



## ANTICIPATING TECHNOLOGIES – FOR A SAFE AND HUMANE FUTURE

Geneva, 7 – 8 May 2026

The conference, organised by the Swiss OSCE Chairpersonship in Geneva from 7–8 May 2026, brought together over 200 participants from 50 OSCE participating States and 3 Partners for Co-operation, alongside a wide range of representatives from international organisations, academia, the private sector and civil society.

The conference began with a high-level segment opened by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis. He emphasised that technologies like AI and quantum computing increasingly shape geopolitics and security and that anticipation has therefore become a political necessity to avoid strategic gaps between innovation and regulation. Welcome remarks were delivered by the OSCE Secretary General, Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu and the Director for Stakeholder Relations at CERN, Ursula Bassler. The conference featured two keynote speeches, one by Khaled El-Enany, the Director-General of UNESCO, and one by Jürg Lauber, the Vice-President of the ICRC. The opening segment was followed by panel discussions involving practitioners, experts and policymakers.

The four panel sessions focused on anticipating technologies and their implications for peace and security with the examples of quantum computing, anticipating water and energy security in the digital age, artificial intelligence and conflict prevention, and anticipating technology in practice – for a safe and humane future, respectively.

State Secretary Alexandre Fasel provided closing remarks together with Melita Župevc, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia and Chair of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Committee, who summarised key findings. In cooperation with the Canton and City of Geneva, an official reception was organised at the Clos du Château vineyard. A guided tour of CERN and a visit to the ICRC Museum offered attendees the opportunity to experience the full thematic breadth of international Geneva. On the margins of the conference, Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis presented the Swiss OSCE Chairpersonship to students from Geneva.



**DIALOGUE  
TRUST  
SECURITY**

## Purpose and context

Technological progress is reshaping the foundations of our security at an unprecedented pace. From artificial intelligence to quantum technologies, new capabilities can strengthen resilience and prosperity – but they can also amplify risks. At a time of growing geopolitical tensions, ensuring that technological change contributes to stability rather than insecurity is a shared responsibility.

This conference is a first of its kind. Switzerland has long advocated for an approach that combines anticipation with action. Under Swiss leadership, the United Nations Security Council recognised for the first time in 2024 the link between scientific developments and international peace and security. For its 2026 Chairpersonship of the OSCE, Switzerland made anticipating technologies a priority, recognising that trust and transparency in this domain are essential for cooperative security.

The objective of this conference was to discuss how in a rapidly evolving technological landscape, strengthening anticipation and dialogue, reducing misunderstandings and building common approaches are indispensable to build confidence and lay the foundations for security — in the spirit of **dialogue, trust, security** — thereby safeguarding peace and cooperation.

The event took place in Geneva, a global hub where science, diplomacy and multilateral cooperation converge, and home to organizations such as GESDA (the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator) - leader in anticipatory science-diplomacy.

## Content

The opening high-level segment highlighted that in an era of rapid technological shift, anticipation is a cornerstone of security. Opening the session, Federal Councilor Ignazio Cassis put it plainly: "Technology will not wait for us. Geopolitics will not slow down. If we want to remain relevant, we must anticipate — not react." He was joined by Secretary General Sinirlioğlu and representatives from CERN and UNESCO, who collectively advocated for a reinvigorated multilateral dialogue to manage the risks and opportunities of emerging technologies. The speakers emphasized that multilateralism is vital to ensuring a safe and humane future.

In-depth sessions focused on four themes:

### **Anticipating technology - with a quantum focus**

The session explored how the accelerating pace of technological change is reshaping global politics, emphasizing that proactive anticipation is no longer optional. Experts highlighted that the unique ecosystem of International Geneva serves as a laboratory for science diplomacy, where institutions like CERN and GESDA foster the

framework necessary for effective multilateral cooperation. Using the Open Quantum Institute (OQI) as a case study, a multilateral initiative promoting global and inclusive access to quantum computing, the discussion illustrated how a multistakeholder approach can develop governance frameworks to breakthrough technologies before they become sources of geopolitical conflict. The session concluded that for the OSCE, integrating scientific foresight into diplomatic frameworks is essential to mitigate technology-related risks while ensuring technological advancements benefit all.

### **The importance of water and energy for security**

The panel concluded that water and energy security have evolved from development issues into interconnected security drivers, as resource scarcity and rising demand reshape risks to peace and security across the OSCE region. It was suggested that technological innovations could provide the transparent, data-driven evidence needed to bridge political divides and manage trade-offs in a cooperative, consensus-oriented way. A concrete example presented was the use of machine learning to map the depth of groundwater. By integrating these tools along the OSCE commitments, the organisation can strengthen its role as a platform for dialogue and trust across regions and sectors.

### **AI and its potential for conflict prevention**

This panel addressed the practical application of AI within the OSCE's preventive diplomacy mandate, focusing on early-warning mechanisms and conflict analysis. The Peace Navigator, an AI-powered platform that delivers decision-grade intelligence for designing, adapting and monitoring peace strategies, was presented. Experts argued that while AI can process vast security data, its use must remain transparent and strictly aligned with human rights standards. The session established that for AI to support the OSCE security architecture, its deployment must be grounded in legal norms rather than technological speed alone, as it cannot replace the human responsibility of safeguarding peace.

### **Voices from the field and practical examples**

The final session bridged the gap between foresight and operationality, underscoring that anticipating technologies must be a fundamental pillar of today's security approaches. By showcasing practical applications, such as a digital nose to detect landmines, the discussion highlighted how emerging technologies can assist international actors in moving from a reactive to a proactive stance. However, technological tools alone are insufficient; they must be anchored in continuous dialogue across multistakeholder networks. Ultimately, fostering trust through solid evidence, as well as multilateral cooperation remains essential for the OSCE to navigate risks and ensure a safe and humane future.

# Recommendations

## To OSCE participating States

1. Develop national capacities for strategic foresight and anticipation on emerging technologies such as AI and quantum computing.
2. Strengthen dialogue and cooperation between governments, science, business and civil society to build trust and reduce misunderstandings.
3. Use multilateral platforms — including the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator and the Open Quantum Institute — to coordinate responses and share best practices internationally.
4. Ensure that technological development and deployment fully respect international law, human rights and transparency principles.
5. Build a coherent OSCE approach on emerging technologies, including their impact on security, energy and critical infrastructure.

## To the OSCE executive structures

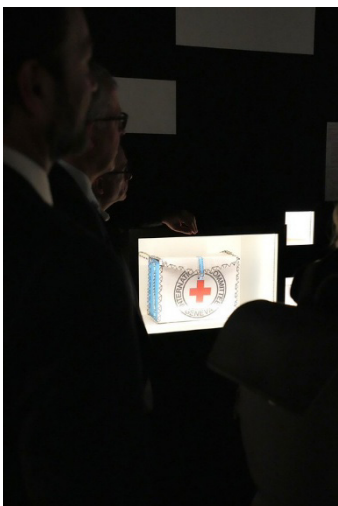
1. Integrate strategic foresight and scientific expertise more systematically into OSCE early warning and conflict prevention activities.
2. Use the OSCE's convening role to strengthen confidence-building and dialogue on emerging technologies and security risks.
3. Bring together policymakers, scientists, companies and civil society to develop shared approaches on technological change.
4. Deepen cooperation with International Geneva and its science diplomacy ecosystem to strengthen expertise and anticipation capacities.
5. Develop dedicated OSCE capacities on emerging technologies, including digital innovation, data analysis and strategic foresight across all three dimensions.



Panel discussions



Family picture



Guided tour of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum.