



**MTCT Measurement Technical Meeting  
Geneva, Switzerland  
9-11 September 2019**

**Dear Participant,**

Welcome to Geneva!

We are pleased to welcome you to the MTCT Measurement Technical meeting that will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 9 to 11 September 2019. We hope that the following information, including logistical arrangements, accommodation and other relevant information will be useful to you in preparation for the meeting and to make your stay in Geneva as comfortable as possible.

**Meeting venue**

**WHO/UNAIDS Building**

20 Avenue Appia

CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland

**Holders of a UN Laissez Passer, or an International Organization Staff Badge with a valid date are allowed access to the WHO/UNAIDS HQ buildings without having to obtain a Visitor Badge. You do need to present this at the reception to activate the magnetic access.**

**Meeting registration**

**A link to the meeting registration site will be sent out in a separate email in the next few days.**

Registration is required to receive a meeting badge which will be available for collection at the reception desk on the first day of the meeting. This badge will allow access to the building.

Please note you will need to create an account to be able to register through the system. You will need to upload a photo and provide your passport number and expiration date. A user guide is attached for reference. You can also indicate through this system if you need a visa support letter.

**Meeting focal persons**

**Technical focal point:** Mary Mahy – [mahym@unaids.org](mailto:mahym@unaids.org)

**Administrative support:** SIE admin team – [strategicinformation@unaids.org](mailto:strategicinformation@unaids.org)

**Accommodation**

**There are no block bookings.** Each participant is expected to book and pay for their own accommodation. UNAIDS funded participants will receive per diem to cover hotel costs. Online sites such as [www.booking.com](http://www.booking.com), [www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com) and others often provide reasonable offers.

It would be best to book hotels within the vicinity of the Gare Cornavin (Geneva main train station).

**Visa**

**It is your responsibility to obtain any visas (or vaccinations) which may be necessary for this travel.** Please ensure compliance with all entry requirements. **Visas on arrival are not available.** As mentioned above, if you require a visa support letter you should indicate that in the registration link that will be provided shortly.

Switzerland is part of the Schengen zone. You may therefore require a Schengen visa for entry into Switzerland.

Please verify with the nearest Swiss Embassy or Consulate whether you are required to have a visa to enter in the Switzerland: <http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/rebs.html>

#### **Important note:**

- **Participants** invited to a UNAIDS meeting are strongly advised to **book an appointment** with the appropriate Embassy/Consulate **at least 4 to 6 weeks prior to the date of the meeting**.
- **Visa procedures may take up to 21 days. You are therefore urged to apply for a visa well in advance of your desired departure date.** It is understood that the decision whether to issue a visa to any applicant rests with the competent Swiss authorities.
- The participant is required to provide the Embassy/Consulate with the letter of invitation to the meeting as well as the visa support letter when lodging the visa request. For us to process this support letter, send a copy of your passport to [StrategicInformation@unaid.org](mailto:StrategicInformation@unaid.org)
- Visa applications should be booked at the time of receiving the invitation from UNAIDS and prior to receiving the visa support letter.

#### **Transport in Geneva**

Airport-hotel transfers will not be provided. Information on public transport as follows:

**You can pick up a free ticket for public transport** from the machine in the baggage collection area at the Arrival level. This Unireso ticket, offered by Geneva International Airport, allows you to use public transport in Geneva free for a period of 80 minutes.



If you are staying at a hotel, the hotel will offer you (at check-in) the "[Geneva Transport Card](#)". This card is valid for the duration of your stay and can be used on the Unireso public transport system within Geneva (e.g. train, tram and bus).

#### **How to get to the UNAIDS/WHO Building**

The WHO/UNAIDS building is opposite the WHO main building.

**By Bus** Since bus schedules are subject to change, see the schedules posted at the bus stop or [www.tpg.ch](http://www.tpg.ch) for current schedules and times.

#### **From the airport**

- Take Bus no. 28 direction Jardin Botanique. Get off at OMS.

#### **From Gare Cornavin**

- Take Bus no. 8 direction OMS (WHO). Get off at the last stop (OMS). You would have to walk a bit uphill to get to the WHO/UNAIDS building (opposite the WHO main building).
- Or take Bus F direction Ferney-Voltaire or Gex and get off at OMS.

### By Taxi

Taxi stands are located at almost all main squares in Geneva and at the Cornavin city centre railway station. Taxis in Geneva tend to be rather expensive. A taxi to the centre of town costs 35-50 CHF, depending on the route and precise location. For advance arrangements, please visit this link: <http://taxi-phone.ch/en>

### Weather

Please consult weather information for Switzerland before your travel, for proper preparation. <http://www.meteosuisse.admin.ch/web/en/weather.html>

### Geneva Airport

<http://www.gva.ch/en/>

### Financial Transactions

The currency in Switzerland is CHF (Swiss franc). Credit card is widely accepted, and ATMs for cash withdrawal are available throughout the city.

### Internet Connectivity

Wireless networks are available in the conference room and bedrooms. It is strongly recommended that you bring your own laptop and a worldwide travel adaptor.

### Electricity

Electricity in Switzerland is 220 volts, 50 cycle AC. Most U.S. appliances require a converter and an adapter to operate, although some dual voltage items such as laptops may only require an adapter. Some European appliances may also require an adaptor as Switzerland uses a 3-prong outlet system that is smaller than most Continental plugs.

For more information see

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AC\\_power\\_plugs\\_and\\_sockets#CEE\\_7.2F16\\_Europlug\\_.28Type\\_C.29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AC_power_plugs_and_sockets#CEE_7.2F16_Europlug_.28Type_C.29)

### Security Information

There is relatively little crime in Geneva by European standards and the city remains safe for visitors. However, there has been an increase in petty crimes (pickpocketing, bag snatching, theft from vehicles).

Pickpockets are particularly active on buses. Thefts of laptops and luggage have been reported notably from luggage racks on trains serving Geneva airport, at Cornavin train station, as well as on rail lines linking Geneva to Lausanne. Travelers are advised to take sensible precautions against petty crime, particularly on public transport, around railway stations, in bars and in the vicinity of tourist spots (e.g. Jardin Anglais).

Please remain vigilant during your stay and make sure that you always keep your belongings in sight.

Here are few phone numbers in case of emergency:

NEW UNIVERSAL SECURITY NUMBER - 112 (from mobile phones - even without sim card or coverage, landlines, public phones -without any coins) in all of Europe.

**In Switzerland**

Police 117

Fire 118

Ambulance 144

**UNAIDS/WHO numbers**

UNAIDS Team Leader (Security): +41227912876 or +41795006505

WHO SECURITY EMERGENCY NUMBER: 24/7: +41 22 791 1117

WHO MEDICAL EMERGENCY NUMBER: 11114

**\*\*We wish you a safe trip and look forward to seeing you\*\***