

OPENING LECTURE BY AMBASSADOR JÜRIG LAUBER

MAISON DE LA PAIX, IVAN PICTET AUDITORIUM, CHEMIN EUGÈNE RIGOT 2, GENEVA | 19 FEBRUARY 2025, 18:00-21:00



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THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL: A BODY OF LAW OR POLITICS?

The United Nations Human Rights Council plays a vital role in the global promotion and protection of human rights. However, it faces growing challenges as it navigates between its fundamental legal mission and the political influences that impact its operations. These geopolitical tensions reflect the complexity of advancing human rights within an international system characterised by divergent interests and national priorities.

Switzerland's re-election to the Human Rights Council for the 2025-2027 term, after a six-year absence, underscores its long-standing commitment to human rights and multilateralism. This election, along with the appointment of Ambassador Lauber as President of the Council – a first for Switzerland – highlights the recognition of its active role in fostering constructive dialogue between states.

During this conference, Ambassador Lauber will examine the challenges and opportunities facing the Council as it strives to balance legal imperatives with geopolitical realities. This reflection is rooted in Switzerland's policy to strengthen international mechanisms and the broader human rights system.

SPEAKERS

The main speaker for this conference will be:

Jürg Lauber

President of the United Nations Human Rights Council

The conference will also feature the following distinguished speakers:

Paola Gaeta

Director, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

Christian Bovet

President of the Geneva Academy Board

Nathalie Fontanet

President of the State Council of the Republic and Canton of Geneva

Marie-Laure Salles

Director of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Audrey Leuba

Rector of the University of Geneva

RECEPTION

A reception will follow the presentation.

REGISTRATION

We kindly ask you to register here:

<https://bit.ly/4aATsRc>

