

# 2020 Activity Report



GENEVA  
peacebuilding  
PLATFORM

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform is a joint project of five institutions



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## A Word of Gratitude

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform would firstly like to say a big thank you to all its funders, event partners and network members for their continued support and engagement in Platform activities. In particular, the Platform would like to thank its five core partners:

- The Graduate Institute’s Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP),
- Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF),
- The Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP),
- Interpeace, and
- The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO).

The Platform would also like to extend a special thanks to the International Organisations Division of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) as well as the Permanent Mission of Switzerland in Geneva for its continued invaluable support of the Platform’s activities. In addition, the Platform would also like to thank the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) for their continuous support and partnership on multiple initiatives.

# Highlights

The year 2020 has been one of unprecedented change and disruption. From the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic – which has affected every sphere and sector of society – to protests for justice and equality, governmental elections and more, we have seen the ever-increasing need for peacebuilding practice. For the Platform, the usual yearly activities of in-person meetings and convenings had to be adapted accordingly, most of them moving to an online format where possible. Despite the disruptions and the resulting adaptation, GPP achieved important results:

- **Geneva Peace Week** (GPW) transformed into an inclusive multi-stakeholder forum that occurred entirely online. GPW20 consisted of 70 live sessions, 70 Digital Series productions and involved 4,261 participants from 159 countries. GPW also generated 785 podcast listens and 8,530 video streams of the GPW20 Digital Series productions.
- GPP co-hosted a 2-day thematic consultation for the 2020 **Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture** (PBA), thereby continuing the GPP tradition of 2015, 2010, and 2015 to gather reflections from Geneva for the review processes.
- GPP advanced three community curation processes including the **Geneva Dialogue on Environment, Climate, Conflict and Peace** (ECCP), the **Beijing-Geneva Digital Briefings** on Sustaining Peace and Preventive Diplomacy, and activities on **Trade for Peace**.
- Adaptation to COVID-19 has enhanced the digital footprint of GPW, both in terms of its convening and network administration capacities, as well as through testing out new digital products during GPW, including podcasts and videos. GPW20 involved the development of an entirely new digital support infrastructure with a private sector partner – Aventri – that enabled GPW new online format and enhanced interaction with digital media.
- GPP advanced networking between professionals working on peace and security dynamics in Latin America and facilitated informal exchange between peace forum organizers to nurture exchange and collaboration between them. The latter was particularly important to draw on the insights of peer fora in view of adapting GPW to an online format.

GPP will look forward to a transition period after the departure of the Executive Coordinator, after 10 years of service, as well as of the GPW Focal Point after 3 years of service. The handover to an interim Executive Coordinator, Rainer Gude, is previewed to take place in the period February-March 2021. GPP will treat 2021 a transition year to take the necessary time to reflect on the strategic positioning of GPP in the rapidly changing landscape for peacebuilding.

## I. Convening and Incubation

Since its founding in 2008, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform has provided a space for the incubation of new ideas and practice for peacebuilding. This section reports on Pillar 1 of the GPP's 2020-2021 programme that has the goal to facilitate continuous exchange about innovative practice and thinking on peacebuilding.

### 1.1. Annual Retreat of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform



*Photo from the Annual Retreat, 12 March 2020*

The 2020 Annual Retreat took place on 12 March at the Auditorium Jacques Freymond in the Villa Barton premises of the Graduate Institute. The retreat asked participants to share their observations about upcoming issues or priorities for peacebuilding in 2020. Included among the main points raised by the Advisory Board are the following points:

- Environmental issues and the relationship between climate change, peace and security is a priority concern for many peacebuilding actors.

- The peace and security concerns facing Europe are growing across multiple dimensions and need to be addressed head-on by international peacebuilding actors.
- There are significant opportunities for mainstreaming peacebuilding approaches within international institutions, even those not traditionally known as 'peacebuilders'.
- There is an opportunity for International Geneva to lead the global discussion on the connections between arms control and peace, both in theory and practice.
- There is an opportunity to increase policy and research focus on urban peace, and what this means across different constituencies.
- The linkages between human rights and peacebuilding are becoming more explicitly defined and should be seized upon – with peacebuilding and human rights increasingly seen and articulated as mutually reinforcing lenses.
- The potential for digital technology to advance peacebuilding objectives, change perspectives, and facilitate outreach to communities is great and can be mainstreamed across current peacebuilding practice.

After the exploratory conversation on the priorities of peacebuilding in 2020, the retreat formed discussion groups about how such priorities should be advanced in practice. The following themes stood out: (1) Environment, climate, conflict, and peace; (2) Peacebuilding in Europe, (3) Mainstreaming peacebuilding; (4) Arms and peace; (5) Urban peacebuilding; and (6) Human rights and peacebuilding.



*Photo from the Annual Retreat, 12 March 2020*

## 1.2. Geneva Peace Talks Initiative

The 2020 edition of the Geneva Peace Talks took place digitally on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September, the International Day of Peace. The central theme, 'Shaping Peace' aimed to highlight our interconnectedness in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has unveiled deep systems of inequality, privilege, and injustice prevalent in societies around the world. The Geneva Peace Talks sought to challenge thinking and encourage reflection on how we can shape our world and what we want our new "normal" to look like. Speaker contributions were recorded in advance, and live moderation took place from the Palais des Nations. The full live webcast can be viewed [here](#).

