

# Activity Report 2022

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# 1. A WORD OF GRATITUDE



The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform (hereafter referred to as “The Platform” / “GPP”) would firstly like to say a big thank you and express its gratitude to all its funders, event partners and network members for their continued support and engagement in Platform activities. In particular, the Platform would like to thank its five core partners:



Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP)



Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)



Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva (QUNO)



DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance



Interpeace

The Platform would also like to extend a special thanks to the UN Division of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) as well as the Permanent Mission of Switzerland in Geneva for their continued invaluable support of the Platform’s activities. In addition, the Platform would also like to thank the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) for their continuous support and partnership on multiple initiatives.

## 2. HIGHLIGHTS

The year 2022 started with optimism after two consecutive years of unprecedented global change and disruption. As the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic receded, a renewed appetite and enthusiasm for greater connection, comprehensive knowledge sharing and in-person meetings and events emerged.

This in turn impacted the Platform itself. In order to address these challenges, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform made core changes in the first half of 2022.

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Dr. Annyssa Bellal formally joined the Platform as Executive Coordinator, now Executive Director, from January 2022. After three successful years steering the Geneva Peace Week through multiple transitions and a pandemic, Danson Gichini concluded his role as Geneva Peace Week Lead. He was replaced by Dany Diogo, incoming Project Lead for Geneva Peace Week. In order to assist the core team for the successful delivery of the 2022 edition of the Geneva Peace Week, two additional part-time roles were fulfilled by Maria Baltag, in charge of all Administrative and Financial aspects and Yasmeen Chaudhry in the capacity of Communications and Outreach Coordinator, starting from the later part of July 2022. Annika Erickson-Pearson, Community Management Lead, remained with the platform throughout the year.

Thus, with a brand new team, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform embarked on yet another steep transition period over five short months. The newly formed team has since continued to take the necessary time to reflect on the strategic positioning of GPP in the rapidly changing landscape of peacebuilding, especially in light of the Security Council Seat and Presidency by Switzerland in the coming two years, for the period of 2023-2024 .

For the Platform, the usual annual activities and in-person meetings took the possible re-emergence of COVID-19 into account, with an emphasis on a return to in-person convenings wherever possible. It was a successful year:

## Geneva Peace Week 2022

After two editions that were held almost fully online due to the global pandemic, considerable efforts were made to offer as many traditional in person events as possible, with an emphasis on daily High-Level panels, while keeping some sessions online to retain the reach and expansion that was successfully achieved in prior editions.

Geneva Peace Week 2022 consisted of **34** workshops (**16** in-person and **18** online sessions), **9** High-Level panels, **21** Digital Series productions generating over **1900** streams and listens as of 11 January 2023. Overall, the week engaged **2,860** people from **119** countries.

## Geneva Dialogue on Environment, Climate, Conflict, and Peace

This year, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform invested considerable energy into its most robust community of practice: [the Geneva Dialogue on Environment, Climate, Conflict and Peace \(ECCP\)](#). The community published a *White Paper on the Future of Environmental Peacebuilding*, a joint product of 300 individuals from around the world, brought that White Paper to Stockholm+50, and started a track on exchanging expertise between practitioners at the local level.

## Community Convening

With the outbreak of war on the European continent at the beginning of the year 2022, the Platform co-hosted [breakfast discussions on the war in Ukraine](#) in collaboration with the Geneva Graduate Institute and Geneva experts. In addition, GPP continued to advance networking between professionals and academics working on peace and security dynamics in China ([Beijing-Geneva Digital Briefings on Sustaining Peace and Preventive Diplomacy](#)), and it facilitated informal exchanges between peace forum organizers to nurture exchange and collaboration between them ([Peace Forum Network](#)). The Platform hosted various thematic talks and book launches detailed below.

# 3. CONVENING & INCUBATION

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, since its founding in 2008, has provided a space for the incubation of new ideas and practices for peacebuilding. This section reports on Pillar 1 of the GPP's 2022 programme which focuses on facilitating continuous exchange surrounding innovative practices and thinking on peacebuilding.

## 3.1 Annual Retreat of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform's 2022 Annual Retreat of the Advisory Board took place on 28th June 2022, in-person, on the premises of Interpeace and convened eighteen board members from a range of Geneva institutions to exchange and explore priorities for peace in 2022. The two objectives of the retreat were to identify and exchange on critical or urgent priorities for peace in 2022, and to reflect on the role of Geneva, broadly, and the Advisory Board, specifically, in advancing those priorities.

As part of its growing commitment to investing in facilitation and new techniques, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform team designed a highly interactive structure that maximized both participation and output. Participants connected in small groups, in pairs, and to the larger full group at different moments, with careful direction and tools provided by the Facilitator.

### *Priorities for peace in 2022*

Participants were invited to start the retreat in small conversations to identify priorities or areas of critical focus for peace in 2022 and beyond. Through an exercise "3-2-1," participants were placed in groups of 3, invited to identify 2 things that they all had in common with regard to the peacebuilding work in Geneva, and then to find 1 common priority or urgent issue that they are working, or will work, to address.

Four thematic priorities emerged from the conversation:

## Peace infrastructure, multilateralism, and inclusion

Much of the discussion among participants across the Geneva peace community was highly self-reflective:

- Is a multilateral approach to peace possible, particularly in response to multiple geopolitical crises?
- What future for Geneva and the multilateral institutions present?
- How might we evaluate and ensure that the answers produced in Geneva actually fit the questions and problems they purport to address?
- What infrastructure is required to build and secure peace across power transitions?
- What have we learned in the past five years about practicing inclusion, and how might we improve?
- What role for agency?

## Climate change, just transitions, and peace

Discussion on environment, climate change, conflict, and peace has expanded exponentially in Geneva over the past two years. Participants discussed the need to capitalize and build on this momentum, capturing priorities and recommendations in policy on both bilateral and multilateral levels. Climate change adaptation and energy transitions will impact communities around the world, and the peacebuilding field must do more to understand this moving target.

