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International Geneva Marks Construction Milestone of the Portail des Nations, the Future United Nations Geneva Visitor Centre

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The topping-out ceremony marking the completion of the construction of the Portail des Nations, the future visitor centre of UN Geneva, has been held today in the presence of the UN Secretary-General António Guterres, the Vice President of the Swiss Confederation and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Ignazio Cassis, the State Councilor of the Republic and Canton of Geneva Nathalie Fontanet, and the President of the Portail des Nations Foundation Ivan Pictet.

Designed as a new entry point for visitors to the Palais des Nations, the Portail will provide a dedicated space for welcoming, informing and engaging the public on the role of the United Nations and multilateral cooperation.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. António Guterres, stated: *“Engaging with public audiences has never been more vital. Around the world, we see multilateralism under attack and raw power on the rise. We see hate and bigotry taking root, and facts twisted beyond recognition. That is why we need venues like the Portail des Nations, the Gateway of Nations. It will offer visitors a fresh way to experience our European Headquarters — and connect with our work around the globe.”*

H.E. Mr. Ignazio Cassis, Vice President of the Swiss Confederation and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, said: *“I look forward to seeing this place flooded with visitors from all over the world; among which young people, who will use this Portal not only to enter a building, but also to better understand why international cooperation remains essential.”*

Speaking on behalf of the Geneva authorities, Ms. Nathalie Fontanet, State Councilor of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, stated: *“The Portail des Nations reflects Geneva’s deep-rooted commitment to multilateralism. This visitor centre will highlight the expertise, cooperation and innovation driven by the United Nations, its agencies and partners in Geneva for the benefit of humanity.”*

Mr. Ivan Pictet, President of the Portail des Nations Foundation, said: *“The Foundation is proud to inaugurate in two months an immersive, high tech, interactive experience that will bring to life the work on the field and on our daily lives of all the UN agencies based in Geneva, and we hope to host up to 200,000 visitors a year for a one hour tour, displayed in 8 languages.”*

The ceremony included the unveiling of the “We the Peoples” plaque designed by André Baldinger, visual artist, symbolizing the principles and values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

The new UN Geneva Visitor centre is expected to open to the public in May 2026. Once operational, it will become the starting and the ending point of the guided tour of the Palais des Nations. It will also offer a unique immersive experience dedicated to multilateralism, the role of the United Nations family in Geneva and the breadth of its international cooperation activities.



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