



Secretariat

IC/Geneva/2007/13
10 April 2007

INFORMATION CIRCULAR

Subject: Smoking at the United Nations Office at Geneva

1. The United Nations Office at Geneva, by virtue of the responsibility it bears to provide staff members, delegates and visitors with a healthy work environment, has set out the principle that smoking is banned in the Palais des Nations and its annexes.
2. Henceforth, smoking will only be tolerated in a clearly marked area of the Delegates' restaurant (8th floor), representing 20 per cent of the area. This tolerance may be reconsidered if necessary during special events, such as major conferences.
3. I wish to remind the staff that this ban applies in all offices, conference rooms, corridors, lifts and toilets in the Palais des Nations and its annexes. Ashtrays are placed at the entrances to the buildings so that smokers can extinguish their cigarettes before entering the premises.
4. I am counting on the cooperation of smokers to respect the health, the rights and the welfare of their colleagues, bearing in mind that passive smoking can cause cancer as well as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. I also rely on Chiefs of services to ensure that their staff can work in a healthy environment without being exposed to tobacco smoke.
5. Smokers who wish to receive professional help in order to stop smoking may contact the Medical Services Section (extension 72520) where they may be offered counselling and special treatments. Please note that the treatments designed to eliminate dependence on tobacco are covered by the United Nations Staff Insurance Society against Sickness and Accident.
6. This circular cancels and replaces all the circulars which were previously issued on the subject.

(Signed) Aminata Djermakoye
Director
Division of Administration