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Geneva Insights

June Edition

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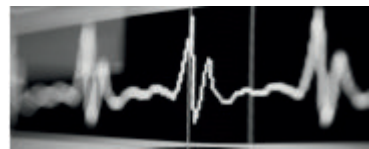
Economic
Read more

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)

International competition lawyers and policy-makers gather to discuss approaches to digital platforms and ecosystems. Read more

Trade experts meet to discuss specific trade concerns and other technical barriers to trade, and how to strengthen the agreement governing them. Read more

Governments around the globe spend a lot of money to procure goods and services. And a specific body ensures these governments do not discriminate against foreign bidders. Read more

Pursuing its goal of a pan-European economic integration, expert body meets to discuss innovation, competition and partnerships. Read more

How to square the circle of free trade and domestic safety standards of food and environments? Relevant experts gather to discuss sanitary and phytosanitary measures. Read more

Standards and Regulatory (jump to)

Countries meet to discuss sustainable financing for the eTIR international system and secure the exchange of data between national administrations. Read more

Experts attempt to agree on an international guidance on AI in road vehicles. Read more

Do you know where the beef you eat, or the leather shoes you wear, come from? Experts meet to discuss improving traceability and transparency in the beef industry to overcome the disconnect between the bovine hides and beef industries. Read more

Experts tackle harmonization of customs in goods transport, as well as the way new technologies can help. Read more

Environmental impact across national borders is often considerable and must be assessed in early stages – that's a legal obligation for many countries. Read more

No more boats stuck across rivers and unsafe handling of cargo as experts meet to discuss new agreements, technology and harmonization. Read more

Experts meet to discuss harmonization of classification of dangerous goods, as well as suggestions on listing, classification and packaging, storage and transport of gases. Read more

World Forum meets to discuss updates to regulations and the use of artificial intelligence in vehicles. Read more

 Achieving circular economy may benefit from reduced barriers to trade – that is what experts believe and meet to discuss details. Read more

Communications and Digital (jump to)

Senior government officials address vital telecommunication policy challenges, aiming to enhance global connectivity and drive sustainable development through cutting-edge technologies. Read more

Leaders and policy-makers in education discuss AI's impact on higher education, exploring leadership challenges, social justice and future-building practices. Read more

Leading tech companies are benchmarked on their emissions and climate commitments in digital by civil society and governments. Read more

Experts discuss crucial spectrum management methodologies, focusing on spectrum engineering techniques, economic strategies and monitoring. Read more

Experts discuss the metaverse, focusing on integrating virtual and physical worlds, exploring innovative approaches with digital twins and advancing sustainable development goals. Read more

Radio waves are not obsolete. To the contrary, their importance and that of their propagation comes to light as experts gather. Read more

Radiocommunication requires not only international standardization, but also resolution of issues that arise. Elected experts meet to the latter, focusing on regulatory frameworks and resolving interference cases. Read more

Whenever one uses a mobile device, standards are essential for it to operate, including internationally. Experts meet to develop such future standards based on the functioning of those existing. Read more

Health (jump to)

Following the difficult annual gathering on global health, the diplomats carry on with the work, particularly on emergency prevention and preparedness, as well as charting new policies. Read more

The world of health takes to restricting digital marketing for tobacco, alcohol, food and beverages, and breast-milk substitutes. Read more

Mixing strategy and innovation as global leaders unite to turbocharge the fight to end AIDS by 2030. Read more

Environment and Sustainability (jump to)

The relative lack of Swiss wetlands does not prevent the governance of wetlands to be handled from the shores of Lake Geneva. Read more

Digital going green based on greenhouse gas emissions data and wants to bring ICT sector with it. Read more

Persistent organic pollutants, namely the DDT, are in the spotlight and phase out is agreed. Read more

The World Environment Day: let's celebrate, and focus on land restoration, desertification and drought resilience. Read more

Experts on management of chemicals and waste and pollution prevention finalize their talks on establishing a science-policy panel. Read more

