



**Club Diplomatique de Genève**

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Fondation pour Genève

# ACTIVITY REPORT

2018

Presented to the General Assembly on 24 June 2019

at the Domaine du Château de Collex



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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Members,

As a unique hub for ideas and experiences, International Geneva is the world's leading center in terms of concentration of international actors and meetings. The Diplomatic Club embodies this image.

Recognized as the official Club of International Geneva by the Swiss Confederation, the Republic and Canton of Geneva, the City of Geneva and the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Diplomatic Club is cherished by decision-makers and opinion leaders who meet there to exchange ideas and discuss current issues, all while developing synergies between their respective institutions and cultivating a rich and exclusive network of relationships.

Thanks to the invaluable support of the Fondation pour Genève, the Diplomatic Club of Geneva offers every year to its members more than twenty high-level events. These include round-table discussions, conferences, receptions and excursions, which all participate in bringing to the fore the countless riches of International Geneva. More than ever, the Diplomatic Club is confirming its dynamism with over 750 members and the willingness to offer a program which addresses the key themes of International Geneva such as humanitarian action, human rights, global health issues and sustainable development.

I am grateful to all those who work day after day to organize and ensure the quality of our events and meetings, especially to the operational team under the leadership of our Secretary General, Alizée Ehrnrooth, who took over from Gregory Licker on 1 January 2019. My gratitude goes to Gregory who has made a significant contribution to the revitalization of our Club since 2016, and our best wishes go with him in his new task as Director of the Fondation pour Genève.

The Diplomatic Club of Geneva obviously has a special link with the United Nations Office at Geneva. Its Director General Michael Møller is leaving his position shortly and I believe I can speak for all our members and thank him warmly for his exceptional contribution to strengthening the cohesion of the great "International Geneva" family and its influence in the world.

I thank you for your loyalty and I look forward to counting on your commitment and enthusiasm to sustain the dynamic development that our Club is experiencing today.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Loretan', written in a cursive style.

Raymond Loretan  
Former Ambassador of Switzerland

## ACTIVITIES 2018

## 20 EVENTS

**30 January 2018** Major Events (FR/ENG)

Diplomatic New Year Reception at the Restaurant Cercle du Rhône of the FER Genève, in presence of the Swiss and Geneva authorities.

*With the support of the FER Genève and the Swiss Confederation*

Participants: 180 members

**13 February 2018** Debate Series (ENG)

Luncheon-debate with Mr. David Harland, Executive Director of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, on the topic “Private Diplomacy: The Mediation of Armed Conflict by Private Actors”, at the Cercle de la Terrasse.

Participants: 45 members

**26 February 2018** Debate Series (FR/ENG)

Round-table at Procter & Gamble Business Center on the topic “European Union: Free Movement of Persons in Danger?”, with H.E. Ambassador Michael Matthiessen, Ambassador of the EU to Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein, Ambassador Henri Gétaz, former Director of the Directorate for European Affairs at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. François Longchamp, President of the Geneva Council of State.

*In partnership with Procter & Gamble*

Participants: 80 members

**27 February 2018** Debate Series (FR)

Exclusive dialogue with H.E. Mr. Sidiki Kaba, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Senegal, on the topic “Maintien de la paix et consolidation de la justice pénale internationale : Un regard africain”, at the Cercle de la Terrasse.

Participants: 70 members

**9 March 2018** Major Events (FR)

Public Lecture by Mr. Alain Berset, President of the Swiss Confederation, on the topic “La démocratie à l’épreuve du fake”, followed by a debate with Mr. Jean-Marc Ayrault, former Prime Minister and former Minister of Foreign Affairs (France), and Prof. Sandro Cattacin of the University of Geneva.

*In partnership with the University of Geneva and the Swiss Forum on Foreign Policy*

Participants: 160 members



### 17 March 2018 Debate Series (FR/ENG)

As part of the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH), screening of the film “War and Games” of the Director Karin Jurschick (Germany, 2016) followed by a debate on the topic “From Solferino to killer robots: the disarmament race”, at the Pitoëff Theater.

