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19 February 2026

Annexes: 2 (available in English only)

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 at your earliest convenience but preferably before 27 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 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 jboudeu@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: Participants listed in Annex 1

cc: GAW Secretariat

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

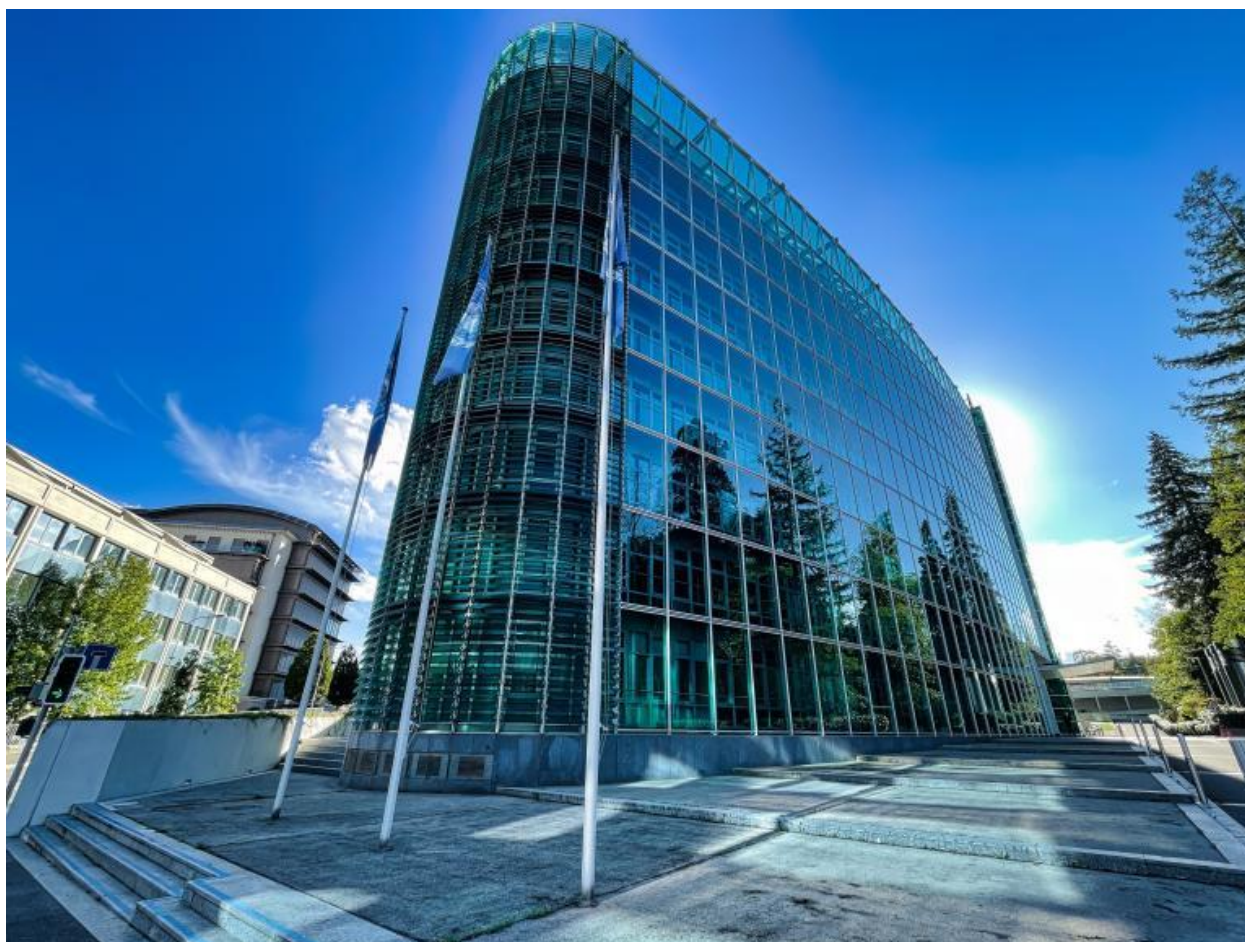
Expert	Affiliation	Country
Adéla Holubová Šmejkalová	Czech Hydrometeorological Institute	Czech Republic
Adibah Nur Aqilah Binti Rusli	Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin	Malaysia
Agustin Harte	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Switzerland
Alok Sagar Gautam	Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University	India
Amori Nabainivalu	Fiji Meteorological Service	Fiji
Andrea Baccarini	Aerospec SA	Switzerland
Andreas Petzold	Forschungszentrum Jülich	Germany
Andrew Jackson	Government of the British Virgin Islands	British Virgin Islands
Arlindo Da Silva	Asticou Earth Systems, LLC	USA
Beruk Serbessa	Fidel Birhan Charitable Organization	Ethiopia
Betül Nisa Atmaca	Turkish State Meteorological Service	Turkey
Biao Tian	Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences	China
Carlos Torres	AEMET	Spain
Cathrine Lund Myhre	Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU)	Norway
Christopher Lehmann	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	USA
Daniel Figueras Nieto	Environment and Climate Change Canada, ECCC	Canada
Dayana Lucero Acuña Valverde	Servicio Nacional de Meteorología e Hidrología del Perú	Peru
Denise de Pina	National Institute of Meteorology and Geophysics, INMG	Cabo Verde
Domagoj Mihajlović	Croatian Meteorological and Hydrological Service	Croatia
Elke Ludewig	GeoSphere Austria	Austria
Emma Knowland	NASA	USA
Emma Markey	Met Éireann	Ireland
Fabien Paulot	NOAA	USA
Fernando Nollas	Servicio Meteorológico Nacional (SMN)	Argentina
Forukh Boltabaev	National Meteorological Service of Uzbekistan	Uzbekistan
Guy Brasseur	Max Planck Institute for Meteorology	Germany
Hannah Clark	IAGOS Research Infrastructure (IAGOS-AISBL)	Belgium
Janine Wichmann	University of Pretoria	South Africa
Jgor Arduini	Università degli Studi di Urbino Carlo Bo	Italy
Johann Georg Goldammer	Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)	Germany
José Hitoshi Inoue Velarde	Servicio Nacional de Meteorología e Hidrología del Perú	Peru
Juan Carlos Pelaez	Centro de Física de la Atmósfera, Instituto de Meteorología	Cuba
Kaisa Lakkala	Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI)	Finland
Kalpana Chaudhari	Institute for Sustainable Development and Research (ISDR)	India
Kei Ohno	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Switzerland

