

COIMBRA GROUP HIGH-LEVEL SEMINAR ON RESEARCH POLICY “The Coimbra Group meets the UN”

21 - 22 OCTOBER 2021

Co-organised by the **Coimbra Group**,
the **United Nations Library & Archives Geneva**
and the **University of Geneva**



This year's Coimbra Group (CG) high-level research policy seminar will gather rectors and vice-rectors of its member universities as well as senior representatives of UN agencies and multilateral organisations around the challenges of Agenda 2030. How can universities contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how do the SDGs impact university research? What are the tools to optimise the interface between science and policy? The seminar will be held at the Palais des Nations, in the heart of International Geneva, thus providing the perfect setting for formal and informal interactions with university rectors and high-level UN decision makers.

THURSDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2021

- (OPTIONAL)
10:30 Visit of International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum (ICRC)
11:45 Transfer and lunch at Palais des Nations
- 13:00** Access to Palais des Nations, through security office at the Pregny Gate
Please note that the security check can take up to 30-45 minutes, depending on the number of visitors.
- 13:30** Registration, UN Library, Palais des Nations
- 14:00** **Opening addresses**
Coordinated by **Francesco Pisano**, Director, UN Library & Archives Geneva
- **Tatiana Valovaya**, Director-General, UN Office Geneva
- **Yves Flückiger**, Rector, University of Geneva and **Ludovic Thilly**, Chair, CG Executive Board
- **Nathalie Fontanet**, State Counsellor, State of Geneva
- 14:20** **KEYNOTE**
Jürg Lauber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations in Geneva
- 14:40** **ROUNDTABLE 1 “Leveraging science and knowledge to achieve the SDGs: views of four different stakeholders”**
Mille Bøjer, Director, Reos Partner, **Jacques Ducrest**, delegate of the Federal Council for the 2030 Agenda, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, **Paul Ladd**, Director, UNRISD, **Peter Lievens**, Vice-Rector, KU Leuven.
Moderation: **Cláudia Cavadas**, Vice-Rector for Research, University of Coimbra
- 16:20** **ROUNDTABLE 2 “Strengthening the interface between Science and Policy”**
Alexis Roig, Director, Scitech Diplohub, **Nicolas Seidler**, Director, Geneva Science Policy Interface, **Soumya Swaminathan**, Chief Scientist, WHO.
Moderation: **Coco Norén**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Uppsala University
- 17:30** Networking break with the speakers
- 18:15** Private guided tour of Palais des Nations
- 19:30** **Cocktail dinner with guests** (Permanent missions and UN representatives, Geneva and Swiss officials, UNIGE governance) at Le Vieux-Bois Restaurant

FRIDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2021

- 8:30** Security check, the Pregny Gate
- 9:00** **Introduction**
Yves Flückiger, Rector, University of Geneva
- 9:10** **WORKSHOP “October 2031: Forecasting the Future Together”**
An interactive working session, between representatives from The Coimbra Group Universities, UN Agencies and the impact investment eco-system. Facilitated by **Elaine France** (Flow In Action)
- 11:30** **Plenary** - workshop results discussion
- 12:45** Lunch at Palais des Nations
- 14:00** **“Science diplomacy beyond slogans: the CERN experience”**
Maurizio Bona, Senior Advisor, Relations with Parliaments and Science for Policy, European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), followed by a discussion
- 14:30** **“Strategic Intelligence at the WEF”**
Stephan Mergenthaler, Head of Strategic Intelligence, World Economic Forum (WEF), followed by a discussion
- 15:00** **KEYNOTE**
Anna Panagopoulou, Director, ERA & Innovation, European Commission, followed by a discussion
- 16:00** Break
- 16:20** Internal discussion for the Coimbra Group
Key takeaways from the seminar
- 16:50** Wrap-up
Ludovic Thilly, Chair, CG Executive Board
- 17:00** Closing drink

SATURDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2021

- (OPTIONAL)
10:00-11H30 Visit of the Bodmer Foundation, a collection of rare books and manuscripts

Due to sanitary regulations, coffee/tea and drinks cannot be served in the library premises. We apologize for this situation and thank you for your understanding.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- HOW TO GET THERE -

Geneva is located in the heart of Europe and its central railway station (Cornavin) is downtown. Consult the website of the Swiss federal railways (CFF) for a train journey.

[More info >>](#)

- ACCOMODATION -

Two hotels have been pre-booked for the seminar participants (available until 16 October) located in the centre of Geneva, 5 minutes from the railway station and 15 minutes from the Palais des Nations by public transport. Secure your room by booking it now via one of the links below. Cancellation is free of charge up to 7 days before arrival date. Prices include buffet breakfast, service and VAT. A Tourist tax of CHF 3,75 (3,4€)/person & night will be charged.

