

LONG, LONG, LONG LIVE
THE 4 MODERNISATIONS



G-P **peace building**

International Administrative
Confederation of
Confederations of
Confederations of
Confederations of

UNOG
THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
IN GENEVA

INTRODUCTORY REMAR

Amb. Thomas Greminger,
Director, Geneva Centre for Security Pol

2025 ACTIVITY REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	1
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	3
FACILITATION	5
TOPICAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH AD-HOC MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS	7
GPP EVENTS	9
STRENGTHENING THE NEW YORK-GENEVA EXCHANGES	13
BUILD MORE PROFOUND ENGAGEMENT WITH UN MISSIONS	16
FACILITATING STRATEGIC DIALOGUES FOR SWITZERLAND AND THE GENEVA PEACEBUILDING COMMUNITY	17
GENEVA PEACE WEEK MEETS ADDIS ABABA	21
COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT	23
INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL	25
HONORING MILESTONES: THREE CENTRES, TWO ANNIVERSARIES, ONE CELEBRATION	29
PEACETALKS: A CONTINUED COLLABORATION	32
PEACE FORUM NETWORK	35
GENEVA PEACE WEEK	37
GENEVA PEACE WEEK HIGHLIGHTS	39
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS	43
REVIEWING GPW25 AND SHAPING THE 13TH EDITION	47
THE GENEVA PEACE WEEK CONSORTIUM	48
OUTLOOK FOR 2026	49
ABOUT THE GPP	51
GPP BUDGET IN 2025	53
COMMUNICATIONS IN 2025	55
THE BOARD	57
STAFF	58
CREDITS	59

FOREWORD

The year 2025 has been a transformative milestone for the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform (GPP). As we mark our 18th year of existence and celebrate two years since transitioning into an independent Foundation, our role as a critical knowledge hub and neutral facilitator within the global peacebuilding ecosystem has never been more vital. In a global landscape marked by mounting geopolitical tensions, institutional strains, and shifting donor priorities, the necessity of creating trust-based, solution-oriented spaces for dialogue is paramount.

Throughout 2025, the Platform successfully actualized its vision of “Peace in Action”. A core strategic triumph this year was the diversification and expansion of our governance. We were honored to welcome Interpeace and Principles for Peace to our Board of Directors, joining our esteemed founding member institutions. This integration of diverse operational and normative leadership profoundly enriches our strategic outlook and global reach.

This year also signaled a bold evolution in how we convene. We actively dismantled the notion that peace policy is strictly a “New York-centric” or “Geneva-isolated” process. Through the 2025 Geneva Consultations on the UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review (PBAR), we seamlessly channeled Geneva’s operational, human rights, and humanitarian expertise directly into intergovernmental deliberations in New York. Furthermore, our flagship initiative, Geneva Peace Week, matured into a truly networked, multi-hub format. By bringing “GPW Meets” to Addis Ababa, we fostered crucial cross-regional diplomacy, connecting African institutional leadership and local practitioners with global frameworks.

Back in Geneva, the 12th edition of Geneva Peace Week brought together over 5,700 participants from 156 countries. Beyond traditional policy and academic panels, this edition highlighted art and culture as vital vectors for empathy, remembrance, and collective imagination, reminding us all of the human stories at the heart of diplomacy.

As we look ahead to 2026, the GPP is ready to embark on its next chapter. To align with our expanding global reach and distributed architecture of dialogue, Geneva Peace Week will officially transition into the Geneva Peace Forum. Alongside a refreshed visual identity, we will continue our regional expansion by launching “Geneva Peace Week Meets Vienna” in the first semester of 2026.

None of these milestones would be possible without the unwavering support of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), our board member institutions, and the dedicated members of our International Advisory Council. I extend my deepest gratitude to our staff, partners, and the network of over 4,000 peacebuilding professionals whose everyday actions turn the possibility of peace into a tangible reality.

Together, let us continue to listen, connect, and translate practice into resilient policy dialogue.

Dr. Annyssa Bellal

Executive Director of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform Foundation



THE GENEVA PEACEBUILDING PLATFORM

Peace in International Geneva



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In 2025, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform (GPP) continued to grow and strengthen its role as an independent Foundation, thanks to the support of its donors, supporters, event partners, and network members. Their engagement and commitment remain at the heart of everything we do, enabling us to advance peacebuilding initiatives around the world.

This year was particularly significant as the GPP expanded and diversified its governance. We are deeply grateful to our founding board members for their steadfast guidance:

- **Ambassador Thomas Greminger**, Director, Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP)
- **Ambassador Nathalie Chuard**, Director, DCAF - Geneva Center for Security Sector Governance

- **Ambassador Tobias Privitelli**, Director, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- **Marie-Laure Salles**, Director, The Geneva Graduate Institute

We were honoured in 2025 to welcome two new institutions to our Board, Interpeace and Principles for Peace, further enriching the GPP's strategic outlook and reach. We warmly thank their representatives:

- **Hiba Qasas**, Founding Executive Director at Principles for Peace
- **Itonde Kakoma**, CEO and President of Interpeace



We are grateful to our board members institutions for supporting this transition and we look forward to collaborating on future projects.



DCAF - GENEVA CENTER FOR SECURITY SECTOR GOVERNANCE



THE GENEVA CENTRE FOR SECURITY POLICY (GCSP)



THE GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE



THE GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING (GICHD)



INTERPEACE



PRINCIPLES FOR PEACE

OTHER SUPPORTERS

We remain especially thankful for the continued support of the UN and Human Rights Division of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), whose contributions are essential to the functioning of the Platform.

Furthermore, we would like to thank Ambassador Mona and the Swiss Embassy in Addis Ababa, as well as Dr Salomon Dessa from Amani Africa for their support in organizing GPW meets New York.

Finally, we offer our heartfelt thanks to the GPP's International Advisory Council. Bringing together expertise from academia, the United Nations, NGOs, civil society, and diplomatic and donor communities, the Council provides invaluable guidance and inspiration for our work.

FACILITATION

Facilitation remains a core function of the Platform's work, underpinning its role as a neutral and trusted space for convening diverse actors.

As it enters its 18th year of existence, and two years after becoming an independent foundation, the GPP aims to further strengthen its role within Geneva's peacebuilding ecosystem while ensuring the sustainability of its work.

In 2025, the GPP facilitated a wide range of activities in Geneva, alongside thematic events delivered in close partnership with strategic partners. These moments of exchange brought together policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and experts to reflect on shared priorities, align perspectives, and advance collective understanding. By fostering dialogue across sectors and institutional boundaries, the Platform's facilitation contributed to strengthening collaboration, informing strategic discussions, and supporting progress in the field of peacebuilding.



TOPICAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH AD-HOC MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

In 2025, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform continued to play an active role in convening key discussions on peace and security.

Amid growing global tensions and challenges confronting international organizations in Geneva, the GPP took a proactive role in convening a wide array of events addressing critical issues in peacebuilding. These ranged from expert briefings, informal retreats, and closed-door consultations to public discussions, film screenings, and multi-day conferences.

Notable themes from our 2025 events included conflict resolution and peacebuilding architecture, accountability of private military and security companies, the role of businesses in post-conflict stabilization, inclusion in peace processes, and local solutions for displaced populations. Key gatherings included the Geneva Consultations on the UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review, high-level side events on empowering women and girls through sport, and the Geneva Peace Week 2025 programme featuring the Kofi Annan Geneva Peace Address, fireside chats with Nobel Peace Laureates, and discussions linking Geneva and New York through civil society diplomacy.

Through these convenings, the GPP strengthened connections between experts, policymakers, and practitioners, reinforcing its role as a central hub for dialogue, networking, and collaboration in the international peacebuilding community.

Throughout 2025, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform continued to play an active role in convening key discussions on peace and security. The Executive Director and senior staff participated in a diverse set of high-level forums, public events, and expert consultations, both in Geneva and internationally. Highlights included moderating “The Future of Syria After the Fall of Assad,” presenting Ukraine’s Voluntary Report on International Humanitarian Law, delivering remarks on system-wide approaches to sustaining peace, and giving testimony at the ICC trial of Mahamat Said Abdel Kani.

The GPP also contributed to state and civil society consultations on IHL and peace, the Neutrality Colloquium, and the 21st meeting of the Geneva-based GoF on Water and Peace. In addition, the Platform was represented at major international gatherings such as the Paris Peace Forum and the Doha Forum. Through these convenings, the GPP strengthened networks, fostered dialogue between experts and policymakers, and underscored its role as a hub for innovative peacebuilding initiatives worldwide.

LUNCH BRIEFINGS

Since 2021, the GPP's lunch briefings have served as focused platforms for knowledge-sharing, networking, and joint problem-solving within the peacebuilding community. In 2025, the sessions highlighted major initiatives and leading actors, creating opportunities to exchange lessons learned and explore practical responses to urgent challenges. As a result, participants and organisations reported a deeper understanding of complex peacebuilding processes, stronger professional connections, and tangible follow-up collaborations among Geneva-based and international stakeholders.



INFORMAL MEETINGS

In 2025, the GPP facilitated informal, results-oriented meetings with partner organisations, bringing together states, civil society, and international institutions ahead of major UN and international peacebuilding discussions. These gatherings led to the development of actionable policy recommendations, improved coordination among key actors, and more informed strategies to address emerging conflicts and security challenges. These meetings have been recognised as valuable spaces for informal dialogue and cross-sector collaboration, contributing directly to the development and refinement of ongoing peacebuilding initiatives.



