

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform is a joint project of four institutions











Activity Report 2016



Karim Wasfi performing at the Geneva Peace Talks 2016 ©Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

Acknowledgements

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform would like to thank all its funders, event partners and 4'000 network members for following its activities.

The Platform would like to thank the **United Nations and International Organizations Division of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)** for their contribution to the Platform's funding, and to the **United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)** for the collaboration on various projects.

Special thanks go to the staff of the four core partners of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, the Graduate Institute's Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), Interpeace and the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), without whom the networking, events, and outreach of the Platform would not be possible. Beyond the organizations already mentioned, the Platform would also like to thank the following event partners:

- City of Quito
- Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES)
- Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime,
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Justice Rapid Response (JRR)
- Professional Community Intervention Training Institute
- Quaker United Nations Office-New York (QUNO-NY)
- Safer World
- UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA)
- UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme (SCP)
- United States Institute of Peace (USIP)
- World Bank
- World Economic Forum (WEF)

In addition the Platform recognizes support from the City and Canton of Geneva and The Permanent Mission of Switzerland.

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About the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform is an interagency network that connects the critical mass of peacebuilding actors, resources, and expertise in Geneva and worldwide.

Founded in 2008, the Platform has a mandate to facilitate interaction on peacebuilding between different institutions and sectors, and to advance new knowledge and understanding of peacebuilding issues and contexts. It also plays a creative role in building bridges between International Geneva, the United Nations peacebuilding architecture in New York, and peacebuilding activities in the field.

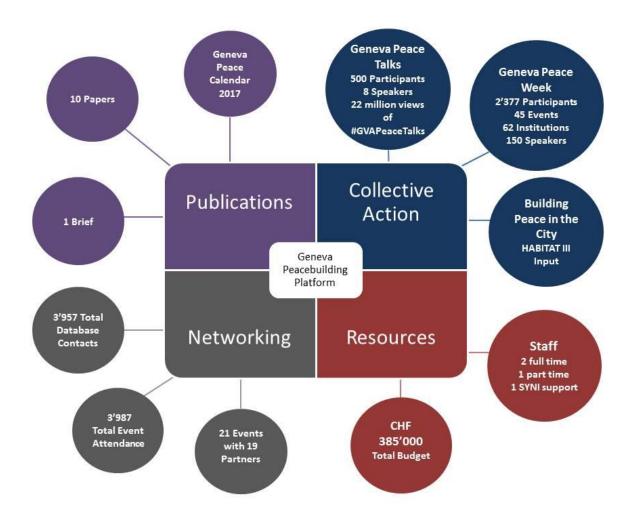
The Platform's network comprises more than 4,000 peacebuilding professionals and over 60 institutions working on peacebuilding directly or indirectly.

The Platform is managed as a joined project of four institutions: The Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies; the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP); Interpeace; and the Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva (QUNO).

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1. 2016 at a glance























Geneva Peace Talks 2016 From top left to right: Opening by Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General (© UN Photo/ Miladin Bogetic) Karim Wasfi, Helen Calle Lin, Dr Saran Daraba Kaba, Mimouin Berrissoun, Marc Bonnet, Ahmed Labnouj, Mireille Widmer & Nicolas Witschard, Lionel Aeschlimann, music from Pososhok, (© Frederik Kermisch for Interpeace)

2. Summary of achievements

This report summarizes the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform's activities in 2016 that are framed by its 2015-2017 Programme. The Programme structures several activities aiming to network traditional and non-traditional actors in peacebuilding and advance innovative practice and thinking on peacebuilding. The overall work of the Platform in 2016 focused on the consolidation of major event initiatives, as well as its networking and communication, and operations.

