



**UNITED
NATIONS**

UNEP/ISP-CWP.1/INF/3



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Distr.: General
4 December 2025
Original: English

**Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on
Chemicals, Waste and Pollution
First session**

Geneva, 2–6 February 2026

Agenda item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Operational arrangements for the Panel: Consideration of the
physical location of the Panel secretariat**

**Compilation of offers to host the physical location of the
secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on
Chemicals, Waste and Pollution**

Note by the secretariat

1. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution was established at the intergovernmental meeting to establish a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, held on 20 June 2025 in Punta del Este, Uruguay. The foundational document annexed to decision IM/1 on the establishment of the Panel states, in paragraph 22, that the Panel at its first Plenary session will secure secretariat services provided by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and that the secretariat would be hosted in a single location based on proposals by members.
2. Furthermore, decision IM/3 on arrangements for the interim period requested the Executive Director of UNEP to provide the interim secretariat supporting the operation of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution, and to prepare relevant documentation for consideration at the first session of the Plenary.
3. To facilitate the decision on the location of the secretariat, on 17 September the secretariat invited members of the Panel in a position to do so to submit offers to provide the physical location of the secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution no later than 5 November 2025. The subsequent pages of the present document contain two offers received by the secretariat from members to provide the physical location of the Panel secretariat. The offer from Kenya was received on 3 November 2025. The offer from Switzerland was received on 5 November 2025.
4. The Plenary may wish to consider the present document with a view to agreeing on the physical location of the Panel secretariat.



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND DIASPORA AFFAIRS

**PROPOSAL TO HOST THE PHYSICAL SECRETARIAT OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE POLICY PANEL (ISP-CWP) AT UNEP
HEADQUARTERS IN NAIROBI**

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Date of Submission: **29TH OCTOBER, 2025**

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A.INTRODUCTION

1. The third Intergovernmental Meeting held on 20 June 2025 in Punta Del Este, Uruguay, governments adopted decision IM/1 establishing the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP).
2. In accordance with paragraph 22 of the foundational document annexed to decision IM/1, the Panel, at its first session, will secure the Secretariat services provided by the United Nations Environment Programme, to be hosted in a single location on the basis of proposals from Member States.
3. This Expression of Interest (EOI) submitted by the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs of the Republic of Kenya is in response to the call reference number ISP-CWP/sec-host/2025/1 by the Principal Coordinator and Head of the interim secretariat of the Panel at UNEP, for interested countries to submit formal bids **no later than 5th November, 2025**.

B.THE BID LETTER



OFFICE OF THE CABINET SECRETARY

MFA.UN/35 VOL44.

29th October, 2025

Executive Director,

I am pleased to convey the decision of the Government of Kenya to bid for hosting the physical secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (Panel) at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi. The bid has been fully endorsed by the 20th Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) in July, 2025.

The bid is premised on the strategic position and mandate of UNEP as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimensions of sustainable development and strong science policy interface for evidence-based decision-making.

Similarly, it is based on UNEP's role as the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and 15 Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and current interim secretariat of the Panel. Apart from this, Nairobi hosts over 170 environmental organizations creating a vibrant ecosystem that promotes research, collaboration, synergies and cross pollination of ideas for innovative solutions.

I believe that locating the physical Secretariat of the Panel at UNEP in Nairobi will benefit from the advantages. Besides, it will reduce fragmentation of the global environmental governance, avoid duplication, promote policy coherence and cut on cost of doing business especially at this critical time the United Nations is facing significant funding reduction and a growing budget deficit.

I am confident the world will seize this opportunity to progressively consolidate UNEP headquarter functions in Nairobi as set out in paragraph 88 sub-paragraph 'k' of the *future we want* outcome document of the Rio+20 conference. I enclose the bid document for more information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

**H.E. DR. MUSALIA MUDAVADI, EGH
PRIME CABINET SECRETARY AND CABINET SECRETARY
FOR FOREIGN AND DIASPORA AFFAIRS**

**MS. INGER ANDERSEN
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In Pursuit of a peaceful, Prosperous and Globally Competitive Kenya

C.BACKGROUND OF THE PROPOSAL TO LOCATE THE PHYSICAL SECRETARIAT OF THE PANEL AT UNEP HEADQUARTERS

4. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is headquartered in Nairobi, the only United Nations headquarters in the global South. UNEP was established by the General Assembly through resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972 following the Stockholm Conference. Under the resolution, UNEP was mandated to;
 - i. Promote international cooperation in the field of the environment and to recommend, as appropriate, policies to this end;
 - ii. Provide general policy guidance for the direction and coordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;
 - iii. Receive and review the periodic reports of the Executive Director on the implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;
 - iv. Keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance receive appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments;
 - v. Promote the contribution of the relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge and information, and, as appropriate, to the technical aspects of the formulation and implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system and to;
 - vi. Maintain under continuing review the impact of national and international environmental policies and measures on developing countries as well as the problem of additional costs that may be incurred by developing countries in the implementation of environmental programmes and projects, and to ensure that such programmes and projects shall be compatible with the development plans and priorities of those countries; and review and approve the programme of utilization of resources of the Environment Fund.
5. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) upgraded UNEP to be the principal body in the field of environment within

the United Nations System and established universal membership, which culminated in the creation of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), the highest United Nations policy deliberative forum on environmental matters.

6. Paragraph 88 of the ***Future We Want*** outcome document of the Rio +20 “committed to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.”
7. This bid to locate the physical secretariat of the Science Policy Panel at the UNEP is aligned to the current mandates of UNEP as well as the commitment by member states to “progressively consolidate UNEP headquarters functions in Nairobi” as well as to “promote a strong science-policy interface” as contained in the paragraph 88 sub-paragraphs ‘d’ and ‘k’ respectively of the ***Future We Want*** outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable development.
8. The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) at its 20th session held in July, 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya endorsed the bid to locate the ISP-CWP Secretariat at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi, as contained in paragraphs 22 and 23 of the Tripoli Declaration on Environment Action in Africa that resolved to;
 - i. “support the permanent secretariat of the Science Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution within the United Nations Environment Programme headquarters in line with paragraph 88 sub paragraph ‘k’ of the *future we want* outcome document of the United Nations Conference on sustainable development (Rio+20) which decided to “progressively consolidate United Nations Environment headquarter functions in Nairobi”.
 - ii. “To emphasize that the decision to locate the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution at the UNEP headquarters will reduce further fragmentation of international environmental governance, promote policy and institutional coherence as well as promote cost effectiveness and strengthen the role and visibility of Africa in global chemicals and waste management and pollution prevention efforts”.

D. WHY UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

9. The Government of Kenya, with the full support and endorsement of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment proposes that the physical secretariat of the Science Policy Panel should be based within the UNEP headquarters due to the following reasons:

- i. **Established Infrastructure and Networks.** UNEP has the administrative, logistical, scientific expertise as well as a strong network of divisions, internal departments, regional offices, and external UN partners whose contribution will be necessary to support the complex work of the Panel. The presence of this infrastructure is the very reason the why UNEP headquarters was chosen as the interim secretariat of the Science Policy Panel.
- ii. **Established Expertise:** As the leading global authority on the environment, UNEP has a well-established expertise and history in global environmental policymaking as well as in providing information on the existing science-policy interfaces. Hosting the Panel within UNEP will enable provide UNEP with the critical scientific information for the sound management of chemicals, waste, and pollution.
- iii. **Convening Power:** UNEP headquarters has the needed legitimacy and political visibility for convening the relevant actors on climate change, nature and biodiversity, and pollution and waste. Hosting the Panel within UNEP will create synergies with existing science-policy bodies, in these areas including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), strengthening the overall global environmental governance system.
- iv. **Bridging the Science Policy:** The Panel was created to address pollution, waste, and chemicals. This aligns perfectly with the broader mission of UNEP: - to promote sustainable utilization of the environment for the present and future generations. The panel will provide policy-relevant scientific information. In turn, UNEP will inform, enable, and inspire nations and people to act on challenges of

pollution, waste, and chemicals, creating a seamless coordination of science and advocacy.

