

PROJECT PRESENTATION

16 December 2025

FPDN
FONDATION
PORTAIL
DES NATIONS



Times are changing, so must our communication

The *Portail des Nations* project is an initiative led by Geneva native Ivan Pictet.

It is a response to the call made by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres during his oath of office at the UN General Assembly on 12 December 2016.

It provides the United Nations Office at Geneva with a new facility of approximately 2,000 square meters (built area) dedicated to welcoming visitors to the Palais des Nations and fostering public understanding of the multilateral role and the work carried out by the United Nations family.

« I am convinced that it is a matter of anticipating the growing information needs of a wide audience that wants to better understand the issues and challenges facing the world and familiarize itself with the responses provided by multilateralism as embodied by the United Nations and other international organisations based in Geneva. »

IVAN PICTET

President of the Portail des Nations Foundation



« We must [...] better communicate what we do, so that everyone understands it. We must thoroughly reform our communication strategy by modernizing the tools and means we use to communicate with the world. »

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES

Secretary-General of the United Nations



« While it is our duty to highlight what is wrong in the world, we can also show what is right, what is possible, and how the United Nations and Member States are making a difference. We must not only be messengers of disaster, but also bearers of hope.. »

MELISSA FLEMING

UN Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications

OBJECTIVES

- **Enhance the welcoming of the visitors at the Palais des Nations and increase audience**
- **Improve communication** on shared global concerns, the relevance of the multilateral system, and the activities carried out by the United Nations, its specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and other entities
- **Foster public interest and engagement** - especially among young adults - in the core purposes of the United Nations and its work.
- **Strengthen UN Geneva's public outreach**, including its role as an educational destination, recognizing Geneva as the cradle of multilateralism and one of the most important centre of international cooperation.

With a twofold increase in visitor capacity, a modern visitor experience, and dynamic outreach, the future UN Geneva Visitor Centre is expected to attract around 200,000 visitors per year (incl. guided tour participants)

- Top 100 European tourist attractions - a space for the general public — both engaging and educational — dedicated to multilateral diplomacy and the work of the United Nations.

A MODERN, DYNAMIC AND SELF-FINANCED UNITED NATIONS GENEVA VISITOR VISITOR CENTRE

TARGET AUDIENCE

- ✓ **Local population**, including the international community (Geneva and surrounding areas: individuals, families, groups)
- ✓ **Swiss and international tourists** (individuals, families, groups)
- ✓ **Delegates** (individuals or groups attending conferences and other international or business meetings)
- ✓ **Specific Swiss and international groups :**
 - Schools, high schools and universities
 - Municipal, regional and national officers
 - Leaders, executives and staff of local and international associations and companies
 - Tour operators and other tourism service providers
 - Media

A general agreement has been signed in June 2019 between UN Geneva and the FPDN

The United Nations in Geneva is the **owner of the project** ('Portail') for a new reception, information and exhibition facility at the Office of the United Nations at Geneva".

The *Portail des Nations* Foundation has been entrusted by the United Nations to implement the project.

It is responsible for developing and financing the project — including preliminary studies — as well as its design, construction and delivery.

As part of the donation, the Foundation oversees the production of a visitor experience dedicated to the multilateral role and work of the United Nations in Geneva, while ensuring that the Organization's best interests are fully respected.

Funds have been allocated progressively, as required, to cover design and study costs, construction expenses, insurance, and professional fees.

Upon completion of the works, the UN commits to using the "Portail" as the main entrance for all external visitors and participants in guided tours, and to promoting its use by ensuring appropriate opening hours for the public.



In a separate and subsequent document, the parties have defined, among other aspects, the financial arrangements for the operation of the Project, which has been submitted to the Organization's Member States for consultation.

2019**May**

Preliminary design

June

Signing of the framework agreement with the UN
Creation of the *Portail des Nations* Foundation

2020**September**

Architectural design
Visitor experience content guidelines

December

Approval of the donation
by the UN General Assembly

2021**February**

Delivery of the building permit

September

Immersive experience: request for projects

2022**January**

Immersive experience: selection of a design agency

June

Final project with estimates
Decision to recalibrate the project

September

Start of the project recalibration

2023**June**

Adoption of the final project

September

Launch of the pre-execution phase

2024**March**

Start of the site construction

May

Delivery of the experience design package
Start of the implementation phase

November

Mock-up presentation of the immersive experience
Decision to redesign some parts

2025**March**

Final design of the immersive experience

September

Start of the production phase

November

Completion of the building

2026**April**

Opening of the ticketing

May

Opening to the public

A NEW UN FACILITY

The project to build a complex of five pavilions with a total floor area of nearly 2,000m² (built area) was born out of the UN Geneva's ambition and need for an entrance and dedicated facilities to welcoming the visitors of the Palais des Nations.