Major event initiatives

- Peace Talks: UNOG, Interpeace and the Platform agreed on an Exchange of Letters for a Peace Talks Initiative. It develops a join language and vision for the Peace Talks, creates a small dedicated Peace Talks Office to strengthen operations, and constitutes the Platform as a co-founder and co-owner of the Peace Talks brand together with UNOG and Interpeace.
- **Geneva Peace Week:** After three years, Geneva Peace Weeks achieved "proof of concept" with further consolidation and development to take place in 2017. The 3rd edition included 45 events, over 150 speakers and around 2,400 participants, and the development of the website http://www.genevapeaceweek.ch.
- **Building peace in the city:** Follow the conference "Safer Cities +20", Geneva, 6-8 July 2016, the Platform facilitated the inception of a biennial conference series to strengthen the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and SDG 11+16 and related goals. A multi-stakeholder process including a reference and core group works towards the first biennial conference 26-28 June 2017 building on the Platform's networking achievements with city-level actors in 2016.

Networking and communication

- **New Advisory Board:** The Platform reviewed its Advisory Board representing a cross section of actors working on peacebuilding in Geneva.
- 21 networking events: Co-organized with 19 event partners primarily in Geneva but also in Washington DC, New York and Quito attracting over 1,000 participants.
- **City networking:** The Technical Working Group on the Confluence of Urban Safety and Peacebuilding Practice evolved into an expert network of over 100 actors.
- Communication: The Platform's database and mailing campaign was migrated to Mailchimp offering a more effective communication tool to reach out to the Platform's 4'000 contacts.
- **New Papers:** 12 new publications including a special paper series of the Technical Working Group and the first edition of the Geneva Peace Calendar.

Operations

• **Two-year mandate:** The Platform grew to two full-time and one part-time staff, and continued collaboration with the SYNI work promotion programme. These developments were possible due to the renewed and increased support of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, for the first time in the framework of a two-year mandate (2016-2017).

3. Networking traditional & non-traditional actors in peacebuilding

Under the rubric of networking traditional and non-traditional actors in peacebuilding, the Platform consolidated the Peace Talks and Geneva Peace Week, co-organized 20 events, strengthened its communication, and piloted the Geneva Peace Calendar.

3.1 Peace Talks

Peace Talks Initiative

- In December 2016 UNOG, Interpeace and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform agreed on an Exchange of Letters for a Peace Talks Initiative.
- The Exchange of Letters establishes the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform as a cofounder of the Peace Talks and co-owner of the Peace Talks brand together with UNOG and Interpeace, develops a join language and vision for Peace Talks, and creates a small dedicated Peace Talks Office to support Peace Talks.

Geneva Peace Talks 2016

- The Geneva Peace Talks is an annual public event organized on the occasion of the International Day of Peace (21 September) by UNOG, Interpeace and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform with the generous support of the Swiss Confederation and the Canton and City of Geneva.
- The theme of the Geneva Peace Talks 2016 was "Peace Happens!" Nine speakers shared their personal stories of positive actions for peace to a full-capacity audience of 500 in the newly renovated Emirates Room (Salle XVII).
- #GenevaPeaceTalks was the number one trending hashtag on Twitter in Switzerland at the start and end of the Geneva Peace Talks. #GVAPeaceTalks had 22 million Twitter impressions.
- All talks are available at http://peacetalks.net/pt-events/geneva-talks-english/

List of Speakers 2016 Peace Talks

- Karim Wasfi, Conductor of the Iraqi National Symphony Orchestra
- Dr Saran Daraba Kaba, Secretary General of the Mano River Union
- Lionel Aeschlimann, Managing Partner Mirabaud Bank
- Mimoun Berrissoun, Youth Leader from Kofi Annan Foundation's Extremely Together Initiative
- Helen Calle Lin, Geneva-based Entrepreneur and Restaurateur
- Ahmed Labnouj, Peacebuilding Practitioner working in Libya for Interpeace

- Marc Bonnet, Head of the Risk Management Division at the Geneva International Centre on Humanitarian Demining
- Mirelle Widmer and Pierre Chappuis, Members of The Local Safety Initiative in Geneva's Pâquis District
- Musical performance by Pososhok

