

2021 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),
- DCAF - The Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance,
- 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 2021 has been one of unprecedented change and disruption. From the continued 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. Within the Platform itself, many changes and staff transitions took place during the first quarter of 2021. Most notably, the former Executive Coordinator, Achim Wennmann, began transitioning out of his role, while Rainer Gude progressively replaced him. Rainer began working for the Platform on 1 February on a 20% basis; as of 1 March this percentage had increased to 40%, with an additional increase to 80% for the second half of the year. Moreover, the former Geneva Peace Week Focal Point, Claudia Seymour, also left the Platform at the end of December 2020 to focus on her research and teaching.

The core team consisting of Annika Erickson-Pearson, Community Manager, Danson Gichini, Project Lead for Geneva Peace Week and Kathryn Gichini, Events and Administration Manager, also changed. Kathryn Gichini went on an early maternity leave in April and left the Platform in September. Since her position was shared with the CCDP, a decision was made not to replace her until October. After that, Maëlys Glück started as the Events and Administration Manager at 40%. However, despite the staff transitions and the challenges of working with the uncertainties of COVID-19, the team handled this transition year quite well. In 2022, Dr. Annyssa Bellal replaces Rainer Gude as the Platform's Executive Coordinator, meaning the GPP will continue to undergo a transition period and will need to continue taking the necessary time to reflect on the strategic positioning of GPP in the rapidly changing landscape of peacebuilding.

For the Platform, the usual yearly activities of in-person meetings and convenings also had to keep COVID-19 into account, most of them continuing in a hybrid format where possible. Despite the disruptions and the resulting adaptation, GPP achieved important results:

- **Geneva Peace Week** (GPW) continued a predominantly online forum in 2021, with a select few sessions that took place in a hybrid format. GPW21

consisted of 30 live sessions, 30 Digital Series productions and involved 2,800 participants from over 150 countries. GPW also generated over 1200 podcast listens and 4,900 video streams of the GPW21 Digital Series productions.

- In 2021, GPP advanced three community management processes including the **Geneva Dialogue on Environment, Climate, Conflict and Peace (ECCP)**, **Beyond securitization**, and **Technology and peace**.
- Adaptation to COVID-19 and hybrid meeting formats has enhanced the digital footprint of GPW21, both in terms of its convening and network administration capacities, as well as working with digital products during GPW, including podcasts and videos. GPW21 involved the continuation of important work with private sector partner – Aventri – which enabled GPW’s new hybrid format and enhanced interaction with digital media.
- GPP also advanced networking between professionals and academics working on peace and security dynamics in China (**Beijing-Geneva Digital Briefings** on Sustaining Peace and Preventive Diplomacy), and it facilitated informal exchanges between peace forum organizers to nurture exchange and collaboration between them (**Peace Forum Network**).

I. Convening and Incubation

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, since its founding in 2008, has provided a space for the incubation of new ideas and practices for peacebuilding. This section reports on Pillar 1 of the GPP’s 2020-2021 programme which focuses on facilitating continuous exchange surrounding innovative practices and thinking on peacebuilding.

1.1. Annual Retreat of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

At the time when the Annual Retreat was planned, COVID-19 measures enforced by the Federal Council remained strict and thus prohibited the usual in-person gathering. In order to adapt to these measures without losing the significant and strategic exchanges that would usually stem from such meetings, the team decided to host 3 online meetings with the Platform’s Staff, the Advisory Board, as well as the Steering and Management Committee. The first meeting was held on Wednesday 24 February from 14.00-15.00, and followed 2 agenda points: Transitions at the GPP and Outlook for 2021. The meeting had 30 attendees and

created space for each attendee to share their peacebuilding priorities for the year ahead.

The second meeting was held online on 17 March from 14.00-15.15.

A third meeting was held online on 12 May with 24 attendees. Danson Gichini and Annika Erickson-Pearson both presented their work streams to the Advisory Board, and then the group split up into different small thematic groups for discussion. One group explored environment, climate, conflict, and peace (ECCP), a second “securitization” in the Geneva space, a third future topics for Geneva Peace Week, and a final group considered ideas for the Platform in the year ahead.

Finally, an informal ‘apéro’ was held on 24 June at 17.00, arranged for the first time in-person at the U.N. Beach after more than one year of online meetings. About 12 individuals joined, and the importance of simply getting people to interact and share face to face again was highly appreciated.