*In partnership with the FIFDH*

Participants: 45 members



### 16 April 2018 Major Events (FR/ENG)

Public conference with Mr. Jigmi Y. Thinley, former Prime Minister of Bhutan, and Mr. Pierre Rabhi, French writer and environmentalist, on the topic “Gross National Happiness: utopia or reality?”, at Uni Dufour.

*In partnership with the University of Geneva and the Société des membres de la Légion d’honneur, Section suisse*

Participants: 160 members



### 25 April 2018 Debate Series (ENG)

Luncheon-debate with Mr. Patrick Nolan, Vice-President and Editor-in-Chief of Penguin Books, on the topic “Trump’s America: A Publisher’s Perspective”, followed by an optional tour of the Geneva Book Fair, at Palexpo.

*With the support of Palexpo*

Participants: 45 members



### 1 May 2018 Debate Series (ENG)

Exclusive dialogue with Mr. Peter Maurer, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, on the topic “Humanitarian Challenges in a Fractured and Digitalized World”, at the Cercle de la Terrasse.

Participants: 100 members



### 22 May 2018 Debate Series (ENG)

Public Conference with Mr. Rossen Plevneliev, President of the Republic of Bulgaria (2012-2017), and Ms. Ulrike Lunacek, former Vice-President of the European Parliament, on the topic “Two-speed Europe: A New East-West Divide?”, at the Maison de la Paix.

*In partnership with the Graduate Institute*

Participants: 80 members



### 11 June 2018 Major Events (ENG)

Dialogue with Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNPD), on the topic “The Future of Global Development”, at the Maison de la Paix.

*In partnership with the Graduate Institute*

Participants: 45 members



### 12 June 2018 Debate Series (FR)

Luncheon-debate with Ms. Elisabeth Decrey Warner, Founder and Honorary President of Geneva Call, on the topic “How to negotiate with armed Non-state actors? Geneva Call, a unique experience”, at the Cercle de la Terrasse.

Participants: 40 members



### 27 June 2018 Major Events (FR/ENG)

General Assembly followed by a Special Evening “Discovering the Geneva’s terroir” with Mr. Pierre Maudet, President of the Geneva State Council, and Mr. John Schmalz, President of the Office de promotion des produits agricoles de Genève (OPAGE). Presentation and wine tasting with Ms. Simone de Montmollin, Director of the Union suisse des œnologues.

*With the support of the City of Geneva and the OPAGE*

Participants: 110 members



### 17 September 2018 Debate Series (ENG)

Breakfast-debate on the topic “Philanthropy & Global Health: Opportunities for Sustainable Impact” with Prof. Antoine Geissbuhler, Vice-Dean of the University of Geneva, Mr. Firoz Ladak, CEO of Fondations Edmond de Rothschild, et Dr. Pierre Quinodoz, Chairman of 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Initiative, at the Biotech Campus.

*In partnership with the University of Geneva*

Participants: 40 members



### 17 September 2018 Debate Series (FR)

Round-table on the topic “L’actualité internationale décryptée par les correspondants de la RTS à l’étranger », at the RTS Tower.

*With the support of the SRT Genève and the Radio Télévision Suisse*

Participants: 60 members (+ 60 participants SRT)





### 23 October 2018 Excursions and Discoveries (FR/ENG)

Visit of the Federal Palace in Bern followed by a debate on the topic “The Features of the Swiss Political System” with Mr. Dominique de Buman, President of the National Council, and a reception at the Galerie des Alpes.

Participants: 50 members



### 8 November 2018 Major Events (FR)

Public Conference with Mr. Ignazio Cassis, Federal Councillor, Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, on the topic “A sovereign and committed Switzerland: the impossible equation?”, followed by a private reception at Uni Mail.

