and women, understand it, accept it, embrace it and implement it”. Indeed, having a strong implementation plan is crucial to this undertaking and is the next step in the process.

UNOG provides courses in leadership development and in public speaking, and individual coaching for women, and has also adopted a mandatory e-learning module on gender equality. Thomas Neufing, Chief of the Centre for Learning and Multilingualism, said that “capacity development for women, managers, and staff members in general is key not only to empowering professional women and raising awareness of gender issues among staff but also to shaping the organizational culture with a reach that goes well beyond particular individuals such as gender focal points”.

The UNOG gender policy was developed with the support of the **United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)** and came into force on 1 September 2016.



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Cleaner energy: 10 years of leading by example

Renewable energy is generated by tapping into vast, inexhaustible sources such as sunlight and water. Renewable energy is clean energy. It produces far fewer greenhouse gases and leads to improved environmental quality. Sustainable Development Goal 7 envisions a substantial increase of the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030.

UNOG has tried to show, for its operations, how it can use greener sources of energy, even in historic buildings dating from the 1930s. We have worked for a decade already to lower our consumption of energy, and to reduce our use of carbon-intensive energy sources in favour of renewables.

We will continue to do so in the future, for two simple reasons. Firstly, it's the right thing to do in a world of dwindling resources. Secondly, in the long run, implementing smart energy solutions is less costly than taking no action.

GOAL 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

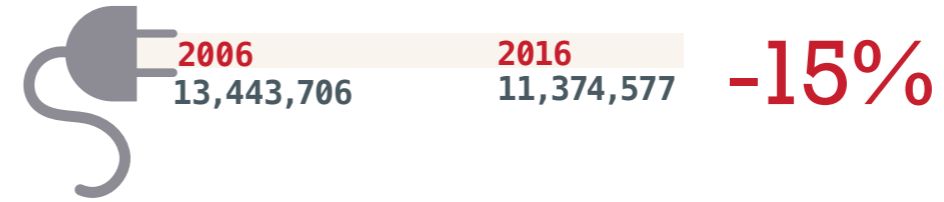
Modern energy services are so fundamental to many people's lives that it can be difficult for some to imagine life without them. One in five people, however, still lack access to modern electricity and 3 billion people rely on wood, coal, charcoal or animal waste for cooking and heating. Providing universal and affordable access to energy without contributing to climate change is one of the most daunting challenges of the twenty-first century. Recognizing this reality, Sustainable Development Goal 7 calls for universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services by 2030 and for a substantial increase in the share of energy generated from renewable sources.

Over the past decade, UNOG has:

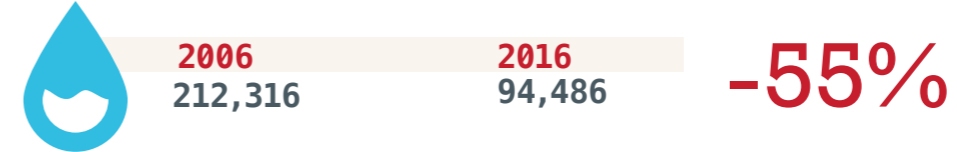
- Moved to using water from Lake Geneva to cool meeting rooms and offices, instead of electricity from the grid
- Switched to natural gas to heat meeting rooms and offices, discontinuing the use of heating oil
- Installed solar units to heat water for bathrooms, reducing dependency on natural gas
- Installed intelligent room management systems to ensure that lights in meeting rooms are turned on and the temperature is adjusted only when the room is in use, replacing energy-inefficient manual systems
- Installed over 2,300 square metres of solar panels on the roofs of the Palais des Nations

To build on these achievements, UNOG is looking at putting other innovative solutions in place that can reduce the use of non-renewable energy sources even further.

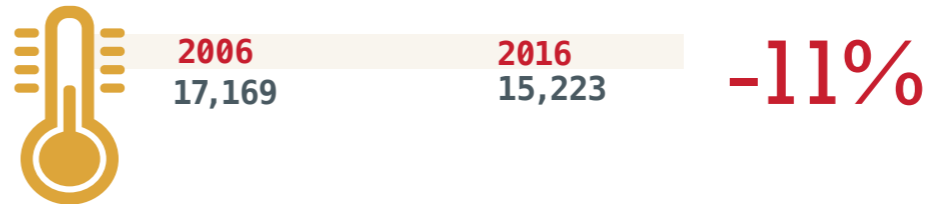
Electricity (kWh)



Water (m³)



Heating (MWh)





Investing in our common heritage

In keeping with its role as centre for knowledge and research, the Library of the United Nations Office at Geneva has launched a Total Digital Access programme to generate accessible digital copies of the entire historical archives of the League of Nations. The archives are on UNESCO's [Memory of the World](#) register and constitute a key asset for historians and scholars worldwide. The Library received a donation from a private foundation in Geneva, which will enable the digitization of 14 million pages of archived material and assure their preservation for generations to come.