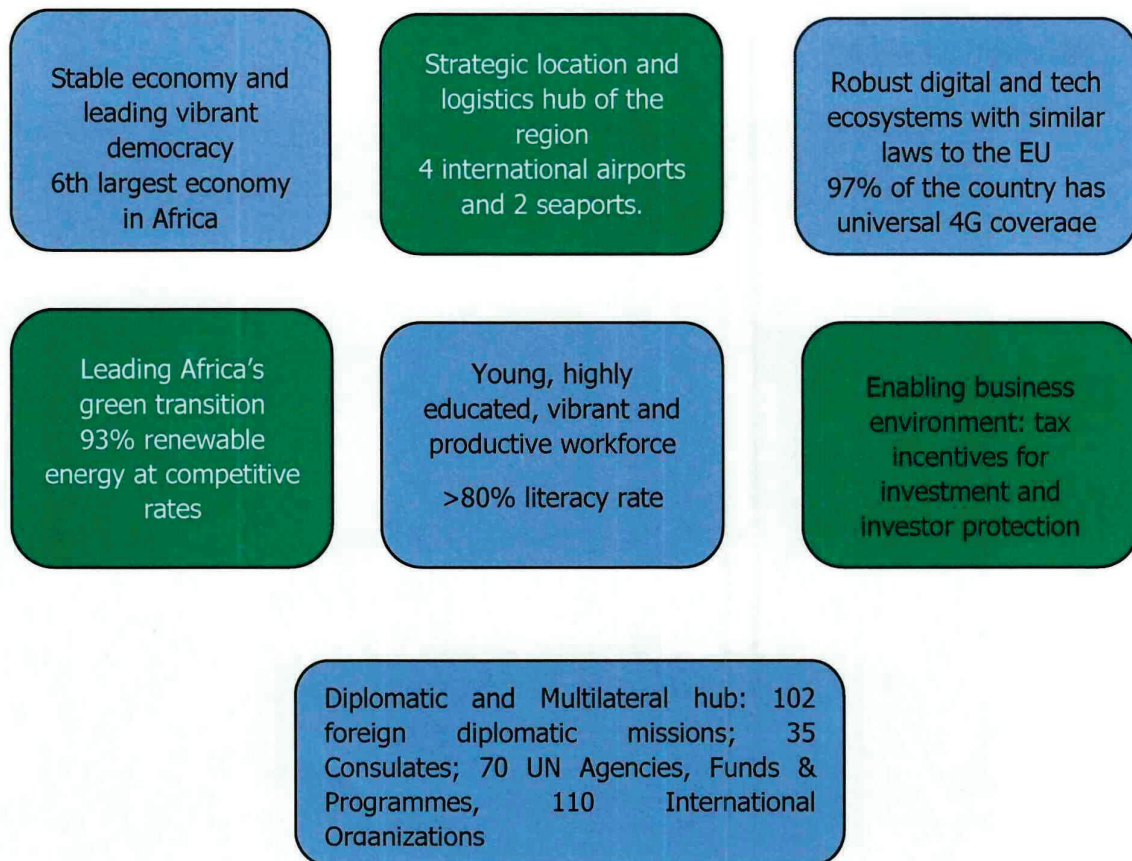
- v. **Global Reach and Partnerships:** UNEP has presence in 41 countries and territories, as well as an extensive network of partners across regions of the world. This clear advantage will enable the panel's scientific assessments to reach governments and stakeholders worldwide, effectively bridging the gap between scientific findings and evidence-based policy action. This will fill a critical gap alongside other science-policy interfaces like the IPCC and IPBES.
- vi. **The Global Environmental Framework.** The panel was established to fill the longstanding void in global scientific guidance for chemicals, waste, and pollution prevention. Hosting it within UNEP will ensure that this critical function is effectively integrated into the global environmental framework.
- vii. **Strengthening the Mandate and Role of UNEP.** Paragraph 88 sub paragraphs 'd' and 'k' respectively of the *future we want* outcome document committed member states to "progressively consolidate UNEP headquarters functions in Nairobi" as well as to "promote a strong science-policy interface". Locating the physical secretariat of the Panel at UNEP in Nairobi will go a long way in fulfilling this global commitment.
- viii. **Streamlining the Global Environmental Governance.** The current global environmental governance (GEG) landscape is highly fragmented resulting in duplication, policy incoherence and high cost of doing business, which is a key consideration especially at this critical time the United Nations is facing significant funding crisis and a growing budget deficit. Hosting the Panel will to a large extent contribute towards addressing these systemic challenges, enabling an effective and efficient global environmental governance.
- ix. **Host Country Agreement:** UNEP and the Government of Kenya has an existing and robust Host Country Agreement (HCA) dating back to 1975. Therefore, hosting the physical secretariat of the Panel at UNEP will not face any delays resulting from negotiating a Host Country Agreement, a process that could take months or even years in some jurisdiction.

E. WHY KENYA?



A section of the Nairobi Skyline

10. Kenya offers a unique combination of strategic advantages that align directly with the objectives and operational needs of the Science Policy Panel.



I. Stable Economy and Democracy

Kenya has achieved significant political and economic reforms over the past decade, leading to strong economic growth, social development, and political stability. As a result, there is political stability, higher human capital accumulation, lower inflation, and higher economic freedom and a conducive democratic space.

II. Strategic Location and Connectivity

Kenya is strategically located along the East African coast with modern infrastructure that enables the country to serve as the gateway to Africa and the world. Besides extensive road networks, and modern railway linking the port city of Mombasa to the capital, the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) in Nairobi, connects forty-four (44) countries by direct flights, and to 66 international airports.

III. Comprehensive Legal Framework for Waste Management

Kenya has demonstrated significant regional and global leadership in chemical pollution control, particularly in addressing plastic waste. Kenya is one of the first African countries to enact Environmental Management and Coordination Act (1999).

The country enforced a ban on Single use Plastic Bags (2017), and signed the Clean Seas initiative to limit plastics in its waterways. Kenya has also enacted the Sustainable Waste Management Act (2022) which provides a comprehensive legal framework for sustainable waste management.

IV. Environmental Stewardship

Kenya is committed to sustainability and green initiatives, prioritizing sustainable business practices, particularly in agriculture, forestry, renewable energy and waste management among others. Kenya convened Africa's first Sustainable Blue Economy conference in Nairobi (SBEC, 2018) that resulted in a global commitment to put in place policies that harness the economic potential of oceans and coastlines, while taking strong action to reduce the waste and plastic pollution that threaten food security, public health, and marine life. As a result, Kenya and Portugal co-hosted the 2nd United Nations Ocean Conference. Similarly, in 2023, Kenya convened the first ever Africa Climate Summit to promote climate adaptation, renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture in Africa.

V. Multilateral Hub

Nairobi is the world's capital for environmental diplomacy hosting the global headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (**UNEP**), and United Nations Human Settlements Programme (**UN-Habitat**). The city's significance extends beyond its role in environmental matters, as it is home to the United Nations Office at Nairobi (**UNON**), the only UN headquarters in the global South.

Nairobi is also home to over 170 environmental organizations including the secretariats of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN), the Nairobi Convention on the Management of Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region and the African Climate Summit (ACS). The strong presence of environment organizations has created a vibrant green ecosystem that promotes research, synergies and cross pollination of ideas for innovative solutions.

VI. Diplomatic Hub

Nairobi is home to one-hundred and two (102) foreign diplomatic missions, thirty-five (35) Consulates, sixty-five (65) UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes and one-hundred and two (102) Regional and International Organizations operating in various fields including in the environmental and sustainability.

The already strong and growing presence of the foreign missions and international organizations in Nairobi has created a viable ecosystem that will enable the Panel to engage directly with governments and other relevant partners. This will improve operational efficiency, enhance coordination and strengthen action among states.

VII. Financial hub

Nairobi is the leading financial hub in East Africa, offering conducive environment for international investors, financial institutions, and businesses looking to expand their operations across the African continent. Kenya's regulatory environment is aligned with international best practices, making it an attractive destination for financial services, asset management, insurance, and other related industries.

Nairobi's status as a global financial centre is further bolstered by its reputation as a innovation and tech hub, with many fintech startups already operating in the city. The synergy between Nairobi's financial and technology sectors will offer the Panel unique operational opportunities in areas like mobile banking, digital payments, and block chain technology.

VIII. Quality of Life

Nairobi offers a dynamic and modern urban experience. The city has some of the best healthcare and education options including international schools. The cultural and social life is enriched by a diverse cultural environment, with many amenities available for different budgets. The climate is mild most of the year making the city a favorable destination. Nairobi is the only capital city in the world with a national park, Nairobi National Park, located within its boundaries, allowing wildlife to be seen against the city skyline.

Nairobi has diverse selection of high-end residential housing options in secure and well-serviced neighbourhoods, many of which are already home to diplomats, expatriates and staff of international organizations. The residential areas offer excellent access to modern amenities including international schools, healthcare facilities and other essential facilities suitable for modern living.

IX. Excellent Telecommunications and Digital Connectivity

Kenya is a recognized leader in digital innovation, with Nairobi often referred to as "Silicon Savannah". This digital ecosystem is supported by a well-developed ICT infrastructure and extensive fiber optic connectivity across the country that links seamlessly to global networks.

About 97% of the country has universal 4G coverage, high-speed broadband connectivity and extensive mobile network coverage. This critical infrastructure ensures reliable and uninterrupted real-time communication worldwide, providing an ideal environment to pilot and scale innovative digital solutions for climate finance.