*In partnership with the University of Geneva*

Participants: 100 members



### 9 November 2018 Major Events (FR)

Invitation to the Prize-Giving Ceremony of the 18<sup>th</sup> Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève, at the Théâtre du Léman, in presence of Mr. Pierre Maudet, State Councillor, Republic and canton of Geneva, and Mr. Sami Kanaan, Mayor of Geneva.

Participants: 60 members



### 21 November 2018 Major Events (ENG)

Exclusive dialogue with Prof. Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, on the topic “The Role of the World Economic Forum in Global Affairs”, at Cologny.

Participants: 100 members



### 22 November 2018 Debate Series (ENG)

Exclusive dialogue with Mr. Guy Ryder, Director General of the International Labour Organization, on the topic “The future of work that we want – the ILO on the eve of its Centenary”, at the Cercle de la Terrasse.

Participants: 60 members



ACTIVITIES 2019 (1<sup>st</sup> Semester)

15 EVENTS

**29 January 2019** Major Events (ENG)

Public Conference with Mr. Pierre Krähenbühl, Commissioner General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), at the Maison de la Paix.

*In partnership with the Graduate Institute*

Participants: 60 members

**31 January 2019** Major Events (FR/ENG)

Diplomatic New Year Reception with the Swiss and Geneva authorities, at the Restaurant Cercle du Rhône of the FER Genève.

*With the support of the FER Genève and the Swiss Confederation*

Participants: 200 members

**8 February 2019** Debate Series (ENG)

Luncheon-debate with Dr. Khalid Koser, Executive Director of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), on the topic "Preventing Violent Extremism: What Works and What Doesn't", at the Cercle de la Terrasse.

Participants: 45 members

**13 February 2019** Major Events (FR/ENG)

Support to the Martin Ennals Awards Ceremony for Human Rights Defenders, at the salle communale de Plainpalais.

*Event organized by the Martin Ennals Foundation and the City of Geneva*

Participants: 30 members

**25 February 2019** Major Events (ENG)

Speech by Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Geneva Association of United Nations Correspondents (ACANU), followed by a debate on the topic "Press Freedom and Journalists Under Attack", at the Maison de la Paix.

*In partnership with ACANU and the Graduate Institute*

Participants: 120 members



#### 14 March 2019 Debate Series (FR/ENG)

As part of the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH), screening of the film “When the War Comes” of the Director Jan Gebert followed by a debate on the topic “For the People, Against Populism”, at the Theater Pitoëff.

*In partnership with the FIFDH*

Participants: 35 members



#### 25 March 2019 Major Events (FR/ENG)

Special presentation by Ms. Hélène Carrère d’Encausse, Historian and Permanent Secretary of the French Academy, on the topic “The former USSR forty years after the publication of her book: Decline of an Empire”, at the Room XX of the Palais des Nations.

*In partnership with the UNOG and the Société des membres de la Légion d’honneur, Section suisse*

Participants: 130 members



#### 1 April 2019 Debate Series (FR)

Screening of the film « Docteur Junod – Le Troisième Combattant » of the Director Romain Guélat followed by a debate on the topic “Humanitarian Yesterday – Today – Tomorrow”, at the Humanitarium.

*In partnership with the ICRC*

Participants: 50 members



#### 2 May 2019 Debate Series (FR)

As part of the Geneva Book Fair, discussion with Mr. Boualem Sansal, Algerian writer, on the topic “Quelle Algérie demain?”, moderated by Ms. Malika Nedir, journalist RTS, at Palexpo.

*In partnership with the Institute of Arab and Mediterranean Cultures (ICAM)*

Participants: 30 members (+ 30 participants ICAM)



#### 20 May 2019 Debate Series (ENG)

Breakfast-debate on the topic “From campus to camp – Higher education in emergencies” with Prof. Barbara Moser-Mercer, Director of InZone, and Dr. Djemila Carron, Senior Lecturer at InZone, at the Humanitarium.

