About the EU Delegation in Geneva

Delegation of the European Union to the UN Office and other international organisations in Geneva

What we do

The Delegation is part of the network of 140 EU Delegations world-wide, carrying out the EU’s foreign policy and providing support to Ms Federica Mogherini, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

Since January 2011, the EU has two fold representation in Geneva: The Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Office and to other international organisations in Geneva and the Permanent Mission of the European Union to the World Trade Organisation. In addition, the bilateral relations with Switzerland are covered by the EU Delegation in Berne.

The EU Delegation to the UN in Geneva pursues the following main tasks:

- Promote EU actions, policies and interests in all UN bodies and other International Organisations.
- Ensure the representation of the European Union and its active participation in the UN and its related bodies or specialised agencies established in Geneva - in particular the Human Rights Council, OHCHR, OCHA, UNHCR, UNCTAD, WHO, ILO, WIPO, UNECE, IOM and, as far as possible, ITU, WMO -, as well as in disarmament and non-proliferation related matters and with the International Committee of the Red Cross.
- Foster EU co-ordination and common EU positions in these fora and promote co-operation with Member States in the UN framework.
- Enhance visibility and understanding of the European Union role and policies in the many areas related to the UN bodies and other International Organisations in Geneva.

Ambassador
Dear visitor,

welcome to the website of the EU Delegation to the UN Geneva!

We believe in a strong multilateral system and a rules-based international order with the United Nations (UN) as the bedrock. It brings added value to our citizens. Without global rules and norms and the means to enforce them our vital interests - peace, security, development, prosperity and democracy - are at risk and we may find ourselves in great uncertainty or again in a world dominated by the law of the strongest.

And the challenges in today’s increasingly volatile and unpredictable world are numerous, complex, on many fronts and often across borders. They demand that we work together. They need a global and integrated approach. They need us to stand behind the UN, to broaden cooperation and to build new cross-regional alliances in support of multilateralism. The key word is “effective multilateralism”. That is what guides us here in Geneva. We stand fully behind the UN and we are and will remain a leading promoter and defender of the multilateral order and we will build partnerships with other regional groups and countries in support of the multilateral approach.

To that end, the European Union will continue to engage actively on all multilateral fronts, in all pillars of the UN system: peace and security, human rights and development in order to help furthering multilateral solutions to the challenges that we all face, especially here in Geneva in the fields of human rights, humanitarian needs, refugee and migration issues, disarmament, global health, international labour matters, economic and development issues, digital affairs and intellectual property.

We base our work on solid EU positions, developed with our EU Member States as well as close interaction with and support to UN agencies and intense consultations with partners and other regional groups. For example, the EU is a leading donor to UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies; at the UN Human Rights Council we took the lead on resolutions such as the human rights situation in Myanmar and Burundi as well as the rights of the child and freedom of religion or belief. We stand firm, not only in statements but also with means, behind the World Health Organisation (WHO) in addressing world health issues and engage actively in the work of UNCTAD.

But we’re also building bridges and partnerships in support of multilateralism. We need friends, we need partners. Only together can we address the problems the world is facing. The EU will continue
to invest in close partnerships as we have done with the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in developing a mechanism to address the serious human rights violations in Myanmar, with the African Union in a renewed partnership to foster development or with the Latin American Colleagues to address the exploding refugee crisis related to the situation in Venezuela.

And many are looking towards the EU to cooperate, to support multilateral solutions and defend the international rules-based multilateral system. Together, we join forces in our work around the world for sustainable development, peace and security and humanely and respectfully managed migration. Together we fight for education for all, against torture and for human rights. We are not living in a time in which we can afford playing it alone.

The EU continues to strongly believe in the multilateral approach as the best chance to shape the future of the world in a way which is acceptable for all. We are and will remain a close partner of the United Nations.

I hope that you will find our website useful. If you have comments you can refer them by mail to: delegation-geneva-un@eeas.europa.eu.

Enjoy your visit!

Best,

Walter Stevens

Ambassador Walter Stevens

Read more about Ambassador Walter Stevens:

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