
Geneva, December 6, 2018

Room 408 (4th floor)

Uni-Dufour

Rue du Général-Dufour 24, 1204 Genève

University of Geneva

EXPERT MEETING

Aerial AI in the context of international aid and development

The Geneva Science-Policy Interface, swissnex Boston, and WeRobotics are pleased to invite you to an expert meeting on the use of drones and aerial AI applied to international aid and development efforts. This event is part of swissnex Boston's "Aerial Futures: The Drone Frontier" and WeRobotics' "Experts Meetings" series aimed at addressing pivotal issues facing the safe and effective deployment of drones for humanitarian aid, public health, sustainable development and nature conservation.

The Geneva chapter of this Experts Meeting will take stock of the very latest developments, opportunities and challenges in the application of AI, machine learning and computer vision to automatically analyze aerial imagery with respect to features of direct interest to the international aid and development community.

The meeting will take advantage of Geneva's location as a hub where scientists, private actors, NGOs and international organisations are making use of drones to address pressing global challenges in fields such as humanitarian action, migrations, global health and the environment. Best practices and lessons learned from participating experts will help paint a picture of gaps and opportunities at the intersection of science, policy and practice in the field of aerial AI.

The Experts Meeting will seek to identify synergies in existing and planned research as well as projects to formulate a common roadmap in the development of AI solutions for aerial imagery that advance the needs of field actors and policymakers.

AGENDA

14:30 - 15:00 **Check in and Refreshments**

15:00 - 15:10 **Welcome and Introductions**

- NICOLAS SEIDLER, Director, Geneva Science-Policy Interface
- CHRISTIAN SIMM, CEO, swissnex Boston

15:10 - 15:30 **Introduction on aerial AI and its various fields of application**

- PATRICK MEIER, Co-Founder, WeRobotics

15:30 - 16:00 **Lightning Talks:** perspectives and lessons learned from various stakeholders in the use of drones and aerial AI for development needs.

- FRANK DE MORSIER, Picterra
- ANDRES RODRIGUEZ ESCALLON, ETHZ
- GIOVANNA DI MARZO, University of Geneva
- IVANA NADY, UNHCR
- MARCO KIRSCHENBAUM, Handicap International
- Open AI Tanzania Challenge Winners (video)

16:00 - 17:00 **Open Discussion** on the science-policy-practice interface in the context of drones and aerial AI (moderated by Patrick Meier, WeRobotics)

- What are the policy and practical implications of current and upcoming developments with drones and aerial AI?
- What are the needs for current or new scientific research in order to leverage the potential of drones and aerial AI for innovative approaches by International Geneva stakeholders?
- Are collaboration levels and synergies sufficient between different stakeholders? Where are there opportunities for more interactions?

17:00 - 17:15 **Recap, Strategic partnerships, Next steps**

Small cocktail (Uni Dufour, in front of the meeting room)

18:30 - 19:45 **Public event: “DRONES FOR GOOD – Humanitarian Action from the Sky”**

Uni Bastions, room B106

Rue De-Candolle 5

1205 Genève

Event details: <https://www.unige.ch/public/actualites/2018/drones-for-good>