



Our ref.: 6512821/2026/SI/ACES

28 January 2026

Annexes: 2

Subject: Invitation to attend the 2026 GAW Symposium (in Geneva, from 13 to 17 April 2026)

Action required: Please notify the GAW Secretariat of your presence at your earliest convenience but preferably before 6 February 2026 to [gaw@wmo.int](mailto:gaw@wmo.int)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to hereby invite you to attend the **2026 Symposium of the Global Atmosphere Watch Programme (GAW)** of the WMO, to be held at the WMO Headquarters in Geneva, from 13 to 17 April 2026.

The Symposium will serve as a forum to assess the state of the Programme's underpinning science and the connection with international policy making as well as review programme elements, develop work plans with clear outcomes and timelines for implementing activities in the context of the new plan. Partnership within and external to GAW, capacity building and communications will also be important topics of discussion at the Symposium. In addition, the Symposium will take place in the context of the reorganization of the GAW Programme and will serve to discuss a new structure for the Programme as well as the starting point towards the 2028–2032 GAW Programme's Science and Implementation Plan.

I would be grateful if you could kindly participate in the event as your views and your contribution to the discussion will be extremely useful for the future of the GAW Programme.

As the week of the Symposium will be a busy week in Geneva due to other events taking place in the city, I strongly encourage you to book your accommodation as soon as possible using the list of accommodation options in [Annex 2](#). If you have any questions, please contact WMO Staff member Ms Julie Bourdeu at [jbourdeu@wmo.int](mailto:jbourdeu@wmo.int).

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for your continued support of WMO activities.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Paolo Laj  
Head

Global Atmosphere Watch Programme

To: GAW Experts in Annex 1

cc: GAW Secretariat

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Expert	Affiliation	Country
<b>Jean-Christopher Lambert</b>	Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy (IASB-BIRA)	Belgium
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<b>James Lee</b>	University of York	United Kingdom
<b>Matthew Hort</b>	Met Office of UK	United Kingdom
<b>Wolfgang Steinbrecht</b>	Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD)	Germany
<b>Martin Steinbacher</b>	EMPA	Switzerland
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<b>Nick Allen</b>	NPL	United Kingdom
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<b>Gagan Deep</b>	Wake Forest University	India
<b>MVUEZOLO LIBA PLAMEDI</b>	Congo Resilient	Democratic Republic of Congo
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<b>Luca Egli</b>	WRC	Switzerland
<b>James Crawford</b>	NASA	United States of America
<b>Fernanda Cabello</b>	PMOD/WRC	Chile

<b>Edem Anansah</b>	University of Cape Coast	Ghana
<b>Katie Read</b>	University of York	United Kingdom
<b>Robert Wegener</b>	Forschungszentrum Jülich	Germany
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<b>Jumaan Alqahtani</b>	National Center for Meteorology (NCM), Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia
<b>Thomas Bachleitner</b>	GeoSphere Austria	Austria
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<b>Shinya Takatsuji</b>	Japan Meteorological Agency(JMA)	Japan
<b>Kazuhiro Tsuboi</b>	Japan Meteorological Agency(JMA)	Japan
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<b>XIAOYAN WANG</b>	Fudan University	China
<b>Marcus Thatcher</b>	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO)	Australia
<b>Voltaire Velazco</b>	Deutscher Wetterdienst(DWD)	Germany
<b>Michelle Stalder</b>	MeteoSwiss	Switzerland

