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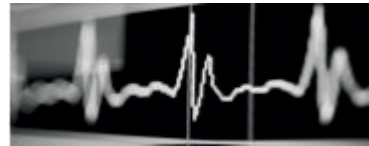
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The Outlook

Economic ([jump to](#)).

Technical barriers to trade may be technical, but still are barriers, often hampering trade more than necessary. Trade experts meet to assess just that. [Read more](#)

Amidst farmers' protests around the globe, experts on standards in agricultural trade meet to discuss regulation and how to improve this international system. [Read more](#)

Is your business interested in all things customs? Then March 22 is a deadline for you to join an advisory body on international customs rules and standards. [Read more](#)

Standards and Regulatory ([jump to](#)).

A global regulatory movement is underway to craft a binding agreement that could put an end to plastic pollution. [Read more](#)

Standards and regulations on automated driving systems, artificial intelligence vehicle integration, etc. are being harmonized on an international level. [Read more](#)

At a time when electric energy is seen as the new trend in the fight against the impact of fossil fuels on global warming, the problem of how to manage this new type of waste arises. [Read more](#)

Batteries are the future, but also source of waste. Experts discuss relevant guidelines, focusing on lead-acid recycling and sustainable management. [Read more](#)

Millions of worn tires create a lot of waste. Experts discuss dangers of such waste and its sustainable management. [Read more](#)

Who determines whether or not a candidate pollutant requires a technical guideline? And how? [Read more](#)

Think of everything that needs standards. Have you thought of seed potatoes? [Read more](#)

Road traffic safety experts gather to update rules to reflect evolving ways and means of transportation. [Read More](#)

Communications and Digital ([jump to](#)).

Telecomms experts meet to discuss implications of future technologies on networks and communications. [Read more](#)

Key players on radio regulations and radiocommunications hold their first meeting of the year, and look into STARLINK in Iran. [Read more](#)

Broadcasting services from A to Z as experts hold a multitude of meetings on this very issue. [Read more](#)

Discover on what experts in space operations and astronomy are focused as they meet for a series of meetings. [Read more](#)

Key advisors meet to provide an overview of radiocommunications priorities and to establish a new radio communications strategy. [Read more](#)

Health ([jump to](#))

The pandemic negotiations are approaching its climax, or anti-climax. While misinformation is abundant, formal and informal negotiations continue aiming at the May deadline. [Read more](#)

From outsmarting polio to tackling COVID-19, and pioneering jabs for Hepatitis E and RSV—it's not just a meeting, it may be a medical marvel unfolding. [Read more](#)

Bridging gaps in pandemic preparedness, shaping a resilient response framework and ensuring everyone gets their fair share of medical countermeasure. [Read more](#)

From crafting cutting-edge guidelines for drug studies to ensuring crystal clear assignment of Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical codes and Defined Daily Dose system, they are the unsung heroes behind rational drug use and comprehensive statistics. [Read more](#)

A global push to defeat meningitis culminates in a meeting with interdisciplinary experts to fulfill this international mission. [Read more](#)

Pharmaceutical substances and safe prescriptions are put on the table as medical and health experts plan to meet to discuss non-proprietary names. [Read more](#)

Environment and Sustainability ([jump to](#))

World wildlife goes digital: connecting people and nature via raising awareness of the protection of the world's wildlife. [Read more](#)

Moving hazardous waste requires prior informed consent, and it is internationally governed. Session in March shape a dynamic roadmap leading to pivotal global meetings in 2024 and 2025. [Read more](#)

Find out what impact can the consequences of climate change have on land transport infrastructures. [Read more](#)

As 2030 approaches, reinforcing the 2030 agenda climbs up the agenda and Europe looks for policies to implement the Sustainable Development

Goals. [Read more](#)

Methane as part of the climate crisis gets a single out at a global forum.

[Read more](#)

Biodiversity in the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in October this year needs ideas. Relevant experts meet to discuss how trade solutions can accelerate progress and implementation. [Read more](#)

Social ([jump to](#)).

Living age defined! Ahead of a high-level meeting on labor standards and social justice, governments, employees, and employers agree on a definition of living wage. Senior officials also tackle labor by artificial intelligence, in conflicts and with expanded social protection coverage. [Read more](#)

A webinar series aims at revolutionizing road freight transport with zero-emission logistics, aligning with the European Union's ambition for climate neutrality by 2050. [Read more](#)

Intellectual property experts consider trademark and domain name system implications for the protection of country and geographical names, as well as impacts of design protection for graphical user interfaces. [Read more](#)

Science and Technology ([jump to](#)).