3.2 Geneva Peace Week 2016

- The 3rd edition of Geneva Peace Week attracted a total of 2,377 participants across the 45 events over a five-day period. 56 organizations with a total of over 150 speakers opened a space for exchange about peace across institutions and sectors.
- Geneva Peace Week was organized as a collective action initiative facilitated by UNOG and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform. A 'collective impact' model allows a cost-effective means of organizations with no additional resource mobilization.
- The Platform appointed a dedicated Focal Point which brought tangible benefits to the quality of the organization.
- The Platform created a new logo (see below), developed a new website (www.genevapeaceweek.ch) with an integrated programme, and engaged in targeted outreach to International Organizations and Permanent Missions
- In addition, social media platforms were created for Geneva Peace Week on Twitter and Facebook, and the hashtag #GVAPeaceWeek as well as the Twitter account @GenevaPeaceWeek were widely used.

Selected feedback

Positive feedback

- Excellent initiative and an important contribution to the community in Geneva
- The expert panellists made outstanding contributions
- Event organizers were a professional and committed group
- The overall programme reflects the involvement at different levels

Challenges

- To communicate effectively to attract a larger audience
- How to make GPW an international event which attracts non-Geneva based actors

Suggestions for 2017

- Review governance for more effective organization
- Coordinate early on with communications contact person of each event partner to better promote the event
- Assign an 'Ambassador for Peace' to promote Geneva Peace Week
- Facilitate registration for events taking place at the *Palais des Nations*. Consider centralising the registration process
- Document the substance and key messages that came out of Geneva Peace Week

See the full GPW programme from 2016; www.genevapeaceweek.ch/programme



The new Geneva Peace Week logo

3.3 Annual Meeting 2016

- The theme for this year's Annual Meeting was 'Exits from War Economies: What Lessons for Peacebuilding in Syria?'
- The meeting aimed to develop a nuanced and at the same time practical understanding about the implications of Syria's war economy for current and future peace and peacebuilding processes.
- A list of resources on the conference topic has been added on the webpage of the Annual Meeting.
- The programme was collaboratively developed by the four core partners of the Platform drawing on their networks of contacts and expertise. This year the Annual Meeting took place on half a day.

Speakers of the Annual Meeting 2016

Welcome and opening

- Mirjana Spoljaric, Ambassador, Head of the United Nations and International Organizations Division, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland
- Keith Krause, Professor at the Graduate
 Institute of International Development
 Studies and Director of the Graduate
 Institute's Centre on Conflict, Development
 and Peacebuilding (CCDP)
- Achim Wennmann, Executive Coordinator, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

What does the war economy mean for future peace in Syria?

- Omar Abdulaziz Hallaj, Co-founder of the Syria initiative of the Common Space Initiative and Consultant on urban planning, development and local governance, Beirut
- David Keen, Professor of Complex Emergencies, London School of Economics, London
- Tuesday Reitano, Head, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, Geneva

Keith Krause opens the 2016 Annual Meeting

©Marc Bader, Grande Image

What lessons can we draw for the ongoing peace processes and for eventual 'post-conflict' peacebuilding in Syria?

- Rim Turkmani, Senior Research Fellow, London School of Economics, London
- Andrew Ladley, Senior Advisor, MENA Region, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Geneva
- Alexandre Marc, Chief Specialist, Fragility, Conflict and Violence, World Bank, Washington D.C.

Concluding remarks

 Salvatore Pedulla, Senior Political Affairs Officer, United Nations Office of Special Envoy to Syria, Geneva



3.4 Events

The Platform organized 21 events in 2016, ranging from small expert workshops to larger conferences, and involving 19 event partnerships and over 1,000 participants.