### Speakers of GPT20

- António Guterres, ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations, took office on 1st January 2017. [Video link](#).
- Tatiana Valovaya, the thirteenth Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UN Geneva) and the first woman to occupy this position. [Video link](#).
- Ahmed Abdullahi, Country Coordinator for Interpeace and the chair of the peacebuilding working group with Somalia NGO Consortium. [Video link](#).
- Estelle Baroung Hughes, Director of the NGO Africa Learning International focused on SDG 4 (Quality Education for All) in Africa and a teacher currently working at the International School of Geneva. [Video link](#).
- Inua Ellams, poet, playwright & performer, graphic artist & designer and founder of: The Midnight Run (an arts-filled, night-time, urban walking experience). [Video link](#).
- Taimani Emerald, owner of Illustrious by Emerald Creative showcasing a unique artistic voice to create illustrations that teach a message of kindness & anti-racism to people & children of all ages, from 6-60. [Video link](#).
- Luís Figo, former professional football player from Portugal and is regarded as one of the greatest players of his generation. [Video link](#).
- Adiba Qasim, refugee in Switzerland, Young Leader in Foreign and Security Policy with global fellowship initiative at the GCSP "Geneva Centre for Security Policy" and, student in international relations at the University of Geneva. [Video link](#).
- Ron Smith, leads Salesforce's global Circle the Schools volunteering program, lifelong educator. [Video link](#).
- Roberta Ventura, Founder of SEP Jordan a fashion and lifestyle brand set up to bring dignity and pride to refugee camps. [Video link](#).
- Scott M. Weber, President of Interpeace. [Video link](#).

### Moderators

- Sunaina Bambra, Master's student in Development Studies from the Graduate Institute, Geneva.
- Sarah Noble, co-founder and Curator of the Peace Talks at Interpeace.

### 1.3. Opening Event of Geneva Peace Week

The Opening Ceremony of Geneva Peace Week was live streamed from Geneva on Monday 2 November 2020. The event was opened with remarks from Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva and was moderated by Achim Wennmann, Claudia Seymour and Danson Gichini from the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform. The ceremony focused on the two central questions of “how we can rebuild trust after disruption” and “how to reset international cooperation”. With an excellent speaker line up and programme the event was viewed by just over 1,000 people.

#### Speakers

- Pierre Hazan, Senior Advisor, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
- Jürg Lauber, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva
- Leoluca Orlando, Mayor of Palermo
- Paolo Petralia Camassa, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Palermo
- Casilda Regueiro, Storyteller
- Marie-Laure Salles, Director, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
- Maria Luisa Silva, Director, United Nations Development Programme (UNDO) Office in Geneva



*The Opening Ceremony can be viewed on YouTube [here](#).*

## 1.4. Briefings, Meetings and ad-hoc Events

### Thematic Consultation for the 2020 Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture

To inform the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture (UNPBA) Review 2020, Switzerland mandated the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform to facilitate a consultation process among relevant stakeholders in Geneva, from 18th – 19th February. The aim of the consultation was to contribute to the informal part of the review process, through collecting, analyzing and summarizing the expertise, considerations and concerns of Geneva-based stakeholders engaged in peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts. The consultations involved representatives of Member States, Geneva-based International Organizations, International Civil Society Organizations, the Private Sector and Academia.



*Photo from the opening session, Tuesday 18 February 2020*

The consultations focused specifically on concrete examples of policy and operational coherence linking peace and security, development and human rights, as well as partnerships for peacebuilding and sustaining peace. In addition to plenary discussions in the opening and the aforementioned themed technical sessions, five specific break-out groups shed light on the role of human rights in sustaining peace, meaningful women participation, governance-driven approaches to security, peace-responsive programming to operationalize sustaining peace across the system, as well as the role of integrated analysis to enable coherent action on humanitarian, development, peace and security challenges.



*Photo from the Public Closing Event, Wednesday 19 February 2020*

The Opening Session of the consultations was attended by 95 representatives from Member States and International Organizations. The Technical Sessions were attended by 120 people over the two days and for the public, Closing Session, there were 70 people in attendance, resulting in a total figure of 285 people over the course of the consultations. GPP also produced the "Report on the Geneva Thematic Consultations in the context of the 2020 Review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture". A separate report accounts for further details.

Speakers and moderators for the opening session were as followed:

- Moderation: Achim Wennmann, Executive Coordinator, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform
- Speaker: Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, ASG for Peacebuilding Support, United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (UNDPPA).
- Speaker: Rosa Otunbayeva, Member of the Independent Eminent Persons on the 2020 Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture
- Speaker: Nasser Judeh, Member of the Independent Eminent Persons on the 2020 Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture
- Moderation: Leslie Norton, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Canada to the UNOG and other International Organizations in Geneva



*Photo from the Technical Session, Tuesday 18 February 2020*

### The Peacebuilding field in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic

The GPP and the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) convened an exploratory digital meeting with GPP Advisory Board Members about the peacebuilding responses to COVID-19. The meeting on 'The Peacebuilding field in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic' took place digitally on 9 April 2020. A report was produced following the meeting as part of the Platform's 'The Pulse of Peacebuilding' series that identifies key emerging themes for peacebuilding.