Kerolyn Shairsingh	World Health Organization	Canada
Lamin B. Jobe	Department of Water Resources, Gambia	Gambia
LaToya Myles	NOAA	USA
Leena Järvi	University of Helsinki	Finland
Louis Mirallié	MeteoSwiss	Switzerland
Lu Ren	Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology	China
Markus Fiebig	Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU)	Norway
Martine Collaud Coen	Meteoswiss	Switzerland
Melanie Ades	ECMWF	United Kingdom
Min Hu	Peking University	China
Ming Chun Lam	Hong Kong Observatory	China
Munkhjargal Erdenebadrakh	Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Environment	Mongolia
Musa Bayour	Global Alliance for Sustainable Development and Equity (GASDE)	Liberia
Nikunj Dudani	Aerospec SA	Switzerland
Osman Dainkeh	University of Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone
Rabia Hundal	Istituto Universitario di Studi Superiori di Pavia (IUSS Pavia)	Italy
Ramya Balan	Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre	India
Richard Ménard	Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)	Canada
Roberto Pepino Minetti	Universidad Tecnológica Nacional	Argentina
Rosa Wu	Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)	Canada
Ruth Hill-Pearce	National Physical Laboratory	United Kingdom
Sabour Baray	Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)	Canada
Saint-clair Manfo Lontsi	Ministère de la Fonction Publique et de la Réforme Administrative	Cameroon
Sarisha Perumal	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research	South Africa
Sebastian Göltz	Umweltforschungsstation Schneefernerhaus	Germany
Shoudong Zhao	Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences	China
Shovan Kumar Sahu	Centre for Climate Research Singapore	Singapore
Soniya Yadav	Central University of Rajasthan	India
Terry Kwame Azaglo	Environmental Protection Authority (EPA Ghana)	Ghana
Thierry Marbach	EUMETSAT	Germany
Thomas Townsend	Met Éireann	Ireland
Thumeka Mkololo	South African Weather Service	South Africa
Tom Kralidis	Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)	Canada
Tomoaki Nishizawa	National Institute for Environmental Studies	Japan
Uday Shende	India Meteorological Department	India
Valérie Thouret	Université Toulouse III – Paul Sabatier	France
Venkata Sri Varshini Budi	International Space University	France
Wayne Pene	Fiji Meteorological Service	Fiji