This new infrastructure is symbolically located along the Flag Alley, between the Place des Nations, where those who want peace can make their voices heard, and the historic building of the Palais des Nations building, where those who are seeking peace can work together.



ELEGANT AND SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE

Composed of pavilion-like volumes topped with terracotta and wooden roofs of variable heights, it stands out as a model of simplicity. Wooden colonnades lend this place an elegance that resonates with the architecture of the Palais des Nations.

The architectural design is the work of **Charles Pictet Baptiste Broillet Architectes Associés**.

THE ARCHITECTURAL PROJECT IN FIGURES

5,260 m²

Parcel area

1,965 m²

Built area

1,495 m²

Landscaped area

9,265 m³

Built volume

2,970 m³

Outdoor built volume

200,000 visitors

Annual capacity

16 millions CHF

Construction budget

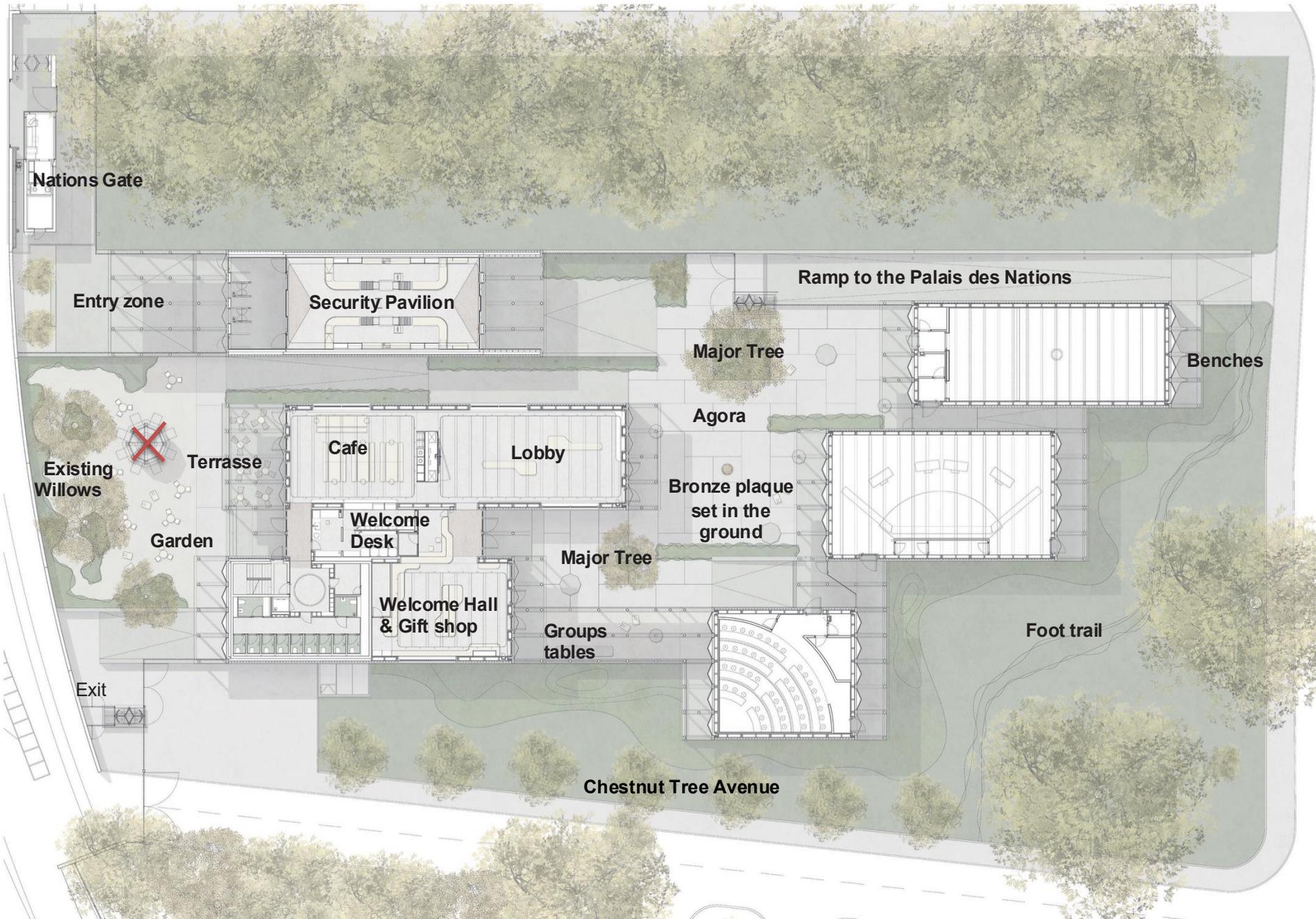


HARMONIOUS INTEGRATION INTO THE PALAIS DES NATIONS CAMPUS

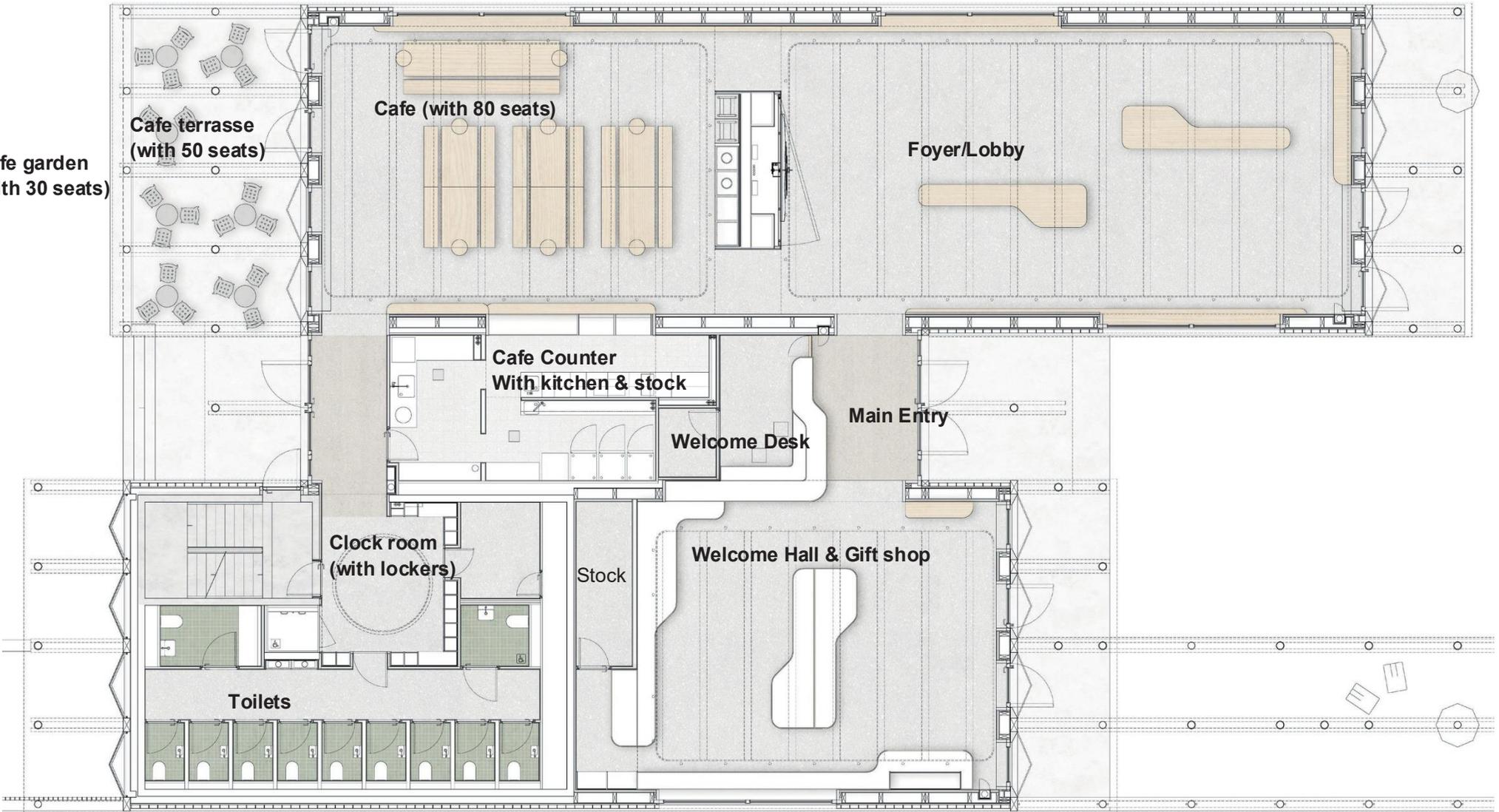
Access to the new UN Geneva Visitor Centre will be from the Place des Nations, through the Nations Gate. In the shade of the tall cedar trees lining the Flag Alley, an initial corridor leads visitors to the security pavilion. From there, they reach an outdoor esplanade framed by a series of pavilions.

