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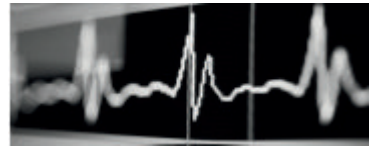
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The Outlook

Economic ([jump to](#)).

Experts meet to discuss regional cooperation on sustainable development and capacity-building efforts. [Read more](#)

Copyright leaders convene to shape the digital landscape, addressing key challenges in broadcasting, education and accessibility. [Read more](#)

Global trade regulators meet to tackle the complex world of goods trade, debating cutting-edge digital tools and resolving contentious trade disputes. [Read more](#)

The world's top infrastructure leaders unite to tackle humanity's biggest challenges, from sustainable cities to resilient economies. [Read more](#)

Statisticians and experts gather to enhance accuracy in consumer price indices. [Read more](#)

Global trade visionaries converge to revolutionize development and harness innovation. [Read more](#)

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

Start your engines? Experts meet to discuss gas-fueled vehicles and other matters. [Read more](#)

AI may improve infrastructure projects thanks to one of several upcoming meetings. [Read more](#)

To prevent accidents during the transport of dangerous goods, a working party convenes. [Read more](#)

Burdensome regulations on lighting and light-signaling are simplified by a key Working Party. [Read more](#)

Resilience and sustainability are a top priority for WPLA in their discussion of tenure security. [Read more](#)

Experts take “hands free” to a new level in this discussion of automated vehicles. [Read more](#)

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

Global policy shapers zero in on data pricing, OTT regulation and satellite competition as digital markets evolve. [Read more](#)

The internet gets smarter—and riskier. Experts examine how to build cybersecurity frameworks for an AI-powered, quantum-ready world. [Read more](#)

Public broadcasters reveal what climate leadership looks like in practice—from AI’s carbon cost to powering film sets with cleaner energy. [Read more](#)

Can digital transformation future-proof the global IP system? Leaders from WIPO and national offices explore how AI, cross-border data tools and digital strategy reshape IP from the ground up. [Read more](#)

With spectrum battles intensifying and new demands looming, senior advisers regroup to chart a path for global radio coordination. [Read more](#)

Global experts look skyward as they hammer out the rules for safer skies, cleaner oceans and smarter spectrum use. [Read more](#)

From mobile money to broadband rollouts, countries present their best ideas for bridging the digital divide and protecting users. [Read more](#)

Health ([jump to](#))

WHO’s global braintrust logs on to tweak codes, dose the data and give the ATC/DDD system its annual tune-up. [Read more](#)

Back in action—mixes microbes with diplomacy and spins up a pandemic pact. [Read more](#)

Swats away malaria myths and buzzes through policy updates to shape the global response. [Read more](#)

Forges new alliances and fast-tracks action on non-communicable diseases and mental health ahead of the next high-stakes summit. [Read more](#)

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

Can trade fuel sustainability? Trade experts explore how trade policies can drive environmental progress while tackling the impacts of global commerce. [Read more](#)

Stronger cooperation keeps water flowing. Experts assess transboundary agreements, enhance governance and reinforce regional collaboration. [Read more](#)

Cities are on the frontlines of climate action. Cutting-edge research and emerging technologies power new strategies to track and reduce urban emissions. [Read more](#)

Resilient infrastructure for a changing world. Leaders scale up investments and policy tools to safeguard sustainable development. [Read more](#)

Hidden hazards shape our world. Global efforts intensify to manage chemicals and waste, protecting health and ecosystems. [Read more](#)

Is it time to rethink fossil fuel subsidies? Experts drive forward solutions to phase out harmful subsidies and accelerate the clean energy transition.

[Read more](#)

Social ([jump to](#)).

Out in the sea, one does not see...the working conditions. Global labour experts discuss their draft paper on maritime labour. [Read more](#)

Global experts celebrate 25th anniversary of universal handling of intellectual property online. [Read more](#)

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

The world's leading scientists gather to discuss the threats unchecked AI development can pose to the human race and to debate if non-agentic AI may be the answer. [Read more](#)

The leading international body on science, technology and innovation for development comes together to determine and discuss the key trends and policies that will impact the future of global evolution. [Read more](#)

Youth and Sports

No relevant topics this month.

