GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2026

52ND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND 36TH NLO-ASSEMBLY MEETING

AGENDA

14 – 15 OCTOBER 2026
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT VIENNA

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR
SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY
AND RESEARCH

Wednesday, 14 October 2026

UNOV, C-Building, Room CR-4, 7th floor

09:00-12:30 Closed Session of the Board of Directors

Board Members, Management Team,
and Auditors only

12:30-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-14:15 Opening

- **Anja Korenblik**, Acting Chair (UNODC)
- **Marc Pointecker** (Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection)

14:15-14:45 Management Team report and outlook

- **Anette Scoppetta**, Executive Director
- **Sonila Danaj**, Deputy Director

14:45-15:30 Science for Policy – Policy for Science: Where do we stand today?

Round table with Board Members and NLOs

Chair: Anette Scoppetta

15:30-16:00 Break

16:00-17:00 Transforming society - Uncovering Opportunities and Challenges Amidst Change

European Centre's key findings on green, demographic and digital transitions

Input by Nikko Bilitza, Elif Naz Kayran, Kai Leichsenring and Selam Woldemariam

Invited comments by NLOs and Board Members and general discussion

Chair: Niki Kalavrezou

17:00 Meeting adjourned

19:00 Dinner on invitation of the Austrian Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection

Thursday, 15 October 2026

UNOV, C-Building, Room CR-4, 7th floor

09:00-10:00 Tools and methods - Deepening Understanding

Lessons learnt by the European Centre on investigating societal issues

Presented by David Conforti, Michael Fuchs, Felix Groß-Wohlgemuth and Selma Kadi

Invited comments by NLOs and Board Members and general discussion

Chair: Sonila Danaj

10:00-11:00 From Insights to Policy Impact – Monitoring and Driving Change

European Centre's experience in knowledge translation and research-based solutions for effective social policy

Input by Sabina Gjylsheni, Lisa Marie Hanzl and Eszter Zólyomi

Invited comments by NLOs and Board Members and general discussion

Chair: Magdi Birtha

11:00-11:30 Break

11:30-12:30 Moving forward: How can we best position ourselves to promote social transformation in the Policy-Research-Impact nexus?

Round table

- Needs and expectations of member states
- Funding opportunities
- Outlook new projects and new leadership

Invited comments by Board Members and NLOs and general discussion

Chair: Anette Scoppetta

12:30-13:00 Closing session

- General discussion
- Farewell and closing

13:00-14:30 Joint lunch

Social Event and Meeting Places

Wednesday, 14 October, 19:00

Dinner on invitation of the Austrian Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection

Restaurant: *Habibi und Hawara*
Platz der Sozialen Sicherheit, 1030 Vienna

Access by public transport
Underground U1, Direction Oberlaa
Stop: Stephansplatz
Change to: Underground U3, Direction Simmering
Stop: Rochusgasse, exit Rochusmarkt
Go left on Erdbergstraße to Platz der Sozialen Sicherheit

Wednesday - Thursday, 14 - 15 October

Closed Session & General Assembly Meeting

UNOV-VIC Building

Wagramerstrasse 5, 1220 Vienna

Access by public transport
Underground U1, Direction Leopoldau
Stop: Kaisermühlen / VIC
Conference Room CR4, Building C, on the 7th floor.

Security regulations of the United Nations require that all participants check-in with either their passport or identity card at Gate 1 (Checkpoint 1) on **Wednesday 14 October** (starting at 8:00). Upon registration, you will receive a VIC conference pass for admittance to the VIC on both days of the meeting.

Participants not attending the Closed Session and who are registered for lunch on **Wednesday 14 October** are kindly requested to go directly from Checkpoint 1 to the restaurant, where a buffet lunch will be served from 12:30 until 14:00. At 14:00 all participants are kindly requested to timely gather in the Conference Room CR-4 for the Opening Session.