

Akin

Geneva Insights



September Edition

[Subscribe](#)

| [Share this](#)



International Geneva - A global governance ecosystem of over 40 international organizations, 178 country representations and 700+ non-governmental organizations.



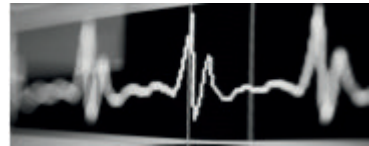
Economic

[Read more](#)



Communications and Digital

[Read more](#)



Health

[Read more](#)



Environment and Sustainability

[Read more](#)



Science and Technology

[Read more](#)



Standards and Regulatory

[Read more](#)



Social

[Read more](#)



Youth and Sports

[Read more](#)



Humanitarian and Human Rights

[Read more](#)

The Outlook

Economic ([jump to](#)).

Infrastructure and engineering get a closer look as leaders convene to discuss projects, sustainability, financing and risk management. [Read more](#)

Trade negotiators continue their efforts towards the objective of having a well-functioning trade dispute settlement system by 2024, with political headwinds. [Read more](#)

Consumer protection in the digital interconnected age: experts gather to shape the future of online dispute resolution, sharing initiatives and addressing gaps in cross-border consumer protection. [Read more](#)

The trade universe who-is-who descends on Geneva for the annual event focused on engaging stakeholders and public. How re-globalization can drive more inclusive trade, ensuring benefits reach broader communities, through discussions on green policies, services trade and digitalization. [Read more](#)

Global trade leaders gather to steer the future of trade and development, tackling key challenges like investment facilitation, digitalization and sustainable trade strategies, to drive inclusive growth and support vulnerable economies. [Read more](#)

Global tech trade experts meet to drive expansion of trade in information technology via lowering tariffs, expanding membership, clarifying what is and what is not IT, and tackling non-tariff barriers. [Read more](#)

Agriculture as a cornerstone of international trade: agri trade officials meet for a series of meetings to shape fairer and more competitive markets, addressing food security and environmental concerns, and working towards improved international trade rules in agriculture. [Read more](#)

As the world marks World Maritime Day, key report on the sector's vital role in international trade launches, analyzing trends and providing crucial statistics on shipping and transport. [Read more](#)

Standards and Regulatory ([jump to](#)).

As trains cross borders, issues to be solved internationally arise—this time, for example, railway financing and public private partnerships. [Read more](#)

As tanks and liquid petroleum gas are transported, experts on dangerous goods meet to coordinate and set international standards. [Read more](#)

International intellectual property governance requires standards, including on data and blockchain. [Read more](#)

Are you bothered by tire noise, as a driver or as a pedestrian? Experts discuss international regulations concerning noise pollution in different vehicle categories. [Read more](#)

Standards and preventing their misuse in international trade is an essential component. Is it working well? Trade experts scrutinize agricultural and technical standards. [Read more](#)

Artificial intelligence is driving cars. Experts meet to discuss the challenges of this development, as well as cybersecurity concerns in connected vehicles. [Read more](#)

A group of professionals recommends new road signs and signals and discuss the deployment of automated vehicles. [Read more](#)

Telecommunication professionals meet to sign off a review of international regulations. [Read more](#)

Communications and Digital ([jump to](#))

Experts in telecommunications gather to address pressing issues at the intersection of security and policy, building on previous discussions. [Read more](#)

Key stakeholders come together to explore new initiatives in data collection and its impact on global systems. [Read more](#)

Global leaders convene to examine the latest developments in technology and data, focusing on bridging gaps and advancing connectivity. [Read more](#)

Flying cargo meets digital technologies: industry professionals meet to discuss digital cargo. [Read more](#)

Experts from various technological fields come together to strategize on enhancing visibility and influence in a rapidly evolving media landscape. [Read more](#)

Policy experts focus on the evolving regulations affecting digital platforms and their broader implications. [Read more](#)

Health ([jump to](#))

Revisit the milestones in sexual and reproductive health, spark fresh energy for global action and secure these rights for all. [Read more](#)

Craft a fairer future for pandemic resources as global negotiators tackle the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing system and push forward key agreements with renewed energy. [Read more](#)

Leading minds in vaccine research come together to sharpen methods, assess impact and craft strategic insights, driving the next wave of global immunization policies. [Read more](#)

Fusing climate data with health systems: experts meet to spark new innovations, and craft a bold three-year plan to tackle climate-related health risks. [Read more](#)

Step into the future of cancer care with AI-driven research, cutting-edge prevention strategies and game-changing collaborations. [Read more](#)

Explore the synergy of health and climate action, tackling vulnerability, adaptation and building resilient, sustainable health care systems. [Read more](#)

Shaping the future of global vaccine strategies, experts dive into RSV, polio, cholera and more. [Read more](#)

Environment and Sustainability ([jump to](#)).