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

The 58th Human Rights Council session concludes in Geneva as global crises, digital rights and U.S. withdrawal spark debate. [Read more](#)

World Governments convene in Geneva to negotiate global rules for holding private military and security companies accountable for human rights abuses. [Read more](#)

Global experts gather in Geneva to kick off a new dialogue series on securing the human right to adequate food. [Read more](#)

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

Economic

The Regional Forum on Sustainable Development ([RFSD](#)) meets annually to discuss and enhance regional cooperation on sustainable development. This year, the RFSD [takes place](#) from 2-3 April. Topics include advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its goals (SDGs) in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region, leaving no one behind. The meeting aims to facilitate dialogue, share best practices and review capacity-building efforts in sustainable development. Governments and a range of other stakeholders

participate to foster international collaboration. The event features a High-level Policy Segment, peer learning round tables and a forward-looking Plenary session.

The World Intellectual Property Organization ([WIPO](#)) Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights [meets](#) from 7-11 April. The committee's draft agenda includes opening of the session, adoption of the agenda, accreditation of new non-governmental organizations, protection of broadcasting organizations, limitations and exceptions for libraries and archives, limitations and exceptions for educational and research institutions and for persons with other disabilities, and other matters. The committee features information sessions, proposals and discussions on various copyright-related topics.

The World Trade Organization ([WTO](#)) Council for Trade in Goods ([CTG](#)) meets on 9 April. The meeting convenes to discuss key documents, including notifications from the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements. The council reviews documents on the status of notifications in the goods area, updates on notification obligations, and digital tools used in the council and its subsidiary bodies. The chairperson presents an overview report, and the secretariat communicates the tentative annual plan of meetings. The council also discusses a draft decision on recording the resolution of trade concerns. The United States promotes its [communication](#) proposing to review and limit the mandate of the WTO Secretariat.

The International Federation of Consulting Engineers ([FIDIC](#)) Global Leadership Forum Summit takes place on 10-11 April 2025. This [summit](#) brings together 100 of the world's most senior leaders in the infrastructure sector. The event provides a forum for leaders to connect with peers worldwide, share knowledge and discuss solutions to major issues. Delegates include CEOs, c-suite executives and leaders from government, finance, consulting, engineering, construction and academia. The event enables delegates to build deep relationships, collaborate, debate and reflect on solving challenges facing the global infrastructure sector. The Global Leadership Forum brings together leaders to address global challenges, create a united voice for the infrastructure industry and develop solutions to critical issues.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe ([UNECE](#)) Meeting of the Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices [takes place](#) from 28 to 30 April. The meeting discusses various topics, including household cost indices, new data sources and collection methods, challenges in Consumer Price Index (CPI) compilation, rented and owner-occupied dwellings in the CPI, implementation of COICOP 2018, and modernizing CPI production. The meeting features sessions, poster sessions, and discussions among experts. Participants include representatives from national statistical offices, international organizations, and experts in the field. The meeting aims to facilitate the exchange of experiences, discuss methodological issues, and identify best practices in CPI compilation.

United Nations Trade and Development ([UNCTAD](#)) holds its 15th session from 28 April to 2 May. The organization [elects](#) officers, adopts the agenda and organizes its work. It reviews reports from expert meetings on commodities, trade, services and development. The commission also discusses reports from the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy and Consumer Protection Law and Policy. Additionally, it addresses leveraging international trade rules for development, promoting synergies among

Standards and Regulatory

From 7-11 April, the Working Party on General Safety Provisions of the Inland Transport Committee meets for its 129th session to discuss a variety of United Nations (UN) regulations. These regulations fall into a variety of key categories including awareness of the proximity of vulnerable road users, amendments to regulations on gas-fueled vehicles, and amendments to the regulations on devices against unauthorized use, immobilizers and vehicle alarm systems. Other regulations considered concern heating systems and accident emergency call systems.

From 7-11 April, the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies gathers a variety of teams to promote regulatory cooperation and standardization policies and activities which contribute towards reducing technical barriers to trade. Among these teams are the Ad-hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques, the Team of Specialists on Gender-Responsive Standards, and the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is also the featured topic of discussion as a part of the Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems discussion on improving quality infrastructure processes with applied use of AI.

The Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods of the Inland Transport Committee holds a joint meeting with the Ad hoc Working Group on the Harmonization of RID/ARD/AND on 15-16 April. Together, the groups make recommendations on regulations for the transport of dangerous goods. A report is issued following the meeting.