<b>Eija Asmi</b>	Finnish Meteorological Institute(FMI)	Finland
<b>Helen Ward</b>	University of Innsbruck	Austria
<b>Prodromos Zanis</b>	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	Greece
<b>Raja Acharya</b>	India Meteorological Department (IMD)	India
<b>Betsy Farris</b>	University of Colorado Boulder	United States of America
<b>Caradee Wright</b>	South African Medical Research Council(SAMRC)	South Africa
<b>Zhen Cheng</b>	Shanghai Jiao Tong University	China
<b>Mark Parrington</b>	ECMWF	Germany
<b>Alex Vermeulen</b>	Integrated Carbon Observation System (ICOS)	Sweden
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<b>Jie Feng</b>	Fudan University	China
<b>Qili Dai</b>	Nankai University	China
<b>Defeng Zhao</b>	Fudan University	China
<b>Jörg Klausen</b>	MeteoSwiss	Switzerland
<b>Sophia Mylona</b>	UNEP	Greece
<b>Sophie Gumy</b>	World Health Organization (WHO)	Switzerland
<b>Sebastian Lorenz</b>	Bundesamt für Strahlenschutz(BfS)	Germany
<b>Cornelia Baldermann</b>	Bundesamt für Strahlenschutz(BfS)	Germany
<b>Johannes Flemming</b>	ECMWF	Germany
<b>Sang Seo Park</b>	Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technologies	Republic of Korea
<b>Soojeong Lee</b>	Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA)	Republic of Korea
<b>Oludotun Olugbemi</b>	Farming Experts Network	Nigeria
<b>Ruhi Humphries</b>	CSIRO	Australia
<b>Sonja Böll</b>	Schneefernerhaus	Germany

<b>Alberth Nahas</b>	BMKG	Indonesia
<b>Thyago Henrique Dantas da Silva</b>	Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte (UFRN)	Brazil
<b>Hongliang Zhang</b>	University of Shanghai for Science and Technology	China
<b>Maria Emilia Ruiz</b>	Servicio Meteorológico Nacional (Argentina)	Argentina
<b>Gao Chen</b>	National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)	United States of America
<b>Peter Colarco</b>	National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)	United States of America
<b>Feng Zhang</b>	Fudan University	China
<b>Zhixin Yang</b>	Zhejiang Normal University (ZJNU)	China
<b>Márcio Farias</b>		Brazil

