

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

21 - 22 OCTOBER 2021

- APPENDIX -
**Presentation of speakers
and venues of the seminar**
Status as of June 2021

Coorganised by the **Coimbra Group**,
the **United Nations Library & Archives**
Geneva and the **University of Geneva**



SPEAKERS

Maurizio Bona

Senior Advisor, Relations with Parliaments and Science for Policy
European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)



Maurizio Bona holds a Doctor degree on material science. He participated in the design and development phases of CERN's LHC superconducting magnets. He was instrumental to develop the CERN network of relations with other international organizations and to obtain the status of Observer for CERN in the General Assembly of the United Nations. His present main focus is on

strengthening bridges between science and Parliaments.

Jacques Ducrest

Delegate of the Federal Council for the 2030 Agenda
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland



Jacques Ducrest is a swiss diplomat. In March 2019 he was appointed Delegate of the Swiss Federal Council for the 2030 Agenda. In this capacity, he chairs the 2030 Agenda Steering Committee, which is the strategic guiding and coordinating body for sustainable development policy at Swiss federal level.

[More info >>](#)

Yves Flückiger

Rector, University of Geneva



Yves Flückiger holds a degree in Economics and Sociology as well as a doctorate in Political Economy. He joined the Faculty at the University of Geneva in 1992 directing the University Employment Observatory and the Leading House center of excellence in Education

Economics. Since 15 July 2015 he has been the Rector of the University of Geneva and since February 2020, the President of swissuniversities.

[More info >>](#)

Elaine France

Founder, Flow In Action



Elaine France worked for 25 years as a change-maker and understands the challenges of taking action as a global citizen, growing sustainable solutions from within communities, rather than 'doing' to them. She works to create a circle of impact, empowering each one so that we share and transfer skills around the globe, so that lasting positive change happens organically from the inside out.

[More info >>](#)

Margareth Hagen

Rector, University of Bergen



Margareth Hagen is Professor of Italian Literature. Her research has focused on the relationship between poetics, literature and history in 16th century Italy. In recent years, however, she has worked on issues at the intersection between the humanities and natural sciences. Margareth Hagen is rector at the University of Bergen since January 7, 2021. She was elected rector for the next four-year period until August 2025.

[More info >>](#)

Nadia Isler

Director, SDG Lab



Nadia Isler has a long career in international development with several years of field experience in bilateral cooperation and extensive experience in multilateral affairs within and outside of the UN system. The SDG Lab works with a diverse ecosystem of actors that are focused on delivering the 2030 Agenda and identifies strategic opportunities for convergence, including but not limited to: United Nations and intergovernmental organizations, Member States, Civil society and NGOs, Academia and Private sector.

[More info >>](#)

Paul Ladd

Director, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)



Paul Ladd has been Director of UNRISD since October 2015. Before taking up this position he had spent 10 years with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), where most recently he had been Director of the team supporting consultations and technical inputs for the 2030 Development Agenda. UNRISD is an autonomous research institute within the UN system that undertakes interdisciplinary research and policy analysis on the social dimensions of contemporary development issues.

[More info >>](#)

Jürg Lauber

Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations (UN) in Geneva
Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Switzerland



Since 1st September 2020, Jürg Lauber has been the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UN and to the other international organisations in Geneva. From 2015 to 2020, he served as Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UN in New York. He continues to chair of the Open-ended Working Group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security. Before joining the FDFA in 1993 he worked in peacekeeping missions in Namibia (UNTAG) and Korea (Panmunjom). Jürg Lauber has a law degree from the University of Zurich.

[More info >>](#)

Stephan Mergenthaler

Head of Strategic Intelligence, Member of the Executive Committee, World Economic Forum (WEF)



Stephan Mergenthaler oversees the Forum's global expert networks as well as its strategic analysis capacity on global trends. Prior to joining the WEF, he served as Research Associate with the Global Public Policy Institute in Berlin (GPPi). He holds a PhD in International Relations from Humboldt University Berlin.

[More info >>](#)

Anna Panagopoulou

Director, European Research Area (ERA) & Innovation,
Directorate General Research and Innovation, European Commission



Since July 2021, Anna Panagopoulou has been Director of 'ERA & Innovation' at the Research and Innovation DG of the European Commission. The directorate is responsible for Research and Innovation Policy, reinforces at crosscutting level the engagement with citizens and society, with academic and research organisations and with research and industrial infrastructures. The directorate is also responsible to promote dialogue on research and innovation policy, investments and reforms. Ms. Panagopoulou has been in the Commission in various policy and management roles for 24 years.

[More info >>](#)

Francesco Pisano

Director, United Nations Library & Archives Geneva



Francesco Pisano is an expert in international affairs with a professional background in humanitarian affairs, risk management, and research on knowledge systems. He has studied international relations with a specialisation in diplomatic studies and conflict resolution, and law with a focus on public international law. He is a member of the UN Geneva Senior Management Team. The UN Library & Archives Geneva is a centre for research and knowledge exchange, a space dedicated to cultural diplomacy and international outreach.

