

**FACE-TO-FACE SEGMENT OF THE MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCES OF
THE PARTIES TO THE BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS**
Geneva, Switzerland, 6-17 June 2022
(updated 3 June 2022)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RISK MITIGATION MEASURES

1. The meetings will take place from 6 to 17 June 2022 at the “Centre International de Conférences de Genève” (CICG) located at 17 Rue Varembe, Geneva.
2. Please note that given the improving epidemiological situation in Switzerland, the Government of Switzerland has lifted all its COVID measures as of 17 February 2022.
3. Nonetheless, the Secretariat will maintain measures with a view to ensuring that the meetings proceed in a manner that is safe for all delegates, in line with current United Nations requirements, and thanks to the generous financial support of the Government of Switzerland.
4. The Secretariat strongly recommends that all participants in the face-to-face segment of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

I. COVID-19 measures at the meeting venue

5. Participants are requested to observe the following safety and health measures:
 - (a) Prior to coming to the meeting venue:
 - (i) Take a daily rapid antigen self-test before entering the premises (see section II below);
 - (ii) Refrain from coming to the venue and inform the Secretariat, in case of any cold- or flu-like symptoms.
 - (b) At the meeting venue:
 - (i) Mandatory wearing of face masks in all indoor areas of the venue, except when taking the floor to speak or when drinking/eating;
 - (ii) Follow strict hand hygiene measures and COVID-19 precautionary instructions as per signage.

II. Daily rapid antigen self-tests

6. Participants are requested to self-test daily at their accommodation before entering the meeting premises.

A. Procedure upon first arrival and registration

7. On 5 and 6 June 2022, delegates upon first arrival are requested to proceed to the “Varembe Conference center (CCV)” building located at 9 Rue Varembe, Geneva (across the street from the CICG) to complete a self-administered COVID test. Each delegate will be provided with one self-test to conduct the first test. Health workers will be available to assist if needed. A mask (face covering) will also be provided if needed. Please note that this testing facility will operate on the following hours: **on 5 June, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and 6 June, from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m..**

8. Delegates coming to CICG for the first time from 7 June 2022 onwards are requested to proceed to the “COVID-19 testing tent” in front of the entrance of CICG. Each delegate will be provided with one self-test to conduct the first test. Staff will be available to assist if needed. Please note that the availability of free self-tests at the tent will be operational from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. everyday of the meetings.

9. Delegates would also be able to use and present their own self-test on the first day they are required to enter the CICG.

1. If your test result is negative

10. You can proceed to the CICG, where at the entrance you will be required to present your COVID test in hand.

11. You will then be directed to the registration counter, where you will obtain your conference badge, self-test kits for the duration of the meetings and masks.

2. If your test result is positive

12. You will be asked to take a second antigen test at the testing tent in front of the CICG. If this second test is positive, you will be required to isolate for five days and to inform the Secretariat at: maria-cristina.cardenas@un.org. You will be able to come to CICG on the sixth day if you obtain a negative self-test result or provide a certificate of recovery.

B. Daily access procedure after obtaining your badges

13. Prior to proceeding to the venue, please take the self-administered test at your hotel. **Retain the completed test strip and bring it to CICG, since you will need to present it on entry to the venue.**

14. Please consult the YouTube link to learn more about how to self-conduct the COVID test:
<https://youtube.com/watch?v=n-uDe1oLkC8&feature=share>

15. To access the venue on a daily basis, you will be required to present the following at the CICG entrance:

- (a) A negative test result;
- (b) Conference badge.

16. Please note that the negative test will be disposed of at the entrance, and in turn, you will be provided with a coloured sticker that will be affixed to your badge. The colour of the sticker will change daily.

III. “COVID” Testing Tent

17. Throughout the two weeks, a testing tent will be available in front of the CICG for participants who need to take a rapid antigen test or a PCR test, e.g. if this is a requirement for their return travel. While the antigen rapid tests will be free of charge, the cost of the PCR tests is to be borne by the delegates. The cost of a PCR test is CHF75 and the result will be returned in less than 24 hours.

18. The testing tent will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. everyday of the meetings. On Sunday, 5 June, it will exceptionally be open from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Monday, 6 June 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

IV. Frequently asked questions

A. What to do in case I test positive?

19. Please inform the Secretariat immediately by email at: maria-cristina.cardenas@un.org.

20. You will be required to isolate for a minimum of five days and will be able to come to the CICG after successfully obtaining a negative self-test result or providing a certificate of recovery.

21. If you were in contact with anyone in the previous days that was not wearing a mask, for a period longer than 15 minutes, please inform them.

B. Where to call in case of medical emergency?

22. For non-urgent medical questions, please call +41 79 477 0886 (also on WhatsApp or Signal).

23. For emergency, please call 144.

24. Please see also: <https://www.ge.ch/contacter-lignes-information-covid-19>.

C. Where can I get a PCR test?

25. Throughout the two weeks, a testing stand will be made available in front of the CICG for participants who need to take a PCR test, for their return flights. The cost of the PCR tests is to be borne by the delegates. The cost of a PCR test is CHF75 and the result will be returned in less than 24 hours. The testing tent will be operational from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. everyday of the meetings.

26. In case of COVID like symptoms, other suggested locations for PCR tests are:

(a) Pharmacie de Montbrillant:

(iii) Phone: +41 22 733 40 40;

(iv) Rue du Vidollet 1, 3003 Geneva (750m, 8 min. walking distance from the CICG);

(v) Remarks: no appointment needed to test only a few people; If a bigger group wants to get tested at once, an appointment is needed (phone); participants need to bring their ID / Passport.

(b) Pharmacie Faust:

(i) Phone: +41 22 700 14 14;

(ii) Rue de Vermont 14, 3003 Geneva (500m, 5 min. walking distance from the CICG);

(iii) Remarks: appointment needed. The following link can be used: <https://pharmonline.ch/fr/pharmacies/292-Faust-pharmacie/> (*German, French, Italian*); participants need to bring their ID / Passport.

(c) Pharmacie Sun Store Les Cygnes:

(i) Phone: +41 58 878 53 80;

(ii) Rue de Lausanne 20, 3003 Geneva (100m, 1 min. walking distance from the train station);

(iii) Remarks: appointment needed. The following link can be used: <https://www.sunstore.ch/de/info-covid19> (*German, French, Italian*); participants need to bring their ID / Passport.

(d) In case of an extraordinary situation, a high-capacity testing centre is located at the Geneva Airport. Additional testing facilities are listed here: <https://www.ge.ch/en/covid-19-get-tested>.

D. Can I connect remotely to the meetings in case of isolation?

27. All registered delegates will receive login credentials to access the meetings. If by being in isolation, a Party will no longer have any representative at the meetings, please send an email to: cop@brsmeas.org informing the Secretariat of your intention to exercise the right to seek the floor, make a proposal or a motion, raise a point of order and participate in decision-making. Similarly, if by being in isolation, an observer organization will no longer have any representative at the meetings, please send an email to the same email address informing the Secretariat of your intention to exercise the right to seek the floor in accordance with the rules of procedure.