The Working Party on Lighting and Light-Signaling meets for its 92nd session from 22-25 April. Key agenda items include the consideration of regulations on the installation of lighting and light-signaling devices as well as regulations on electromagnetic compatibility. Ultimately, the Working Party seeks to simplify such regulations. The Working Party may also reconsider the 1998 and 1997 agreements on global technical regulations for development and rules for development respectively.

From 28-29 April, the 14th session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA), an international platform for exchanging knowledge and expertise on land administration and management, convenes in Geneva. The keynote segment of the meeting focuses on tenure security in the face of digital transformation, urbanization and climate change. Other important topics include strengthening collaboration between national and international organizations as well as a review of a study concerning future land administration arrangements.

The Group of Experts on drafting a new legal instrument on the use of automated vehicles in traffic meets for its 10th session from 28-30 April 28. In addition to sharing updates on

national and regional concerns over automated vehicles, experts also [resume](#) activities to identify and address broader issues with deploying automatic driving systems in road traffic.

Communications and Digital

From 8-17 April, ITU-T Study Group 3 (SG3) meets to address tariff and accounting principles, along with economic and policy issues shaping international telecommunications and information and communication technology (ICT). Key agenda items include proposed definitions for over-the-top (OTT) services, competition policies for low Earth orbit satellite providers, and consultations on new recommendations related to data tariffs and big data economic principles. Contributions from Sudan, Gambia and China help guide discussions on emerging digital markets and regulatory frameworks. Interested parties can register [here](#).

From 8-17 April, ITU-T Study Group 17 (SG17) gathers to advance international standards on cybersecurity, identity management and emerging threats. The agenda includes work on quantum key distribution network security, fraud detection in mobile applications and interoperability with standards bodies like the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). Discussions also explore artificial intelligence security, child online protection, and updates to the ICT security standards roadmap. Key contributions come from Japan, China and the OpenID Foundation. Interested parties can register [here](#).

On 10 April, the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) hosts the 2025 Sustainability Summit, bringing together public service media leaders to explore climate communication, green technologies and strategic reporting frameworks. The day opens with remarks from EBU and NRK leadership, followed by a global outlook on sustainability from the United Nations, ABC, NHK, SLBC and CBC. Sessions cover corporate sustainability reporting (CSRD), greener alternatives for temporary power in film and broadcasting, and the impact of emerging technologies including generative artificial intelligence (AI) and low Earth orbit satellites (LEOS). Panelists include experts from BBC, ITV, France Télévisions, Creative Zero and more. Interested parties can register [here](#).

From 14-16 April, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) hosts the inaugural ICT Leadership Dialogue (WILD) to explore how digital transformation reshapes intellectual property (IP) strategy and operations. Day 1 centers on global information and communications technology (ICT) trends, cyber resiliency and digital governance frameworks. Day 2 dives into emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI) tools tailored for IP offices and strategies to empower smaller offices. Day 3 emphasizes global harmonization efforts—showcasing IP data-sharing platforms, WIPO standards and cross-border ICT collaboration. The event brings together ICT leaders and IP decision-makers to align on next steps for digital modernization. Interested parties can register [here](#).

From 14-17 April, the 32nd meeting of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG) convenes to guide strategic and operational priorities across the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Radiocommunication sector. Participants review sector strategies, steer Study Group activities, and assess collaboration with other ITU sectors and

external organizations. The group also considers matters referred by the Radiocommunication Assembly and advises the Radiocommunication Bureau Director on key initiatives. Delegates include Study Group leadership and coordination group chairs. Interested parties can register [here](#).

From 29 April to 8 May, ITU-R Working Party 5B (WP 5B) meets to advance global standards for maritime and aeronautical mobile services and radiodetermination systems. Discussions include updates to the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), protection criteria for unmanned aircraft system control links, and enhancements to radar and radionavigation services. WP 5B addresses spectrum sharing assumptions and compatibility studies between high-altitude relay platforms and existing systems. Interested parties can register [here](#).

From 28 April to 2 May, ITU-D Study Group 1 gathers for its fourth meeting to advance work on enabling environments for meaningful connectivity. The group addresses issues ranging from information and communication technologies (ICTs) for disaster risk reduction to mobile financial services, fiber infrastructure and user protection. Recent contributions include proposals from Rwanda on mobile number portability, Sri Lanka on digital connectivity projects and Romania on electronic service safeguards. A dedicated session on accessibility includes International Sign interpretation. Interested parties can register [here](#).