Tech giants re-envision their energy use and deepen their commitment to a greener planet. [Read more](#)

Experts refine global waste management standards to enhance environmental impact. [Read more](#)

Specialists collaborate on addressing the complex challenges of cross-border air pollution. [Read more](#)

Nations undergo scrutiny and receive guidance from international experts on their environmental practices. [Read more](#)

Experts ignite new discussions on sustainable energy solutions for the future. [Read more](#)

A key committee holds governments accountable for upholding environmental rights and human rights to protect the planet for future generations. [Read more](#)

Global trade discussions focus on integrating environmental sustainability into international policies. [Read more](#)

Leaders and experts strategize on building a world resilient to the devastating effects of drought. [Read more](#)

Social ([jump to](#)).

All things ethics in Geneva: peace, sustainability, the digital revolution and higher education from the perspective of ethical leadership. [Read more](#)

Education experts convene to examine trends in teaching and allegations made by teachers' organizations concerning the non-respect of internationally agreed upon principles. [Read more](#)

International labor experts hold a regular meeting to reassess labor standards and identify areas for improvement. [Read more](#)

Aviation experts convene to shape a more inclusive future for the sector. [Read more](#)

A report shines a light on decent work and a just transition in the building materials industry, cement. [Read more](#)

Mayors and their cities spearheading an agreement for the UN Summit of the Future. [Read more](#)

Science and Technology ([jump to](#)).

The future of meteorological research: experts answer the difficult question of how AI can transform what we know about weather prediction. [Read more](#)

Do you feel secure with(in) the outer space? Military, industry and academic experts address the ever-evolving international threats of space systems. This trailblazing summit tackles the exigent challenge of preventing a global arms race in the dynamic frontier of space. [Read more](#)

Global leaders in outer space convene to determine the present and future of cosmic sustainability. Together they deduce how best to ensure the accessibility and viability of space resources for all. [Read more](#)

The governing body of the world's highest-energy particle collider assembles to determine the future of groundbreaking particle research. They assess headways in heavy-ion physics, dark matter and antimatter aimed at uncovering the secrets of the universe. [Read more](#)

Who is the best innovator of them all? The world's premier source on international intellectual property releases their newest data on the innovation performance of economies around the globe, and points to local and regional innovation clusters. [Read more](#)

Youth and Sports ([jump to](#)).

World health experts convene in September alongside youth affected by cancer in a simulation of diplomatic deliberations where they will jointly co-create priorities for cancer care. [Read more](#)

Child online safety is at the forefront of telecommunication discussions. Experts will meet to discuss how to raise awareness and develop roadmaps to that end. [Read more](#)

Humanitarian and Human Rights ([jump to](#)).

States meet to discuss their intentions and goals for human rights in their candidacy for membership while facing questions from stakeholders. [Read more](#)

Leaders from nine member states meet to address progress in economic, social and cultural rights. [Read more](#)

A regular extensive and wide review of global human rights issues: from economic inequalities to the rights of Indigenous Peoples, with regular universal human rights reviews of individual countries. [Read more](#)

Lessons learned, country visits and sustainability to take the forefront of expert discussions on human rights and business practices. [Read more](#)

Questions? As you read the below, please do not hesitate to [contact one of the authors](#) for more information.

