

# Information for participants



50<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPCC

Geneva, Switzerland

WMO headquarters

August 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> 2019

Switzerland will celebrate its national holiday on 1 August. Most of the public offices, as well as restaurants and shops will be closed on this day.

## ***I. INTRODUCTION***

The fiftieth Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will take place at the headquarters of the World Meteorological Organization, in the city of Geneva, Switzerland from 2 to 6 August, 2019. The registration of participants to this meeting will open on 1 August 2019 from 14:00 – 18:00, 2 August 2019 from 8:00 – 18:00 and 9:00 – 16:00 from 3 to 6 August, 2019.

Geneva is the capital of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, in the French-speaking part of Switzerland. Host to 36 international organizations, over 300 non-governmental organizations, as well as many multinational companies, Geneva is a perfect example of an international and multi-cultural city. It is ideally located on the banks of Lake Geneva and at the foot of the Alps and the Jura Mountains.

Geneva's most famous monument, Jet d'Eau, is the world's tallest water fountain and provides a constant landmark for exploring the city. Geneva's ancient Old Town offers a living glimpse of the past while Geneva's more than thirty museums and art galleries capture the rich and vibrant history of the city including the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum and the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MAMCO).

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**NOTE** – This guide will provide participants attending the above mentioned IPCC meetings in Geneva with useful information. Participants are advised to read it carefully and contact the IPCC Secretariat in case of questions.

## ***Working languages***

During the session, simultaneous interpretation in the six WMO official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) will be provided in the main conference room (Salle Obasi).

## **II. VISITORS TO GENEVA**

### **1. International Airport and Train Station**

Participants are recommended to arrive either at the Genève Cointrin Airport (GVA), where the major airlines operate daily flights as destination, or to the Geneva Cornavin train station.

### **2. Time Zone**

Geneva is in Central European Summer Time (CEST) during the summer half of the year (31 March-27 October in 2019). The CEST is 2 hours ahead Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+2).

### **3. Visas for travel to Switzerland**

*Where and how to apply for a visa:* Switzerland applies Schengen regulations for the issuance of visas. This means that all participants requiring a visa to enter Switzerland should apply for their visa directly to the Embassy or Consulate-General of Switzerland in their country. In cases where no Swiss Embassy or Consulate is available, participants should apply to the country designated by Switzerland to handle visa applications.

Under Schengen regulations, it is necessary for each visa applicant to make an appointment and to present him/herself in person, in order to submit and register biometric data. On 11 October 2011, the Schengen member states introduced the Visa Information System (VIS), which is used to store biometric data of Schengen visa applicants. Data remains valid in the VIS system for a period of 5 years.

Additional information in several languages regarding the implementation of the VIS system, registration of biometric data and the rollout timetable for Swiss embassies/consulates implementing the VIS system is available through the following link:

[www.bfm.admin.ch/bfm/en/home/themen/einreise/einfuehrung\\_vis.html](http://www.bfm.admin.ch/bfm/en/home/themen/einreise/einfuehrung_vis.html)

*When to apply:* Time needed to obtain a visa may vary from case to case. It is strongly recommended that delegates inform themselves on the relevant appointment system and procedures as early as possible, to ensure that the visa may be issued in a timely manner. Delegates can find this information on relevant national government websites, or they can consult directly with the Swiss Embassy/Consulate in the applicant's country of residence.

*Special circumstances:* In cases where no diplomatic relations exist between a Member and Switzerland, or where a Member considers that some difficulties may be experienced in obtaining visas, delegates can submit a visa request directly to Switzerland. However, under Annex I of the General Regulations of the Organization, this request must be sent by the delegate to the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization who will in turn submit it to Switzerland.

Such requests must contain all the necessary details: name, surname, date and place of birth, father's name, nationality, passport number, date and place of issue, expiry date, profession, place where the visa is to be issued, and duration of stay in Switzerland. Requests should be received by the Secretary-General as far in advance of Congress as possible.