Health



The [57th meeting](#) of the World Health Organization (WHO) [International Working Group for Drug Statistics Methodology](#), takes place virtually from 1 to 2 April. The Working Group, established by WHO in 1996, includes 12 experts from all six WHO regions and provides scientific oversight of the Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) classification and Defined Daily Dose (DDD) system. During the session, members review applications for new ATC codes, DDD assignments and proposed changes to existing classifications; assess the scientific basis of each application; and discuss methods to strengthen the use of the ATC/DDD system in global drug utilization studies.

The [Intergovernmental Negotiating Body](#) (INB) holds a [formal meeting](#) to continue negotiations on the proposed World Health Organization (WHO) Pandemic Agreement from 7-11 April. The INB, which leads the development of the agreement through structured negotiations among member states and relevant stakeholders, reviews provisions on pandemic prevention, surveillance, the [One Health](#) approach, pathogen access and benefit-sharing, technology transfer, supply chains and institutional arrangements. This is the last INB meeting ahead of ministers coming to Geneva to seal the deal in May, and there is a push to resolve all now. Key outstanding issues include provisions on pandemic prevention, pathogen access and benefit sharing, and technology transfer.

The [27th meeting](#) of the [Malaria Policy Advisory Group](#) (MPAG) takes place from 8-10 April. MPAG, which provides independent, strategic advice to the World Health Organization (WHO) on technical issues related to malaria control and elimination, reviews updates on malaria elimination, drug resistance, zoonotic malaria, vector control and equity

considerations in malaria response. The meeting includes both open and closed sessions, with discussions focused on providing strategic guidance and finalizing recommendations to inform global malaria policy.

The Second General Meeting of the WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on Noncommunicable Diseases (GCM/NCD) takes place from 23-25 April. The GCM/NCD, established in 2014, is the World Health Organization's (WHO) first and only mechanism dedicated to facilitating multistakeholder engagement and cross-sectoral collaboration to prevent and control NCDs. As a member state-led platform, it supports the implementation of the WHO Global Action Plan on NCDs and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by convening member states, United Nations (UN) organizations and non-State actors, including the private sector. The meeting brings together civil society actors and partners to develop recommendations for accelerating coordinated responses to NCDs and mental health conditions ahead of the fourth UN High-level Meeting on NCDs.

Environment and Sustainability



The World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) convenes from 1-3 April to explore the intersection of trade and environmental sustainability. The session examines how trade policies contribute to global sustainability goals while addressing the environmental impacts of global commerce. Discussions focus on reducing trade barriers, eliminating discriminatory practices, and promoting the balance between economic growth and environmental protection. Delegates also explore emerging challenges, including carbon border adjustment mechanisms and trade-related climate policies.

The 18th meeting of the Implementation Committee under the Water Convention convenes from 7-8 April to assess compliance with transboundary water agreements. The Committee reviews requests for advice and submissions by Parties on implementation challenges, undertakes a new Committee initiative, and evaluates progress in Montenegro and Albania. Discussions include enhancing groundwater monitoring, addressing legal and technical advice, and reinforcing cooperation mechanisms. The meeting strengthens regional collaboration and ensures effective water governance in the face of climate change.

The World Meteorological Organization hosts the Urban Greenhouse Gas Conference and Stakeholder Summit from 7-9 April to advance urban climate action. The event showcases cutting-edge research on urban emissions tracking, satellite and ground-based monitoring, and artificial intelligence (AI)-driven modeling. Sessions highlight policy development, real-time air quality mapping and the integration of urban emissions data into mitigation strategies. Participants discuss the role of emerging technologies in improving emissions inventories and setting new global standards.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) holds its 71st session from 9-10 April under the theme "Climate Action and Resilient Infrastructure for a Sustainable Future." The high-level segment highlights country-led climate initiatives and best practices. Roundtables focus on integrating climate resilience into infrastructure planning

and mobilizing financial support for sustainable projects. The session explores innovative financing mechanisms and policy tools to scale up climate-resilient infrastructure investments.

The [Conferences of the Parties](#) to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions take place from 28 April to 9 May under the theme “Make Visible the Invisible: Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastes.” The high-level segment on 30 April and 1 May addresses hazardous waste management, chemical trade regulations and persistent organic pollutants control. Delegates refine technical guidelines, strengthen compliance measures and advance global efforts to mitigate chemical and waste-related environmental risks. The meetings emphasize the need for strengthened global cooperation to improve hazardous waste tracking and enforcement mechanisms.