Economic

The 2024 International Federation of Consulting Engineers ([FIDIC](#)) [Global Infrastructure Conference](#) takes place from September 8-10, 2024. This conference brings together representatives of the global engineering, construction and infrastructure sector to discuss key issues and opportunities. Global markets shift towards cooling interest rates, slowing inflation and an increasing focus on bolstering growth, which the infrastructure sector is well positioned to deliver. The FIDIC Global Infrastructure Conference explores how good infrastructure transforms lives and nations. It addresses key challenges such as managing risks, balancing cost and sustainability, and securing finance. It highlights best practices and groundbreaking solutions from around the world and emphasizes the importance of leadership, skills development and innovation in delivering successful infrastructure projects.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) holds a series of meetings to progress on the Dispute Settlement (DS) reform. The key area, appeal/review mechanism, considers various options set out by members before the summer break, during meetings on September 9, 17 and 24. Additionally, meetings on accessibility are held on September 18, 23 and 30. Accessibility provisions of the reform may be seen as those that can be finalized early, and the facilitators are keen to negotiate on the basis of an existing text, but some resist an early harvest recalling the principle that “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.” Appeal/review mechanism is the cornerstone of the reform negotiations, and these are unlikely to finalize before the end of the year.

The UN Trade and Development ([UNCTAD](#)) organization hosts a [seminar](#) on September 9, focusing on the immediate future of online dispute resolution for consumers sharing initiatives and needs of UNCTAD member states and partners. The UNCTAD [world consumer protection map](#) shows that 38% of countries have cross-border, out-of-court alternative consumer dispute resolution, and 34% have cooperation agreements on dispute resolution. The seminar launches research and policy development to enhance consumer dispute resolution frameworks, including two publications: “[Consumer Dispute Resolution in the World](#)” and “[Technology and the Future of Online Resolution Platforms for Consumer Protection Agencies](#).” The seminar also presents a proposal for a technical cooperation project, which is discussed to chart the next steps in advancing consumer dispute resolution in the digital age.


The World Trade Organization ([WTO](#)) holds its annual [Public Forum](#) on September 10-13 to discuss how re-globalization leads to more inclusivity in trade and ensures that the benefits of trade reach more people. The event attracts over 2,000 representatives each year from civil society, academia, business, government, international organizations and the media. This year's Public Forum theme is "Re-globalization: Better Trade for a Better World." The Forum focuses on three sub-themes: green policies to maximize the benefits of trade, services trade to build progress and enhance welfare, and digitalization as a catalyst for inclusive trade. Myriad panels, roundtables and receptions feed the minds and address books.

The UN Trade and Development ([UNCTAD](#)) Board hosts its [annual session](#) from September 16-27 to oversee the activities of the organization. The 71st session focuses on key issues, including investment facilitation and digitalization, inclusive trade, sustainable digitalization strategies and assistance to the Palestinian people. The session reviews UNCTAD's [strategy](#) for small island developing states and implements outcomes from the 15th UNCTAD Conference, while preparing for the 16th Conference to be held in 2025.

The World Trade Organization ([WTO](#)) Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products ([ITA Committee](#)) holds an informal [meeting](#) on September 17. The ITA Committee reviews the implementation status of the [Information Technology Agreement](#), expands product coverage, addresses classification divergences, encourages new participation and consults on non-tariff barriers to trade in information technology (IT) products. The update of the agreement has been desired due to technological progress, but substantive differences and political frictions within the WTO so far prevented the negotiations to progress.

The World Trade Organization ([WTO](#)) [Committee on Agriculture](#) holds a series of formal and informal meetings throughout September, notably informal negotiations (September 18), formal negotiations (September 19-20) and an agriculture week on September 24-26. The WTO negotiates agricultural trade policy reforms to create fairer and more competitive markets, considering concerns like food security and the environment. The Committee on Agriculture hosts special sessions for these talks, which aim to improve international trade rules in agriculture. WTO members adopt decisions and declarations on agriculture, including the elimination of agricultural export subsidies and emergency responses to food insecurity. Given the sensitivity of agriculture domestically, these negotiations have been very difficult with little progress. Nonetheless, both Brazil and African Group are now leading the way, both in a slightly different direction, though.

The UN Trade and Development ([UNCTAD](#)) organization releases its annual [Review of Maritime Transport](#) report on September 26. The maritime transport sector drives international trade and the global economy, carrying over 80% of international trade goods by sea. UNCTAD publishes the *Review of Maritime Transport* annually, analyzing trends and providing statistics on maritime trade, shipping and transport. The report's launch coincides with the [World Maritime Day](#).



The 2nd session of Revisions Committee to the Model Rules on the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock meets September 2. Members consider implementation and amendment proposals and discuss the role of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in the financing of investment in railways. The meeting also provides updates on the Luxembourg Protocol, which establishes a new legal regime for the recognition and enforcement of securities of lenders, lessors and conditional sellers in railway rolling stock.

