



Our ref.: 6517136/2026/SSCD/SI/ACES

3 February 2026

Annexes: 2

Subject: Invitation to attend the 2026 GAW Symposium (from 13 to 17 April 2026) and IG³IS Stakeholder Consultations and User Summit 2026 (from 20 to 22 April 2026), in Geneva, Switzerland

Action required: To kindly confirm your participation at your earliest convenience.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to inform you that WMO will host the "2026 Symposium of the Global Atmosphere Watch Programme (GAW)" from 13 to 17 April 2026 and the "IG³IS Stakeholder Consultations and User Summit 2026" from 20 to 22 April 2026 at its Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

The GAW Symposium will serve as a forum to assess the state of the Programme's underpinning science and its connection to international policy-making, as well as to review programme elements and 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 a starting point for the 2028–2032 GAW Programme's Science and Implementation Plan.

The IG³IS Stakeholder Consultations and User Summit aims to encourage meaningful dialogue and collaboration among key stakeholders who use greenhouse gas emissions information. Participants will have the opportunity to engage directly with members of the IG³IS scientific community, deepening their understanding of emissions science and its applications. The event will also facilitate a robust exchange of data-driven greenhouse gas emission information, featuring insightful case studies that examine emissions at national, urban, and facility-specific levels. Additionally, it will identify gaps between current capabilities and emerging user requirements.

I would be grateful if you could participate in both events, as your views and your contribution to the discussion will be extremely useful for the future of the GAW Programme and the IG³IS community. For your attendance at the events, WMO will cover your round-trip airfare to Geneva and provide financial assistance for the Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) during your stay.

Please note that the week of the Symposium will be a busy one in Geneva due to other events in the city. I strongly encourage you to book your accommodation as soon as possible using the accommodation options listed in [Annex 2](#).

You are kindly requested to confirm your participation to WMO Staff member Ms Jarin Tasneem Oyshi at jtasneem@wmo.int, with a copy to Ms Oksana Tarasova at otarasova@wmo.int, at your earliest convenience, whether you will be able to attend the above events and whether financial assistance is required.

To: Participants listed in Annex 1

cc: GAW Secretariat

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 be 'Pl Laj', written in a cursive style.

Dr Paolo Laj
Head
Global Atmosphere Watch Programme

Name	Affiliation	Country
Bo Yao	Meteorological Observation Center of China Meteorological Administration	China
Xin Lan	University of Colorado	United States of America
Kenza Khomsi	Mohammed VI University of Sciences and Health	Morocco
Yogesh Tiwari	Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune	India
Luciana Gatti	INPE (National Institute for Space Research)	Brazil
Peter Sperlich	Earth Sciences New Zealand	New Zealand
Jocelyn Turnbull	Earth Sciences New Zealand	New Zealand
Beatriz Cardenas	World Resources Institute Mexico	Mexico
Casper Labuschagne	South African Weather Service	South Africa

