



INTERNATIONAL
COFFEE
ORGANIZATION

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**Communication from the
Government of Switzerland**

1. The Executive Director attaches a communication from the Government of Switzerland, containing an expression of interest in hosting the headquarters of the International Coffee Organization (**Annex I**).
2. Please note that an additional document – a flyer about the city of Geneva – has been attached to this revision (**Annex II**).



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Embassy of Switzerland in the United Kingdom

Ms Vanusia Nogueira
Executive Director
International Coffee Organization
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London, 28 June 2024

Communication of the Swiss Confederation: candidature as host country of the ICO

Dear Executive Director,

Switzerland is a longstanding member of the International Coffee Organization (ICO). As an active importing member, Switzerland has been committed to the mission of the ICO since its accession in 1964. Ever since, Switzerland has been actively contributing to the further development of the organization with a focus on governance, sustainability and a stronger engagement with the private sector. The last prominent examples of Swiss leadership in the ICO were the working group lead with regard to negotiations on the new 2022 International Coffee Agreement as well as the promotion of closer ties with the private sector through the support of the Coffee Public Private Task Force.

Switzerland is an important coffee hub where an estimated 55% of the worldwide green coffee trade is taking place via Swiss based trading companies. Many roasters and coffee processing companies have their headquarters and/or producing facilities in Switzerland. Switzerland has also a long track record when it comes to sustainability in coffee: we have been working for a long time on very specific development projects benefiting coffee smallholders in partner countries. Furthermore, Switzerland very recently underlined its commitment to a sustainable coffee sector by launching the Swiss Sustainable Coffee Platform, a multistakeholder initiative bringing together important players from the Swiss coffee industry, the Swiss government, civil society and academia.

As a neutral country with a longstanding humanitarian tradition, Switzerland has been home to many international organizations for over a century. With more than 180 permanent missions in Geneva, Switzerland offers an inclusive platform for political dialogue ensuring the participation of smaller countries with lesser resources. In terms of potential synergies with the coffee sector, Switzerland currently provides a rich trade, environment and sustainability cluster including organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and numerous UN organizations and NGOs. Last but not least, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Liaison Office in Geneva is closely cooperating with partners on FAO's corporate goal and the wider Sustainable Development Agenda.

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<http://www.eda.admin.ch/united-kingdom>

Taking into account this established ecosystem in Switzerland and following discussions on the future seat of the ICO held at the 136th and 137th International Coffee Councils, I am honoured and delighted that, after internal consultations, Switzerland is hereby announcing its candidacy as the ICO's future host country. My capital is working on putting together a concrete proposal including a partial contribution to the cost of renting headquarters in Geneva as well as one-off financial support for office infrastructure per ICO staff member.

Switzerland will approach the ICO in due course with more details on its offer. In the meantime, I would welcome any questions you or any member country may have.

Please accept, Executive Director, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Markus Leitner', with a vertical line extending upwards from the middle of the signature.

Markus Leitner

Ambassador of Switzerland to the United Kingdom



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

GENEVA

CAPITAL OF PEACE



180

STATES REPRESENTED

5000

CONFERENCES PER
YEAR

42

INTERNATIONAL
ORGANISATIONS

> 750

NGOs

Welcome to Geneva!

Choosing Geneva means offering **outstanding living conditions** to your entire organisation.

In addition to the city's ideal conditions, there are **numerous advantages** for organisations that choose to locate here.

Of course, our teams, as well as those of our partners, ensure that each member of your organisation settles in **under optimal conditions** along every step of the way.

It would be with great pleasure that we welcome you to one of **the world's largest networks of international organisations, NGOs, institutions and companies**.

In the meantime, we invite you to discover all of the privileges reserved to the international organizations in Geneva.