*In partnership with the University of Geneva and with the support of the ICRC*

Participants: 45 members



### 25 May 2019 Excursions and discoveries (ENG)

Visit of the Iris Garden, presentation of the Project *Owl For Peace* and luncheon-debate on the topic “Ecology and Reconciliation in the Middle East” with the Israeli et Jordanian Generals present at the 1994 Peace Treaty, at the Vullierens Castle.

*In partnership with the University of Lausanne and the Vullierens Castle*

Participants: 45 members



### 6 June 2019 Debate Series (FR)

Exclusive dialogue with Mr. Jean Claude Gandur, Geneva Patron and Founder of the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art, on the topic “Collectionneur d'archéologie, un défi permanent dans un contexte international désorganisé”, at the Cercle de la Terrasse.

Participants: 70 members



### 20 June 2019 Debate Series (FR)

Screening of the documentary “Ambassade” (Daniel Wyss, 2019) followed by a debate on the topic “Swiss Diplomacy: a tradition of good offices and protective power” and a reception in honor of the Ambassador Erik Lang, at the Radio Télévision Suisse Tower.

*With the support of the Swiss Confederation and the Radio Télévision Suisse*

Participants: 100 members



### 21 June 2019 Debate Series (ENG)

Luncheon-debate with Her Excellency Hilda Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, on the topic “From the Pacific Ocean to the Alps: bringing the Marshall Islands perspective to the Genève internationale”, at the Restaurant the Maison de la Paix.

Participants: 45 members



### 24 June 2019 Major Events (FR/ENG)

General Assembly followed by an evening in honor of Mr. Michael Møller, Director General of the UNOG, at the Domaine du Château de Collex.

*With the support of the Swiss Confederation, the State of Geneva, the City of Geneva and the Fondation pour Genève*

