



2nd MINISTERIAL REVIEW CONFERENCE ON THE GENEVA DECLARATION 31 OCTOBER—1 NOVEMBER 2011 | GENEVA

WELCOME TO GENEVA!

Transport between Geneva International Airport and the centre of the city is easy and frequent. From the airport to the town centre, the train to Geneva-Cornavin railway station (city centre) remains the easiest way to travel. **Bus 5** in front of that station links it to the International Organisations. [More detailed information is available on our website.](#)

Please also note that **free tickets** are available to travellers at the airport: get these from the ticket vending machine at the luggage collection area **before** passing through customs.

Sponsorship programme

Please note that funds available under the UNDP administered Sponsorship Programme have been fully exhausted. No new requests for funding will be accepted from now.

Please also note that we will not be able to reimburse any expenses during the conference.

Thank you for your understanding.

Lunch during the conference

An **official luncheon** will take place on Monday 31 October 2011. This event is limited to invited guests, including heads of delegations and senior representatives of international organizations.

If you are a **sponsored participant or a speaker**, lunch has been organized for you at the CIG restaurant on both days. Please go to the 1st floor of the conference center, where a staff member will give you a voucher.

All others participants, are welcome to use the same self-service restaurant on the 1st floor, where those without vouchers can purchase their meals.

Collecting your conference badge

Countries with diplomatic or permanent missions in Geneva are requested to collect the delegation's badges at the Swiss Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, at 9-11 rue de Varembe, on Thursday 27 October or on Friday 28 October, from 8:30 to 12:30 or between 13:30 and 17:30.

Delegates of International Organisations are requested to collect their badges on the first day of the conference (Monday 31 October) at the CIG, from 8:30.

Delegates from NGOs are requested to collect the badges during the first civil society event: this is at the Novotel on Sunday 30 October, from 17:00 to 19:00.

All badges that have not been collected during that frame time will be available on the first day of the conference at the CIG.

Please make sure to carry an official identification document (such as your passport) at all times!

Please note that your badge grants you access to the conference, the lunches (if eligible or sponsored) as well as to the cocktail reception. Also, for security reasons, it is very important to wear it at all times, including at the cocktail reception at the Hotel Intercontinental.

A note entitled "Welcome to Geneva" will soon be sent to all the participants. This contains detailed practical information. Please read it carefully, and keep it to consult on your arrival.

SPECIAL FOCUS FOR THIS ISSUE: URBAN VIOLENCE

URBAN VIOLENCE

According to the newly published *Global Burden of Armed Violence 2011*, an estimated 526,000 people die violently every year, but only 55,000 of them lose their lives in conflict or as a result of terrorism. A large part of this violence occurs in urban areas.

Urban violence is a major preoccupation of policy makers, planners and development practitioners in cities around the world. States routinely seek to contain such violence through repression, as well by exporting and containing it at the periphery of metropolitan centres.

Yet urban violence is a highly heterogeneous phenomenon, and is not amenable to reified diagnosis and coercive intervention. Muscular state-led responses tend to overlook and conceal the underlying factors shaping the emergence of urban violence, as well as the motivations and means of so-called violence entrepreneurs.

THEMATIC SESSIONS

One of the thematic sessions at the conference will be on “**The challenges of armed violence in urban settings**”. The session will bring together international experience on developmental approaches to urban violence reduction and prevention. The session will include city authorities, academics, and non-governmental organizations.

This session is scheduled for the morning on 1 November. The panel will include representatives from the World Bank, UN-HABITAT Safer City programme, the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC), and the Instituto Sou da Paz.

Another thematic session related to urban violence is scheduled for that afternoon. The session on “**Mayors and local authorities against armed violence**” will focus on concrete examples of tackling armed violence by various cities, and will bring together city representatives from Aguascaliente (Mexico), Canoas (Brazil), Nairobi (Kenya), and Geneva (Switzerland).

For further information about the [programme](#), please consult our website.

SUGGESTED READING

OECD (2011) - Programming Notes on [Preventing and Reducing Armed Violence in Urban Areas](#) (also available in [French](#) and [Spanish](#)).

World Bank (2011) - [Violence in the City: Understanding and Supporting Community Responses to Urban Violence](#).

ICRC (2010) - [Humanitarian Debate : Law, Policy, Action - Urban Violence](#), *International Review of the Redcross*.

Small Arms Survey (2007) - [Small Arms Survey 2007: Guns and the City](#).



Extra events for civil society organizations

The 2nd Ministerial Review Conference offers a great opportunity to increase the participation of civil society organizations (CSO) in the Geneva Declaration process. The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) and Action on Armed Violence (AoAV) are planning two special activities around the Conference for civil society organizations:

- **Pre-Conference meeting**, 30 October 2011, from 17:00 to 19:00, at the Novotel. This meeting will set the scene for CSO participation at the Conference, and will be followed by a buffet supper.
- **Event after the Conference**, 2 November 2011, from 09:00 to 12:30, at the Novotel. The purpose of this event is to reflect on the experience of the Conference and to discuss dimensions of future civil society collaboration for the post-2MRC period.

We hope to see as many CSO representatives as possible at these meetings.

Armed violence: a global issue

What are the links between armed violence and development?

- o **Armed violence and state fragility:** a relative weakness in a country's rule of law is broadly linked with higher levels of homicide, research shows.
- o **Armed violence and economic disparities:** Countries experiencing rapid transition—and the associated growth in inequality of income and wealth—are also more likely to experience high levels of armed violence. This in turn creates profound long-term development challenges.
- o States suffering **conflict** or persistently high **crime rates** are **furthest from reaching the MDGs**.
- o **Armed violence costs more each year than the total sum of Official Development Assistance.**
- o **Fighting crime**, and treating the victims of crime and violence, **is diverting resources from MDG attainment:** National levels of spending on health and education are often lower than the cost of fighting crime and treating injuries.

Global Burden of Armed Violence 2011: Lethal Encounters

The second edition of the *Global Burden of Armed Violence* is being released by the Geneva Declaration Secretariat to coincide with the 2nd Ministerial Review Conference.

Produced by the Geneva Declaration Secretariat, the *Global Burden of Armed Violence 2011* presents new country-level data, analysis and comparisons of the scope, scale and distribution of lethal violence around the world. Based on a comprehensive database that covers violent deaths across both conflict and non-conflict settings, this report offers a unique integrated approach to understanding the global impact of lethal violence.



The findings of the publication will be presented by Professor Keith Krause, Programme Director of the Small Arms Survey, at the high-level panel during the first day of the Conference.

Copies of the publication will be available at the Conference. In addition, an exhibition on the *Global Burden of Armed Violence* will be on display at the Conference centre.



Geneva Declaration Secretariat

CH-1202 Geneva | Switzerland

T +41 22 908 5785

F +41 22 732 2738

E info@genevadeclaration.org

W www.genevadeclaration.org

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