X. Educated and Skilled Workforce

Kenya's has a highly skilled, youthful and dynamic population. Kenya is home to numerous reputable institutions of higher learning and training that produce qualified professionals equipped with both expertise, technical know-how and practical experience in science and research, finance, technology, and other sectors. The huge pool of professional labour force combined with high English language proficiency, provides an ideal human resource base to support operations of international organizations.

..... END.....



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Offer by Switzerland

to host the Secretariat of
the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel
on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution
(ISP-CWP) in Geneva

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Introduction

The creation of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP) on 20 June 2025 marks a milestone in global environmental governance. Alongside the IPCC on climate change and the IPBES on biodiversity, this Panel completes a comprehensive scientific framework linking rigorous research to policy action. Its establishment reflects the international community's strong resolve to leverage science, technology, and innovation to address the complex challenges of our time.

Chemicals, waste, and pollution impact ecosystems, human health, and economies at all scales. Scientific innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration are essential to understand these effects, anticipate emerging risks, and design effective solutions. The ISP-CWP will serve as a global compass for decision-makers, mobilizing expertise worldwide to deliver reliable and actionable knowledge.

To fulfill this mission, the Panel's Secretariat must be based in an environment that fosters scientific excellence, cross-sectoral engagement, and multilateral cooperation. I am convinced Geneva offers such an unparalleled environment. Nestled in a vibrant cluster of international organizations, scientific networks, private innovators, and active NGOs, the city promotes synergies that accelerate translating scientific findings into coherent policies.

Switzerland is pleased to offer Geneva as the ideal home for the Panel's Secretariat. With a steadfast commitment to environmental stewardship, scientific innovation, and effective multilateralism, we stand ready to support the ISP-CWP financially, administratively, and logistically. Hosting the Secretariat in Geneva reaffirms our dedication to advancing science-based solutions to protect our planet now and for future generations.

Albert Rösti
Federal Councillor

Summary

On 20 June 2025, the international community established the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP or Panel), marking a milestone in global environmental governance. With its creation, the world now benefits from a complete trio of science-policy panels supporting a healthy planet, alongside the IPCC on climate and the IPBES on biodiversity.

Despite progress achieved through existing international instruments, chemicals, waste and pollution remain urgent and complex challenges with far-reaching impacts on the environment and human health. To address them effectively, policymakers must have access to reliable and policy-relevant scientific information that enables informed decision-making and supports the sound management of chemicals and waste. The ISP-CWP will play a crucial role in making scientific knowledge accessible and policy-relevant. By identifying emerging challenges early and assessing response options, the Panel will also help decision-makers act proactively and in a timely manner. The ISP-CWP will draw on the expertise of scientists from all regions to share knowledge, data and context-specific solutions. Capacity-building will form an integral part of the Panel's activities, ensuring universal participation in its work and global impact from its findings. These activities must and will have an important positive impact on the world.

To fulfil this ambitious role, the ISP-CWP requires a stable, well-resourced and well-connected Secretariat, one that operates at the intersection of global efforts to ensure the sound management of chemicals and waste and science-policy cooperation. Geneva offers exactly these conditions. Here, at the heart of the international cluster of instruments and organizations advancing chemicals and waste governance, the Secretariat will find everything it needs to operate effectively, from scientific collaboration and communications to capacity building and outreach, in a proven, dynamic and inclusive environment.

Proven environment for effective and synergistic cooperation

The establishment of UNEP's Chemicals Branch, the joint Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions, the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the Secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals within the International Environment House in Geneva has proven to be highly practical, efficient and financially sound, for both the organisations themselves and the stakeholders involved. Geneva is also home to many major international organisations directly relevant to the work of the ISP-CWP, including the IPCC, WHO, ILO, and WTO. For the global governance cluster on chemicals and waste, such proximity has been essential in fostering the excellent cooperation that exists today between these institutions. Placing the ISP-CWP Secretariat into that cluster in Geneva will benefit the Panel and its Member States. Moreover, it will reinforce this cluster, strengthen coordination, and ensure a comprehensive, coherent, and efficient global regime on chemicals and waste governance. It would help avoid duplication and overlapping mandates while promoting the synergies required for the Secretariat to fulfil its mandate.

Locating the ISP-CWP Secretariat in Geneva will also place it at the centre of a unique science-policy ecosystem, where leading international instruments and organisations, such as the IPCC, WHO, WMO, and the BRS Conventions, already connect research with decision-making. Geneva's established clusters on climate, health, and biodiversity, alongside world-renowned academic institutions, provide opportunities for collaboration. This environment will enable the ISP-CWP to build on proven approaches to science-policy and integrate cross-sectoral expertise.

Direct access and inclusive participation for all Member States

Geneva's diplomatic ecosystem is uniquely suited to support the Panel. The city hosts permanent representations from 185 UN Member States, a number that continues to grow. This permanent representation enables significant savings on travel and allows missions to maintain regular, direct

contact with the Secretariat and to provide support to their capital-based delegations. Geneva is also home to numerous multinational companies, NGOs, business organizations, and serves as a pre-eminent venue for international negotiations and conferences. The International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG), located near the United Nations, was purpose-built to host large-scale international meetings and offers conference facilities free of rent.

Outstanding accessibility and reliable support services

Geneva benefits from outstanding international connectivity. As of mid-2025, Geneva Airport serves almost 150 destinations in 50 countries, with around 190 arrivals per day. The airport is directly connected to the Swiss rail network, linking passengers to the city centre in just seven minutes and onward to national and international destinations. The city and surrounding region, including neighbouring France, boast a world-class public transportation network of buses, trams, and trains.

Switzerland has a long tradition of hosting international meetings. Its visa procedures are efficient, responsive, and adapted to the needs of delegates. Switzerland is committed to ensuring that all participants in meetings organised by international organisations in Geneva are granted visas swiftly, in compliance with the Schengen rules. Moreover, the presence of major intergovernmental organisations ensures that the support services essential for high level meetings, such as top class simultaneous interpreting services and UN security services, are readily available.

Support framework and enabling conditions for staff and delegates

Switzerland also provides support to international staff and their families. Spouses, unmarried or same-sex partners, and children of Secretariat staff admitted by Switzerland as family members enjoy facilitated access to the Swiss labour market. Insofar as they are resident in Switzerland and part of the beneficiary's household, they will not be subject to any quotas for foreigners working in Switzerland or other specific regulations governing the labour market. The Geneva Welcome Center further supports dependants with professional advice and employment assistance.

Geneva offers not only a professional environment but also a remarkable quality of life. Nestled on the shores of Lake Geneva, the city combines a rich cultural scene, excellent shopping, and easy access to recreational and tourist attractions. Nearly half of its residents are foreign nationals, making Geneva a truly international city, welcoming, diverse, and well-equipped to meet the needs of a global community. Geneva and Switzerland are also among the safest places in the world. The Global Peace Index of the Institute for Economics and Peace ranks Switzerland in fifth place globally.

Switzerland would be pleased to make these favourable conditions available to the ISP-CWP and to host its permanent Secretariat in Geneva. Switzerland is fully committed to assisting its establishment financially, administratively, and logistically. The Swiss offer comprises the following elements:

- An **annual contribution of CHF 500,000** to the ISP-CWP Secretariat;
- An **initial contribution of CHF 1,000,000** towards initial activities of the panel such as capacity building;
- The provision of **adequate office space** within the International Environment House in Geneva, accompanied by a **contribution of CHF 50,000 per year** until 2029, with the possibility of renewal;
- An **initial contribution of CHF 10,000 per staff member** to furnish and equip the Secretariat in the International Environment House;
- Free rental of the Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG) premises for meetings of the ISP-CWP.

Detailed information

regarding the hosting of the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution in Geneva, Switzerland

1. Switzerland's policy on international organisations

Switzerland has hosted international organisations for more than 150 years. Building on this long tradition, and in its role as the second-largest United Nations (UN) centre, Geneva has developed an unparalleled infrastructure, specifically tailored to the needs of international organisations. The Swiss Confederation and the Geneva authorities remain highly responsive to these needs. They are continuously working to strengthen further Geneva's attractiveness as a host city for international organisations.

Many major intergovernmental organizations are based in the Geneva area, including the WTO, WHO, WIPO, ITU, ILO, UNCTAD, UNITAR, UNEP Regional Office for Europe, UNEP Chemicals and Health, UNEP Trade and Environment, the joint Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions Secretariat, the Minamata Convention Secretariat, CITES, IPCS, UNECE, ICRC, WMO and the IPCC. Additionally, Geneva is home to hundreds of international non-governmental organizations such as WWF, IUCN, CIEL, IISD, Green Cross International and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, among others.