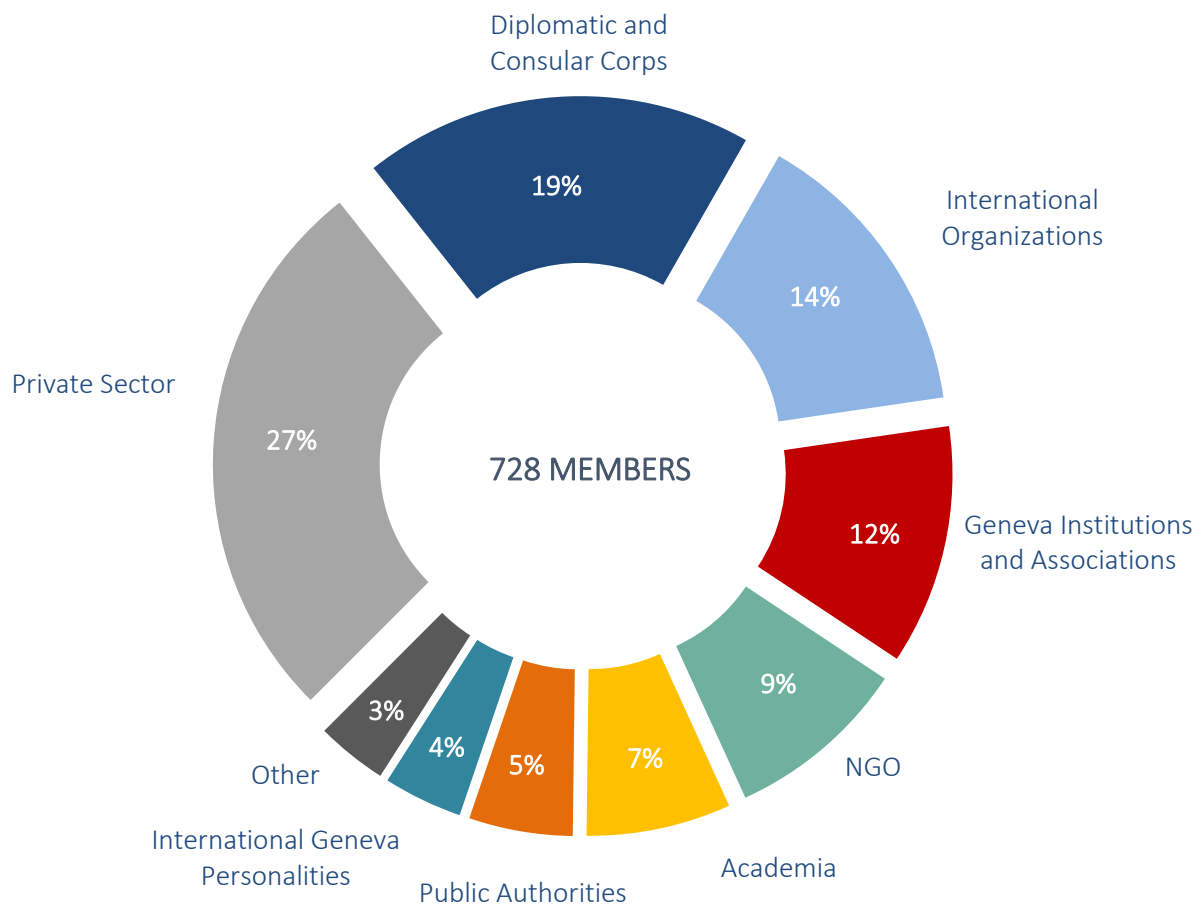
Participants: 230 members

## THE DIPLOMATIC CLUB IN NUMBERS

### a) Members of the Diplomatic Club

The mission of the Diplomatic Club of Geneva is to bring the international community together, stimulate exchanges and foster the development of relations with the host State. As of 31 December 2018, it has 728 members representing the diversity of actors in International Geneva (Ambassadors, Directors of International Organizations and NGOs, representatives of the Swiss and Geneva authorities, members of the multinationals boards, professors and members of the academic institutions).

Figure 1: Distribution of members by sector of activity as of 31.12.2018



## b) Diplomatic Club Events

Every year, the Diplomatic Club organizes about twenty events at the heart of International Geneva and current international issues, which take the form of public conferences followed by private receptions, closed-door debates in small circle and excursions to discover Geneva and Switzerland.

Figure 2: Number of Diplomatic Club's events in 2018



**In 2018, the Club organized 20 events in 13 different locations with 1'630 members participating:**

Cercle de la Terrasse, Maison de la Paix, University of Geneva, FER Genève, RTS Tower, Federal Palace, World Economic Forum, Campus Biotech, Procter & Gamble Business Center, Palexpo, Théâtre du Léman, Espace Pitoëff, Domaine des Bossons.

**These events were organized in collaboration with 12 partners:**

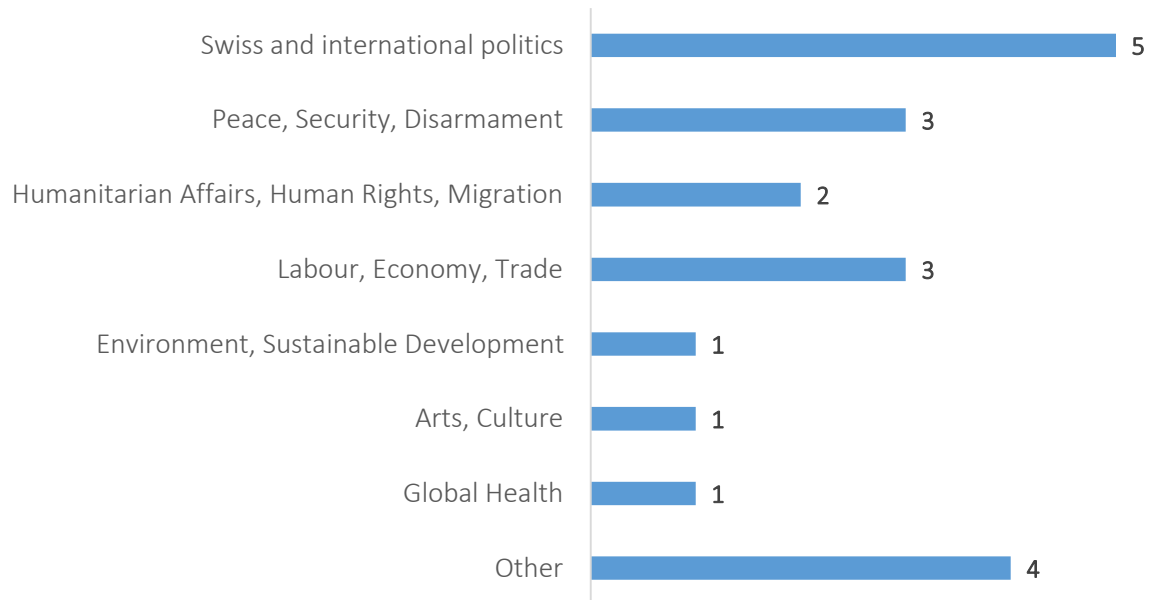
Swiss Confederation, City of Geneva, FER Genève, University of Geneva, the Graduate Institute, Société des membres de la Légion d'honneur – Section suisse, Office de promotion des produits agricoles de Genève, RTS, FIFDH, P&G, SRT Genève and Swiss Forum on Foreign Policy.

