



Information Note to Participants

Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Consumer Law and Policy 2nd Session, 3 and 4 July 2017, Geneva, Switzerland

I. Introduction and draft provisional agenda

1. The Second Session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) on Consumer Law and Policy will take place on 3-4 July 2017 in room XVII of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The meeting will begin at 10.00 a.m. Due to security requirements, participants are advised to arrive well in advance (60 minutes before the meeting), especially if they need to retrieve a badge at Pregny Gate (see IV. below).
2. The draft provisional agenda and organizations of work with all other relevant documentation, is available following this link:
<http://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=1274>

II. Sessions and procedure

3. The first plenary meeting of the IGE will start at 10 a.m. on Monday, 3 July 2017, and will be devoted to procedural matters, namely Election of officers and Adoption of the agenda and organization of work. The closing plenary meeting, on Tuesday, 4 July 2017, will be devoted to the provisional agenda for the third session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, to be held in July 2018, and the adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts, also comprising the Agreed Conclusions for the session.
4. The remaining meetings, from 3 July (after the election of officers and general statements) to the morning of 4 July, will be devoted to substantive items of the provisional agenda, comprising the substantive discussions.
5. Delegates are invited to collect the nametags of their country and place them where they are seating (the first row of the Conference Room is reserved for speakers of each session).
6. Delegates wishing to speak may ask for the floor by simply raising their country's nametag, once the floor is open by the chairperson. Delegates wishing to speak during the session are invited (though not required) to inform the UNCTAD secretariat accordingly.
7. Simultaneous interpretation is available in the Conference Room in all United Nations official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish).
8. Written contributions from delegates received in advance are available at:
<http://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=1274>

III. Registration

9. Registration is mandatory for all participants, including those who possess long-term badges, prior to attending the IGE. This is highly recommended to

avoid delays in entry and to allow the secretariat to complete the list of participants.

10. To register please follow the link to the website of the IGE <http://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=1274> and click on the UNCTAD Online Meeting Registration icon.
11. Participants willing to attend the Sixteenth Session of the IGE on Competition Law and Policy from 5 to 7 July 2017, and/or the Eight Meeting of the Research Partnership Platform (RPP) of 5 July 2017 are invited to register, following the link to the website of the that IGE <http://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=1275> and click on the UNCTAD Online Meeting Registration icon
12. Guidelines for registering are available in the following link: http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/iss2016_Indico_Guidelines_en.pdf

IV. Badging

13. All participants who require an entry badge will need to appear in person at the Pregny Gate (14 Av. De la Paix, Geneva) in order to receive a photo badge and will have to present a valid passport.
14. Badges can be obtained as of 30 June 2017. The badges facilities are open from 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. It is advisable to obtain your badge as early as possible. Please note that the permanent missions can collect badges for other members of the delegations coming from outside Geneva. Participants who also attend the Sixteenth Session of the IGE on Competition Law and Policy or the Eight RPP Meeting may indicate this to the Security in order to receive the two badges at the same time.
15. Only holders of valid UNOG staff and Geneva mission badges will be allowed access through the Nations gate (flag gate).

V. Visas

16. Switzerland joined the Schengen visa scheme on December 12, 2008. All foreign nationals who require a visa for entry into the Schengen visa area need a visa to enter Switzerland.
17. Delegates are advised to seek information on requirements applicable in their case from Swiss diplomatic or consular missions in their home countries. Information on visa and other relevant regulations for travelling to Switzerland is available at: <http://www.bfm.admin.ch/bfm/en/home.html>
18. In countries where no Swiss representation exists, missions from European Union member States should be contacted. Where a visa is required, applicants are advised to apply at least six weeks prior to departure to Geneva.
19. Should you require UNCTAD assistance with issuance of a visa, please send the official letter of your nomination to represent your country to Ms. Jacqueline Bouvier (Jacqueline.Bouvier@unctad.org).

VI. Access to the Palais des Nations and to the conference rooms

20. Only those vehicles with stickers issued by the UNOG Security and Safety Section may access the Palais des Nations. Access to the premises by taxi is prohibited at all times. Therefore, taxis will take participants no further than the entrance of the Pregny Gate. Pedestrians will find it most convenient to use the Pregny Gate entrance and door 40 (E-building). Attention is drawn to a circular issued by UNOG which stipulates that, as a general rule, access to the Palais des Nations with large luggage (i.e. bigger than a carry-on hand-baggage) is not authorized. Pedestrians carrying large luggage will be directed to the Pregny Gate where, after being security cleared, those items will be stored to the extent of the storage space available.
21. A map of the Palais des Nations is available at: [http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/%28httpAssets%29/88FFDD768F055AECC1256F2A0052A3CC/\\$file/Palais%20des%20Nations%20map.pdf](http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/%28httpAssets%29/88FFDD768F055AECC1256F2A0052A3CC/$file/Palais%20des%20Nations%20map.pdf)
22. Room XVII is located in the E-building (the Annex) and accessible through the Gate 40 Entrance, on the first floor.