PUBLIC EVENTS

The GPP's public events in 2025 engaged a broad audience of practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and peacebuilders. These events aim to generate increased awareness of critical peacebuilding issues, new partnerships for joint initiatives, and create awareness on current peace efforts. By connecting diverse stakeholders, the GPP strengthened both the reach and impact of peacebuilding knowledge and practice.



Discover the list of public events organized or co-organized by the GPP in 2025

22 JANUARY 2025

THE FUTURE OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION: A DISCUSSION WITH UN EXPERT ASIF R. KHAN

ORGANIZED BY THE GENEVA PEACEBUILDING PLATFORM

14 FEBRUARY 2025

GENEVA CONSULTATIONS ON THE 2025 UN PEACEBUILDING ARCHITECTURE REVIEW: TURNING WORDS INTO ACTION

ORGANIZED WITH THE GENEVA PEACEBUILDING PLATFORM, IN COLLABORATION WITH INTERPEACE AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE SWISS FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

25 FEBRUARY 2025

HIGH-LEVEL SIDE EVENT ON “EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS IN AND THROUGH SPORT”

CO-ORGANIZED WITH THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE STATE OF QATAR TO THE UN OFFICE IN GENEVA, QATAR FOUNDATION, QATAR OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AND THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR SPORT SECURITY

7-8 APRIL 2025

GENEVA PEACE WEEK MEETS ADDIS ABABA

CO-ORGANIZED WITH AMANI AFRICA WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE SWISS FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

8 MAY 2025

LUNCH BRIEFING: PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE: REFLECTIONS ON A COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP

ORGANIZED BY THE GENEVA PEACEBUILDING PLATFORM



9 MAY 2025

CLOSED DOOR MEETING: ENHANCING CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT IN COUNTER-TERRORISM AT THE UNITED NATIONS: EXCLUSIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE UN COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORATE
CO-ORGANIZED WITH GLOBAL CENTER ON COOPERATIVE SECURITY

23 JUNE 2025

MOVIE SCREENING: PORCELAIN WAR
CO-ORGANIZED WITH CENTRE ON CONFLICT, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACEBUILDING AND C4SI INITIATIVE

23 JUNE 2025

ALIGNING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT WITH GRASSROOTS PEACEBUILDING IN MYANMAR
CO-ORGANIZED WITH THE SWISS FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

6 OCTOBER 2025

INFORMAL BRIEFING OF THE UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF IDPS
CO-ORGANIZED WITH THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SWITZERLAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

23 OCTOBER 2025

SHIELD OR SWORD? THE STRUGGLE OVER IHL'S PROTECTIVE FUNCTION
CO-ORGANIZED WITH THE IHL CENTRE

3 NOVEMBER 2025

THE BUSINESS OF SECURITY: NEW FRONTIERS AND PERSISTENT CHALLENGES IN REGULATING PRIVATE MILITARY AND SECURITY COMPANIES
CO-ORGANIZED WITH TRIAL INTERNATIONAL AND DCAF - GENEVA CENTRE FOR SECURITY SECTOR GOVERNANCE



HIGH-LEVEL
**OPENING
CEREMONY**
PEACE IN ACTION

2025 CENTRY PEACE WEEK



Discover the GPP Events held during Geneva Peace Week 2025 from 13 to 17 October 2025:

13 OCTOBER 2025

HIGH-LEVEL OPENING CEREMONY: PEACE IN ACTION

CO-ORGANIZED WITH THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF SWITZERLAND (FDFA) AND UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

14 OCTOBER 2025

LOCAL SOLUTIONS TOWARDS PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE IN FORCED DISPLACEMENT CONTEXT IN MENA AND ASIA REGIONS

CO-ORGANIZED WITH UN UNIVERSITY FOR PEACE AND THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

14 OCTOBER 2025

FIRESIDE CHAT WITH SHIRIN EBADI : NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE

CO-ORGANIZED WITH THE NOBEL WOMEN'S INITIATIVE

14 OCTOBER 2025

THE 2025 KOFI ANNAN GENEVA PEACE ADDRESS

CO-ORGANIZED WITH THE KOFI ANNAN FOUNDATION, THE GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE AND THE CANTON AND CITY OF GENEVA

15 OCTOBER 2025

FROM PEACE NEGOTIATIONS TO STABILIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION: THE ROLE OF BUSINESSES IN THE AFTERMATH OF CONFLICT

CO-ORGANIZED WITH THE INDEPENDENT DIPLOMAT

15 OCTOBER 2025

PEACE DIALOGUE - PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSIVITY IN PEACEBUILDING: LINKING GENEVA AND NEW YORK THROUGH CIVIL SOCIETY, OLDER PERSONS AND WATER DIPLOMACY

CO-ORGANIZED WITH THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

15 OCTOBER 2025

THE SEARCH FOR THE FORCIBLY DISAPPEARED: A KEY CONTRIBUTION TO PEACEBUILDING

CO-ORGANIZED WITH THE COMMITTEE ON ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES (CEDI)

16 OCTOBER 2025

SCREENING FOR PEACE: WE FORGIVE BUT WE DON'T FORGET

CO-ORGANIZED WITH THE GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE

16 OCTOBER 2025

CLOSING CEREMONY: ARTS AND PEACE ENCOUNTERS

CO-ORGANIZED WITH THE CAUX INITIATIVE OF CHANGE FOUNDATION

STRENGTHENING THE NEW YORK-GENEVA EXCHANGES

Strengthening exchanges between New York and Geneva has been a strategic priority for the GPP, recognizing the complementary roles these hubs play in advancing peacebuilding and multilateral cooperation. A cornerstone of this effort has been the close collaboration between the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), and the Swiss Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in Geneva and New York. This partnership led to the organization of Geneva Meets New York in 2023, aimed at fostering dialogue and mutual understanding between policy and peacebuilding communities across the two cities.

During Geneva Peace Week 2024, the first Peace Dialogue was held, which connected two high-level representatives from Geneva and New York. In 2025, this commitment was further advanced through a dedicated Peace Dialogue on the Participation and Inclusivity in Peacebuilding: Linking Geneva and New York through Civil Society, Older Persons and Water Diplomacy, held during Geneva Peace Week in collaboration with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. The event provided a space for reflection on evolving peacebuilding challenges and opportunities, while reinforcing institutional linkages between Geneva and New York-based peacebuilding communities.

Furthermore, on 22 January, the GPP hosted an exclusive briefing at Maison de la Paix with Asif R. Khan, Director of the Policy and Mediation Division at the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA). The discussion connected Geneva and New York peacebuilding ecosystems and examined the complementarity between peacebuilding, humanitarian action, development, and human rights. Participants gained first-hand insights into the Pact for the Future, its links with the New Agenda for Peace, and expectations for implementation.

The exchange also addressed the Peacebuilding Architecture Review, including questions of effectiveness, monitoring, and the importance of National Prevention Strategies, as well as current trends and challenges in mediation. The event reinforced GPP's function as a platform and convener between UN policy leadership and Geneva's peacebuilding community.

These initiatives underscore the importance of multilateralism in Geneva and the value of strong, trust-based relationships among international organizations, Swiss institutions, and partner organizations. As a facilitator the GPP acts as an important convener, which links peacebuilding actors, shared expertise to improve collaboration across mandates.



Participation and Inclusion New York through Civil

SPEAKERS

- Zorica Tirk, Former President of S...
- Blake Oshib, Deputy Permanent R...
- Silja Pevk-Lewis, Vice-Chair, NGO...
- Benja Lattvick, Senior Director of



BUILD MORE PROFOUND ENGAGEMENT WITH UN MISSIONS

In 2025, the GPP strengthened its role as a bridge between the UN system, Member States, and the peacebuilding community in Geneva by facilitating high-level exchanges, strategic partnerships, and policy dialogues linking Geneva-based actors with UN missions and multilateral processes.

GPP also deepened engagement with UN human rights processes. On 25 February 2025, it co-organized the high-level Human Rights Council side event “Empowering Women and Girls in and through Sport” with Upeace, the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the UN in Geneva, Qatar Foundation, the Qatar Olympic Committee, and the International Centre for Sport Security. The event highlighted sport as a tool for human rights, gender equality, and social inclusion, and addressed structural barriers facing women and girls. A key outcome was the announcement of a dedicated fund to support initiatives promoting women’s and girls’ participation and leadership in sport, building on discussions initiated during Geneva Peace Week 2024.

Together with the Global Center on Cooperative Security, GPP co-convened a closed-door dialogue between Geneva-based civil society organizations and representatives of the UN Security Council’s Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED). This informal exchange enabled discussion on the intersection of counter-terrorism, human rights, peacebuilding, humanitarian action, and development, and explored avenues for more constructive and rights-based engagement with UN security actors.

On 6 October 2025, GPP co-organized an informal expert-level briefing at the Palais des Nations with Ms Paula Gaviria Betancur, UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, in partnership with the Permanent Mission of Switzerland. The discussion focused on the links between peacebuilding, durable solutions to internal displacement, and the implementation of the Secretary-General’s Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, emphasizing inclusive, rights-based approaches and the integration of IDP perspectives into peace processes.

GPP’s partnerships with UNOG and UPEACE were further reflected in their active contributions to Geneva Peace Week, including the organization of panels and thematic discussions that brought together UN actors, Member States, academia, and civil society.

Overall, these initiatives demonstrate GPP’s growing role in facilitating structured engagement between UN missions, UN entities, and the broader peacebuilding field, supporting policy coherence, cross-pillar dialogue, and stronger linkages between global frameworks and peacebuilding practice.

