

The United Nations: Looking Towards the Future

From history to the current and future challenges of global governance and law

META UN Launch conference, 6-7 February 2025, Palais des Nations

The **META-UN** Global Outreach Project of the 4EU+ university alliance (<https://4euplus.eu>) is designed for researchers and students from primarily the social science, humanities and law to enter a **science-policy exchange** with the UN. The project includes a range of themes from the history and historical heritage of the UN, contemporary challenges to global governance related to policy development and sustainable development goals, and finally discussions about future reform of UN decision-making and international law. META-UN offers a much-needed space for **meta-reflection** about the UN itself.

The aim of **META-UN** is to organise **scientific and educational meetings** between the most prominent scientific experts, junior researchers and students of the 4EU+ university alliance and relevant staff, agencies and institutions of the UN. In this manner it will be possible to disseminate new scientific and educational results, while at the same time new research and educational ideas are nurtured relevant to the challenges of the UN. By hosting a continuous **science-policy exchange** between the 4EU+ alliance and the UN, META-UN thus offers the necessary framework for genuine scientific and policy innovation.

The **LAUNCH CONFERENCE** of META-UN offers three distinct themes that are highly pertinent to the UN. The conference includes researchers from the eight universities of the 4EU+ alliance, leading academic experts beyond the alliance and **UN staff**.

The aim is to **begin a dialogue** about how researchers of the 4EU+ alliance can contribute to and engage with the United Nations and what kind of research and insights the United Nations would find interesting. A second step will be the organisation of a new seminar/conference in late 2025 or early 2026 that deepens the dialogue and directly works on establishing a permanent science-policy exchange between **META UN** and the **UN**.

The conference is open to all interested, but there is a limited number of seats available. If you want to participate, please contact organiser Morten Rasmussen before 26 January 2025: mortenra@hum.ku.dk

Thursday 6 February

9.00-9.15

Welcome

Blandine Blukacz-Louisfert, Haakon Ikononou & Morten Rasmussen

9.15-9.45

The role of science in multilateralism and common strategies for science-policy engagement

Nicolas Seidler, (Geneva Science-Policy Interface)

Moderator Morten Rasmussen (University of Copenhagen)

9.45-10.45

United Nations: History and Heritage

Double Keynote: Alternative Narratives of the United Nations

Alanna O'Malley (University of Leiden)

Sandrine Kott (University of Geneva)

Moderator: Patrick O. Cochrane (University of Florence)

10.45-11.15

Break

11.15-12.15

Everyday histories of the UN

GeneveMonde.ch: A Public History Project Highlighting the Collective Legacy of International Organizations

Veronique Stenger (Friedrich-Alexander University)

Diplomatic Marginality and Influence

Haakon A. Ikononou (University of Copenhagen)

From the League to the United Nations in the UN Archives Geneva

Pierre-Etienne Bourneuf (Institutional Memory Section of the United Nations Library Geneva)

Moderator: Morten Rasmussen (University of Copenhagen)

12.15- 13.15

Lunch

13.15-13.45

Presentation of Centre for Digital Humanities & Multilateralism

<https://www.graduateinstitute.ch/research-centres/centre-digital-humanities-and-multilateralism>

Grégoire Mallard and Davide Rodogno (Geneva Graduate Institute)

13.45-14.45

United Nations: Architectures of global governance in times of transition

Keynote: *Sustainable development, the environment, Wellbeing*

Roberto De Vogli (University of Padua)

Moderator Louise Dalingwater (Sorbonne)

14.45-15.30

Towards a new design of global governance? – Part I

Sustainable Development Goals - way forward and what is next?

Justyna Nakonieczna-Bartosiewicz (Warsaw University)

Challenges of the universal system of forced migrants' protection - the Global Compacts

Dorota Heidrich (University of Warsaw)

Moderator Professor Agata de Laforcade (ISIT-Université de Paris Panthéon Assas))

15.30-16.00

Break

16.00-17.00

Towards a new design of global governance? – Part II

The Concept of Inclusiveness (non-state actors / individuals / celebrities) - principles of involvement

Manlio Cinalli (ISIT-Université de Paris Panthéon Assas, University of Milan)

Supporting a wider and more inclusive framework for women's health and wellbeing in the SDGs

Louise Dalingwater (Sorbonne)

Global South - a silent majority in the global governance?