Patent experts talk patent classification, on semiconductor technology, cross-cutting technologies and impacts of artificial intelligence. [Read more](#)

In a continuation of series of insightful intellectual property stakeholder debates, artificial intelligence meets artists, copyright and regulators to consider challenges, remedies and guiding principles of generative artificial intelligence. [Read more](#)

Even ground breaking physics under ground needs some governing, as well as a consideration of an even larger particles accelerator under the Lake Geneva and the Alps. [Read more](#)

Youth and Sports ([jump to](#)).

The importance of data and statistics in decision-making, even regarding the next generations. Experts to advance data collection and protection of children. [Read more](#)

Humanitarian and Human Rights ([jump to](#)).

International experts meet to discuss and review the plight of persons with disabilities in countries across the world, especially Eastern European and Central Asian countries. [Read more](#)

Multilateral body discusses global conflicts that have caused an exponential rise in numbers of refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons globally. [Read more](#)

Questions? As you read the below, please do not hesitate to [contact one of the authors](#) for more information.

Economic

Coming out of its 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) in late February, the [World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#) re-engages in its regular work. The first one, February 12 to 15, is the [Committee on Technical Barrier to Trade \(TBT\)](#). The session will consider [specific trade concerns](#) raised and notified by WTO members. While the work of this body may seem technical, it has real life implications on international trade as it is the first catchment area of frictions that may grow into trade disputes. Or get resolved quickly by raising awareness to them.

The WTO holds its spring session of the [Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary \(SPS\) measures](#) on March 18 to 22. This session not only considers [specific trade concerns](#) raised or notified by WTO members, but also engages in its regular review, this time around a significant one due to its drive on transparency, actionability and effectiveness in resolving trade frictions early on.

The [World Customs Organization \(WCO\)](#) receives applications for its WCO [Private Sector Consultative Group](#) until March 22. The WCO keeps customs harmonized around the globe and fit for purpose, for example by updating the Harmonized System (HS) nomenclature, issuing customs-related rules and policy recommendations, as well as research. Its Private Sector Consultative Group has a mandate to provide advice on customs matters, as well as advocate for WCO programs with the WCO Chief Executive and its Policy Commission. Members serve for three-year terms (with the possibility of one consecutive reappointment) and have Observer status with the WCO for the duration of that term. Applications are available at [this link](#). The ultimate appointment aims at achieving diversity—size, geographical, sector.

Standards and Regulatory

Emerging regulatory approaches to managing plastic pollution are gaining momentum, particularly following the adoption of the [2022 Resolution by the United Nations Environment Assembly](#) (UNEA) that aims to forge an internationally binding agreement to end plastic pollution. On March 4, the [U.N. Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#) holds a [session](#) on emerging regulatory approaches. This initiative is part of a broader effort to integrate and mitigate plastic-related risks within the banking industry and beyond. In a related work, the [PlastChem project](#) has synthesized a comprehensive state-of-the-science report to

inform policy development that protects health and the environment from hazardous plastic chemicals and polymers. Furthermore, a new report by [GRID-Arendal](#), launched through the [Geneva Beat Plastic Pollution Dialogues](#), highlights the interconnections between plastics and the triple planetary crisis and urges global actions to stem climate change and halt plastic pollution. As negotiations are re-upped, there is an increased urgency for the Geneva community and international stakeholders to engage and ensure that upcoming policies are robust, holistic and implementable in order to be capable of addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by plastic pollution.

Beginning on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, committees under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe ([UNECE](#)) gathers to discuss the harmonization of vehicle regulations. Members of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations discuss possible regulatory developments for automated vehicles discussed in the legal framework of both the [1958](#) and [1998](#) Agreements. The World Forum also assesses a proposed amendment to the Framework Document annex, aligning with the decision taken in the November 2023 session to create an informal working group on Automated Driving Systems, alongside a document addressing artificial intelligence (AI) in relation to vehicle technical regulations. Moreover, approval is expected for the Working Parties on Noise and Tyres (GRBP), Automated/Autonomous and Connected Vehicles (GRVA), General Safety Provisions (GRSG) and Lighting and Light-Signaling (GRE). Additionally, the status of the updated [Agreement and of the annexed U.N. Regulations](#) is presented. As part of their discussion on harmonizing vehicles, the forum receives insights from a German specialist on the Database for the Exchange of Type Approval documentation (DETA). Lastly, members deliberate on draft amendments, including a Proposal for a new U.N. Regulation on Driver Control Assistance and the installation of lighting and light-signaling devices. The forum is scheduled to span three days.