Part of the donation will be allocated to restoring the Celestial Sphere, the chef-d'œuvre of the American sculptor Paul Manship that the Woodrow Wilson Foundation donated to the League of Nations in 1939. The sculpture resides in the Cour d'Honneur, in UNOG's scenic Ariana Park, overlooking Lake Geneva.



Accessibility brings more ideas to the table

UNOG continues to expand its range of accessibility services to support meetings. Whether through International Sign interpretation, or real-time captioning in English, French, Spanish, Russian and Chinese, deaf and hard-of-hearing persons can more easily participate in the meetings that are provided with these services. For the meetings of the [Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#), national sign language interpretation is also provided, during the review of the country under consideration.

Just like the spoken interpretation into other official UN languages, the sign language interpretation and real-time captioning are carried in meeting webcasts – making the debate available to more people than ever before.

International Sign, which dates back to the 1970s, is a form of sign language used at meetings to open up the debate to the broadest possible range of deaf and hard-of-hearing persons, and is endorsed by the World Federation of the Deaf.

Real-time captioning, developed in the 1980s, is provided through remote connections between the meeting room and the caption writer, who is required to produce 225 words a minute with 95% accuracy. Captioning during public meetings is available to participants on mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets, as well as on the main screen in the conference room. UNOG is working to add Arabic to its captioning services to cover the six official languages and welcomes qualified contractors for this language.

The video available at www.unog.ch/annualreport captures the impact of sign language interpretation and real-time captioning at UNOG.



A more inclusive Palais des Nations

“The most inclusive business card spotted at the World Economic Forum in Davos” – Twiplomacy.

Director-General Michael Møller's Braille business cards convey a lot more than just his contact details. They help raise awareness of the importance of ensuring equal access to an adequate living for all and promoting the inclusion of people with disabilities.

According to the World Health Organization, over a billion people live with some form of disability, equating to about 15% of the world's population. This number is only increasing, due to an aging population and an increase in chronic health conditions.

The United Nations Office at Geneva has made considerable progress with improving accessibility throughout its premises. Geneva is home to the [Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) and to the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, which have been a welcome force in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. Increasingly, UNOG is [providing services](#) such as real-time captioning and sign language interpretation for mandated meetings, as well as hearing loops and Braille documentation.

GOAL 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES

While the international community has made inroads in reducing inequalities between States, income inequality within States has increased in recent years. In developing countries, it rose by an average of 11% between 1990 and 2010. This is particularly troubling because severe inequality can prevent economic mobility, harm public health and well-being and damage trust in institutions and leaders. In some developing countries, children from the poorest 20% of the population are still up to three times more likely to die before the age of five than their rich counterparts. People with disabilities, meanwhile, continue to be marginalized and run a higher risk of suffering debilitating health-care costs. Sustainable Development Goal 10 outlines steps to empower all and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all by 2030.



A sign language interpreter conveys a speaker's message during the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)

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Spreading the message about the Sustainable Development Goals

#YouNeedToKnow

#YouNeedToKnow was launched on 7 November to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals and to contribute to the global challenge of getting 2 billion people to learn about the Goals by the end of 2017. It is an initiative of the Perception Change Project, organized in cooperation with Dufry, a global retailer with operations in 64 countries, and Geneva Airport.

The campaign featured prominently in the baggage reclaim area, at the duty-free shop and on video screens throughout Geneva Airport, sending an immediate message to travellers that everyone is concerned by sustainable development.

The campaign was also part of Geneva Lux 2016, a festival of original light installations. The icons of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals illuminated the Rhône river and the Bâtiment des Forces Motrices, in the heart of Geneva, from 2 December 2016 to 23 January 2017.

Following the success of #YouNeedToKnow at Geneva Airport, the campaign was extended to Heathrow Airport in London. Further expansion of the campaign is in the works.



(UN Photo: Matija Potocnik)

GVADATA – partnering up to “unlock” the data of International Geneva

GVADATA provides users with an up-to-date and evolving guide to the wealth of information produced in International Geneva and beyond. For the first time, United Nations agencies, international organizations, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations have united their data into one collective portal. Available as an online gateway at <http://gvadata.ch>, and as a customizable printed binder with extra add-ons for researchers, journalists, diplomats and speechwriters, GVADATA brings together over 100 profiles of organizations and 500 data sources. It has attracted the interest of students, academics and civil servants. The Perception Change Project, which produced the printed version and manages the website with the support of the Canton of Geneva, hopes the initiative will facilitate meaningful analysis by enabling users to easily navigate and locate existing data sources, across issues and organizations.