- What does the “energy transition” or a “just transition” mean for social contracts in conflict-affected communities?
- How might we widen a justice lens beyond accountability to strengthen social cohesion?

## Technology and non-state actors

The possibilities of leveraging technology for peacebuilding piqued the interest of Advisory Board members, who saw digital transformation as an opening for private or business actors to join peace and development conversations. Both private actors and digital technology were seen as both an enabler of and a challenge for peace.

- What role might business actors play in building peace?
- How is technology impacting social fabric, and what role might international Geneva play in the field, particularly when the impacts are viewed more as social issues than “peace issues”?

## Prevention

Prevention approaches enable different lenses:

- Particularly in light of the invasion of Ukraine, what gaps are present and how might they be filled?
- How might regional organizations better advance conflict prevention priorities?

Much of the conversation revolved around the multidimensionality of crises today (armed conflict, the COVID19 pandemic, socioeconomic crisis, etc.) and how enabling better mechanisms of prevention might allow for forward progress in a stalled landscape.

Beyond these priorities, the group also discussed gaps in the current landscape. Human mobility is following increasingly varied patterns which must be examined in order to understand potentially disruptive impacts. The group discussed “Peacebuilding,” revisiting multi-track diplomacy, politics, and a revival of statecraft in the face of erosion of norms and multilateralism. Geopolitical shifts are also impacting the function and operation of regional organizations, which seem to be reaching beyond their capacity; how can we understand the evolving role and strengths of regional bodies?

## 3.2 Geneva Peace Talks Initiative

The 10th edition of the PeaceTalks took place on 21 September 2022, on the International Day of Peace at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The event welcomed an in-person audience and was live streamed online, as a hybrid event. The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform contributes to the PeaceTalks each year with financial as well as in-kind support in the form of time from the Executive Director and Community Management Lead towards thematic development and overall coordination. This year, the Platform hired and coordinated a team of temporary student staff who provided logistical support on the 20th and 21st of September.

“What does peace mean to you?”, the theme from the first ever Geneva PeaceTalks held in 2013, was revisited by the speakers as 2022 to mark the 10th edition of this event. In parallel, the official United Nations’ theme for the International Day of Peace, “End racism. Build peace” also underpinned the event.

Racism and all forms of discrimination prevent the building of societies where all members can flourish. Entrenched hierarchies between humans, and between nature and humans, continue to cause undue harm to all living creatures on our planet. The dismantling of discriminatory structures is key to support equality and human rights everywhere.

Coming from different backgrounds and contributing different perspectives, each speaker shared their tangible experiences and ideas to inspire people to reflect on the meaning of peace and sparked a discussion on how each and every one of us can contribute to creating a world that we can truly be proud of.



## Speakers

- **Ibaa Abusin**, Horn of Africa Social Media Expert at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue.
- **Ann-Marie Orlor**, Chief at the Standing Police Capacity of the UN Police Division.
- **Wasim Almasri** is the Director of Programs for the Alliance of Middle East Peace.
- **Eran Nissan**, an Israeli peace activist and the CEO of Mehazkim, an Israeli progressive movement.
- **Amadou Dabitaou**, founder of the media BanlieusardNouveau.
- **Amad Mian**, the co-founder of Dastaangoi, a creative platform that challenges the traditional narrative of Pakistan through art, culture and people.
- **Maged Al-Kholidy**, a Yemeni activist and founder of Youth without Borders Organization for Development, a Yemeni NGO focused on the role of youth in peacebuilding.
- **Daria Mykolenko**, Ukrainian opera singer at the Grand Théâtre de Genève.
- **Xavier Dami**, pianist and coach at the Grand Théâtre de Genève.
- Message on the International Day of Peace from **António Guterres**, ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- Special remarks by **Tatiana Valovaya**, 13th Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

## Moderators

- **Alaa Mejri**, International relations student at the Université de Genève
- **Sunanda Deshapriya**, a Sri Lankan journalist, human rights activist and photographer

### 3.3 Opening Event of Geneva Peace Week

The Opening Day of the Geneva Peace Week 2022 was dedicated to in-person High-Level panels with prominent actors of the peacebuilding communities sharing insights and best practices to mark the return of in-person events.

Organized by the GPP in partnership with the GCSP and Principles for Peace, the Opening Day was comprised of five panels welcoming a prestigious array of guests to discuss the overarching theme of “**Peace is possible**”. Throughout the day, the total number of attendees reached 664 participants.

The Opening Day started with Welcome Addresses delivered by:

- **Dr. Annyssa Bellal**, Executive Director of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform
- **M. Olivier Coutau**, Delegate to the International Geneva, State of Geneva

The welcome addresses were followed by a High-Level panel on “Peace is possible: A view from policy leaders” delivered by the members of the Platform’s Steering Committee that comprises each of the heads of GPP’s partners:

- **Prof. Keith Krause** for the Geneva Graduate Institute’s Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP);
- **Mark Downes** for DCAF- Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance;
- **Amb. Thomas Greminger** for the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP);
- **Simon Gimson** for Interpeace;
- **Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge** for the Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva (QUNO);
- **Hiba Qasas** of Principles for Peace, as moderator.

The panel was attended by 110 participants.

This panel was followed with storytelling from young peacebuilders that shared their experiences through the lens of GPW22 four thematic tracks:

- Digital peace,
- Environmental challenges,
- Moving beyond securitization, and
- Rights and inequalities.

This event was attended by 77 participants.

Following a lunch break provided by the GPW22, the Opening Day resumed with a High-Level panel organized by the Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP) entitled: “Making peace possible - What’s “new” on the New Agenda for Peace?”, with speakers:

- H.R.H. Prince Zeid Ra’ad Zeid Al-Husseini, President, International Peace Institute
- Elizabeth Spehar, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, United Nations (online)
- Amb. Thomas Greminger, Director, Geneva Centre for Security Policy
- Jolie-Ruth Morand, Project Coordinator, Sub-Saharan Africa Division, DCAF - Geneva Center for Security Sector Governance
- Dr. Adam Day, Director, United Nations University Center for Policy Research in Geneva

This panel was attended by 101 participants.



