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ENGLISH ONLY

**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION
STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (EUROSTAT)**

**ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)
STATISTICS DIRECTORATE**

Work Session on Statistical Metadata (METIS)
(Geneva, Switzerland, 10-12 March 2010)

INFORMATION NOTICE No. 2

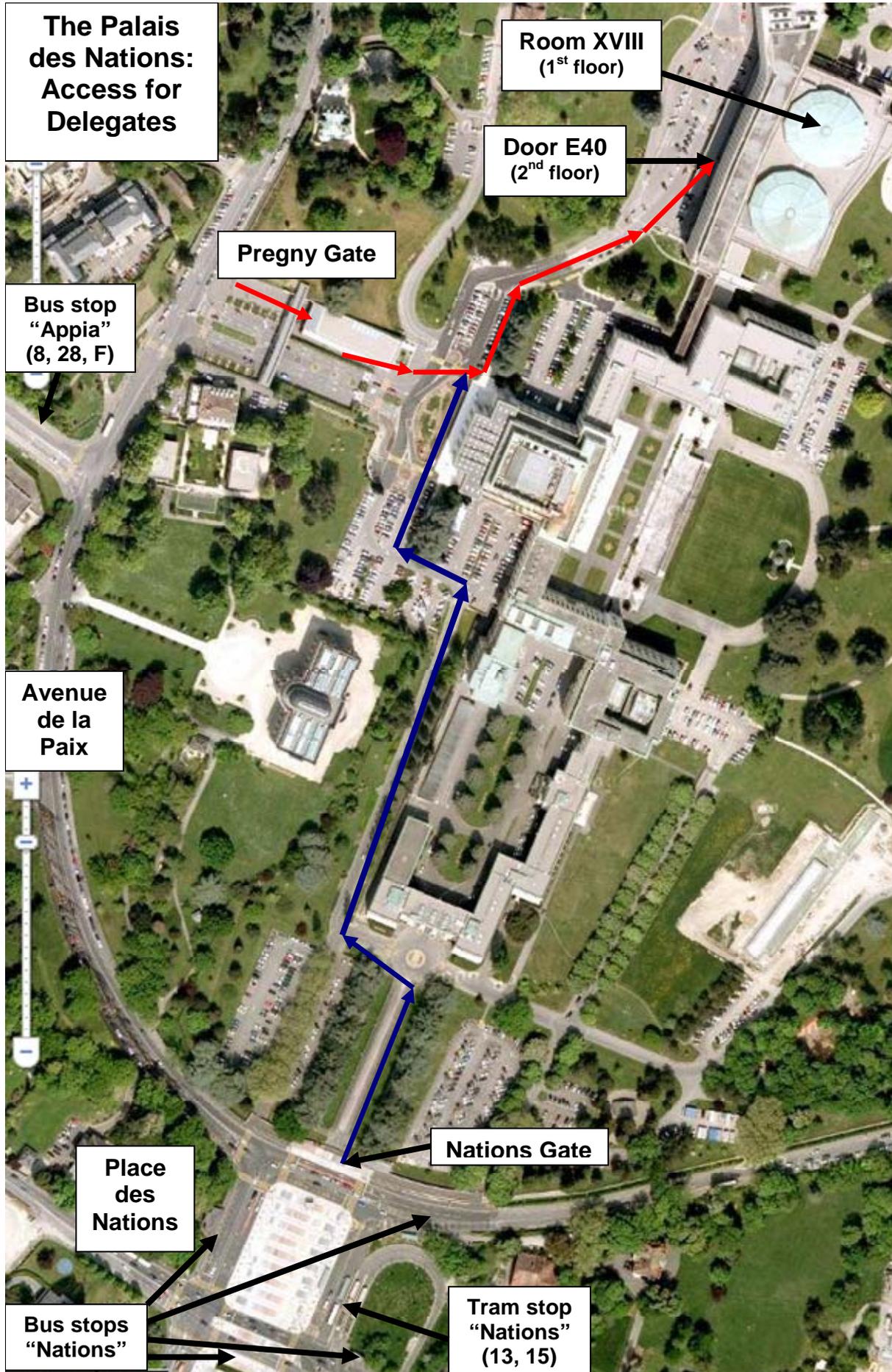
The Work Session will be held in **Room XVIII**, Palais des Nations, Avenue de la Paix, Geneva, Switzerland, from 10-12 March 2010.

I. MEETING DOCUMENTS

1. Most of the papers for the METIS 2010 Work Session have now been received, and have been loaded on the meeting web site: www.unece.org/stats/documents/2010.03.metis.htm. A draft agenda is also available on that web site. Further papers will be added as they are received.
2. Papers for the OECD / UNECE Expert Group meeting on SDMX (8-9 February) can be found at: www.oecd.org/document/50/0,3343,en_2649_34257_43852082_1_1_1_1,00.html. This meeting will be held in the same room as the METIS Work Session.

