

2. Host Country

Geneva is the second largest "UN city" in terms of UN staff (5,500) and the most active UN conference centre (about 7000 half-day meetings/year).

"Spirit of Geneva": a long tradition of international law-making and arbitration in this city preceded the establishment of the League of Nations: 1864 first Geneva Conference, adoption of the Red Cross Convention, 1872 judgement in the "Alabama" case opens new demensions in international arbitration. Geneva was one important centre of the European peace movement around 1900.

Geneva and the Palais des Nations have become more than just an "European" centre. UN activities in the fields of human rights, humanitarian assistance, disarmament, economic development and enviromant protection reach out from Geneva to all parts of the world.

Since several years, the name of Geneva is once more directly linked to peace negotiations, which, difficult and protracted as they may be, finally reached just settlements of embittered and dangerous conflicts: Afghanistan, Irak/Iran, and, hopefully soon, in the former Yugoslavia and other areas.

1) philosophy of international relations  
2) practical multilateralism  
3) multilateral diplomacy in cold-war  
4) Switzerland as a model of democracy in the world  
5) democracy