The Joint Meeting of the relevant Committee of Experts and the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods is held from September 9-13. Meeting participants review the current interpretation relevant instruments and consider proposals for amendment to these rules. The meeting also includes discussion on tanks, specifically test periods for battery-wagons/battery vehicles filled in accordance with packing instruction P200 standards. Finally, the meeting addresses pending issues on the definition of liquefied petroleum gas and the marking of liquid petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders.

The 12th session of the Committee on World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Standards (CWS) convenes September 16-19. The committee reviews progress on nine ongoing tasks, including “a final proposal for a recommendation on the process of data cleaning of customer names and submitted it for consideration at this session of the CWS.” The separate offices of WIPO also present their experiences implementing WIPO standards. Finally, the committee reviews miscellaneous policies relating to intellectual property data including a recommendation on Blockchain Application in the United Nations system by the Joint Inspection Unit.

The 80th session of the Working Party on Noise and Tyres convenes September 17-20. The meeting focuses on noise emissions, particularly those of motorcycles. It considers tire regulations including UN Regulation No. 41 (Noise Emissions of Motorcycles), UN Regulation No. 51 (Noise of M and N Categories of Vehicles), UN Regulation No. 92 (Replacement Exhaust Silencing Systems for Motorcycles) and UN Regulation No. 138 (Quiet Road Transport Vehicles). The meeting also discusses the development of the International Whole Vehicle Type Approval System.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) holds informal meetings for Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (SPS)—September 17—and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)—September 19. Both of these bodies consider national standards and their impact on international trade. Informal discussions of these bodies in September are an opportunity for trade experts to sound early alarms to their international counterparts, as well as review the long-standing systems to bring it up to speed, including via digitization efforts, such as the ePing platform.

The 20th session of the Working Party on Automated/Autonomous and Connected Vehicles meets from September 23-27. The meeting agenda includes opportunities for discussion on artificial intelligence (AI) in vehicles, and specifically the WP.29 Workshop on Artificial

[Intelligence](#) held on June 2-4, 2024. Discussion also addresses cyber security in connected vehicles, data protection and braking, specifically electromagnetic braking and breaking on motorcycles.

The 89th Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety is [held](#) from September 23-27. Topics [include](#) driving permits, remote activities related to driving and an assessment of the safe deployment of automated vehicles. The Chair of the Group of Experts on drafting a new legal instrument on the use of automated vehicles in traffic (LIAV) is invited to share the group's progress. Finally, the forum discusses road signs and signals and the Chair of the Informal Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals updates the forum regarding recommendations for new road signs to be included in the 1968 Convention.

The International Telecommunications Union's (ITU) third meeting of the Expert Group on International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs) is held September 30 through October 1 to review the Terms of Reference passed in a prior meeting and mandated by [Resolution 146](#). The outcome of the review is submitted to the Council for consideration. This meeting is open to member states and sector members. Interested parties can register [here](#). The invitation can be found [here](#).

Communications and Digital



The International Telecommunications Union's (ITU) Study Group (SG17), under the ITU's telecommunications standards body (ITU-T), convenes from September 2-5 to address issues at the nexus of security and telecommunications policy. The Study Group looks to build upon the previous meeting held last month, in which they approved documents ahead of the upcoming World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly, as well as advancing conversations related to the telecommunications security. Relevant stakeholders can register [here](#).

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in collaboration with the OpenSense Action, hosts a "Round Table on Global Microwave Link Data Collection Initiative (GMDI)" at ITU Headquarters on September 18, 2024. The event aims to establish foundational principles for a global initiative focused on the collection and curation of attenuation data from microwave backhaul links and their application in meteorology and telecommunications. Stakeholders from the telecommunications and meteorology sectors, including ITU, Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA), mobile network operators and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), convene to discuss the initiative. Interested participants can register [here](#).

The 19th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium ([WTIS-24](#)) is one of the primary global forums for telecommunication/ICT statistics. The symposium convenes on September 23-24. This year's edition occurs back-to-back with the 15th Meeting of the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators ([EGTI](#)) and the 12th Meeting of the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators ([EGH](#)) from September 25-26. Under the theme "Metrics to action: Bridging data gaps for universal and meaningful connectivity," the symposium gathers policy-makers, business leaders, regulators, statisticians and researchers

to learn, share and shape the telecommunication/ICT statistics agenda. Interested parties can register [here](#).

