

Meeting of the Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices

Palais des Nations 7-9 June 2023

INFORMATION NOTE

- 1. General information
- 2. How to enter the Palais des Nations / United Nations Building
- 3. Meeting room
- 4. Lunch at Palais des Nations
- 5. Public transport in Geneva
- 6. Accommodation
- 7. Visa requirements for Switzerland
- 8. Covid-19 measures
- 9. Contact information

1. General information

The meeting of the Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices will be held in the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland, starting at 9:30 CEST on 7 June 2023 at 9:30.

The meeting will be held in English.

Agenda, presentations and other documents for the meeting will be made available on the <u>Meeting of the Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices | UNECE</u> webpage.

Participants are encouraged to download papers from the websites and, where feasible, use electronic devices to minimize paper use. Documents posted on the websites will not be distributed in the meeting rooms. Free Wi-Fi is available in all meeting rooms in the Palais des Nations.

Participants must register before **1 May 2023** by completing the online registration available on the meeting webpage. Registration is mandatory in order to be able to access the United Nations building (Palais des Nations) where the meeting will take place.

2. How to enter the Palais des Nations / United Nations Building

To enter Palais des Nations, all participants need to collect an access badge.

Due to current renovation work, the procedure for entering the Palais des Nations might change in June 2023. More information about how to enter the Palais des Nations will be sent to the registered participants one week before the meeting.

We advise participants not to bring any large items of luggage to the Palais des Nations as such luggage is not permitted in the building. You may bring into the Palais only the type of luggage that is normally considered as carry-on luggage by airline companies e.g., computer bags, rucksacks and handbags.

3. Meeting room

Instructions about the meeting room and how to get there will be sent to all registered participants <u>one week before</u> the meeting.

4. Lunch at the Palais des Nations

The UN cafeteria proposes a daily menu of CHF 12-16, or sandwiches. Payment in the cafeteria is accepted by credit cards and CHF cash.

5. Public transport in Geneva

4.1 Getting from the Airport to Geneva

Geneva Airport is approximately four kilometres from the city centre. The train is the most efficient way to get into the city centre. Follow the signs to the airport railway station from the arrivals area. All trains leaving from the airport stop at the central Geneva-Cornavin station. The journey takes six minutes.

Buses from the airport go to various parts of Geneva:

- Palais des Nations / United Nations: bus 5 stop Nations, bus 28 stop Appia
- Direction Geneva city centre: trolleybus 10 (Aéroport Rive), bus 5 (Aéroport Thônex-Vallard)

Taxis are available at the airport. They are metered, so costs will vary, but the journey from the airport to the city centre will usually cost around CHF 30.

4.2 Transport to and from the Palais des Nations

Geneva is a small city and easy to explore on foot. It takes about 25 minutes to walk from Cornavin, the Central Train Station, to the Place des Nations.

Alternatively, you can use public transport to move around the city. When checking-in at your hotel you should receive a free Geneva Transport Card, enabling you to use the entire Geneva public transport system free of charge throughout your stay.

Tram No. 15 goes from Cornavin to Place des Nations. From Cornavin take the tram in the direction 'Nations', which is also the name of the last stop where you should get off.

Buses 5, 8, 11, 20, 22, 28, F, V, and Z serve the Place des Nations (Peace Gate "bis" and Villa des Feuillantines) and stop close to the Nations gate. Buses 8, 20, 22, 28, F, V and Z also stop near the Pregny Gate at the bus stop named **Appia**.

Should you need to purchase public transport tickets, you may do so from the ticket machines at bus stops or by SMS (text 'tpg1' to 788 for a single ticket for the 'all Geneva' zone, zone 10, valid for one hour. For other SMS ticket options, route maps and itineraries use the 'TPG Preview' app). The tickets are sold **only on bus F and 20**. Further information is available on the site of the Transports Publics Genevois (www.tpg.ch/).

Taxis are expensive but generally easy to find. Taxis are usually available around the clock. The following direct telephone number will ensure arrival within minutes: +44 (0)22 331 41 33, website http://www.taxi-phone.ch/.

6. Accommodation in Geneva

Participants and/or their offices are requested to make their own travel arrangements and hotel reservations.

It is advisable to book your hotel well in advance as available rooms may be limited due to other meetings and events taking place in Geneva at the same time. A list of hotels and other valuable information about Geneva are available on the following website: https://www.geneve.com/en/.

The following accommodation options are close to the Palais des Nations:

- The closest hotel to Palais des Nations is the 5-star Intercontinental.
- There are several 3- and 4-star hotels near Cornavin train station. These hotels are located about 10 minutes by bus or tram and 25-30 minutes on foot from the Palais des Nations.

7. Visa requirements for Switzerland

Participants travelling to Switzerland must have a valid passport and, if required, a visa¹. Prior to leaving their country of residence, participants are requested to make their own arrangements for obtaining a Schengen visa or any other travel permits that may be required for the entire journey, including countries of transit.

If necessary, the UNECE secretariat can provide an invitation letter to facilitate visa procedures. Such letters can be requested by contacting the secretariat at economic.stats@un.org.

8. Covid-19 measures in Switzerland

Participants are encouraged to check the latest situation with Covid-19 and requirements for testing, vaccinations and COVID certificates at the <u>website of the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health</u>.

Participants are not required to wear masks at the United Nation building. However, please do not come to the UN premises if you develop any COVID-like symptoms or test positive for the virus. Everyone is also encouraged to maintain other protective hygiene measures, e.g. frequent washing of hands and keeping physical distances.

9. Contact information

For any general queries with regards to the meeting, please write to <u>economic.stats@un.org</u>. You may also contact Mr. Carsten Boldsen at <u>Carsten.boldsen@un.org</u> and Ms. Evita Sisene at <u>Evita.sisene@un.org</u> for more questions.

In true emergencies, please dial the following emergency numbers: General emergency calls: 112. Ambulance: 144. Police: 117. Fire service: 118.

¹ Information on visa requirements according to the traveler's nationality can be found on the website of the Swiss government: https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/fdfa/entry-switzerland-residence/visa-requirements-application-form.html.