

PeaceTalks

Geneva

To celebrate the International Day of Peace
and Interpeace's 30th Anniversary

The Future of Peace

19 September 2024 – 1500-1700,
followed by a reception

#GVAPeaceTalks

@PeaceTalksTweet • www.peacetalks.net

PeaceTalks

Geneva

Geneva PeaceTalks: The Future of Peace

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. Never has our world needed peace more.

This year we celebrate the International Day of Peace and Interpeace's 30th Anniversary at the Geneva PeaceTalks. Under the overarching theme of "The Future of Peace," this year's Geneva PeaceTalks will feature personal stories from people on the frontlines of peacebuilding, linking the past, present, and future of peace.

The Geneva PeaceTalks symbolically stand for a Geneva spirit to resolve conflict through finding common ground amongst diversity and aims to contribute to this path towards more peaceful societies.

About the Peace Talks

The PeaceTalks is a global initiative that uses storytelling as a tool to build peace and inspire action.

The vision of the PeaceTalks is to expand the space for dialogue about building peace and resolving conflict. Building peace is not just the effort and responsibility of technical specialists and officials. In fact, at the PeaceTalks, we believe all members of society play incredibly important roles in shaping peace at home and in their communities.

The core objectives of the PeaceTalks are:

- **DEMONSTRATE** that peaceful solutions to conflict exist all over the world.
- **SHOWCASE** and **AMPLIFY** inspiring stories and what is working to build peace.
- **INSPIRE ACTION** and **EDUCATE** on the role that we each play in promoting peace.

The PeaceTalks was co-founded in 2013 by the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform and Interpeace, with the support of the Swiss Government. When it comes to conflict resolution, few platforms include a multiplicity of perspectives from all segments of society. The Peace Talks pioneered expanding the conversation beyond the realm of politics and the peacebuilding sector, so that new ideas, voices and creative solutions can emerge.

The Peace Talks started in 2013 in Switzerland through the first-ever Geneva Peace Talks. 22 editions of the PeaceTalks live events have taken place in more than 8 countries with over 8,000 in person attendees and 200+ speakers, ranging from elementary school students to a former United Nations Secretary-General.



Storytelling for Peace

Stories and their telling can create change. The best ones influence our beliefs, inspire us to make an impact, and illuminate what it means to be human.

Everyone has a story to tell through which we can learn.

Storytelling is a powerful educational and peacebuilding tool. Through the telling of personal stories, topics usually addressed from a general angle in the news, come to life, taking human form. Through stories we see the individual instead of the abstract mass. This fosters empathy, understanding and dialogue

IF...we expand the space for dialogue about peace beyond technical peacebuilding through storytelling, focusing on personal stories and what is working;

THEN...a greater audience of people will become more aware of their potential individual roles and contributions in building peace, and that their actions can have a meaningful and positive impact in sustaining peace;

BECAUSE...they will feel inspired, empowered, and encouraged to support relevant initiatives where they work or to take personal action of their own.

Programme

15:00-17:00 Geneva PeaceTalks

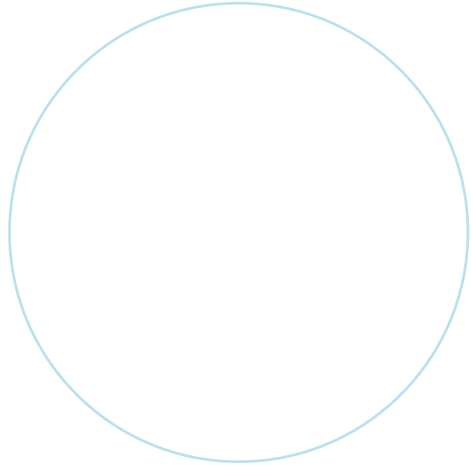
- A message on the International Day of Peace from **António Guterres**, ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations
- Opening Remarks by **Tatiana Valovaya**, 13th Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva.
- Remarks, **Itonde Kakoma**, President, Interpeace
- Message from **Bernardo Arévalo de León**, President of Guatemala
- **João Boavida**, Peacebuilder, Executive Director at Center of Studies for Peace and Development, Timor-Leste
- **Ninette Umurerwa**, National Executive Secretary of Haguruka, Rwanda
- **Saype**, Worldwide LandArtist who uses an ecofriendly paint to create hyperalistic and massive paintings directly on natural surfaces, France
- **Victoria Sandino Simanca Herrera**, Feminist leader, former Senator to the Republic of Colombia and ex-guerrillera commander from the FARC-EP, Colombia
- **Fawaz Baker**, Musician, composer and architect and former director of the Aleppo Conservatory, Syria and France
- **Abdinasir Yusuf**, Programme Coordinator & Deputy Director, Puntland Development Research Centre (PDRC), Somalia
- **Natasha Latiff**, International Human Rights Lawyer and Co-Founder, Strategic Advocacy for Human Rights (SAHR), Singapore
- **Sidonia Gabriel**, Senior Policy Advisor Fragility, Conflict and Human Rights, Swiss Development Cooperation, Switzerland
- **Arnoldo Gálvez**, Journalist, award winning author, peacebuilder, Guatemala
- A message on the International Day of Peace from Ambassador **Jürg Lauber**, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations and other Organizations in Geneva
- Master of Ceremony, **Sarah Noble**, Curator, PeaceTalks