Moreover, Geneva hosts 185 permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva, along with numerous observer and regional representations, making it one of the most diplomatically concentrated cities in the world, second only to New York. These permanent missions enjoy the privileges and immunities granted under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1961, which are applied by analogy to their status in Geneva.

2. Legal framework

2.1 Privileges and immunities which would be conferred on the Secretariat and its staff members, as well as government representatives and other persons engaged in the official business of the Panel

The Headquarters Agreement concluded between Switzerland and the UN will apply to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Secretariat and its staff, as far as they will be engaged as officials of the United Nations. They will enjoy all the privileges and immunities conferred on the United Nations, including the following:

- For the **Secretariat**:
 - Immunity from jurisdiction and execution.
 - Inviolability of the premises, archives, property, funds and assets.
 - Freedom from financial controls, regulations or moratoria of any kind.
 - Facilities with respect to communications.
 - Right to use codes and to receive and send correspondence through diplomatic couriers and sealed bags.
 - The Secretariat, its assets, income and other property are exempt from direct income taxes. However, concerning buildings, such an exemption applies to those owned by the Secretariat and occupied by its branches and to income deriving from them.
 - Exemption from customs duties for its official duties.
 - Exemption from indirect taxes, including value-added tax, with respect to all purchases of goods for official use and all services provided for official use (in conformity with the Swiss legislation).

- For **staff with diplomatic status** (officials P-5 or above):
 - The same privileges and immunities as accorded to members of the permanent missions to the UN with diplomatic status (for example: immunity from personal arrest or detention, immunity from jurisdiction and execution, inviolability of papers, goods and assets, exemption from direct taxes, etc.). The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1961 applies by analogy.
 - Exemption from indirect taxes, including value-added tax on articles and all services purchased for strictly personal use (in conformity with the Swiss legislation).
 - Exemption from customs duties on articles for their personal use.
 - Access to the tax-free shop for diplomats for the purchase of goods to meet their personal needs.
- For **other staff** (officials of the UN, P-4 or below):
 - Immunity from jurisdiction and execution for acts (including words spoken or written) performed by them in the exercise of their functions.
 - Inviolability of their papers, data media and official documents.
 - Exemption from direct taxes on the salaries, emoluments and allowances paid to them by the Secretariat (this exemption also applies to persons of the nationality of the host country as long as the Secretariat operates an internal taxation scheme).
 - Exemption from immigration restriction, aliens registration formalities and national service obligation.
 - Facilities with respect to currency exchange regulations.
- For **delegates** to the conferences and other meetings organized by the Secretariat:
 - Immunity from personal arrest or detention and immunity from seizure of their personal baggage.
 - Immunity from jurisdiction and execution for acts (including words spoken or written) performed by them in the exercise of their functions.
 - Inviolability of all papers, data media and documents.
 - Exemption from immigration restriction, alien registration formalities and national service obligations.
 - Customs privileges and facilities in accordance with Swiss national law.
 - The same facilities in respect of currency exchange regulations as are granted to representatives of foreign governments on temporary official missions.
 - The right to use codes in their official communications and to receive or send documents or correspondence by means of diplomatic couriers or bags.
 - The delegates with diplomatic rank have access to the tax-free shop for diplomats to meet their personal needs.
- For **experts** on mission:

Experts called upon by the Secretariat will, for the duration of their missions on Swiss territory, including travel time, enjoy, such privileges and immunities to the extent necessary for the discharge of their duties, which are:

- Immunity from personal arrest or detention and immunity from seizure of their personal baggage.
- Immunity from jurisdiction for acts (including words spoken or written) performed by them in the course of their missions.
- Inviolability of their papers, data media and documents.
- The same facilities in respect of currency exchange regulations as are granted to representatives of foreign governments on temporary official missions.
- The same immunities and facilities concerning their personal baggage as are granted to diplomatic agents.

2.2 Rules applicable to the employment of dependants of staff members

Switzerland offers facilitated access to the Swiss labour market for spouses and unmarried partners of the Secretariat staff admitted by Switzerland as family members. The Geneva Welcome Centre (CAGI) provides employment assistance to dependants of staff members.

- **For spouses, unmarried and same-sex partners and children:**

The spouses, unmarried and same-sex partners of officials of the Secretariat admitted by Switzerland as family members enjoy facilitated access to the Swiss labour market, provided they reside in Switzerland and under the same roof as the principal holder of the identity card.

Likewise, the children of officials of the Secretariat admitted by Switzerland as family members who enter Switzerland on the grounds of family reunification before the age of 21 and reside in the host country under the same roof as the principal holder of the identity card will, until the age of 25, enjoy facilitated access to the labour market in Switzerland.

Spouses and children will not be subject to the application of regulations governing the Swiss labour market, such as priority recruitment of resident workers and prior check on pay and working conditions.

- **For domestic staff:**

Provided they reside in Switzerland and are not nationals of the host country, staff of the Secretariat in Geneva enjoying diplomatic status are entitled to hire private household staff (domestic staff) under the legitimisation card scheme, in conformity with the rules and conditions provided for in the Ordinance on Conditions for Entry, Stay and Work for Private Household Employees of Individual Beneficiaries of Privileges, Immunities and Facilities (Private Household Employees Ordinance).

3. Presence of key actors, instruments and institutions on site

3.1 Diplomatic representation in the host city

Geneva has the second-largest number of permanent missions and diplomatic representations among all UN centres. Geneva hosts the permanent missions of 185 UN Member States (plus two non-Member States), and in total more than 270 diplomatic missions, including Observer States and regional organisations (see Annex A). As the principal United Nations centre outside of New York, Geneva has seen a steady increase in the number of diplomatic representations in recent years.

The presence of permanent missions of nearly every State and regional organization in Geneva enables significant savings on travel and is of great importance for effective communication. It enables governments to maintain regular, direct contact with the Secretariat; efficiently attend briefings on forthcoming or past meetings; participate directly in sessions held in Geneva; and follow up on meeting outcomes. During major meetings, it also allows delegations from capitals to benefit from support that would otherwise not be available, or that would entail additional costs for the countries concerned.

3.2 Presence of key global instruments and institutions on chemicals, waste and pollution in Geneva

Geneva is the heart of global governance on chemicals, waste and pollution. The global governance cluster on chemicals, waste, and pollution has been based in Geneva for over 30 years, continuously growing in impact and effectiveness. The new Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution will find its natural and strategic home at the heart of this ecosystem, working in the service of Member States, MEAs, and all relevant institutions in the field.

Geneva already hosts the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention, and the Global Framework on Chemicals. It is also home to UNEP's Chemicals and Health Branch, ILO, and WHO, among dozens of other related UN entities and other international organizations discussed further below (chapter 4.4). This geographic concentration of related international instruments is a key asset to ensuring operational efficiency and effectiveness, avoiding duplication of efforts, and fostering synergies. The collaboration between these instruments and organizations translate into tangible benefits, not only in terms of the relevance and coherence of technical work and projects, but also in terms of cost-effectiveness and the organization of conferences and activities.

The ISP-CWP will produce work that highlights the latest scientific knowledge on chemicals, waste, and pollution. This work will be relevant to countries, while also serving the mandates and activities of MEAs and other governance instruments in the field. Conversely, the scientific and technical bodies of MEAs offer a rich source of expertise that can support the panel's own processes.

The co-location of the secretariats of these instruments, staff of the UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch, and other experts at the International Environment House (IEH) facilitates regular contact and sharing of ideas and knowledge. Their close proximity brings together diverse and complementary skills that extend beyond their individual mandates, creating a true ecosystem of technical, logistical, and organizational expertise. The regular meetings of these instruments and their subsidiary (scientific) bodies in Geneva allow for consistent exchanges between scientists and policymakers, facilitating data sharing and building trust. This provides the ISP-CWP with established mechanisms to align its work on chemicals, waste and pollution with global governance processes. Staff from the chemicals, waste and pollution cluster will also be well placed to support the onboarding of the secretariat of the ISP-CWP.

Moreover, the near-universal presence of Member States' representation in Geneva allows for close and consistent follow-up of the work of ISP-CWP and facilitates direct engagement between States and the panel's secretariat.

The increased efficiency generated by the close proximity of the instruments of the cluster within the International Environment House, the high quality of facilities and staff conditions offered in Geneva, and the city's broad international ecosystem represent advantages that far outweigh the costs that may at times appear higher for a location in Switzerland. At a time when multilateralism must demonstrate both ambition and efficiency, building on a proven and dynamic cluster is the most constructive, cost effective and sustainable way forward.