Wenche Aas	Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU)	Norway
Xiaoye Zhang	China Meteorological Administration (CMA)	China
Yaqiang Wang	China Meteorological Administration (CMA)	China
Zablon Shilenje	World Meteorological Organizatoin	Ethiopia
Zakiah Alhajji	National Center for Meteorology, Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia



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 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: 022-3202-02 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 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 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

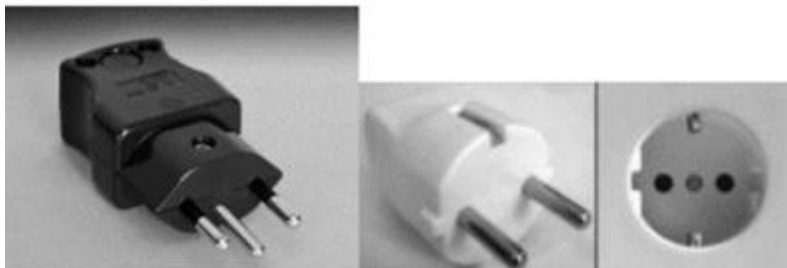
The currency of Switzerland is the Swiss franc (CHF). Many prices are also indicated in Euros (EUR) so that visitors can compare prices. Merchants may accept Euros but are not obliged to do so and the change to be given back to the client will most likely be in Swiss francs. Currency exchange facilities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

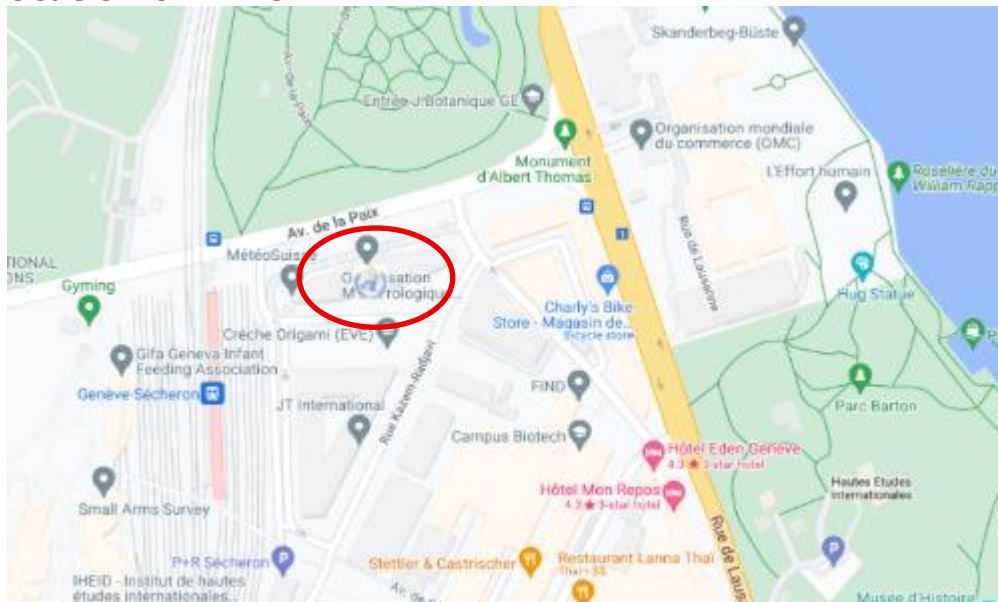
outlets offer 24-hour access to ATMs. Most retail stores are open throughout the day, however, many service shops close for lunch between noon and 2 p.m. during the week. Most stores, including grocery stores, do not stay open past 7 p.m. on weekdays, past 6 p.m. on Saturdays and are closed on Sundays.

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 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 Geneve 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
- Novotel Annemasse Centre
- Campanile Annemasse Centre
- Hôtel du Centre, Annemasse
- Oskar Hôtel, Annemasse

Hostels:

- Geneva Hostel
- City Hostel Geneva