Launch of the WHO SPECS 2030 initiative and inaugural meeting of the Global SPECS Network

World Health Organization Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland
14-15 May 2023

Meeting handbook
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Important instructions for participants

Venue
The meeting will be held at the headquarters of the World Health Organization, located in Avenue Appia 20, Geneva.

Arrival at WHO entrance
You can collect your badge at the WHO Reception (close to main entrance). Your valid passport and proof of COVID-19 vaccination are needed to collect your badge at the security desk.1

Please make sure that you have registered on the WHO Indico platform for the meeting at INDICO event page Launch of the WHO SPECS 2030, as this is mandatory for issue of the badge. When the registration is approved in Indico, a QR code is generated. Please show that QR code at the security desk too.

Please leave sufficient time to collect your badge before the meeting start time as there is often a queue.

Meeting room
The meeting will be held in the WHO main (B) Building, Auditorium Z1 and Z2.

Directions to meeting room:
- Once you have collected your badge at the reception, turn left towards the entry gates. Scan your badge to enter. There will be signage directing you to the room.
- You can take the stairs on the left or the elevator besides the stairs to go down to the cafeteria level.
- Stairs: Once you go down the first flight of stairs, turn right and go towards the second staircase leading to the cafeteria.
- Elevator: choose floor B1. Once you exit, turn right and then right again and walk towards the cafeteria.
- Auditorium Z1 and Z2 are located on the far side of the cafeteria.

Language
The meeting will be conducted in English.

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1 If you cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons, request a medical report or medical certificate from your doctor or specialist explaining the reason for this vaccine contraindication and send SHW this report/certificate via Covid19-shw-hotline@who.int.
Meeting etiquette

- **The meeting will start at 09:10 AM CET. Please make sure you are in your seat by then.**
- Once you arrive at the auditorium, please search for the seat with your name plate.
- During the meeting, if you wish to take the floor, kindly indicate this by standing your name plate vertically.
- Kindly make sure that you are present throughout the meeting and respect the time slots as indicated in the agenda and during the meeting.
- We request you to **NOT bring any gifts or souvenirs for WHO staff**, as WHO rules do not permit acceptance of these.
- Please let us know, in advance, if you do not wish to have your photographs taken or shared on WHO webpage.

Photography

Please note that a professional photographer will take photos during the meeting. These photos could be used on the WHO webpage and social media. If you do not wish to be included in the photos, please notify us.

WIFI

If you bring your laptop, free wireless network connection is available in the building. The username is: **#WHOWIFI**. There is no password.

Refreshments

Refreshments will be available during the morning and afternoon coffee breaks.

Participants are welcome to purchase lunch, at their own expenses, at the WHO cafeteria, coffee shop and nearby restaurants. Please note that at WHO, only credit cards such as American Express, Diners Club, Mastercard, and Visa are accepted.

A reception will be held on the first day, 14th of May, at the WHO cafeteria from 5:00pm.

Sexual Harassment Policy

WHO has a zero-tolerance policy against sexual harassment.

Meeting objectives

The meeting objectives are:
1. To formally launch the WHO SPECS 2030 initiative and welcome the inaugural members of the Global SPECS Network.
2. To inform participants on WHO’s progress with the SPECS 2030 Initiative, including an introduction to new technical resources to support implementation of the initiative.
3. To present, and receive feedback, on the draft workplans of the Global SPECS Network workstreams.
4. To discuss opportunities and prioritize next steps for a) the Global SPECS Network members, and b) Secretariat.

Key times and topics to be covered

*Day 1: 14 May 2024, 09:00-19:30 CEST*

Topics to be covered:
- Panel discussions with relevant stakeholders,
- Presentations from WHO on the SPECS 2030 Initiative and the role of WHO and related Networks,
- Interventions from UN agencies,
- Ceremony for inaugural SPECS Network members.
- Reception for meeting participants

*15 May 2024, 09:00-17:00, CEST*

Topics to be covered:
- Presentations from WHO on related normative work (existing and new),
- Presentations on the draft workplans for the Global SPECS Network workstreams,
- Group work and plenary sessions to obtain feedback from meeting participants.
Guide to WHO and Geneva

Travelling between the Airport and Geneva City Centre
Geneva city centre is very close to the Geneva Airport. It is easily reachable by train or by bus using the united network of public transport, Unireso. Only one single ticket is required to travel by train, tram, or bus in Geneva.