| 2016 | Event Name | Partner/s | Attendance |
|-------------|--|--|------------|
| March | | | |
| 2 March | Dialogue and Negotiation in an Era of Changing Strategic Landscapes: Advances in Research and Practice (World Bank Fragility Forum, Washington DC) | ICRC, USIP, Interpeace, CCDP | 30 |
| 7 - 9 March | What's Next in Peacebuilding? (New York) | QUNO-NY | 18 |
| 22 March | Grasping the tension between CT, CVE and Peacebuilding: Lessons from Counter-terror, Stabilisation and Statebuilding Policy | Saferworld, GCSP, JRR | 80 |
| April | | | |
| 4 April | Business and the United Nations Peace & Security Agenda: Geneva Consultation for the High-level Thematic Debate on UN, Peace & Security | WEF | 32 |
| June | | | |
| 7 June | Beyond Fragility : The Convening Power of Resilience for Peace | Interpeace | 36 |
| 8 June | Consultation with William Ury - Perspectives on Peace Process Dynamics in Myanmar and Colombia | | 30 |
| 10 June | Launch of the Global Peace Index 2016 | GCSP | 52 |
| 20 June | Aiding Peace? International Aid to Conflict-Affected Countries | CCDP | 80 |
| 30 June | What Role Can Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Play in the Prevention of Violent Conflict | QUNO | 22 |
| July | | | |
| 6 - 8 July | Conference "Safer Cities +20+ | UN-HABITAT | 123 |
| 6 July | "License to Operate" Film Screening | Professional Community Intervention Training Institute | 66 |
| September | | | |
| 1 September | Peace with the FARC - Ushering in a New Chapter in Colombia's History of Crime and Violence | Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime | 30 |
| October | | | |
| 18 October | Mantenimiento de la Paz en la Ciudad: Nuevas Perspectivas sobre la Seguridad Urbana (Quito) | City of Quito | 100 |
| November | | | |
| 1 November | The Nexus of Conflict and Illicit Drug Trafficking: Syria and the Wider Region | Global Initiative | 20 |
| 7 November | Geneva Peace Calendar (Geneva Peace Week) | | 75 |
| 8 November | Building Peace: Dealing with Criminal Agendas and Illicit Flows (Geneva Peace Week) | Global Initiative, FDFA | 30 |
| 9 November | Exists from War Economies: What Lessons for Peacebuilding in Syria? (Geneva Peace Week | | 85 |
| 9 November | Development and Conflict Prevention (Geneva Peace Week) | World Bank, UNDPA | 80 |
| 10 November | Consultations High-level Review of UN Sanctions (Geneva Peace Week) | GCSP, CCSI | 30 |
| 16 November | Enhancing the Potential of Business for Sustainable Development and Sustaining Peace | QUNO, FES | 20 |
| 17 November | Business and Human Rights, Conflict Sensitivity, and Business and Peace | QUNO, FES | 15 |

3.5 Communication

Improvement of mailing outreach

- 2016 saw the cross-over to Mailchimp to make the Platform's communication more effective. This process involved the cleaning and updating of over 4,000 contacts resulting in the removal of 900 contacts with e-mails that were no longer in use or incomplete.
- Over the year, however, the Platform attracted around 900 new subscribers, which led to the total number of contacts to be around 4,000.
- A total of 15 mailing campaigns were sent out via Mailchimp in 2016 with a consistent open rate of 30%, which is well above the industry average (19.05%).

Increase in social media presence and communication

• In 2016, a new Facebook page for Geneva Peacebuilding Platform was created and regular tweets were made through the already existing Twitter account.

Geneva Peace Week: Logo, website and social media

- The Platform created a new website for Geneva Peace Week together with a Twitter account and Facebook page in order to establish a centralized point of information and build a community surrounding the initiative.
- The Graduate Institute and the Platform developed a new Geneva Peace Week logo.

New GPP website

 Due to the prioritization of the Geneva Peace Week website, development of the new Geneva Peacebuilding Platform website was postponed until 2017.



Geneva Peace Week Twitter page

3.6 Geneva Peace Calendar

- The Geneva Peace Calendar is an initiative of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform to foster cooperation and synergies between Geneva-based institutions working in the fields of conflict prevention and peacebuilding and related efforts to strengthen peaceful and inclusive societies.
- The initiative has been piloted in 2016 with a survey across all international organizations, missions and non-governmental organizations as well as with a public event during Geneva Peace Week (7 November).
- The Geneva Peace Calendar received 25 responses to three sets of questions about organizations' 2017 priorities in the field of peacebuilding, interests in partnership, and event information. It was distributed in early January 2017.