Hazardous waste, from lead-acid batteries and e-waste to tires and plastics, is considered by relevant experts that draft strategy and prior informed consent guidelines. Read more

Regional experts gather under the Basel and Stockholm Conventions to coordinate and spark global environmental innovation. Read more

Innovation meets investment to transform global value chains into circular success stories, in private and public sector alike. Read more

Social (jump to)

A top annual gathering of labor principals pushes ahead with the Global Coalition for Social Justice while discussing standards for protection against biological hazards, or workplace rights. Read more

Who wants to prevent corruption in engineering, construction and infrastructure? Read more

Social security has its forum, and guidelines. Read more

Science and Technology (jump to)

Electrotechnology meets climate change and explores advancements in clean energy, energy-efficient appliances and electric transportation. Read more

Science diplomacy week integrates scientific insights into diplomatic practices, and attempts to tackle global challenges. Read more

The World Meteorological Organization's 78th session in Geneva will tackle key meteorological and climate issues, resource mobilization and strategic initiatives from June 10-14, 2024. Read more

Even rocket science, or particle study, needs some governing, budget, oversight and scientific policy. Read more

The European Broadcasting Union's Network Technology Seminar 2024 will explore broadcasting technology innovations and challenges, with keynotes on the Olympic Games, 5G and cloud-based solutions, on June 18-19, 2024. Read more

Youth and Sports (jump to)

Young parliamentarians gather to discuss their role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Read more

The Olympic movement's executive meets to prepare and implement general decisions on nomination and candidatures. Read more

Humanitarian and Human Rights (jump to)

Experts scrutinize nations' adherence to environmental agreements and the links between environmental protection and human rights. Read more

Annual pivotal human rights report releases in June and puts a spotlight on both failures and achievements. Read more

The summer session of the top human rights body will once again consider numerous resolutions and hear country reports serving as a peer pressure mechanism. Thematic items include women's human rights, economic violence and climate change impacts. Read more

Railways are also a source of suffering for those trafficked and harassed, especially women. Experts discuss combatting human trafficking and increasing the security of women in the rail environment. Read more

World leading humanitarian negotiators address crises and offer innovative solutions for frontline challenges. Read more

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

Economic

On June 3, the United Nations Conference on Trade & Development (UNCTAD) hosts an event on competition law and policy approaches for digital platforms and ecosystems. Done in cooperation with the BRICS Competition Law and Policy Centre and the Brazilian Administrative Council for Economic Defense (CADE), the event features discussions from competition lawyers and scholars, focusing on recent developments in exclusivity, discrimination, and tying practices and drawing on a report released in 2024 by BRICS competition authorities. The event highlights the importance of these practices in reinforcing platform power and examines theories of harm related to digital ecosystems in merger policies.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) meets from June 5-7 in a formal session. The TBT encourages the use of international standards to promote consistency and transparency and aims to prevent those standards from creating unnecessary obstacles to international trade. WTO members use the TBT Committee to discuss specific trade concerns (STCs) related to laws, regulations or procedures that impact cross-border trade. Members raise STCs to understand each other's regulations in light of TBT obligations. STCs help resolve trade frictions without formal WTO disputes. Members also use Committee meetings to discuss how to implement and update the Agreement governing the Committee more efficiently and effectively.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Government Procurement (CGP) meets June 12 for its quarterly meeting. The CGP oversees the implementation of the Agreement governing it, the Plurilateral Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA). The CGP quarterly meetings provide a forum for members to discuss the operation of the Committee, how to carry out their responsibilities and how to incorporate new members. Most importantly, it allows WTO members to raise concerns with laws and practices of government procurement of other governments, all in order to ensure nondiscrimination in international purchasing of goods and services by national and local governments.

The 17th session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (CICPPP) convenes from June 24-26 in Geneva. The UNECE promotes pan-European economic integration, including via harmonizing standards, and its members include 56 states in Europe, North America and Asia —though any U.N. member state may participate, as can professional organizations and other nongovernmental organizations. The CICPPP gathers periodically to discuss how best to further this integration through policies that drive innovation, encourage public-private partnerships and promote a sense of healthy, fair competitiveness.

From June 26-28, the World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) meets to discuss issues related to the implementation of the SPS Agreement, as well as potential trade concerns. The Agreement references three standard-setting bodies known as the "Three Sisters": the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the World Organisation for Animal Health and the International Plant Protection Convention. Article 12.1 of the Agreement establishes the Committee to provide a regular forum to implement the Agreement and further its objectives. As such, the Committee meets three times per year. The June meeting also serves as a forum to fully engage in the review of the agreements, most likely resulting in efficiencies and effectiveness list of proposals this autumn.

Standards and Regulatory

Under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the 100th Session of the TIR Executive Board meets on June 3 to prepare decisions at the 83rd Session of the TIR Administrative Committee that meets on June 5. The TIR Convention was established in 1975 as a universal Customs transit system. Items on the agenda for the Administrative Committee meeting include consideration of a Memorandum of

Understanding between the UNECE and the International Road Transport Union (IRU) and a discussion on sustainable financing for the eTIR system. The eTIR international system aims to ensure the secure exchange of data between national Customs systems related to the international transit of goods, vehicles or containers according to the provisions of the TIR Convention. The Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975) has 78 Contracting Parties, including the European Union.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations Workshop on Artificial Intelligence takes place from June 3-4. The meeting focuses on a proposal for a draft resolution with guidance on artificial intelligence (AI) in the context of road vehicles. The proposal is based on an informal document considered by the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations in its November 2023 session. Items in the proposal include definitions of specific features of AI-based systems, a review of use cases in vehicles and an overview of AI related principles in the pillar of the New Assessment/Test Method for automated driving. The meeting also considers proposed amendments to relevant regulations.

The UNECE-ITC Workshop on Advancing Traceability and Transparency in the Beef Industry takes place on June 4. The session focuses on the adaptation and implementation of the Traceability and Transparency Toolbox, standards for value chain traceability and transparency developed by the project for the garment and footwear sector and overcoming the disconnect between the bovine hides and beef industries to allow for full traceability of leather back to the farm level. The workshop also considers challenges to implementing traceability systems, particularly in high-volume, low-technology regions and among small family farms. The session is held in a hybrid format.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport meets on June 5-7. Topics on the agenda include the application of the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods to the TIR Convention and issues related to the application of the Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods. The meeting agenda also includes an update on the status of the Convention on the Facilitation of Border Crossing Procedures for Passengers, Luggage and Load-Luggage carried in International Traffic by Rail, and issues in the application of the Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956). The group also considers the introduction of new technologies in rail, road, road-based mobility, inland waterway, logistics and intermodal transport until 2030.

The 59th meeting of the Implementation Committee to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol meets from June 18-21. The Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, known as the Espoo Convention, sets out the obligations of countries to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning and lays down the general obligation of states to notify and consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact across boundaries. Topics on the agenda include following up on compliance with previous decisions by the Parties, consideration of submission by Belarus expressing concerns about compliance by Poland with its obligations under the Convention

with respect to the construction of a barrier on the territory of the transboundary "Bialowieza Forest" World Heritage Site, and continued discussion regarding the Committee's initiative concerning the planned lifetime extension by France of unit 1 of Tricastin nuclear power plant.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) 65th session of the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation meets from June 19-21. Items on the agenda include discussions on agreements relating to inland waterways infrastructure, standardization of technical and safety requirements in inland navigation, inland transport committee strategy on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from inland transport, river-sea transport in Europe, automation in inland navigation and smart shipping, promotion of river information services and other information and communication technologies in inland navigation, mutual recognition of boatmasters' certificates and harmonization of professional requirements in inland navigation, inland waterway statistics and recreational navigation.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) 64th session of the ECOSOC Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods meets from June 24-July 3. The focus of this session is recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods and the globally harmonized system of classification and labeling of chemicals. Agenda items also include discussions on listing, classification and packing, electric storage systems and transport of gases.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations takes place from June 25-28. Concurrently the Working Party on Automated/Autonomous and Connected Vehicles meets on June 25. The World Forum discusses updates to a number of vehicle regulations and hosts meetings for several working parties. The Working Party meeting includes a discussion on the use of artificial intelligence in vehicles alongside conversations regarding autonomous vehicles and connected vehicles. The Working Party also includes considerations of a number of regulations and proposals.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) ninth session of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards meets from June 26-28. Items before the Committee include discussions on removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade, updates from the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies, and updates from the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards. The agenda also includes a Regional Conference on the Circular Economy. The conference considers work on the circular economy transition and hosts two panels on accelerating the transition towards a circular economy. The first panel focuses on food loss and waste, and the second panel focuses on harnessing digital solutions.

Communications and Digital

The ITU Council 2024 session, from June 4-14, convenes 48 elected ITU member states, as well as other countries as observers, to address significant telecommunication policy issues

and adapt the Union's strategies to evolving technological environments. Proposals emphasize enhancing global connectivity, fostering sustainable development, and leveraging emerging technologies for socio-economic growth. As the ITU is open to relevant views, select stakeholders can register to attend and engage in these crucial discussions and policy considerations.

The International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE) Leadership Summit 2024, hosted by Globethics at Campus Biotech, on June 5-7, explores "Ethical Leadership in the Age of AI: Rethinking Futures of Education." This event brings together global educational leaders and policy-makers to discuss artificial intelligence's (AI) role in higher education, share best practices and develop policy recommendations. The thematic tracks for the event are as follows: AI opportunities and challenges for leadership in higher education; higher education leadership for social justice in the age of AI; and Praxis of AI building the future(s) of higher education. Interested parties can register here.

The "Greening Digital Companies 2024" event, hosted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the World Benchmarking Alliance, launches a report on the emissions and climate commitments of 200 leading tech companies. The report, now in its third edition, examines energy usage and emissions data, offering insights for improving emissions reduction. The launch features discussions with various stakeholders, including companies, civil society and governments.

The ITU Study Group 1 (SG1) is the leading International Telecommunication Union (ITU) body to discuss spectrum management methodologies. Its meetings are prepared by various working groups: Working Party 1A addresses spectrum engineering techniques, Working Party 1B deals with spectrum management methodologies and economic strategies, and Working Party 1C is responsible for spectrum monitoring. These working parties meet from June 12-19. The proposals submitted specifically address issues related to unwanted emissions, frequency tolerance and enhancing technical spectrum efficiency. These contributions aim to develop more effective strategies for spectrum engineering, ensuring better management and utilization of the radio-frequency spectrum. The SG1 takes up the deliberations to a higher level to take decisions on June 20. Select relevant stakeholders can register here.

The seventh and final International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Focus Group on Metaverse (FG-MV) meets on June 12-13, 2024. This is followed by the fifth ITU Forum on the Metaverse which explores the groundbreaking work of the ITU Focus Group, focusing on key areas such as the metaverse landscape, use cases and requirements for integrating virtual and physical worlds, and a reference model for the metaverse. It aims to push the boundaries of the metaverse and its integration with digital twins, fostering innovative approaches and solutions. On June 14, U.N. Virtual Worlds Day, organized by the ITU, highlights the role of virtual worlds in achieving sustainable development goals. It features discussions on policy frameworks, technological advancements and the socio-economic impact of virtual worlds.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Radiocommunication Sector Study Group 3 (SG 3) focuses on radiowave propagation, encompassing the propagation of radio waves in ionized and non-ionized media and the characteristics of radio noise, for the purpose of