You can find the terminal map and more information about public transport and taxis at the airport at: http://www.gva.ch/en/Desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-60/

By train: Train is the easiest way to reach Geneva city center: all trains departing from / going to Genève-Aéroport station stop in the City Center of Geneva at Geneva-Cornavin station (8-minutes trip between the two stations, every 15 minutes). The Airport railway station has direct access to the Airport Departure/Arrival levels.

By Bus: The following buses stop at the airport (bus stops are located at the Departure level) and travel to Geneva city centre:
- Bus 5 (every 10-15 minutes); get off the bus at Gare Cornavin for the city centre. It takes 20 minutes.
- Bus 10 (every 10 minutes); get off the bus at Gare Cornavin for city centre. It takes 25 minutes.

A standard ticket costs 3.00 CHF (Swiss francs) and is valid for one hour after purchase. It may be used on multiple modes of transport (bus, tram, train, and boat) within Geneva. You must buy your ticket before getting onto the transport. Ticket machines are available at all stops and inside some buses. Please select the button for one-hour trip. Alternatively, tickets are also available for purchase on the ‘SBB mobile’ app. There is also the option of purchasing a day pass (carte journalière) for 10 CHF. This pass is valid from the moment of purchase until 5 AM the following day.

Travelling to/from WHO
WHO headquarters building is situated at the end of Avenue Appia on the outskirts of Geneva, about 3 kilometers from the center of town and about 1.5 kilometers from the Palais des Nations (United Nations).

By Bus: The bus number 8, direction OMS (OMS means WHO in French), goes to WHO headquarters from the station Cornavin (every 10-15 minutes). This trip takes approximately 13 minutes. WHO is the last stop, so please get off at the bus stop called "OMS". As you step off the bus, you will see WHO buildings. The F and 22 buses also stop at WHO (OMS) from Gare Cornavin.
Bus schedule can be obtained at [http://www.tpg.ch/](http://www.tpg.ch/)

1. Under “Voyager” on the top bar, click "Horaires par ligne"
2. Click on the square representing bus route 8 or bus route F.
Select where you will be departing from by clicking on the name of the stop.

Getting to the WHO Reception from the bus stop:

**Taxis:** Most Geneva taxi drivers know the headquarters building as "OMS" (Avenue Appia). Taxis can be called by telephone by dialing the following numbers: (022) 320 20 20, (022) 320 22 02 and (022) 33 141 33. The WHO Reception will also order taxis.

Taxis are readily available at taxi spots:
- Place du lac, 1204 Genève (city centre),
- Geneva Airport (Arrivals),
- Gare Cornavin (Geneva's train station).
Uber: Uber services are also available in Geneva on a limited basis.

Transport apps: Information on public transport can be obtained through the following mobile phone apps:

- tpg: The Geneva public transport app (Transports publics genevois) offers information on timetables for all bus and tram stops of Geneva and can be used to plan the route between two addresses. The tpg app offers the most accuracy about transport schedules in the city of Geneva.
- SBB Mobile: SBB offers train services in Switzerland and the app can be used to access train schedules as well as all public transport schedules in Geneva. It also allows purchase of travel tickets directly through the app.

Accessibility of public transports

Bus: Virtually all buses and trams are wheelchair accessible, and older inaccessible vehicles are very rare. Most buses and trams have display screens and announcements of each stop. If the screen is not functioning, you may also ask the bus driver to inform you of your stop. The bus is the best way to travel from the airport to the city center for wheelchair users, as the train is not accessible without pre-booked assistance. If you do wish to ride the train from the airport to the city centre, you can call the Handicap des Chemins de Fer Fédéraux (SBB) at least one hour before departure: 0800 007 102 (6am to 10pm) or from abroad +41 (0) 51 225 78 44.

Details of accessibility can be found at: http://www.tpg.ch/en/web/site-international/service-clients/mobilite-reduite

Accessible taxi services:

- Mobile-Service - Tel: 079 606 27 60, mser@bluewin, wheelchair available
- Aloha Transport - Tel: +41(0)22 321 12 21 www.alohatransport.ch, also groups of wheelchair users. Reservation 24h in advance for private, individual travel and 48h for corporate trips.
- Paramedica - Tel: +41 (0)22 348 53 15
- Transport One - Tel: +41 (0)79 776 26 17
- Transport Handicap - Tel: +41 (0)22 794 52 52, only wheelchair users (Tel: +41 (0)22 794 52 54 for atelier (wheelchair rental)

Useful websites for accessibility (Geneva):

- http://www.geneve.ch/handicap/
- https://www.angloinfo.com/how-to/switzerland/geneva/healthcare/people-with-disabilities
Useful information

Electricity supply: Swiss plug-sockets supply the European standard voltage of 230 V AC - 50 Hz. Plug-sockets are shaped as seen in the picture below. Most plugs with two prongs can also be used.