4. Advancing innovative practice and thinking on peacebuilding

This second work stream of the 2015-2017 Programme aims at expanding the evidence base on policies and practice in environmental and natural resource management, and in building peace in urban settings. This section will also point to all Platform publications in 2016.

4.1 Peacebuilding, environment and natural resource management

Business and the UN Peace and Security Agenda

- The Platform organized a consultation for the High-level Thematic Debate on UN, Peace and Security, in collaboration with the WEF in Geneva, 4 April 2016.
- The conference report Business and the UN Peace and Security Agenda (Brief No.10) captures the main findings.

Business and Human Rights, Conflict Sensitivity, and Business and Peace

- The Platform co-organized in collaboration with QUNO Geneva and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung the consultation 'Sharing the Lessons Learned: Business & Human Rights, Conflict Sensitivity and Business & Peace' on 17 November 2016.
- The meeting took the opportunity of the gathering of experts in Geneva on the
 occasion of the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights to share reflections and
 experience from these related but distinct perspectives and to foster mutually
 reinforcing approaches for the future.
- The seminar was an initial exchange that explored the roles of the various actors in these
 fields and their context-specific experiences. It provided the opportunity to share the
 challenges they face and generate tactics and strategies for addressing these. Future
 discussions will broaden the group to include companies, trade unionists, development
 banks and other relevant organizations.

4.2 Building peace in urban settings

- **Network building:** A network of (currently around 100) professionals across urban safety and peacebuilding, mediation and conflict prevention.
- HABITAT III inputs: The Platform produced eight new publications and drew together other resources on the confluence of urban safety and peacebuilding practice. The Platform also co-hosted an event with the City of Quito during HABITAT III 'Mantenimiento de la Paz en la Ciudad: Nuevas Perspectivas sobre la Seguridad Urbana', and co-convened a major conference in July 2016 on 'Safer Cities +20' in Geneva in the run-up to HABITAT III.
- **Biennial conference series:** The primary result of this conference was to locate in Geneva a biennial conference series to accompany members states to implement the New Urban Agenda as well as SDG 11+16 (and related goals).
- The first conference is planned for 26-28 June 2017. The conference organization is accompanied by a reference group that include over 20 organizations of international Geneva with interest in city issues and a core group with targeted interest in the conference (United Nations Office at Geneva, United Nations Development Programme, International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, the Graduate Institute and Small Arms Survey).

4.3 Publications

Building peace in urban settings

- Understanding the Grammar of the City: Urban Safety and Peacebuilding Practice through a Semiotic Lens (No.14; Jütersonke and Austin 2016)
- Responses to Conflict that Work (No.15; Wennmann and Ganson 2016)
- Entry Points for Programming across Urban Safety and Peacebuilding (No.16; Grob, Papadovassilakis, and Ribeiro Fadon Vicente 2016)
- Partnerships for Urban Safety in Fragile Contexts: The Intersection of Community Crime
 Prevention and Security Sector Reform (No.17; Homel and Masson 2016)
- Negotiating with Criminal Groups: From Prejudice to Pragmatism (No.18; van den Eertwegh 2016)
- Case Studies on Urban Safety and Peacebuilding: Lagos, Beirut, Mitrovica, Treichville and Johannesburg (No. 19; Grob, Papadovassilakis, and Ribeiro Fadon Vicente 2016)
- The Programme Conjoint de Renforcement de la Sécurité Urbaine in Ouagoudougou, Bourkina Faso: Lessons Learned (No.20; Parent 2016)
- Building Peace: An Annotated Resource Pack (No.21; Wennmann 2016)
- Urban Safety and Security: Lessons from the Last Two Decades and Emergent Issues (No.22; Milliken 2016)

Other publications

- Entry Points for Preventing Youth Engagement in Political Violence: Lessons from Burundi's 2015 Elections (No.23; Paducel)
- Business and the UN Peace and Security Agenda (Brief No.10; Wennmann)
- Geneva Peace Calendar 2017

5. Management and staffing

- The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform is a partnership between four institutions with rich and diverse peacebuilding-related experience, which together represent a unique combination of skills and a long track record of excellence in their specific sector.
- The Platform is managed as a joint project by a Steering Committee and a Management Committee. The day-to-day activities are managed by a small team.
- In 2016, the Platform reviewed its Advisory Board representing a cross section of actors working on peacebuilding in Geneva. Please see the list below.
- 2016 saw the start of a two year mandate and increased funding to CHF 385,000 in order to support and develop the activities under the framework of its 2015-2017 Programme.