3.3 Presence of leading science-policy related institutions and organisations in Geneva

Locating the ISP-CWP Secretariat in Geneva situates it within an existing science-policy ecosystem. This concentration of institutions allows the ISP-CWP to build directly on established approaches, while avoiding the pitfalls of siloed approaches to environmental issues by helping to link science and policy for chemicals, waste and pollution. Science-policy is well-represented in the following thematic clusters:

Chemicals, Waste and Pollution

Geneva hosts the *Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions*. Several operate a scientific body that produces scientific/technical advice to inform its own decision making in the respective MEA. Their location in Geneva allows for exchanges between scientists and policymakers and facilitates data sharing. This provides the ISP-CWP with established mechanisms to align its work on chemicals, waste and pollution with global governance processes in well-established MEAs.

Climate

Through hosting the *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)* and other efforts, the Geneva-based *World Meteorological Organization (WMO)* anchors global climate science. Its own World Climate Research Programme advances global climate knowledge and connects it to policy processes. The *IPCC* provides a distinct and long-standing example of effective science-policy collaboration. Established in 1988, the IPCC has had a measurable global impact by informing international environmental negotiations and shaping national climate policies. Its methods for coordinating expertise

and synthesizing evidence are directly relevant for the ISP-CWP when using a model for its own operations and work programme. In addition, the WMO has played a leading role in the quadrennial scientific assessment of ozone depletion, which helps to identify science and policy considerations related to atmospheric chemical pollution. The WMO's World Climate Research Programme advances global climate knowledge and connects it to policy processes. Furthermore, the WMO–WHO Joint Climate and Health Programme, hosted in Geneva, integrates climate services with health data to develop technical guidance on risks such as air pollution.

Health

Headquartered in Geneva, the *World Health Organization (WHO)* develops scientific foundations for chemical and pollution policies. The International Programme on Chemical Safety produces global risk assessments on toxic substances and exposure. The WHO Chemicals Road Map and the Global Chemicals and Health Network provide frameworks for national action on chemical safety. Training instruments such as the Air Pollution and Health Training Toolkit and WHO's new online courses on chemical hazards strengthen technical capacity to manage risks. These programmes are directly relevant to the ISP-CWP mandate, offering opportunities for technical collaboration on integrating health evidence into pollution policy.

Biodiversity

The *International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)*, based in Gland near Geneva, convenes expert commissions that produce assessments and policy advice on biodiversity. Its long-standing experience in translating scientific and technical input into environmental governance processes offers useful knowledge for the ISP-CWP to consider when designing science-policy mechanisms in the field of chemicals and pollution.

Universities and Academies

The *Geneva Science-Policy Interface (GSPI)*, based at the University of Geneva, facilitates collaboration between researchers and international policy actors. Its Impact Collaboration Programme funds and supports projects that bring science into policy processes. GSPI also develops training and methods for effective science-policy engagement. The *Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA)* complements this role by scanning scientific advances with policy relevance. Together, GSPI and GESDA provide the ISP-CWP with mechanisms to connect current science to policy while also anticipating future challenges. In addition to the University of Geneva, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL) and the Swiss Federal Institute in Zürich (ETH Zürich), all globally renowned academic institutions, are located nearby, contributing to an ecosystem of knowledge and expertise.

3.4 Presence of international organisations

Most of the major international organisations along with hundreds of international NGOs are permanently represented in Geneva (see Annex B). Overall, Geneva hosts 43 international organizations and over 400 NGOs.

The following United Nations organizations, specialized agencies, programmes, funds, initiatives, joint programmes, and affiliated entities of the UN system have their headquarters in Geneva:

- Conference on Disarmament
- International Bureau of Education (IBE – UNESCO)
- International Computing Centre (UNICC)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- International Trade Centre (ITC – UNCTAD/WTO)
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)
- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)
- United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS)
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace
- United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- World Trade Organization (WTO)

The following UN entities have offices in Geneva:

- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Bank

Among the many NGOs present in Geneva, the following are particularly relevant for chemicals, waste and pollution:

- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- International Union for the IUCN
- Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
- International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
- International Panel on Chemical Pollution (IPCP)
- Green Cross International
- The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

4. Features of the office site, local facilities and conditions

4.1 Main features of the building to house the secretariat

The Secretariat of the ISP-CWP would be located in the International Environment House (IEH) in Geneva, in close proximity to the United Nations Office and many major intergovernmental organisations based in the city. Adequate office space for the Secretariat will be provided within the IEH, accompanied by a yearly financial contribution of CHF 50,000 towards rent until 2029, with the possibility of renewal. The Swiss Government will also provide an initial contribution of CHF 10'000.- per staff member to furnish and equip the Secretariat's offices.

The IEH comprises two adjacent buildings (IEH I and IEH II), which together host the offices of numerous organisations active in the fields of environment and sustainable development. IEH I is a large building

offering 13'000 square metres (m²) of workspace with modern facilities, including numerous meeting rooms and a restaurant providing complete catering services for up to 140 persons. The IEH-facility also includes a conference centre with rooms accommodating 15 to 110 seats, specifically designed to encourage synergies among resident institutions. In addition, it is fully equipped with modern telecommunication infrastructure, enabling efficient, effective and seamless collaboration. The major UN organizations located in the International Environment House include:

UNEP, including the:

- Europe Office
- Chemicals & Health Branch
- Resources & Markets Branch
- Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)
- Units of the Disasters and Conflict Branch
- Climate Finance Unit
- Climate Mitigation Unit
- Economy and Nature Unit
- GGKP
- InforMEA

Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs):

- Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions Secretariat
- Minamata Convention Secretariat
- CITES Secretariat (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species)

Other UN/UNEP programmes & networks:

- GRID-Geneva (Global Resource Information Database)
- UN-REDD Programme Secretariat
- UN Environment Management Group (UN-EMG) Secretariat
- Santiago Network Secretariat
- Geneva Environment Network (GEN) Secretariat

The Geneva Environment Network plays a critical role in amplifying the environmental work of Geneva-based organizations. The presence of both the ISP-CWP and the Geneva Environment Network secretariats in the IEH would simultaneously strengthen synergies between the Panel and over 100 environmental organizations in Geneva while also raising global awareness about its work.

4.2 Availability of international conference facilities

The Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG) was purpose-built to host diplomatic conferences. Owned by the Swiss authorities and located in the immediate vicinity of the United Nations, it offers a wide range of conference rooms available free of rent. The CICG can accommodate up to 3,500 participants in rooms of various sizes and configurations. It is fully equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, including simultaneous interpretation in up to eight languages, secretariat offices, restaurant facilities with seating for 450, a coffee shop, and a post office. The CICG operates under the highest security standards and is accustomed to working closely with UN security services and the Swiss police.

Directly across the street, the Varembe Conference Centre provides additional conference facilities for up to 280 participants. It includes five spacious meeting rooms (40 to 100 places each), of which three are equipped with interpretation booths for up to six languages, as well as a café and secretariat offices. A bank with multilingual staff is also located adjacent to the centre. For larger-scale events, the Palexpo

Congress complex offers another suitable venue, with the capacity to host international conferences of up to 11,000 participants.

In addition, many Geneva-based international organisations have their own high-quality conference facilities. These include the UN Palais des Nations, which can host up to 9,700 participants, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and others. These venues also provide convenient cafeteria and restaurant services.

4.3 Access to qualified conference servicing staff familiar with United Nations conferences and practices

The large number of high-level conferences regularly held in Geneva for the United Nations, businesses, and other organizations means that qualified conference servicing staff are readily available and highly reliable. Interpreters, translators, editors, and meeting coordinators with extensive experience in United Nations conferences and practices are readily available. More specifically, Geneva offers:

- Highly qualified translators and interpreters covering all official UN working languages;
- Multilingual secretarial staff with experience in international settings;
- First-class conference servicing companies specialized in the organization of international congresses and conferences; and
- Editors accustomed to working in all UN official languages.

4.4 Local availability of trained personnel for possible employment in the secretariat

As a multilingual and multicultural country, Switzerland offers a highly educated workforce and has a strong appeal for international talent. Geneva provides a substantial pool of trained personnel to support the ISP-CWP Secretariat, and the local labor market ensures that qualified staff can be recruited with ease. Switzerland is widely recognized for its high standard of education. From an early age, school children learn a second national language, as well as at least one foreign language, most often English. The official language of Geneva is French; however, English is widely spoken, as is the case throughout Switzerland. Both are official UN languages, and the other UN languages are also commonly used within the city.

Geneva's large international community, attractive for both study and professional opportunities, further reinforces the availability of skilled personnel. Foreign residents account for 41 percent of Geneva's population, adding to the city's international character.

For the families of international staff, integration into Geneva life is facilitated by the city's cosmopolitan nature. The strong demand for linguistic and technical skills in the local labor market makes it easy for family members to find opportunities. In addition, the presence of diplomatic missions, international organizations, and multinational companies provides further career prospects.