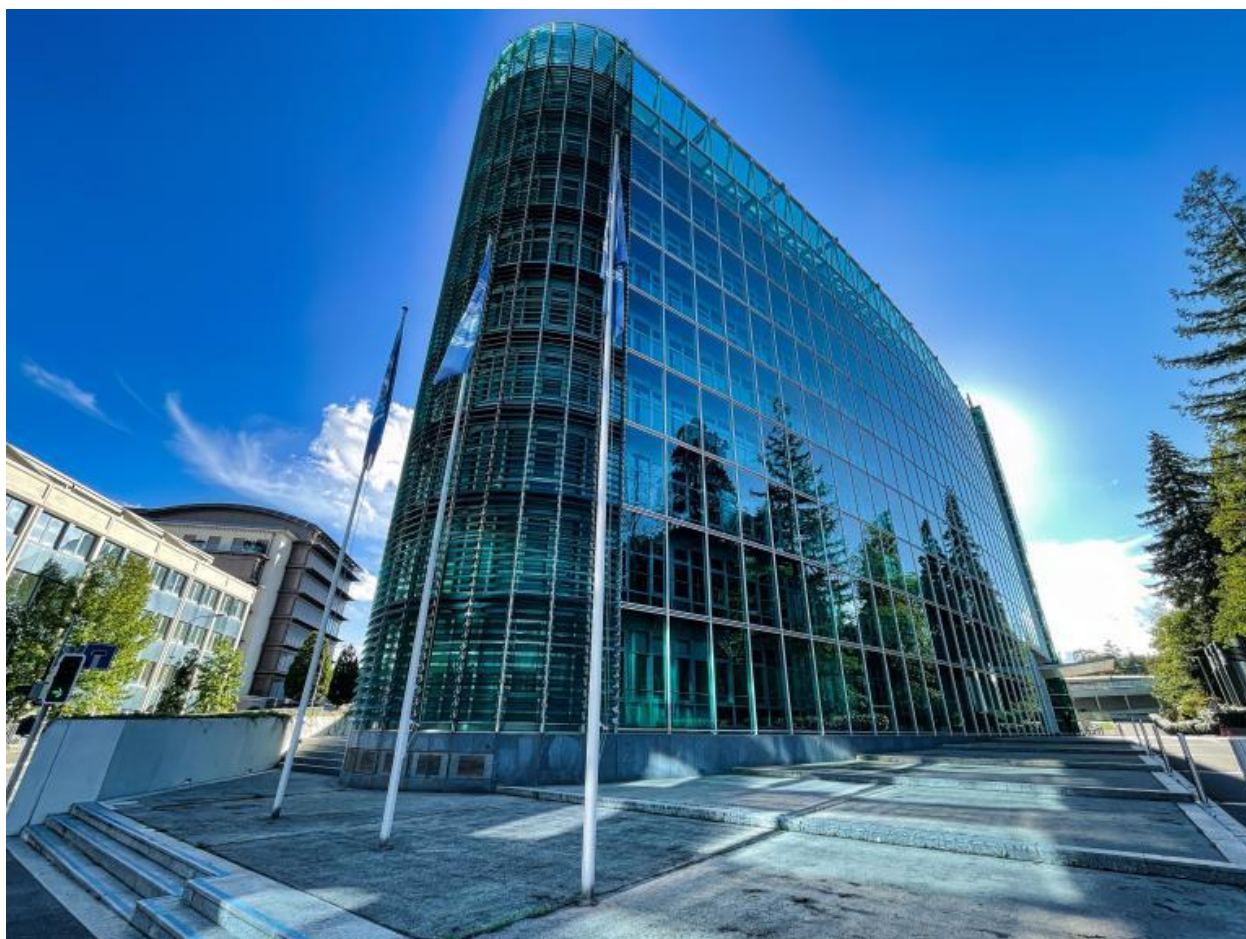


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## **PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR MEETINGS AT WMO HEADQUARTERS GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**



# Logistics

## Venue

WMO Headquarters are located at the following address (cf. Map in the Appendix):

*World Meteorological Organization (WMO)  
7bis, avenue de la Paix,  
Case postale 2300  
CH-1211 Geneva 2  
Switzerland  
Email: [wmo@wmo.int](mailto:wmo@wmo.int)*

The building is open from 7.30am to 9pm. Please bring your passport to the meeting venue for identification and access to the building. Your name will have been provided to security in advance of the meeting, and identification is necessary.

A member of the GAW Programme will be present before the meeting starts to provide you with a badge, that will serve as a pass to enter the building. You will then be directed to the meeting room.

Lunch breaks will be held at the WMO cafeteria on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor (letter "A" in the elevators).

## Visa information

Visa requirements for entering Switzerland vary greatly between different nationalities and it is always advisable to check regulations before travelling.

It is the responsibility of each participant to obtain the required entry visa for Switzerland. Please note that a Schengen visa is required even for transiting through Schengen zone European countries. Visas must be obtained prior to arrival. You might wish to use the following link for more information: <https://www.ch.ch/en/foreign-nationals-in-switzerland/entry-and-stay-in-switzerland/visas-for-foreign-nationals>

## Accommodation in Geneva

Participants are responsible for making their own accommodation arrangements and are advised to do so well in advance. Participants may wish to take into account emissions from local travel and exposure to traffic delays in the selection of hotels. A list of recommended hotels can be found in the appendix to this document.

For tourist information about Geneva, please visit <https://www.geneve.com/>. Every hotel will have tourist information packages and should be able to advise participants regarding tourism options.

## Transport

**Participants are advised to make their own transportation arrangements to and from the airport and to their respective hotels. Geneva has a very effective public transport system with frequent, safe and reliable taxis, buses and trams. A map of the bus network can be obtained free of charge from the network of public transport companies (UNIRESO) Information Centre at Cornavin Station and the following web site <http://www.tpg.ch>.**

The WMO building is 5 km from Geneva International Airport (approximately 15 minutes by taxi) and 2 km from the main railway station, Cornavin, and linked by public transport and by taxi as follows:

