

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

21 - 22 OCTOBER 2021

(Tentative programme, June 2021)

Coorganised 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 Lunch at ICRC Museum Restaurant
- 12:30** Access to Palais des Nations, through security office at the Pregny Gate
Pay attention, due to security check, it can take a long time, depending on the number of visitors. Allow at least 30 minutes.
- 13:15** Registration and welcome drinks, UN Library, Palais des Nations
- 14:00** **Opening addresses**
Coordinated by **Francesco Pisano**, Director, UN Library & Archives Geneva
- **Yves Flückiger**, Rector, University of Geneva and **Ludovic Thilly**, Chair, CG Executive Board
- **Tatiana Valovaya**, Director-General, UN Office 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”**
Jacques Ducrest, delegate of the Federal Council for the 2030 Agenda, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, **Margareth Hagen**, Rector, University of Bergen, **Nadja Isler**, Director, SDG Lab, **Paul Ladd**, Director, UNRISD
- 16:10** Coffee/tea break
- 16:30** **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
- 17:30** Networking break with the speakers
- 18:00** Private guided tour of Palais des Nations
- 19:30** **Cocktail dinner with guests** (permanent mission representatives, UN heads of office, Geneva and Swiss officials, UNIGE authorities) at Le Vieux-Bois Restaurant

FRIDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2021

- 8:30** Security check and coffee/tea
- 9:00** **Introduction**
Yves Flückiger, Rector, University of Geneva and **Ludovic Thilly**, Chair, CG Executive Board
- 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
- 12:30** 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** Coffee/tea break
- 16:30** Internal discussion for the Coimbra Group
Possible follow-up activities
- 17:00** **Wrap-up**
Yves Flückiger, Rector, University of Geneva and **Ludovic Thilly**, Chair, CG Executive Board

SATURDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2021

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

For more information, see the appendix
“Presentation of speakers and venues of the seminar”

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 21 September) 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.

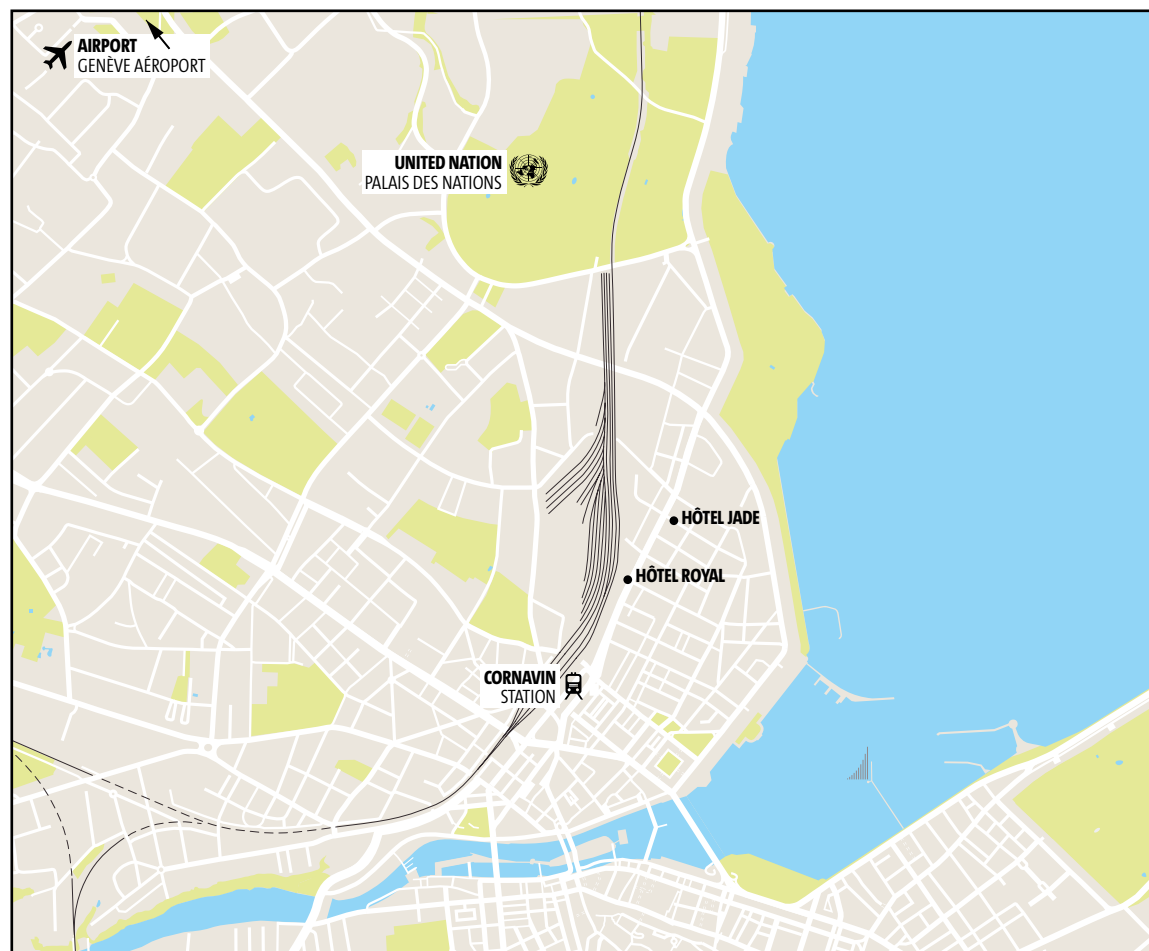
-> Airport-Cornavin Station: 7 min. by train (free ticket before exit gate)

-> 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](#)