Given that the [Advisory Board](#) was usually followed by the [Steering Committee](#) meeting, this event was organized separately on June 18. It was a face to face meeting and we were delighted to welcome Ambassador Thomas Greminger from the GCSP for the first time. All other Steering Committee members from respective partner organizations were present as well. There again, the value of face to face discussions and exchanges on organizational priorities and challenges was highly appreciated. The hard work of the GPP team and its current direction in this transition year was also noted.

1.2. Geneva Peace Talks Initiative



The 2021 edition of the Geneva Peace Talks took place digitally on Tuesday 21st September, the International Day of Peace. The central theme, ‘Recovering Better for an Equitable and Sustainable World’ aimed to help the Geneva peacebuilding community think creatively and collectively about how to help everyone recover

better from the COVID-19 pandemic, how to build resilience, and how to transform our world into one that is more equal, more just, equitable, inclusive, sustainable, and healthier. The Geneva Peace Talks sought to challenge thinking and encourage reflection on how we can shape our world and what we want our future 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 GPT21

- Zarifa Ghafari, Human rights activist, politician and entrepreneur, Ex-mayor of Maidan Shahr and Director of a Department of the Ministry of Defense of Afghanistan.
- Yves Daccord, Executive Chairman Harvard's Edgeland Institute & former Director General of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Hiba Qasas, Head of Secretariat of the Principles for Peace Initiative at Interpeace.
- Diwele Molale Lubi, choreographer, dance artist, conference speaker, teacher and artistic director at Matlosana Centre for the Arts.
- Lena Dobrowolska & Teo Ormond-Skeaping, an artist collaboration working with photography, documentary and narrative film, virtual reality, installation and research.
- Baaba Maal, singer, guitarist and founder of the NANN-K foundation.
- Anil Soni, CEO of the WHO Foundation interviewed by Charlotte Kirby, Vice President of Global Strategic Relations at Salesforce.
- Héloïse Hughes, Kareem Gomersall and Ksenia Vlasova-Kuznetsova, three high school students from the International School of Geneva and co-founders of the student-led PeaceTalks Club.
- A message on the International Day of Peace from António Guterres, ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- Special remarks by Tatiana Valovaya, 13th Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva.
- The event was moderated by Sarah Noble, curator of the PeaceTalks, and Karen Chica Gómez, Afro-Ecuadorian activist and student at Graduate Institute Geneva.

Moderators

- Sarah Noble, co-founder and curator of the PeaceTalks at Interpeace.

- Karen Chica Gómez, Afro-Ecuadorian activist and student at the Graduate Institute Geneva.

1.3. Opening Event of Geneva Peace Week

The Opening Ceremony of Geneva Peace Week was live streamed from Geneva on Monday 1 November 2021. This year, we were honored that both Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva, and Ignazio Cassis, Foreign Minister of Switzerland, agreed to open the ceremony. The event was moderated by Rainer Gude from the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform. The ceremony focused on the year's theme "From seeds to systems of peace: Weathering today's challenges". With an excellent speaker line up and programme the event was viewed by nearly 1,000 people.

Speakers:

- Ignazio Cassis, Foreign Minister of Switzerland.
- Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva.
- Amb. Thomas Guerber, Director, DCAF.
- Marie-Laure Salles, Director, Graduate Institute, Geneva.
- Lindsey Fielder Cook, Representative for Climate Change, Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva.
- Oya Dursun-Özkanca, Endowed Chair of International Studies, Professor of Political Science at Elizabethtown College, USA.
- Anne-Marie Buzatu, Vice President and COO, ICT4Peace Foundation.
- Marc Batac, Programmes Manager, Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID).

Music:

- Estelle Hughes Director, NGO Africa Learning International.



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

1.4. Briefings, Meetings and ad-hoc Events

The Platform continues to be a proactive convener on peacebuilding-related issues. Over the years, these activities included lunch-time seminars, briefings for diplomats, consultations, informal meetings or workshops, retreats, or public conferences. In 2021, COVID-19 pushed the Platform to adapt and integrate new ways of organizing hybrid events which included digital briefings and workshops with different stakeholder groups. One positive point to note is that this new digital age has developed the connections between the Platform community and other local communities around the world, policy centers such as Brussels and Stockholm, and peace and security bodies in New York.

