



Our ref.: 6517039/2026/SI/ACES

29 January 2026

Annexes: 2

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

Action required: Please notify the GAW Secretariat of your presence and acceptance of the WMO funding at your earliest convenience but preferably before 6 February 2026 to 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 participate to the event as an expert involved in GAW Programme activities. As a valued member of the GAW community, your views and your contribution to the discussion will be extremely useful for the future of the GAW Programme.

It is hoped that you will be able to attend the GAW Symposium as your participation is essential to its success. For your attendance to the event and owing to the financial constraints associated with bringing the entire GAW community to Geneva, WMO will only be able to provide you with financial assistance for your per diem allowances for your stay in Geneva. As of today, the Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) rates for Geneva are 470 US dollars (US\$) and might be subject to changes until the dates of the Symposium.

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.

Regarding insurance coverage for non-staff members, may I draw your attention to the following:

Non-staff members of WMO who are authorized to travel at the Organization's expense and/or who are receiving a DSA from WMO must ensure they are

To: Participants listed in Annex 1

cc: GAW Secretariat

fully responsible for expenses incurred in the event of death, illness or injury during official travel and attendance at meetings on behalf of the Organization. They are, therefore, fully responsible for arranging life, health, and accident, as well as any other forms of insurance with an adequate level of coverage for the duration of such meetings and events.

WMO liability is limited to the performance of services or attendance at a meeting on behalf of the Organization, is covered by an injury and illness benefit insurance which provides limited coverage for medical, emergency, and supplementary official travel expenses.

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

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Laj', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Paolo Laj
Head
Global Atmosphere Watch Programme

LIST OF FUNDED PARTICIPANTS

Expert	Affiliation	Country
Andrea Sealy	Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology	Barbados
Chris Flechard	French National Research Institute for Agriculture	France
Isobel Simpson	University of California, Irvine	Canada
Alberto Redondas Marrero	Agencia Estatal de Meteorología	Spain
Joshua Fu	University of Tennessee	United States of America
Meng Gao	Hong Kong Baptist University	China
Nguyen Thi Kim Oanh	Asian Institute of Technology	Thailand
Xu Tang	Fudan University	China
Sang-Woo Kim	Seoul National University	Republic of Korea
Jhoon Kim	Yonsei University	Korea
Matthias Roth	National University of Singapore	Singapore
Alkiviadis Bais	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	Greece
Motoki Sasakawa	National Institute for Environmental Studies	Japan
Michela Maione	University of Urbino Carlo Bo	Italy
Ernest Werner	Agencia Estatal de Meteorología	Spain
Yang Zhang	Northeastern University	United States of America
Ray Weiss	University of California San Diego	United States of America



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
E-mail: 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 9th 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

- **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 immunisations 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

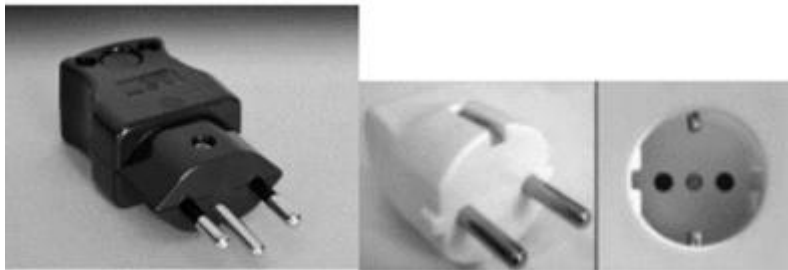
The currency of Switzerland is the Swiss franc (CHF). Many prices are also indicated in Euros (EUR) so that visitors can compare prices. Merchants may accept Euros but are not obliged to do so and the change to be given back to the client will most likely be in Swiss francs. Currency exchange facilities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

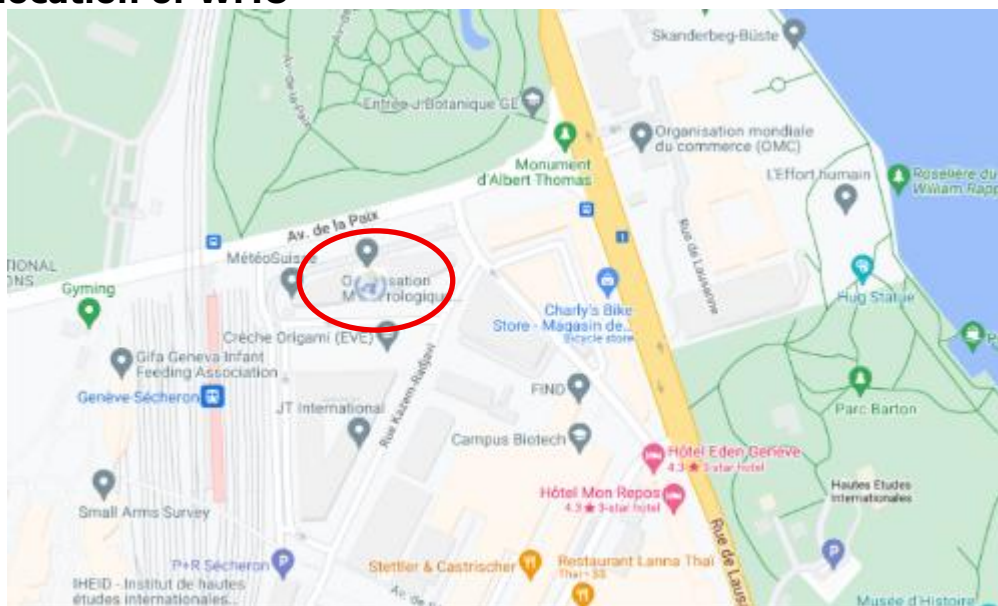
The standard working week for Government and businesses is Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Banks are open from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday. Most banks and other outlets offer 24-hour access to ATMs. Most retail stores are open throughout the day, however, many service shops close for 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 of the hotels and hostels listed below have received a rating of 4.0 or higher in both Google reviews and Trip Advisor reviews (the only exception being Geneva Hostel with a 3.8 on Google and a 3.5 on Trip Advisor).

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 (6km from WMO):

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

Hostels:

- Geneva Hostel
- City Hostel Geneva

