



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations



---

## 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

---

### High-Level Side Event Investing in Humanity through Multilateralism

23 September 2019

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Conference Room 11

**Purpose:** To come together in cooperation of our shared vision to invest in humanity through showcasing concrete actions Member States will take in relation to the Geneva Conventions

#### Programme

*Opening Remarks:*

Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal

---

# 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

---

## Concept Note: High Level Side Event on Investing in Humanity through Multilateralism

### Background:

With the aim to preserve the core of our humanity during the worst of times, the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 are central to international humanitarian law and the international legal order. In the aftermath of the Second World War, States recognized that wars must be waged within certain limits to safeguard the lives and dignity of human beings and they have since been universally ratified. They embody common values that transcend legal traditions, civilizations and cultures.

The Geneva Conventions continue to bring to life the idea of investing in humanity through multilateralism. This is an idea that is also embodied in the creation of the United Nations, as the preamble to the UN Charter starts off with "We the peoples of the United Nations, determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow and suffering, and reaffirming the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and in order to promote international cooperation in solving international problems of a humanitarian character."

This event will enable Member States to promote a global order based on international law as highlighted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The Geneva Conventions place people and their needs at the center and protect the most vulnerable from the harmful effects of contemporary warfare. With its people-centered focus, the Geneva Conventions have stood the test of time and remain relevant 70 years on as commitments for the future.

### Objectives:

Demonstrate the universality of the Geneva Conventions through the participation of Member States widely.

Highlight how the Geneva Conventions protect our common humanity.

Discuss how the Geneva Conventions and other core IHL treaties provide a framework to address contemporary and emerging challenges.

---

# 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

---

## Format:

Opening remarks and statements by keynote speakers will be followed by interventions from Member States.

Speakers are encouraged to focus interventions on positive examples of Member States engagement in supporting the Geneva Conventions, including concrete action(s) Member States will take to demonstrate their support.

The event will be livestreamed to allow opportunity for all to follow it. In addition, we encourage your participation in a Twitter initiative to highlight the importance of the Geneva Convention. Click here for more on how to participate  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18oAPo5x6Uia\\_YXh9Nq5w4628BP4](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18oAPo5x6Uia_YXh9Nq5w4628BP4)

## Registration:

Participation is open to all Member States. Registration is required for purposes of establishing a list of speakers