Organizers

The Geneva PeaceTalks is co-organized by the United Nations Office at Geneva, Interpeace and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform with support of the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN.

Partners

This edition is made possible with the support of the Swiss Confederation, the Canton and City of Geneva, Mirabaud Group and Nagulendran Philanthropy Alliance.



Speakers

(in order of appearance)

Opening Remarks

Tatiana Valovaya

13th Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva

Tatiana Valovaya is the 13th Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UN Geneva) and the first woman to occupy this position. Ms. Valovaya has more than 35 years of experience in public service, diplomacy and journalism. She began her career in 1983 in the editorial office of the Economic Gazette in Moscow, first as a correspondent, then as deputy editor of the Department of World Economy. In 1989, Ms. Valovaya joined the Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the European Union (EU), where she served as Third Secretary. She then became Second Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the EU, until 1994. During her diplomatic career, she was in charge of the financial and economic cooperation issues. From 1995 to 1997, Ms. Valovaya worked at the Presidential Administration of the Russian Federation, where she was responsible for relations with the statutory bodies of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). She then served as Head of the Monetary and Financial Policy Directorate at the Ministry for the CIS. From 1999 to 2012 Ms. Valovaya worked in the Government administration of the Russian Federation as Deputy Director and then Director of the Department of International Cooperation. Ms. Valovaya joined the Eurasian Economic Commission in 2012 as a Member of the Board (Minister) responsible for integration and macro-economic issues. In 1980, Ms. Valovaya graduated from the Faculty of International Economic Relations of the Moscow Finance Institute. She holds the scientific degree of Candidate of Economic Sciences (1st doctoral level scientific degree and the degree of Doctor of Economic Sciences from the Financial Academy under the Government of the Russian Federation).



Itonde Kakoma

President of Interpeace, he most recently served as the Permanent Representative of the International Federation of the Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to the African Union and International Organizations (2021-2023). In this capacity, Kakoma advanced continental wide humanitarian diplomacy initiatives with the African Union in public health security; climate change; disaster risk management; food security; and humanitarian affairs.



Mr. Kakoma served in various leadership capacities on matters of international peace mediation, including as Director for Global Strategy and member of the leadership team at CMI Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation. Over a period of eight years at CMI, he steered mediation support teams for both official and informal peace processes, and advanced high-level peace mediation and dialogue undertakings in the Great Lakes, the Horn, and wider Red Sea region.

Previously, Mr. Kakoma was the Assistant Director for the Conflict Resolution Program at The Carter Center, managing a portfolio of the Center's peace initiatives and supporting former President Carter's backchannel diplomatic efforts. He was an international observer for The National Referendum on the Right to Self Determination for the People of South Sudan; and served as an advisor and report writer for the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Mr. Kakoma was an Executive-in-Residence and subsequently Global Fellow at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP). He holds an Executive Master in International Law in Armed Conflict from the Geneva Academy for International Humanitarian Law & Human Rights and the Graduate Institute of International & Development Studies.