The Platform and its growing expertise in facilitation is an essential ingredient in the hybrid era. Online and hybrid exchanges must be carefully designed and well-facilitated if they are meant to have an impact. These convenings can range from specific topics in peace (e.g. new trends in peace mediation or environmental peacebuilding) to the regional (Beijing-Geneva Digital Briefings on Sustaining Peace and Preventive Diplomacy). Meetings in 2022 will continue to be held both

online and in-person to accommodate the Platform's ever-growing and changing audience.

The Platform also remains alert to service short-notice requests for events or informal exchanges on critical peacebuilding issues as they emerge. The Platform is well recognized by senior peacebuilding actors visiting Geneva to reduce transaction costs when reaching out to the Geneva-based peacebuilding community.

Below is a list of some informal briefings, meetings and ad-hoc events organized by GPP in 2021:

- 28 April - Diffusing the Urban Time Bomb: Integrating Approaches to Build Peace in the City, panel at FriEnt Peacebuilding Forum.
- June 28 – 2 July – Active participation in CCHN Global Humanitarian Summit, including Rainer Gude's service as Moderator for the High Level Panel of the CCHN Global Summit, presentation and participation in exhibition space, and online event on environmental peacebuilding across the HDP nexus.
- 5 July - Rainer Gude served as Moderator for the opening panel of the Caux Forum.
- 14 September – “Meet and Greet” convening for Principles for Peace Initiative.
- 16 September – Informal and general Geneva “Meet and Greet” peace apéro.
- 13 October – “Meet and Greet” for Geneva visit of Samuel Rizk, Head of Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Responsive Institution, UNDP New York.
- 23 October – Social event for attendees of International Leadership Association conference.

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 continued to collaborate 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 geopolitical 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 January 2021, GPP and IAS-CFAU organized seven briefings including the following speakers:

- Katia Papagianni, Director, Policy and Mediation Support, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue.
- Albrecht Schnabel, Head of Asia-Pacific Unit, DCAF.
- Annika Hilding Norberg, Head of Peace Operations and Peacebuilding, GCSP.
- Claudia Seymour, Senior Researcher and Head of Applied Research Projects and Practice, Interdisciplinary Programmes, Graduate Institute.
- Andreas Hirblinger, Postdoctoral Researcher, CCDP, Graduate Institute.
- Jovana Carapic, Programme Manager, Ammunition Management Advisory Team (AMAT), GICHD.
- Graeme Simpson, Director of Interpeace USA.
- Carl Bruch, Senior Attorney, Director of International Programs, Environmental Law Institute.
- Yasmira Moner, Acting Director of the Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao.
- Gulbarchyn Toialieva, Director of the Zhalyyn Center (Kyrgyzstan).

Informal Communications Community

Since fall 2019, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform has regularly convened a small, informal network of communications managers for various peacebuilding, security, and humanitarian organizations in Geneva. The group met once per month for the first half of 2021 in order to discuss different topics in communications. The topics this year included: social media management, websites, video production, podcast production, and online community engagement. The group met on 12 February, 26 March, 20 April, 26 May, and 21 June with an average of 6-8 attendees per meeting. Communication among the group

continued in the second half of the year as part of the Geneva Peace Week process. The goal of these meetings was to build bridges between communicators who are often the sole communications representatives within their teams, and to build capacity for communications towards Geneva Peace Week.

Study and generation of a map of peacebuilding activities in Geneva

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform commissioned, in early 2021, a research project in the form of a Student Capstone collaboration with the Graduate Institute. The objectives of the project were to 1) establish a comprehensive picture or map of the peacebuilding actors and activities undertaken in the Geneva landscape, primarily focusing on international and non-governmental organizations; 2) create a small, informal dictionary of the terms used by Geneva-based actors to describe their peacebuilding activities and projects; and 3) determine the extent to which, as well as the types of, monitoring and evaluation strategies are employed by Geneva-based actors in their peacebuilding work. The project is expected to be complete in early 2022 and will contribute to the Platform's work streams.

2. Network and Community Management

The Value of the Platform is not merely in creating more fertile ground for, and facilitating, valuable exchanges and connections among sectors. It is also a vector of connection with actors on policy in specific areas. It has become an expert and reference in Community management, and with the experience of galvanizing expertise on Environmental Peacebuilding for example, and the production of the upcoming White Paper, it also has a strong case of how community management (and platforms) can be channeled to influence policy. The White Paper, which will be presented at Stockholm +50 in 2022 is just one example of the power of community management, which remains a widely misunderstood and underused tool.