FACILITATING STRATEGIC DIALOGUES FOR SWITZERLAND AND THE GENEVA PEACEBUILDING COMMUNITY

GENEVA CONSULTATIONS ON THE PEACEBUILDING ARCHITECTURE REVIEW (PBAR)

On 14 February 2025, the GPP, together with Interpeace and with the support of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), the 2025 Geneva Consultations. These strategic expert

gatherings focused on contributing to the formal phase of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review (PBAR), which opened in early 2025. Bringing together representatives from international organizations, civil society, the private sector, and academia, the Consultations built on discussions held during the PBAR's informal phase and aimed to generate concrete, actionable recommendations for Member States ahead of the adoption of the PBAR twin



resolutions by the UN General Assembly and Security Council.

A central objective of the Consultations was to ensure that Geneva's expertise and perspectives meaningfully informed a process often perceived as New York-centric. The event benefited from the exceptional participation of the PBAR co-facilitators, Ambassador Osama Mahmoud Abdelkhalek Mahmoud (Egypt) and Ambassador Samuel Žbogar (Slovenia), who travelled from New York. Their presence enabled direct exchange between Geneva-based actors and UN Member State leadership steering the Review, helping to strengthen linkages between the peacebuilding communities of Geneva and New York and reinforcing Switzerland's role as a connector across multilateral hubs.

Discussions focused on two thematic areas where Geneva-based actors hold distinctive expertise. The first addressed financing for peacebuilding and engagement with the private sector, exploring how the PBAR could catalyze more coherent approaches and foster stronger partnerships with business actors.

The second examined how to better leverage human rights frameworks, institutions, and communities as practical tools for advancing just and sustainable peace. Participants emphasized the need to move beyond misconceptions surrounding human rights and to build on existing commitments through pragmatic, results-oriented initiatives.



OUTCOME OF THE GENEVA CONSULTATIONS

The outcome of the Consultations were consolidated in the Geneva Consultations 2025 Report, accompanied by an Annex of References and Resources on Human Rights and Peacebuilding. These materials were shared with the PBAR co-facilitators and further presented during a roundtable convened by the Permanent Mission of Switzerland in New York on 26 March 2025, engaging representatives from more than 15 permanent missions as well as UN entities and experts. This follow-up demonstrated strong interest in Geneva's contributions and ensured that insights generated in Geneva fed directly into intergovernmental deliberations in New York.

Through the Geneva Consultations, GPP reaffirmed its function as a facilitator of strategic policy dialogue and as a platform that helps translate Geneva's operational, human rights, and humanitarian expertise into global peacebuilding policy processes. The initiative strengthened Switzerland's role in supporting inclusive multilateral dialogue and underscored Geneva's position as a vital hub for innovative and cross-pillar approaches to sustaining peace.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Confederation

GENEVA
GP **peace building**
PLATFORM

ii
Interpeace
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
FOR PEACEBUILDING

Geneva's Contribution to Global Peacebuilding: Insights for the 2025 PBAR

Informal Dialogue with the PBAR co-facilitators

Geneva Conference on Peacebuilding Architecture Review

GENEVA PEACE WEEK MEETS ADDIS ABABA



On 7–8 April 2025, the GPP, in partnership with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and Amani Africa, convened the second edition of “Geneva Peace Week Meets” in Addis Ababa. Bringing together over 800 participants in person and online, the initiative reflects GPP’s strategic shift toward positioning Geneva Peace Week not only as an annual event in Geneva, but as a networked, multi-hub platform that connects peacebuilding communities across regions and governance levels.

Held in the diplomatic capital of Africa and seat of the African Union, the Addis Ababa edition reinforced GPW’s role as a bridge between global policy spaces and regional peace and security actors. By linking Geneva-

based expertise in diplomacy, human rights, humanitarian action, and innovation with African institutional leadership, practitioners, and civil society, GPW Meets helped rebalance participation in global peace debates and address structural barriers that often limit access to multilateral dialogue. This approach strengthens the legitimacy, diversity, and policy relevance of the Geneva peacebuilding ecosystem.

The programme addressed major cross-cutting priorities shaping the international peace agenda, including shifting geopolitics, the climate–peace–security nexus, international humanitarian law, and digitalization and AI for youth peacebuilders, while grounding discussions in African perspectives and experience. In doing so, GPW Meets demonstrated how regional realities and innovation can inform global frameworks, reinforcing Geneva’s function as a convening hub that listens, connects, and translates practice into policy dialogue.

The outcomes, consolidated in the Geneva Peace Week Meets Addis Ababa Report, contribute to GPP’s longer-term objective of anchoring Geneva Peace Week within a distributed global architecture of dialogue. By institutionalizing partnerships between Geneva and other multilateral centres, GPW Meets strengthens Switzerland’s and Geneva’s positioning as facilitators of inclusive, cross-regional peace diplomacy. The Addis Ababa edition marked a key step in this trajectory, with momentum feeding directly into Geneva Peace Week 2025 and the continued expansion of the GPW Meets format.





COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform serves as a knowledge hub, connecting peacebuilding actors, resources, and expertise in Geneva and worldwide.

Through dedicated community management, it nurtures meaningful engagement among its members, facilitates dialogue and exchange, and strengthens relationships across institutions and sectors. The Platform promotes shared learning and helps mainstream peacebuilding issues across diverse policy areas. Additionally, it works to cultivate a dynamic and inclusive peacebuilding community, highlighting cross-cutting challenges and supporting innovative initiatives that contribute to sustainable peace.



INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL RETREAT 2025: STRENGTHENING PEACEBUILDING AMID GLOBAL UNCERTAINTY

On 20 May 2025, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform (GPP) convened its International Advisory Council (IAC) for its annual retreat at Villa Rigot.

The retreat provided an opportunity to review GPP's recent activities and to discuss preparations for Geneva Peace Week 2025, around the thematic "Peace in Action", including the application review process and ambitions to further broaden engagement across the peacebuilding community.



Discussions focused in particular on the funding crisis and UN restructuring, and their implications for Geneva's peacebuilding ecosystem. Introduced by Ms. Lynn Hastings, former UN Assistant Secretary-General, the session highlighted the increasing operational constraints faced by peacebuilding actors in 2025, including budget reductions, staffing challenges, and shifting donor priorities. IAC members shared reflections on the impact of these developments and exchanged perspectives on navigating the evolving landscape.

The retreat concluded with a discussion on GPP's role in times of uncertainty, underscoring the importance of its convening function in fostering dialogue, coordination, and collaboration within Geneva's peacebuilding community.



LIST OF INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (IAC) MEMBERS IN 2025

The IAC is composed of members from a representative group of International Geneva stakeholders, with an active interest and role in peacebuilding. The Council represents academia, UN organizations, international NGOs, civil society and diplomatic and donor representatives.

- **BULAN INSTITUTE FOR PEACE INNOVATIONS**
CHOLPON OROZBEKOVA, DIRECTOR
- **CAUX INITIATIVES OF CHANGE FOUNDATION**
SARAH NOBLE, HEAD OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT
- **CENTRE OF COMPETENCE ON HUMANITARIAN NEGOTIATION (CCHN)**
JOËLLE GERMANIER, DIRECTOR
- **CENTRE ON CONFLICT, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACEBUILDING**
PROF. KEITH KRAUSE, DIRECTOR
ELIZA URWIN, HEAD OF RESEARCH
- **CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DIALOGUE (HD), MEDIATION SUPPORT AND POLICY**
DAVID LANZ, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
- **DCAF – GENEVA CENTRE FOR SECURITY SECTOR GOVERNANCE**
HANS BORN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AND HEAD OF THE POLICY AND RESEARCH DIVISION
DAWN LUI, POLICY & RESEARCH PROJECT OFFICER
- **FIGHT FOR HUMANITY**
NICOLAS SION, HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT
- **FONDATION HIRONDELLE**
SACHA MEUTER, HEAD OF POLICY AND RESEARCH
- **GENEVA CALL**
ALEXANDRE MUNAFÒ, HEAD OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT
- **GENEVA CENTRE FOR SECURITY POLICY (GCSP)**
ANNIKA HILDING NORBERG, HEAD OF GCSP PEACE OPERATIONS AND PEACEBUILDING
- **GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING (GICHD)**
GRETA ZEENDER, HEAD OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS, POLICY AND COOPERATION PROGRAMME
- **GLOBAL INITIATIVE AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME**
TUESDAY REITANO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
- **ICT4PEACE FOUNDATION**
ANNE-MARIE BUZATU, VICE PRESIDENT AND COO
- **INDEPENDENT DIPLOMAT**
GUILLAUME CHARRON, DIRECTOR
- **INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)**
FEDERICO NEGRO, COORDINATOR OIC, COORDINATION SUPPORT UNIT FOR PEACE AND RESILIENCE
- **INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**
JULIANA BETANCOURT, VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION ADVISOR, PEACE AND RECOVERY DIVISION
- **INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)**
AVIGAIL SHAI, POLICY ADVISOR
ARIANA LOPES MOREY, POLICY ADVISOR
- **INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES (IFRC)**
AMJAD SALEEM, MANAGER, PROTECTION, INCLUSION AND ENGAGEMENT
- **INTERPEACE**
LUVINI RANASINGHE, HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS
- **JUSTICE RAPID RESPONSE (JRR)**
SAMUEL EMONET, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- **KOFI ANNAN FOUNDATION (KAF)**
MAUD ROURE, HEAD OF PROGRAMMES
- **LEADERS POUR LA PAIX**
ELISABETH DECREY WARNER, BOARD MEMBER
- **NONVIOLENT PEACEFORCE**
TIFFANY EASTHOM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- **OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (OHCHR)**
JAMES TURPIN, CHIEF, PREVENTION AND SUSTAINING PEACE SECTION, NEW YORK OFFICE
JULIA RAUE, EXPERT AND ADVISOR ON TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE
- **PEACENEXUS FOUNDATION**
CATRIONA GOURLAY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- **PERMANENT MISSION OF SWITZERLAND TO THE UN IN GENEVA**
ANDREA AEBY, COUNSELOR, PEACE & SECURITY, SECTION GLOBAL AFFAIRS
- **PRINCIPLES FOR PEACE FOUNDATION**
HIBA QASAS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PETER BATCHELOR, DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIPS
- **QUAKER UNITED NATIONS OFFICE (QUNO)**
CHATRINA SCHUMACHER, PROGRAMME ASSISTANT
- **SMALL ARMS SURVEY**
NICOLAS FLORQUIN, HEAD OF UNIT, DATA & ANALYTICS
- **SWISSPEACE**
EMMA BAUMHOFER, DIGITAL PEACEBUILDING EXPERT
- **THE NEW HUMANITARIAN**
YASMINE KERGOAT, CHIEF OF STAFF
- **UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)**
GREGORY CONNOR, POLICY SPECIALIST, CONFLICT PREVENTION, PEACEBUILDING, AND RESPONSIVE INSTITUTIONS
- **UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)**
SILJA HALLE, MANAGER, UNEP-EU CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY PROGRAMME
- **UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR DISARMAMENT RESEARCH (UNIDIR)**
ROBIN GEISS, DIRECTOR
- **UNHCR - THE UN REFUGEE AGENCY**
AGNÈS HURWITZ, GLOBAL LEAD ON RULE OF LAW, GOVERNANCE, AND PEACEBUILDING
- **UNIVERSITY FOR PEACE TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**
DAVID FERNANDEZ PUYANA, AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT OBSERVER
- **UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR POLICY RESEARCH**
ADAM DAY, HEAD OF GENEVA OFFICE
- **WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM (WILPF)**
MADELEINE REES, SECRETARY GENERAL
- **WORLD BANK OFFICE GENEVA**
MARIA DIMITRIADOU, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN AND WTO
- **WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**
PETER PROVE, DIRECTOR, COMMISSION OF THE CHURCHES ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