Steering Committee

- Keith Krause, Director, Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP),
 The Graduate Institute
- Carl Ungerer, Head of Leadership, Crisis & Conflict Management Programme, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)
- Scott Weber, Director-General, Interpeace
- Jonathan Woolley, Director, Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)

Management Committee

- Caty Clément, Senior Programme Advisor and Senior Fellow, Leadership, Crisis and Conflict Management Programme, Geneva Centre for Security Policy
- **Diane Hendrick**, Representative, Peace and Disarmament, Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva
- Oliver Jütersonke, Head of Research, Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), The Graduate Institute
- **Renée Larivière**, Deputy Director-General, Interpeace

Advisory Board

- Anna Alvazzi del Frate, Director of Programmes, Small Arms Survey
- Sandra Avilés, Senior Advisor, Programme Development & Humanitarian Affairs, FAO Liaison Office in Geneva
- **Salman Bal**, Senior Political Coordination Adviser, Political Affairs and Partnerships Section, Office of the Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)
- Maurizio Bona, Senior Advisor, Relations with Parliaments and Science for Policy, CERN European Organization for Nuclear Research
- **Philippe Bovey**, General Secretary, Fondation Hirondelle
- **Sebastian Brack**, Senior Political Officer, Kofi Annan Foundation (KAF)
- Samuel Emonet, Director of Operations, Justice Rapid Response (JRR)
- Sidonia Gabriel, Head of Policy & Platform, Project Director of Center for Peacebuilding (KOFF), Swisspeace
- Catriona Gourlay, Executive Director, PeaceNexus Foundation
- Barbara Hintermann, Secretary General, CAUX Initiatives of Change Foundation
- **Louis Hoffmann**, Head, Transition and Recovery Division, Department of Operations and Emergencies, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- **David Jensen**, Policy and Planning Coordinator, Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- **Donato Kiniger-Passigli**, Coordinator, Fragile States and Disaster Response, International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Tuesday Reitano, Head of the Secretariat, Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime
- Masayo Kondo Rossier, Emergency Preparedness Section (EPS), Emergency Services Branch (ESB), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- Albrecht Schnabel, Senior Fellow, Research Division, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)
- **Sara Sekkenes**, Conflict Prevention and Recovery Advisor Partnerships, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Hugo Slim, Head of Policy, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Katia Papagianni, Director, Policy and Mediation Support, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
- Pascal Rapillard, Head of the Division External Relations and Policy, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- **Jyoti Sanghera**, Chief of Section of the Human Rights and Social and Economic Issues, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- **Tammi Sharpe**, Senior Adviser (Development & Solutions), Donor Relations and Resource Mobilisation Service, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Anki Sjoeberg, Programme Director, Geneva Call
- Daniel Stauffacher, Chairman, ICT4Peace Foundation
- Jos Verbeek, Special Representative to the UN and WTO, World Bank Office Geneva

Platform staff

- Achim Wennmann, Executive Coordinator (100%)
- Madeleine Evans, Communication and Event Manager (100%)
- Silvia Nussbaumer, Focal Point Geneva Peace Week (20%)
- **Rebecca Durant**, SYNI Programme Participant (80% June-November)

6. Outlook 2017

- 21 February (Stockholm) Stockholm Peace Talks (led by Interpeace)
- 26-28 June Reviewing the State of Safety in Cities: Partnerships and Solutions for Localized Implementation
- 21 September Geneva Peace Talks
- 6 November Annual Meeting
- 6-10 November Geneva Peace Week



'Safer Cities +20' Conference Geneva, 6-8 July 2016

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