A [Basel Convention](#) small intersessional working group ([SIWG](#)), co-led by Uruguay, China, the European Union (EU) and its member states, has been set up as a follow-up to the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties ([COP-16](#)) to establish technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of lead-acid battery waste for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group ([OEWG-14](#)) and to develop draft technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of non-lead-acid battery waste for consideration at [COP-17](#). The [first meeting](#) on the technical guidelines for used batteries takes place March 10 to 12. This meeting, co-organized by the secretariats of [Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions](#), is intended to submit the results for consideration by [the 14th meeting of the OEWG](#), which takes place June 25 to 28.

From March 10 to 12, a small intersessional working group focused on waste battery technical guidelines is hosting their [first meeting](#) in Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss guideline updates, focusing on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries and other waste batteries. The meeting is organized by the [Basel Convention](#), a treaty adopted in 1989 to manage hazardous and toxic wastes around the world. According to the convention, battery manufacturing waste is “the materials or objects rejected during the battery manufacturing process, which cannot be re-used as an integral part in the same process and need to be recycled.” With one of the highest recycling rates among commonly used materials, and the highest among metals, lead proves itself as a valuable recyclable resource. Currently, globally recycled lead from waste lead-acid batteries constitutes 57% of total annual lead production, with the demand for lead-acid batteries expected to keep rising. Considering the worth of lead, its recyclability and the demand stemming from lead-

acid battery production, waste lead-acid batteries emerge as a valuable commodity worldwide. Besides addressing the global management of lead-acid batteries, the group will also prioritize discussions on batteries such as lithium-ion, sodium-ion and nickel batteries.

Used tyres have several uses, but they are not biodegradable, take up a lot of physical space and are difficult to compact, collect and dispose of. The [Basel Convention](#) on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal classifies them as waste containing mainly organic constituents. The Secretariat of the Basel Convention, in association with a small intersessional working group (SIWG), [meets on March 13](#) to develop technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of tyre waste. The outcome of the meeting goes to [OEWG-14](#) in June for consideration and adoption.

The aim of [this event](#) is to prepare a draft analysis of the persistent organic pollutants recommended by the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Review Committee for listing in Annexes A, B and/or C of [the Stockholm Convention](#), in order to determine whether technical guidelines need to be updated. The results of the meeting will be submitted to [COP-17](#) to the Basel Convention for consideration. POPs are chemical substances that persist in the environment, accumulate in the food web and are likely to have adverse effects on human health and the environment. Under the Basel Convention, technical guidelines are drawn up for the environmentally sound management of wastes falling within its scope. [The technical guidelines](#) form the basis on which countries can operate at a level no less environmentally friendly than that required by [the Basel Convention](#). The Convention defines “environmentally sound management” of wastes subject to its control as taking all practicable measures to ensure that such wastes are managed in such a way as to protect human health and the environment against adverse effects which may result from such wastes.

The [Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes](#) meets March 26 to 28. The event is being hosted by the [UNECE](#). It features topics such as the revision of the standard for seed potatoes, sharing information on new emerging diseases, the impact of climate change on seed potato production, and more. Interested parties can register [here](#).

The [88th session](#) of the Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety meets March 18 to 22. The session addresses a variety of topics, including driving permits, automated vehicles and road signs and signals. The Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety’s primary function is to serve as guardian of the [United Nations legal instruments aimed at harmonizing traffic rules](#). Interested parties can register [here](#).

Communications and Digital



As artificial intelligence technologies continue to be top of mind for lawmakers around the world, the [International Telecommunication Union \(ITU\) Study Group 13 \(SG13\)](#), meets March 4 to 15 to focus on talks related to future networks and emerging technologies. With the group’s last meeting occurring in November 2023, the group approved a [framework](#) for classifying network slice levels in future networks, including IMT-2020. Looking ahead, this

group will build upon their previous efforts to establish recommendations that inform the technological regulations of all the ITU's member states.

Members of the [ITU](#) Radio Regulations Board ([RRB](#)) are meeting on March 4 to 8 to discuss a variety of issues related to radio communications. This meeting is the first of four meetings held throughout the year. In the first meeting of the year for the RRB, the Board will review submissions from member states regarding frequency assignments to specific satellite networks, and, more specifically, the provision of STARLINK satellite services in Iran.