Best regards,

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA



International Coffee Organization ICO in the heart of Europe



#happiness

Best place in the World for expats
(HSBC Global Report 2019)

Rated best country in the world for 4
consecutive years

(U.S. News 2016 - 2020)

Top 3 of World Happiness Report 2021

#private life

Quality of life and security

21 international schools

Excellent health care system

Vast range of leisure activities



#connected

Airport less than 30 minutes from city center

400 daily flights to prominent decision centers

Highly developed public transport network

Ideal timezone for international communication

#stability

Long tradition as a host country

Independence

Neutrality

Universality



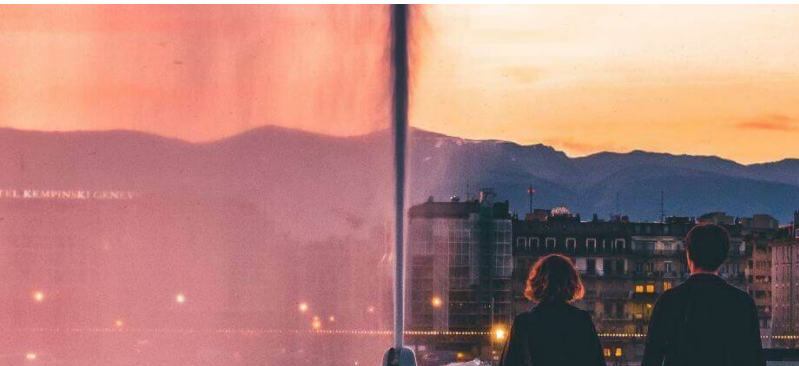
...while benefitting from world-class conditions



#innovation

3% of GDP invested in research & development

3rd best system of higher education in the world, according to the QS World University Ranking (ETH Zurich, EPFL, Hospitality schools)



#culture and #gastronomy

18 starred restaurants and more than 2000 restaurants from all regions of the world

40 museums in the canton

An opera house, numerous theatres and more than 30 festivals in the surrounding area each year

#diversity

English-speaking environment and 3 official languages (German, French, Italian)

More than 150 nationalities in Geneva, with 40% of the population originating from another country



#competitiveness

5th most competitive country in the world, according to the World Economic Forum (WEF 2019)

Most competitive country in the world in terms of qualified personnel (WEF, 2019)

Country with the most international co-inventions per capita (WEF, 2019)



Your organisational advantages

Hosting Infrastructure

Conference centres

The International Conference Center Geneva (CICG: cicg.ch) in the heart of the United Nations neighbourhood (free under certain conditions).
Capacity: 3,500 people

Palais des Nations (UN)
Capacity: 9,700 people

Palexpo Convention Center (palexpo.ch)
Capacity: 11,000 people

Logistical support provided by the Swiss Confederation's good offices for peace negotiations.

Free access to the VIP lounge at Geneva International Airport (gva.ch) reserved for Heads of State, Ministers and Directors of IOs.

Exceptional hotel service

- 14 5-star hotels
- 27 4-star hotels
- 42 3-star hotels

Real Estate

The Building Foundation for International Organisations (FIPOI: fipoi.ch) puts **buildings for rent at your disposal**.

The FIPOI also **facilitates the acquisition, construction or renovation** of buildings for IOs.

Support for less developed countries & NGOs

Subsidy from the Canton of Geneva **for the rent of office spaces** for LDCs and **rent payment support** for NGOs.

Provision of **subsidized hotel rooms and meeting venues** for delegates from disadvantaged regions, made available by CAGI (cagi.ch).

Support for delegates and permanent missions (PMs) from developing countries by the *Association of Former International Civil Servants for Development* (greycells.ch).





Your other advantages:

The Swiss legal framework grants numerous advantages to international civil servants and diplomats



Family reunification facilitated

- Granted to other family members, in addition to spouses and children under the age of 25
- Access to the labour market for family members



Integration

- Social integration support and move-in support from a dedicated reception center (cagi.ch)
- Numerous expatriate associations



Real Property Acquisition

- Possibility to acquire real estate



Security

- 24-hour police unit dedicated exclusively to the international community



Transport

- Exemption from foreign driver's license exchange
- Vehicle registration facilitated
- Tax-free import of vehicles



A city where diplomacy never sleeps

Over the last few years, Geneva has acquired a leading position in the digital sphere and is now preparing to become the nerve center of connected diplomacy.