- **By taxi:** regular taxi service is available from Geneva airport. Taxis are located right outside Geneva Airport's Arrivals Hall on the airport's ground floor. A taxi ride to WMO costs about CHF 30. Taxis are easily available and safe, but comparatively/relatively expensive compared to travelling by bus/tram. Taxi telephone numbers: 022-320-22-02 or 022-331-41-33.
- **By bus:** There is no direct bus connection between Geneva airport and the WMO building. The best connection is via Bus No. 5 to be taken **outside the departures area** of the terminal Building (first floor). The stop is located approximately 60 mt on the left as you exit of the terminal. Bus tickets are available from the ticket machine on the bus stop. Please buy a ticket for Zone 10 before boarding the bus. Leave the bus at the stop "Nations". You can either walk from there to the WMO building (approximately 200 mt) or change to Bus 11 and leave at the next stop. More Information on buses in Geneva can be found on the Geneva Public Transport's website [www.tpg.ch](http://www.tpg.ch)
- **By tram:** From Cornavin Station, tram 15 goes to the "Place des Nations" stop. WMO is then within walking distance (avenue de la Paix, towards the lake – 10 minutes). By bus: From Cornavin Station, Buses No. 1, 11 and 28 also stop at the "Jardin Botanique" stop, right by the WMO building.
- **Train** information: <http://www.cff.ch>

**If you are staying at a hotel or a youth hostel, the establishment will offer you the "Geneva Transport Card" that allows you to use public transport in Geneva free of charge during your stay.**

Although Geneva is a comparatively safe place and violent crime is rare, the incidence of pickpocketing and theft has increased considerably over the last few years. Participants are advised not to leave their luggage unattended at any time and to pay particular attention at the airport, around the Cornavin Station and in the Paquis district of the city.

Participants are responsible for the safety of their valuables in the meeting venue and during their stay in Geneva



## Other practical information

### Health requirements and additional services

No immunizations are required to enter Switzerland, although it is advisable to make sure your tetanus, diphtheria and polio vaccinations are up to date before travelling.

First-aid and emergency services will be available at the venue throughout the meeting. Geneva main hospital, the Geneva University Hospitals (HUG), is open 24 hours and is 15 minutes away by ambulance or by bus number 5 from the venue. More information can be accessed using the following link: <https://www.hug.ch/contact>

### Local currency

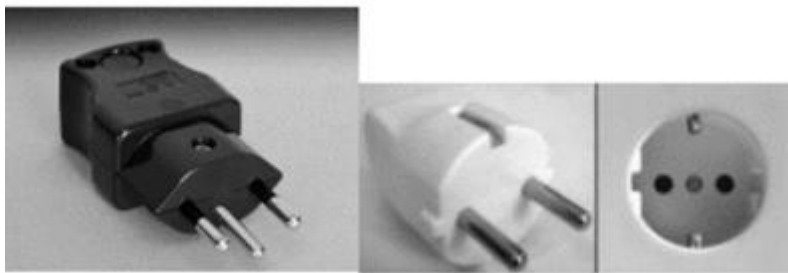
The currency of Switzerland is the Swiss franc (CHF). Many prices are also indicated in Euros (EUR) so that visitors can compare prices. Merchants may accept Euros but are not obliged to do so and the change to be given back to the client will most likely be in Swiss francs. Currency exchange facilities and ATMs are available in and around the main railway station, Cornavin, and at the airport.

### Weather and local time

The average temperature in Geneva in November ranges from a high of 9°C (48°F) to a low of 2°C (35°F). For more information regarding the weather please visit the following link: <https://www.meteoswiss.admin.ch/local-forecasts/geneva/1201.html#forecast-tab=detail-view>. The standard time zone in Geneva is GMT +1 hour.

### Electrical power supply

Electric power in Switzerland is 230 volts, at a frequency of 50 Hz, and the plug/socket types are C (CEE 7/16 – 2 pin) and J (SEV 1011 – 3 pin). See images of plugs below. Meeting attendees are strongly encouraged to carry their own electrical adapters for use with laptop and other hand-held devices, as the Secretariat will not be able to provide them. Adapters can be purchased from shops selling consumer electronic products in Geneva.



### SIM cards for cell phones

Local SIM cards that can be used with unlocked phones are available from any post office or news stand. A valid passport is required for purchase.

The country code for Switzerland is +41 and the area codes for Geneva is 22.