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The High-Level panel was followed by a special event organized by the Principles for Peace initiative which was a global participatory initiative to develop a new set of principles, standards and norms that will fundamentally reshape how peace processes are structured, sequenced and actualized. This panel was attended by 112 participants.

The esteemed panelists were joined by two prominent speakers, namely, **Amb. Anna Jardfelt**, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the International Organisations in Geneva, and **Amb. Hans-Peter Jugel**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the International Organisations in Geneva.

The Opening Day draw a close with a dedicated Opening Ceremony that included official addresses from **Amb. Jürg Lauber**, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva and **Tatiana Valovaya**, Director-General of the United Nations at Geneva via video message. The session continued with a conversation with **Volker Türk**, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, for his first public intervention since he took up his official functions on 17 October 2022. The ceremony ended with a panel discussion between **Margot Wallström**, Chair of the Environment of Peace initiative, former Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Commissioner for the Environment and UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, **Hina Jilani**, Member of the Elders, Lawyer and Civil Society Activist, Leading Activist in Pakistan's women's movement and international champion of human rights (online) and **Achim Wennmann**, Director of Strategic Partnerships at the Geneva Graduate Institute. The Opening Ceremony was attended by 167 participants.

The Geneva Peace Week 2022 Opening Day Welcome Addresses, High-Level panels and Opening Ceremony can be viewed on YouTube [here](#).



Amb. Jürg Lauber © Olivier Chamard

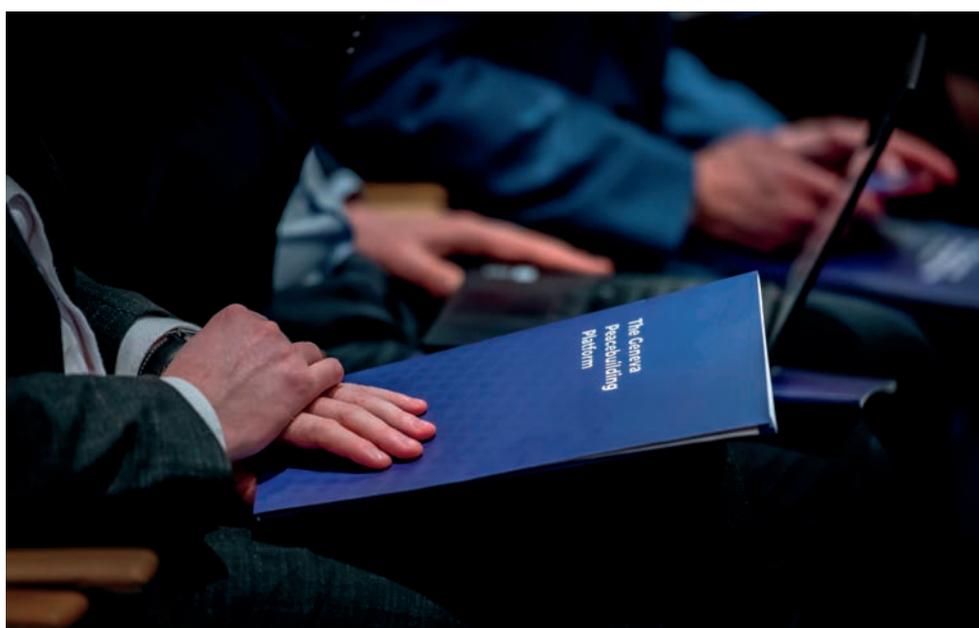
## 3.4 Briefings, Meetings and ad-hoc Events

The Platform continues to be a proactive convener on peacebuilding-related issues. Over the years, these activities have included lunch-time seminars, briefings for diplomats, consultations, informal meetings or workshops, retreats, or public conferences.

The Platform and its growing expertise in facilitation is an essential ingredient in the hybrid era. Online and hybrid exchanges must be carefully designed and well-facilitated if they are meant to have an impact. These convenings can range from specific topics in peace (e.g. new trends in peace mediation or environmental peacebuilding) to the regional (Beijing-Geneva Digital Briefings on Sustaining Peace and Preventive Diplomacy). Although meetings in 2022 continued to be held both online and in-person to accommodate the Platform's ever-growing and changing audience needs, there has been an increased demand for in-person events, briefings and consultations.

In 2022, the War in Ukraine prompted the organisation of a series of briefings held monthly in cooperation with the Geneva Graduate Institute.

The Platform also remains alert to service short-notice requests for events or informal exchanges on critical peacebuilding issues as they emerge. The Platform is well recognized by senior peacebuilding actors visiting Geneva to reduce transaction costs when reaching out to the Geneva-based peacebuilding community.



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## Beijing-Geneva Digital Briefings on Sustaining Peace and Preventive Diplomacy

The Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) of the China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU) and the GPP continued to collaborate on the Beijing-Geneva Digital Briefings on Sustaining Peace and Preventive Diplomacy.

The briefing series showcases exchanges between senior experts on innovative research and policy-making in the areas of sustaining peace and preventive diplomacy in view of finding solutions and fostering collaboration on common concerns. The briefing series builds on the rationale that the world is facing new strategic landscapes that require innovation about how different actors go about preventing violent conflict and sustaining peace. Mega-trends such as COVID-19, climate change, rapid urbanization, or geo-political change are accentuating existing stresses on countries and societies, and therefore emphasize the importance to rethink the toolbox available to de-escalate conflict and build trust in times of heightened turbulence and division. By convening briefings on a monthly basis, the Beijing- Geneva Digital Briefings aim to identify potential areas for a new research agenda in the fields of sustaining peace and preventive diplomacy.



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The Beijing-Geneva Dialogue sessions resumed in 2022 and were held:

01

16 February 2022

Middle East and North Africa

The Beijing-Geneva Digital Briefings on Sustaining Peace and Preventive Diplomacy are a collaboration between the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) of the China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU) and the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) at the Graduate Institute, Geneva, facilitated with support by the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform (GPP). This briefing explored topics related to peacebuilding in the Middle East and North Africa.