Key messages of the meeting and report were:

- Peacebuilding has a role to play in COVID-19 responses. It can contribute to mobilizing grassroots organisations and peacebuilding networks to prevent and resolve tensions that have arisen due to, or been exacerbated by, COVID-19. In addition, where COVID-19 has led to lower rates of violence or increased social cohesion, peacebuilders should work to help ensure these trends are sustained.
- Peacebuilding can play a key role in nurturing new visions for a post-COVID-19 world. Such visions can help translate the collective experience of COVID-19 into collective responses and international cooperation. In places where COVID-19 has shone a spotlight on our societies (both positive and negative) peacebuilders can

help shape the critical reimagining and reprioritizing of our societies with a focus on holistic human security.

- Peacebuilding must mobilise to identify and counter xenophobic narratives, in order to counter societal fracturing and build cohesion. This includes, for example, countering xenophobia towards refugee and migrant communities, who face particularly severe impacts of COVID-19, and hate crimes and attacks on people of Asian descent. These harmful actions perpetuate inequalities within communities and are therefore likely to have acute impacts on social cohesion and peacebuilding.

### Latin American (LATAM) Breakfast Meetings

The LATAM Breakfast Series focuses on key peace and security topics in the Latin America Region and targets at the senior expert level in international organizations, academia and NGOs in Geneva. The breakfast meeting series is convened jointly by the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform and the Latin America Division of DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance. LATAM Breakfasts shifted to a digital format from March onward.

Speakers included:

- Tomás Regalado Papini, President of FUNDEMAS
- Graciela Fontg, Member of the Board of FUNDEMAS
- Carlos Borgonovo, Executive Director of Borgonovo Pohl, S.A. de C.V. that produces and exports coffee
- Andrei Serbin Pont, Director, Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales (CRIIS), Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Norma Librada Ledezma, Member of the Board of the Center for Justice for Women of Chihuahua and of the Consultative Assembly of the Executive Committee for Victim's Redress

## Beijing-Geneva Digital Briefings on Sustaining Peace and Preventive Diplomacy

The Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) of the China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU) and the GPP collaborated on the Beijing-Geneva Digital Briefings on Sustaining Peace and Preventive Diplomacy. The briefing series showcases exchanges between senior experts on innovative research and policy-making in the areas of sustaining peace and preventive diplomacy in view of finding solutions and fostering collaboration on common concerns. The briefing series builds on the rationale that the world is facing new strategic landscapes that require innovation about how different actors go about preventing violent conflict and sustaining peace. Mega-trends such as COVID-19, climate change, rapid urbanization, or geo-political change are accentuating existing stresses on countries and societies, and therefore emphasize the importance to rethink the toolbox available to de-escalate conflict and build trust in times of heightened turbulence and division. By convening briefings on a monthly basis, the Beijing- Geneva Digital Briefings aim to identify potential areas for a new research agenda in the fields of sustaining peace and preventive diplomacy.

Since September 2020, GPP and IAS-CFAU organized three briefings including the following Keynote speakers:

- Ms. Rachel SCOTT, Senior Advisor, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Advisory Board Member of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform
- Prof. ZHANG Guihong, Director of Center for UN Studies, Fudan University
- Prof. HE Xing, Senior Research Fellow, National University of Defense Technology
- Rudi CONINX, Senior Policy Adviser, Office of the Assistant Director-General for Emergency Response, WHO Health Emergencies Programme, World Health Organization (WHO) and Advisory Board Member of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform
- Prof. Keith KRAUSE, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, and Director of the Graduate Institute's Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP)
- Dr. HE Yin, China Peacekeeping Police Training Center

Expert comments throughout the dialogues provided by:

- Prof. PANG Zhongying, Distinguished Professor of Global Studies/Global Governance, Ocean University of China
- Dr. XUE Lei, Research Fellow, Shanghai Institutes for International Studies
- Dr Kazushige KOBAYASHI, Post-doctoral Researcher, Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
- Prof. JIA Lieying, Director of the School of International Studies, Beijing Language and Culture University
- Asmaa SHALABI, Section Chief, Middle East and North Africa, Operations and Advocacy Division, United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs(UNOCHA)
- Prof. LI Dongyan from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
- Prof. Yuji UESUGI, Waseda University, Tokyo, and CCDP Visiting Fellow

## 2. Network and Community Management

This section reports on Pillar 2 of the GPP's 2020-2021 programme that has the goal to strengthen networking and community building across traditional and non-traditional actors in peacebuilding.

### 2.1. Networking and community management strategy

Following the Advisory Board Meeting in March 2020, the GPP made progress in advancing its process of community group curation. The 6 priority areas indicated by the participants in the retreat were (1) Environment, Climate, Conflict, and Peace (ECCP), (2) Peacebuilding in Europe, (3) Mainstreaming Peacebuilding, (4) Arms and Peace, (5) Urban Peacebuilding, and (6) Human Rights and Peacebuilding. The tracks on ECCP and peacebuilding in Europe advanced substantively in 2020 reporting. These are reported below.

### 2.2. Identify, incubate and accompany at least three thematic processes

Environment, Climate, Conflict and Peacebuilding (ECCP)

The Geneva Dialogue on Environment, Climate, Conflict, and Peace (ECCP) aims to improve and expand the reach of both peacebuilding projects towards environmental and climate sensitivity, and also environmental and climate projects towards peacebuilding sensitivity by fostering inter-institutional collaboration and dialogue, promoting learning and innovation, and mainstreaming these topics across the board. These goals are achieved through three primary activities: briefings and convenings, the development of a White Paper on the Future of Environmental Peacebuilding, and the Geneva contribution towards the Environmental Peacebuilding Association's Road to Geneva. The main aim of this track is to establish a common dialogue between the four fields of environment, climate, conflict, and peacebuilding.

This track intends to generate as outputs:

- A White Paper on the Future of Environmental Peacebuilding, a participatory, global and multi-stakeholder project to identify and curate priorities within the field, culminating in a final paper for Stockholm+50 in June 2022

- Youth research and scholarship, including Graduate Institute Capstone and thesis students to move their research towards publications.
- Biweekly convenings, GPW20 and GPW21 events, and thematic development towards a 2022 EnPAx Conference (see below). To date, there are more than 110 subscribers on the mailing list of this track and the 12 briefings have seen a combined 180 participants.
- Summaries of these briefings can be found on the ECCP page on the GPP website: <https://www.gpplatform.ch/content/environment-climate-conflict-and-peacebuilding>

GPP also facilitated the bid on behalf of a consortium to hold the 2nd International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding, an event of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association, in Geneva in February 2022.

Key items of the bid included:

- GPP liaised with several actors in preparation of the bid including the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP), Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID), Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, Geneva Water Hub, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- GPP facilitated a letter of intent, responses to the letter of intent and made the case for the proposal in a conference call, and was informed on 24 February about the decision of the conference committee for Geneva.
- Since the decision, EnPAx and GPP have developed a process design that strategically connects activities that both networks independently advance. GPP serves on the Organizing Committee for the conference, which meets online biweekly.
- Originally scheduled for June 2021, the Organizing Committee decided to postpone the conference until 2022 and create an international series of conversations on environmental peacebuilding topics called the Road to Geneva. The initiative aims to contribute to the diversification of actors and voices in the field, and to gather information on priorities for the conference.

The GPP places its flagship initiative Geneva Peace Week at the service of providing a key moment for stock-taking and reflection about the cross cutting dimensions for an environmental agenda in both 2020 and 2021. 6 November 2020 saw 45 institutions collaborate to produce 10 events on environmental peacebuilding, as well as a Closing Ceremony with speakers ranging from the field to the diplomatic corps.

### Peacebuilding in Europe

Building on a thematic track that emerged during Geneva Peace Week 2019, and further interest discussions during the Advisory Board retreat in March 2020, this track mainly aims to consider peace and security issues facing Europe and to reflexively apply knowledge and practice to contemporary peacebuilding challenges and concerns facing Europe.

Several Zoom meetings for the track have been convened. Members of the track are providing inputs to the GPP for inclusion on the track's webpage, and engaged with the GPW Organizing Team to discuss and increase coherence across GPW20 session applications. The link for the web page, which is an initiative to showcase the ongoing work of local peacebuilding efforts in Europe, as shared by members of this track, can be found here: <https://www.gppplatform.ch/content/peacebuilding-europe-0>

GPP also commissioned a 2020 IHEID Capstone Research Project entitled: "Conceptions of Peace and Security in Contemporary Europe", which examined how 'peace' is conceived in Europe in 2020, the main political and security debates relevant to contemporary notions of peacebuilding in Europe and the main fault lines and opportunities for peacebuilding today. The report has been produced and a complimentary podcast which is available at the GPP website.

### Trade for peace (T4P)

The Accession Division of the World Trade Organization and GPP actively collaborated to advance joint activities on Trade for Peace (T4P). This included in particular introduction to relevant colleagues from the peacebuilding field to WTO colleagues to advance the initiative, as well as an active exchange for the planning of the first-ever Trade for Peace

Week organized by the WTO. Trade for Peace Week was held from 30 November to 4 December 2020 and brought together 59 speakers, representing 32 organisations and 14 countries and covered a range of topics relevant to the trade, peace and humanitarian communities, especially in fragile and conflict affected countries associated with WTO accession.

After over 2 years of collaboration on T4P, GPP contributed to the milestone of the T4P Week by facilitating bridge building between Geneva's trade, peace and humanitarian communities. The initiative is an example of how GPP served as an entry door into Geneva peace constituency and how an actor not at all connected to this world (in this case WTO's Accession Division) could forge relevant new relationships to advance its work via the GPP. Encouraged by the progress achieved in 2020, the WTO will advance their T4P agenda by establishing a T4P network, launching a T4P podcast, and preparing a White Paper on T4P. In turn, given the progress of the T4P agenda, Egypt will advance T4P in 2021 as an agenda of its presidency of the UN Peacebuilding Commission in New York, thus adding an important topic to the interaction on peacebuilding between Geneva and New York.

### **2.3. Network Management System**

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform migrated all contacts onto a CRM (Customer Relationship Management System) in March 2020. This system allows for contacts of the Platform to be organized by labels, including Geneva Peace Week organizers, participants in different tracks, and organizational affiliations. The CRM supports the management of events through custom registration forms that save the information into each contact's file. It also manages communication and is the primary vehicle through which update emails about both GPW and the GPP are sent. It is GDPR compliant and currently has more than 1,500 contacts.

#### **Box 1: Informal network of peace forum organizers**

In 2019, GPP initiated an effort to foster opportunities of informal exchange between peace and security forum organizers in collaboration with the PyeongChang Peace Forum. An in-person meeting was intended to take place on the margins of the Fragility Forum in Washington DC in March but was postponed due to COVID-19. The meeting was instead held online on 15 June. The network has served as an important informal exchange platform particularly to share information about dates and focus themes. The June meeting focused especially on peer learning about adapting in-person to online events designs and was very important in the reflection process towards adapting GPW20.

