

PERMANENT FORUM ON PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

LOGISTIC INFORMATION

1. Background

In August 2021, the General Assembly adopted resolution [75/314](#), which operationalized the [Permanent Forum on People of African Descent](#) as “a consultative mechanism for people of African descent and other relevant stakeholders” and “as a platform for improving the safety and quality of life and livelihoods of people of African descent.”

The Permanent Forum also operates as an advisory body to the Human Rights Council, in line with the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent and in coordination with existing UN mechanisms promoting action to combat racism against people of African descent.

The primary theme of this year’s session is “**The Second International Decade for People of African Descent: Addressing Systemic Racism, Reparatory Justice, and Sustainable Development.**” Under this main theme, participants will have the opportunity to join four thematic discussions:

- Reparations, Sustainable Development & Economic Justice
- Education: Overcoming Systemic Racism and Historic Harm
- Culture & Recognition
- The Second International Decade for People of African Descent: Expectations and Challenges

More information on the thematic discussions can be found [here](#).

2. Date and venue

The third session of the Permanent Forum is scheduled to take place in room XX at the Palais de Nations in Geneva, from 16 – 19 of April 2024.

**United Nations, Palais de Nations
Visitor Entrance – Pregny Gate
14 Avenue de la Paix
Geneva, Switzerland
16 – 19 April 2024
Room XX**

3. Agenda

The draft Programme of Work for the third session can be found on the [session's schedule webpage](#). The Programme includes the main thematic discussions as well as side events scheduled alongside the session.

4. Documentation

Written statements received by the Secretariat will be posted on the Permanent Forum's webpage. Therefore, all speakers are encouraged to send their statements via email (pfpad@un.org) to ensure they are uploaded to the webpage.

The Permanent Forum will also endeavour to integrate learnings from side events into its work. To facilitate this process, lead event organizers are invited to email general conclusions and recommendations that arise from discussions at their side event to the Permanent Forum Secretariat, by **Thursday, 18 April 2024, at 13:00 Geneva time**.

5. Visa

It is the full responsibility of the participant to comply with all requirements and instructions regarding an entry visa to Switzerland as well as to apply for the visa well in advance. Please also remember to check for any transit visas, if required.

Foreign nationals may apply for a visa at the competent Swiss representation of their country of residence. More details on visa application are available here: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/fdfa.html>

Please be advised that visas are issued at the discretion of the Swiss authorities. The Secretariat of the Permanent Forum is not responsible for sponsoring visas for regular participants.

6. Accommodation

Kindly be informed that you are responsible for making your reservations for accommodation. Finding reasonably priced hotels in Geneva can be challenging, therefore it is recommended that you start as early as possible.

7. Insurance

The Secretariat of the Permanent Forum does NOT cover health or travel insurance of the participants during their stay in Geneva. Participants are responsible for obtaining all necessary insurances for the duration of their travel.

8. Arrival at Geneva airport

All participants are expected to make their own local transportation arrangements for airport transfer to/from their hotel of choice.

Geneva airport is located quite close to the city center which you can easily reach with public transport (bus and train). Taxis are also available.

- **By train:** The train will bring you to the Cornavin main train station in the center of Geneva in about 7 minutes. You can take the train from the airport train station, about 5 minutes' walk from the arrivals on the same floor. All trains leaving from the airport train station stop at the Cornavin main station. Then, depending on where your hotel is, you can walk, take a taxi, or take a bus.
- **By bus:** Bus no. 5 goes to Cornavin main train station via the Place des Nations and takes about 30-35 minutes to reach Cornavin. Bus no. 10 also goes to the Cornavin main train station, but via a different route (Charmilles) and takes about 30-35 minutes.

For more information about other bus routes, you can consult the Geneva Airport website at <http://www.gva.ch/en/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-67/>

***Tip:** Buy a ticket for public transport that is valid for an hour (“billet tout Genève”). The ticket is valid on all buses and trams, but also on all trains to the Cornavin main train station. You can pay with coins and credit/debit cards. There are machines in the airport train station hallway, as well as in front of the bus stop.*

- Taxis are expensive but nevertheless available just outside of arrivals. Only official taxis are allowed to operate, and they have meters which charge by distance and time. They also charge an additional tax per piece of luggage. You are not expected to tip a taxi driver, but you can round up the sum if you so wish. A journey from the airport to Cornavin train station will cost you a minimum of 30-40 CHF (depending on traffic). Normally taxis accept credit cards, but it is always better to check before getting on the taxi.