improving radiocommunication systems. The SG3 meets on June 17 and looks to build upon efforts made in their last meeting in March, incorporating takeaways from SG3's Working Groups on propagation fundamentals, point-to-area propagation, ionosphere propagation and Earth-space propagation.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Radio Regulations Board (RRB) consists of 12 elected members who independently address radiocommunication issues, approve rules of procedure, resolve interference cases and provide advice to conferences. The RRB meets on June 24-28. They focus on the application and interpretation of the radio regulations, addressing specific cases of harmful interference and reviewing rules of procedure. These decisions aim to ensure effective regulatory frameworks and provide resolutions to radiocommunication issues.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Radiocommunication Sector's Working Party 5D (WP 5D), which focuses on International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) systems including IMT-2000, IMT-Advanced, IMT-2020 and future IMT-2030 developments, convenes for their 46th meeting from June 25 to July 2. This group evaluates and develops standards, recommendations and reports to ensure the effective deployment and management of IMT systems worldwide. Their goal is to advance mobile communication technologies and address future industry challenges.

Health

The World Health Organization (WHO) just wrapped up its annual top-level World Health Assembly (WHA), but health diplomats carry on via the organization's 155th session of the Executive Board on June 3-4. Members discuss a report of the Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response; reports on hosted partnerships; engagement with non-state actors and non-state actors in official relations with the WHO; the financial and administrative implications for the Secretariat of decisions proposed for adoption by the board; and future sessions.

The World Health Organization (WHO) releases a new publication regarding restricting digital marketing in the context of tobacco, alcohol, food and beverages, and breast-milk substitutes, and existing approaches and policy options. The approach examines how restrictions on digital marketing are implemented by member states as part of broader marketing restrictions and the current challenges to digital marketing, and it provides policy options that member states can implement. Amidst continuing discussions among member states about these controversial recommendations, the organization's Public Health Law and Policies unit organizes a webinar series to launch this new publication. The sessions take place on June 7, 14 and 21 and advise participants, often officials from national administrations, on how to understand the challenge, how to legislate on digital marketing of various products and how to monitor and enforce such legislation.

The 54th UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) meeting takes place from June 25-27, bringing together stakeholders to support those living with and affected by HIV, showcasing the United Nation's coordination model and driving efforts to end AIDS by 2030. Discussions

include the Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework, financial and human resources updates, and organizational oversight reports. The meeting concludes with a thematic segment on sustaining the gains of the global HIV response to 2030 and beyond, setting the stage for the 55th PCB meeting scheduled for December 10-12.

Environment and Sustainability

From June 3-7, the 63rd meeting of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Standing Committee takes place with China chairing. The session takes up various procedural, administrative and financial, strategic, scientific and implementation matters. Specifically, the Committee discusses the work plan of the Secretariat for 2024, reviews and consolidates current resolutions, and prepares for the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP15).

On June 3, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Green Digital Action (GDA) hosts a session titled "From Data to Action: Standardized Methodologies for Measuring ICT Sector Progress." This webinar series aims to support companies in the journey towards achieving GDA commitments, and this session spotlights the GDA commitments to annual public reporting of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Additionally, the webinar underscores the urgency of establishing a robust data foundation and informs viewers how standards guide the collection, measurement, reporting and verification of GHG emissions within the information, communications and technology (ICT) sector.

From June 4-6, the United Nations Stockholm Convention hosts its third meeting of the intersessional process of consultations on dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT). At its 11th meeting, the Conference of the Parties (COP) decides to continue the intersessional process of consultations with Parties in the DDT register on a phase-out plan for DDT and withdrawal from the DDT register.

On June 5, the Geneva Environment Network hosts its World Environment Day Celebration. The event focuses on land restoration, desertification and drought resilience, as this year marks the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Leading experts take the floor to highlight how the international Geneva multilateral diplomacy system engages in tackling desertification, land degradation and drought.

 The third session of the open-ended working group for a science-policy panel to contribute to the management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution (OEWG-3) takes place June 17-21. The meeting is preceded by informal, regional and stakeholder consultations, and the working group is to conclude substantive discussions on proposals for the establishment of a science-policy panel. Stakeholders interested in participating must be accredited by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Labour Organization (ILO), World Health Organization (WHO), Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), the Minamata Convention or the Montreal Protocol to participate as observers.