In 2019, a Scoping Study on Geneva Peace Week recommended the enhancement of the Forum's impact through the curation of topics and communities that are engaged in conversations throughout the year. Throughout 2020-2021, the

Platform piloted such a Community Management initiative across three thematic areas and consolidated lessons-learned for next steps. Community Management unfolds between incubation and the Geneva Peace Week. It is an organized programme with a specific but open-ended audience, building out of incubation and delivering ideas to the Forum. There are a range of activities and methods that comprise a Community Management initiative, but no two thematic tracks are exactly alike in how they might unfold.

Some of the cornerstone characteristics of Community Management's success have included:

Diversity of activity - Community Management on different topics offered a variety of activities or ways to engage. These included: briefings, workshops, informal meetings, a White Paper written project, weekly updates, contributions to Geneva Peace Week or other conferences, online repositories, and more. Most individuals participated in one or two of the above activities, but not all. Different institutions and organizations have different staff mandates, so different individuals will both want and have the capacity to engage in different ways. For example, some organizations require a concrete output in order to assign staff time to contribute, while others have more flexibility and time. The diversity of activity creates an open community with many options for different kinds of participants.

Flexibility of participation - Those who engage with a Platform's Community Management process are referred to as participants, not members. They do not necessarily owe any specific outcomes to the project, and are therefore free to engage when they have the bandwidth and to disengage when they do not. The group does not rely on all individuals participating all of the time. This flexibility offers a psychological sense of safety to participants and therefore encourages increased participation and ownership, i.e. if they feel that participation is not an added burden to their workload, but instead a value-add, they will be more likely to increase their participation over time.

Regularity of activity - The planning cycle of Community Management offered regular and semi-frequent activities. An email was sent every week to the stakeholder group to offer updates, both from the Platform and any partners who wished to share their work with the group. Regular convenings to which the entire community was invited allowed for a sense of

continuity of programming and established the community as a “practice,” not a concept. However, regularity does require staff time, which underscores the importance of staff allocation to Community Management.

An outlined goal - The most successful Community Management initiative had a set of clearly outlined goals: 1) to foster inter-institutional collaboration and coordination, 2) to promote shared learning, and 3) to mainstream the topic across organizations in Geneva. The goal allowed participants to easily understand the point of the activities and to decide whether or not to participate. It also made decision-making around Community Management programming much easier. If ideas helped to fulfill the goals, they could be pursued, and if not, they were set aside. Naturally, one goal has been to have a target of influence and to improve policy. Once a community is strong enough then that community can more powerfully be mobilized to produce tools (such as a White Paper) and more quickly share information across silos and be channeled into presenting information and influence publicly, such as at Geneva Peace Week.

A community manager - Regularity of participation and a sense of belonging to the community are most easily fostered through one on one relationships, an idea well-known among “community organizing” groups around the world. At the beginning of a Community Management cycle, the host can propose programming, but must conduct a number of one- on-one meetings with stakeholders in order to understand the nature of the field. Personal relationships build trust, and that trust has a cascading effect which encourages regular and intentional participation. In order to guide a community successfully, a ratio of one manager to one community should be established. One person cannot adequately manage multiple groups simultaneously.

Time and flexibility - The final ingredient to a successful Community Management initiative are time and flexibility. Not all ideas or attempts to foster community will be successful. In fact, many will not be. Institutions such as Platforms are essential incubators who have the time to invest and explore, understanding the issues within certain topics and themes. Not every issue should be “forced” to move into a full-fledged community.

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

The Platform continued to operate under the Networking & Community management strategy initially drafted in early 2020. This strategy previewed some ideas that have now become the cornerstones of community management: co-ownership, cross-sectoral collaboration, and individual (unique) track outcomes. The strategy has provided an excellent foundation for community activities and how to organize them.

Under its mandate to identify, incubate, and accompany at least three thematic processes, the Platform developed a series of briefings, events, and projects that fall under the community management umbrella. In 2020, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform first piloted a community management model under the topic “environment, climate, conflict, and peace.” After taking stock of the best practices and lessons learned on community management work through this track, the Platform launched three thematic tracks for 2021: The Geneva Dialogue on Environment, Climate, Conflict and Peace (ECCP), Beyond securitization, and Technology and peace. These are reported below. In addition to these three mandated thematic tracks, the Platform used this community management model to build relationships between the organizers of different peace fora through the development of an Informal Peace Forum Network.