***Tip:** In Geneva, you cannot hail taxis in the street. You have to call them or go to one of the few taxi stations. Taxis numbers: 022 320 22 02 or 022 331 41 33.*

9. General information about accessibility in Geneva

a. Airport access

The Geneva Airport is largely accessible to persons with disabilities. For persons using wheelchairs, the bus is a better option to and from the airport. To use the train, you are required to [book special assistance](#) at least an hour in advance for assist in boarding and getting off the train. However, no special notice is needed to use the bus. The bus stop is located at level E (Enregistrement, in French, departure level). From the arrival lounge take the lift to level E, exit out of the terminal and go toward the left for about 15 meters. Cross the road over the pedestrian crossing and you will reach the bus stop.

At the time of departure, you may take bus route 5 to the airport from the Gare Cornavin bus stop.

b. Accessibility in public transportation

Most trams and buses are accessible, and the Geneva transport authority is constantly replacing inaccessible vessels with accessible ones. However, on any route if there is an inaccessible bus or tram that you encounter, then ask the driver when the next accessible bus or tram will be arriving, and she or he may call the dispatcher to find out.

While there is a button to press to indicate to the driver that a person with disabilities wishes to board, you need to indicate to the bus driver directly that you wish to board the bus. The driver will come and open the ramp so that you can enter. Let the driver know the stop where you want to get off. For the tram, while it is completely accessible, it is better to get into the carriage right behind the driver as those are indicated as accessible. Moreover, the driver can provide assistance if required.

[Mobilité pour tous](#) (Mobility for All) is a programme in partnership with Geneva Public Transport service network that provides free service to enable persons with vision impairments or walking difficulties (not wheelchair users) to travel on public transport network with a guide. The guides mostly speak only French.

The service is available from Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. You need to book the assistance 48 hours in advance by phone +41 22 328 1111 or email at mobilitepourtous@foyer-handicap.ch, from Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2:00 p.m. to 5 p.m. More details of the programme are available at: <http://www.tpg.ch/services-en-plus>.

c. Taxi services

As indicated in section 8, regular taxis must be reserved in advance, as they cannot be hailed in the street. *Taxis numbers:* **022 320 22 02** or **022 331 41 33**.

You may book a saloon car taxi with a big boot / trunk, to store your foldable wheelchair by explaining so while booking.

Accessible taxi services with accessible vans are available and must be booked in advance. Please note that the booking officer may speak only French. Contact details below.

Foyer Handicap: Tel: +41 22 794 52 52

Website: <https://foyer-handicap.ch/entreprises-sociales-geneve/transport-des-personnes-a-mobilite-reduite/>

Booking can be made Monday to Friday only.

Aloha Transport Mobile: + 41 79 321 12 21

Website: <http://www.alohatransport.ch>

d. Hotels

As indicated in section 6, hotels are generally quite expensive in Geneva and not always accessible. Due to the number of meetings and events occurring in Geneva, hotels tend to book up quickly. We advise you to book your hotel as soon as possible. We recommend you provide detailed information about the accessibility requirements at the time of making your reservation.

Please see below some websites that could help you identify places that are accessible in Geneva:

<http://www.disabledaccessholidays.com/>

<https://www.hotels.com/>

<https://www.booking.com/>

<https://www.trivago.com/>

e. Rental of assistive devices

Assistive devices can be rented in Geneva from the following organisations. We do not endorse any rental organization or its activities; our endeavour is only to provide information:

Fondation Foyer-Handicap: Tel.: +41 22 794 52 54

<http://www.foyer-handicap.ch/prestations/moyens-auxiliaires>

Medical Shop: Tel.: +41 22 781 20 00

<https://www.medicalshop.ch/fr/3-mobilite-aide-marche>

Mobilité: Tel.: +41 22 344 42 55

<http://www.mobilitehandicap.com/>

Electric appliances

Should you need to charge any equipment, please note that electricity is supplied in Switzerland as 220 V. The Swiss power plug is different from all others found in the world. You can buy an adapter at the shops in Palais des Nations or at the airport.

This general information about accessibility in Geneva is provided by outside sources and is for informational purposes only; this does not constitute endorsement of, or an approval by, the United Nations of any of the texts, products and services presented here.

f. Public transportation

Accessibility measures are available on public transports in Geneva. Further information on public transportation in Geneva, such as itineraries, timetables and fares are available (in English and French) on the website of the Geneva Public Transport service at <http://www.tpg.ch>.

A smartphone application is also available for iOS and Android, which contains maps and itinerary planning tools.

Tickets can be bought directly at the bus/tram stop (through the dedicated – touch-screen machines), via SMS or the App. No tickets are available inside buses or trams. More information is available on <http://www.tpg.ch> and <http://tpg.ch/en/web/site-international/service-clients/mobilite-reduite>

10. Public transport to Palais des Nations

Geneva is separated into 2 sides by the Lake and the river Rhone: the “right bank” (or “rive droite” in French) and the “left bank” (“rive gauche”). The Cornavin main train station is located on the right bank close to the lake. The Palais des Nations is also located on the right bank.