The 14th meeting of the open-ended working group (OEWG) of the Basel Convention meets June 25-28. The OEWG assists the Basel Convention Conference of the Parties (COP) in developing and keeping under continuous review the implementation of the Convention's work plan, specific operational policies and decisions taken by the Conference. The Basel Convention is set up to control transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal. Pre-meetings, including Bureau and regional meetings, are held on June 24. The OEWG discusses a draft renewed strategic framework; works to improve the functioning of the prior informed consent procedure; technical guidelines on Persistent Organic Pollutants, e-waste, waste lead-acid batteries, and used and waste pneumatic tires; practical guidance on the development of inventories of waste for certain waste streams; plastic waste; further legal clarity; work of the Implementation and Compliance Committee; and the Basel Convention Partnership Program.

The Annual Joint Meeting to Enhance Cooperation and Coordination between the Regional Centers under the Basel and Stockholm Conventions takes place from June 21-22. Organized by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, this event fosters enhanced collaboration among regional centers and promotes synergies in delivering technical assistance. The agenda includes face-to-face meetings to exchange experiences, network with partners and discuss issues mandated by the relevant conferences of the Parties. Key objectives include ensuring the best use of regional expertise and strengthening networking opportunities to assist Parties in implementing the conventions.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Regional Conference on Circular Economy takes place on June 26. Held under the auspices of UNECE's regional knowledge-sharing network Circular STEP, the conference focuses on leveraging innovations, attracting investments through public-private partnerships, advancing the circular economy in agri-food value chains and improving product traceability along international value chains. This event, organized jointly by the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (CICPPP) and the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (SCTCS), aims to foster knowledge sharing and strategic discussions on transitioning to a circular economy. Registration is mandatory and can be completed here.

Social

On June 3-14, the 112th International Labor Conference (ILC) takes on standard setting for protection against biological hazards, discussion on workplace rights and general discussion on the care economy. It also addresses the general survey conducted under the ILO on systems of labor administration worldwide. Further discussion brings the fundamental principles and rights at work to a crossroads. The trends and policy actions by members are analyzed and scrutinized during the Conference. The ILC is another moment for the ILO Director-General to push ahead with his project of Global Coalition for Social Justice, which is steadily growing in numbers. However, some political and ideological differences among member states, such as the wording on diversity and gender, may stall progress on many processes and documents.

The International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) holds a session on June 18 to discuss the corruption of engineering, construction and infrastructure firms. The meeting

features speakers from the FIDIC Integrity Management Committee and EY, a consultancy. The discussion highlights the need for collaborative approaches to corruption prevention. This event is a part of a series, and underscores the importance of anti-corruption actions on all levels and the impact an individual can have on combating it.

The International Social Security Association holds its 18th ISSA Forum for Technical Commissions (TC Forum) on June 24-26, followed by the ISSA Bureau on June 27-28. Multiple sessions and working groups focus on current projects and on ISSA guidelines. The main objective of this TC Forum is to coordinate and make progress on ongoing projects and to assess and make necessary adjustments to work plans for the triennium 2023-2025.

Science and Technology

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) International Standards and Conformity Assessment Systems will host a webinar on June 6 to highlight advancements in clean energy generation, energy-efficient appliances and electric transportation. The discussion will also close in on the IEC's role in environmental sustainability and delivering the Sustainable Development Goals. This webinar is scheduled to take place one day after World Environment Day and is open for all to register here.

The Geneva Science Diplomacy Week Immersion Program takes place June 10-14, 2024. The Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA) organizes this event and features workshops, expert dialogues and networking opportunities with leaders from diplomatic, scientific and private sectors. Participants will explore topics such as advanced artificial intelligence (AI), climate change and global health, aiming to integrate scientific insights into diplomatic practices to address global challenges. The event is aimed toward scientists and academics, national diplomats, policy-makers, private sector leaders in frontier technologies and civil society/nongovernmental organizations (NGO) advocates.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) holds its 78th session of the Executive Council (EC-78) on June 10-14. The session focuses on key substantive topics and strategic initiatives such as Early Warnings for All and the Global Greenhouse Gas Watch, which are the organization's contribution to dealing with causes as well as effects of climate change. The session also addresses governance matters of resource mobilization, human resources, procurement, audit and oversight reports, and financial statements.

