

UNITED NATIONS  
INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON OUTER SPACE ACTIVITIES

Thirty-third session  
12-14 March 2013  
Geneva, Switzerland

**INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS**

***General***

1. The Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (IAM) will be held on 12-14 March 2013, co-organized by the United Nations Office on Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) based in Geneva, Switzerland in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), which serves as the Secretariat of the meeting.
2. Main events include:
  - Open informal session with participation of Member States, 12 March;
  - Closed session for United Nations entities, 13-14 March.
3. The sessions will be held from 10.00 to 17:30 at the Centre de Conférences de Varembe (CCV), 9-11 Rue de Varembe, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland.  
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Website: <http://www.cicg.ch/en/the-ccv/>

***Focal points for the meeting***

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***Catering services***

4. A restaurant and bar is located across the street from the Centre de Conférences de Varembe at the Centre International de Conference Geneve (CICG). The restaurant has a salad bar and a variety of hot food, and is open from 11:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Bar Lemman serves sandwiches, soup, coffee/tea and snacks and is open from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

### ***Postal service***

5. A post office is situated to the left of the rue de Varembe entrance to the CICG. Working hours: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 06:00 p.m. (Monday to Friday) and 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (Saturday).

### ***Travel information***

6. Language, Currency and Credit Cards: The languages spoken in Switzerland are French/Swiss German and Swiss Italian. The currency used is the Swiss Franc (CHF). Most hotels, restaurants and shops accept internationally valid credit cards.

7. Climate: The average temperature in March is between 1 and 10 °C, or 34 and 50 °F. The average precipitation is 81 mm.

8. Time Zone: Switzerland follows Central European Time, which is Universal Coordinated Time + 1, during the period of the session.

9. Electricity: The electric voltage is 220V 50 Hz, power sockets used in Swiss standard adapters (from USA to Swiss or Europe to Swiss, UK to Swiss).

10. Shopping: Shops are opened on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m; on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; on Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Shops are closed on Sundays.

### ***Arrival at the Geneva international airport (Cointrin)***

11. Geneva's airport is less than 5 km from downtown. It is easily reachable by train or by bus using the public transport system (Unireso). Free bus ticket is available at the ticket machine situated in the baggage claim area (before exiting airport customs). A day pass for trams and buses might be asked at the hotel, free of charge (<http://www.gva.ch>). One single ticket is required to travel by train, tram, bus or boat in the area France-Vaud-Geneva.

12. Tourist information and tickets can be obtained at the Unireso information counter in the Arrivals hall of the airport, on the leaving customs control. Tickets can also be purchased from the machines located at bus stops (CHF or Euro change required) and at the Swiss railway station.

### ***Travelling from/to the Geneva international airport (Cointrin)***

13. BY BUS. Bus 10 and 5 passes through the main train station (Cornavin); Bus 5 arrives at Varembe station near the UNISDR Headquarters. More information can be found at the following web address at: [www.tpg.ch](http://www.tpg.ch).

14. BY TRAIN. Throughout the day, all trains leaving the airport stop at Cornavin main station before carrying on with their journey. Look for the "Gare CFF" or "Cornavin" signs. Ticket costs usually range from CHF 10.00 and are sold at the "billeterie", at self-service distributors and sometimes by the train controller. More information can be found at: [www.cff.ch](http://www.cff.ch).

15. BY TAXI. A taxi ride from the Airport in the direction of UNISDR Headquarters, Nations or Cornavin station cost in the range of CHF30.00 (as of December 2005).

### ***Getting around Geneva:***

16. Geneva is a very compact city served by an excellent public transit system, which includes buses, trams and trains. Information is available at the airport or at the TPG office located in Geneva's main train station. Please note, within Geneva city limits, bus drivers do not sell nor control the bus tickets; instead, a brigade of inspectors make spot checks to insure the integrity of their riders.

17. Failure to produce a valid ticket results in a fine of at least CHF 100.00. If unable to pay the fine on the spot, your identification documents are requested. Failure to show the proper identification can result in a visit to the police station.

18. Bus tickets are sold at self-service distributors located at nearly every bus stop. Payment for the ticket is made in EXACT change ONLY, in Swiss francs or Euro coins, with the exception 5 cents. One ticket may be used on any bus or tram-line and in any direction, within the limits of the duration and of the zones selected.

- A single ticket, valid for "all of Geneva (yellow zones)" and/or valid for one hour
- A Day ticket, starting from 9am until the end of the day
- A 24-hour ticket

19. On weekends, ONE 24-hour ticket is valid for TWO persons travelling together!

20. Bus cards called "CarteBonus" work like phone cards and are sold at newspaper kiosks for 20, 30 or 50 CHF. These cards are particularly useful as they save you from carrying the exact change and save you some money as well, with "bonus" credits of 1, 2 or 5 Swiss francs.

21. Due to the geographical situation of Geneva, border with France and border with Canton de Vaud, the Bus transport fare is calculated in terms of: YELLOW Zone for the "Canton of Geneva" itself; and BLUE Zone(s) for neighbouring France or neighbouring Canton de Vaud.

22. For those who choose a hotel in Ferney-Voltaire (France), you will be using Bus "F" and travelling from ZONE 40 to ZONE 12 to reach Nations square. The ride takes approximately 30 minutes in duration. Stop at "Nations"; then catch Bus 11 or Bus 28 (for only one stop), or take a 4-minute walk towards the lake and the botanical gardens.

23. When travelling in Bus F, please note that the ticket will be sold by the bus driver, and must be time stamped to be valid.

### ***Accommodation***

24. Participants are responsible for their own hotel bookings. A list of hotels, which can also be searched by category, is to be found on the homepage of the Geneva Tourist Office (click on accommodation / hébergement: <http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/> (click on desired language E / F)

### ***Additional Information***

25. Plan and City Guide is available at [http://www.ville-ge.ch/index\\_d.htm](http://www.ville-ge.ch/index_d.htm) (click on desired language FR, DE, EN, IT)