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 strands of 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 Second International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding. The main aim of this track is to establish a common dialogue between the four fields of environment, climate, conflict, and peacebuilding.

This track has generated/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 230 subscribers on the mailing list of this track and the briefings have seen more than 200 participants.
- Summaries of these briefings can be found on the ECCP page on the GPP website: <https://www.gppplatform.ch/content/environment-climate-conflict-and-peacebuilding>

In the first strand, the Geneva Dialogue met twice per month for the following conversations.

- 26 January, 14.00-15.00 - Monthly Meeting
- 9 February, 14.00-15.00 - Food and climate security, Diego Osorio, CGIAR
- 16 February, 14.00-15.00 - Monthly Meeting
- 2 March, 14.00-15.00 - Environmental peacebuilding policy/research interface, Erika Weinthal and McKenzie Johnson
- 16 March, 14.00-15.00 - Monthly Meeting
- 13 April, 14.00-15.00 - Monthly Meeting
- 20 April, 14.00-15.00 - Climate security and humanitarian action, Catherine-Lune Grayson, ICRC
- 11 May, 14.00-15.00 - Monthly Meeting
- 18 May, 14.00-15.00 - The Environment of Peace project, Claire McAllister, SIPRI
- 8 June, 14.00-15.00 - Geneva Peace Week planning meeting

- 15 June, 14.00-15.00 - Monthly Meeting
- 29 June, 14.00-15.00 - Human rights and climate security, Lindsey Cook, QUNO
- 22 September, Facilitated Discussion
- 23 September, Facilitated Discussion
- 19 October, Facilitated Discussion
- 21 October, 14:30 - White Paper Consultation at the International Leadership Association Conference
- 1 November - Panel presentation by Lindsey Cook, QUNO at Geneva Peace Week Opening Ceremony
- 3 November, 9:00 CET - White Paper Consultation at Geneva Peace Week
- 9 November, 10:00 CET - ECCP Panel at COP26, Chatham House Climate Security Virtual Pavilion
- 9 November, 15:00 CET - White Paper Consultation - Open Consultation
- 16 November, Facilitated Discussion

GPP's Annika Erickson-Pearson also served as a moderator of the public event "Establishing best practices in climate security modeling," held on 18 May as a part of NYU-CIC's Early Warning Early Action week.

In the second strand devoted to the *White Paper*, the project provided a concrete avenue through which organizations could collaborate and develop a joint knowledge product in the field of environmental peacebuilding. The *White Paper* is a policy-oriented document, developed through a reflective, consultative, multi-stakeholder process. It aims to deliver a strong, cogent message about the future of the field to the Stockholm+50 forum in June 2022. This project was developed not only to advance a policy agenda for environmental peacebuilding, but also to foster inter-institutional collaboration and shared innovation for the field. It was intentionally designed as a highly collaborative project, inviting institutions to work together to develop submissions, and creating space for field-wide reflection on drafts at each step of the process.

The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform's chief role in the *White Paper* is to handle project and community management. The GPP convenes the monthly meetings of the project's Steering Committee, which is composed of representatives from the PeaceNexus Foundation, Environmental Peacebuilding Association, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. The project received a total of

45,000 CHF from the PeaceNexus Foundation to hire an editing consultant, as well as an Artistic Director to oversee the layout and design. After a public search process and three interviews, Oli Brown was selected and hired to serve as the *White Paper's* editing and substantive coordinator, and Lynn Finnegan was selected as the project's Artistic Director.

Practically, the final product consists of two major written components. First, a 32 page White Paper on the Future of Environmental Peacebuilding that is translated into multiple languages. This paper is a policy-oriented document, drawn and crafted out of the contributions to the compendium. Second, a compendium featuring 50 contributions spanning different regions, perspectives, themes, and topics.

The full project is available at: <https://www.ecosystemforpeace.org/>.

And finally, in the third strand, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform supported the convening of the Second International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding in Geneva in February 2022. Together with the two main conference partners, the Environmental Peacebuilding Association and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, the Platform's work for the conference focuses on coordinating the inputs and contributions of Geneva-based actors to this conference. 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.

Outcomes:

The primary outcomes of community management in ECCP are the *White Paper on the Future of Environmental Peacebuilding*, a physical product that will serve as a tool for actors around the world to advance a forward-looking agenda within the field, and the Second International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding in Geneva, which will provide a space and opportunity for experts to exchange in person after a long period of online interaction.