Speakers:

- **Prof. David Wood**, School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Seton Hall University
- **Prof. Gao Shangtao**, Institute of International Relations, China Foreign Affairs University

Discussants:

- **Ambassador Ahmed Abdel-Latif**, Director-General, Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding
- **Dr. Liu Chang**, Assistant Research Fellow, China Institute of International Studies

02

16 March 2022

Latin America

The Beijing-Geneva Digital Briefings on Sustaining Peace and Preventive Diplomacy are a collaboration between the Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) of the China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU) and the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) at the Graduate Institute, Geneva, facilitated with support by the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform (GPP). This briefing explored topics related to peacebuilding in the Middle East and North Africa.

Speaker:

- **Dr. Cristina Hoyos**, Head of the Latin America and Caribbean Unit, Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF)

Discussant:

- **Andrei Serbin Pont**, Director, CRIES (Regional Coordinator for Economic and Social Research)

Following a re-conceptualisation, it is proposed to revamp the Beijing-Geneva Dialogue sessions, organized on a bi-monthly basis by each founding organization, starting from March-April 2023.

## Briefings, Meetings and ad-hoc Events - 2022

Below is a list of the informal briefings, meetings and ad-hoc events organized by GPP in 2022 and in the first quarter of 2023.

16 February	Beijing-Geneva Dialogue: Middle East and North Africa, in collaboration with the China Foreign Affairs University
16 March	Beijing-Geneva Dialogue: Latin America, in collaboration with the China Foreign Affairs University
March-June	Breakfast discussions series on the War in Ukraine, in collaboration with the Geneva Graduate Institute
20 May	Private briefing on the Riyadh negotiations on Yemen, in collaboration with Independent Diplomat
28 June	GPP International Advisory Board retreat
12 September	Briefing by the Head of the PLC's Reconciliation and Coordination Committee (Yemen), in collaboration with Independent Diplomat
13 September	Briefing with the Afghan Women Leaders' Forum, in collaboration with GCSP and the Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation
13 September	Briefing with the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies on the Halving Global Violence initiative
21 September	Briefing with the Chairman of Interpeace's Yemeni partner organization, Yemen Without Borders, in collaboration with Interpeace
30 September	Participation to the WTO Public Forum on improving youth participation in shaping an inclusive trade future, in collaboration with the Geneva Trade Platform
21 October	Breakfast briefing on the UNSG 'Our Common Agenda', in collaboration with United Nations University
01 December	Book launch: 'Foreign Fighters and International Peace', in collaboration with the Bulan Institute for Peace Innovations
19 December	Book launch: 'A Missing Piece for Peace, Bringing Together the Right to Peace and Freedom of Conscientious Objection to Military Service', in collaboration with the UN University for Peace

## Informal Communications Community

Since fall 2019, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform has regularly convened a small, informal network of communications managers for various peacebuilding, security, and humanitarian organizations in Geneva. The goal of these meetings was to build bridges between communicators who are often the sole communications representatives within their teams, and to build capacity for communications towards Geneva Peace Week.

Following the transition year of 2022, the Communications Community Lunches were re-introduced over the summer in July 2022, reaching out to the Community to see when best to pick-up these moments of informal networking and skills sharing. The first one took place on 06 September 2022 to introduce the greater group to the Platform's new Communications & Outreach Coordinator, Yasmeen Chaudhry.

Due to the upcoming Geneva Peace Week, the Communications Community Lunches were replaced in favor of one one one meetings with each Head of Communications and/or responsible for the communications for Geneva Peace Week 2022 stakeholders in order to build rapport and create foundational synergies.

Following the conclusion of Geneva Peace Week 2022, the Communications Community Lunches resumed on: 22 November, 06 December, 17 January 2023, and 31st January 2023.



# 4. COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT

Community management can be understood as the process of organizing a network of professionals around a common cause or topic. The Platform's work on community management sits on a solid foundation laid over multiple work plans. The Platform carried out activities for "network strengthening" from 2012-2014 and 2015-2017, and grew into managing Technical Working Groups (TWGs) on urban safety and peacebuilding, as well as business and peace in 2018 and 2019. In 2019, a Scoping Study on Geneva Peace Week recommended the enhancement of GPW's impact through the curation of topics and communities that are engaged in conversations throughout the year. The Platform's work on "community management" began in earnest in January 2020, mandated for the first time in the 2020-2021 work plan.

After an intensive year of community management on four tracks in 2021 and varying levels of success across them, the work plan proposal for 2022-2023 previewed yet another model shift for the work stream. The document proposed an investment of energy into the most robust tracks for 2022: Environment, climate, conflict, and peace (ECCP) and the Peace Forum Network.

## 4.1 Deliver the advancements of the Geneva Dialogue on Environment, Climate, Conflict, and Peace and manage its evolution

The Geneva Dialogue on Environment, Climate, Conflict, and Peace was the primary community management initiative emerging from the 2020-2021 Platform period. It continues today as an expansive project which aims to foster inter-institutional collaboration and dialogue, promote shared learning and innovation, and mainstream these topics across the board between the environment, climate, conservation, conflict, security, and peace sectors.

The Geneva Dialogue launched in March 2020 with various threads of activity. The community has grown and evolved over time. Principles activities are listed below with their chief outcomes.

## Briefings and convenings

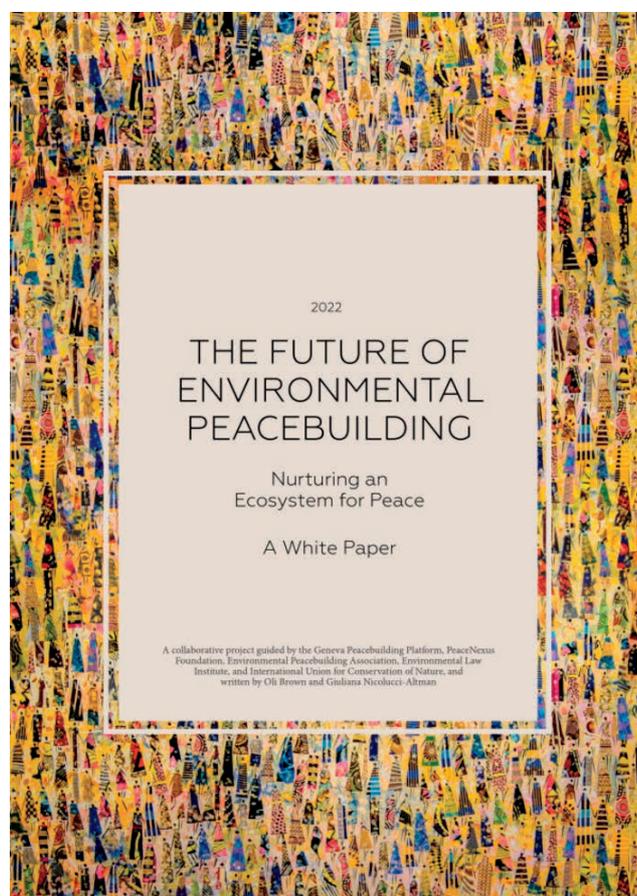
By the end of 2022, 58 briefings and convenings had been held, welcoming 25 speakers to address the community in private briefings. Each convening had an average of fifteen attendees. Participants have also collaborated at ten public, multi-day conferences over the past three years. Notes from each individual meeting, as well as a summary of the findings across the convenings can be found on the Platform website: <https://www.gppplatform.ch/content/environment-climate-conflict-and-peacebuilding>.

## A White Paper on the Future of Environmental Peacebuilding

In 2020, the Platform proposed a collective process with the community of practice to develop a White Paper on the Future of Environmental Peacebuilding. The White

Paper officially launched on 1 February 2022 online at the Second International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding. 154 authors contributed to the compendium, 153 individuals provided feedback through a month-long consultation process, 9 illustrators and 2 designers worked with 1 art director to bring artistic life to the project, 9 individuals contributed to the Steering Committee governing the project, 3 editors wrote and edited the white paper and compendium, 2 consultants and communicators supported the dissemination of the project, and 1 facilitator organized the moving parts. The project serves as a vibrant example of collective reflection and collective action. More information on the White Paper project and its partners can be found here:

<https://www.ecosystemforpeace.org/>.



## Dissemination of the White Paper and its use as a vehicle for shared policy influencing

In 2022, these efforts were then consolidated in an effort to deliver community-led and community-wide policy messages to major international environmental policy fora, including Stockholm+50 and COP27. The collaboration resulted directly in policy language adopted into Stockholm+50 outcome documents. This phase also offered the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform and the wider community of practice the opportunity to explore community-driven policy work, an effort to break down silos while achieving policy goals. The goal was not only to translate the concrete recommendations from the paper into the policy space, but also to translate the participatory process model of idea development into the policy space.

### *Preliminary outcomes:*

Across these threads of activity, a number of outcomes can be observed. First, the subject has been successfully mainstreamed in Geneva. An increase of Geneva institutions allocating funding for staff time to work on the intersection of environment, climate, conflict, and peace has been observed. This increase in staff time translates to research, publications, advocacy, and more, all of which have transferred impact in the communities and countries where the institutions work. Second, the Dialogue has led to a number of positive connections between institutions and individuals. For example, community practitioners working in Somalia connected with professionals at the United Nations Environment Programme, which has led to the rooting of a pilot UNEP project in Somalia. There are scores of additional anecdotal connection stories.

Finally, the community of practice broke down silos and collaborated on policy messages for key international policy fora. The Platform and its Dialogue were invited to deliver a session on the relationship between climate change and peace at COP26 through Chatham House's Climate Security Pavilion. The community embarked upon a collective policy influencing exercise for Stockholm+50; as a result, for the first time, peace and security were referenced multiple times throughout the outcome documents of the conference, representing a marked difference and turning point in the global discussion on sustainable development. A similar collaborative effort was elaborated and executed at COP27, resulting in the host country of COP28 contacting the community of practice directly and requesting policy development inputs into the development of COP28.

Community management initiatives may not continue indefinitely or stay within the Platform itself. An evaluation study is currently underway to elaborate key outcomes of the project and propose potential pathways forward.

## 4.2 Identify, incubate and accompany thematic processes, linking to GPW

Before 2021, an assumption was made that the Platform would solely provide some lighter administrative support to multiple thematic tracks at the same time. One or two staff might be able to accompany many different tracks.

The pilot phase in 2020-2021 demonstrated that repeated effort and significant time investment yield significantly more positive results and a more cohesive community. In effect, one staff member can accompany one thematic track, with a bit of time left for incubation and ad hoc convening. This staff member can also accompany the track to Geneva Peace Week.

This one-staff-per-track model reflects the human resource intensive nature of networking efforts, especially with respect to the networking with different actors in Geneva, participant development, and consolidation of the contact database. In some aspects, core partners of the Platform can lend support and leadership for thematic tracks, including recruiting track participants, scouting for expert briefers, and contributing to knowledge projects. In other aspects, however, it may be difficult to call upon partners to support, such as administrative and database management, community communications, and project coordination.

## 4.3 Institutionalize a Community Management strategy, integrating community organizing best practices and communications

In 2022, a formal and comprehensive community management strategy was elaborated by the Community Management Lead. The strategy is currently under review with Platform leadership.

Sections include:

- Part I: What is community management?
  - Introduction to community management
  - Community management in practice

- Part 2: What is community management in the Platform?
  - Community management pilot phase: 2020-2022
    - 2020: Exploring synergies
    - 2021: Defining strategies
    - 2022: Refining the model
  - Community management growth: 2023 and beyond
    - What is the purpose of community management in the Platform?
    - What is the difference between incubation and community management?
    - Who is community management for?
    - What will future tracks look like? What is the structure?
    - What resources are necessary?
    - A note on communications
- Part 3: Next Steps
  - Topic selection and calendar
  - Training and human resources
  - Conclusions

The strategy also includes multiple annex documents, including previous community management concept notes and key documents relating to previous and current thematic topics.

## 4.4 Manage and facilitate the Peace Forum Network

Since the summer of 2020, the Platform has convened an informal Peace Forum Network of more than twenty participants who work for various peace fora around the world. The Network is meant to provide a space for exchange and innovation across the peacebuilding field.

The network meets once per quarter. In 2022, the network met online on 29 June, 15 September, and 5 December 2022, each dialogue a ninety-minute interactive meeting designed to maximize interaction and information sharing.

In lieu of a meeting in Q1, the Peace Forum Network hosted a public event at the Alliance for Peacebuilding's PeaceCon, "The Role of Peace Fora in Peacebuilding." The event gathered different peace forum convenors and audience members to discuss opportunities and challenges for peace fora in supporting ongoing peace efforts around the world.

Current participants include:

- Aswan Forum
- Basel Peace Forum
- Bologna Peacebuilding Forum
- Caux Forum
- Development Dialogues
- FriEnt Peacebuilding Forum
- Geneva Peace Week
- Islamabad Security Dialogue
- Munich Security Conference
- Oslo Forum
- PeaceCon
- Pearson Global Forum
- Pyeongchang Peace Forum
- Paris Peace Forum
- Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development

The network continues to meet in 2023, starting off the year with a long-form online retreat that took place on 21 March 2023. This retreat provided a space for participants to explore and evaluate global challenges and articulate concrete differentiation between their unique fora identities and approaches.



# 5. GENEVA PEACE WEEK

Geneva Peace Week 2022 (GPW22) took place from 31 October to 4 November 2022 at the Maison de la Paix Campus, in facilities of the Geneva Graduate Institute, the Geneva Center for Security Policy and the Geneva Graduate Institute's Conference Center. After two editions that were held almost fully online due to the global pandemic (in 2021, the Opening and Closing ceremonies were held in person), considerable efforts have been made to offer as many traditional in person events as possible while keeping some sessions online to retain the reach and expansion that was successfully achieved in prior editions.

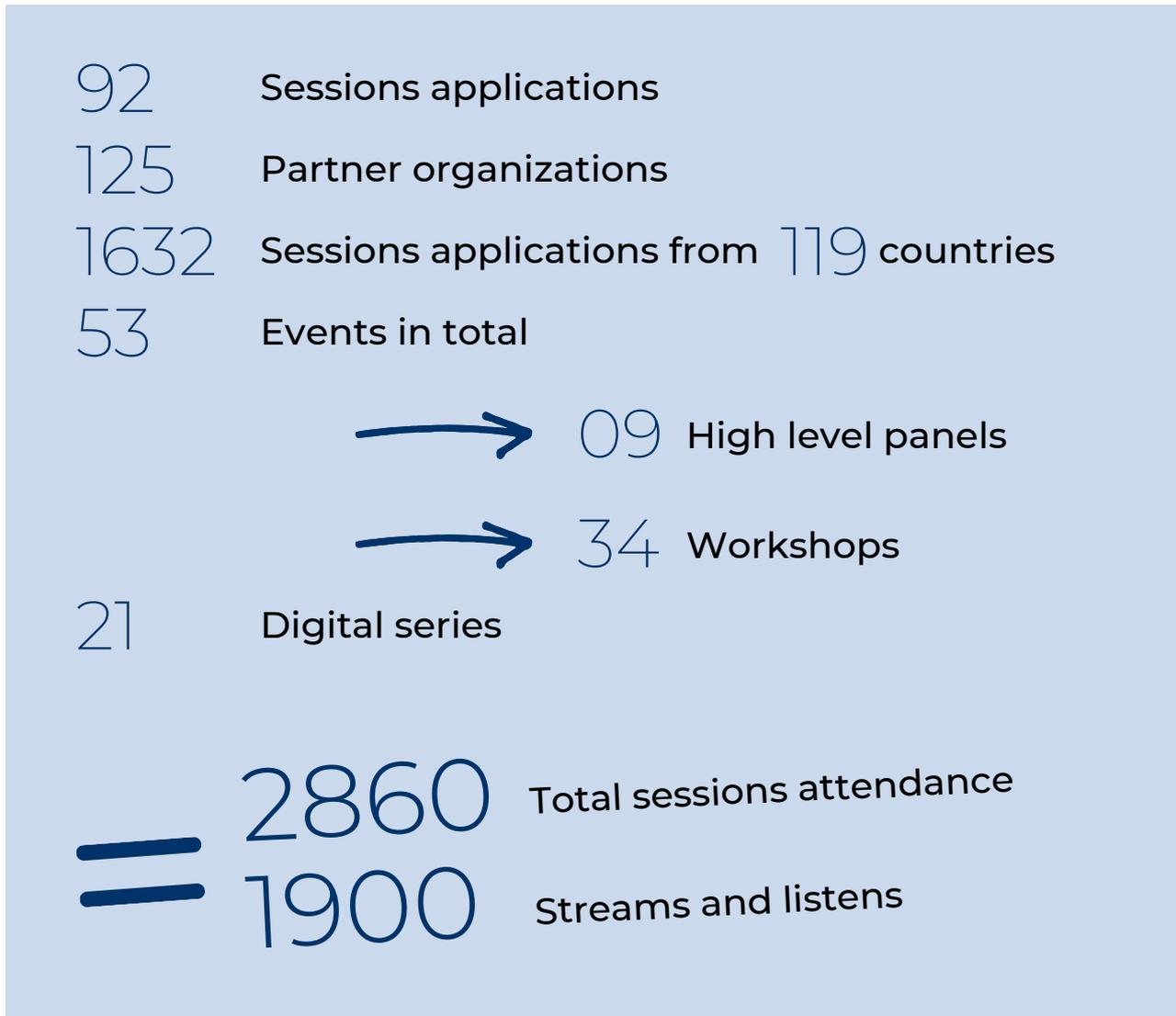
The programme was developed through an inductive process beginning with the review of 92 session applications received in June 2022, based on the overarching theme “**Peace is possible**”. As with previous years, these applications offered an opportunity to identify innovative practice and key thought leadership in peacebuilding across the world. The very high quality of the applications led to the elaboration of a full programme developed along four thematic tracks:

1. Rights, inequalities and peace: Navigating tensions, finding opportunities
2. Moving beyond securitization: Risk management and new horizons for peacebuilding
3. Digital peace: The power and limits of innovation in peacebuilding
4. Cultivating cooperation: Environmental challenges and opportunities for peace in a new age of insecurity



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## 5.1 GPW22 Key figures



## 5.2 Digital Series

The 2022 Digital Series featured 21 contributions, in which organizers developed their peacebuilding expertise, research, and stories into short, educational and digital formats (videos, podcasts, and other media). The Digital Series format was adapted for the GPW22 edition to bring focus on information-sharing that is concise, but in-depth, with the goal of educating online audiences on peacebuilding topics related to GPW22. The Digital Series contributions are broadcasted on the GPW website and major streaming platforms (including YouTube and Spotify etc.).

The Series offers an opportunity for contributions to continue beyond Geneva Peace Week, across geographical, cultural and temporal borders.

2 online sessions called “Selected Digital Series” were organized during GPW22, designed to give GPW attendees the opportunity to meet and interact with organizations that contributed to the series, with an average of 30 attendees per session.

## 5.3 Side events

### Kofi Annan Geneva Peace Address

The Kofi Annan Foundation, the Geneva Graduate Institute and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform organized the second edition of the Kofi Annan Geneva Peace Address, a high-level lecture on peace held every year as part of Geneva Peace Week. This Address was delivered by Elena Zhemkova, Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Russian human rights organization Memorial, recently awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2022. The event was the most well attended of the whole GPW22 with more than 300 attendees.

### Geneva Peace Week Radio Corner

On Opening Day, Fondation Hironnelle, Interpeace, and RTS/GenèveVision co-hosted a radio corner on the premises of the Geneva Graduate Institute. Listen to the recordings from the official Geneva Peace Week Radio Corner [here](#).

### Geneva Peace Cast

The Geneva Peace Cast is a collaboration between Interpeace, Fondation Hironnelle, and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, on the production of a podcast series during the GPW22 to amplify the discussions happening throughout Geneva Peace Week. A total of 7 episodes were produced for this second edition of the Geneva Peace Cast and are available on Spotify. Each episode covers a topic discussed during GPW22 and features GPW22 guest speakers, including peacebuilders, researchers, diplomats, journalists, from all continents.

## Career fair

Organised by the Career Service of IHEID, this two-day career event offered students an exciting opportunity to speak with the leading peacebuilding and peace promotion organisations and to learn about careers in the sector. The following 11 organisations were present at the career fair:

- adelphi
- Berghof Foundation
- Cultural Diversity and Sustainable Development for Peace (CD4Peace)
- CyberPeace Institute
- Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF)
- Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF)
- Inclusive Peace
- Kofi Annan Foundation
- Search for Common Ground (SFCG)
- Small Arms Survey
- United States Institute of Peace (USIP)

## Peace fair

Some partner organizations, such as Alliance for Peacebuilding and ICT4Peace Foundation, had the opportunity to present their work during the Peace Fair that took place on the morning of Friday 4 November 2022. Attendees had the opportunity to meet the individuals behind the organizations, as well as to hear presentations on specific and novel projects such as the *White Paper on the Future of Environmental Peacebuilding*.



# 6. OUTLOOK

The year 2022 has been an important transition year for the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform. With the new Program for 2022, the Platform, with its new Executive Director, Dr. Annyssa Bellal, strived to implement a strategic direction and key activities geared along the following three axes:

1. **Vision:** Through its Partners Membership and International Advisory Board constituency, including key UN agencies and programmes, the GPP can provide strategic advice and foresight on core peacebuilding issues relevant to the broad international agenda.
2. **Sharing knowledge:** As an international knowledge hub on peacebuilding, the GPP identifies briefers and share knowledge, including by way of policy applicable briefings on critical peace and security issues.
3. **Testing grounds:** As a convening actor on Peacebuilding issues in Geneva, the GPP provides a safe space of discussion and closed-door peer-to-peer meetings for review of policy briefs being developed by relevant stakeholders.



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# 7. THE PLATFORM IN 2022

## 7.1 Steering Committee

The Steering Committee oversees the Management Committee, the Executive Director and the Platform's management and is responsible for strategic orientation. The Committee also contributes to the high-level networking of the Platform.

In 2022, the Steering Committee members were:

- **Simon Gimson**, Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer, Interpeace
- **Amb. Thomas Greminger**, Director, Geneva Centre for Security and Policy (GCSP)
- **Amb. Thomas Guerber and Mark Downes**, Acting Director of DCAF - Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance
- **Prof. Keith Krause**, Director of Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) at the Graduate Institute
- **Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge**, Director, Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) Geneva

## 7.2 Management Committee

The Management Committee advises the Platform's Executive Coordinator in the management of the Platform. It is a working-level committee that provides input into Platform activities, planning, and strategy. It acts on behalf of the Steering Committee, and in 2022, included:

- **Hans Born**, Assistant Director and Head of the Policy and Research Division, DCAF
- **Florence Foster**, Representative for Peace and Disarmament, QUNO
- **Annika Hilding Norberg**, Head of Peace Operations and Peacebuilding, GCSP
- **Alexandre Munafò**, Director of Strategic Partnerships & Communications (Jan-June 2022), and **Dr. Rebecca Brubaker**, Director of Policy, Learning and Advisory Services (June 2022-present), Interpeace
- **Dr. Oliver Jütersonke**, Head of Research (Jan-Sept 2022), and **Sina Zintzmeyer**, Operations Coordinator (Oct 2022- March 2023), CCDP

## 7.3 Platform Staff

The Platform Staff carries out the mandated activities in accordance with the recommendations given by the Steering and Management Committee.

In 2022, beginning of 2023, the staff was the following:

- **Annyssa Bellal**, Executive Director (January 2022-present)
- **Danson Gichini**, Project Coordinator, Geneva Peace Week (Jan-August 2022) and **Dany Diogo**, Geneva Peace Week Lead (July 2022-present)
- **Annika Erickson-Pearson**, Community Management Lead (March 2020-present)
- **Maria Baltag**, Admin & Events Coordinator, now Officer (July 2022-present)
- **Gabriela Buser**, Hospitality and Fundraising Officer (February 2023- present)
- **Yasmeen Chaudhry**, Communications & Outreach Coordinator (July 2022 - March 2023) and **Tatiana Avanthay**, Communications & IT Officer (April 2023-present)

## 7.4 Geneva Peace Week Staff

The Geneva Peace Week staff constitutes those employed for a limited project period to carry out the specific duties required to facilitate a fully online Geneva Peace Week.

- Irina Sorokina, Project Coordinator
- Gabriela Buser, Events & Hospitality Officer
- William Lunding, Events & Hospitality Officer
- Tatiana Avanthay, IT Officer
- Antonia März, Virtual Assistant
- Elisha Bugarin, Virtual Assistant
- Katherine Davis, Virtual Assistant
- Mariana Soto, Virtual Assistant
- Marta Schwarz, Virtual Assistant
- Antonia März, Virtual Assistant
- Gülin Özcan, Student Helper
- Varun Bhagat, Student Helper
- Julia Sokolowska, Student Helper
- Fanelly Pascale, Student Helper
- Marie Ronsin, Student Helper
- Sarah Achik Lopez, Event Photographer
- Olivier Chamard, Event Photographer

## 7.5 Advisory Board

The Advisory Board advises the members of the Steering Committee and the Platform's Executive Coordinator in the substantive programming of the Platform. It is composed of members from a representative group of International Geneva stakeholders, with an active interest and role in peacebuilding. The Board represents academia, UN organizations, international NGOs, civil society and diplomatic and donor representatives:

- **Andrea Aeby**, Counselor, Peace & Security, Section Global Affairs, Permanent Mission of Switzerland
- **Jason Aplon**, Post Conflict / DDR Advisor, Transition and Recovery Division, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- **Alexandra Boivin**, Head of Policy and Humanitarian Diplomacy Division, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- **Anne-Marie Buzatu**, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, ICT4Peace Foundation
- **Guillaume Charron**, Director, Independent Diplomat
- **Gregory Connor**, Policy Specialist, Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding, and Responsive Institutions, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- **Adam Day**, Head of Geneva Office, United Nations University Centre for Policy Research
- **Maria Dimitriadou**, Special Representative to the UN and WTO, World Bank Office Geneva
- **Tiffany Easthom**, Executive Director, Nonviolent Peaceforce
- **Samuel Emonet**, Director of Operations, Justice Rapid Response (JRR)
- **Nicolas Florquin**, Head of Unit, Data & Analytics, Small Arms Survey
- **Robin Geiss**, Director, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)
- **Joëlle Germanier**, Head of Operations, Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation (CCHN)

- **Catriona Gourlay**, Executive Director, PeaceNexus Foundation
- **Silja Halle**, Manager, UNEP-EU Climate Change and Security Programme, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- **Hichem Khadhraoui**, Director of Operations, Geneva Call
- **Anna Leissing**, Head of Policy & Platform, Project Director of Center for Peacebuilding (KOFF), Swisspeace
- **Sacha Meuter**, Head of Policy and Research, Fondation Hirondelle
- **Federico Negro**, Coordinator OIC, Coordination Support Unit for Peace and Resilience, International Labour Organization (ILO)
- **Sarah Noble**, Director of External Relations, The New Humanitarian
- **Katia Papagianni**, Director, Policy and Mediation Support, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
- **Peter Prove**, Director, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, World Council of Churches
- **Pascal Rapillard**, Head of the Division External Relations and Policy, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- **Madeleine Rees**, Secretary General, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
- **Tuesday Reitano**, Deputy Director, Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime
- **Maud Roure**, Head of Programmes, Kofi Annan Foundation (KAF)
- **Amjad Saleem**, Manager, Protection, Inclusion and Engagement, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

We would like to thank Advisory Board members who will no longer serve in this capacity after 2022, for their support, inputs and encouragement for the Platform's activities and initiatives. A special thanks to: Rudi Coninx, WHO; Masayo Kondo Rossier, OCHA; Philippe Baudin-Auliac, UNOG; and Stephanie Buri, Initiatives of Change Switzerland.

# 8. ABOUT THE GENEVA PEACEBUILDING PLATFORM

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform 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. The Platform's network comprises professionals working on building peace directly or indirectly. The Platform provides policy-relevant advice and services, ensures the continuous exchange of information through seminars, consultations, and conferences, and facilitates outcome-oriented dialogues on peacebuilding practice.

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform is a knowledge and expertise hub that connects the critical mass of peacebuilding actors and resources in Geneva and worldwide. The Platform focuses on facilitating exchanges surrounding innovative practices and thinking in peacebuilding. The value of the Platform resides in creating more fertile grounds for, and promoting beneficial relationships amongst sectors. As such, the Platform is a vector of connections with actors on policy specific areas to develop and provide strategic advice on peacebuilding matters as well as consolidate knowledge into actionable insights. Within the context of an ever-increasing need for peacebuilding practice, the Platform opens and strengthens spaces to foster peacebuilding priorities ahead through briefings, meetings and ad-hoc events as well as through its annual flagship event, the Geneva Peace Week.

The Platform aims to help the Geneva and International Peacebuilding Community to think creatively and collectively about how to build resilience, and how to transform our world into one that is more equitable, inclusive and sustainable.

The Platform also contributes to the advancement, professionalization and recognition of the peacebuilding endeavors of the Diplomatic Community of Geneva by contributing knowledge, tools, and capacity in order to help and support its successful peacebuilding engagement.

The knowledge and expertise hub  
for better peacebuilding.

We look forward to build peace together.

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## CONTACT

### Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

c/o Centre on Conflict Development and  
Peacebuilding (CCDP)

P.O. Box 1672  
1211 Geneva 1  
Switzerland

[www.gppplatform.ch](http://www.gppplatform.ch)  
[info@gppplatform.ch](mailto:info@gppplatform.ch)



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