

**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

Distr.  
GENERAL






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ENGLISH ONLY

**FOURTH JOINT AARHUS CONVENTION AND CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
ROUND TABLE ON PUBLIC AWARENESS, EDUCATION, ACCESS TO INFORMATION,  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE REGARDING LIVING MODIFIED  
ORGANISMS/GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS**

Geneva, Switzerland, 11 and 12 December 2023

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## 1. Opening and Registration

The Fourth joint Aarhus Convention and Convention on Biological Diversity round table on public awareness, education, access to information, public participation and access to justice regarding living modified organisms/genetically modified organisms will be held in Geneva, Switzerland from Monday, 11 December to Tuesday, 12 December 2023. The meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, 11 December 2023.

## 2. Venue

The roundtable meeting will be held at:

### **Palais des Nations**

### **Peace Gate, Salle V**

14 Avenue de la Paix

1211 Geneva, Switzerland

Web-site: [www.unog.ch](http://www.unog.ch)

Transportation information to venue:

<https://www.ungeneva.org/en/about/practical-information/directions>

The usual conference entrance is through Pregny gate which is presently closed for upgrade/construction, alternative entrances are listed at: <https://www.ungeneva.org/en/about/practical-information/pregny-gate-closure>

## 3. Working language of the roundtable

The roundtable meeting will be held in English.

## 4. Meeting Documents



Documents will be made available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/CP-CEPA-OM-2023-01>. and on the website at <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Public-Participation/events/375497>.

In order to minimize the environmental footprint of the meeting and in line with the UN policy towards greener meetings, participants are kindly reminded to bring their own copies of the documents, or to use paperless versions, as there will be no extra copies made available on site during the roundtable. WIFI access will be provided.

## 5. General information on access to Geneva

Geneva is serviced by the Geneva Cointrin International Airport, which is about 5 kilometres from central Geneva. A free public transport ticket can be obtained at the airport. There are direct connections to the city centre by taxi, train and bus, as follows:

### 5.1 TAXI

Taxis are readily available at Geneva Airport. The trip to central Geneva takes approximately 15 minutes. Fares range from CHF 35.00-CHF50.00 (approx. €37-52).

## 5.2 TRAIN

The airport railway station has direct access to the airport Check-in and Arrival levels. All trains stop at the Geneva-Cornavin station in the city centre and takes about 7 minutes (every 12 minutes). For information on the Swiss railway system and prices, please go to: <https://www.sbb.ch/en/>.

## 5.3 BUS

There are a number of bus lines that service the Geneva Airport. The frequency and fares are as follows:

- a) **To Geneva Central Station and Place Bel Air:** Bus number 10 departs approximately every 10 minutes;
- b) **To Geneva (the United Nations building):** Bus number 5 departs approximately every 10 minutes.

**You can pick up a free ticket for public transportation at the airport** from the machine in the baggage collection area at the Arrivals level. This “Unireso” ticket, offered by Geneva International Airport, allows you to use public transport in Geneva for free for a period of 80 minutes.

Some hotels offer free shuttle service from the airport kindly request this information when making your reservations.

If you are staying at a hotel, the establishment will offer you the "Geneva Transport Card" that allows you to use public transport in Geneva free of charge during your stay. More information can be found at the following link: [www.geneve.com](http://www.geneve.com).

## 6. Visa information



Participants requiring a Schengen visa for Switzerland are strongly advised to contact the nearest Swiss diplomatic representation in their country of residence and submit their visa application **as soon as possible** in order to secure the required entry visa in a timely manner, prior to departure. **The estimate average processing time for the Schengen visa is from 15 to 20 working days.** Please ensure that you allow sufficient time to process your visa request.

For visa requirements, Swiss Embassies and Consulates representations, and visa application form, please visit Switzerland’s Online Visa System accessible at the following web link <https://www.swiss-visa.ch/ivis2/#/i210-select-country>.

Additional information on entry requirements, including frequently asked questions, is also available on Switzerland’s State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) website at: <https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/themen/einreise.html>.