HONORING MILESTONES: THREE CENTRES, TWO ANNIVERSARIES, ONE CELEBRATION

In 2025, the GPP joined the celebrations of major institutional anniversaries of two of its board member centres, DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP). These milestones offered an opportunity not only to recognize decades of global impact in peace and security, but also to highlight the unique Geneva-based ecosystem of practice, policy, and partnership that underpins the Platform’s work.

DCAF’S 25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

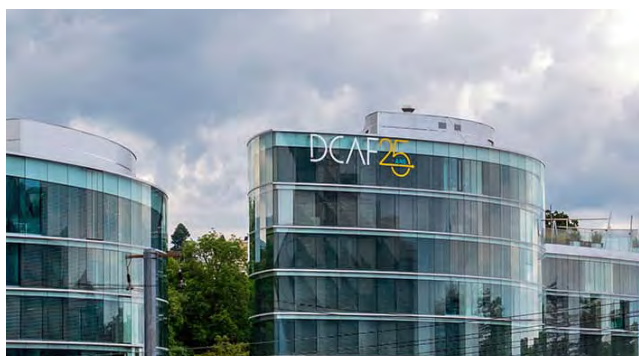


DCAF’s 25th anniversary marked a quarter-century of advancing security sector governance and reform worldwide. Since its establishment in 2000, DCAF has played a leading role in promoting accountable, transparent, and human rights-based security institutions, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. Under the leadership of Ambassador Nathalie Chuard, DCAF continues to shape international approaches to security governance through policy advice, capacity-building, and operational support. Its longstanding commitment to linking security, rule of law, and human rights reflects core principles that are equally central to GPP’s mission.

GCSP’S 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



At the same time, the GCSP celebrated 30 years of fostering peace, security, and international cooperation. Over three decades, the Centre has established itself as a global hub for policy dialogue, executive education, and strategic foresight, equipping leaders and practitioners to navigate an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape. Under Ambassador Thomas Greminger’s leadership, GCSP remains at the forefront of international security discussions, contributing thought leadership and convening spaces that resonate strongly with GPP’s own role as a platform for dialogue and bridge-building across communities.





These anniversaries were meaningfully reflected during the High-Level Opening Ceremony of Geneva Peace Week 2025, held at the Maison de la Paix under the theme “Peace in Action.” A dedicated discussion with GPP Board Members, including representatives of GCSP, DCAF, GICHD, Principles for Peace, Interpeace and the Geneva Graduate Institute. Their presence highlighted the depth of institutional experience, operational expertise, and normative leadership that anchors GPP’s work. By celebrating these milestones, the Platform reaffirmed the importance of long-term institutional commitment to partnerships as foundations for collective responses to today’s complex crises.



3 GENEVA CENTRES
2 ANNIVERSARIES
1 CELEBRATION

DRIVING A MISSION TO PROTECT OUR FUTURE





PeaceTalks

Addis Ababa

GENEVA
PEACE
WEEK

MEETS
ADDIS ABABA



PEACETALKS: A CONTINUED COLLABORATION

This year was an exceptional year, the GPP collaborated with Interpeace to organize 3 editions of the PeaceTalks in 2025. For the GPP's collaboration with Interpeace is strategically significant both for our institutional mandate and for the wider peacebuilding community in Geneva. At a time when multilateralism faces mounting pressures and global narratives are often dominated by crisis and polarization, PeaceTalks creates a rare and intentional space to elevate human-centred, solution-oriented perspectives on peace. The PeaceTalks is a global platform dedicated to sharing inspiring stories that demonstrate the power and possibility of peace.

By dedicating time and visibility to personal peace stories, the initiative bridges policy and lived experience, reconnecting technical discussions in Geneva with the realities and resilience of communities worldwide. For the international ecosystem in Geneva, this space strengthens collective reflection, fosters empathy across sectors, and reminds practitioners and policymakers alike that peacebuilding is not only a matter of frameworks and negotiations, but also of courage, creativity, and everyday action.

PEACETALKS ADDIS ABABA

In the context of Geneva Peace Week's global outreach during Geneva Peace a week meets Addis Baba, the GPP also collaborated with Interpeace to offer the first PeaceTalks: Addis Ababa, which further extended the platform's commitment to amplifying locally grounded peacebuilding narratives. The event took place on 8 April in Addis

Ababa and brought together inspiring voices from across the region which included:

- **H.E. Ambassador Kongit Sinegiorgis** (Ethiopia)
- **Sarah Ntambwe Kyabu**, Human Rights Defender and Peacebuilder (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- **Jean Paul Mugiraneza**, Senior Special Advisor to the President for Peacebuilding and Programme Development, Interpeace
- **Dr Negusu Aklilu**, Environmental Policy Expert and Peacebuilding Practitioner (Ethiopia)
- **Aida Elsayed**, Secretary General, Sudanese Red Crescent

Moderated by

- **Sarah Noble**, PeaceTalks Curator, Interpeace
- **Etenesh Tesfa**, Founder and General Manager of Sew Asset, Ethiopia

The programme also featured a musical performance by **Nardos Tesfaw, Emebet Woldetsdik, and Haymanot Wagne**w, highlighting the role of culture and the arts in peacebuilding.

For the GPP, this collaboration supports future-oriented planning by deepening partnerships in Africa and reinforcing storytelling as a strategic tool to broaden engagement with peacebuilding beyond traditional policy spaces.

THE PEACETALKS 2025 EDITION “ACT NOW FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD”

The Peace Talks initiative was jointly established by the United Nations Office at Geneva (referred to as UNOG), the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, and Interpeace, with the support of the Swiss Government. Launched in 2013 in Switzerland, PeaceTalks has evolved into a premier global event serving as an annual commemoration of the International Day of Peace. Over the past ten years, it has since expanded globally and more than 20 editions have been held in more than 8 countries featuring 200+ speakers from over 50 countries.

The 2025 Geneva PeaceTalks took place on 10 September at the Palais des Nations in Geneva under the theme “Act Now for a Peaceful World”. The programme invited participants to reflect not only on global challenges, but also on the personal choices and actions that make peace tangible in daily life.