The European Organization for Nuclear Research's (CERN) primary focus is on science and basic research. Nonetheless, it is largely funded by national governments and as such requires oversight structures. Regular CERN governance is carried out by the Scientific Policy Committee, Finance Committee and Council. These meet June 17-21.

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) hosts the Network Technology Seminar (NTS) on June 18-19. The event focuses on innovations and challenges in broadcasting technology, featuring keynotes on topics like the Olympic Games in Paris 2024, private 5G for wireless

production and advancements in intellectual property (IP) and cloud-based media solutions. Sessions cover a wide range of subjects, including media infrastructure, cybersecurity and sustainable production practices.

Youth and Sports

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Empowerment Series for Young Parliamentarians features a session on June 5, to discuss the role of young members of Parliament (MPs) in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. This event aims to enhance the capacity of young MPs to contribute to these critical areas through knowledge sharing, discussions and networking. Participants gain insights into best practices and strategies to effectively engage in peacebuilding efforts, contributing to more resilient and peaceful societies.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board meets from June 12-14 to discuss oversight of the administration of the IOC and ensuring the implementation of decisions made by the IOC Session. The Executive Board meets regularly to discuss and decide on various matters related to the Olympic Games and the broader Olympic Movement.

Humanitarian & Human Rights

The Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee serves as a compliance mechanism holding nations accountable to the environmental agreements set by the Convention. Environmental and human rights are linked, forcing countries to hold their governments accountable. The Compliance Committee meeting on June 11-14 focuses on the submissions from countries for discussion and debate. Furthermore, the Compliance Committee works toward achieving its work program for 2022-2025, which calls for the committee to prepare findings on cases of possible non-compliance and undertake fact-finding missions.

The 2023 Human Rights Report releases on June 13. The report contains analysis of the targets set by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and delves into world events in the past year. For example, past annual reports address the impact of climate change and the rise in poverty rates. Sections include the state of U.N. human rights in 2023, management and funding updates, as well as results achieved by the United Nations.

The Human Rights Council meets for its 56th session in June 18-July 12. This session scales back from the record marathon five weeks' sessions, but still needs to cover a lot of ground. It is to hold the annual full-day discussion of women's human rights, focusing mainly on economic violence and rights. Continuing an economic theme, the annual panel on the impacts of climate change on human rights centers on ensuring livelihood resilience in the context of climate change. Additionally, the session is set to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on human rights situations in Myanmar, Syria, Burundi, Venezuela and Belarus. However, all reports and oral updates are to be considered for debate at the 57th session starting on September 9. Nonetheless, a number of resolutions are on the floor of

this session and heated debates ensue, in particular on topics such as the continuing Russian aggression or Israel-Hamas war.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Special Session of the Working Party on Rail Transport meets from June 18-19. The Special Session includes a UNECE/UIC Workshop on the Security of Vulnerable Users in Railways. Discussions in the workshop focus on combatting human trafficking in the rail environment and increasing the security of women in the rail environment. The objective of the Working Party is to promote rail transport in UNECE countries and ensure its economic efficiency and environmental sustainability. The last Special Session of the working party took place in September 2023 and focused on finalization of the Convention on Unified Railway Law.

The World Summit on Humanitarian Negotiation, co-organized by Germany and the State of Geneva, brings together leaders from around the world to discuss humanitarian crises. On June 27-28, the world's leaders in humanitarian work gather in Geneva. The challenges of frontline humanitarian professionals attending fuel the summit agenda. Emphasis is placed on the most complex crises, such as Ukraine and Sudan. Further discussion focuses on addressing solutions such as military engagement in civilian protection and negotiation approaches.

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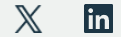Public Policy Specialist

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