**Table 1: Overview of Events in 2020**

	Date	Event name	Thematic	Partners	Location
1	16.01.2020	The Future Landscape of Conferencing, INNOVENT	GPP Panellist during session on “Meeting applications for international organizations” – Addressing how GPP is using technology and applications to run conferences	Hosted by Division of Conference Management, Palais des Nations	Palais des Nations
2	20.01.2020	Comms in Peacebuilding Meetings	Lunch with individuals who work in communications across peacebuilding organisations	GPP	Maison de la Paix
3	18-19.02.2020	United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture Review 2020 Thematic Consultations in Geneva	Two-day conference, informal process of the UNPBA	GPP and FDFA Switzerland (EDA)	Maison de la Paix, Petal 5, Meeting Centre
4	19.02.2020	Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace: What’s next for the UN Peacebuilding Architecture?	Public Event on UNPBA Consultations	GPP, Interpeace, GCSP, DCAF, IHEID, QUNO	Auditorium Ivan Pictet, Maison de la Paix
5	24.02.2020	Comms in Peacebuilding Meetings	Lunch with individuals who work in communications across peacebuilding organisations	GPP	Maison de la Paix
6	27.02.2020	LATAM Breakfast Series	Convening on peace and security in the LATAM region	GPP, DCAF	Maison de la Paix
7	03.03.2020 (Cancelled due to COVID-19)	Diffusing the urban time bomb: Integrating approaches to build peace in the city	World Bank Group’s Fragility Forum, Urban	CCDP, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, Good Governance Africa, Impact:Peace	Washington DC

8	12.03.2020	Geneva Peacebuilding Platform Annual Retreat	GPP, GPP Advisory Board, Management Committee, Steering Committee and guests	GPP	Auditorium Jacques-Freymond, Parc Barton, IHEID
9	16-18.03.2020 (Cancelled due to COVID-19)	Reform or Restoration? Post-conflict Reconstruction, Private investment and International Assistance in the MENA Region	Research workshop with public event	Middle East Directions Programme, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies of the European University Institute (EUI), CCDP, GPP	Geneva
10	08.04.2020	LATAM Breakfast Series	Meeting with Andrei Serbin Pont on COVID-19 and Argentina	GPP, DCAF	Online
11	09.04.2020	Peacebuilding in the wake of COVID-19	Pulse of Peacebuilding series, meeting with GPP Advisory Board	GPP, QUNO	Online
12	21.04.2020	Geneva Dialogue on Environment, Climate, Conflict and Peace (ECCP)	Thematic brainstorm of strategic priorities	GPP	Online
13	27.05.2020	Geneva Dialogue on Environment, Climate, Conflict and Peace (ECCP)	Facilitated discussion with Roberto Forin, Mixed Migration Centre – Meeting summary <a href="#">link here</a>	GPP	Online
14	10.06.2020	Geneva Dialogue on Environment, Climate, Conflict and Peace (ECCP)	Briefing with Beatrice Mosello, adelphi – Meeting summary <a href="#">link here</a>	GPP	Online
15	15.06.2020	Forum of Forums Meeting	Dialogue across peacebuilding forums	GPP, SIPRI, PeaceCon	Online
16	16.06.2020	LATAM Breakfast Series	Meeting with Tomas Regalado, Carlos Borgonovo, Graciela Fontg on COVID-19 and El Salvador	GPP, DCAF	Online

17	17.06.2020	Comms in Peacebuilding Meetings	Discussions with individuals who work in communications across peacebuilding organisations	GPP	Online
18	23.06.2020	Geneva Dialogue on Environment, Climate, Conflict and Peace (ECCP)	Discussion to prepare Geneva Peace Week 2020 applications and facilitate coordination	GPP	Online
19	21.09.2020	Launch event: A new era of peace policy? Sustaining peace and preventive diplomacy in the UN	Beijing-Geneva Digital Briefings on Sustaining Peace and Preventive Diplomacy Launch Event	The Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) of the China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU) and GPP	Online
20	22.09.2020	Comms in Peacebuilding Meetings	Discussions with individuals who work in communications across peacebuilding organisations	GPP	Online
21	28.09.2020	Geneva Dialogue on Environment, Climate, Conflict and Peace (ECCP)	Facilitated discussion with Tobias von Lossow, Clingendael Institute – Meeting summary <a href="#">link here</a>	GPP	Online
22	06.10.2020	Geneva Dialogue on Environment, Climate, Conflict and Peace (ECCP)	Facilitated discussion with Doug Weir, the Conflict and Environment Observatory	GPP	Online
23	13.10.2020	Geneva Dialogue on Environment, Climate, Conflict and Peace (ECCP)	Briefing with Silja Halle, United Nations Environment Programme – Meeting Summary <a href="#">link here</a>	GPP	Online
24	14.10.2020	Comms in Peacebuilding Meetings	Lunch with individuals who work in communications across peacebuilding organisations	GPP	Online
25	21.10.2020	The effect of COVID-19 on the sustaining peace agenda	Beijing-Geneva Digital Briefings on Sustaining Peace and Preventive Diplomacy	The Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) of the China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU) and GPP	Online
26	22.10.2020	Geneva Dialogue on Environment, Climate, Conflict and Peace (ECCP)	Dialogue on data, research, impact and policy	GPP	Online