Following the meetings of Working Parties 6A, 6B and 6C, the [ITU](#) Study Group 6 ([SG6](#)) convenes on March 15. Ahead of the meeting, the ITU released an article on [World Radio Day](#), which emphasized the importance of the role of radio as a communications medium. With countries such as the U.S. having a [bipartisan push](#) to require automakers to maintain AM broadcast radio in new vehicles, this meeting is imperative to informing lawmakers about the capabilities that broadcast radio provides across the world. Interested parties can [register](#) to attend the upcoming meeting.

On March 18, the [ITU](#) Study Group 7 ([SG7](#)) meets to discuss a variety of issues related to science services. More specifically, the group takes up issues arising in frequency standard emissions, radio astronomy, remote sensing systems and space radiocommunications applications. The group looks back to previous documents over the last four years, while also building on the work done by its working parties. In addition, the group selects Vice-Chairs of the Radiocommunications study groups, and reviews text from the Radiocommunication Assembly on radio quiet zones. Register [here](#).

On March 25 to 27, the [ITU](#) Radiocommunication Advisory Group ([RAG](#)) convenes to discuss the operation plan for the ITU's Radiocommunication sector. Specifically, the RAG is vital to reviewing the priorities and strategies, providing guidance for the work of the various Study Groups and subsidiary bodies and recommending measures to foster cooperation and coordination with other organizations and with the other ITU Sectors. Additionally, this group provides advice to the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau. Go [here](#) to register and find out more.

Health



The [WHO](#) negotiations on the pandemic prevention, preparedness and response enter the last mile ahead of the self-imposed May deadline. The negotiations consist of two workstreams—Pandemic instrument [Intergovernmental Negotiating Body \(INB\)](#), and the update of the [International Health Regulations \(IHR\)](#). Both of these workstreams continue contacts in the course of March, with the INB meeting formally on March 18 to 28, ahead of which the co-chairs issue an updated text on all areas of negotiations. Key players keep pushing for these negotiations to come to a successful outcome, the question is whether this is achieved via compromises on long-standing positions or via watering down the ambition of the final provisions. The March INB meeting focuses primarily on pathogen sharing and access and benefits sharing. The IHR is potentially watering down ambition by reverting to

existing text of 2005 in the absence of a new consensual text. Misinformation is abundant, for example a fake letter published as if by the EU and the U.S. negotiators.

The Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization holds a hybrid meeting at the WHO Headquarters March 11 to 14. The four-day agenda includes sessions on various topics such as global vaccination strategies, polio eradication, COVID-19 updates and new vaccine developments for diseases like Hepatitis E and RSV. The meeting aims to develop recommendations, review progress on initiatives like the 'Big Catch-Up' and discuss the latest in vaccine science and policy.

The WHO convenes regional entities for an in-person meeting on March 13 to 14 to enhance preparedness against pandemic threats by focusing on equitable access to medical countermeasures (MCM). This meeting focuses on reviewing a draft report, identifying emerging gaps and discussing key actions for an effective pandemic response. The expected outcomes include establishing communication channels among regions, contributing to the i-MCM-Net mapping report and providing input for a framework to ensure fair access to MCMs in future pandemics.

The 55th meeting of the WHO International Working Group for Drug Statistics Methodology meets March 14 to 15. This group, which meets twice annually in March and October, focuses on the global development and management of the Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) code and Defined Daily Dose (DDD) system. It provides expert advice on drug utilization and regulation, ensuring consistent and transparent assignment of ATC codes and DDDs. Their work includes developing guidelines for drug use studies and collaborating with international partners to promote rational drug use and comprehensive drug use statistics globally.

For the first time, a multilateral organization plans to host a high level meeting to defeat meningitis. As part of the global road map set out by the WHO in 2021, WHO is organizing a meeting with politicians, patients, Paralympic champions, and others to approach meningitis with an interdisciplinary approach. Meningitis is one of the foremost global public health concerns due to its debilitating, and even fatal, effects including lifelong disabilities, economic consequences and disastrous outbreaks. However, meningitis is preventable through vaccines—WHO's roadmap sees widespread vaccine dissemination, rapid diagnosis, disease surveillance, support for those affected and advocacy as strongholds in its fight against meningitis. One can expect a thorough discussion of potential solutions through a multitude of approaches.

