CELEBRATING
THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

THE ‘REBIRTH’
The sculpture of ‘rebirth’ in the Ariana Park at the Palais des Nations, Geneva.
In 2015 the world will celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations. The creation of the United Nations and the adoption of its Charter were major achievements at a time of war and upheaval, and the Organization has worked tirelessly to fulfill the promises of the Charter, with many remarkable successes. Still, seventy years later, mankind continues to struggle with conflicts, hunger, illnesses and other development-related challenges in a fast-changing and globalized world.

The United Nations is committed to address these challenges in more effective ways and adapt to these changes by modernizing its policies and practices while staying true to its ideas and principles. Hence the idea of using the symbol of ‘rebirth’ to convey the intention of the United Nations to embrace this new path for diplomacy to undertake a renaissance and symbolically commit to a new start.

A ‘SYMBOL’ FOR THE UN’S 70TH ANNIVERSARY: A NEW START

The ‘Rebirth Symbol’ embodies the purpose and mission of the UN: finding balance between diverging ideas, creating a new world of harmony through a dialogue of opposites, bringing diversity together, providing inspiration for alternative ways of governance and politics, and promoting inclusive and sustainable development.

The symbol, developed by Italian artist Michelangelo Pistoletto, represents the ‘rebirth’ of society—a new world, where the ‘human community’ is united, dialogue between opposites is fostered, and balance and harmony is achieved.

It stems from a reconfiguration of the mathematical infinity sign. This time three circles are drawn; the two opposite circles represent the world of nature and the world of technology, developed by humans through a process that has now reached global proportions; the middle circle is the conjunction of the two and represents the generative womb of a new world, the ‘third paradise’, the ‘rebirth’. This new world is the ideal place where technology and nature meet in harmony, and it is reached through the efforts of humans working together to bridge differences, find sustainable development, promote peace and create dialogue.
THE SCULPTURE

The sculpture of ‘rebirth’ will be placed in the Ariana Park at the Palais des Nations. It will be a reminder to staff, delegates and visitors of the need to ‘meet in the middle’, to bridge distances and find harmony.

As a symbol of a new start, the sculpture ‘Rebirth’ is also linked to the Strategic Heritage Plan for the renovation of the Palais. The sculture will mark an important and symbolic step in the ‘rebirth’ of the Palais, and of what it represents for diplomacy, world peace and development.

The sculpture will be inaugurated on 24 October 2015, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the UN. This has a very strong symbolic meaning, indicating the readiness of the UN to renew itself, both ‘physically’ through a restored Palais and ‘intellectually’ through new ideas, renewed enthusiasm and reinforced commitment.

The ribbon of gravel on which the 193 stones are laid absorbs light by day and glows by night
ONE COUNTRY... ONE ‘STONE’... ONE WORLD

The sculpture will represent all UN Members States united in the rebirth symbol. The stones will be left rough and be of a size between 30-50 centimetres of height, length and width. As one stone from each country will be included in a sculpture, the name of the country will be engraved on the stone.

HOW TO TAKE PART

The sculpture will be donated by Michelangelo Pistoletto, a renowned contemporary Italian artist, through the good offices of the Government of Italy. All Member States will have the opportunity to become sponsors. Sponsors from the private sector to cover the cost of the sculpture (stones, transport) will also be sought. A group of Ambassadors from the five UN regions will be identified as “champions” of the sculpture to promote its visibility and message.

TIMELINE

Fall 2014: Identification of project “champions”
1-2 Ambassadors per region
Fall 2014: Meeting with All Ambassadors to present the project
Spring – Summer 2015: Promotion of the project, selection and transport of stones
Summer 2015: Assembling of sculpture
24 October 2015: Inauguration

THE ORGANIZERS

The project is an initiative of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations in Geneva. It is organized by Cittadellarte-Fondazione Pistoletto (Biella, Italy) and Art for the World (Geneva, Switzerland).

THE EVENT

The sculpture will be inaugurated during a ceremony in Geneva on 24 October 2015, with the participation of representatives of all UN Member States and of civil society. Representatives of youth, the new generation, will also be invited from all UN countries as “ambassadors” of “rebirth” and new beginnings.

The inauguration of the ‘Rebirth’ sculpture will be accompanied by a series of art events and performances, as well as talks on the themes of rebirth and infinity.
THE COUNTRIES

The following countries are members of the United Nations:

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Andorra
Angola
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Belize
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Brunei
Djibouti
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Estonia
Ethiopia
Fiji
Finland
France
Gabon
Gambia
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Grenada
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kiribati
Republic of Korea
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People’s Democratic Republic
Latvia
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Micronesia (Federated States of)
Republic of Moldova
Monaco
Mongolia
Montenegro
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nauru
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Palau
Panama
Papua
New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Romania
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Samoa
San Marino
São Tomé and Príncipe
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovakia
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Tajikistan
Thailand
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Timor-Leste
Togo
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Tuvalu
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Venezuela
(Bolivarian Republic of)
Vietnam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

THE PARTNERS

Partners in the event are:
Michelangelo Pistoletto, is an icon of Italian art and culture and acknowledged as one of the main representatives of the Italian Arte Povera. Since the 1950s, he has exhibited extensively and his work is owned by numerous museums and institutions worldwide including: the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C.; the Tate Modern, London; and the Reina Sofia Museum, Madrid. Important exhibitions of his work have been organized around the world and his work has been included in major international exhibitions including the Venice Biennale on eleven separate occasions and at the Louvre in Paris in 2013. Michelangelo lives and works in Biella, Italy where he founded the interdisciplinary laboratory Cittadellarte. He has been awarded numerous international art prizes and honours, including the prestigious Imperial Prize (Praemium Imperiale) of the Japan Art Association. Maestro Pistoletto is also a champion of sustainability, as he is committed to societal change through the use of art.

Cittadellarte - Fondazione Pistoletto, a non-profit organization of the arts, was established in 1998 as a concrete action developing the Progetto Arte Manifesto, where the artist Michelangelo Pistoletto proposed a new role for the artist: that of placing art in direct interaction with all the areas of human activity which form society. The name Cittadellarte incorporates two meanings: that of the citadel, or rather an area where art is protected and well-defended, and that of the city, which corresponds to the idea of openness and the inter-relational complexities in the world. Cittadellarte is a great laboratory, a generator of creative energy that generates unedited processes of development in diverse fields of culture, production, economics and politics. The activities of Cittadellarte pursue a basic objective: to operationally take artistic interventions into every sector of civil society in order to contribute responsibly to addressing the profound changes of our age.

ART for The World, is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information, and was founded in Geneva in 1996. Its mission is to create a meaningful and lasting dialogue between peoples, cultures and worldviews through the universal language of art and cinema. It also aims to foster education and art as universal values. The most recent ART for The World projects are “Here Africa, Contemporary Africa through the Eyes of its Artists” and the ongoing large international traveling show “Food, Reflections on Mother Earth, Agriculture and Nutrition” in Geneva at Musée Ariana, Geneva (2012-2013), at SESC Pinheiros, Sao Paulo (Feb. - May, 2014) and at the MuCEM, Marseille (Oct. 2014 - Feb. 2015).