**Venue**

The **World Cotton Day (WCD)** launch will be hosted at the World Trade Organization (WTO) Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

**How to get to the WTO**

- **CFF** ([https://www.sbb.ch/fr/home.html](https://www.sbb.ch/fr/home.html)) is the Swiss train operator company. Geneva has two main train stations, one at the airport and the other in the centre of town ("Gare Cornavin").

- **If you arrive directly from Geneva Airport:**  
  **Bus 28** takes you directly to the WTO (direction Jardin Botanique). Geneva International Airport offers you a **free ticket** into town, valid throughout the « Tout Genève » zone of the Geneva Public Transport system. You can get the ticket from the automatic distributor, located in the baggage claim area, just before going through customs. It is valid for 80 minutes and is available to arriving passengers only.

- **If you are already in town:**  
  The WTO is conveniently served by four major bus routes (N°1, N°11, N°25 and N°28). Take any of these buses in the direction of **Jardin Botanique**. The WTO building is located across the street from the Jardin Botanique bus stop. Bus schedules can be found here: [http://www.tpg.ch/](http://www.tpg.ch/). A one-way bus fare costs CHF3.00. The ticket is valid for 1 hour.

- There is a train station close to the WTO, called "Geneva Sécheron". Connecting trains to "Geneva Sécheron" can be taken from "Gare Cornavin".

- If you prefer to take a **taxi**, they can be found directly outside the arrival hall. A one-way fare to the WTO should cost around CHF40.

**Accomodations**

- A list of **hotels and accommodations** in Geneva can be found at: [https://www.geneve.com/en/sleep/all-accomodation/](https://www.geneve.com/en/sleep/all-accomodation/)

October being a busy month in Geneva, participants are strongly encouraged to book hotel accommodations as early as possible.
Participation in the World Cotton Day is **free of charge**. Travel and accommodation costs are to be borne by participants. Please note that the WTO does not organize visa arrangements. Those interested in attending WCD should complete and submit the **online registration** form no later than **20 September 2019**.

**Visa information**

Please check the **Swiss visa requirements** for your country of origin with the Consulate of Switzerland in your country of departure or via the following link: [https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/themen/einreise.html](https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/themen/einreise.html)

Obtaining a Swiss visa **may take up to one month**.

**Immigration and Customs Control**

Immigration control authorities at the airport may ask you the reasons for your travel even if you have a valid visa. It is recommended to carry all of your documents when entering the Schengen area: invitation letter or confirmed registration, hotel booking, a valid medical insurance for Europe, etc.

**Registration & Badges**

**Registration**

We urge you to ensure that all staff and panellists involved in your session are registered. **On-line registration** will close on **Friday 20th September 2019** at midnight. No last minute/onsite registrations will be accepted.

Please note that **all participants and accompanying guests must be registered** to ensure that a badge is available upon their arrival at the WTO headquarters.

**Badge/Security**

According to WTO security procedures, all participants must have a **valid ID** with photo (passport or identity card) in order to collect their badge. Also note, that for UN staff, only those with badges marked ‘S’ would be allowed entry to the WTO premises.

Badges will only be handed over upon exchange of the valid ID with which participants **completed their registration**. Entry/Badge collection/ID restitution commences at **8:00am**.

Badges have to be carried visibly at all times while on WTO premises.

Participants are informed that the badges are valid only for WCD. They are not valid for other WTO events (e.g Public Forum).

Please note that strict security controls will be in place and getting into the building may take some time. As a result, you will need to plan the time of your arrival accordingly. To avoid delay, we request that staff and Speakers arrive at least one hour before their scheduled session.

Participants arriving in their private vehicles should take note there are **no parking spaces at the WTO**. Hence, arrangements should be made for a parking before entering WTO premises.
Facilities

At the WTO

**ATRIUM**

Ground floor
WTO Main Building

**BANK**

Mon-Fri
24/7

**BOOKSHOP**

Mon - Fri 09:00 - 13:00, 14:00 - 17:00

**CAFETERIA**

Mon - Fri 07:30 - 15:30
The lunch menu is served between 11:45 and 14:30

**COFFEE BAR**

Mon - Fri
07:30 - 17:00
At the WTO

- **The WTO cafeteria** offers meals, salads and beverages.
- **The WTO coffee bar (atrium)** located on the ground floor of the main building offers all sorts of beverages, sandwiches and salads (for a quick bite).
- A variety of options are available for dining around the WTO.