In 2021 specifically, there were many smaller outcomes from the ongoing efforts, which included: the education and establishment of a community of young people, students, and young professionals around the world who are better equipped to enter the environmental peacebuilding field; connections between experts and practitioners exploring new avenues, such as the interrelationships between nature-based solutions and peacebuilding; and bolstered legitimacy of the nexus, which allows actors to institutionalize efforts connecting environment, climate, conflict, and peace internally within their own systems, and externally with new partners.

Beyond securitization

The concept of human security predates its coinage as a phrase. Despite the militarized understanding of security that often predominates, there are communities who have long lived according to more people-centered understandings of security. The components of security are both multiple and indivisible, inviting the question of whether national and international 'hard' security paradigms have been overemphasized at the cost of community and individual wellbeing, needs and rights. Sadly, global military spending is rising

despite no weapon or army being able to protect us from the bushfires, health crises, and other threats that strain our human and planetary survival.

To this end, in 2021, the Platform drew on its format, function, and existing relationships to bring different kinds of Geneva actors to the table, to work with experts to outline discussions, and to provide open facilitation to support group cohesion. GPP proposed a series of roundtable conversations to unpack conceptions and practices related to “securitization” throughout the peacebuilding community in Geneva. The objective of this series was to discuss the negative impact of “securitizing” decisions, mandates, and projects in a diverse range of fields represented by Geneva-based actors and organizations. It aimed to stimulate reflection and foster dialogue between, but not limited to, members of the Geneva human rights, peacebuilding and security community, and external experts. Three roundtables were held this year:

- Topic: The impact of counterterrorism policy on violence and peace, 11 May, 16-17:30
- Topic: Militarization, securitization, and climate change, 22 June, 16-17:30
- Topic: Authoritarian creep, democracy, and peace, 13 July, 16-17:30

Technology and peace

As part of its mandate on community management, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform aims to strengthen networking and community building in different topics within the peacebuilding sector. After a process of mapping the priorities of Geneva peacebuilding actors in early 2021, the intersection of technology, digital transformation, and peace was selected as an area of focus for thematic curation and community management. The Platform held listening calls with a number of actors in the space, including the CyberMediation Network, ICT4Peace, Swisspeace, and many others to identify commonalities and possible gaps within the “Digital Peace” field. Following these calls, the Platform hosted many conversations with partner organizations, actors in technology and peace, and members of the peacebuilding community during the year.

GPP also facilitated a series of exploratory workshops on “PeaceTech” in collaboration with the EssentialTech Center at the EPFL in Lausanne and the Centre for Conflict, Development, and Peacebuilding (CCDP) at the Graduate

Institute. These workshops engaged staff from more than twenty participating organizations in facilitated, in-depth discussions about the role of different technologies for peace, the opportunities present, and the challenges that must be considered.

One gap that emerged was connecting technology experts to peace experts to better ground research and practice in PeaceTech in the expertise already present in Geneva. Together with the Graduate Institute's Center on Conflict, Development, and Peacebuilding (CCDP) and EPFL's EssentialTech Centre, the Platform facilitated a series of seven expert workshops on the relationship between essential technologies and peace. The workshops are outlined below:

- 20 May, General Workshop
 - Presenter: Mariazel Maqueda-López
 - 90 minute facilitated workshop with eighteen participants
- 11 June, Medical devices and health
 - 90 minute exchange with engineers and five experts in medical devices, health access, and peace
- 14 June, Food and agriculture
 - 90 minute exchange with engineers and five experts in food, agriculture, and peace
- 17 June, WASH
 - 90 minute exchange with engineers and six experts in WASH and peace
- 25 June, ICTs
 - 90 minute exchange with engineers and six experts in ICTs and peace
- 30 June, Construction and energy
 - 60 minute exchange with engineers and five experts in construction, energy, transportation, and peace
- 2 July, General Workshop
 - Presenter: Mariazel Maqueda-López
 - 90 minute facilitated workshop with twelve participants

These workshops focused on three research questions exploring the foundational questions between technology and peace, which will translate to both research projects and implementable projects through the EPFL EssentialTech Centre and

workshop participants. A small network of experts from the technology and peace constituencies has been established and can now form the foundation for future community management efforts on this topic in Geneva. As with all community management efforts, a primary outcome is establishing connections between Geneva-based actors where they did not previously exist.