The 2025 edition featured an inspiring and diverse lineup of speakers, including:

- **Her Excellency Lolwah bint Rashid bin Mohammed Al Khater**, Minister of Education and Higher Education in Qatar
- **Jagan Chapagain**, Secretary General and CEO, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- **Caroline Vuillemin**, Director-General of Fondation Hirondelle
- **Elizabeth Laskar and Miranda Shaw**, Secretary and Treasurer of Creators of Peace International
- **Guila Clara Kessous**, UNESCO Artist for Peace
- **Her Excellency Hind Aboud Kabawat**, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, Transitional Government in Syria & Interpeace Governing Board Member
- **Frank Kayitare**, Rwanda Country Representative for Interpeace
- **Julien Thöni**, Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament, Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and to the other international organisations in Geneva



List of artists:

- **Dr Bożena Schmid-Adamczyk**, Internationally renowned pianist and musicologist
- **Adrien Philipp**, Clarinetist

Featured Interventions:

- Welcome message from the 13th Director-General of the UN in Geneva, **Tatiana Valovaya**.
- Closing remarks by President & CEO of Interpeace, **Itonde Kakoma**
- Master of Ceremony, **Sarah Noble**, Curator of PeaceTalks

PEACETALKS RETURNS FOR A GENEVA PEACE WEEK EDITON

The Geneva Peace Week edition returned for its third edition. In 2025, the programme included the following speakers and contributors:

- **Lea Baroudi**, Founder and Director of MARCH Lebanon
- **Pishkafti Shokri**, Head of Programme,

Geneva Call Mission in Iraq

- **Aline Ndenzako**, Co-Founder of 'Burundi: Shared Memories, Shared Future' Association
- **Martin Albani**, Senior Advisor in Peacebuilding, Mediation, and Negotiation

The evening also featured a captivating dance performance by the students of **the Ashoka Group of Schools** from India, whose energy and artistry brought a vibrant spirit to the program.

Moderated by **Sarah Noble** (PeaceTalks Curator) and **Dany Diogo** (GPW Lead), the event demonstrated the added value of collaboration between peacebuilding organisations, educational institutions, artists, and civil society.

For GPP, this edition contributed to strategic foresight by testing innovative formats, strengthening multi-sector partnerships, and reaffirming the importance of inclusive, human-centred approaches to peacebuilding as it plans future editions of Geneva Peace Week and related initiatives.

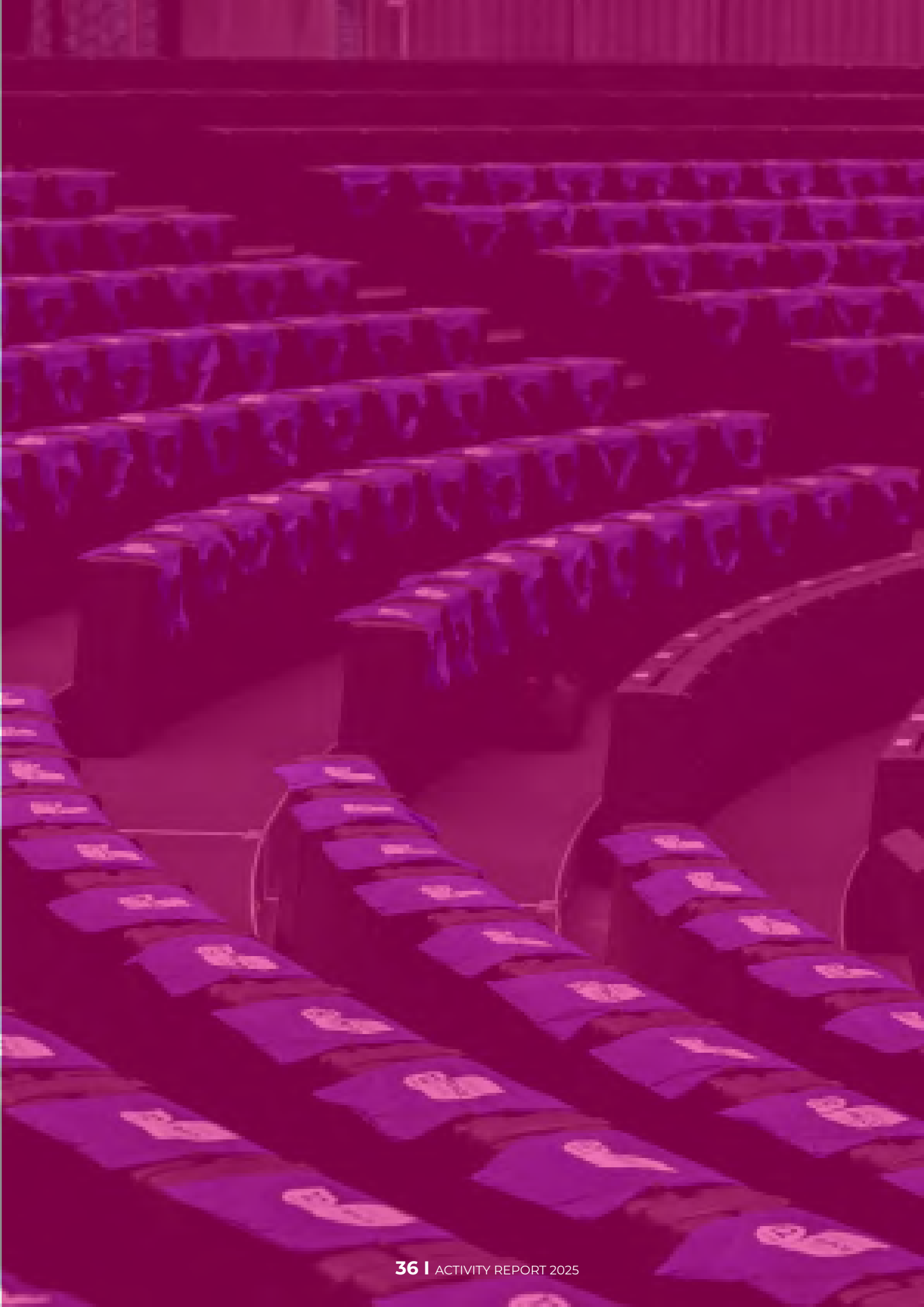


PEACE FORUM NETWORK

In 2025, the GPP continued to maintain an overview of international conferences and events linked to peacebuilding. While no active exchanges or workshops took place this year, the Platform's listings provided a valuable reference for members and partners, highlighting key initiatives and fostering awareness of ongoing efforts in the global peacebuilding community. By cataloguing these events, the GPP supports knowledge-sharing and helps maintain connections across the wider network of peacebuilding actors.

2025 CALENDAR

- **BASEL PEACE FORUM**
23 JANUARY 2025
- **MUNICH SECURITY CONFERENCE**
14-16 FEBRUARY 2025
- **STOCKHOLM FORUM ON PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT**
13-14 MAY 2025
- **GLOBAL PEACE AND SECURITY FORUM**
20-22 MAY 2024
- **CAUX FORUM**
8-12 JULY 2025
- **YNTYMAK WEEK**
15-19. SEPTEMBER 2025
- **IMAGINE FORUM**
**OCTOBER 30-
NOVEMBER 9 2025**
- **GENEVA PEACE WEEK**
13-17 OCTOBER 2025
- **PARIS PEACE FORUM**
29-30 OCTOBER 2025



GENEVA PEACE WEEK

Geneva Peace Week is GPP's flagship initiative, a leading annual peace forum that brings together organizations from Geneva and around the world to share knowledge, foster dialogue, and strengthen collaboration across peacebuilding sectors and disciplines.

What began as a modest initiative, with 10 events and 200 participants, has transformed into a flagship moment in the global peacebuilding calendar. Since its 10th anniversary in 2023, the GPP has successfully positioned GPW as a leading international forum, drawing 6,700 participants in 2024 and 5,700 in 2025.





12 YEARS

GENEVA
PEACE
WEEK

LIVE INTERPRETING



GENEVA PEACE WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

The 12th edition of Geneva Peace Week (GPW), held from 13 to 17 October 2025 under the theme “Peace in Action,” was the most ambitious to date with a 100 activities organized over 5 days. With 3,300 participants on-site and 2,400 online representing 156 countries, the week recorded over 5,700 session attendances, demonstrating GPW’s growing global relevance. Hosted entirely at the Maison de la Paix, the week transformed the venue into a vibrant hub for dialogue, creativity, and collaboration, bringing together peacebuilding professionals, civil society, multilateral actors, youth, and artists. The 12 edition highlights included :

THE HIGH-LEVEL OPENING CEREMONY

The High-Level Opening Ceremony, organized with the United Nations Office at Geneva and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, gathered 457 participants at the Maison de la Paix. A defining moment was the Peace Message delivered by Pierre Krähenbühl, Director-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who warned against the normalization of war and the erosion of international humanitarian law, urging renewed empathy, courage, and protection of human dignity. A panel

with GPP board members, including Ambassador Thomas Greminger, Ambassador Nathalie Chuard, Ambassador Tobias Privitelli, Mr. Itonde Kakoma, Hiba Qasas and moderated by Mr. Achim Wennmann, highlighted Switzerland’s pivotal role in supporting multilateral dialogue and fostering connections across local, regional, and global peacebuilding communities. The discussion underscored Geneva’s unique capacity to convene diverse actors, share expertise, and translate dialogue into actionable solutions.

“If we were a little less casual about wars themselves, we would realize that acting to create peace is not idealism, it is necessity.”

Pierre Krähenbühl,
Director-General of the
International Committee of
the Red Cross





THE KOFI ANNAN PEACE ADDRESS

The annual Kofi Annan Geneva Peace Address, delivered by Martin Griffiths and co-organized by the Kofi Annan Foundation, and the Geneva Graduate Institute, further reinforced this call. Drawing 694 participants, Griffiths emphasized inclusive mediation, accountability, and the need to bridge elite diplomacy with grassroots realities, encouraging a new generation of peacebuilders to carry forward Kofi Annan's moral clarity and optimism. The event included a conversation that

engaged three young peacebuilders to bridge intergenerational perspectives on peacebuilding. The session emphasized innovative approaches to mediation, dialogue, and sustainable peace, demonstrating GPW's commitment to connecting global expertise with youth leadership.





