



中华人民共和国常驻联合国代表团

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC  
OF CHINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
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Confederaziun svizra

Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations



PERMANENT MISSION OF  
SOUTH AFRICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



ICRC

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## 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

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### High-Level Side Event: “Investing in Humanity through Multilateralism”

23 September 2019

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Conference Room 11

**Purpose:** To come together in cooperation of our shared vision to invest in humanity through showcasing concrete actions Member States will take in relation to the Geneva Conventions.

#### Programme

##### *Opening Remarks:*

Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, representing the Secretary-General of the United Nations

##### *Moderator:*

Ms. Sofia Borges, United Nations Foundation Senior Vice President and Head of the New York Office

##### *Keynote Speakers:*

H.E. Mr. Ueli Maurer, President of the Swiss Confederation

Mr. Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross

H.E. Mr. Wang Yi, State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

H.E. Dr. Naledi Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa

##### *Interventions from the Floor*

##### *Closing Remarks:*

H.E. Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the 74<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Mr. Mark Lowcock, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

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### **Concept Note: High-Level Side Event on “Investing in Humanity through Multilateralism”**

#### **Background:**

With the aim to preserve the core of our humanity during the worst of times, the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 are central to international humanitarian law and the international legal order. In the aftermath of the Second World War, States recognized that wars must be waged within certain limits to safeguard the lives and dignity of human beings, and they have since been universally ratified. They embody common values that transcend legal traditions, civilizations and cultures.

The Geneva Conventions continue to bring to life the idea of investing in humanity through multilateralism. This is an idea that is also embodied in the creation of the United Nations, as the preamble to the UN Charter starts off with, “We the peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind...” In addition, the purposes of the United Nations as stated in the UN Charter include to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of a humanitarian character.

This event will enable Member States to promote a global order based on international law as highlighted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The Geneva Conventions place people and their needs at the center and protect the most vulnerable from the harmful effects of contemporary warfare. With its people-centered focus, the Geneva Conventions have stood the test of time and remain relevant 70 years on as commitments for the future.

#### **Objectives:**

- ❖ Demonstrate the universality of the Geneva Conventions through the participation of Member States widely.
- ❖ Highlight how the Geneva Conventions can protect our common humanity.
- ❖ Discuss how the Geneva Conventions and other core IHL treaties provide a framework to address contemporary and emerging challenges.

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### Format:

Opening remarks and statements by keynote speakers will be followed by 2-minute interventions from Member States.

Speakers are encouraged to focus interventions on positive examples of Member States' engagement in supporting the Geneva Conventions including concrete action(s) Member States will take to demonstrate their support.

The event will be livestreamed to allow an opportunity for all to follow it. In addition, we encourage your participation in a Twitter initiative to highlight the importance of the Geneva Conventions. Click here for more on how to participate:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18oAPo5x6Uia\\_YXh9Nq5w4628n-6sEBP4](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18oAPo5x6Uia_YXh9Nq5w4628n-6sEBP4)

### Registration:

Participation is open to all Member States. Registration is required for the purposes of establishing a list of speakers. Due to the time allotted, the number of speakers at the event will be limited. Priority will be given to visiting Heads of State and Government or Government Ministers, followed by the representatives of groups of Member States, speaking on behalf of the whole group.

Please indicate your interest in participation (Name and Title) and whether you are interested in making an intervention by emailing **Gabriela Potts** at [gabriela.potts@eda.admin.ch](mailto:gabriela.potts@eda.admin.ch).