With the entire healthcare system looking to pharmaceutical companies and substances, the WHO holds its 78th consultation on International Nonproprietary Names (INN) for Pharmaceutical Substances. Even more, INN stakeholders have the opportunity to express their requests or policy issues they wish to be discussed during the Consultation, with a particular emphasis on international and multilateral stakeholders. INN experts work extensively with the WHO to facilitate and identify pharmaceutical substances or active pharmaceutical ingredients in order to select a single name for active substances globally. The INN system is incredibly important for clear identification and safe prescription—to avoid confusion, names are placed in the public domain. One can expect a fruitful conversation on the rapid growth of pharmaceutical substances.

Following the United Nations event in New York as part of [World Wildlife Day 2024](#), on March 3, the [CITES Secretariat](#) and the [Geneva Environment Network](#) organize a celebration highlighting Geneva's role in advancing this issue, echoing the adoption in Washington of the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\) in 1973](#), which plays an important role in ensuring that international trade does not threaten the survival of species listed in the CITES Appendices. The celebrations aim to raise awareness of the latest applications of digital technologies in wildlife conservation and trade, and the impact of digital interventions on ecosystems and communities worldwide. The aim is to highlight how digital technologies and services can support wildlife conservation and human-wildlife coexistence, today and for future generations, in an increasingly connected world.

In a concerted effort to refine the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal under the Basel Convention, the small intersessional working group convened online for informal consultations meets on March 7 to 8, for the first time in person, to discuss a draft work plan, designed to guide the group's efforts leading up to the critical [14th meeting](#) of the OEWG in June and the [17th meeting](#) of the Conference of the Parties in April/May. This is a living process that will adapt to the evolving needs and developments related to the Basel Convention's PIC procedure.

Transport plays a crucial role not only for the economy of a country, but also for human well-being. Extreme weather events can damage and disrupt transport infrastructures in a variety of ways. [Initiatives to assess the impact of climate change and adapt inland transport](#) are the [focus](#) of this session organized by the [UNECE](#).

The [United Nations Economic Commission for Europe \(UNECE\)](#) hosts a [Regional Sustainability Forum](#) in Geneva March 13 to 14. The forum focuses on developing and implementing policies and solutions that aim at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The forum features a high-level policy segment evaluating the progress of the goals in Europe and a multi-stakeholder plenary session. Interested parties can register [here](#).

The [Global Methane Forum](#) takes place March 18 to 21, and focuses on promoting replicable methane mitigation successes and mobilize action to continue making progress toward addressing methane. It is hosted by the [Global Methane Initiative](#) and the [UNECE](#). The forum also hosts the 19th session of the UNECE Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane and Just Transition and the 11th session of the UNECE Group of Experts on Gas. Interested parties can register [here](#).

The 7th [BioTrade Congress](#) takes place on March 25 and 26, hosted by the [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development \(UNCTAD\)](#), and partners. The Conference is titled

“Global Governance for Trade and Biodiversity” and considers how trade can become an accelerator for implementing the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework \(The Biodiversity Plan\)](#). The aim of the Congress is to propose policy recommendations on how trade can accelerate implementation of The Biodiversity Plan. Specific [topics of discussion](#) at the Congress include mainstreaming biodiversity into trade discussions and processes, the Biodiversity Plan and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, case studies in equity and innovation, benefits of the blue economy, and the future of BioTrade. This Congress is part of further activities planned ahead of the [COP-16](#) to the Convention on Biodiversity in Colombia in October 2024.

Science and Technology

The [55th session of WIPO’s International Patent Classification \(IPC\) Union Committee of Experts](#) takes place from March 11 to 13. [Topics on the agenda](#) for discussion include a report of the Expert Group on Semiconductor Technology and a discussion on the need for a new type of universal indexing/tagging scheme covering cross-cutting technologies. The Committee also considers AI based IPC reclassification.

The 9th session of [WIPO Conversation on Intellectual Property and Frontier Technologies](#) takes place on March 13 and 14. The first day of the conference includes [panels](#) on bringing together diverse perspectives on the intersection of AI and artistic creation, training data containing copyright-protected works and the use of litigation as a remedy in a world where text and data mining and generative AI are increasingly common. Day 1 also includes a fireside chat on the Neuroscience of Learning, a presentation on training data and a presentation on fair compensation for creatives. Panels on day 2 of the conference focus on the regulatory landscape and new copyright approaches for the AI age. The second day also includes presentations on contractual frameworks, large language models and WIPO’s Generative AI guiding principles.

