



3RD URBAN PEACE DIALOGUES

For the third consecutive year, the City Diplomacy Lab is bringing cities' peace advocacy and engagement to the UNECE Forum of Mayors.

Concept note

September 25th, 2024



THE CITIES
OF REMEMBRANCE
NETWORK

URBAN PEACE DIALOGUES: CITIES OF MEMORY

AN OFFICIAL FORUM OF MAYORS EVENT

30 SEPTEMBER 2024, 08:15
H200 AUDITORIUM
PALACE OF NATIONS
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

To participate, please register
at: forumofmayors.unece.org



BACKGROUND

Since World War II, **cities have become the primary target of armed violence**, experiencing the majority of casualties and devastation. It is not surprising that the local governments of some of the most affected cities gradually emerged as **strenuous advocates for peace**.

The 2024 edition of the Urban Peace Dialogues convenes mayors and representatives of so-called **“cities of memory”** to the [UNECE Forum of Mayors](#). The event will feature a moderated discussion aimed at exploring the message of peace emerging from these cities. Thus, panelists will be invited to discuss not only the **destructive impact of armed violence** their cities suffered but also the constructive impact of **resilience, reconstruction, and reconciliation**.

The event is organized in partnership with the [United States Mission to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva](#) and the [Cities of Remembrance Network](#).

The event builds on the previous editions of the *Urban Peace Dialogues* held at the Forum of Mayors in [2022](#) and [2023](#).

PROGRAM

Location: Palace of Nations, Geneva, H200 Auditorium
Times indicated in Geneva time zone (CEST, UTC+02:00)
Language: English

8:00 am – Welcome coffee

Panelists are kindly requested to arrive at the H200 Auditorium at 8:10 am at the latest.

8:15 am – Opening session:

- **Dr. Lorenzo Kihlgren Grandi**, Founding Director, City Diplomacy Lab
- **Ms. Julie Perng**, Senior Advisor to the Special Representative, Subnational Diplomacy Unit, U.S. Department of State

8:25 – Panel Discussion:

Participants

- **Mr. Enzo Salera**, Mayor of Cassino, Italy
- **Ms. Océane Guillon**, Head of International Partnerships, Greater Dunkirk Council, and Coordinator, Cities of Remembrance Network
- **Ms. Ayan Huseynova**, Urban Diplomacy Officer, Department for Mayoral and City Council's Affairs, City of Dortmund
- **Dr. Lorenzo Kihlgren Grandi**, Founding Director, City Diplomacy Lab (Chair)

This moderated panel discussion features two rounds of questions followed by a Q&A

First round of questions to all panelists:

What are the main lessons to draw from your city's path toward post-war reconstruction and reconciliation?
(5-min answers)

Second round of questions to all panelists:

What role can "memory cities" play in the current context of geopolitical crises and polarization? What role does city diplomacy serve in such a framework? (5-min answers)

8:55 am – Q&A with the public

If necessary, the moderator will ask these questions:

- What is the role of civil society in building your city's peace action?
- What role can academia play in supporting your city's peace action?

9:15 am – Final remarks

Panelist will be invited to share their main takeaways from the event. Time: 1 minute per panelist.

LOGISTICS

1. Enter the Palace of Nations via the Pregny Gate.

To get there by public transportation:

- The bus stop is Avenue Appia.
- From Gare Cornavin train station, take Bus 20 towards Bellevue Valavran or Bus F towards Ferney.
- From Cointrin Airport, take Bus 5 towards Thônex Vallard

When entering the Palace of Nations, you will need to present your badge and a document for verification.

Please note that you are not allowed to bring large or checked-in luggage onto the UN premises due to security restrictions. However, you may bring hand-carry or cabin luggage, which may need to undergo security checks.

2. Walk to Building H.



3. The H200 auditorium is located in the lobby of Building H.



The 2023 Urban Peace Dialogues at the H200 Auditorium

ABOUT THE CITY DIPLOMACY LAB

Launched in September 2021 in the framework of Columbia University, the City Diplomacy Lab fosters dialogue and partnership between scholars and practitioners to identify, discuss, and disseminate solutions to the great challenges of the present, which are global in nature and primarily urban in impact. Over the past several months, the City Diplomacy Lab has established itself as a global leader in four major areas of city diplomacy: peace, equality (particularly gender-related), climate action, and migration.

The Lab's work has been officially recognized by the United Nations Regional Commission for Europe (UNECE) and awarded the designation of *Center of Excellence on City Diplomacy and Sustainable Urban Development*.

In addition to the UN, the Lab engages on a daily basis with multiple municipalities around the world, city networks, universities, national agencies, and other international organizations.

For more information about the Lab, please visit www.citydiplomacylab.net.

Social media handles:

[X](#) • [Threads](#) • [Instagram](#) • [Facebook](#) • [LinkedIn](#)