Online Events

The Geneva International website gathers all of the events, online or offline, being organised and held in the headquarters of international organisations in the city.

geneve-int.ch/fr/events

Agenda 2030

Geneva boasts one of the highest concentrations in the world of international actors committed to Agenda 2030 and the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

geneve-int.ch/fr/whoswho

Connected platforms

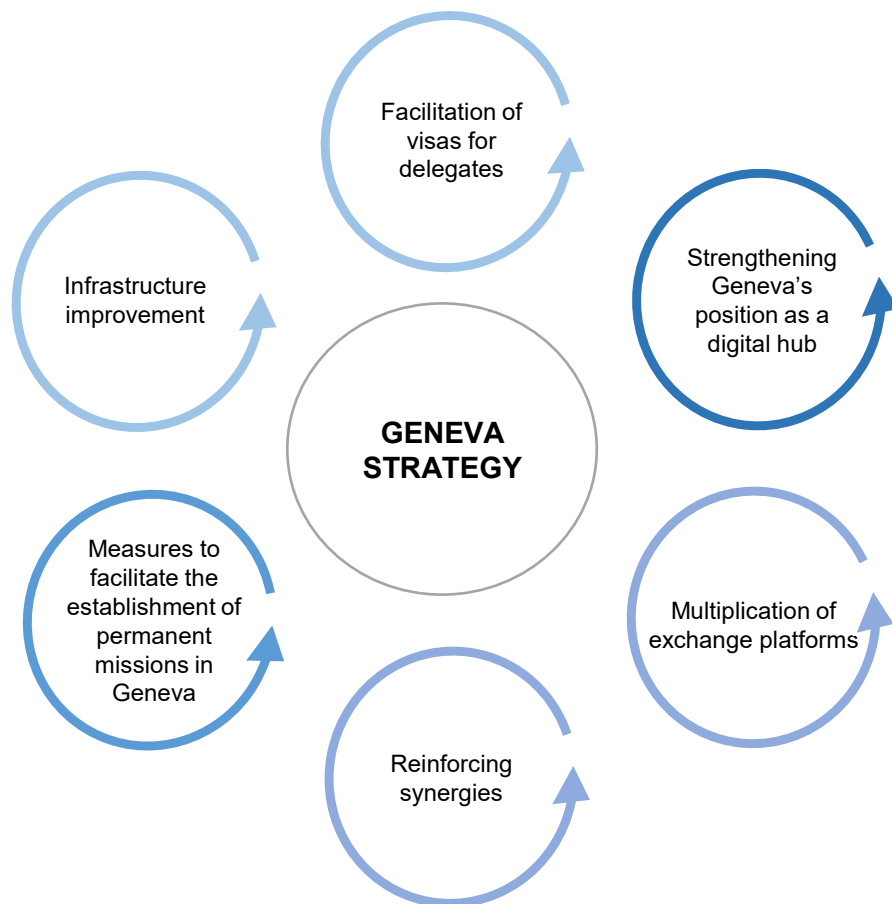
Numerous platforms of International Geneva link the global actors of diplomacy at all times.

genevaplatforms.ch/

International Coffee Organization ICO

- Presence of relevant international Organizations: Geneva hosts WTO, ILO, ITC, WWF, IUCN, FAO Liaison office and many more, simplifying integration into existing structures and fostering synergies
- Collaboration Network: A dense network of UN agencies in Geneva offers unique collaboration and interdisciplinary exchange opportunities.
- Expertise Concentration: Direct access to experts and relevant actors facilitates knowledge and technology exchange.
- Logistical Benefits: Existing infrastructure and operational platforms in Geneva support efficient processes and rapid readiness.
- Strategic Location: Geneva as a hub for trade, work and environment enhances the visibility and awareness of the Secretariat's work.







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