

GENEVA PEACE WEEK 2017
6-10 NOVEMBER



PRESS RELEASE (Tuesday 10 October 2017)

Conflict Prevention: Pathways for Effective Implementation

Geneva Peace Week will take place from 6-10 November 2017 under the focus: Prevention Across Sectors and Institutions.

50 events organized by over 80 organizations will feature more than 150 speakers on a variety of cross cutting topics on peace and security. The full programme is available at www.genevapeaceweek.ch.

The focus on prevention offers an opportunity to connect and highlight the work of Geneva-based institutions and their international partners and to understand the links between prevention, peace, human rights, education, development, the management of natural resources and many other topics.

Selected highlights

- The **Annual Meeting of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform** sets the scene of the Geneva Peace Week theme (Maison de la Paix, 6 November, 14.00-17.30).
- The **World Café Reception** which opens Geneva Peace Week is a key opportunity to network with Geneva's diverse community working on peace and to update yourself with key trends on peace and security issues (Maison de la Paix, 6 November 17.30-19.00).
- An **event cluster on 'The future of prevention policy'** (Palais des Nations, 8 November, 9.00-18.30) featuring the Geneva launch of the UN-World Bank Study on the Prevention of Violent Conflict (9.00-10.30), and the launch of a handbook on national dialogue processes (17.00-18.30), in addition to other panels on preventive diplomacy.
- An **event cluster 'Cyber, big data and new technologies'** (Maison de la Paix and Palais des Nations, 9 November, 9.30-18.00) factoring a keynote speech by **Mr. Brad Smith, President of Microsoft** (Palais des Nations, 9 November, 16.00-18.00).

"Geneva Peace Week maximizes synergies between sectors and organizations in Geneva and beyond, focused on the cross-cutting nature of prevention. It underlines that each and every person, actor and institution has a role to play in building peace, resolving conflict and strengthening prevention", said **Michael Møller**, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

Achim Wennmann, Executive Coordinator, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, and Senior Researcher at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding), emphasizes that in the current era it is necessary to expand the space about dialogue and negotiation as the primary tool to resolve conflict and build peace. *"Geneva plays an important role in this respect because such dialogue and negotiation – or peace diplomacy – happens here on a daily basis"* he underlined. *"Often, it is discrete and only insiders know about it. Geneva Peace Week has the objective to change this and highlight*

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how so many different actors contribute to sustaining peace in so many ways and so many places.”

Valentin Zellweger, Ambassador, Permanent representative of Switzerland to the United Nations and the other international organizations in Geneva, added: *“Conflict prevention is a key issue for Swiss peace policy and a common commitment with the UN. The Peace Week is a great opportunity to capitalize on the huge know-how of the different partners operating in Geneva and to engage with actors from all over the world. Health, human rights and economic development depend on peace”.*

Geneva Peace Week is a collective initiative facilitated by the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform with the support of the Swiss Confederation.

Events take place at the Palais des Nations, the Maison de la Paix, and several other venues.

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