THE CLOSING CEREMONY

The Week concluded with a powerful reminder of the human and cultural foundations of diplomacy. Sabine Bakyono Kanzie, Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso, highlighted the importance of culture, storytelling, and community mediation traditions in fostering reconciliation and trust.

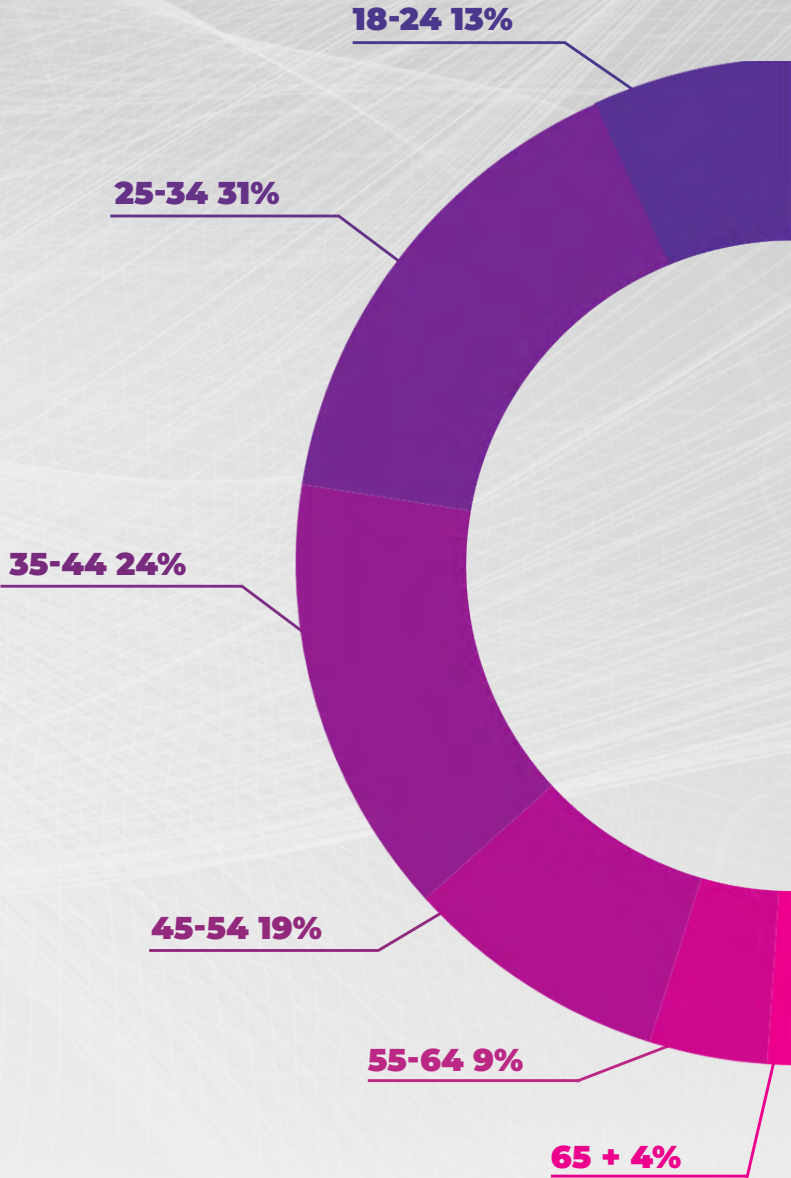
Her reflections underscored a central message of Geneva Peace Week 2025: that sustainable peace depends not only on political agreements, but on dialogue that is rooted in shared humanity, inclusive participation, and the courage to connect across divides.

The Closing Ceremony featured the Arts and Peace Encounters, showcasing how culture and creativity can transform conflict, foster empathy, and strengthen reconciliation. Through live performances, storytelling, and interactive discussions, participants explored the central role of art in advancing sustainable peace. Together, these ceremonies reinforced GPW25's strategic vision of combining policy, practice, youth engagement, and cultural innovation to advance inclusive, action-oriented approaches to peace.

SESSIONS ATTENDANCE

The 12th edition recorded a total session attendance of 5,700, comprising 3,300 on-site and 2,400 online participations. Session attendance reflects the cumulative number of attendees across all individual sessions.

AGE



GENDER



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

PEACE IN ACTION

Participation reflected the diversity and dynamism of the global peacebuilding community, with 137 organizations represented, 281 speakers, and 50 panels and workshops selected from 228 applications. The week also prioritized networking and collaboration, fostering connections that extended well beyond GPW.

DIPLOMACY

Diplomacy stood at the heart of Geneva Peace Week 2025, reaffirming its essential role in transforming division into dialogue and tensions into cooperation. The Week convened an exceptional group of high-level representatives from across regions and institutions, including ministers, ambassadors, senior UN officials, and leaders from multilateral

organizations such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the European Commission, and the Council of Europe. Their participation underscored Geneva's unique role as a global hub where political, humanitarian, development, and security actors converge to address shared challenges. Across ceremonies and high-level dialogues, speakers emphasized that in an era marked by renewed conflict, technological disruption, and eroding trust, diplomacy remains not a luxury but a necessity — a means of sustaining cooperation, rebuilding confidence, and translating principles into action.

Opening the Week, Alexandre Fasel, Switzerland's State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, reflected on Geneva's legacy as a city of peace and called for a renewed commitment to constructive multilateralism rooted in dialogue, neutrality, and innovation. Representing





the United Nations, Alexandre Zouev reaffirmed the organization's dedication to prevention, inclusion, and human dignity, urging participants to bridge the gap between policy frameworks and lived realities. At the Closing Ceremony, Sabine Bakyono Kanzie offered an African perspective on diplomacy, highlighting culture as a foundational element of mediation and reconciliation. Together, these diplomatic voices reinforced the central message of Peace in Action: that sustainable peace depends on sustained engagement, shared responsibility, and the courage to nurture dialogue even in fractured times.

STRENGTHENING RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The success of GPW25 also reinforced GPP's capacity to mobilize resources and strategic partnerships. Support from board members, the Swiss FDFA, international organizations, and private sector partners enabled the delivery of a highly ambitious programme while expanding outreach to new participants and regions. Building on this momentum, GPP continues to explore sustainable funding models, multi-year partnerships, and innovative financing mechanisms to ensure the long-term growth, resilience, and impact of Geneva Peace Week.

GPW25 achieved several strategic milestones. These include unprecedented participation from 156 countries, the integration of artistic and creative dimensions into peacebuilding dialogue, strengthened consortium collaboration, and the successful documentation of outcomes through the GPW 2025 Report and Sessions Report. The week also deepened engagement with UN actors, regional hubs, and civil society, reinforced Geneva's role as a multilateral convening space, and provided actionable insights for the PBAR and other global peace initiatives, demonstrating GPW's increasing influence on both policy and practice.

ART AS A VECTOR FOR PEACE

At Geneva Peace Week 2025, art and culture played a pivotal role in opening minds and fostering dialogue, offering participants an emotional and collective engagement with peace. Exhibitions such as Erika González's *Asimetría* and Álvaro Quiroz's *Echoes of Reality* explored structural inequalities, human rights, and the courage of activists, while HE[R] EAL – *Her Reality* highlighted the often-unseen journeys of women combatants transitioning from war to peace. Beyond gallery spaces, initiatives like the Geopolitical Intersectionality and Peace

Walking Tour extended creative reflection into the city of Geneva, allowing participants to consider how global power structures and inequalities intersect in everyday life. Musical performances, spoken word, and participatory workshops, including contributions from the Isandi Wizards, Maryam Bukar Hassan, emphasized the human stories behind peacebuilding, transforming artistic expression into a shared space for remembrance, empathy, and collective imagination.

Creative workshops and interactive residencies further reinforced the power of participatory art in cultivating understanding, resilience, and dialogue. Children from the Ashoka Group of Schools and participants in Guila Clara Kessous's theatre residency engaged in role-play, storytelling, and collaborative creation, demonstrating how art can bridge cultures, strengthen community bonds, and empower individuals as active contributors to peace.

Through hands-on activities and reflective exercises, these initiatives showcased that artistic practices not only inspire imagination and emotional connection but also enhance confidence, collaboration, and practical engagement with peacebuilding. Overall, Geneva Peace Week highlighted art as an essential medium for translating ideas into shared experiences, fostering empathy, and sustaining the collective pursuit of a more just and peaceful world.



A CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT

GPW25 demonstrated the value of inclusive and participatory engagement across its network and partner organisations. Discover the GPW evolution through the years.

YEAR	TOTAL EVENTS	TOTAL EVENT ORGANIZERS	TOTAL ATTENDANCE
2014	10	9	200
2015	41	50	700
2016	45	62	600
2017	50	100	1'250
2018	65	121	1'300
2019	67	109	1'700
2020	70	280	4'200
2021	30	115	3'000
2022	53	125	2'860
2023	61	149	5'500
2024	70	117	6'700
2025	100	137	5'700



REVIEWING GPW25 AND SHAPING THE 13TH EDITION

Following GPW25, the GPP conducted a thorough review of outcomes, participation, and thematic impact, drawing lessons to inform the 2026 strategy. Key findings emphasized the need for continued global outreach and multi-hub engagement, including regional editions such as GPW Meets, as well as the importance of integrating artistic and creative approaches alongside traditional policy and academic dialogues. These insights will guide the thematic focus, format, and partnerships for the 13th edition, ensuring GPW remains a strategically relevant platform for peacebuilding discourse and action while consolidating the current activities to enable growth in the upcoming years.