27	17.11.2020	Geneva Dialogue on Environment, Climate, Conflict and Peace (ECCP)	Briefing with Dina Ionesco and Alice Baillat, International Organisation for Migration – Meeting summary <a href="#">link here</a> , and <a href="#">presentation</a>	GPP	Online
28	26.11.2020	Peacebuilding in changing contexts of violence	Beijing-Geneva Digital Briefings on Sustaining Peace and Preventive Diplomacy	The Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) of the China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU) and GPP	Online
29	01.12.2020	Geneva Dialogue on Environment, Climate, Conflict and Peace (ECCP)	Facilitated discussion with Ruth Miller, Native Movement – Meeting summary <a href="#">link here</a>	GPP	Online
30	08.12.2020	Geneva Dialogue on Environment, Climate, Conflict and Peace (ECCP)	Briefing with Serge Stroobants, Institute for Economics and Peace – Meeting Summary <a href="#">link here</a>	GPP	Online
31	10.12.2020	Comms in Peacebuilding Meetings	Discussions with individuals who work in communications across peacebuilding organisations	GPP	Online

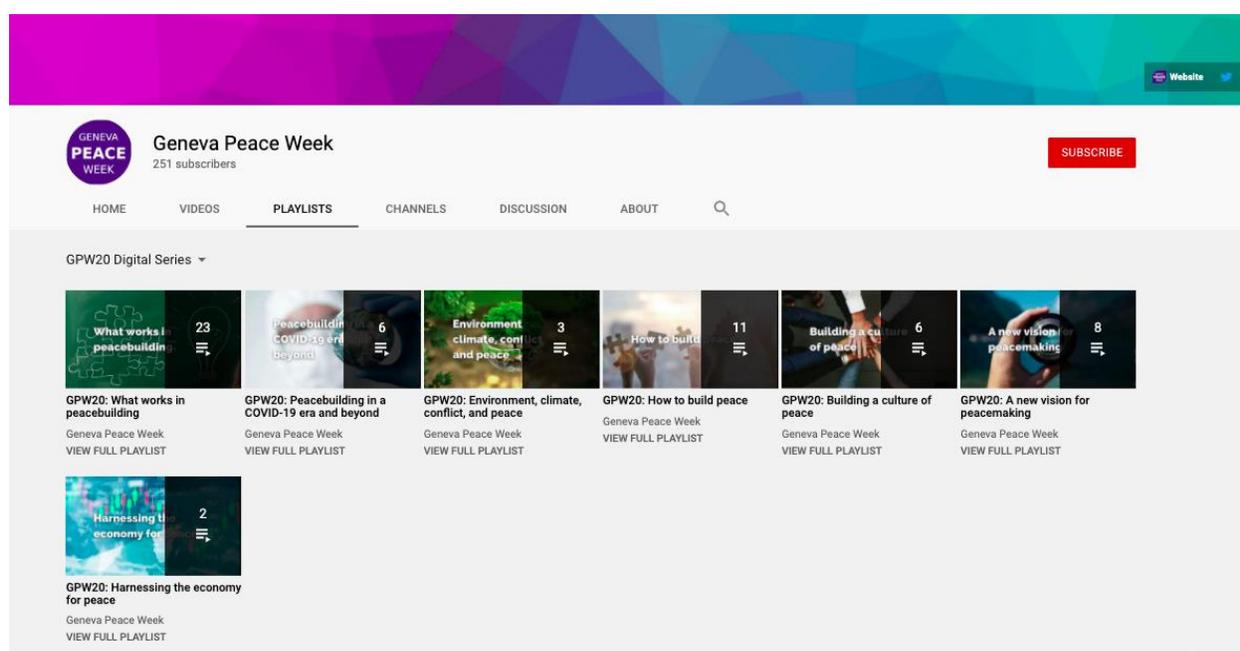
### 3. Geneva Peace Week

Geneva Peace Week (GPW20) took place from 2-6 November 2020, towards the end of an unprecedented year of global pandemic. Transforming a traditionally in-person forum to a fully online forum presented significant operational challenges in terms of organization, human resources, financing and technical infrastructure, but GPW20 was ultimately a success beyond expectations. The GPW20 Programme was the most ambitious yet, with 70 live sessions across the week and 70 podcast and video recordings produced for the Digital Series. The programme was developed through an inductive process beginning with the review of 170 session applications received in June 2020, based on the overall theme “Rebuilding Trust After Disruption: Pathways to Reset International Cooperation”. As with other years, these applications offered an opportunity to identify innovative practice and key thought leadership in peacebuilding across the world. GPW20 was organised around 8 thematic tracks:

1. Harnessing the economy for peace
2. Horizon scan for cyber peace
3. Building a culture of peace
4. What works in peacebuilding
5. A new vision for peacemaking
6. How to build peace
7. Peacebuilding in a COVID-19 era and beyond
8. Environment, climate, conflict and peace

The online format of GPW20 vastly expanded its traditional reach, further establishing GPW as a global peacebuilding forum. The development of a strategic partnership with Aventri, a leading global event management platform, enabled the GPW team to design and build the infrastructure for an online forum. Their platform enabled the GPW to integrate every aspect of the planning and implementation of GPW, including: the new website, email and social media marketing, the GPW programme, speakers lists, the new GPW mobile app, data collection, and a centralized registration platform. The centralized registration system—designed and implemented for the first time in GPW’s seven-year history—allowed for an efficient and user-friendly online experience, and for different categories of participants to experience a GPW tailored to their own requirements. The resulting accurate collection of information about participation offers a solid baseline for reflection and future evaluation.

