I. GENERAL INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) will hold the meeting of the Group of Experts on Measuring Poverty and Inequality on 28 and 29 November 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting is preceded by the Workshop on Harmonization of Poverty Statistics to Measure SDG 1 and 10, on 27 November 2023. The meetings are organized under the Conference of European Statisticians work programme on poverty statistics.

The meetings are open to representatives of all UNECE member States. Representatives of other Member States of the United Nations, specialized agencies of the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) may also participate in a consultative capacity, according to the terms of reference of UNECE (E/ECE/778/Rev.5, paras. 11, 12 and 13). All delegates must be accredited by the competent authority of their country or international organization. Representatives of academia and non-governmental organizations may also register and will be able to participate subject to available capacity.

Participants must register online by completing the corresponding registration forms for the meeting of the Group of Experts (28-29 November) and the Workshop (27 November).

The working languages of the workshop are English and Russian and the working languages of the meeting of the Group of Experts are English, Russian and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in these languages.

Timetables, papers, presentations and other documents for the meetings will be made available on the web pages of the meeting of the Group of Experts and the Workshop.
Instructions for submission of papers and presentations are provided in the “Call for contributions” that is available on the meeting web pages. Participants are encouraged to download papers from the websites and, where feasible, use electronic devices to read them in order to minimize paper use. Documents posted on the websites will not be distributed in the meeting rooms.

II. VENUE

The meetings will be held in Room VIII at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

Further details on how to find the meeting room and all other important logistical information, will be communicated by e-mail to all registered meeting participants several days before the meeting.

Due to major renovation works ongoing at the Palais des Nations, the procedure for entering the Palais has changed again as of October 2023. Please read the following instructions carefully!

As the United Nations Security and Safety Service is moving to a more efficient and greener digital badging solution, all registered and accredited conference participants will receive a digital badge by email. This digital badge will have your photo, name and last name, your organization, the name and date of meeting and a QR code. Once downloaded to a mobile phone or any other 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 confirmation of approved registration and bring it to the UN Pass and ID Accreditation Service in order to receive a paper badge.

You may activate your digital badge or receive a paper badge at the UN Pass and ID Accreditation Service at the Peace Gate Entrance (please, see the photo below):

**Address:** Avenue de la Paix 12, Geneva.

**Public transportation:** Tram 15 or Buses: 5, 8, 11, 20, 22, F (stop "Nations").

**Location:** The Peace Gate is located opposite of the Broken Chair monument, a few metres from the Nations Gate (please see the map below).

**Working hours:** from 08:00 to 16:45 on weekdays.

**Blue line (on the left):** to activate your digital badge or receive a paper badge on the first day of the meeting.

**Red line (in the middle):** for holders of a red badge (Academia, NGO, Private sector, other) after your digital badge is activated or your paper badge is issued.
Green line (on the right): for holders of a green badge (Government, Observer Organization, UN Agencies) after your digital badge is activated or your paper badge is issued.

Please bring your photo ID (e.g., passport, or national identity card for EU citizens) and present it at the UN Pass and ID Accreditation Services together with your digital badge or printed confirmation of approved registration on the first day of the meeting.

If you have registered for both the Workshop and the meeting of the Group of Experts, you are advised to activate both digital badges at once or request a printed badge for both meetings on the first day of the workshop. This will save you time as you will not need to stand in line again on the first day of the meeting of the Group of Experts.

**It is advisable to arrive to the Peace Gate 1 hour before the meeting to activate your badge and make your way to the meeting room.** There might be a long queue at the gate due to other meetings starting on the same day, especially on Monday mornings. After entering the Palais des Nations grounds, you may need 10-15 minutes to walk to the meeting room. Please note that due to ongoing renovation works some walkways are only partly accessible.

After activating your digital badge or collecting your paper badge and during its period of validity, you may:

- Enter UN premises through the Peace Gate if you are a holder of a *red badge* (Academia, NGO, Private sector, other);
- Enter UN premises through the Peace Gate or the Prégny Gate if you are a holder of a *green badge* (Government, Observer Org, UN Agencies); and
- Exit UN premises through the Peace Gate, the Nations Gate or the Prégny Gate for holders of *all badges*.

Due to security procedures, 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.
III. ACCOMMODATION

Participants and/or their offices are requested to make their own travel arrangements and hotel reservations. The secretariat will contact separately those participants whose participation is funded by UNECE regarding their travel arrangements. All funded participants are requested to make their own hotel reservations in Geneva.

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.

IV. VISAS

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 social.stats@un.org.

V. COVID-19 MEASURES

All public health measures and travel requirements related to COVID-19 have now been lifted. Nevertheless, in the interests of protecting one-another’s health, please do not come to the UN premises if you develop any COVID-like symptoms.

VI. DINING

Meeting participants may choose to have lunch at the UN cafeteria located on the ground floor of the A building. It is open from 11:30 to 14:30 Monday to Friday. There are many dining options available nearby and in the city centre for evening meals.

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.
VII. PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Geneva has an extensive public transport network with many tram and bus lines. See https://www.tpg.ch/fr to plan your route.

Some hotels in Geneva offer a free Geneva Transport Card, enabling you to use the entire Geneva public transport system free of charge throughout your stay. Please ask at your hotel.

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). No tickets are sold on buses and trams.
VIII. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT GENEVA

Currency

The Swiss currency is the Swiss franc (CHF).
Currency exchange facilities are available in the city centre and at the UBS bank branch at the Palais des Nations, located on the second floor of E building (door 41). It is open from 08:30 to 16:30 from Monday to Friday.
All major credit cards are widely accepted in shops, hotels and restaurants.

Time Zone

Switzerland is located in the Central European time zone.

Electricity

The voltage in Switzerland, as in most of Europe, is 230V/50 Hz. Please note that Switzerland uses ‘type J’ 3-pin electrical plugs and sockets. European ‘type C’ 2-pin plugs such as that shown below will fit these sockets, but all other equipment, including European ‘type F’ plugs, will require a socket adaptor.
Water

We ask you to consider reducing your contribution to plastic waste by bringing your own refillable water bottle. Geneva tap water consistently rates among the highest-quality tap water in the world.

Useful telephone numbers

General emergency calls: 112
Police: 117
Ambulance: 144
Fire Department: 118

IX. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

Additional details will be communicated to all registered meeting participants by e-mail.

UNECE Secretariat

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