Outcomes:

The discussions revealed a wealth of information and activity within the peace sector, though siloed. Different research projects were shared, joint papers worked on, and the beginnings of a community were incubated. Common key aspects and findings across the many themes built on the ideas of community-driven innovation, deep listening and human-centered design, and context- and conflict-sensitivity. The roles of entrepreneurship and capacity building were also recognized, coupled with harnessing local and indigenous knowledge. Within each theme, concrete and specific findings were discussed and will form the basis of forthcoming publications drafted by the EssentialTech Centre. Here, as in many other instances, the Platform's role as facilitator, bridge-builder and connector were evident. This also led to the EssentialTech Center being very active in Geneva Peace Week and this has served to connect them even further to Geneva and its peacebuilders.

Peace Forum Network

Since the summer of 2020, the Platform has convened an informal Peace Forum Network of more than twenty participants who work for various peace fora around the world, including the Paris Peace Forum, the Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development, the Aswan Forum, the PeaceCon, the Fragility Forum, and others. The Network is meant to provide a space for exchange and innovation across the peacebuilding field. In 2021, the Platform started a process to develop more structure for this still-informal network. The group met online on 9 March for a debrief discussion on lessons learned after one year of organizing fora online, exchanging ideas on online platforms, participant interaction, and digital networking. The informal network met again on 19 May, 15 September, and 1 December to discuss thematic and substantive issues, overlaps, and questions between the various peace fora. Current participants include:

- Aswan Forum
- Basel Peace Forum

- Caux Forum
- UNDP Development Dialogues
- World Bank's Fragility Forum
- FriEnt Peacebuilding Forum
- Geneva Peace Week
- Munich Security Conference
- Oslo Forum
- PeaceCon
- Pearson Global Forum
- Pyeongchang Peace Forum
- Paris Peace Forum
- Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development
- World Humanitarian Summit

Outcomes:

The Platform developed a map of participating fora, their timelines, formats, and thematic foci in 2021. There are also multiple participants interested in creating a more robust and regular community exchange between fora in the coming years to facilitate coordination, reduce duplication, and leverage the collective impact of each actor's reach.

2.3. Network Management System

The Platform began working on Hubspot, a CRM (customer relationship management) software, in 2020, and has continued to use it in 2021. The software allows the Platform to send marketing emails, track contacts as well as their engagement in different Geneva Peace Week processes and strands of community management. To date, there are now more than 3,500 individuals tracked and tagged within the database, including lists on different thematic tracks.

3. Geneva Peace Week

Geneva Peace Week (GPW21) took place from 1-5 November 2021. For the second year in a row, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, GPW took place predominantly online. The 2021 edition brought together over 2,800 attendees from all over the

world to engage in discussions and events focused on peacebuilding. GPW21 featured 30 Online Workshops across the week, and also 30 podcasts and video recordings from the Digital Series. The Opening and Closing Ceremonies took place in a hybrid format, and formally opened and concluded the week.

The decision was made in 2021 to reduce the quantity of events during GPW21, in order to increase the overall quality and substantive focus of the forum. The programme was developed through an inductive process beginning with the review of 90 session applications received in June 2021, based on the overarching theme, “From seeds to systems of peace: Weathering today’s challenges”. The workshops and digital series offerings for GPW21 were further categorized within four main thematic tracks:

1. Confronting inequalities and advancing inclusion, peace, and SDG16.
2. Moving beyond securitization: What risks (and new horizons) for peacebuilding
3. Harnessing the digital sphere for peace.
4. Creating a climate for collaboration: Ways forward for environment, climate change, and peace.

The format of GPW was adapted to include ‘Online Workshops’ rather than the previous ‘Online Panel’ format from 2020. After reviewing feedback from attendees in 2020, it became clear that attendees desired to have a more interactive experience, where they could exchange and engage in dialogue with other professionals at GPW. The decision was made therefore, to shift to a workshop format in 2021. The application criteria for GPW workshops made it clear that the design and interactivity of the workshops proposed would be considered, in addition to the substance. Overall, the workshop format proved to be a major success for GPW21. Many attendees expressed their appreciation for the more inclusive and interactive space that the workshops provided in 2021.

GPW21 also included another Digital Series, which featured podcasts and videos that also focused on the same four thematic tracks. In 2021, the Digital Series proved again to receive more engagement than the live sessions from GPW, allowing for attendees to engage with the substance of GPW beyond the week itself. The Digital Series also integrated a new ‘PeaceCast’, in which our partners Fondation Hirondelle and Interpeace interviewed key GPW speakers, covering

their personal stories and experiences in peacebuilding. The Digital Series generated over 1200 podcast listens and 4,900 video streams of the GPW21 Digital Series productions.