For the first time, attendees only had to register once through our own website, and then to select which sessions they wished to attend. The event management platform allowed for all session organizers to receive automated daily attendee lists for their sessions, enabling them to better prepare for their sessions. At the same time, the GPW team was able to oversee overall registrations and engagement for every GPW session. During GPW20 itself, attendees received personalized daily email messages with their sessions, and welcome videos and selected highlights prepared by the GPW Organizing Team. In partnership with the Graduate Institute Events team, the live online sessions were hosted on Cisco Webex Events and Webex Meetings. GPW20 also benefited from the Graduate Institute’s advice on data protection issues and compliance with GDPR.



Screenshot of the Geneva Peace Week Digital Series Playlists on YouTube. Available [here](#).

The creation of the Digital Series emerged from the commitment to inclusivity of GPW. As all accepted sessions could not fit into the live programme, it was decided to pilot the ‘digital product’ option in which organizers would convert the substance of their session into video recordings or podcasts. Many organizers agreed to this option and produced a total of 70 digital products that are now available on the GPW website. Engagement

with this content will continue into 2021 and will inform peacebuilding reflections and discussions across broad audiences. As of 15 December 2020, there had been 785 podcast listens and 8,530 video streams of GPW20 Digital Series productions. These figures demonstrate that the Digital Series generated more engagement than live online sessions which will help to guide strategic reflections for GPW in a digital age. Key achievements in numbers are:

- 170 session applications
- 8 thematic tracks
- 280 live online session and digital series organizers
- 4,261 people registered from 159 countries
- 70 live online sessions
- 2,380 live session attendees
- 95 average attendees per live session
- 70 Digital Series productions
- As of 15 December 2020: 785 podcast listens, 8,530 video streams

For the first time, accurate statistics were available on participants' professional background. The data confirms the cross-cutting nature of GPW with participation distributed between the NGO sector (31%), academia (24%) international organizations (18%), government (11%) and the private sector (9%). Data also showed that the majority of registrants were between the ages of 25 and 44 years old. According to attendees and session organizers who responded to the online survey question on proposed themes for GPW21, interest included the environment, education, resilience, women, grassroots peacebuilding, migration issues and prevention approaches.



*To the left: Screenshot of the Geneva Peace Week team*

### 3. Knowledge Capture and Management

With the migration to increased online activity, knowledge capture and management focused on the Platform’s web-presence and social media outreach. According to Google Analytics for the Platform website, in 2020 there was a total click amount of 8,640 total clicks and 277,000 total impressions. The top five countries that visited and searched the website were (in order): Switzerland, United States, Kenya, Zimbabwe and the United Kingdom.

Twitter	Instagram	Facebook
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The GPP account had 1,554 followers at the end of 2020.</li> <li>The GPW account had 1,588 followers at the end of 2020, compared to 1,110 by the end of 2019.</li> <li>Furthermore, during the week of GPW20 (2-6 November), the hashtag #GPW20 was trending on Twitter in Switzerland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The GPW Instagram account had 858 followers at the end of 2020, compared to 373 at the end of 2019.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The GPP Facebook account had a solid following of 1,632 at the end of 2020.</li> <li>The GPW Facebook page has 1,666 followers at the end of 2020, compared to 1,347 at the end of 2019.</li> </ul>

### Outlook

The year 2021 will be an important transition year for the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform. After 10 years at the helm of GPP, the Executive Coordinator, Achim Wennmann, informed the Management Committee early December that he would like to gradually withdraw from GPP responsibilities to take up a new professional opportunity within the Graduate Institute. What is more, the Focal Point for Geneva Peace Week, Claudia Seymour, informed GPP at the end of October that she wanted to end her contract by 31 December 2020 to focus more on her research and teaching activities.

In response to these changes the GPP Steering and Management Committees, in consultation with Swiss FDFA, develop a transition scenario that includes hiring an ad interim Executive Coordinator for 2021, engaging in a strategic review of GPP and GPW, and preparing a competitive process for hiring a new Executive Coordinator to start in January 2022. This process was considered adequate to take some time for the necessary

reflection on the strategic positioning of GPP in the rapidly changing landscape for peacebuilding, while at the same time implementing the 2020-2021 programme.

The incoming Executive Coordinator, Rainer Gude, will be supported by the existing GPP team – Annika Erickson-Pearson, Kathryn Gichini, and Danson Gichini – which will assure continuity in the GPP’s convening and community management activities, as well as in its role as organizational hub for Geneva Peace Week 2021.

### **Key Dates in 2021:**

1 February	Start of the transition period with incoming Executive Coordinator, Rainer Gude
22 February	Management Committee Meeting
24 February	Advisory Board Meeting (first of 3 shorter online meetings)
21 September	Geneva Peace Talks
1-5 November	Geneva Peace Week

## **The Platform in 2020**

### **Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee oversees the Management Committee, the Executive Coordinator and the Platform’s management and is responsible for strategic orientation. The Committee also contributes to the high-level networking of the Platform.