The [Digital Cargo Conference](#) takes place at [IATA](#) from September 24-25. This event provides a platform for industry professionals involved in digital cargo to engage with each other and stay informed about the latest global developments in regulation, standards, business processes and technology. This year's edition focuses on strategies and timelines for implementing ONE Record and explores the transformative impact of Generative AI on the air cargo industry. The conference is particularly relevant for CxOs, directors of technology, heads of digital transformation, digital cargo project leaders and professionals in the air cargo supply chain who focus on innovation, transformation and data management. Interested parties can register [here](#).

The European Broadcasting Union ([EBU](#)) organizes a workshop focused on Public Service Media visibility within an increasingly connected and intermediated media ecosystem, taking place on September 24. The workshop gathers EBU members from diverse professional backgrounds—legal & policy, digital/media, technology & innovation—to discuss the prominence of general interest media services, as regulated by member states under Article 7a of the European Union's (EU) Audiovisual Media Services Directive. Participants examine the current state of play across these disciplines, with case studies showcasing both challenges and successes. Additionally, the workshop fosters a forward-looking dialogue aimed at crafting a robust strategy to enhance the visibility and prominence of Public Service Media. Interested stakeholders can register [here](#) for the workshop.

The European Broadcasting Union's ([EBU](#)) [Platform Regulation Group](#) focuses on laws and policies surrounding online platforms that impact public service media (PSM). These include competition enforcement in digital markets, rules governing platform-to-business relations and issues related to data driving the provision of PSM content. The Group specifically concentrates on the Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act. The next meeting takes place online on September 26. Interested stakeholders can register [here](#).

Health



The International Conference on Population and Development ([ICPD30](#)), marking 30 years since its inception, takes place from September 5-23. This event reflects on the progress made since the 1994 Cairo conference, which established a rights-based approach to sexual and reproductive health. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Special Programme on Human Reproduction (HRP) celebrate advances in comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and emphasize the need for continued global efforts to achieve reproductive health and rights for all.

The [11th meeting](#) of the [Intergovernmental Negotiating Body](#) (INB), held from September 9-20, focuses on negotiating the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) system, a crucial and challenging element of the World Health Organization (WHO) Pandemic Agreement. The meeting builds on discussions from the July session, where progress is made on several key articles. The PABS system aims to ensure equitable access to pandemic-related resources,

making it a central issue in the negotiations. Negotiators face an uphill battle as the PABS is a cornerstone of the entire agreement and some have indicated strong mutually exclusive positions, as well as difficulty to conclude an agreement before key political moments take place later this year.

The World Health Organization (WHO) hosts the [Immunization and Vaccines Related Implementation Research Advisory Committee](#) (IVIR-AC) meeting from September 9-13. This committee serves as a principal advisory group to WHO, providing independent appraisals and advice on implementation research related to vaccines and immunization to inform public health decisions. The IVIR-AC reviews quantitative methods in vaccine research and evaluates approaches for assessing the performance, impact and value of vaccines. During this meeting, the committee focuses on refining model best practices and advising WHO on the relevance and applicability of vaccine-related research to support strategic policy recommendations.

On September 10-11, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), World Health Organization (WHO), Wellcome Trust and Rockefeller Foundation co-convene the [Integrated Climate and Health Monitoring Workshop](#). This hybrid meeting brings together experts from the health and climate fields to define and align actions aimed at strengthening health information systems' capacity to integrate climate and weather information. Participants discuss a common approach to integrating climate data into health systems, share innovations in climate-informed health surveillance and identify gaps in operationalizing these systems at the country level. The workshop also focuses on building partnerships and outlining a three-year action agenda to enhance climate and health data integration, supporting member states in preparing for climate-related health risks.

The [World Cancer Congress 2024](#), hosted by the [Union for International Cancer Control](#) (UICC), takes place from September 17-19. The program includes a series of plenaries and highlight sessions that address critical issues such as cancer prevention, screening and the integration of new technologies in treatment. Participants engage in specialized sessions focused on topics like the impact of tobacco control, equitable access to cancer care and the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in cancer research.

On September 18, the World Health Organization (WHO) hosts a [webinar](#) on integrating health in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This event is part of a series of technical webinars aimed at building capacity for climate change and health implementation at the country level. The sessions focus on conducting climate change and health vulnerability assessments, developing a Health National Adaptation Plan, accessing climate finance for health and creating climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable health care facilities.