Hotel Jade, 3-star

CHF 170.- (155 €)/room & night, single occupancy

CHF 185.- (173€)/room & night, double or twin occupancy

[To the booking >>](#)

Hotel Royal, 4-star

CHF 210.- (191€)/room & night, single occupancy

CHF 230.- (210€)/room & night, double or twin occupancy

[To the booking >>](#)

- GETTING AROUND IN GENEVA -

The use of public transports is recommended.

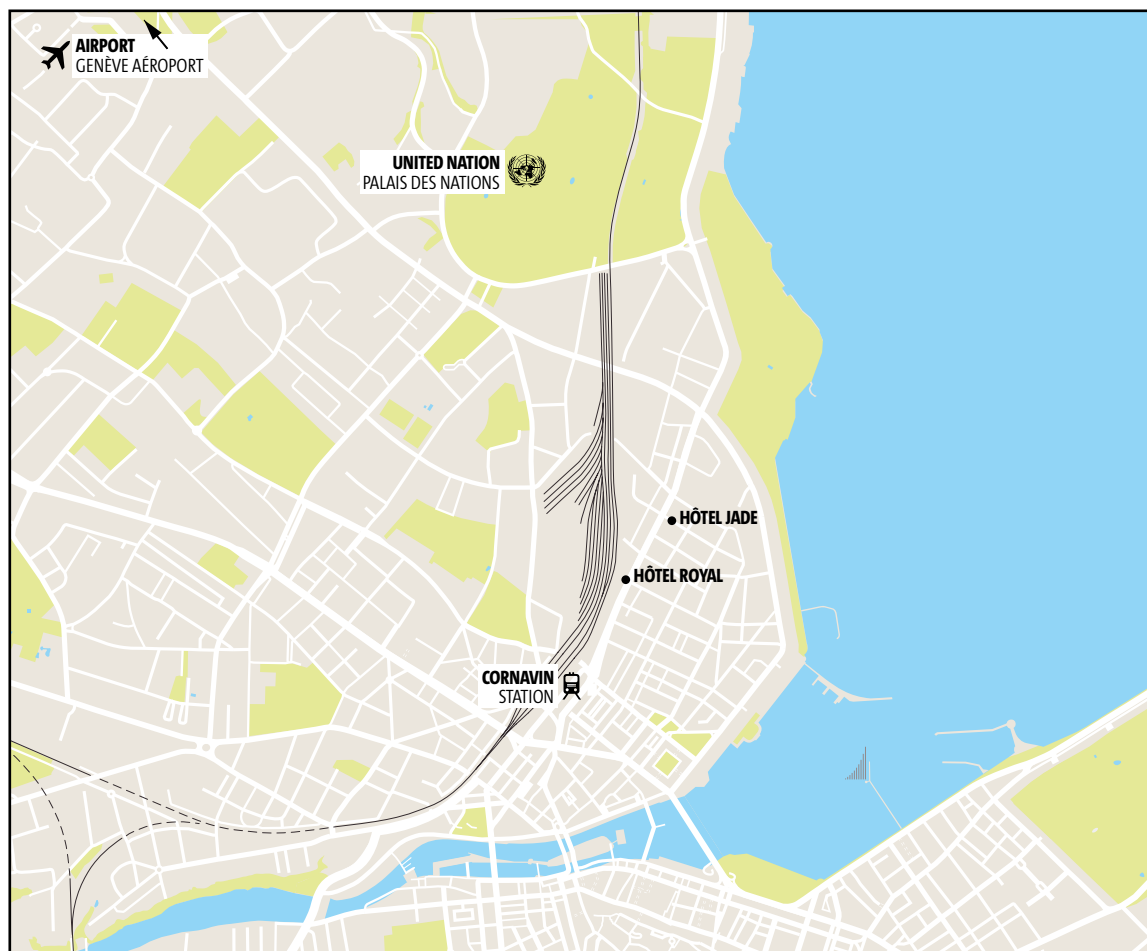
-> Airport-Cornavin Station: 7 min. by train (free ticket before exit gate)

-> Cornavin-Palais des Nations (Pregny Gate): 10 min. by bus

The hotel reception will provide you with a free public transport card (bus+train+tram+yellow boats).

For any other tourist information, see the website:

[Visit Geneva, the official guide](#)



Hotel Jade
[55 rue Rothschild](#)

Hotel Royal
[41-43 rue de Lausanne](#)