Information for Participants
(as of 28 September 2023)

Introduction ................................................................................................................................. 2
Reaching Palais des Nations ......................................................................................................... 3
At the Palais ................................................................................................................................. 3
2023 Forum of Mayors ............................................................................................................... 6
Registration ............................................................................................................................... 6
Side Events .................................................................................................................................. 6
Introduction

What is Urban Resilience Week?

The UNECE Urban Resilience Week will bring together representatives of national and subnational governments, experts, civil society representatives from the UNECE region and beyond to discuss strategies and solutions for building more resilient and sustainable cities. With a focus on innovative approaches to urban planning and design, innovative financing instruments for urban infrastructure and community engagement, the Urban Resilience Week will offer valuable insights and networking opportunities for anyone interested in practical solutions for promoting urban resilience.

Forum of Mayors

The Forum of Mayors brings together city leaders from across the UNECE region and beyond to address the key challenges of our time. In the third Forum of Mayors, under the theme "Urban regeneration towards 2030", mayors will discuss their cities' urban regeneration projects to achieve more inclusive, resilient and sustainable urban development.

84th session of the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management

The eighty-fourth session of the Committee will support regional exchange of experiences and good practices on promoting affordable, adequate and climate-neutral housing and inclusive, circular, smart and sustainable cities. The Committee session will also review the implementation of the “Place and Life in the ECE – A Regional Action Plan 2030” endorsed by the Committee at its eighty-second session, and the San Marino Declaration adopted by the Committee at its eighty-third session.

Who we are

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) was set up in 1947 by ECOSOC. It is one of five regional commissions of the United Nations. UNECE’s major aim is to promote pan-European economic integration. UNECE includes 56 member States in Europe, North America and Asia. However, all interested United Nations member States may participate in the work of UNECE. Over 70 international professional organizations and other non-governmental organizations take part in UNECE activities.
Reaching Palais des Nations

In Geneva, unireso public-transport tickets must be purchased prior to boarding a tram, bus or ferry. Ticket machines are available at most stops. Travel cards or passes can be purchased at the main TPG centres (Rive, Cornavin and Bachet de Pesay). Please note tickets are not available on the bus itself. Hotels, youth hostels or campsites typically offer a Geneva Transport Card, which allows use of public transport in Geneva free of charge during the period of stay.

Palais des Nations transit stops are Appia and Nations.

Access from Cornavin railway station:
- Bus lines 20, F (“Appia” stop)
- Bus line 5 or tram line 15 (“Nations” stop)

Access from Cointrin airport:
- Bus line 5 (“Nations” stop)

Other bus lines with stop at “Nations”:
- Bus lines 11 and 22

At the Palais

The Forum of Mayors will be held in Room XVII (circled in blue) of the E Building of Palais des Nations.

The 84th session of the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management will take place in the Conference Room: Tempus Facility (circled in orange).
Registration

All participants must register online

Register for the 2023 Forum of Mayors via the UN platform Indico using the following link: https://indico.un.org/event/1004421/.

Once registration is successful, participants will receive a confirmation of their registration application. Please note the approval will be sent only during the week before the event. For more information, please contact Ms. Monika Sbeghen (e-mail: monika.sbeghen@un.org).

Getting your badge and accessing the Palais des Nations

Forum of Mayors 02 – 03 October

For the Forum of Mayors, the Secretariat will be waiting to hand out badges to registered participants from 8AM – 10AM outside of Pregny Gate on 2nd October (circled in red in the Map above), Avenue de la Paix 14. You will have to show a member of the secretariat photographic ID in order to receive your badge.

It is imperative that participants have registered ahead of time in order that the badges can be printed and are ready for collection.

If you arrive after 10AM or on 3 October, you will have to go through the regular badge collection process at the Pregny Gate, the details of which can be found below.

Regular badge collection process

First time entry for conference participants is through Pregny Gate (circled in red in the Map above), Avenue de la Paix 14.

Doors will open to participants at 8AM. Please arrive early to ensure time to pass through airport-style security and to avoid queues. Please note that due to security restrictions, you may not enter the UN premises with luggage.

Delegates will be required to present the following two documents at the centre’s entry gate:
1. Proof of Registration
2. Valid passport or National ID Card from a European State

Thereafter, the paper conference badge permits access through the Pregny, Avenue de la Paix 14, and Peace Gate, Place des Nations, subject to security screening.
Staying Safe

International conferences and UN meetings in Geneva at present do not require a COVID certificate. Still, the following measures must be maintained:

- All meeting participants (even those who hold UNOG ground entry passes) must register to events via the Indico registration system, including providing a contact phone number.
- As of 9th January 2023, masks will no longer be mandatory on all UN Geneva premises.
- Participants are still encouraged to practice protective hygiene measures, such as regular hand-washing and social distancing.
- Anyone with COVID-like symptoms or who has tested positive for the virus should not enter UN premises.

Food Options

There are a range of food options at the Palais des Nations, including a cafeteria which serves hot meals for 10 – 15 CHF, with a salad and pasta bar. There is also the Bar Serpent where you can purchase sandwiches for 6 – 10 CHF.

More information can be found here: https://www.ungeneva.org/en/about/practical-information/food-options

Additional information on Geneva

Weather and time zone

The average temperatures in Geneva in October are between 7° and 16°C. The time zone in Geneva is (GMT+2).

Voltage

The voltage in Switzerland, as in most of Europe, is 230V/50 Hz. The types of sockets used is illustrated below:
2023 Forum of Mayors

02 - 03 October
Room XVII

Registration

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Side Events

Room XVII (Circled in Blue)

• 2 October, 13:15 - 14:45, Woman and Mayor: A Gender Perspective on Challenges and Visions for Cities – details here
  • This event will take place in the main room of the Forum of Mayors (Room XVII) and will be streamed on UNTV

H Building (Circled in Green)

• 3 October, 8:30 - 9:45, Local governments are taking the lead in paving the path towards sustainable global food systems – details here
  • This event will take place in Rooms H-207/8/9 and online here
• 3 October, 13:15 - 14:45, Urban Peace Dialogues: When Mayors Become Architects of Peace – details here
  • This event will take place in Room H-200 and online, register here

Villa Rigot

• 3 October, 18:30 - 21:00, VNR-VLR studio “Evidence-based approaches to the development of the Voluntary Local Reviews: experiences and best practices”
  • This event will take place outside of the Palais des Nations, please see the image below; it is the Villa with blue windows.