II. ACCESS TO THE PALAIS DES NATIONS

3. On your first day, you should go to the security building at the “Pregny Gate” (following the red arrows on the map). You will need to show your passport. You may also be asked for a copy of your registration form, so please bring this with you. You will be given a security badge which will be valid for the whole week. Please allow plenty of time for the security control (at least 1 hour is recommended), as there can be long queues at busy times.
4. You may only bring into the Palais the type of bags that are normally considered as hand luggage by airline companies, e.g. computer bags, rucksacks and hand bags. There is limited storage space for larger bags at the Pregny Gate security building, but this is often full.
5. Delegates participating in the Expert Group Meeting on SDMX should note that this meeting will start at 14:30. You are welcome to come to the meeting room early, and to use the cafeteria and bars in the Palais des Nations before the meeting, but we would not recommend that you arrive before 10:30 as the first half of Monday morning is always very busy at the security control.
6. Delegates arriving on Wednesday 10 March for the METIS 2010 Work Session should note that this will start at 10:00. Access to the meeting room will be possible from 08:00.
7. When you have your security badge, you are free to enter and leave the grounds of the Palais des Nations by any of the gates. You may find it more convenient to use the “Nations Gate”, following the blue arrows on the map.



8. Inside the Palais there is a bank with cash machine, a travel agency, a kiosk and a United Nations book and souvenir shop, all located on the second floor near door E40. There are also several bars and restaurants, a post office, and a duty-free supermarket. For more information see the brochure at: www.unece.org/meetings/practical_information/2010_Practical_Guide.EFR.pdf.

III. PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN GENEVA

Free travel from the airport

9. Free tickets for public transport are from a machine in the baggage collection area (just before passing through customs). This ticket allows you free use of public transport (train, tram, bus, boat) within Geneva for up to 80 minutes. In the event of a ticket inspection, anyone holding this type of ticket may be asked to show their airline ticket.

10. Geneva Airport is approximately four kilometres from the city centre. The train is the most efficient way to get into the city centre. Follow the signs to the airport railway station from the arrivals area. Trains leave approximately every 15-20 minutes, and all stop at the central Geneva-Cornavin station. The journey takes six minutes.

11. It is also possible to get from the airport directly to the Palais des Nations by bus. Line 28 (direction “Jardin Botanique”) is the most convenient for the Pregny Gate, and stops at “Appia” then “Nations”. Line 5 runs from the airport to the city centre via “Nations”.

Free travel during your stay in Geneva

12. Your hotel should give you a “Geneva Transport Card”, which allows you to use public transport in Geneva free of charge during the period of your stay.

From the city centre / Geneva-Cornavin station to the Palais des Nations

13. On your first day, when you have to collect your security pass, bus 8 from Cornavin station to “Appia” is probably the easiest. Busses run every 7-8 minutes on this line at peak times. On other days, trams 13 and 15 to “Nations” may be more convenient. To walk from Cornavin station to the Place des Nations takes around 30 minutes (plus another 5 minutes to the Pregny Gate). For a more pleasant, but longer walking route, follow path along the side of the lake until you get to the offices of the World Trade Organization, then up the hill to the Place des Nations.

More information

14. For more information about public transport in Geneva, including time-tables, please see www.tpg.ch. A plan of the whole public transport network is available at: www.tpg.ch/pdf/horaire-et-reseau/plans/tpg_plan_reseau_urbain_p.pdf, and for a simplified plan of the tram network, see: www.tpg.ch/zoomify/tpg_plan_ligne_tram.pdf

IV. SOCIAL PROGRAMME

15. There will be a cocktail reception for delegates to the Expert Group Meeting on SDMX at approximately 18:00 on Monday 8 March. This will take place in the Delegates Restaurant on the 8th floor of the Palais des Nations, and is kindly offered by the OECD.

16. There will be a subscription dinner for METIS Work Session participants on Wednesday 10 March at the restaurant “Cave Valaisanne” (www.chaletswiss.ch), at a cost of 46 Swiss Francs, plus drinks. To get to this restaurant, take tram 13 or 15 from “Nations” or Geneva-Cornavin station to the stop “Cirque”. The restaurant is directly opposite the tram stop.

17. A guided tour of the Palais des Nations will be available on Thursday 11 March, at a discounted rate of 8 Swiss Francs per person. This tour will leave from outside the meeting room at 12:30 (prompt!), and will last approximately 45 minutes. The guide will explain the history of the building and the League of Nations, the fore-runner of the United Nations.

V. TOURIST INFORMATION

General information about Geneva: www.geneva-tourism.ch

Geneva International Motor Show (4-14 March): www.salon-auto.ch

VI. FURTHER INFORMATION

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