The portal allows the use of multiple parameters to search across information platforms; these include Global Goals, thematic area, organization, and type of information. It comprises databases, reports, fact sheets, maps, country profiles, infographics, photographs and mobile apps, as showcased on the infographic. Open access to data is crucial for the innovative solutions that are required to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

GENEVA APPS FOR A BETTER WORLD

- SheTrades**: An app from the International Trade Centre that connects women entrepreneurs with buyers across the world, helping them to grow their businesses and build new partnerships.
- SanctionsApp**: An analytical tool that can be used in real time by both scholars and practitioners interested in working on designing and implementing UN targeted sanctions, managed by the Programme for the Study of International Governance at the Graduate Institute, Geneva.
- IOM emergency manual**: Designed to provide practical, operational guidance to IOM staff working in emergency contexts. Content of the manual is publicly available, except for internal guidelines on management and administrative processes, so it can be used as a resource by all humanitarian actors.
- UN Jargon Buster**: A searchable, offline glossary that clarifies hundreds of UN terms and acronyms with terminology from a number of PCP Partners including IOM, UNIDIR, UNIDO, UNOPS and UNRISD, compiled by UNU-MERIT.
- WFP Today**: Keep up with the latest World Food Programme news, pictures, videos, podcasts and social media posts all in one place.
- eLibrary App**: The International Committee of the Red Cross eLibrary app gives access to the latest PDF publications in up to eight languages.
- UN Environment Publications**: UN Environment's library of research and knowledge products to enhance governments, scientists, NGOs, students', private sector and public access to environmental information for a sustainable future.
- My Life as a Refugee**: If conflict threatened your family, what would you do? Developed by UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, based on real-life experiences of families torn apart by conflict or persecution.
- 2015 UNOG Annual Report**: 2015 was a milestone year for the United Nations – its 70th anniversary and the Member States adopted important frameworks on sustainable development, climate action and disaster risk reduction. For the 1st time in optimized mobile version, this Annual Report highlights stories, and events across all three pillars of our work: peace, rights and well-being.
- Global Assessment Report & GAR for Tangible Earth**: The 2015 Global Assessment Report (GAR) by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction includes a companion app, GAR for Tangible Earth (GT). Through GT, users can learn about the past several decades in the life of our planet, explore interactive risk scenarios from throughout the history of UNISDR & create scenarios on their own.
- WHO Info**: Daily updates with the latest news, feature stories, fact sheets, disease outbreak updates, and public health emergency information, and available in the 6 official WHO languages.
- MyWorldWeather App**: An app by the World Meteorological Organization that can automatically display the latest official weather forecasts for the city closest to the user from over 1,600 cities around the world.



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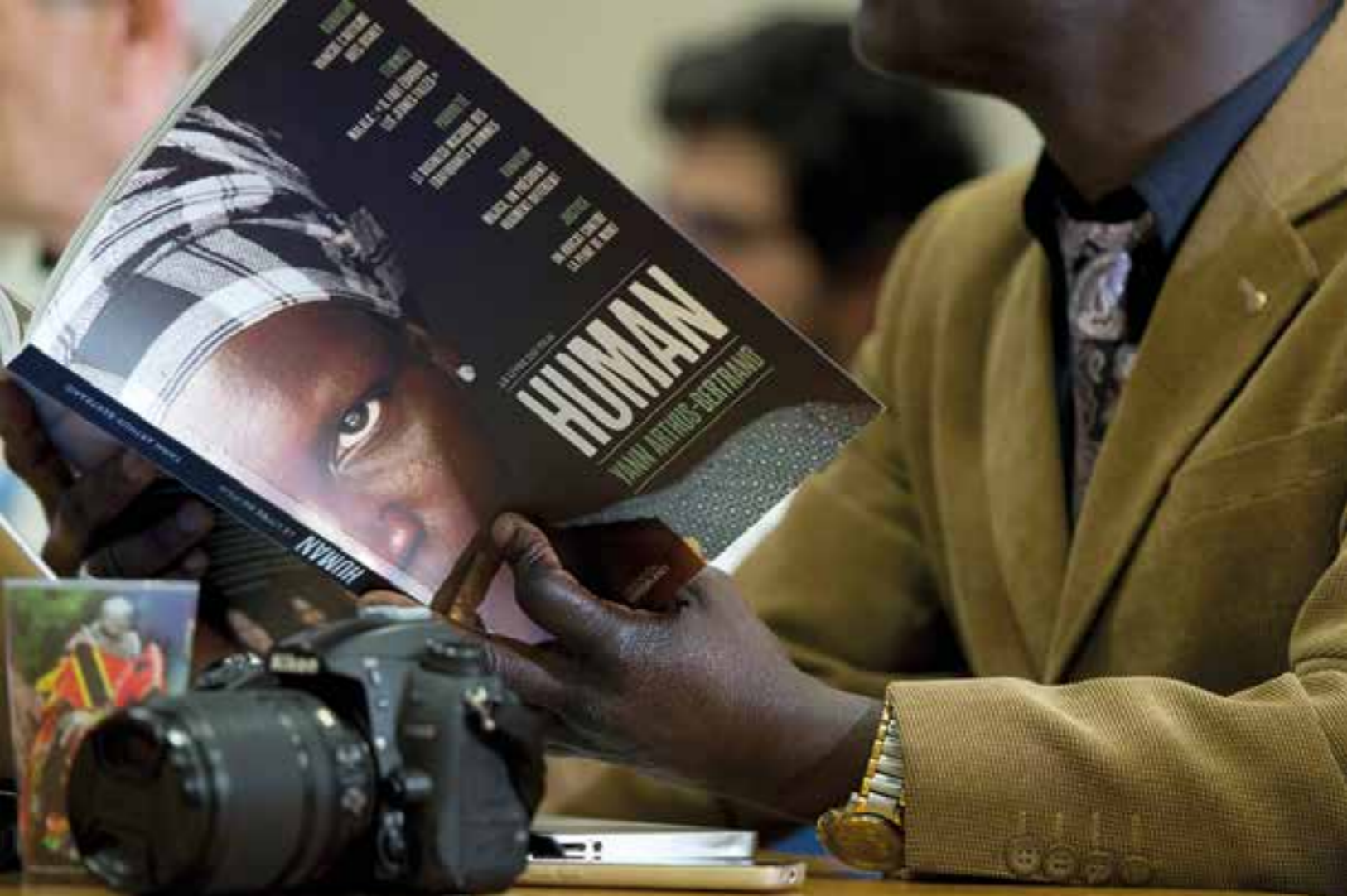
Photos of the year