Patryk Kugiel (Warsaw University)

Moderator Agata de Laforcade (ISIT-Université de Paris Panthéon Assas))

17.00-18.00

Roundtable: 100 Years of Multilateralism - a meta-reflection

Dorothea Hoehtker (International Labour Organization)

Olga Hidalgo-Weber (University of Geneva)

Ludovic Tournès (University of Geneva)

Blandine Blukacz-Louisfert, UNOG (Institutional Memory Section of the United Nations Library Geneva)

Moderator: Sandrine Kott (University of Geneva)

DINNER 20.00

Friday 7 February

The United Nations and International Law

9.00-10.00

Keynote: International Courts and the Crisis of Multilateralism: Resilience and Transformation

Mikael Rask Madsen (iCourts, University of Copenhagen)

Moderator: Morten Rasmussen (University of Copenhagen)

10.00-10.40

Is international law on the verge of transformation? – Part I

Current challenges to jus ad bellum and jus in bello

Marco Pedrazzi (University of Milan)

New roles for International Court of Justice in the times of growing maturity of international law
Patrycja Grzebyk (Warsaw University)

Moderator: Dorota Heidrich

10.40-11.00

Break

11.00-11.40

Is international law on the verge of transformation? – Part 2

Legal dimensions: hard law / soft law (sustainability) - Enforcement, implementation, measurement

Agata Delaforcade (Panthéon-Assas Université)

Business and human rights: are soft law instruments suitable to influence business behaviour? -

Anton Stefan Zimmermann (University of Heidelberg)

Moderator: Dorota Heidrich

11.40-12.40

Round table: Challenges within the contemporary International Law system - a conversation between the United Nations system and the Academia

Dorota Heidrich (University of Warsaw)

Mikael Rask Madsen (University of Copenhagen)

Giuseppe Nesi (UN International Law Commission)

Pierre Sauvé (World Bank)

Moderator: Giovanna Adinolfi (University of Milan)

12.40-13.40

LUNCH

13.40-14.40

CONCLUSION – Next steps towards establishing a science policy exchange between META UN and the UN

Francesco Pisano (Director, United Nations Library, Geneva)

Oliver Liang, (Head of the Public and Private Services Unit, International Labour Organisation)

Sambor Grucza, (Vice rector, University of Warsaw and Representative of the Presidency of the 4EU+ alliance)

Morten Rasmussen, (University of Copenhagen)

Moderator Haakon Ikonomou

Participants:

ACADEMICS

Steering group:

Chair - Haakon A. Ikononou - (Director of HUM:global, University of Copenhagen)
Vice-Chair and Flagship 2 Coordinator - Associate Professor Morten Rasmussen (University of Copenhagen)
Professor Giovanna Adinolfi (University of Milan)
Professor Sandrine Kott (University of Geneva)
Professor Louise Dalingwater (Sorbonne University)
Professor Anton Stefan Zimmermann (University of Heidelberg)
Professor Jan Kuklík (Charles University)
Professor Agata de Laforcade (ISIT-Université de Paris Panthéon Assas))
Professor Dorota Heidrich (Warsaw University)

4EU+ university participants:

Sambor Gruzca, (Vice rector, University of Warsaw and Representative of the Presidency of the 4EU+ alliance)
Olivier Vincent (University of Geneva)
Olga Hidalgo-Weber - (University of Geneva)
Véronique Plata Stenger - (University of Geneva)
Ludovic Tournès (University of Geneva)
Patrycja Grzebyk - (Warsaw University)
Patryk Kugiel - (Warsaw University)
Justyna Nakonieczna-Bartosiewicz - (Warsaw University)
Marco Pedrazzi - (University of Milan)
Mikael Rask Madsen - (University of Copenhagen)
Marine Pierre (University of Copenhagen)
Léa Renard (University of Heidelberg)
Veronika Bílková (Charles University)
Fabienne El Khoury Lesueur (Sorbonne University)
Manlio Cinalli - (ISIT-Université de Paris Panthéon Assas/University of Milan)

External researchers:

Alanna O'Malley (University of Leiden)
Roberto De Vogli (University of Padua)
Patrick Cohr, (University of Florence)
Davide Rodogno (Geneva Graduate Institute)
Grégoire Mallard (Geneva Graduate Institute)
Nicolas Seidler, (Geneva Science-Policy Interface)

Practitioners from the UN system :

Blandine Blukacz-Louisfert, UNOG (Institutional Memory Section of the United Nations Library Geneva)
Francesco Pisano (Director, United Nations Library, Geneva)
Dorothea Hoehtker (ILO)
Pierre Sauvé (World Bank)

Giuseppe Nesi, (UN International Law Commission)
Pierre-Etienne Bourneuf (Institutional Memory Section of the United Nations Library Geneva)
Oliver Liang, (Head of the Public and Private Services Unit, International Labour Organisation)

Guests:

Michael Jonas, (Helmut Schmidt Universität, Hamburg)
Nicol Savinetti, (University of Copenhagen)