The continuation of a strategic partnership with Aventri, a leading global event management platform, enabled the GPW team to build a strong infrastructure for an online forum. Their platform enabled the GPW team to integrate every aspect of the planning and implementation of GPW, including: the website, email and social media marketing, the GPW programme, speakers lists, the first branded GPW mobile app, data collection, and a centralized registration system. The centralized registration system—designed and implemented for the second 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.

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 GPW21 itself, attendees received personalized daily email messages with their sessions, and welcome videos and selected highlights prepared by the GPW team.

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.

Outlook

The year 2022 will be an important transition year for the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform. After 10 years at the helm of GPP, the Executive Coordinator, Achim

Wennmann, left the Platform in February 2021. Moreover, the Focal Point for Geneva Peace Week, Claudia Seymour, also transitioned out of her role at the end of 2020.

In response to these changes the GPP Steering and Management Committees, in consultation with Swiss FDFA, developed a transition scenario that included hiring an ad interim Executive Coordinator for 2021 (Rainer Gude), 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.

In 2022, the Platform, with its new Executive Coordinator Dr. Annyssa Bellal, hopes to continue the work and projects undertaken in 2021, while implementing the key objectives of the new Program for 2022.

Key Dates in 2022:

1 January	Start of the transition period with incoming Executive Coordinator, Dr. Annyssa Bellal
29 March	Management and Steering Committee Retreat
1-3 June	Presentation of White Paper at Stockholm+50
21 September	Geneva Peace Talks
31-4 November	Geneva Peace Week

The Platform in 2021

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 DCAF - the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance
- Keith Krause, Professor, Director of Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) at the Graduate Institute
- Thomas Greminger, Director of the 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, who was replaced by Alexandre Munafò, 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. In 2021, the staff was composed as following:

- Achim Wennmann, Executive Coordinator (30% Jan-Feb)
- Rainer Gude, Executive Coordinator (20% Feb-Mar, 40% Mar-June, 80% June-Dec)

- Danson Gichini, Project Coordinator, Geneva Peace Week (100%)
- Annika Erickson-Pearson, Community Manager (100%)
- Kathryn Gichini, Events & Administration Manager (40% Jan-March)
- Maëlys Glück, Events & Administration Manager (40% Oct-Dec)

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.

- Irina Sorokina, Project Coordinator
- Raissa Kanku, Communications and Digital Series Coordinator
- Zachary Alvarado, Communications Coordinator
- Kyle Lynch, Project Coordinator, Media
- Maëlys Glück, Events & Administration Manager
- Milena Niehaus, Virtual Assistant
- Marion Sauzay, Virtual Assistant
- Priya Swyden, Virtual Assistant
- Lambros Syrmos, Virtual Assistant
- Ryan Maia, Virtual Assistant
- Pierre Slim, Virtual Assistant
- Khaliun Purevsuren, Virtual Assistant

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. In 2021, the following members of the board were:

- 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)
- Stephanie Buri, Co-Director General, Initiatives of Change Switzerland
- Rudi Coninx, Senior Policy Adviser, Office of the Assistance Director-General, Emergency Response, WHO Health Emergencies Programme, World Health Organization (WHO)
- Maria Dimitriadou, Special Representative to the UN and WTO, World Bank Office Geneva
- Tiffany Easthom, Executive Director, Nonviolent Peaceforce
- Samuel Emonet, Director of Operations, Justice Rapid Response (JRR)
- Nicolas Florquin, Research Coordinator, Small Arms Survey
- Robin Geiss, Director, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)
- Joëlle Germanier, Head of Operations, Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation (CCHN)
- Catriona Gourlay, Executive Director, PeaceNexus Foundation
- Silja Halle, Manager, UNEP-EU Climate Change and Security Programme, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Hichem Khadhraoui, Director of Operations, Geneva Call
- Masayo Kondo Rossier, Lead, Policy & Guidance, Policy, Plans and Training Unit, Civil-Military Coordination Service, Response Support Branch, OCHA
- 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
- Maud Roure, Head of Programmes, Kofi Annan Foundation (KAF)
- 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)
- Friedhelm Weinberg, Director, Huridocs

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.