**The Club invited or co-invited 59 speakers from a wide variety of backgrounds:**

Mr. Alain Berset, President of the Swiss Confederation; Mr. Dominique de Buman, President of the National Council; Prof. Klaus Schwab, President of the World Economic Forum; Mr. Guy Ryder, Director-General of the ILO; H.E. Mr. Sidiki Kaba, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Senegal; Mr. Peter Maurer, President of the ICRC; Mr. Jigmi Y. Thinley, former Prime Minister of Bhutan; Mr. Pierre Rabhi, French environmentalist, etc.

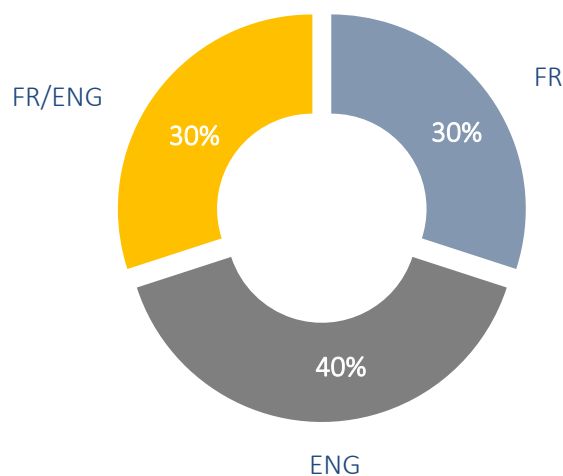
Through its events, the Diplomatic Club wishes to address the central themes of International Geneva such as humanitarian affairs, the promotion and consolidation of peace, sustainable development and global health. Events related to Swiss and international political events are also organized several times a year.

**Figure 3: Distribution of events by themes**



Committed to bilingualism, the Diplomatic Club offers events in French/English (30%), French (30%) and English (40%). Similarly, communications are in both languages and each member is given the opportunity to choose his or her language of correspondence, for example for invitation cards.

**Figure 4: Language of events**





## THE DIPLOMATIC CLUB IN PICTURES

Event at the World Economic Forum



Visit and debate at the Federal Palace in Bern



Round-table at P&amp;G Business Center



Conference at the University of Geneva



Event at the RTS Tower



General Assembly in the Geneva countryside





ACANU Event at the Maison de la Paix



Speech by António Guterres



Film-debate at the FIFDH



Public Conference at the Maison de la Paix



Conference at the Room XX , Palais des Nations



Luncheon-debate at the Cercle de la Terrasse



## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### Swiss Confederation

Ms. Danielle Werthmüller, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UNOG and other organizations in Geneva