4.5 International transport facilities

Air transportation

The Geneva airport (Genève-Cointrin), located only 4 km from the city centre, is accessible in just seven minutes by train from the city's main railway station (Cornavin). The journey from the airport to UN Offices, the Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG) and other venues is approximately 20 minutes by bus. In 2024, the airport handled nearly 17.8 million passengers.

Key facts about the Geneva airport:

- On average, 170 passenger flights depart each day, connecting Geneva to 150 destinations in 50 countries.
- Flight connections are frequent and operated by SWISS as well as other major airlines.

- Over 85 direct flights daily to major European capitals and hubs, including:
 - London: ~90 minutes, with almost 60 flights per day;
 - Paris: ~70 minutes, with 10 flights per day;
 - Frankfurt: ~85 minutes, with 10 flights per day;
 - Amsterdam: ~100 minutes, with 2 flights per day;
 - Zurich: ~55 minutes (domestic flight), with 7 flights per day.
- Weekly direct flights from Geneva (or via Zurich), include:
 - More than 2000 flights to European capitals and major cities;
 - Approximately 100 flights to cities in North America;
 - Approximately 100 flights to cities in Africa;
 - Approximately 70 flights to cities in the Far East;
 - Approximately 50 flights to cities in the Middle East;
 - Approximately 50 flights to New York;
 - Approximately 8 flights to cities in Latin America.
- Free public transport ticket upon arrival in the baggage claim area, providing unrestricted access to the entire Geneva network of buses, trams, trains, and boats for 80 minutes.
- A free parking area at Geneva Airport is reserved for vehicles with diplomatic (“CD”) or consular (“CC”) plates.
- The airport further offers a wide range of duty-free shops for travelers.

Ground transportation:

Geneva benefits from excellent rail connections with major European cities. TGV Lyria operates 8 to 16 roundtrips to Paris daily, with a journey time of approximately 3 hours. Train services to Brussels are typically available twice per day. Connections to other major European destinations, such as Berlin, Rome, Monaco, and Vienna, are also available, operating at lower frequencies or through connecting routes.

4.6 Local transport facilities and their proximity to the office facilities at the disposal of the secretariat

The city of Geneva is firmly committed to sustainable mobility. Virtually all of Geneva is easily accessible by public transportation. Visitors staying in hotels, youth hostels, or campsites in Geneva receive the Geneva Transport Card, which grants unlimited access to buses, trams, and boats for the duration of their stay, including the day of departure.

The Transports Publics Genevois (TPG) network operates a fleet of approximately 450 vehicles (buses, trolleybuses, and trams), covering more than 360 kilometers and carrying nearly 600,000 passengers per day. In 2024, the system recorded 222.2 million journeys.

- Trams: Five lines link Geneva’s main districts, with services every 4–5 minutes at peak times.
- Trolleybuses: Six lines operate on major routes, with services every 5–7 minutes.
- Urban buses: About 65 lines connect neighborhoods, commercial areas, and administrative centres every 5–15 minutes.
- Regional buses: These provide connections between Geneva, surrounding municipalities, and neighboring France, with frequencies every 15–30 minutes at peak hours.
- Regional trains: The Léman Express, inaugurated in 2019, connects Geneva with its cross-border metropolitan area, with trains running every 15 minutes during peak hours.
- Night services: Several extended lines run on Friday and Saturday evenings, ensuring continuous service until around 04:00.

In addition, the “Mouettes Genevoises” passenger boats provide regular crossings of Lake Geneva, linking strategic locations such as Eaux-Vives and Pâquis.

Geneva boasts an extensive cycling network of more than 350 kilometres, including 90 kilometres in the city centre. The Active Mobility Action Plan 2024–2028 foresees the development of 12 major cycling routes and greenways, consolidating cycling as a daily mode of transport. A public bicycle-sharing system and over 130 kilometres of marked leisure routes around Lake Geneva further complete this comprehensive offer, reinforcing Geneva’s leadership in sustainable urban mobility.

4.7 Health facilities and access to them by staff members of the secretariat

Geneva has a high density of top-quality health care providers and facilities, including private doctors with a wide range of specialisations, dentists, clinics, and one of the largest university hospitals in Switzerland, the Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG). HUG is Geneva’s principal public hospital, offering comprehensive care across all medical fields and ranked among the best hospitals in Europe. In 2024, the institution operated 1,920 beds, while nationwide hospital capacity reached nearly 38,000 beds in 2023.

Switzerland’s universal health system ensures broad access to outpatient care, hospitalisation, pharmaceuticals, and home care. Geneva complements this with a strong network of private clinics and actively promotes home-based services. Together, these public and private facilities operate at the highest international standards and are capable of providing all types of care.

Both public hospitals and private clinics are accustomed to treating international patients and can respond to diverse linguistic and cultural needs. Health care providers offer documentation and services in all major languages, with private doctors also consulting in multiple languages. For rare languages, HUG cooperates with professional translation services to ensure patient comfort and clarity.

The strength of Geneva’s medical sector is further enhanced by leading research and innovation institutions in the region, particularly in:

- Cancer research, through the Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research (ISREC, affiliated with EPFL);
- Biotechnology, centred at Campus Biotech in Geneva, home to research institutes and biotech companies;
- Medical technology, with Medtronic’s European headquarters in nearby Tolochenaz, a global leader in the field;
- Genomics and proteomics, through the SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, which coordinates national bioinformatics infrastructure and research, including facilities at the University of Geneva and EPFL.

Medical insurance

Medical insurance is compulsory for residents in Switzerland. However, the staff of the Secretariat recruited under the status of United Nations officials, together with their family members, will be covered by the UN social and health insurance scheme, which specifies the social and medical costs included under its coverage.

4.8 Availability of suitable housing

As in many other attractive cities, the housing market in Geneva can become tight during periods of economic growth. With a current vacancy rate of 0.46 percent, this is presently the case. However, suitable housing is also available in the nearby canton of Vaud as well as in neighbouring France. The Geneva Welcome Center (CAGI) supports staff of international organisations and their families in settling in Geneva by providing assistance with housing, schooling, and employment, as well as organising welcome and networking events.

In 2025, average monthly rents in the canton of Geneva range from approximately CHF 1,000 for a one-room apartment in the city centre to around CHF 2,000 for three-room units, which are among the most common. Larger apartments of four rooms or more typically cost over CHF 2,000, while furnished options range from CHF 2,400 to CHF 3,100, depending on size and location.

Most leases may include a diplomatic clause, which facilitates the early termination of a lease should the tenant need to vacate the property before its expiry.

4.9 Availability of schools at all levels, including those providing classes in languages other than the local language

Providing high-quality education at all levels is a priority in Switzerland, which is widely acknowledged as having one of the world's best education systems. Geneva is home to numerous international schools offering instruction in multiple languages.

Public school

Public schools are open to all children, regardless of nationality. Under cantonal law, education is compulsory, and authorities are responsible for guaranteeing access to schooling. Children between 4 and 12 attend primary school, while those aged 12 to 15 attend secondary school. Public primary and secondary education is free of charge.

At the tertiary level, Geneva hosts the University of Geneva, founded in 1559, today one of Europe's leading universities. International rankings highlight its excellence in scientific research, notably in public, environmental and occupational health, as well as molecular biology, astrophysics, social sciences, and economics. It currently ranks 58th in the 2025 Academic Ranking of World Universities (Shanghai Jiao Tong University).

Geneva is also home to the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID), a renowned research and higher education institution specializing in international relations and development issues. Nearby, the world-class Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL), only 30 minutes from Geneva, hosts professors, researchers, and students of over 120 nationalities. A few hours from Geneva, ETH Zurich is a leading institution of higher learning and research in the sciences, technology, and related disciplines.

Private schools

Private education is also well established in the canton of Geneva. Approximately 11,800 students attend private schools at the primary and secondary levels. Many of these institutions attract international families, with two-thirds of Anglophone students enrolled in private schools.

More than 20 private schools in the city of Geneva offer bilingual or international programmes, while the broader region counts almost 240 private institutes. Five major private universities include: the European University, Geneva Business School of Diplomacy, Geneva School of Diplomacy, International University in Geneva, and Webster University.

Private schools often follow curricula similar to those of public institutions. While many offer bilingual French/English or French/German programmes, some provide education exclusively in German, English, Arabic, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Hebrew and additional languages. Some examples include:

- International School of Geneva (Ecolint), Collège du Léman, Institut Florimont, Institut International Lancy (ILL), Britisch School, Lycée International de Ferney-Voltaire – bilingual French/English teaching with national sections (German, Spanish, Italian, etc.);
- École Bilingue de Genève and École Moser (Geneva & Nyon) – bilingual French/German education;
- Deutsche Schule Genf (German School of Geneva) – education in German;

- École Arabe de Genève – education in Arabic;
- École Brechbühl – French-language education with intensive English from the first year of primary school;
- École Girsu – French-language teaching with additional Hebrew instruction; and
- ASC International House Geneva –education in English.

Special education and therapeutic services are also available in Geneva for children with learning disabilities. These services are offered in English, French, Italian, and German, either through private international schools or specialized support providers.

5. Swiss specificities and expertise

5.1 Geneva - the city of modern diplomacy

Switzerland has a tradition spanning more than 150 years of bringing diplomats, scholars, experts and scientists together to find concrete solutions to improve people's lives. No other location hosts such a concentrated network of international and non-governmental organizations, diplomatic missions, and top-tier academic institutions. Geneva is the second-largest United Nations hub after New York.

Geneva serves as a vital hub of synergies between decision-makers, experts from intergovernmental organizations, diplomatic representations, academics, business leaders and civil society representatives. Here, ideas and proposals on the future of the planet are tested daily, making a significant contribution to solving global challenges. In Geneva, this collaboration is not only possible, it is easy. It has become an intrinsic part of the operating culture of the city's institutions and remains one of its key assets. For this reason, global players consistently choose Geneva as a base for their work.

To facilitate the integration of newcomers, the Swiss authorities provide special services, including:

- The Geneva Welcome Centre (CAGI), which assists international staff and their families with housing, schooling, employment, and networking;
- The Host Country Division of the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, which manages matters related to the privileges and immunities of the members of Geneva's international community, including domestic staff, and serves as an intermediary with local and federal authorities;
- The Geneva Diplomatic Committee, established in 1989, which provides a forum for permanent missions and their members to raise issues with the Swiss authorities;
- The Building Foundation for International Organisations (FIPOI), created by the Swiss Confederation and the Canton of Geneva to provide offices tailored to the needs of international organizations and to resolve practical issues related to premises.

Geneva's cosmopolitan character is also reflected in the diversity of religions practised in the city, with facilities available for all major faiths.

The international media maintain a strong and active presence in Geneva, ensuring that organizations receive the visibility needed to communicate their activities. Hundreds of international journalists are based in the city and are organized in associations such as:

- The United Nations Correspondents' Association (ACANU), bringing together journalists accredited to the UN Office at Geneva;
- The Association de la Presse Étrangère en Suisse et au Liechtenstein (APES), established in 1928 and based at the Palais des Nations;
- The Geneva Press Club / Club suisse de la presse, which unites representatives of Swiss and international media.

Geneva and Switzerland are also among the safest places in the world. The Global Peace Index of the Institute for Economics and Peace ranks Switzerland in fifth place globally. Political leaders and high-profile personalities generally move without protection and live in regular residential areas. At the same time, the Swiss and Geneva authorities ensure diplomatic security of the highest standards. The relative safety of Geneva in comparison to other UN hubs and international cities translates to substantial cost savings for international organizations that would otherwise bear the cost of additional security for personnel, including in some cases private security at their domestic residence.

5.2 Switzerland's commitment for the Chemicals, Waste and Pollution global governance cluster

Due to the presence of most relevant actors, Geneva is recognized as the centre of global governance on chemicals, waste and pollution policy. Geneva is home to the joint Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Secretariat, and the Secretariats of the Minamata Convention and Global Framework on Chemicals, as well as the UNEP Chemicals and Health branch.

In addition to hosting the multilateral chemicals- and waste-related instruments and organizations, Geneva is also home to the headquarters of almost all of the major global agencies and institutions relevant to this field.

Nowhere else in the world offers such opportunities for interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral synergies with the work of the ISP-CWP.

Switzerland has actively supported international efforts in the field of chemicals, waste and pollution from the outset providing expertise, making and passing proposals as well as making significant financial contributions. It has consistently been among the main contributors to the ISP-CWP process.

Switzerland has always met its obligations (assessed contributions and host country contributions) fully and unreservedly contributing to the chemicals, waste and pollution cluster with 29 million Swiss francs over the last 10 years. In addition, during the same period, Switzerland has provided voluntary funding for activities within the cluster amounting to more than 27 million Swiss francs. In doing so, it has helped to strengthen and advance the cluster, while also promoting inclusive participation in meetings, with a significant share of its contributions dedicated to supporting delegates' travels to conferences.

5.3 Switzerland's financial support for hosting the ISP-CWP secretariat

For the establishment of the Secretariat of the ISP-CWP in Geneva Switzerland is committed to providing an **annual contribution of CHF 500'000** and an initial contribution of CHF **1'000'000** towards initial activities of the panel such as capacity building. In addition, Switzerland would make an **initial payment of CHF 10'000 per staff member** for the consolidation of its infrastructure. Furthermore, adequate office space will be provided in the International Environment House in Geneva, supported by a contribution of **CHF 50'000** per year towards rent.

6. Conclusion

Whichever way one looks at it, whether in terms of Member States' on-site representation, available expertise, interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral synergies or in terms of quality of life, employment opportunities, security, infrastructure, cultural activities, medical services or education, Geneva offers unique advantages.

Geneva lies at the heart of the global governance cluster on chemicals, waste and pollution, having hosted the major organizations and instruments that form its core for more than 30 years. In addition, Geneva is one of the key global centers where science and policy meet, with strong support from Switzerland for better science-policy integration and for ensuring universal participation in its development. These qualities make Geneva the ideal choice for the seat of the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP).

Annex A – Diplomatic representations in Geneva

1. List of the States represented in Geneva

List of the States represented in Geneva by a:

- Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office in Geneva and to the other international organisations (UNOG)
- Permanent Mission to the World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- Permanent Representation to the Conference on Disarmament (CD)

		<i>UNOG</i>	<i>WTO</i>	<i>CD</i>
1	Afghanistan	x	x	
2	Albania	x		
3	Algeria	x		
4	Andorra	x		
5	Angola	x		
7	Antigua and Barbuda	x		
8	Argentina	x		
9	Armenia	x		
10	Australia	x	x	x
11	Austria	x		
12	Azerbaijan	x		
13	Bahamas	x		
14	Bahrain	x		
15	Bangladesh	x		
16	Barbados	x		
17	Belarus	x		
18	Belgium	x		
19	Belize			
20	Benin			
21	Bhutan	x		
22	Bolivia	x		
23	Bosnia and Herzegovina	x		
24	Botswana	x		
25	Brazil	x	x	x
26	Brunei Darussalam	x		
27	Bulgaria	x		
28	Burkina Faso	x		
29	Burundi	x		
30	Cambodia	x	x	
31	Cameroon	x		
32	Canada	x	x	x
33	Cabo Verde	x		
34	Central African Republic	x		
35	Chad	x		
36	Chile	x	x	x
37	China	x	x	x
38	Colombia	x	x	
39	Comoros	x		
40	Congo	x		

41	Costa Rica	x	x	
42	Côte d'Ivoire	x		
43	Croatia	x		
44	Cuba	x		
45	Cyprus	x		
46	Czech Republic	x		
47	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	x		
48	Democratic Republic of the Congo	x		
49	Denmark	x		
50	Djibouti	x		
51	Dominica	x		
52	Dominican Republic	x	x	
53	Ecuador	x	x	
54	Egypt	x		
55	El Salvador	x	x	
56	Equatorial Guinea	x		
57	Eritrea	x		
58	Estonia	x		
59	Eswatini	x		
60	Ethiopia	x		
61	European Union		x	
62	Fiji	x		
63	Finland	x		
64	France	x		x
65	Gabon	x		
66	Gambia	x		
67	Georgia	x		
69	Germany	x		x
70	Ghana	x		
71	Greece	x		
72	Grenada	x		
73	Guatemala	x	x	
74	Guinea	x		
75	Guinea-Bissau			
76	Guyana	x		
77	Haiti	x	x	
78	Honduras	x	x	
79	Hong Kong (China)			x
80	Hungary	x		
81	Iceland	x		
82	India	x	x	x
83	Indonesia	x		
84	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	x		
85	Iraq	x		
86	Ireland	x		
87	Israel	x		
88	Italy	x		x
89	Jamaica	x		
90	Japan	x		x
91	Jordan	x		

92	Kazakhstan	x	x	
93	Kenya	x		
94	Kiribati	x		
95	Kosovo			
96	Kuwait	x		
97	Kyrgyzstan	x		
98	Lao People's Democratic Republic	x		
99	Latvia	x		
100	Lebanon	x		
101	Lesotho	x		
102	Liberia	x		
103	Libya	x		
104	Liechtenstein	x		
105	Lithuania	x		
106	Luxembourg	x		
107	Macao (China)			x
108	Madagascar	x		
109	Malawi	x		
110	Malaysia	x	x	
111	Maldives	x		
112	Mali	x		
113	Malta	x		
114	Marshall Islands	x		
115	Mauritania	x		
116	Mauritius	x		
117	Mexico	x	x	
118	Micronesia (Federated States of)	x		
119	Monaco	x		
120	Mongolia	x		
121	Montenegro	x		
122	Morocco	x		
123	Mozambique	x		
124	Myanmar	x		
125	Namibia	x	x	
126	Nauru	x		
127	Nepal	x		
128	Netherlands	x		x
129	New Zealand	x	x	
130	Nicaragua	x		
131	Niger	x		
132	Nigeria	x		
133	North Macedonia	x		
134	Norway	x	x	
135	Oman	x		
136	Pakistan	x	x	x
137	Palau			
138	Panama	x	x	
139	Papua New Guinea	x		
140	Paraguay	x		
141	Peru	x		

142	Philippines	x	x	
143	Poland	x		
144	Portugal	x		
145	Qatar	x		
146	Republic of Korea	x		
147	Republic of Moldova	x		
148	Romania	x		
149	Russian Federation	x	x	x
150	Rwanda	x		
151	Saint Kitts and Nevis			
152	Saint Lucia	x		
153	Saint-Siège (obs. NU)	x		
154	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	x		
155	Samoa	x		
156	San Marino	x		
157	Sao Tome and Principe	x		
158	Saudi Arabia	x	x	
159	Senegal	x		
160	Serbia	x		
161	Seychelles	x		
162	Sierra Leone	x		
163	Singapore	x	x	
164	Slovakia	x		
165	Slovenia	x		
166	Solomon Islands			
167	Somalia	x		
168	South Africa	x		x
169	South Sudan	x		
170	Spain	x		
171	Sri Lanka	x	x	
172	Sudan	x		
173	Suriname	x		
174	Sweden	x		
175	Switzerland	x	x	
176	Syrian Arab Republic	x		
177	Tajikistan	x		
178	TKPM Territory (Taipei)		x	
179	Thailand	x	x	
180	North Macedonia	x		
181	Timor-Leste	x		
182	Togo	x		
183	Tonga			
184	Trinidad and Tobago	x		
185	Tunisia	x		
186	Türkiye	x	x	
187	Turkmenistan	x		
188	Tuvalu			
189	Uganda	x	x	
190	Ukraine	x		
191	United Arab Emirates	x		

192	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	x		x
193	United Republic of Tanzania	x		
194	United States of America	x	x	x
195	Uruguay	x	x	
196	Uzbekistan	x		
197	Vanuatu	x		
198	Venezuela	x		
199	Viet Nam	x		
200	Yemen	x		
201	Zambia	x		
202	Zimbabwe	x		
	Total :	185	38	15

States accredited to UNOG based outside Geneva:

1	Belize	New York
2	Benin	Paris
3	Solomon Islands	Brussels

Permanent Delegations of the international organizations (Observer Offices):

1	World Bank Office to UNOG and WTO
2	Permanent Delegation of the European Commission (EU)
3	Liaison Office of the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union (EU)
4	Permanent Delegation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP Group)
5	Permanent Delegation of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO)
6	Permanent Delegation of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
7	Permanent Delegation of the Organisation internationale de la francophonie (OIF)
8	Permanent Delegation of the African Union (AU)
9	Permanent Delegation of the Development Law Organization (IDLO)
10	Permanent Delegation of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)
11	Permanent Delegation of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)
12	Permanent Delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)
13	Permanent Delegation of the West African and Monetary Union (UEMOA)
14	Permanent Delegation of the Commonwealth

Other entities (with observer status):

1	Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to UNOG
2	Permanent Observer for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta to UNOG
3	Holy See (observer)

Annex B – International organisations and other bodies located in Geneva

1. International organisations within the UN System

1.1 United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)

The UNOG is made up of a Secretariat and the following UN bodies:

UN bodies with **headquarters in Geneva**

- International Trade Centre (ITC – UNCTAD/WTO)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) etc.
- United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC)
- United Nations NGO Liaison Service (NGLS)
- United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)
- United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP)

Autonomous body with UN-support

- Conference on Disarmament (CD)

UN bodies with **regional office for Europe in Geneva**

- United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS – HABITAT) – Nairobi
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) – New York
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – New York
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – Nairobi
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – New York
- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) – New York, etc.

UN bodies with a **liaison office in Geneva**

- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) – New York
- United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV) – Bonn
- World Food Programme (WFP) – Rome, etc.

Secretariats of UN-Conventions

- Joint Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (PIC); the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes (SBC)
- Secretariat of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)
- Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) – liaison office
- Secretariat of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a transboundary Context
- Secretariat of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution
- Secretariat of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
- Secretariat of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Secretariats of UN – bodies programmes

- Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit
- UNEP Chemicals Programme
- UNEP Trade and Environment
- UNEP Earthwatch
- UNEP Global Resource Information Database (GRID-UNEP)
- UNEP Information Unit for Conventions
- UNEP-GEF Project on Development of National Biosafety Frameworks
- WMO/UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- WHO Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS)
- UNEP/ILO/WHO International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS)

1.2 Specialised agencies

Specialised agencies with **headquarters in Geneva**

- International Bureau of Education (IBE/UNESCO)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM – related organization, HQ Geneva)

Specialised agencies (based outside Switzerland) with a liaison office in Geneva

- Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) – Rome
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) – Washington
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) – Paris
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) – Vienna

1.3 International organisations outside the UN system

International organisations **with headquarters agreement** based in Geneva

- Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL)
- Arbitration and Conciliation Court within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's (Court OSCE)
- European Free Trade Association (EFTA)
- European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)
- Global alliance for vaccines and immunization (GAVI Alliance)
- Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund)
- Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
- International Civil Defence Organization (ICDO)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)International Textiles and Clothing Bureau (ITCB)
- International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)
- South Center (SC)
- World Trade Organization (WTO)

International organisations **with fiscal agreement** based in Geneva

- **Airline Telecommunications and Information Services (SITA)**
- Airports Council International (ACI)
- **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands – Gland
- **World Conservation Union (IUCN) – Gland**

International organisations (based outside Switzerland) **with representation** in Geneva

- International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF)

2. Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs)

About 170 NGOs with consultative status at the United Nations are based in Geneva (headquarters or representations). Some important NGOs are listed below by way of example.

Environment, health, sustainable development

- Aga Khan Foundation (AKF)
- Bellerive Foundation
- Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
- Foundation for Environmental Conservation
- Green Cross International (GCI)
- Independent World Commission on the Oceans (IWCO)
- International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)
- International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
- International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC)
- World Association of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination (WACLAC)
- World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) – Gland

- *Politics, society, sports, culture, publishing, religions:*
 - Aga Khan Trust for Culture
 - Bahā'i International Community United Nations Office (BIC)
 - Christian Children Fund (CCF)
 - European Broadcasting Union (EBU)
 - Federation of International Institutions semi-official and private established in Geneva (FIIG)
 - Fédération internationale motocycliste (FIM)
 - World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)
 - Fondation du Devenir (FDD)
 - Forum de Crans-Montana (CMF)
 - International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC)
 - International Association of Conference Translators (IACT)
 - International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)
 - International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)
 - International Federation of Building and Wood Workers (IFBWW)
 - International Metalworkers Federation (IMF)
 - International Organization of Employers (IOE)
 - International Publishers Association (IPA)
 - International Social Security Association (ISSA)
 - International Social Service (ISS)
 - Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
 - Mandat international
 - Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) / Quaker House
 - Union des Associations Européennes de Football (UEFA) – Nyon
 - World Confederation of Labour (WCL)
 - World Council of Churches (WCC)
 - World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)
 - World Jewish Congress (WJC)
 - World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM)/ World Scout Bureau

- *Education, science, research:*
 - Association of European Universities
 - International Baccalaureate (IB)

Humanitarian issues, human rights

- Amnesty International (AI)
- Association for the Prevention of Torture
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS-USCC)
- Defence for Children International (DCI)
- Food for the Hungry International (FHI)
- Human Rights Information and Documentation System (HURIDOCS)
- Indigenous People's Centre for Documentation, Research and Information (DOCIP)
- International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)
- International Centre for Humanitarian Reporting (ICHR)
- International Council on Human Rights Policy (ICHRP)
- International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)

- Terre des hommes International Federation (IFTDH)
- World Organisation against Torture (SOS TORTURE)

Peace, law, disarmament

- Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiations (CASIN)
- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)
- Geneva International Peace Research Institute (GIPRI)
- International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)
- World Association for the School as an Instrument of Peace (EIP)

Economy, finance, tourism

- Alliance internationale de tourisme (AIT)
- International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- World Economic Forum (WEF)

Transport, communications

- International Road Federation (IRF)
- International Road Transport Union