From September 23-26, the World Health Organization (WHO) holds the [Strategic Advisory Group of Experts \(SAGE\) on Immunization meeting](#). This event covers critical immunization topics, including updates on global immunization strategies and the review of regional progress toward IA2030 goals. Participants discuss various sessions, including RSV immunization strategies, cholera, polio eradication efforts and the prevention of congenital rubella syndrome (CRS). The meeting also focuses on reviewing and endorsing policy

frameworks and recommendations related to immunization practices. Participation is by invitation only, and interested parties should contact the [SAGE Executive Secretariat](#).

Environment and Sustainability

On September 2, the [International Telecommunication Union \(ITU\)](#) and the [World Benchmarking Alliance \(WBA\)](#) publish the third edition of the “[Greening Digital Companies: Monitoring Emissions and Climate Commitments 2024](#)” report. This report examines the energy use and climate commitments of 200 top tech companies. These digital companies contribute to a carbon-free planet by purchasing renewable energy, investing in carbon removal, issuing green bonds and supporting environmental policies. The report evaluates their climate data and targets, serving as a resource for companies to adopt best practices and improve their emissions reduction efforts, with a focus on operational emissions and electricity consumption in the ICT sector, particularly Scope 3 emissions. The launch event includes discussions on key findings and features insights from companies, civil society, governments and United Nations (UN) agencies, with two webinars scheduled.

From [September 3-6](#), the expert working group on the Basel Convention reviews [Annexes I, III and IV](#) as part of the second part of its sixth meeting. It continues to work on Annex IV, developing revised amendment proposals based on discussions from the 14th meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. Annex IV lists the disposal operations that do and do not lead to the possibility of resource recovery, recycling, reclamation, direct re-use or alternative uses. The group also drafts recommendations for Annexes I and III, incorporating feedback from the 14th meeting, for the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Annex I lists waste categories for control under the Basel Convention, and Annex III details hazardous characteristics. This effort follows the first part of the 6th meeting, where the group prepared revised amendment proposals on Annex IV A, initiated consideration of revised amendment proposals on Annex IV B and continued to develop draft recommendations on the review of Annexes I and III.

[The Working Group on Effects](#) and [the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe \(EMEP\)](#) hold their 10th joint session from [September 9-13](#). They discuss the Gothenburg Protocol revision, address progress in their activities in 2024, including those related to the effects of air pollution and improving reporting and monitoring methods. Participants discuss and coordinate scientific input, review the progress of various international cooperative programs and provide guidance for future work related to air pollution and its effects.

The 38th session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Environmental Performance Review (EPR) takes place from [September 9-10](#), where the environmental performance of Tajikistan and Montenegro undergoes review. Participants discuss and provide feedback on the draft reports, which include recommendations for both countries on varied topics including biodiversity, tourism and agriculture. The session also covers activities under the [EPR Programme](#) and discusses other business matters related to the ongoing review process.

From [September 16-17](#), experts convene to track the progress of renewable energy deployment and discuss new strategies for advancing sustainable energy solutions. The meeting aims to foster dialogue on the challenges and opportunities in the renewable energy sector and to explore ways to increase investment and strengthen integration in future sustainable energy systems.

The Compliance Committee under the Aarhus Convention discusses matters arising from previous meetings considers submissions by Parties regarding compliance with the Convention and reviews referrals by the Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders on [September 17](#). The convention links environmental rights and human rights and emphasizes that we owe an obligation to future generations. It establishes that sustainable development can be achieved only through the involvement of all stakeholders and links government accountability and environmental protection.

On September 17, the World Trade Organization (WTO) holds [informal discussions](#) on integrating environmental sustainability into international trade policies. Sustainable development and protection and preservation of the environment are fundamental goals of the WTO. They are enshrined in the Marrakesh Agreement, which established the WTO, and complement the WTO's objective to reduce trade barriers and eliminate discriminatory treatment in international trade relations. The meeting focuses on balancing trade and environmental protection, exploring how trade can contribute to global sustainability goals and addressing the environmental impacts of global commerce.