[CERN](#) is the Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire, or the European Council for Nuclear Research. CERN is dedicated to performing world-class research in fundamental physics and developing a range of particle accelerator facilities. The institution [reviews](#) a particle collider that could potentially succeed the High-Luminosity Large Hadron Collider (LHC) in the mid-2040s. The CERN Council is the highest authority of the CERN and the body and meets in March together with several topic-focused committees, such as the Scientific Policy or the Finance. The full 2024 schedule available [here](#).

Social

In a rare success ahead of a high-level meeting, the [International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](#) tripartite—governments, employees, employers—agree on a definition of “living wage,” establishing principles for the estimation of a living wage in a country or region and for its operationalization in wage setting processes. The definition is aligned with the European Union’s legal framework. The high-level meeting itself, the [ILO Governing Body](#), meets March 4 to 14, adopts this definition, as well as looks into an employment landscape increasingly shaped by AI, conflicts and expanded social coverage. However, the key long-

term project of the organization's leadership is the [Global Coalition for Social Justice](#). This ILO Governing Body continues to shape and define this initiative.

The [International Road Transport Union \(IRU\)](#) is an essential global player in the arena of road transportation. It exists as an influential organization that spearheads initiatives to develop sustainable and efficient road transport services which is crucial for economic development and international trade. The IRU is [in collaboration with POLIS](#), a network of European cities and regions working together to develop innovative technologies and policies for local transport. Together, they are hosting a webinar series focusing on the decarbonization of road freight transport. This initiative connects long-haul and last-mile operations, highlighting the importance of maintaining efficient goods transport in peri-urban areas while aiming to improve living standards across Europe. In their mission to support the [EU's roadmap towards climate neutrality by 2050](#), the IRU and POLIS bring together a diverse group of stakeholders, including industry leaders, cities and entities involved in EU-funded projects. The webinar series serves as a platform for sharing solutions and advancements in zero-emission freight and discussing the integration of physical and digital equipment for heavy-duty vehicles. By offering a forum for presenting real-world pilot results from projects like [NextETRUCK](#) and [H2Haul](#), the IRU demonstrates its commitment to leading the transition towards zero-emission logistics in urban environments.

The 47th Session of the [World Intellectual Property Organization \(WIPO\) Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications](#) takes place from March 18 to 20. [Items of discussion](#) regarding Industrial Designs include a joint Recommendation Concerning Industrial Design Protection for Designs for Graphical User Interfaces as well as a proposal for a Study on the Impact of Design Protection for Graphical User Interface Designs on Innovation. The main topic of discussion around trademarks is the proposed guidelines concerning the protection of country names and geographical names in trademarks and the Domain Name System. There are two information sessions during the meeting; one on [nation brands](#), and one on [geographical indications](#).

Youth and Sports



On March 4 to 6, the [UNECE](#) and the [United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund \(UNICEF\)](#) Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia holds a joint meeting to discuss recent statistics on children. The first two days of the meeting focus on collecting innovative approaches to data collection, housing statistics, enhancing data coherence and comparability regarding children with disabilities, improving data on children in alternative care and addressing violence against children. On the last day, members transition to discussing the [TransMonEE network](#), a partnership aimed at strengthening the "coverage, quality, disaggregation, accessibility and use of data on children," particularly in [Europe and Central Asia](#). The network is a three-decade-old partnership among national statistics offices (NSOs) and this gathering serves as their annual TransMonEE network meeting.


Humanitarian & Human Rights



On March 4 to 22, the international community convenes to [review the actions and reports of various states](#), including Azerbaijan, Bahrain and Kazakhstan, on their actions regarding

persons with disabilities. [The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#), a prominent part of the [Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\)](#), is the body of independent experts that ensure the thorough implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities worldwide. [The upcoming session considers reporting by the states in question](#) through state party reports, information from civil society organizations, insight by national human rights institutions, and more.

One of the most important multilateral bodies today, the [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees \(UNHCR\)](#), [meets](#) on March 13 to 15 to discuss the progress of the UNHCR global programs, regional updates, and more. The role of the UNHCR is to discuss the plight of refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons across the world, as well as to develop multilateral and national policies to combat the root causes of forced displacement. In particular, the meeting plans to discuss displaced groups due to conflicts in Syria, Sudan, Türkiye, Palestine, Ukraine, Myanmar, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, Burundi, Mozambique, and more. The UNHCR also looks to discuss the current status of funding and international protection.



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