The [WTO Fossil Fuel Subsidies Reform Initiative](#) meets from 30 April to 1 May to accelerate efforts to phase out harmful fossil fuel subsidies. Delegates discuss transparency measures, crisis response mechanisms and pathways for subsidy reform aligned with climate goals. The session explores the economic, environmental and social benefits of reform, including reduced emissions and enhanced energy efficiency. Participants examine strategies for ensuring a just transition, particularly for developing economies and vulnerable communities.

Social



From 7-11 April, the International Labour Organization ([ILO](#))’s Special Tripartite [Committee](#) under the Maritime Labour Convention of 2006 convenes for their fifth meeting. Attendees consider amendment proposals to the Code of the Maritime Labour Convention in accordance with Article XV and discuss their paper and work programme for the coming year.

On 23 April, the World Intellectual Property Organization ([WIPO](#)) meets for their 25th [anniversary](#) celebration of administering intellectual property cases under the Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy ([UNRP](#)) legal framework. The celebration commemorates 25 years of protecting brands and consumers online, and explores the outlook for future cases.

Science and Technology



On 3 April, the European Organization for Nuclear Research ([CERN](#)) [discusses](#) the pertinent risks of superintelligent artificial intelligence (AI) agents as part of its [Colloquium series](#). Open to all and attended by leading scientists across a breadth of disciplines, the seminar hopes to determine if the threats posed by AI can be mitigated by a dramatic shift into responsible, regulated and scientific AI development.

From 7-11 April, UN Trade and Development’s ([UNCTAD](#)) Commission on Science and

Technology for Development (CSTD) [meets](#) to discuss the strategies and best practices for science, technology and innovation (STI) utilization for development in the near future. The forum analyzes and predicts the focal trends of STI for development, including groundbreaking technologies that may disrupt the status quo as we know it. Topics of the Commission focus on the economics of accelerated digitalization and the future technologies critical for sustainable development.

Humanitarian & Human Rights

The 58th session of the Human Rights Council concludes on 4 April in Geneva and addresses a broad spectrum of critical global human rights issues. The Council examines country-specific situations, such as ongoing crises in Myanmar, Afghanistan, Sudan and Ukraine, alongside thematic discussions on genocide prevention, cultural heritage, and economic and social rights in the informal economy. Panels highlight rights of marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities and children, with debates on digital inclusion, countering cyberbullying and early childhood development. Please find the session agenda [here](#), the draft programme of work [here](#) and the list of reports [here](#).

U.S. President Donald Trump issues an [executive order](#) (EO) to withdraw the United States from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in February 2025. The EO attributes the withdrawal to concerns over the Council's perceived bias, particularly against Israel, and its failure to effectively address human rights abuses in countries like Venezuela and China. The 58th session of the UNHRC continues to function without the presence of the U.S.

The sixth session of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group (OEIGWG), mandated to develop an international regulatory framework for the oversight of private military and security companies (PMSCs), takes place from 7-11 April in Geneva. In preparation, the Chair-Rapporteur releases the [revised fourth draft instrument](#), serving as the negotiation basis during this session. This OEIGWG seeks to establish clear legal norms to guide states in managing PMSCs, addressing the need for an internationally binding instrument to prevent these entities from operating without adequate oversight and to ensure accountability for any human rights violations or abuses. Please find the agenda [here](#).

The Launch of the Right to Food Dialogue Series: Briefing Session on The Human Right to Adequate Food happens on 16 April in Geneva. This session starts a dialogue on ensuring the human right to adequate food and brings together stakeholders from various sectors. They discuss strategies, challenges and collaborative efforts to address global food security and nutrition issues. Please register for the event [here](#).

Key Contacts

If you have any questions, please contact:



Jan Walter

[Email](#)

Geneva

+41 22.888.2042



Alan Yanovich

[Email](#)

Geneva

+41 22.888.2034

Contributors

Brandon Brodwater
Lobbying & Public Policy Fellow

Lucas Chapman
Lobbying & Public Policy Resident

Siva Cidambaram
Lobbying & Public Policy Specialist

Patrick Gaul
Lobbying & Public Policy Specialist

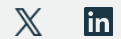
June Nam
Lobbying & Public Policy Specialist

Sharan Kumar
Lobbying & Public Policy Specialist

Maria Velasco Posada
Lobbying & Public Policy Fellow

Evan Sarnor
Lobbying & Public Policy Specialist

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