The Steering Committee members are:

- Simon Gimson, Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer, Interpeace
- Thomas Guerber, Ambassador, Director of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)
- Keith Krause, Professor, Director of Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) at the Graduate Institute
- Christina Orisich, Deputy Director, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)
- Jonathan Woolley, Director, Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) Geneva

## **Management Committee**

The Management Committee advises the Platform's Executive Coordinator in the management of the Platform. It is a working-level committee that provides input into Platform activities, planning, and strategy. It acts on behalf of the Steering Committee, and includes:

- Hans Born, Assistant Director and Head of the Policy and Research Division, DCAF
- Florence Foster, Representative for Peace and Disarmament, QUNO
- Annika Hilding Norberg, Head of Peace Operations and Peacebuilding, GCSP
- Daniel Hyslop, Director of Policy, Learning and IPAT, Interpeace
- Oliver Jütersonke, Head of Research, CCDP, The Graduate Institute

## **Platform Staff**

The Platform Staff carries out the mandated activities in accordance with the recommendations given by the Steering and Management Committee.

- Achim Wennmann, Executive Coordinator (100%, Jan-Jun; 50% July-Dec)
- Claudia Seymour, Focal Point, Geneva Peace Week (50%)
- Danson Gichini, Project Coordinator, Geneva Peace Week (100%)
- Annika Erickson-Pearson, Community Manager (100%)
- Kathryn Gichini, Events & Administration Coordinator (40%)

## **Geneva Peace Week Staff**

The Geneva Peace Week staff constitutes those employed for a limited project period to carry out the specific duties required to facilitate a fully online Geneva Peace Week.

- Simran Singh, Communications Assistant, Geneva Peace Week (September-December, 37.5%)
- Irina Sorokina, Geneva Peace Week Assistant (September-December, 37.5%)
- Kimberley Evans, Virtual Assistant, Geneva Peace Week
- Milena Niehaus, Virtual Assistant, Geneva Peace Week
- Sarah Rommel, Virtual Assistant, Geneva Peace Week
- Ophélie Schärer, Virtual Assistant, Geneva Peace Week
- Jana Sirorska, Virtual Assistant, Geneva Peace Week

- Lee Seng Zhen, Virtual Assistant, Geneva Peace Week
- Risa Nishida, Virtual Assistant, Geneva Peace Week
- Jamie Wang, Virtual Assistant, Geneva Peace Week

## **Advisory Board**

The Advisory Board advises the members of the Steering Committee and the Platform's Executive Coordinator in the substantive programming of the Platform. It is composed of members from a representative group of International Geneva stakeholders, with an active interest and role in peacebuilding. The Board represents academia, UN organizations, international NGOs, civil society and diplomatic and donor representatives:

- Andrea Aeby, Counselor, Peace & Security, Section Global Affairs, Permanent Mission of Switzerland
- Jason Aplon, Post Conflict / DDR Advisor, Transition and Recovery Division, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Philippe Baudin-Auliac, Chief, Political Affairs and Partnership Section, United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)
- Anne-Marie Buzatu, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, ICT4Peace Foundation
- Alexandra Boivin, Head of Policy and Humanitarian Diplomacy Division, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Sebastian Brack, Senior Political Officer, Kofi Annan Foundation (KAF)
- Rudi Coninx, Senior Policy Adviser, Office of the Assistance Director-General, Emergency Response, WHO Health Emergencies Programme, World Health Organization (WHO)
- Vincent Defourny, Director, UNESCO Geneva Liaison Office
- Samuel Emonet, Director of Operations, Justice Rapid Response (JRR)
- Nicolas Florquin, Research Coordinator, Small Arms Survey
- Catriona Gourlay, Executive Director, PeaceNexus Foundation
- David Jensen, Head of Environmental Peacebuilding Programme and MAPX, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Hichem Khadhraoui, Director of Operations, Geneva Call

- Sacha Meuter, Head of Policy and Research, Fondation Hirondelle
- Federico Negro, Coordinator OIC, Coordination Support Unit for Peace and Resilience, International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Sarah Noble, Director of External Relations, The New Humanitarian
- Anna Leissing, Head of Policy & Platform, Project Director of Center for Peacebuilding (KOFF), Swisspeace
- Katia Papagianni, Director, Policy and Mediation Support, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
- Peter Prove, Director, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, World Council of Churches
- Pascal Rapillard, Head of the Division External Relations and Policy, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- Madeleine Rees, Secretary General, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
- Tuesday Reitano, Deputy Director, Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime
- Amjad Saleem, Manager, Protection, Inclusion and Engagement, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- Rachel Scott, Senior Advisor, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Jos Verbeek, Special Representative to the UN and WTO, World Bank Office Geneva
- Friedhelm Weinberg, Director, Huridocs

We would like to thank Advisory Board members who will no longer serve in this capacity after 2020, for their support, inputs and encouragement for the Platform's activities and initiatives. A special thanks to: Masayo Kondo Rossier, Civil-Military Coordination Service, Response Support Branch, Coordination Division, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Renata Dwan, Director, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and Rainer Gude, former Co-Director General, Initiatives of Change, Switzerland. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

## **About the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform**

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform is a knowledge hub that connects the critical mass of peacebuilding actors, resources, and expertise in Geneva and worldwide. Founded in 2008, the Platform has a mandate to facilitate interaction on peacebuilding between different institutions and sectors, and to advance new knowledge and understanding of issues and contexts related to building peace. It also plays a creative role in building bridges between International Geneva, the United Nations peacebuilding architecture in New York, and peacebuilding activities in the field. The Platform's network comprises professionals working on building peace directly or indirectly. The Platform provides policy-relevant advice and services, ensures the continuous exchange of information through seminars, consultations, and conferences, and facilitates outcome-oriented dialogues on peacebuilding practice.