### Business hours

The standard working week for Government and businesses is Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Banks are open from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday. Most banks and other outlets offer 24-hour access to ATMs. Most retail stores are open throughout the day, however,

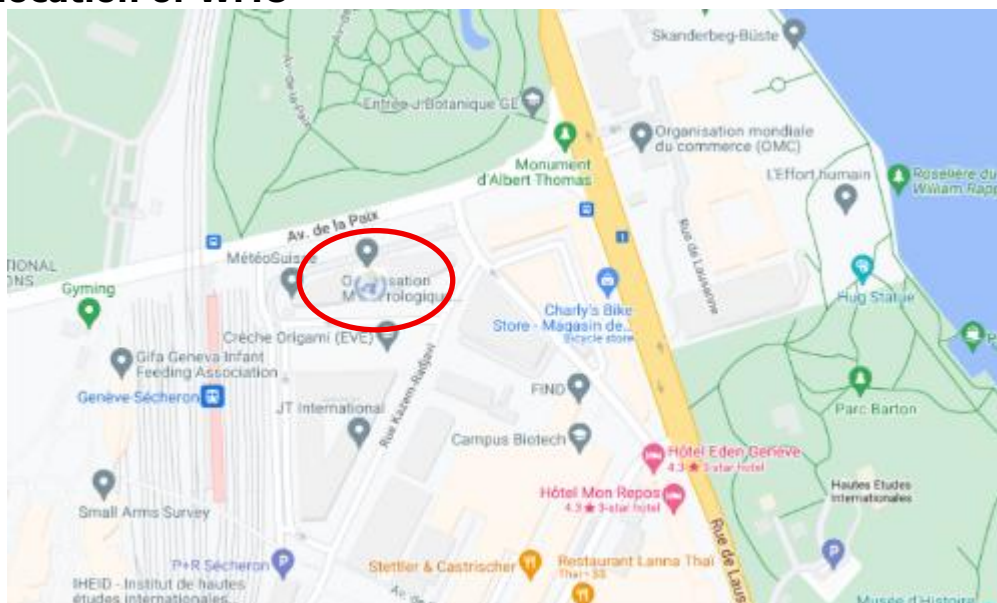
many service shops close for lunch between noon and 2 p.m. during the week. Most stores, including grocery stores, do not stay open past 7 p.m. on weekdays, past 6 p.m. on Saturdays and are closed on Sundays.

### **Restaurants and cafes**

Participants can use the restaurant and the coffee bar located on the 9th floor of the WMO building. Other cafes, restaurants and shops are within walking distance of the WMO building.

# Appendix

## Map location of WMO



- General information on Geneva: <http://www.gva.ch>
- Map of Geneva with search function: <http://www.ville-geneve.ch/plan-ville>

## List of recommended hotels in Geneva

Geneva offers many options, from hotels to hostels to Airbnb. The hotels and hostels below are all close to the meeting's venue, but any accommodation near the TPG metro lines will quickly bring you to the venue as well. For your convenience in booking accommodation, all the hotels and hostels listed below have received a rating of 4.0 or higher in both Google reviews and Trip Adviser reviews (the only exception being Geneva Hostel with a 3.8 on Google and a 3.5 on Trip Adviser).

Hotels:

### 3 stars

- Ibis Geneve Centre Nations Hotel
- Hotel Jade Manotel
- Hotel Kipling Manotel
- Hotel Eden Geneva
- Hotel Mon Repos

### 4 stars

- Hotel Auteuil Manotel
- Hotel Royal

### 5 stars

- InterContinental Geneva
- Hotel President Wilson

If your visa allows for it, hotels in nearby France (6 km from WMO):

- Campanile Genève – Aéroport / Palexpo
- HotelF1 Genève Aéroport Ferney
- Ibis Styles Prévessin Genève Aéroport
- Résidence La Réserve
- Le Patriarche – Hôtel de France
- Zenitude Hôtel-Résidences – Swiss Apparthotels Ferney Voltaire
- Appart'City Collection Ferney Voltaire

Hostels:

- Geneva Hostel
- City Hostel Geneva