The publication of the GPW 2025 Report and the Sessions Report documents the scale, impact, and strategic insights of the edition, providing a foundation for learning and informing the planning of future GPW activities.

In parallel, 2025 marked the beginning of a strategic transition in the identity of Geneva Peace Week. Building on its continued growth and expanding global engagement, preparations were initiated for its evolution into the Geneva Peace Forum, including the development of a refreshed visual identity. This step reflects an effort to better position the platform as a globally connected, multi-hub space for dialogue, collaboration, and innovation in peacebuilding.



THE GENEVA PEACE WEEK CONSORTIUM

Driven by suggestions from the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform team, the Consortium governs the strategic decisionmaking process regarding Geneva Peace Week that includes, among others, the thematic direction of each edition, criteria for applications, event formats, participation modalities and selection of events. Members of the Consortium work collaboratively to bring diverse perspectives, innovative ideas and different skills to the table to achieve a common goal: making each edition of Geneva Peace Week a success and a unique experience.

Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

- **Annyssa Bellal**, Executive Director
- **Dany Diogo**, Geneva Peace Week Lead
- **Tatiana Avanthay**, Communications Coordinator
- **Cyprien Fluzin**, Policy and Research Fellow

Geneva Centre for Security Policy

- **Annika Hilding Norberg**, Head of Peace Operations and Peacebuilding
- **Carla Laudien**, Junior Professional Officer Global Support Group

DCAF- Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance

- **Dawn Lui**, Project Officer, Policy & Research Division
- **William McDermott**, Principal Programme Manager

Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

- **Beatrice Presutti**, Programme Officer, Policy Research Programme

Interpeace

- **Luvini Ranasinghe**, Head of Global Engagement & Secretariat

Principles for Peace Foundation

- **Roberto Paganini**, Director of Programs

Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN and other international organisations in Geneva

- **Andrea Aeby**, Counselor, Peace & Security

Geneva Graduate Institute's Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding

- **Eliza Urwin**, Head of Research

The United Nations Office at Geneva

- **Erik Marzolf**, Chief of the Political Affairs and Partnerships Section in the Office of the Director-General
- **Elena Zhelokhovtseva**, Associate Expert - Office of the Director-General

Initiatives of Change Caux Foundation

- **Sarah Noble**, Head of Global Engagement in International Geneva

The Kofi Annan Foundation

- **Maud Roure**, Deputy Executive Director and Head of Programmes

Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva

- **Lindsey Fielder Cook**, Interim Deputy Director and Representative for the Human Impacts of Climate Change

OUTLOOK FOR 2026

GENEVA PEACE WEEK MEETS VIENNA

Building on the success of its regional editions, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform (GPP) will launch Geneva Peace Week Meets Vienna in the first semester of 2026. This new edition will connect Geneva-based peacebuilding expertise with Austrian and Central European stakeholders, including multilateral organizations, civil society, academia, and the private sector. By fostering cross-regional dialogue and collaboration, GPW Meets Vienna will strengthen knowledge exchange, highlight innovative approaches to peace and security, and further position Geneva Peace Week as a globally networked, multi-hub platform that amplifies diverse perspectives and drives actionable solutions for sustainable peace.

UPDATING OPERATING FRAMEWORK

In 2026, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform (GPP) will undertake an update of its operating framework to ensure greater strategic coherence, institutional clarity, and alignment with its expanding scope of activities. This process will articulate updated strategic goals, core functions, and operating principles, while clarifying the Platform's distinct roles in policy facilitation, convening and networking coordination, knowledge exchange, and support to collaborative peacebuilding initiatives. As part of this effort, GPP is developing a dedicated communications strategy, an operational strategy, and a more structured articulation of its overall organizational model. Together, these steps will strengthen internal alignment, enhance external visibility, and ensure that GPP's structure and tools effectively support its growing mandate within the Geneva and global peacebuilding ecosystem.

GENEVA PEACE WEEK 2026

The year 2026 marks a new chapter for Geneva Peace Week (GPW), reflecting the platform's sustained growth, expanding global reach, and evolving role within the international peacebuilding landscape. To align with this evolution, GPW will transition its name to Geneva Peace Forum and update the visual identity, including a new logo, signaling its maturation into a globally networked, multi-hub convening platform. This transition goes beyond branding: it represents a strategic repositioning that better connects regional initiatives, policy dialogue, practice, innovation, and inclusive participation across peacebuilding communities worldwide.

GPW now approaches a new phase of development, responding to the challenges highlighted by the 2025 crisis in International Geneva. This moment calls for reaffirming Geneva's legacy as a city of peace, strengthening its role in multilateralism, and reinvigorating its position as a hub connecting policy, practice, and field experience.

ABOUT THE GPP

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform Foundation is a knowledge hub 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 issues and contexts related to building peace. 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. As of July 2024, to perpetuate this initiative, the GPP became a Foundation, to provide a platform to facilitate interaction on peacebuilding and peacekeeping between different sectors and institutions. The Platform's network comprises more than 4'000 peacebuilding professionals working on building peace directly or indirectly.

The Platform ensures the continuous exchange of information through seminars, consultations, and conferences, and facilitates outcome-oriented dialogues on peacebuilding practice.



Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

and Operational Dimensions of Myanmar
2025
9, 1202 Genève

Geneva Peacebuilding Platform
Embassy of Switzerland in Myanmar
the evolving situation in Myanmar.
Affairs Officer, United Nations Office of
General for Myanmar, conflict since 2021.
AN in the Myanmar conflict since 2021.
IS - Yusuf Ishak Institute (online)

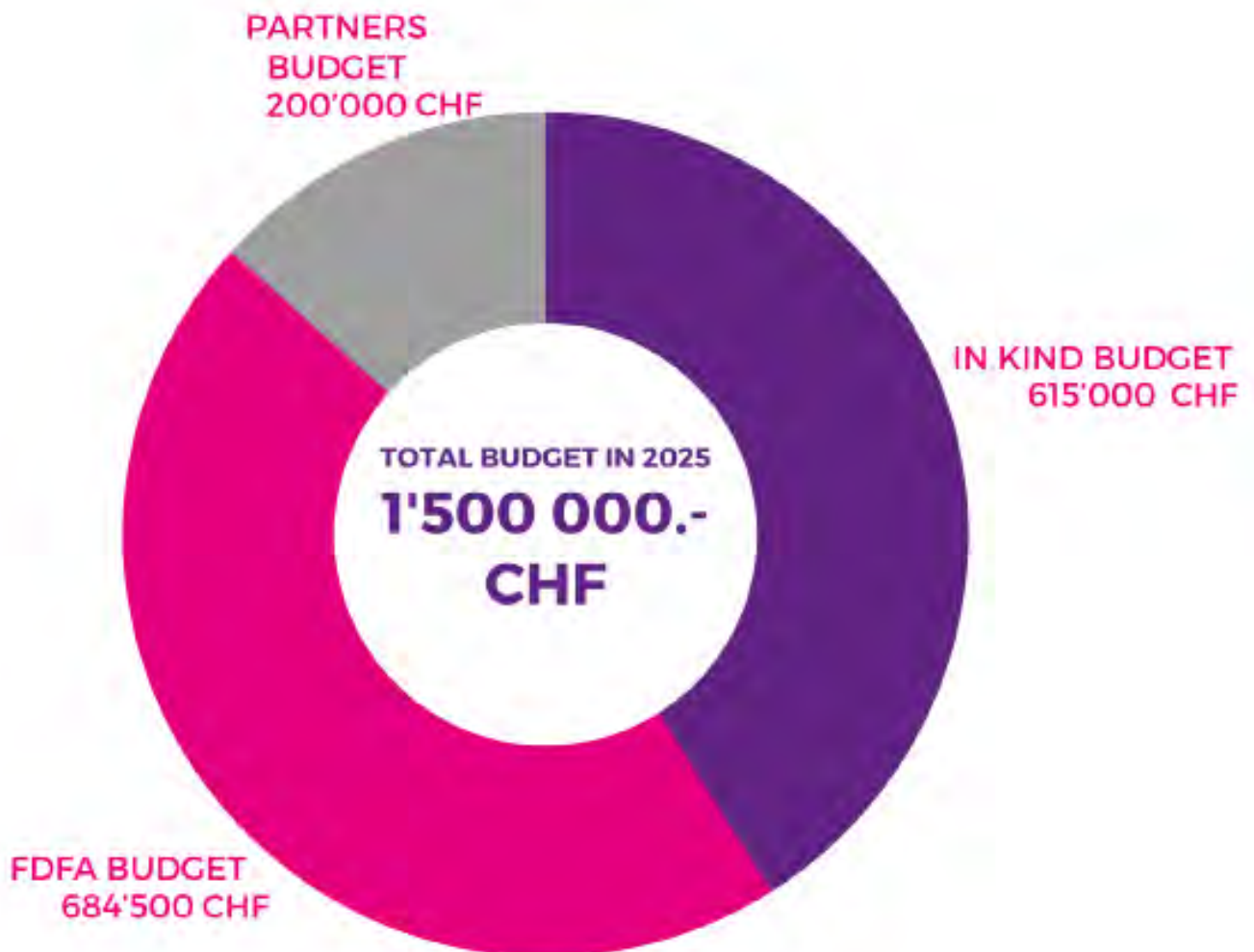
ground
regions of the country, to understand the

GPP BUDGET IN 2025

The GPP is primarily financed through the support of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), which constitutes the cornerstone of the Platform’s annual budget. Complementing this core funding, our institutional partners contribute additional resources, either in the form of financial support or in-kind contributions, enabling the Platform to carry out its diverse activities. Since 2023, targeted fundraising campaigns have further strengthened the GPP’s financial framework, specifically supporting projects and initiatives associated with Geneva Peace Week. Together, these combined sources of funding ensure the sustainability of the Platform’s operations and its capacity to advance peacebuilding initiatives at both the national and international levels. Here is a breakdown of our budget and the activities it was able to fund in 2025.