Tip: *If you stay at a hotel/hostel/residence, you will be entitled to a free day-pass for public transport (ask the reception). With this pass you can take all buses, trams, trains, and even the little yellow boats called “Mouette” in Geneva.*

- The session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent is held in the **Palais des Nations** located next to Place des Nations. The Palais des Nations is surrounded by a big park which has 3 entrances. You can enter the Palais des Nations through the **Visitor's entrance at Pregny Gate, on 14 Avenue de la Paix**, 1211 Geneva in front of the International Committee of the Red Cross building and next to the Geneva Hotel School (see map below)
- To go to Palais des Nations (Pregny Gate), you can take **tram 15** from Cornavin Station or along rue de Lausanne until the last stop **"Nations"**, and then walk to the Pregny Gate (10 – 15 minutes walking). From Cornavin, you can also take bus lines 8, 20 or 60 until the "Appia" stop.



11. Accreditation/Badge

Please note that as of Friday, 1 September 2023, all registered and accredited conference participants will receive a digital badge by email consisting of their photo, a QR code, the name and date of the conference (see example below).



Once downloaded to a mobile phone or any mobile device, the digital badge will enable faster entry to the Palais des Nations. Participants who do not have a phone or any other mobile device can print their digital badge to access the UN premises. Please ensure that the printing is legible so that their QR code can be scanned.

In order to receive an entry badge to Palais des Nations, please register yourself through Indico - <https://indico.un.org/event/1004528/>. Due to the high volume of participants expected in the morning of Tuesday 16 April 2024, please arrive at Pregny Gate at 8:00 AM in order to access the UN. Please note that participants with a permanent badge can access and exit through either Peace Gate or Pregny Gate. Once at the Pregny Gate, you will have to present your digital or printed badge and your passport. When accessing Palais des Nations, we highly recommend carrying your passport with you.

a. Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

UN Geneva is investing great efforts to improve physical accessibility to the Palais des Nations for persons with disabilities. Improved signage indicating accessible restrooms and elevators have been implemented throughout the premises. Please be aware that currently the Palais des Nations is undergoing renovation and accessibility is more limited.

Participants with disabilities or chronic health issues that may require assistance to participate in the session, are kindly required to liaise as early as possible with the Secretariat at pfpad@un.org to make the necessary arrangements. On this regard, please refer to section 9 to ensure you read all the necessary information concerning accessibility.

More information on accessibility can be found in the following link: <https://www.ungeneva.org/en/about/accessibility>

12. Inside Palais des Nations

The Permanent Forum session is held in Room XX which is located in the E building on floor 2, and the closest entrance door is door E40. Room XX is also close to a bar/café referred to as “Serpentine bar”, which is located on floor 1. Please note that you will need to walk approximately 3-5 minutes from the Pregny Gate to building E. (see red arrow on the map below).



- Please note that the Palais des Nations is undergoing important renovations, so access is prohibited to a number of places. You will nevertheless find a UBS bank (including ATMs), an official bookshop, and one main cafeteria serving breakfast and lunch. The Serpentine bar also serves coffee, tea and other beverages and snacks (including sandwiches and salads).

1. Currency

The Swiss Franc (CHF) is the official currency of Switzerland. To learn more about the Swiss currency please visit <https://www.myswitzerland.com/en-us/planning/about-switzerland/general-facts/money-and-shopping/currency/>

2. Telecommunication

The international code for Switzerland is +41. Geneva land-line numbers will all start with 022, drop the 0 if you're calling from abroad (+4122 ...). Switzerland's mobile phone numbers will start with 076; 077; 078; or 079; again, drop the 0 if you're calling from abroad (+4178 ...).

3. Local time

Switzerland uses Central European Time (CET) during the winter as standard time, which is one hour ahead of Coordinated Universal Time (UTC+01:00), and Central European Summer Time (CEST) during the summer as daylight saving time, which is two hours ahead of Coordinated Universal Time (UTC+02:00). For the time difference between Switzerland and your city/country of residence, please visit <https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/>

4. Safety and security

BEWARE OF PICKPOCKETS AND DON'T LEAVE YOUR LUGGAGE UNATTENDED (even at UN premises)!

All participants to the session should exercise caution while transiting in public areas as well as when using ATM machines or money exchange tellers. Spare credit cards, travel documents and valuable items must be kept in a secure place.

Please note that it is the traveller's responsibility to comply with immigration, customs and health requirements to enter the country.

Emergency numbers are: 117 – Police
118 – Fire Department
144 – Medical Emergency

5. Contact information

If you have any questions concerning to the meeting, or for any other logistical queries, please contact the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum at pfpad@un.org

Please note that the United Nations does not charge fees for participation in sessions of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent.