



International Geneva is home to approximately 40 international organizations and agencies, whose work spans a broad range of specialized areas, including disarmament, the environment, human rights, health, intellectual property, humanitarian affairs, telecommunications, trade, human mobility, and labour issues.

In recent years, science and technology have assumed an increasingly prominent role, given their far-reaching implications across these areas and the regulatory gaps or limitations arising from the rapid pace of technological innovation. Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a cross-cutting issue that features prominently on Geneva's multilateral agenda.

The recent adoption of Convention No. 193 on Decent Work in the Platform Economy at the 2026 International Labour Conference marks an important milestone in addressing the challenges posed by AI and other emerging technologies in the world of work. At the same time, quantum technologies have attracted growing attention as they continue to advance toward greater technological maturity. In this context, initiatives spearheaded by the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA) have gained increasing momentum.

Geneva is also home to the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), which hosts the world's largest particle physics laboratory and the Large Hadron Collider, while bringing together leading scientific efforts to advance our understanding of the universe. Among the groundbreaking achievements associated with CERN are the invention of the World Wide Web and the discovery of the Higgs boson.

In this edition, alongside highlighting Mexico's contributions and achievements in Geneva, we are pleased to feature a special contribution from GESDA, highlighting its role in advancing and shaping the future of multilateralism. We also welcome a contribution from Dr. Arturo Fernández, Visiting Professor at CERN, who shares his reflections on the LATAM Hackathon 2026, held in Mexico and co-sponsored by the Open Quantum Institute and the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (BUAP).

Finally, we are pleased to give a voice to Dennice Peniche, a Mexican national working at the International Labour Organization, who shares her perspective and experience within the Organization.

Fernando Espinosa.

Deputy Permanent Representative

A NEW MULTILATERALISM IS EMERGING — AND GENEVA IS ONE OF ITS LABORATORIES (by GESDA)



A new multilateralism is emerging — and Geneva is one of its laboratories

Multilateralism is entering a new phase. The institutions created to manage peace and security, human rights, trade, development and health were built around the challenges of their time. Today, science and technology are changing both the nature of global challenges and who has the knowledge and power to address them. Artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, neurotechnology and synthetic biology are advancing faster than the rules and institutions designed to govern them. As they move from laboratories into economies and societies, decisions about their use increasingly involve scientists, companies, international organisations and citizens alongside governments.

New forms of global governance are beginning to emerge — **more anticipatory, more distributed** and **increasingly shaped by scientific knowledge**.

Geneva is exceptionally well placed to help prototype them. Few places bring such a concentration of international organisations, diplomatic missions, scientific institutions, humanitarian actors, businesses and civil society into one relatively compact ecosystem. **This makes Geneva a laboratory *par excellence* for reimagining multilateralism.**

The idea behind GESDA began to emerge in 2015, when a group of Swiss diplomats and scientists became increasingly conscious of the increasing distance between their worlds. Science was accelerating, while diplomacy often encountered emerging technologies only once their political and societal consequences were already visible. A question began to crystallize: **what might become possible if these communities met earlier?**

That idea eventually led, in 2019, to the creation of the **Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator, GESDA**, founded by the Swiss Confederation together with the Canton and City of Geneva.

GESDA's starting point is **science anticipation**. Working with a global community of some 2,400 scientists, we look five, ten and twenty-five years ahead at breakthroughs emerging from laboratories around the world and ask what they could mean for people, societies and international relations.

Then the science enters a different kind of room.

A quantum physicist may see a new computational possibility. A diplomat may recognize questions of sovereignty and access. An international organisation connects it to a development challenge. An entrepreneur understands what deployment could require. A citizen may ask an altogether different question: **what problem should this technology help us solve?**

It is precisely at these intersections that new insights emerge — insights that rarely arise within a single discipline or institution.

A central principle runs through GESDA's work: **engage early, while scientific possibilities are still emerging and choices remain open**. Go beyond the usual suspects and the specialists of the field. Bring together the people who may develop, govern, deploy or be affected by a technology before its applications, markets and rules have hardened.

The **Open Quantum Institute**, conceived and incubated by GESDA and now hosted at CERN, gives this principle concrete form. OQI explores how the future potential of quantum computing could contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals while broadening participation in the emerging quantum ecosystem. Mexico, through its Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, has been closely involved since OQI's creation and is represented on its Advisory Committee.

This summer, that engagement became tangible in **Puebla, Mexico**, where 75 participants from across Latin America came together for an OQI-supported quantum hackathon focused on one of the region's most immediate challenges: water. Teams worked on real cases — modelling the Atoyac river basin, exploring how water releases from the Falcón International Dam on the Mexico–United States border could be optimized, and detecting leaks in water networks — developing quantum approaches and comparing them with classical methods.



The significance goes beyond the algorithms. The hackathon brought young scientists, universities, public authorities and technology experts together around problems that matter to society. While quantum computing is still developing, they could already ask how it might eventually contribute to water management — and, at the same time, who will have access to these capabilities, where public value lies and how governance should evolve alongside the science.

The conversation around quantum computing is therefore already moving beyond the traditional science and research portfolio. It is becoming a strategic policy question — for foreign affairs and international cooperation, but also for economic development, national security, skills and infrastructure, and the delivery of public goods. **That same ability to engage early with emerging science and the futures it may create is what GESDA seeks to cultivate in leaders and institutions.**

Every year, the **Geneva Science Diplomacy Week** welcomes a selective cohort from around the world for an intensive immersion in anticipation. Participants engage with scientists and leaders of international organisations, enter the institutions of International Geneva and take part in simulations that allow them to explore future governance dilemmas before they become real negotiating challenges.

GESDA also co-creates **Anticipatory Leadership Weeks** with countries, institutions and communities around the world, connecting emerging science with different political, economic and development realities. Programmes and anticipatory science diplomacy simulations have been developed with and in Costa Rica, South Africa, Türkiye, Spain, Singapore and Canada, each shaped around the priorities and questions of its host country and region.

Across these formats, the objective is to **strengthen the anticipatory capacity of leaders and institutions:** enabling decision-makers to understand emerging science earlier, engage with perspectives beyond their usual professional communities, navigate uncertainty and make choices today with a clearer view of the futures those choices may help create.

Geneva itself remains an important testing ground for putting anticipatory governance into practice. On **17 September 2026**, **GESDA** and the **Club Diplomatique de Genève** will convene an **Anticipatory Leadership Lab** at **Campus Biotech**. Designed as an intimate,

interactive and off-the-record experience under the Chatham House Rule, the Lab will bring together diplomats, scientists, business leaders and civil society from across *International Geneva* to explore breakthroughs in areas including generative AI, cognitive enhancement, quantum computing, future food systems and the orbital environment.

The value of these trusted spaces lies in confronting science, diplomacy and decision-making within the same conversation. Before positions become fixed and the status quo settles in, participants can challenge each other's perspectives, test assumptions, identify governance gaps, discover unexpected common ground and consider how today's choices may shape the worlds anticipated by science.

As Joanna Wisniewska, Head of Global Engagement at GESDA, puts it: *"Multilateralism is being rewritten in real time. Science is bringing new actors, new questions and new possibilities to the table, often before our institutions have a policy language for them. At the same time, access to knowledge is changing profoundly, giving citizens and communities greater agency to understand the choices ahead and participate in shaping them. Geneva has a unique opportunity to create the spaces where scientific knowledge, diplomatic experience and societal insight can meet early enough to shape the future together."*

For countries such as Mexico, with strong multilateral tradition, significant scientific talent and an ability to connect different regional perspectives, this transformation opens new opportunities. Mexico is already engaging with this emerging landscape in concrete ways. Beyond its engagement in the OQI, it has become a sustained participant in GESDA's wider science-diplomacy ecosystem. Leaders from its Permanent Mission contribute regularly to exchanges and high-level discussions in Geneva, while senior officials from Mexico City have engaged directly with GESDA, connecting national priorities with emerging international debates on science and technology. Mexico has also helped convene these conversations, bringing diplomatic actors together around questions that are only beginning to enter the multilateral agenda.

The governance of tomorrow's technologies begins long before a treaty or negotiating text. It begins while there is time to ask what science could make possible, whom it should serve, whose voices must shape it from the outset, and what governance those choices will require.

Perhaps that is where **the next chapter of multilateralism** begins: in a more **anticipatory form of governance, informed by science** and **open to a wider range of voices**. Geneva, where the world meets in miniature, can become a laboratory for that approach — a place to imagine, test and rehearse how we govern together before the future becomes the present.

Mexico Recognized at Geneva Digital Week

Mexico received recognition in several categories at the 2026 WSIS Prizes, in acknowledgment of innovative projects in the areas of capacity building, agriculture, and e-government.