The visit unfolds seamlessly between indoor and outdoor spaces, alternating between immersive experiences within the pavilions and open-air passages connected to the beautiful UN park. Visitors are naturally guided along a path that begins and ends in the foyer. Guiding without constraining, securing without confining, celebrating without overshadowing: the architecture of the Pavilions seeks to offer every visitor an experience that is aesthetic, enlightening, and memorable.





MAIN PAVILION



Security Pavilion



Cafe



Welcome hall & souvenir shop



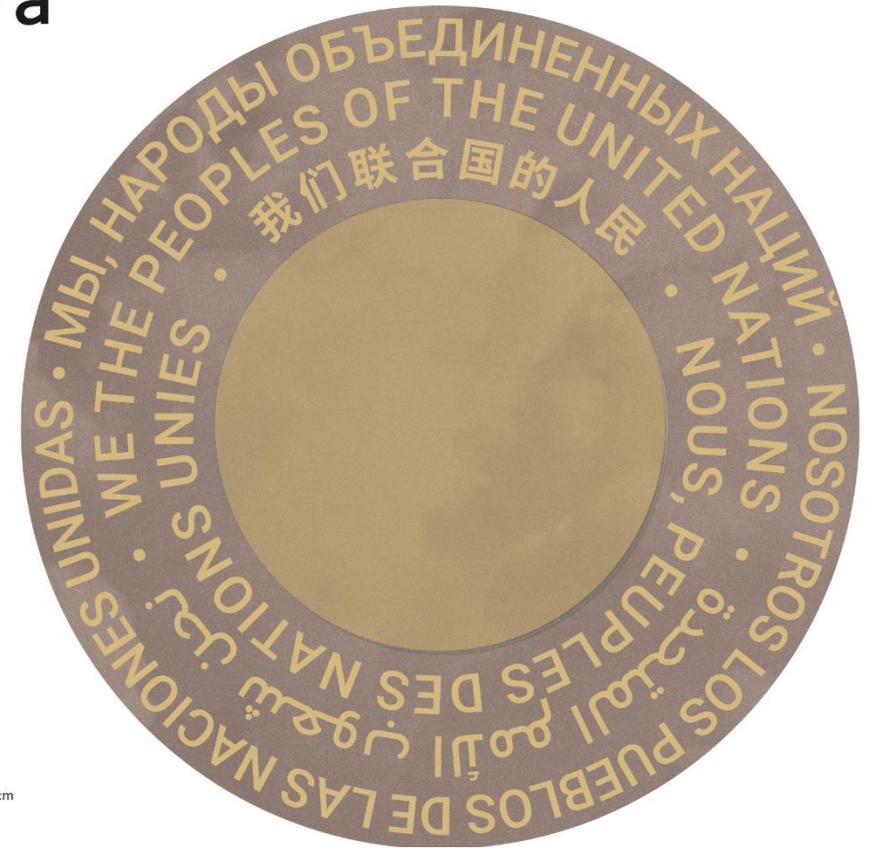
Lobby



AGORA



L'agora



Diamètre de l'agora = 130 cm
Diamètre du cercle central = 70 cm

The new UN facility, known as the *Portail des Nations*, will be transferred to the United Nations as a turnkey building by February 2026.

THE DONATION INCLUDES:

- **Reorganization of the Portail des Nations entrance (Nations Gate)**
The existing guardhouse and turnstiles are being adapted to meet UN security requirements.
 - **Handover to the United Nations of a fully completed “turnkey” building**, in compliance with building permit No. DD 113 785_RO issued on 26 February 2021 and supplementary permit No. DD 113 785_2 issued on 21 February 2024.
 - ✓ Build area: 1,965 m², distributed among five distinct structures forming the UN Visitor Center in Geneva.
 - ✓ The security pavilion houses all visitor screening functions.
 - ✓ The main building includes a reception area with a souvenir shop, a lobby, a café, a souvenir shop, restrooms, cloakroom with 65 lockers, technical and storage facilities as well as administrative offices (second level).
 - ✓ The three exhibition pavilions form a dedicated area for staging the immersive experience.
 - **Technical installations and operational equipment** (kitchen, photovoltaic panels), interior and exterior fittings, furniture, and multimedia equipment.
 - **Creation of an art installation and production of visual content** for the main pavilion dedicated to showcasing the international ecosystem in which UN Geneva operates
 - **Production of an immersive experience on multilateralism and the role of the United Nations in Geneva** (including Lachlan Turczan Water, light, sound art installation, software & audio guide in eight languages).
- **The entire project has been designed in accordance with Swiss standards, guidelines and regulations applicable to public facilities.**