

REGULAR PRESS BRIEFING BY THE UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION SERVICE

29 October 2021

Alessandra Vellucci, Director of the United Nations Information Service in Geneva, chaired the [hybrid briefing](#), which was attended by spokespersons of the World Meteorological Organization, the World Food Programme, and the World Health Organization.

Finally, Ms. Vellucci invited the journalists to the official inauguration of the H Building at the Palais des Nations, that would take place on 1 November at 2:30 pm, just outside the new building. The ceremony would be attended by Tatiana Valovaya, UN Geneva Director General; Ignazio Cassis, Vice-President of the Swiss Federal Council and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs; Serge Dal Busco, President of the State Council of Geneva; Nathalie Fontanet, Geneva State Counsellor; and Frédérique Perler, the Mayor of Geneva. At 12 noon and 12:30 pm, there would be two guided tours of the building led by the Director of the Strategic Heritage Plan. Answering questions, Ms. Vellucci specified that the H Building was an office building rather than a conference facility, and journalists who had official business in H Building could get access through UNIS.

Responding to questions, Ms. Vellucci said that, for the time being, COVID19 medical certificates were not required for official mandated meetings. For cultural activities, events including food and drinks with a large number of participants and guided tours, such certificates were required. Vaccinations were still not mandatory – but were strongly recommended – for UN Geneva staff. All other measures, including mask wearing, hand washing and physical distancing, were followed and enforced throughout the premises.

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The webcast for this briefing is available here: <https://bit.ly/unog291021>