

## Practical InfoTravel

Participants must make their own arrangements to and from Geneva, Switzerland.

## Visas

Switzerland joined the Schengen visa scheme on December 12, 2008. Therefore all foreign nationals who require a visa for entry into Switzerland will now require a Schengen visa to enter Switzerland.

Delegates are advised to seek information on requirements applicable in their case from Swiss diplomatic or consular missions in their home countries. For information on visa and other relevant regulations for travelling to Switzerland please also refer to the website of the Federal Office of Migration of Switzerland at:  
<http://www.bfm.admin.ch/bfm/en/home.html>

In countries where no Swiss representation exists, missions from other European Union member States should be contacted. Where a visa is required, applicants are advised to apply at least six weeks prior to departure for Geneva.

Should you require UNCTAD assistance with issuance of a visa, please send us the official letter of your nomination to represent your country.

## Hotel Accommodation

Participants are responsible for making their own accommodation arrangements.

Geneva has a full range of hotels of different categories. You may also reserve your room via a tourist operator or through the Geneva Tourist Office by visiting [www.geneve-tourisme.ch](http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch)

As there are many international meetings and events taking place in Geneva during the months of January/February, it is important that hotel reservations be made as soon as possible.

## Transport

### Arrival in Geneva and transportation

Taxis, Buses and the railway service link the Geneva Airport with the Cornavin Station (main station) in downtown Geneva every few minutes. From here, most hotels can be accessed via a range of public transport options including bus, trams and taxis.

Transport tickets can be purchased at the ticket machines next to the tram/ bus stops and can also be bought at the Geneva Transport Office (TPG office on the ground floor of the Gare Cornavin (main train station). Cards for multiple trips can also be purchased at a reduced rate from newsagents in town bearing the "TPG" sign.

Taxis are only available on call and cannot be hailed in the streets although there are taxi ranks in almost all main squares in Geneva and outside the Palais des Nations.

Taxis can be called on the following local numbers:

+41 22 320 2020

+41 22 320 2202

+41 22 311 4133

Transportation to the conference premises

The Palais des Nations can be reached by buses and trams. Bus numbers 5, 8, 11, 22, 28, F, V, and Z and tram numbers 13 and 15 stop at the Palais des Nations.

Maps of the Geneva bus/ tram network are available on the TPG (Geneva Public Transport) website.

Participants are requested to use the Pregny Gate entrance situated at 14, Avenue de la Paix, which is a five-minute walk from the main entrance. (See map here)

Security

The United Nations Office in Geneva makes it imperative for all participants to adhere to the relevant United Nations security procedures, including registration deadlines and rules concerning identification badges.

For entry into the Palais des Nations, you will need a security pass, which is to be worn at all times on the premises. For this, participants are required to bring with them an official national identification or passport.

Upon arrival at the building you are therefore kindly requested to collect your badge at the United Nations Security Service, Pregny entrance (visitors' entrance, a five-minute walk from the main entrance). The Security Service is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (non-stop).

The Conference starts at 10 a.m. on a Monday morning. You are advised to arrive by 8.30 a.m. at the latest, to complete the security procedures and arrive at the meeting room in good time.

Please see:

Official Palais des Nations Map

Climate and Clothing

The weather in January/February in Geneva is rather cold (0 to 7 degrees Celsius) with occasional showers. Umbrellas, coats and warm clothing will be suggested.

Voltage

Electricity in Switzerland is generally 230 volts (50 cycles). Travelers with computers and other appliances are advised to carry a plug adapter kit for the kind of plugs and sockets that are in use in Switzerland.

#### Currency

##### Swiss Francs

The monetary unit is the Swiss franc, made up of 100 centimes. Notes are issued in denominations of 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 1000 francs, and coins of 5, 10, 20, 50 centimes and 1, 2 and 5 francs. 1 Swiss Franc is equivalent to approximately 0.85 US\$

##### Travellers cheques

Travellers' cheques, credit cards and foreign currency notes of all major currencies are accepted. Banking facilities are also available inside the UN premises.