The Agency for Digital Transformation and Telecommunications received a distinction for the Public Artificial Intelligence Training Center. Mexico City's Digital Agency for Public Innovation was recognized for the "App CDMX" project, while the Government of Campeche received an award for its "AI-Based Geospatial Soil Monitoring System" (SMG-SU-IA).

Geneva Digital Week is held annually under the auspices of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and brings together key events and initiatives, including the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum and AI for Good.



"Quantum Diplomacy in Action" y Hackathon LATAM

The Mission, through Ambassador Francisca Méndez, presented in Geneva the progress made in drawing up a national policy on quantum science and technology in Mexico.

It also promoted the Hackathon at the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, sponsored by the Open Quantum Institute-CERN, which was attended by more than 75 participants from Mexico and Latin America.



Interview with Dr Arturo Fernández. Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (BUAP)



What were the results of the Hackathon at BUAP?

Answer: The event succeeded in bringing together the experience and knowledge of Mexican scientists and technologists from five Mexican institutions to set challenges for 75 young people from nine Latin American countries, divided into 15 working groups. There were three problems to be solved using quantum computing technologies, relating to: i) the distribution of drinking water in densely populated cities; ii) the detection of water leaks in urban supply networks; and iii) the monitoring of aquifer levels in dams straddling the Mexico-US border. The participants succeeded in finding solutions to the challenges presented, using quantum computer simulators, with support from technologists from the company QCentroid.



What is the significance of quantum science and technology for our societies and for Mexico?

Firstly, society must recognise the enormous potential that quantum technologies hold for the good of the community. Research centres such as the Open Quantum Institute, which brings together expertise in quantum mechanics and its many applications, combined with the skills of the institute's staff, will enable us to address and resolve issues of significant social impact, such as those outlined in the GESDA principles. If we focus on the benefits our country can derive from promoting the use of technologies based on quantum computing, it is clear that problems crucial to the well-being of the Mexican population

will be resolved; for example, the supply of drinking water in our country's major cities, whilst ensuring the optimal use of the water flow from our natural water sources.

What are the main challenges that quantum science and technology pose for the Mexican scientific community?

Mexican scientists and technologists involved in the development and improvement of these new technologies must engage young people at the start of their scientific careers in the techniques and knowledge of the basic hardware that enables quantum computers to function. At the same time, events such as the LATAM 2026 Quantum Hackathon, held in Puebla, Mexico, should be organised to build the scientific and technical community that will use the machines of tomorrow. Fortunately, Mexico possesses the scientific and technological potential to guide these efforts.

Mexico's participation in the 114th International Labour Conference

The delegation was led by the Secretary of Labour and Social Welfare, Marath Baruch Bolaños Gómez, who held high-level meetings and deposited Convention No. 176 on Safety and Health in Mines.



Among the key achievements, the successful negotiation of a Convention on Decent Work in the Platform Economy stands out, with Mexico participating in the drafting group on behalf of the region. It is estimated that between 500 and 700 million people worldwide work in this sector; therefore, once it comes into force, the Convention will benefit the signatory countries



Also noteworthy are Mexico's contributions to the Standards Application Committee, the Committee on Social Dialogue and Tripartism, and the Committee on Gender Equality in the World of Work. Furthermore, Mexico took part in the discussions on the Director-General's report. The overall assessment of Mexico's contributions was extremely positive and reflected its commitment to social justice at the international level.



Intellectual Property

At the 68th WIPO General Assembly, Mexico reaffirmed its commitment to inclusive, equitable and development-oriented intellectual property. It promoted the protection of the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, a gender-sensitive approach to innovation and a responsible dialogue on artificial intelligence.

The Director-General of IMPI, Vidal Llerenas Morales, also met with the Director-General of WIPO, Daren Tang, to promote bilateral projects with the organization.



Human Rights Council

At the 62nd session of the Human Rights Council, 28 resolutions were adopted. Mexico co-sponsored four of them in partnership with other countries: combating discrimination against women; the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities; and one marking the 20th anniversary of the Human Rights Council. Mexico also took part in the launch of the Global Human Rights Alliance, presented by the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Furthermore, to mark the 2026 World Cup, for which Mexico was one of the host countries, an event was organized to highlight the contributions of migrants and refugees to the sport.