The [Drought Resilience +10 Conference](#) brings together leaders, experts and practitioners to review progress in drought management and explore strategies for building resilience against drought. The conference focuses on scaling up drought action, enhancing risk governance, monitoring and forecasting drought impacts and integrating climate justice and social inclusion into drought resilience efforts. Participants collaborate on developing a joint way forward towards a more drought-resilient world. It follows up on the first high-level meeting on National Drought Policies in 2013 and aims to scale up and accelerate drought action on the ground. It brings together countries, experts and practitioners to review progress and lessons learned in drought management and to explore and define a joint way forward towards a more drought-resilient world.

Social



The Global Ethics [Forum](#), a multi-stakeholder platform, will convene on September 2-4 to host discussions on peace, sustainability, the digital revolution and higher education from the perspective of ethical leadership. The meeting will have a specific focus on intercultural dialogue and societal engagement for de-polarization and conflict prevention, the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on higher education and the scope and role of ethical leadership beyond compliance frameworks. The meeting highlights the importance of ethics across a wide range of pressing issues on the global stage.

The Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel ([CEART](#)) meets to further their implementation of two international

recommendations. The Committee was jointly established by the International Labour Organization ([ILO](#)) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ([UNESCO](#)). The two recommendations to be discussed are the ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers (1966), and the UNESCO Recommendation Concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel (1997).

The Standards Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group ([SRM TWG](#)) holds its annual meeting in September to reassess international labor standards and identify any gaps in coverage. The body was established under the International Labor Organization ([ILO](#)) to conduct regular reviews in order to maintain clear, robust and current international labor standards that respond to global trends and needs.

The International Air Transport Association ([IATA](#)) Global People [Forum](#) takes place on September 17-18. It addresses people-related issues with respect to the IATA's 25by2025 [initiative](#). The forum and initiative both aim to foster a more diverse, equitable and gender-balanced workforce by engaging with signatories and stakeholders. Participants share best practices and conduct collaborative workshops aimed at creating a more inclusive aviation sector.

The International Labour Organization ([ILO](#)) [meets](#) on September 23-27. The body discusses its recent report on the challenges and opportunities to promoting decent work and a just transition in the building materials industry, with an emphasis on cement. The body aims to adopt conclusions and recommendation for future action. The meeting highlights persistent efforts to advocate for better working conditions in the global construction industry.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's ([UNECE](#)) [Forum of Mayors](#) convenes from September 30 to October 1 to draft an outcome statement following a wider United Nations conference. The statement takes into consideration the forthcoming agreement on the Pact of the Future at the United Nations [Summit of the Future](#) in New York this September, and expands on the role of cities and local actors in leading the way towards a sustainable future.

Science and Technology



The World Weather Research Programme ([WWRP](#)) Steering Committee hosts a hybrid meeting on September 3-6. The meeting brings together both current and new WWRP community members to detail and discuss the future direction of global weather research. In the age of a changing climate and strengthening weather events, accurate weather prediction is more important than ever. Participants confer on projects regarding evolving polar climate, precipitation prediction and impact, and artificial intelligence (AI) aimed at solving the problems facing weather research today.

The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research ([UNIDR](#)) hosts a hybrid conference, the Outer Space Security Conference 2024 ([OS24](#)), September 10-11, to consider challenges

and solutions related to outer space security. Diplomats, military officials, industry members and academic space experts join to evaluate the growing necessity of protecting space as space technology becomes increasingly critical for modern life. The conference tasks itself with the challenge of determining how to prevent an outer space arms race, in part through a proposed treaty ([PAROS](#)). Participants also confer on potential best practices for space sustainability, facing the difficulties of growing technological congestion and encouraging transparency.

On September 10-11, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) brings together space leaders and subject matter experts from both the public and private sectors for the [Space Sustainability Forum 2024](#). The forum broaches the innovations in space technology and travel present today and their associated risks to both the current and future utilization of space by humans. Participants learn about and engage in discussions on policies, strategies and practices, attempting to strike the nuanced balance between innovation and sustainability to ensure successful use of space for all in the future.

The European Organization for Nuclear Research's ([CERN](#)) Large Hadron Collider Committee ([LHCC](#)) meets September 11-12 to discuss the management and future of the largest and highest-energy particle collider in the world, the [Large Hadron Collider](#). Responsible for the collider that has bolstered almost two decades of advancements in particle physics, the committee shares status updates on equipment and advances in heavy-ion physics, general matter, dark matter and antimatter.