During their visit to the Palais des Nations on **12 January 2016**, members of the Grand Conseil de Genève examine the gold and sepia murals of the Council Chamber, created by artist José María Sert in the 1930s. (UN Photo: Pierre Albouy)



A participant at a press briefing with Yann Arthus-Bertrand, photographer, and director of the film "Human", on **26 February 2016** (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



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Participants in the task force on humanitarian access in the Syrian Arab Republic, on **9 March 2016**
 –(UN Photo: Anne-Laure Lechat)



Staffan de Mistura, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, meeting with an expert from the Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers, in Geneva on **26 April 2016** at the Intra-Syrian Talks (UN Photo: Elma Okic)



A child listens attentively during the commemoration of International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, on **31 May 2016**. (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



A flag commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Human Rights Council flies on the Mont Blanc Bridge in Geneva, in **June 2016**. (OHCHR: Danielle Kirby)



Jean-Paul Laborde, head of the UN's Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, warning that terrorists will use all means at their disposal to survive, including more terror attacks outside the territories they control, in **July 2016** (UN Photo: Daniel Johnson)



Didier Burkhalter, Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland, speaking with Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, during the Ambassadors and International Network Conference held at the Palais des Nations, in **August 2016** (UN Photo: Elma Okic)

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Meeting people from all over the world to learn more about International Geneva, at the Geneva Mix & Mash on **13 September 2016** (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



Group photo for United Nations Staff Day, taken on **28 October 2016** (UN Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)



The Turkish Cypriot leader, Mustafa Akıncı, the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Cyprus, Espen Barth Eide, and the Greek Cypriot leader, Nicos Anastasiades, meet at the Cyprus Talks, held in Chardonne on **20 November 2016**. (UN Photo: Violaine Martin)



Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, visits the Palais des Nations with Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, on **11 December 2016**. (UN Photo: Violaine Martin)

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 - Special Services Unit
 - Logistics and Support Unit
 - Administration Unit
- Information Service**
 - Press and External Relations Section
 - Radio and Television Section
 - Visitors' Service
- Division of Administration**
 - Strategic Heritage Plan
 - Central Support Services
 - Financial Resources Management Service
 - Human Resources Management Service
 - Information and Communication Technology Service
- Division of Conference Management**
 - Central Planning and Coordination Service
 - Interpretation Service
 - Languages Service
 - Production and Support Service
- Library and Cultural Activities Committee**
 - Library Services Section
 - Institutional Memory Section
 - Digital Services Section
 - Cultural Diplomacy and Outreach Section

Conference on Disarmament*

Useful contacts


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UN Geneva
UNOG Library

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 **On Snapchat:**
UNGeneva

 **On YouTube:**
<https://www.youtube.com/user/UNInformationGeneva>

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

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*Note: The Director-General of UNOG also serves as the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and is the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Conference on Disarmament, which is serviced by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs in Geneva.

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