To facilitate the issuance of visas, please also ensure to include the following documents with your visa application:

- Visa assistance letter from the Secretariat (issued to registered delegates upon request)
- Priority Pass (confirmation of pre-registration to the meetings) issued by the Secretariat

## Entry requirements

Entry into Switzerland does not require any further pandemic related measures. However, the WHO recommends that caution is applied where risk for COVID-19 infection is high, e.g., in crowded, poorly ventilated spaces or when one's personal risk of adverse outcomes from COVID-19 is high. Some of the key preventive measures advised include keeping up to date with COVID-19 vaccination, practicing hand hygiene, and using masks when risk of infection is deemed to be high.

Delegates attending the meeting are requested to ensure that they have international medical insurance coverage for the duration of their stay in Switzerland for the meeting.

### 7. **Hotel information**

Participants are kindly requested to make their own hotel reservations. A list of a few nearby hotels can be found in the annex below, the listed rates are an estimate only and are subject to change without notice. When you stay in a hotel in Geneva, you will receive the 'Geneva Transport Card', which is card offered to you upon arrival, that allows you to use all the public transportation systems in Geneva for free.

Information on other hotels and other tourist information in the vicinity of the meeting venue can be found at the following link: <https://www.geneve.com/en/>.

### 8. **Payment of the Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA)**

The DSA will be disbursed to funded participants on the first day of the meeting in the form of a prepaid credit card (Swiss Bankers card). **These funded participants are kindly requested to bring their passports and boarding passes on the first day of the meeting.** These will be copied and returned to participants during the meeting. It is advisable that participants have some cash at hand to cover expenses that may occur between their arrival and the moment at which they are provided with the prepaid credit card from which they will access their DSA. Please note that the funds can take up to 24 hours to be loaded on the cards.

**IMPORTANT:** If you were provided with a Swiss Bankers card for a previous meeting, please inform the Secretariat and bring it with you to the workshop (if it is still valid) so that it may be reused. Please make sure you remember the PIN, otherwise contact the bank to request that they reset the PIN.

#### **Swiss Bankers Contacts:**

Swiss Bankers Prepaid Services Ltd, Customer Service  
(forgotten PIN numbers, card replacements or transaction claims)

**Tel: +41-31 710 12 15**

Email: [info@swissbankers.ch](mailto:info@swissbankers.ch)

Opening hours:

Mon-Sun: 8.00-22.00 Swiss time. Closed on Swiss bank holidays.

## 9. Official languages

The official languages are: French, German, Italian and Romansh. English and/or French is spoken in hotels and restaurants.

## 10. Weather and time zone information

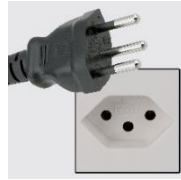


In December, the average temperatures in Geneva typically range between +5°C in the daytime and -1°C at night. Please bring appropriate clothing for cold conditions. The current weather conditions may be found at <https://worldweather.wmo.int/en/city.html?cityId=193>.

The standard time zone for Geneva is CET (Central European Time) which is GMT/UTC +1 hour.

## 11. Electricity

The electrical currents are 230 Volts, 50 Hertz and plugs are as shown below:



## 12. Currency



The currency in Switzerland is the Swiss Franc (CHF). The current exchange rate as of 30 November 2023 is USD \$1 = CHF \$0.87 and €1= CHF \$0.95 (source: [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com), rates are subject to change).

## 13. Disclaimer

The CBD Secretariat disclaims all responsibility for medical, accident and travel insurance, for compensation for death or disability compensation, for loss of or damage to personal property and for any other loss that may be incurred during travel time or the period of participation. In this context, it is strongly recommended to secure international medical, accident and travel insurance for the period of participation prior to departure.

**ANNEX - LIST OF HOTELS WITH ESTIMATED ROOM RATES  
IN THE VICINITY OF PALAIS DES NATIONS  
(Room rates are an estimate and subject to change without notice)**

**Notes:** There are many hotels in the area, below are a small sampling of hotels in the vicinity.  
Hotels offer a free Geneva public transportation card for visitors for the duration of your stay.