![Electricity Plug](image)

Currency and payment transactions: The currency unit is CHF (Swiss Franc). International credit cards, such as American Express, Diners Club, Mastercard, and Visa, are all widely accepted in Switzerland. Currency exchange offices and ATM machines are available throughout the country.

Time: In May, Switzerland uses CEST- Central European Summer Time. Time indications in the meeting programme will follow CEST.

Weather and clothing: May, in Geneva, is a spring month with daytime maximum temperatures average around 18°C (64°F), whilst at night 7°C (45°F) is normal. For up-to-date weather forecasts please visit: [http://worldweather.wmo.int/en/city.html?cityId=193](http://worldweather.wmo.int/en/city.html?cityId=193)

Travel arrangements:
Participants should make their own travel arrangements for both outward and return journeys and make their own hotel booking (except in special circumstances, as notified by WHO).
Participants are kindly asked to check whether they require a visa to enter Switzerland and to apply for it in a timely manner. More information can be found on [https://www.swiss-visa.ch/ivis2/#/i210-select-country](https://www.swiss-visa.ch/ivis2/#/i210-select-country).

Other useful information and tourism resources:
- Geneva Tourism & Convention Bureau: [https://www.geneve.com/?rubrique=0000000000&lang=_eng&PHPSESSID=701fedbd7b15a6ce98f8cf0fbf17d9dc](https://www.geneve.com/?rubrique=0000000000&lang=_eng&PHPSESSID=701fedbd7b15a6ce98f8cf0fbf17d9dc)
Possible hotels
*(Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of hotels)*

5-star hotels

- Hotel President Wilson
  (By the lakeside)
  Quai Wilson 47,
  1211 Geneva, Switzerland

- Hotel InterContinental Geneva
  (Close to the WHO HQ)
  Wheelchair accessible, accessible parking
  7-9, Chemin du Petit Saconnex,
  1209 Geneva, Switzerland
  Website: [https://www.intercontinental.com/geneva](https://www.intercontinental.com/geneva)

- Fairmont Grand Hotel Geneva
  (By the lakeside)
  Wheelchair accessible
  Quai du Mont-Blanc 19,
  1201 Geneva, Switzerland
  Website: [https://www.fairmont.com/geneva/](https://www.fairmont.com/geneva/)

4-star hotels

- Hotel Warwick Geneva
  (Near Gare Cornavin)
  Rue de Lausanne 14,
  1201 Genève
  Website: [https://www.warwickhotels.com/warwick-geneva](https://www.warwickhotels.com/warwick-geneva)

- Hilton Geneva Hotel & Conference Centre
  (Near Geneva Airport)
  Wheelchair accessible, accessible parking and elevator
  34, Route François Peyrot,
  1218 Grand-Saconnex/Geneva
  Website: [http://Geneva.hilton.com](http://Geneva.hilton.com)

- Rotary Hotel Genève
  (Near Gare Cornavin)
  Rue du Cendrier 18-20,
  1201 Genève, Switzerland
3-star hotels
B&B Hotel Geneva Airport
(near Geneva Airport)
Wheelchair accessible, accessible parking and elevator
Avenue de l'Etang 73,
1219 Vernier, Switzerland
Website: https://www.hotel-bb.com/en/hotel/geneva-airport

Nash Pratik Hotel
(near Geneva Airport)
Wheelchair accessible
Chem. de la Violette 13,
1216 Cointrin, Switzerland
Website: https://www.nashpratikhotel.com/

2-star hotels
Ibis Genève Aéroport
(Near Geneva Airport)
Chemin de la Violette 10,
1216 Genève, Switzerland
Website: https://all.accor.com/hotel/3535/index.en.shtml

Hotel Central Genève
(Near Gare Cornavin)
Wheelchair accessible, accessible elevator
Rue de la Rôtisserie 2,
1204 Genève, Switzerland
Website: https://www.hotelcentral.ch/en-gb

1-star hotels
Ibis Budget Genève Palexpo Aéroport
(Near Geneva Airport)
Wheelchair accessible
Route François-Peyrot 28,
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex, Switzerland
Website: https://all.accor.com/hotel/A8F3/index.fr.shtml

Ibis Budget Genève Aéroport
(Near Geneva Airport)
Wheelchair accessible
Avenue Louis-Casaï 26,
1216 Cointrin, Switzerland
Website: https://all.accor.com/hotel/5653/index.en.shtml
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