[More info >>](#)

Alexis Roig

CEO, Scitech Diplohub



SciTech DiploHub, the Barcelona Science and Technology Diplomacy Hub, is a pioneering nonprofit public-private partnership backed by Barcelona's leading research centers, universities, startups, corporations and public institutions that positions Barcelona as a global lab in science diplomacy for cities and governments around the world.

Alexis Roig holds a master's in Computer Science, an MBA from EM Normandie Business School, and a Postgraduate degree in Diplomacy from the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

[More info >>](#)

Nicolas Seidler

Director, Geneva Science Policy Interface (GSPI)

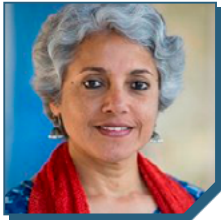


Nicolas Seidler has been the Executive Director of the GSPI since October 2018. Backed by leading research institutions in Switzerland and Europe, the GSPI is an independent, neutral platform that leverages synergies between actors of the International Geneva ecosystem and an extensive network of researchers by facilitating connections, supporting collaborative processes and inspiring effective practices at the interface of science, policy and implementation. Previously, Nicolas Seidler spent 10 years as Senior Policy Advisor at the Internet Society. He holds a Masters in International Relations and a Masters in Communication and Media Sciences.

[More info >>](#)

Soumya Swaminathan

Chief Scientist, World Health Organisation (WHO)



Dr Soumya Swaminathan was appointed WHO's first Chief Scientist in March 2019. She is a paediatrician and a globally recognized researcher on tuberculosis and HIV. Dr Swaminathan was Secretary to the Government of India for Health Research and Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research from 2015 to 2017. She received her academic training in India, the United Kingdom, and the United States

of America, and has published more than 450 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters.

The Science division's role is to ensure that WHO stays ahead of the curve and leverages advances in science and technology for public health and clinical care, as well as ensuring that the norms, standards and guidelines produced by WHO are scientifically excellent, relevant and timely.

[More info >>](#)

Ludovic Thilly

Chair, Coimbra Group Executive Board



Ludovic Thilly is a Physicist and works on the deformation mechanisms of (nano-)materials. He is Full Professor at the University of Poitiers. Since 2012, he is Executive Vice-Rector in charge of European Networks. Member of the Executive Board of the Coimbra Group since 2015, he was elected Chair in June 2017 and re-elected in June 2020 for four years.

[More info >>](#)

Tatiana Valovaya

Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva (UN Geneva)



Tatiana Valovaya is the 13th Director-General of the UN Geneva and the first woman to occupy this position. She has more than 35 years of experience in public service, diplomacy and journalism. Ms. Valovaya holds the scientific degree of Candidate of Economic Sciences. She has written more than 170 scientific and journalistic publications on issues of international monetary and credit relations, European and Eurasian economic integration and multilateral cooperation in the CIS framework.

[More info >>](#)

Workshop and reception

Heads/high-level representatives of UN agencies, as well as permanent representatives to the UN will be invited to the workshop and/or the reception.

VENUES

The Bodmer Foundation

Founder of the Bibliotheca Bodmeriana, Martin Bodmer (Zurich, 1899 – Geneva, 1971) put together one of the most important private collections in the world of papyri, manuscripts, incunabula, and rare books, including a Gutenberg Bible, Shakespeare in Folios, manuscripts by Rousseau, Mozart, Proust, and many others. The Foundation's site, overlooking Lake Geneva, houses approximately 150,000 items from 80 different cultures reflecting three thousand years of human civilization on Earth.

[19 route Martin-Bodmer, 1223 Cologny, Geneva](#)

[More info >>](#)



International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum

The Museum of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is located next to the organisation's headquarters. The ICRC was founded in 1863 and bases its work on the Geneva Conventions of 1949. It is now one of the global key players in humanitarian action. The permanent exhibition allows the public to explore three major challenges in today's world: Defending Human Dignity, Restoring Family, Reducing Natural Risks.

[17 avenue de la Paix](#)

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Palais des Nations

The United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) is the second largest UN centre after the UN headquarters in New York. Through partnerships between governments, civil society, research, academia and other international actors, UNOG works hard to achieve the SDGs by the year 2030. The Palais des Nations was built between 1929 and 1938 to serve as the headquarters of the League of Nations. It is located in the beautiful Ariana Park, with an outstanding view of Lake Geneva.

Pregny Gate (visitors entrance)

[14 avenue de la Paix](#)

[More info >>](#)



Le Vieux-Bois Restaurant

This Gastronomic restaurant is part of the Hotel management School, by being the initiation restaurant for students. Ideally located in the green setting of Ariana Park, the Vieux-Bois restaurant is next to the Palais des Nations.

[12 avenue de la Paix](#)

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