<b>HOTELS</b>	<b>Approximate rates for a single room in Swiss Francs (CHF)</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>1. Hotel Eden Geneve</b>  135 Rue de Lausanne 1202 Geneva Telephone: + 41 22 716 37 00 Website: <a href="http://www.eden.ch">http://www.eden.ch</a>	Single room: 180 CHF (internet rates)	Free wifi Air conditioning Restaurant/bar onsite Laundry facilities Breakfast at additional cost (20 CHF)
<b>2. Hotel Mon Repos</b>  131 Rue de Lausanne 1202 Geneva Telephone : +41-22-909-3909 Website: <a href="https://en.hotelmonrepos.ch/">https://en.hotelmonrepos.ch/</a>	Single room: 180 CHF (internet rates)	Free wifi Air conditioning Restaurant/bar onsite Laundry facilities Breakfast at additional cost (20 CHF)
<b>3. Intercontinental Geneva</b>  7-9, Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 1211 Geneva 19 Telephone: + 41 22 919 3939 E-mail: <a href="mailto:gvaha.info@ihg.com">gvaha.info@ihg.com</a> Website: <a href="https://www.ihg.com/">https://www.ihg.com/</a>	Single room: 400 CHF (internet rates)	Free wifi Breakfast included
<b>4. Hôtel Les Nations Fassbindhotels</b>  62 Rue du Grand-Pré 1202 Geneva 19 Telephone : +41-22 748 08 08 Website: <a href="https://fassbindhotels.ch/">https://fassbindhotels.ch/</a>	Single room: 170 CHF (internet rates)	Free wifi No show charge Safe Tea/coffee maker Hairdryer
<b>5. Ibis Geneva Centre Nations</b> 33/35 Rue du Grand-Pré, 1201 Geneva Telephone : +41•22 919 20 30 Website: <a href="https://all.accor.com/">https://all.accor.com/</a>	Single room: 190 CHF (internet rates)	Free wifi Hairdryer Breakfast at additional cost (18 CHF) Bar/restaurant onsite
<b>6. Hotel Montbrillant</b> 2 Rue de Montbrillant 2 1201 Geneva Telephone: +41 22 733 77 84 Website: <a href="https://www.montbrillant.ch/fr/?utm_source=Google+My+Business">https://www.montbrillant.ch/fr/?utm_source=Google+My+Business</a>	Single room: 150 CHF (internet rates)	Free wifi Bar/restaurant onsite Breakfast at additional cost (18 CHF)

HOTELS	Approximate rates for a single room in Swiss Francs (CHF)	Remarks
<b>7. Hotel Royal Geneve, Suisse</b> 41 Rue de Lausanne 1201 Genève• Telephone: +41-22 906 14 14 Website : <a href="https://www.hotelroyalgeneva.com/fr/">https://www.hotelroyalgeneva.com/fr/</a>	Single room: 200 CHF (internet rates) Rooms with kitchenette also available	Free wifi In room safe Breakfast at additional cost
<b>8 Design Hotel F6</b> 6 Rue Ferrier 1202 Geneva Telephone: +41 22 901 66 66 E-mail: info@hotel-f6.ch Website : <a href="https://www.hotel-f6.ch/en/">https://www.hotel-f6.ch/en/</a>	Single room: 275 CHF (internet rates)	Free wifi Hairdryer Coffee/tea Safe Breakfast at additional cost (34 CHF)
9. Hotel Kipling Manotel 27 Rue de la Navigation 1207 Geneva Telephone: + 41 022 544 40 40 E-mail:info@st-james.ch Website: www.hotelkiplingeneva.com	Single room: 185 CHF (internet rates)	Free wifi Safe Coffee/Tea Bar/restaurant onsite Breakfast at additional cost (20 CHF)
<b>10. Hôtel NH Geneva City</b> 42/44 Av. Wendt 1203 Geneva• Telephone: +41 22 544 74 74 E-mail: <a href="mailto:nhgenevacity@nh-hotels.com">nhgenevacity@nh-hotels.com</a> Website: <a href="https://www.nh-hotels.com/">https://www.nh-hotels.com/</a>	Single room: 175 CHF (internet rates)	Free wifi Breakfast at additional cost (22 CHF) Hairdryer Kettle