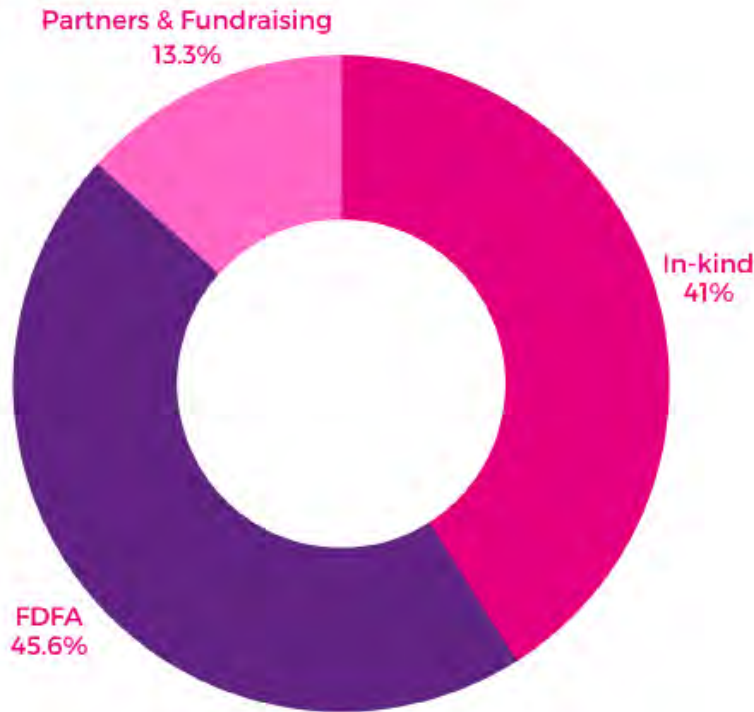
CORE FINANCIAL FUNDING

GPP’s core funding is provided by the support of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Additional funding is provided by our partners contributions and fundraising.



ANNUAL BUDGET

In 2025, the GPP budget is estimated at around CHF 1,500,000, comprising financial and in-kind contributions from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Platform partners.



PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS & FUNDRAISING

The following partners and donors provided financial contributions to support GPP activities and Geneva Peace Week in 2025. These contributions are essential for convening the peacebuilding community and enhancing the visibility of Geneva Peace Week. In addition, the fundraising campaign contributed to financing events and providing in-kind support.

- GENEVA CENTER FOR SECURITY POLICY**
- GENEVA CENTRE FOR SECURITY SECTOR GOVERNANCE**
- GENEVA GRADUATE INSTITUTE**
- PRINCIPLES FOR PEACE**
- PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS**
- CANTON OF GENEVA**

COMMUNICATIONS IN 2025

In 2025, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform (GPP) strengthened its communications as a strategic enabler of access, visibility, and engagement, reflecting both the scale of Geneva Peace Week (GPW) and the continued professionalization of GPP's outreach.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE GROWTH

GPW's digital presence reached 321,000 website views from approximately 23,000 users, with particularly strong engagement on programme and registration pages. Website traffic spanned all regions, led by Switzerland, the United States, France, the United Kingdom, and Ethiopia, demonstrating GPW's sustained global reach. In parallel, the GPP website recorded 49,298 views from 5,318 users, indicating consistent year-round interest in the Platform's activities beyond its flagship event.

AUDIENCE REACH

GPW's digital presence reached 321,000 website views from approximately 23,000 users, with particularly strong engagement on programme and registration pages. Website traffic spanned all regions, led by Switzerland, the United States, France, the United Kingdom, and Ethiopia, demonstrating GPW's sustained global reach. In parallel, the GPP website recorded 49,298 views from 5,318 users, indicating consistent year-round interest in the Platform's activities beyond its flagship event.

CONTENT PERFORMANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

The most viewed content on our platforms remained our GPW project and its related pages. However, additional resources also saw strong engagement, particularly: activities beyond its flagship event.



ENGAGING WITH LOCAL MEDIA: BRINGING PEACEBUILDING EXPERTISE TO PUBLIC DISCOURSE

In 2025, the GPP were featured in the media, reflecting their thought leadership on pressing global issues. Dr. Annyssa Bellal, GPP's Executive Director, shared her expertise on international law, conflict, and humanitarian protection through interviews, podcasts, and articles. Highlights included her legal analysis on targeted strikes and the use of force on RTS, in-depth discussions on peacebuilding and collaboration in The Globe, and expert commentary on sensitive issues such as genocide in Gaza on RTS's Point J podcast. Dr. Bellal also contributed to coverage in CNN and Arab News, as well as international podcasts exploring the past, present, and future of genocide, reinforcing the GPP's role as a trusted voice in global peace and security discourse.

- **RTS Journal 19:30 interview with Dr. Annyssa Bellal – 18 June 2025**

RTS Journal 19:30 – Wednesday, 18 June 2025. Dr. Annyssa Bellal offered legal insights into Israeli actions against Iran under international law, particularly regarding the legal framework around targeted strikes and the use of force.

- **The Globe interview with Dr. Annyssa Bellal – May 2025**

Published in The Globe, Issue 35 (15 May 2025), by the Geneva Graduate Institute Review. Dr. Bellal discussed what it means to “connect for peace” today, emphasizing collaboration, diplomacy, and Geneva's ecosystem for peacebuilding. The interview highlights GPP's role as a facilitator through initiatives like Geneva Peace Week, which bring together diverse actors to exchange ideas and advance global peace efforts.

- **RTS Point J Podcast – 14 May 2025**

Episode: Peut-on parler de génocide à Gaza ? – The GPP's Executive Director, Dr. Annyssa Bellal, explored whether it is appropriate to speak of genocide in Gaza. (In French)

- **Article by CNN Edition in As Equals Series “As Syria's president preaches human rights, new evidence details abuse allegedly carried out under one of his key commanders by” – June 2025**

Featured in CNN Edition: As Syria's president preaches human rights, new evidence details abuse allegedly carried out under one of his key commanders. Dr. Bellal's insights contributed to the article on international law and accountability.

- **Arab News interview with Dr. Annyssa Bellal – 22 July 2025**

Dr. Bellal reflected on the legality and humanitarian impact of military actions.

- **RTS Point J Podcast – 25 August 2025**

Episode: Colonies israéliennes : que dit le droit ? Dr. Annyssa Bellal provided legal analysis on Israeli settlements under international law.

- **Global Challenges Podcast – December 2025**

Episode: Past, Present and Future of Genocide, Issue No. 18. Dr. Bellal discussed historical and contemporary perspectives on genocide and the challenges of global prevention.

THE BOARD

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform Foundation is comprised of six board members:

- **Ambassador Thomas Greminger**, Director, Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP)
- **Ambassador Nathalie Chuard**, Director, DCAF - Geneva Center for Security Sector Governance
- **Ambassador Tobias Privitelli**, Director, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
- **Marie-Laure Salles**, Director, The Geneva Graduate Institute
- **Hiba Qasas**, Founder and Executive Director of Principles for Peace
- **Itonde Kakoma**, CEO and President of Interpeace

Amb. Thomas Greminger

President of the GPP Board and Director of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)



Amb. Nathalie Chuard

GPP Board member and Director of DCAF - Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF)



Marie-Laure Salles

GPP Board member and Director of the Geneva Graduate Institute (IHEID)



Amb. Tobias Privitelli

GPP Board member and Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)



Itonde Kakoma

GPP Board member and President and CEO of Interpeace



Hiba Qasas

GPP Board member and Founding Executive Director of Principles for Peace (P4P)



STAFF

The GPP staff carries out the mandated activities recommended by the steering committee. In 2025, the GPP staff was constituted of:

- **Dr. Annyssa Bellal**, Executive Director
- **Dany Diogo**, Geneva Peace Week Lead
- **Cyprien Fluzin**, Research and Policy Fellow
- **Tatiana Avanthay**, Communications Coordinator
- **Ruslan Pavlyshyn**, Project and Outreach Associate (March-May 2025)
- **Olivier Chamard**, Photographer
- **Nicole Kwan Kiu Leung**, Geneva Peace Week Intern (March-July 2025)

During the Geneva Peace Week, two additional temporary staff were hired to support the GPP team, and to facilitate activities during events:

- **Maxime Faimali**, Communications Assistant
- **Talisa Avanthay**, Geneva Peace Week Assistant



CREDITS

PHOTO CREDITS:

- **Olivier Chamard:** for pictures on the cover and pages 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 31, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 51, 52 and 58 of the report.
- **Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance and Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD):** for pictures on pages 29 and 30 of the report.
- **The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform:** For pictures on pages 25, 26, 47, 49 and 50 of the report.
- **Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance and Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), Principles for Peace, Interpeace and the Geneva Graduate Institute:** for pictures on pages 57 of the report.

© GENEVA PEACEBUILDING PLATFORM 2025

Users may copy and distribute this material provided that the GPP is credited.

Not for commercial use.

To cite this publication: Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, Activity Report 2025



Geneva Peacebuilding Platform Foundation
Maison de la Paix, Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2E,
1202, Geneva, Switzerland
info@gppplatform.ch | www.gppplatform.ch