### Republic and Canton of Geneva

Mr. Olivier Coutau, Delegate to International Geneva

### City of Geneva

Mr. Steve Bernard, Head of the Office of External Affairs

### International Organizations

Mr. David Chikvaïdze, Chef de Cabinet of the Director General, UNOG, Vice-President of the Diplomatic Club of Geneva

Mr. Maurizio Bona, Senior Advisor for relations with Parliaments and Science for Policy, CERN

### Diplomatic Missions

H.E. Mr. Chi Dung Duong, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Vietnam to the UNOG

H.E. Mr. Henri Monceau, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the International Organization of La Francophonie to the UNOG, Vice-President of the Diplomatic Club of Geneva

H.E. Ms. Carla María Rodríguez Mancía, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the UNOG, Vice-President of the Diplomatic Club of Geneva

H.E. Mr. Coly Seck, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Senegal to the UNOG

H.E. Mr. Alfredo Suescum, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Panama to the WTO

### Consular Corps

Mr. Robert Zoells, President, Association du Corps consulaire de Genève

### Fondation pour Genève

Mr. Ivan Pictet, President

Ms. Tatjana Darany, Member of the board

### Academic Institutions

Mr. Philippe Burrin, Director, the Graduate Institute

Ms. Jacqueline Coté, Director of Public Relations, the Graduate Institute

Prof. Yves Flückiger, Rector, University of Geneva

### Economic Circles

Ms. Olivia Guyot Unger, Director Legal Advices, FER Genève, Vice-President of the Diplomatic Club of Geneva

Mr. Vincent Subilia, Director General, Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de Genève

### Independent Members

Mr. Raymond Loretan, former Ambassador of Switzerland, President of the Diplomatic Club of Geneva

Mr. Georges Gard, G&P Fiduciaire, Treasurer of the Diplomatic Club of Geneva

## HONORARY MEMBERS

### Swiss Authorities

Mr. Valentin Zellweger, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UNOG and other organizations in Geneva

### Republic and canton of Geneva

Mr. Antonio Hodgers, President of the Council State

### City of Geneva

Ms. Sandrine Salerno, Mayor

### United Nations Office at Geneva

Mr. Michael Møller, Director General

### Fondation pour Genève

Mr. Ivan Pictet, President

### Ad Personam

Mr. Michel Barde, former Director General of the Fédération des entreprises romandes Genève (FER Genève)

Ms. Ruth Dreifuss, former President of the Swiss Confederation

Ms. Fabiola Gianotti, Director General of the European Organizations for Nuclear Research (CERN)

Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, former President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

## OPERATIONAL TEAM

Mr. Raymond Loretan, President

Ms. Alizée Ehrnrooth, Secretary General

Mr. Alexandre Carvalho, Executive Assistant

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### Banks

Bordier & Cie SA, Crédit Suisse Group AG, Lombard Odier & Cie SA, Mirabaud & Cie SA, Pictet & Cie Group SCA, Reyl & Cie SA, UBS Switzerland AG

### Companies

ACE & Company, Brunschwig & Cie, JT International SA, Lagardère Travel Retail, Litasco SA, Maus Frères SA, MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company SA, MKS (Switzerland) SA, Procter & Gamble, PSA International SA, Richemont International SA, Rolex SA

### Institutions

Commune d'Anières  
Fédération des Entreprises Romandes Genève  
Services Industriels de Genève

### Patrons

Stéphane Barbier-Muller, Rémy Best, Nicolas Brunschwig, Jean Bonna, Bertrand Demole, Claude Demole, Françoise Demole, André Hoffmann, Pierre Keller, Brigitte Lescure, Thierry Lombard, Yves Mirabaud, Yves Oltramare, Charles Pictet, Ivan Pictet, Nicolas Pictet, Renaud de Planta, Adam Said, Jacques de Saussure, Christian Schmitz, Guy Waldvogel

As well as many anonymous donors and sponsors of the Fondation pour Genève.

And a big thanks to all the members of the Diplomatic Club of Geneva!

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