*Additional information:* Additional information regarding entry visas for Switzerland and Swiss representation abroad may be found through the following links:

- (i) [www.bfm.admin.ch/bfm/en/home/themen/einreise/merkblatt\\_einreise.html](http://www.bfm.admin.ch/bfm/en/home/themen/einreise/merkblatt_einreise.html)
- (ii) [www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/reps.html](http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/reps.html)

#### **4. Weather**

MétéoSuisse provides regular weather updates through its mobile phone applications and through its website at the following addresses:

App: [www.meteosuisse.admin.ch/home/service-et-publications/conseil-et-service/l-app-de-meteosuisse.html](http://www.meteosuisse.admin.ch/home/service-et-publications/conseil-et-service/l-app-de-meteosuisse.html)

Website: [www.meteosuisse.admin.ch/home/meteo/previsions.html](http://www.meteosuisse.admin.ch/home/meteo/previsions.html)

#### **5. Health requirements/medical services**

Up-to-date information on international travel and health requirements are provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) at the following websites:

<http://www.who.int/ith/en/>  
<http://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/switzerland>

Neither IPCC nor Switzerland could be held responsible for accidents or damage to private property of participants. Participants shall make their own arrangements for health insurance and any other necessary insurance.

#### **6. Currency**

The currency in Switzerland is the Swiss Franc (CHF, SFr.). The Euro is also accepted at most businesses but expect to pay a premium rate. Check [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com) for the most up-to-date exchange rates. Most transactions in the city are conducted in cash and a surprising number of businesses and restaurants do not accept credit cards. ATMs are widely available throughout the city, dispensing notes up to 1000 CHF.

#### **7. Electricity**

Power systems are generally 230 volts and 50 Hz. An adaptor may be necessary.

Participants are advised to bring their own plug adapters to plug into Swiss power sockets. Information on the appropriate plugs may be found on the Internet (for example, at: <http://www.iec.ch/worldplugs/typeJ.htm>). Adaptors can also be bought from the WMO souvenir shop.

## **8. Hotel accommodations**

Participants must make their own hotel arrangements. Participants are advised that hotel accommodation in Geneva and the surrounding area may be scarce. Participants should inquire with the hotels to see if it is possible to have special UN rates for the dates of their stay. Please find below the list of some of the hotels located in the vicinity of WMO.

1) [Hotel Ibis Genève Centre Lac](#)

Rue De Berne 26, Pâquis, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland

2) [Hotel Drake-Longchamp](#)

Rue Butini 7, Pâquis, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland

3) [Hotel Ibis Genève Centre Nations](#)

Rue du Grand Pré 33-35, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland

4) [Hotel Les Nations](#)

Rue du Grand Pré 62, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland

5) [Hotel Eden](#)

Rue de Lausanne 135, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland

6) [Hotel Mon Repos](#)

Rue de Lausanne 131, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland

For more information, you can consult the Geneva Tourism official website.

## **9. Transportation**

Participants will be responsible for coordinating their own transportation to and from the airport. At the airport, free tickets for public transport within the Canton of Geneva are available from the machine in the Baggage Conveyor Hall before passing customs.

Travel by taxi – Time: 10-15 minutes | Cost approximately 30-35 Swiss francs

Travel by bus – Bus 28 (direction 'Jardin Botanique', stop at Sécheron-Gare)

Hotels in Geneva provide guests, upon request, with a free Geneva Transport Card. This personal, non-transferable pass gives the holder full access to Geneva's public transport network for the duration of their stay.

A map of the bus and tram network can be obtained free of charge from the UNIRESO Information Centre at Cornavin Station and from the following website: <http://www.tpg.ch>. Please note that this website is only in French.

## **10. Internet services**

Wireless Internet connection (Wi-Fi) will be available in the main conference room and at the WMO Conference Center. The access is free and does not require a password.