**Budget**

The Cafeteria of the World Meteorological Organization, 3 minutes walk from WTO offers a lovely terrace with beautiful views on the Leman Lake along with lunch options ranging from 12 to 20 CHF. It is open from 12:30 to 14:30 and can be accessed upon presentation of a valid ID.

For a quick bite, the WTO Café located in the CR building offers all sorts of beverages, sandwiches and salads in a more relaxed setting.

Across the street from the WTO (next to the Jardin Botanique stop), there is a small supermarket which is also a popular destination for those interested in fresh sandwiches and salads at reasonable prices.

**Mid-range**

- Barton’s Parc Cafeteria adjacent to the WTO has many lunch options at prices ranging from CHF14-25.
- If you are looking for sit-down dining, a Chinese buffet is available at the Tsing Tao Restaurant (12 avenue de Secheron) around the corner from the small supermarket (the buffet costs approximately CHF22 and lunch menus CHF15).
- There is also a Lebanese restaurant (Layalina, 121 rue de Lausanne).
- The Hotel Eden restaurant (135 rue de Lausanne) offers Swiss/French/Italian eating. Like most restaurants in Geneva, a reasonably-priced lunch menu or “Plat du Jour” may be found there.

**Top-End**

- Close to the WTO with a scenic view of the lake, restaurant La Perle du Lac offers exquisite cuisine, if you are interested in splurging a bit! Be sure to call and reserve a table, especially if you plan to go as a group.
- Address: 126 rue de Lausanne, Tel: +41(0)22 909 10 20, Fax: +41(0)22 909 10 30.
Other

Time | Language | Dialing codes

Local time is UTC/GMT +1.
Country Calling Code is +41.
The official language in Geneva is French, although English is widely spoken.
Simultaneous interpretation and Forum materials will be provided in the 3 official WTO languages (English, French, Spanish).

Electricity

The voltage in Switzerland, as in most of Europe, is 230V/50 Hz. Switzerland uses type C (2-pin) and Type J (3-pin) plugs. (Type C 2-pin plugs also fit J sockets.)

Most power sockets are designed for three pin round plugs. The standard continental type plug with two round pins, applied for many electrical travel products, may be used without problem. Adaptors are available in most hotels.

Programme, documents and stationary

WCD materials will be made available on the dedicated website of the event www.wto.org/worldcottonday.

Participants are encouraged to use personal lap-tops/tablets during the Forum as the event will be generally paperless.

Currency

The currency in Switzerland is the Swiss Franc, often written as CHF or SFr. While the Euro is accepted at most shops and businesses, it is better to exchange your money in advance so as to avoid paying a higher rate. Cash is the most popular method of transaction and locals tend to carry substantial amount on them.

NOTE: Many smaller stores and supermarkets do not accept credit cards and those that do may ask to see photo ID.

ATMs are conveniently dispersed throughout the city. The WTO Building has a UBS ATM.
Map of the area

WTO and surrounding area

Map of the WTO

1 Welcome Pavilion
2 WTO Main Building
3 WTO Council Room (CR)
4 WTO cafeteria building
**Amenities**
Hotels, Cafes, Restaurants, Grocery stores, Medical Centre

**WTO and surrounding area**

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**CAFÉ – RESTAURANTS**
1. Café Restaurant l’Amicale
2. UNICEF Restaurant
3. WMO Restaurant
4. Han Lung Chinese Restaurant
5. Laylina Lebanese Restaurant
6. Zing Tao Chinese Restaurant
7. Luma Thai Restaurant

**FOOD STORES**
8. Small Supermarket & Sandwich Shop
9. Nokate (Café & Sandwich Shop)
10. Chocolaterie Chocolate Store

**BEAUTY & FITNESS**
11. Spa Hornea – Beauty Institute
12. Power Plate Center
13. Franck Provost Hair Salon

**SATEL STORE**
14. Satellite Service

**HOTELS**
15. Hotel Eden
16. Hotel Mon Repos

**HEALTH**
17. Pharmacy
18. CMC Nations Medical Centre

**DIVERSE**
19. Tobacco & Newspaper Store
Useful Links & Numbers

Links

- **Geneva Airport**  [http://www.gva.ch](http://www.gva.ch)

Numbers

- **Police**: 117
- **Fire Department**: 118
- **Ambulance**: 144
THANK YOU!
We thank you for your interest in participating in this event and look forward to welcoming you to Geneva!

worldcottonday@wto.org
contact us!

#WorldCottonDay