VII. Internet Access

23. A computer point is available for use by participants on the first floor of the E-building, close to the bar "Serpent". Wireless internet with free access is available in the plenary room and its immediate surroundings.

VIII. Cloakroom facility

24. An unattended cloakroom and coat racks are in close proximity to the plenary room. The United Nations assumes no responsibility for the loss or damage to any articles deposited there. Please note that large luggage and suitcases will not be allowed inside the premises of the Palais des Nations (see 10. above).

IX. Hotel room reservations

25. Participants are requested to make their own hotel reservations. A list of hotels in Geneva is available at: <http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/en/home>
26. Participants are advised to book hotel accommodation well in advance of the meeting. Hotels in Geneva during the week of the meetings are in very high demand and may be fully booked, given the large number of conferences and other events. The list of hotels that offer special rates for delegates in United Nations meetings is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/Hotels-GVA-FRA-2016-2017>. Please make the inquiry when you arrange the booking.
27. A list of budget hotels and foyers is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/Budget-Hotels-Foyers>
28. Also, for delegates from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) the organization Geneva Welcome Center (CAGI) offers logistical support for the planning of accommodation and may grant financial aid to reduce the cost. The United Nations list of LDCs is available following this link: <http://unctad.org/en/pages/ALDC/Least%20Developed%20Countries/UN-list-of-Least-Developed-Countries.aspx>
Delegates from LDCs wishing to apply for logistical and financial support are invited to contact CAGI as soon as possible, following this link:

<http://www.cagi.ch/en/delegates-welcome/accommodation-for-delegates/conditions-of-grant.php>

X. Weather

29. The weather in Geneva in July is warm, with daytime temperatures averaging 20°C to 26°C (68°F to 79°F), with minimum temperatures at night going as low as 13°C (55°F).

XI. Electrical appliances

30. The electrical current in Switzerland is 220V/50 Hz. Swiss plugs are described on the website: <http://users.telenet.be/worldstandards/electricity.htm> as type J. Type C plugs can also be used.

XII. Public transport and taxi

31. The Palais des Nations is served by several trams and bus lines. From the Cornavin train station, the most convenient is Bus 8 (direction OMS), which serves de Pregny Gate where the Pass and Identification Unit of UNOG is located (Appia stop). Buses 28, F, V and Z also serve the Appia stop. From the Geneva Airport, the best connection is Bus 28 (direction Jardin botanique), which runs every 20-30 minutes during daytime (Appia stop).
32. Tram number 15 (direction Place des Nations), as well as Bus 5 (direction Aéroport) serve the Place des Nations. The Pregny Gate is located 500m up Av de la Paix from Place des Nations. Further information on itineraries, timetables, fares etc. is available on following this link: <http://tgg.ch/>
33. A taxi stand is located on route de Pregny, in front of Pregny Gate. Taxis are usually available round the clock. The following direct telephone number will ensure arrival within minutes: 022 33 141 33.

XIII. Banking, currency

34. A UBS bank is located at door 6, building S. It is open from Monday to Friday 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. ATM machines are open round the clock.
35. The monetary unit in Switzerland is the Swiss Franc. Notes are issued in denominations of 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 1000, and coins of 5, 10, 20, 50 centimes, and 1, 2, and 5 francs. 1 Swiss Franc is equivalent to approximately 1.03 USD.

XIV. Cafés and restaurants

36. The Restaurant on the 8th floor of the A Building serves hot meals à la carte from noon to 2.00 p.m., Monday to Friday.
37. The Cafeteria, on the ground floor of the A Building is open from 8.15 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Lunch is served from 11.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m., Monday to Friday.
38. The Press bar on the ground floor of the C Building is open from 8.00 a.m. to 5.45 p.m., Monday to Friday.
39. The Bar Serpent in the Conference room area of the E-building is open from 9.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., Monday to Friday.
40. The Delegate's Lounge (Bar) on the 3rd floor of the A building is open from 9.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

41. The Bar de la Palette on the 6th floor of the E-building is open from 8.15 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
42. Please see 11. above for a map of the Palais des Nations.

XV. First aid

43. In case of any medical emergency, dial extension 112. Otherwise, first aid is available at the Infirmary located in the Secretariat building: room No. 016 (basement), door 2, ext. 72807, opens from 8.a.m. to 5.00 p.m., Monday to Friday.
44. Please see 11. above for a map of the Palais des Nations.

XVI. Security

45. In case of a security emergency, please dial 15 or 17, or 18.
46. The Security Control and Operation Center (COC) operated 24h a day and can be reached at 022 917 2900 or 022 917 2902.