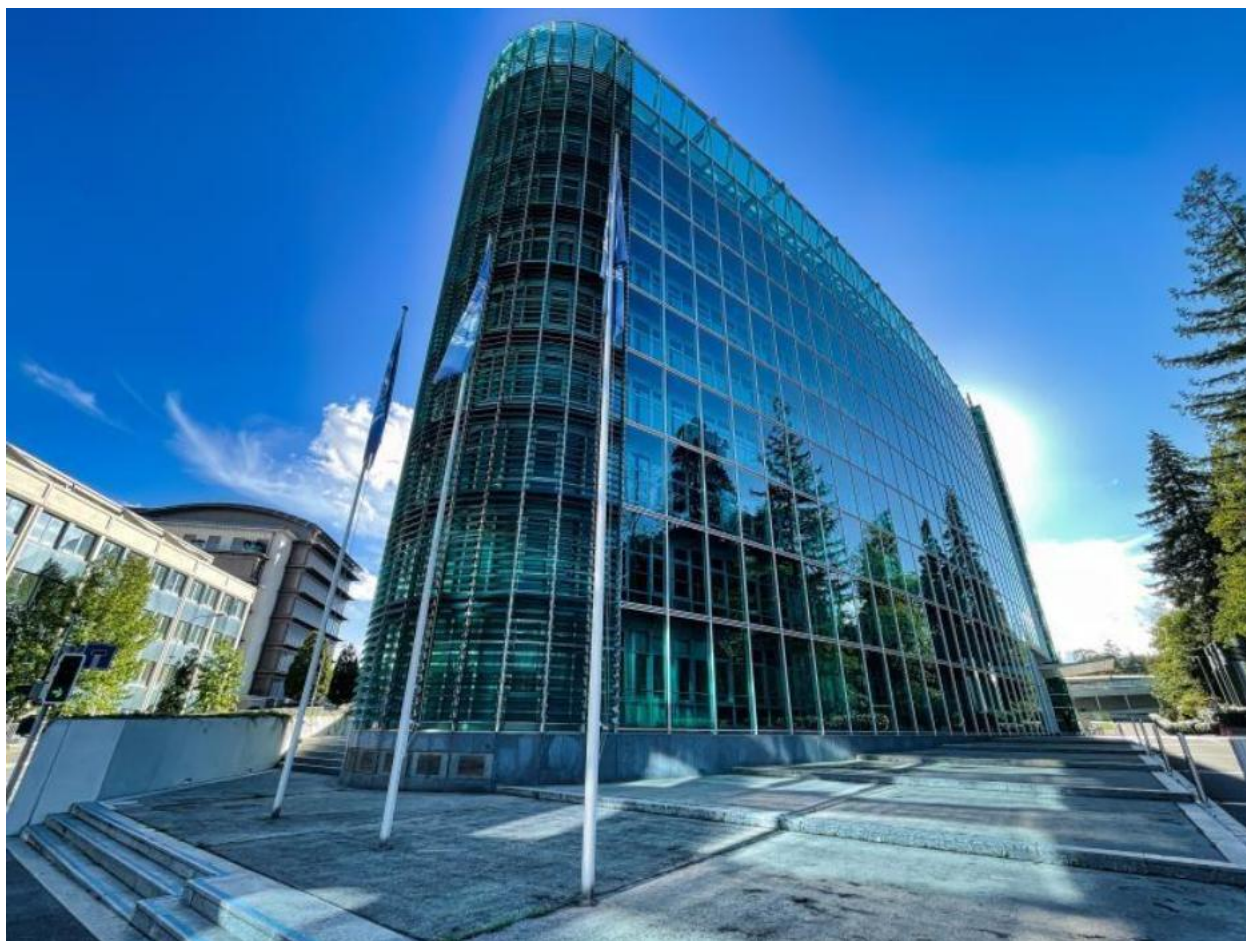


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PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR MEETINGS AT WMO HEADQUARTERS GENEVA, SWITZERLAND



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

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 be 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 the Schengen zone in 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. Please note that the support provided is for economic accommodation.

Geneva and nearby areas offer many options, from hotels to hostels to Airbnb listings. The hotels and hostels are all close to the meeting venue, but any accommodation near the TPG metro lines will quickly bring you to the venue as well.

- inside Geneva, [Hotels in Geneva | Geneva.info](#)
- in Annemasse, France, [Annemasse | Geneva.info](#)
- in nearby towns like Gland, Nyon

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.

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

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: 022-3202-02 or 022-3311-33.
- **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 m on the left as you exit the terminal. Bus tickets are available from the ticket machine at the bus stop. Please buy a ticket for Zone 10 before boarding the bus. Leave the bus at the "Nations" stop. You can either walk from there to the WMO building (approximately 200 m) 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 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

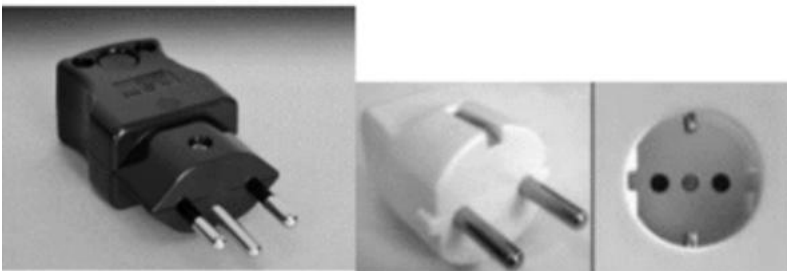
The currency of Switzerland is the Swiss franc (CHF). Many prices are also indicated in Euros (EUR) so that visitors can compare prices. Merchants may accept Euros but are not obliged to do so and the change to be given back to the client will most likely be in Swiss francs. Currency exchange facilities 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 April ranges from a high of 20°C (68°F) to a low of 4°C (39°F) with moderate rainfall. 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 the plugs below. Meeting attendees are strongly encouraged to bring their own electrical adapters for laptops and other handheld 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, cafes and groceries

- Participants can use the restaurant and the coffee bar located on the 9th floor of the WMO building. Prices at the WMO cafeteria are decent, and you can find vegetarian and non-vegetarian food there.
- There are many cafes, restaurants, and shops within walking distance of the WMO building.
- Geneva has excellent restaurants and a wide variety of food choices. Most restaurants are in the city centre and the old town. You can check Google reviews for recommendations and prices.
- You can visit supermarkets such as Migros, COOP, Lidl, Aldi, Denner, and so forth. For food and drinks. They open between 07:00–08:00 hrs (07:00–08:00 am). But keep in mind that stores in Geneva close early, most around 18:00 hrs (06:00 pm). The shops at the Cornavin Station remain open until 22:00–23:00 hrs (10:00–11:00 pm) in case you need anything in an emergency.