International Humanitarian Law

The fourth and fifth consultations under the work stream on respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) in the use of information and communications technologies during armed conflicts, to which Mexico is a party, were held in Geneva. During the consultations, Mexico helped to finalize the recommendations aimed at assisting States in preventing and mitigating the humanitarian consequences of harm caused in a global context where the use of new technologies has a direct impact on the civilian population.

These recommendations will form part of a Global Initiative led by the International Committee of the Red Cross and States, which will culminate in a World Conference in Jordan to promote the renewal of States' international political commitment to respecting international humanitarian law in the face of the challenges posed by the more than 130 current armed conflicts.



Arms Trade Treaty

Mexico, Spain and Togo spearheaded the inclusion of gender focal points in the ATT at the 2026 Annual Review Conference. The Treaty is the first legally binding international instrument to establish common rules for international trade in conventional arms. The gender focal points promote, for the first time, a differentiated perspective within the ATT.



Health

At the 79th World Health Assembly, Dr Patricia Clark, Chair of the General Health Council, led the Mexican delegation and held numerous working meetings, notably a meeting with the Director-General of the WHO, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, to discuss Mexico's progress in primary health care and identify opportunities for strategic collaboration, including the 'Casa por Casa' programme.

Furthermore, representing the Americas, Mexico was appointed Vice-Chair of Committee A at the 79th World Health Assembly and, under its leadership, various resolutions were adopted to strengthen global health.



Promotion of Mexican handicrafts “Lele” and “Dõnxu”

In the presence of the Director-General of IMPI, Santiago Nieto, an exhibition of the Lele and Dõnxu dolls – Otomí handicrafts from Amealco, Querétaro, protected by a geographical indication – was inaugurated at WIPO. ‘Lele’ comes from the Otomí language and means ‘baby’. Although the name refers to a childlike figure, it is used to refer to the entire range of these dolls. ‘Dõnxu’ is also of Otomí origin and means ‘doll’.



Dõnxu dolls tend to be taller and slimmer, representing adult women, in contrast to Lele dolls, which represent little girls.

**Outstanding Mexican Women: An interview with Dennice Peniche Ramírez.
Senior Editor and Public Relations Officer, Department of Public Relations,
Official Meetings and Language Services, International Labour Organisation.**



1) What motivated you to join an international organization?

From a very young age, I was interested in the United Nations system and the concept of multilateralism: a forum where different national interests converge and where the aim is to find common ground between countries and regions with differing priorities.

Furthermore, I have always found it easy to learn languages and have been passionate about multilingual communication. The intercultural dimension of working at the United Nations has given me a valuable opportunity to put that interest and those skills at the service of social justice and human dignity. My greatest motivation was the thought that the small contribution I made to this vast system might have a positive impact on the lives of people all over the world and help to create a better world.

2) What are your rewards and challenges as a Mexican working within the organisation?

As an international civil servant, my work must contribute to the organization's mandate and meet the needs of our Member States. My greatest challenge is to ensure that the quality of my work, my attitude and the services I provide to the Organization's Member States and governing bodies live up to the expectations placed upon them and are always characterized by the dedication and professionalism that distinguish us as Mexicans. Both are responsibilities and privileges that I strive to keep in mind throughout my working day.

In that regard, my greatest satisfaction comes from the words of thanks for a job well done that my colleagues and I sometimes receive from our constituents, whether in person or through our supervisors.

3) What advice can you give to Mexicans interested in an international career?

In my view, studying one or more foreign languages remains an integral part of any international career. Communication between people goes beyond the language in which it takes place. Whilst in international and multilateral settings there is always a commitment to respecting parliamentary language and conduct – common to all parties – negotiations between delegates, the provision of services that characterizes the work of

international civil servants, and our day-to-day interactions are always imbued with our linguistic and cultural backgrounds. In this context, proficiency in one or more foreign languages opens a window onto the backgrounds and worlds of those we are engaging with, as well as the distinctive characteristics of their respective cultures. This, in turn, helps to foster the empathy needed in our interactions to understand more easily – beyond the words spoken – what each party's interests are, thereby facilitating a convergence of positions and, eventually, the emergence of consensus.

Whilst ongoing technological advances have prompted profound reflection on how artificial intelligence and other IT tools will be integrated into the future of the United Nations, I believe that my academic background in translation and multilingual communication has provided me with a very solid foundation for the development of my international career. Anyone who has the opportunity to invest in studying a foreign language will undoubtedly reap greater opportunities for professional success thanks to the enrichment of their multicultural background.