The World Intellectual Property Organization ([WIPO](#)) presents the global launch and findings of their annual Global Innovation Index ([GI](#)), [2024 edition](#), utilized internationally as an innovation policy and performance benchmark. On September 26, the WIPO measures the pulse of global innovation amidst international suboptimal economic growth, productivity growth and innovation finance. They present the innovation performance of over 100 economies across the globe, taking note of the future uncertainty made clear by slowing innovation investments in 2023. Through research and data analytics, WIPO hopes to aid innovation policy-makers and innovation frameworks to improve systemic impact in this unpredictable economic circumstance.

Youth and Sports



On September 16, The World Health Organization ([WHO](#)) brings together a group of dynamic emergent leaders and people with lived experiences of cancer to develop a draft joint statement of priorities. The goal of this WHO-led [event](#) is to provide an opportunity for the community affected by cancer and emergent leaders to rally around a global agenda to support member states in their development of cancer policies.

The International Telecommunication Union ([ITU](#)) Council Working [Group](#) on Child Online Protection holds its 21st meeting from September 30 to October 1. The meeting explores ways to raise awareness and share best practices on child online safety issues. Experts discuss how to support member states, especially developing countries, in developing and implementing roadmaps for child online safety.

This fall, the Human Rights Council holds elections to determine its membership. Before the elections, state representatives meet on September 4 to discuss their vision for Council membership and answer questions from relevant stakeholders. Being a member of the Council requires contributing to the promotion and protection of human rights and upholding high standards. The discussion aims to highlight the goals of the candidates in fulfilling their pledges and commitments. This year, 19 countries run for 18 seats, and the following countries confirm their participation in the discussion: Cyprus, Czechia, Marshall Islands, Mexico, North Macedonia, Qatar, Spain, Switzerland and Thailand.

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights holds its 76th session from September 9-27. The Covenant, established to promote the ideal of free human beings enjoying civil and political freedom, considers nine state reports on their progress in meeting membership responsibilities. Albania and Kyrgyzstan present information from Civil Society Organizations on harm reduction and HIV support. Women's rights also feature prominently with presentations from Honduras, Malawi and Iceland. The report presentations address the submitting countries' progress in fulfilling the Covenant.

The Human Rights Council holds its 57th session from September 9 to October 11. During this session, the annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports from the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General are presented. Topics previously covered include sexual exploitation of children, privacy and hazardous substances. The session also follows up on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action and the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action. Panel discussions cover economic inequalities, quality education for peace for every child, the biennial panel on the right to development, states' obligations on the role of the family, rights of Indigenous Peoples and the annual discussion on integrating gender perspectives in the work of the Human Rights Council. While the session is ongoing, side events address human rights in countries like China, Iran and Afghanistan, and focus on religious freedoms and women's health.

The Working Group on Human Rights and Transnational Corporations, established in 2011, seeks to exchange and promote best practices and lessons learned from implementing the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The Group meets from September 30 to October 4 for its 39th session, where it covers the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, gender perspectives and support for capacity-building in domestic legislation and business policy. The Group also discusses its recent visits to Colombia and Tunisia.

Key Contacts

If you have any questions, please contact:



[Email](#)
Geneva
+41 22.888.2042



[Email](#)
Geneva
+41 22.888.2034

Contributors

Brandon Brodwater
Lobbying & Public Policy Fellow

June Nam
Lobbying & Public Policy Specialist

Patrick Gaul
Lobbying & Public Policy Specialist

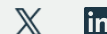
Maria Velasco Posada
Lobbying & Public Policy Fellow

Sharan Kumar
Lobbying & Public Policy Specialist

Evan Sarnor
Lobbying & Public Policy Specialist

Audrey May Lucas
Lobbying & Public Policy Specialist

akingump.com



© 2024 Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. All rights reserved. Attorney advertising. This document is distributed for informational use only; it does not constitute legal advice and should not be used as such. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. Receipt of this information does not create an attorney-client relationship. Do not act upon this information without seeking professional counsel. All content is presented by Akin and cannot be copied or rebroadcasted without express written consent. Akin is the practicing name of Akin Gump LLP, a New York limited liability partnership authorized and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority under number 267321. A list of the partners is available for inspection at Eighth Floor, Ten Bishops Square, London E1 6EG. For more information about Akin Gump LLP, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP and other associated entities under which the Akin network operates worldwide, please see our [Legal Notices](#) page.

[Update Your Preferences](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Forward to a Friend](#) | [Legal Notices](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

This email was sent by: 2001 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006-1037