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## The United Nations Geneva launches the implementation of the *Portail des Nations*

26.03.2024

The United Nations Geneva has recently secured approval to construct its new Visitors Center. Construction is now underway, with a scheduled opening to the public in summer 2025.

According to the framework agreement signed with the *Fondation Portail des Nations* in 2019, the United Nations Geneva will be equipped with a new infrastructure entirely dedicated to enhancing the reception, information dissemination, and security for visitors to the *Palais des Nations*. Designed by a renowned Geneva-based architectural firm, this new complex aims to be both understated and efficient. It will serve as a model for integrating sustainable development goals in construction practices.

The future Visitors Center of the United Nations Geneva, spanning approximately 2,000 square meters, will be located below the Flag Alley, with its entrance facing the *Place des Nations*. With a capacity to host 250,000 visitors annually, it will offer a multimedia and interactive experience, showcasing the UN's multilateral role and the work of its entities in Geneva.

Named the *Portail des Nations*, this project, spearheaded by Geneva's Ivan Pictet, has achieved a significant milestone: the construction of pavilion buildings on behalf of the United Nations Geneva, which will house the visitor experience. This endeavor is closely coordinated with UN entities based in Geneva. The construction phase is slated for 18 months, with plans for a public opening in summer 2025.

For the UN, the donation from the *Fondation Portail des Nations* represents a tangible response to the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres's call for greater awareness of the UN's role and operations. Through the visitor experience, visitors will gain a better understanding of the multilateral system in which the UN Geneva operates, from its everyday impact to its activities on the ground. The goal is to foster increased public engagement with discussions held within UN entities and to provide insights into addressing the world's most pressing challenges.



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*« The Portail des Nations project will enable us to better welcome, educate and inspire the many visitors who come to the United Nations in Geneva », says Melissa Fleming, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications at the United Nations. « They will have the opportunity to learn how they can join forces with the United Nations to act in favour of a world where everyone thrives in peace, dignity and prosperity on a healthy planet. »*

As highlighted by Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva: *« In an era marked by widespread skepticism toward public institutions, the United Nations Geneva unequivocally opts for openness and strives to explore new avenues for conveying the core message of the UN. The Portail des Nations project presents an exceptional opportunity to strengthen our communication efforts with the wider public. »*

*« This will further enhance Geneva's appeal as the cradle of multilateral diplomacy and the hub of international cooperation, » notes Ivan Pictet. « Geneva is recognized as one of the world's foremost centers, distinguished by the density and wide array of issues it addresses. »*

Anyone interested in following the progress of this project can sign up for the newsletter of the *Fondation Portail des Nations* at [www.portaildesnations.ch](http://www.portaildesnations.ch).

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