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Tuesday 11 December 2018 – 14:00-17:30

PALAIS DES NATIONS. KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING COMMONS (UN Library)

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## Strengthening the Interface between Academia and International Geneva to Address Global Challenges

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Faced with increasingly complex global challenges in interconnected areas such as health, environment, humanitarian work, development and ICTs, International Organisations need to develop integrated solutions involving a wide range of stakeholders across sectors and institutions. Academia is a key partner in this endeavour. Although collaborations between international organisations and scientists are already taking place, more needs be done to ensure that academic institutions engage in a more sustainable way with international actors to assist in the development of sound and innovative policies at the international level.

On the occasion of a high-level meeting of the League of European Research Universities (LERU) and of the Global Council of Research-Intensive Universities Network (GCRIUN) in Geneva, the Geneva Science-Policy Interface (GSPI) together with the UN Learning and Knowledge Commons are convening a special event at Palais des Nations to discuss ways of fostering innovative models of engagement between European Universities and International Organisations based in Geneva.

To start the conversation, key stakeholders from International Geneva will share their insights on pressing issues requiring scientific evidence and academic thinking, and take stock of opportunities and gaps to address these needs. LERU's research policy directors will have the opportunity to share their current thinking on impact research and engagement with external stakeholders and suggest ways to better support global policymaking in the areas discussed. Representatives from International Organisations, Permanent Missions to the U.N. in Geneva, academic institutions and other non-state actors in the audience will have the opportunity to actively engage on these issues throughout the afternoon.

The Geneva Science-Policy Interface, as a new platform aimed at enhancing synergies between the broader research community and International Geneva, will highlight potential venues for concrete collaborative projects and suggest ways forward to build on the momentum created by the event.

### PROGRAMME

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<b>14:00</b>	<b>WELCOME</b> FRANCESCO PISANO   Director, United Nations Library Geneva FREDERIQUE GUERIN   Executive Officer, Geneva Science-Policy Interface
<b>14:05</b>	<b>INTRODUCTORY PERSPECTIVES ON STRENGTHENING SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACES IN GENEVA</b> FRANCESCO PISANO   Strengthening the UN's Research Uptake Director, United Nations Library Geneva YVES FLUCKIGER   Joining forces to create the Geneva Science-Policy Interface Rector, University of Geneva

KURT DEKETELAERE | The contribution of LERU to solving global policy challenges  
Secretary-General, League of European Research Universities

NICOLAS SEIDLER | Presentation of the Geneva Science-Policy Interface  
Director, Geneva Science-Policy Interface

14:30 **OPEN DISCUSSION WITH MICHAEL MØLLER**

Director General, UN Office in Geneva

15:00 **COFFEE BREAK**

15:30 **ENGAGING ACADEMIA TO SOLVE GLOBAL CHALLENGES: LESSONS LEARNED ON BRIDGING THE SCIENCE-POLICY GAP**

**Modération:** BRIGITTE GALLIOT, Vice-Rector for Research, University of Geneva

VOLKER TÜRK | Building a scientific network to support the Refugee Compact  
Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, in charge of the Compact, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

OLGA ALGAYEROVA | Navigating the complexity of the 2030 Agenda for effective policy action: the nexus approach  
Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

ANJA KASPERSEN | Harnessing science to mitigate risks related to emerging technologies  
Director, United Nations Office for Disarmament

IAN ROBERTS | Best practices and challenges in global health research and innovation  
Coordinator of the WHO Library and Information Networks for Knowledge, World Health Organisation

DAVID PRICE | Impact research and global challenges  
Vice-Provost (Research), University College London / Chairman of LERU Research Policy Group

**OPEN DISCUSSION |**

Participants from LERU and international research networks, UN agencies, Permanent Missions and other organisations are invited to contribute their insights regarding the needs, challenges and opportunities for the promotion of sustainable science-policy engagement fora and processes in Geneva

17:15 **CLOSING REMARKS**

17:30 **RECEPTION**