João Boavida

Founder and Executive Director of the Centre of Studies for Peace and Development (CEPAD) an organic civil society organisation he founded in 2007 in partnership with INTERPEACE in response to the 2006 crisis in Timor-Leste. He spent most of the decade of 90s in Southern African countries where he held different professional positions with International Non-Government Organizations, and UN agencies in countries like Malawi, Tanzania and Mozambique. He returned to East Timor in 1999 where he served as Political Affairs Officer for the United Nations Mission in East Timor, Political Advisor for United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Aid, and Political/Constitutional Affairs Officer and Civic Education Officer for the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor, all in the UN professional capacity. Since he left UN in 2002, he worked as Freelance Consultant and held different positions with international agencies and organizations.



Ninette Umurerwa

Ninette Umurerwa is a Legal Aid Practitioner and Gender Activist from Rwanda. She is the Executive Secretary of HAGURUKA, the most reputable and oldest Rwandan non-governmental organization promoting and defending the rights of women and children since 1991. Ninette has a proven record of successfully providing visionary leadership towards the design, funds mobilization and adaptive implementation of programs aimed at providing legal protection to vulnerable members of the population, particularly women and children, as well as socio-economically empowering them to achieve their full potential.



Ninette holds a Master's degree of social sciences in Gender and development and a Bachelors' degree in Law.

Saype

Saype is a worldwide LandArtist who uses an ecofriendly paint to create hyperalistic and massive painting directly on a natural surfaces.

In each of his works, Saype captures the fragility of our societies and the challenges we are all called to face, immortalizing on paper the ephemeral nature of the monumental frescoes he creates on grass, earth, sand, and snow across the world: New York, Paris, Venice, Geneva, Cape Town, Turin, Dubai, Nairobi, Istanbul, Ouagadougou, Miami, Tokyo...



The passage of his frescoes, intended to fade away, aims to impact mindsets while respecting the natural world. They are made with an eco-conscious paint composed primarily of chalk and charcoal.

Among his most notable works is the series Beyond Walls. This monumental project stemmed from an assumption: the world is polarized, a portion of the population chooses to withdraw. Yet, Saype emphasizes, "I am deeply convinced that it is together that humanity will be able to face the various challenges it must overcome."

From this conviction, the desire to share a positive message of mutual support and joint effort worldwide was born, symbolically creating the largest human chain ever made.

Victoria Sandino Simanca Herrera

Victoria Sandino Simanca Herrera, belonged to the FARC-EP insurgency for 24 years, was a negotiator at the talks table and signatory of the 2016 Final Peace Agreement between the Colombian government and the former FARC-EP., coordinator of the gender subcommission that incorporated the approach in the same Agreement. Senator of the Republic in the period 2018-2022, in



2023 she worked in the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace of Colombia with guidelines for the differential and gender perspective in total peace talks. She is a black woman, social leader, feminist, human rights defender, and supports peasant communities, ethnic peoples and women in peace building in the territories. She is a journalist, sociologist, Master in Equality and Equity in Development and is studying a Master in Conflict Resolution and Mediation (2024).

Fawaz Baker

A boy, fishing in Istanbul, a teenage musician in Aleppo, a young man rebellious in the streets of Lyon, a passionate researcher from the city of Cairo, an architect running from one construction site to another across Syria. And finally a composer animated by sharing in Paris for ten years. These are simply my previous lives, while waiting for the next one.



Abdinasir Yusuf

Mr. Abdinasir Mohamed Yusuf is a seasoned peacebuilding expert and currently serves as the Deputy Director and Head of Programs at the Puntland Development Research Centre (PDRC), one of the pioneering peacebuilding organizations in Somalia. Born in 1978, Abdinasir holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in international cooperation and humanitarian aid. He began his peacebuilding career in 2005 when he joined PDRC as a researcher, eventually rising to lead the organization's Mobile Audio-Visual Unit. In this role, he focused on raising civic awareness and promoting community-level peacebuilding efforts across Somalia. His work in this area was not only impactful but also widely recognized as a model for others, as many of the processes he developed were documented and shared as best practices.



Over the years, Abdinasir has been instrumental in facilitating numerous mediation efforts that have led to peace agreements and the cessation of armed violence in various parts of Somalia. His expertise extends beyond the technical aspects of peacebuilding; he is deeply committed to the principles of community-driven conflict resolution and sustainable peace. His work has consistently focused on empowering local communities to take ownership of peace processes, ensuring that solutions are both culturally relevant and widely accepted. Many of these successful community mediation processes have been documented in films, manuals, and replicated as best practices and resource guides. Abdinasir's expertise and dedication to peacebuilding have made him a respected figure in the field, and he continues to contribute to the development of effective, community-driven strategies for conflict transformation in Somalia.

Abdinasir's contributions to peacebuilding in Somalia have made him a respected and influential figure in the field. His dedication to fostering dialogue, promoting understanding, and building trust among conflicting parties continues to drive his work. Today, he remains at the forefront of efforts to develop innovative, community-based strategies for conflict resolution, aiming to create lasting peace in Somalia.

Natasha Latiff

Natasha Latiff is a Singaporean human rights lawyer known for her work in Afghanistan and beyond. She founded two notable organisations: Strategic Advocacy for Human Rights (SAHR) and Women for Justice to advocate for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), torture, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Through SAHR's Gender Justice Accelerator Program, Natasha mentors and collaborates with high-potential civil society leaders from the Global South and East on law and policy advocacy to end SGBV. Natasha is also the founder of Fair Future dedicated to strengthening corporate engagement with affected communities of business-related human rights violations in Asia, through a survivor-centered approach. Over the past 15 years, Natasha has documented human rights violations, represented survivors in justice and remediation processes, provided technical advice to governments, businesses, international organisations and UN agencies and drafted laws and policies to strengthen access to justice. She holds a Master of Law with Distinction from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London.



Sidonia Gabriel

Sidonia Gabriel is a critical observer of the geopolitical evolution and an innovative nexus thinker. For over 20 years, her focus lies in conflict analysis, peace processes, dialogue facilitation, negotiation and mediation as well as working peace throughout humanitarian, development and security cooperation. She had advisory functions for the European Union, the United Nations as well as for local and international civil society organisations. As a board member of Peace Women Across the Globe (PWAG) and as a member of the network Swiss Women in Peace Processes (SWIPP) she is strengthening women's participation in political processes. She is currently a Senior Advisor for Fragility, Conflict and Human Rights at the Peace, Governance and Equality section of the Swiss Development Cooperation.



Arnoldo Gálvez

Arnoldo Gálvez is an award-winning Guatemalan writer known for exploring the complex relationship between violence, memory, and trauma in his fiction. He gained early recognition with his first novel at the age of 26, which earned him the region's most prestigious literary award. Since then, he has authored three more books and contributed significantly to newspapers and magazines as a non-fiction writer. Born and raised in Guatemala, Gálvez has lived amidst the country's rich cultural diversity and deep-seated inequalities, experiences that have shaped his work. Since 2010, he has been a member of Interpeace, where he combines his passion for writing, communication, and peacebuilding, witnessing firsthand the power of storytelling to bring people together.



Special remarks

Jürg Lauber

Since 1 September 2020, Jürg Lauber has been the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations and to the other international organisations in Geneva. From 2015 to 2020, he served as Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York.

Between 2011 and 2015 he served as head of the United Nations and International Organisations Division in Bern. Between 2009 and 2011 he was Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference on Disarmament. Between 2007 and 2009 he served as chef de cabinet to the President of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands.

As a diplomat he was posted in Bangkok, Bern, Beijing and the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York. Before joining the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) in 1993 he worked in peacekeeping missions in Namibia (UNTAG) and Korea (Panmunjom).

Jürg Lauber has a law degree from the University of Zurich. He was born in 1963 in Horgen, Switzerland.



Moderator

Sarah Noble

Sarah Noble is passionate about storytelling as a tool for building peace and social change. She has held leadership positions at international organisations focused on peacebuilding, humanitarian issues, and independent media. Sarah brings with her more than 20 years of experience in strategic communications, fundraising, and partnerships in the field of international peace and security. She



is co-founder and Curator of the Peace Talks at Interpeace where she has held a number of positions including Special Assistant, Chief of Staff, and Director of Global Engagement. She has overseen 22 editions of the Peace Talks that have taken place in more than 8 countries with over 8000 attendees and has worked with more than 200 speakers from over 50 countries. In her TEDx talk, she encourages us to embrace that Storytelling is Our Real-Life Superpower. Sarah also serves as Head of Global Engagement at Caux Initiatives of Change Foundation.

PeaceTalks

Geneva

#GVAPeaceTalks
@PeaceTalksTweet

peacetalks.net