Club Diplomatique de Genève

Fondation pour Genève

ACTIVITY REPORT

2019

Presented to the General Assembly on 8 July 2020

at the Domaine du Château de Collex

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Members,

The world is in turmoil and geopolitics is in motion, unpredictably and disconcertingly. The need for a compass is acute. Geneva is one of them. 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, but also the privileged place where decisions are made that have a direct impact on the citizens of our planet. Leading the way in global disorientation. The Diplomatic Club of Geneva wants to make a modest contribution to this.

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 precious support of the Fondation pour Genève, the Club offers its members twenty or so high-level events every year, highlighting the different facets of the International Geneva, whose riches are never-ending to be discovered. More than ever, the Diplomatic Club confirms its dynamism with today some 800 members and the will to offer a programme that addresses the central themes of International Geneva such as global health, humanitarian action, human rights and sustainable development.

My gratitude goes to all those who work day after day to ensure the quality and perfect organization of our events and meetings, especially to the operational team under the leadership of our energetic Secretary-General Alizée Ehrnrooth.

At the end of its 2020 General Assembly, the Diplomatic Club of Geneva wishes to bid farewell to two personalities of Geneva life who will be leaving their functions this summer: Mr. Ambassador Valentin Zellweger, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations Office at Geneva, and Mr. Philippe Burrin, Director of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. This evening will be an opportunity to express our deep gratitude to these two faithful friends of the Diplomatic Club for their significant contribution to the influence of International Geneva. Their support has been unwavering and their commitment exemplary.

To all of you, thank you for your loyalty and your enthusiasm to sustain the dynamic development of our Club and thus contribute to the influence of this International Geneva that is so dear to our hearts.

Raymond Loretan
Former Ambassador of Switzerland

ACTIVITIES 2019

24 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

Participation: 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

Participation: 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.

Participation: 45 members

MARTIN ENNALS AWARD
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

13 February 2019 Major Events (FR/ENG)

Support to the Martin Ennals Awards Ceremony for Human Rights Defenders, at the salle communale de Plainpalais.*Organized by the Martin Ennals Foundation and the City of Geneva*

Participation: 30 members

25 February 2019 Major Events (ENG)

Speech by Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the occasion of the 70th 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 the ACANU and the Graduate Institute

Participation: 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" directed by Jan Gebert followed by a debate on the topic "For the People, Against Populism", at the Théâtre Pitoëff.

In partnership with the FIFDH

Participation: 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 (SMLH)

Participation: 130 members

1 April 2019 Debate Series (FR)

Screening of the film "Docteur Junod – Le Troisième Combattant" directed by Romain Guélat followed by a debate on the topic "L'humanitaire hier – aujourd'hui – demain", at the Humanitarium.

In partnership with the ICRC

Participation: 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 Radio Télévision Suisse, at Palexpo.

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

Participation: 30 members

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

Participation: 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 and Jordanian Generals present at the 1994 Peace Treaty, at the Vullierens Castle.

In partnership with the University of Lausanne and the Vullierens Castle

Participation: 45 members

6 June 2019 Debate Series (FR)

Exclusive dialogue with Mr. Jean Claude Gandur, Founder Chairman 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.

In partnership with the SMLH

Participation: 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

Participation: 100 members

21 June 2019 Debate Series (ENG)

Luncheon-debate with H.E. Dr. 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 Maison de la Paix.

Participation: 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

Participation: 220 members

2 September 2019 Major Events (ENG)

Panel Discussion with Mr. Brad Smith, President of Microsoft, Ms. Doris Leuthard, former President of the Swiss Confederation, and Dr. Amandeep Singh Gill, former Co-Executive Director of the Secretariat of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, on the topic "Digital Cooperation: Can Geneva make it a Win-Win?", at the Maison de la Paix.

In partnership with the Graduate Institute

Participation: 100 members

4 September 2019 Major Events (ENG)

Public Conference with Dr. Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and H.E. Mr. Coly Seck, President of the Human Rights Council, on the topic "Promoting Human Rights within UN Institutions", at the Maison de la Paix.

In partnership with the Graduate Institute

Participation: 60 members

16 September 2019 Major Events (FR/ENG)

Public Conference with Dr. Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the UNOG, and Mr. Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis, on the topic "Geneva and the future of multilateralism", at the University of Geneva.

Organized by the University of Geneva, the UNOG, the Swiss Confederation, the State of Geneva, the City of Geneva, and the Fondation pour Genève, with the support of the Diplomatic Club of Geneva

Participation: 80 members

27 September 2019 Debate Series (FR)

Television appearance in "Élections fédérales suisses: le débat" with Ms. Céline Amaudruz (Swiss People's Party), Mr. Filippo Lombardi (Christian Democratic People's Party), Ms. Ada Marra (Socialist Party), Ms. Lisa Mazzone (Green Party), et Mr. Philippe Nantermod (Radical-Liberal Party), followed by a cocktail at the Balcon du Léman.

In partnership with the Radio Télévision Suisse

Participation: 40 members

2 October 2019 Excursions and Discoveries (FR/ENG)

Exclusive Dialogue with Dr. André Schneider, CEO of Genève Aéroport, followed by a tarmac tour, drinks at the VIP lounge and a dinner cocktail, at the Geneva Airport.

In partnership with Genève Aéroport

Participation: 80 members

17 October 2019 Debate Series (ENG)

Luncheon-debate with Mr. Carne Ross, Founder and Executive Director of Independent Diplomat, on the topic "From conflict to compromise: the case for inclusive diplomacy", at the Restaurant Maison de la Paix.

Participation: 45 members

24 October 2019 Debate Series (FR)

Panel Discussion with Mr. Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis, Mr. Michael Møller, former Director-General of the UNOG, Dr. Maurizio Bona (CERN), Ms. Stéphanie Ruegsegger (FER Genève), et Mr. Adminstrative Councillor Guillaume Barazzone (City of Geneva), on the topic "AVIS28: des impulsions pour la Suisse de demain", at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue.

With the support of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue

Participation: 60 members

7 November 2019 Major Events (FR)

Prize-giving ceremony of the 19th Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève (GPHG), at the Théâtre du Léman.

Organized by the GPHG

Participation: 50 members

26 November 2019 Excursions and Discoveries (ENG)

Visit at Firmenich SA followed by an exclusive dialogue with its CEO, Mr. Gilbert Ghostine, on the topic "Exploring Geneva: From odors to emotions", at the new headquarters of Firmenich SA at Meyrin.

In partnership with the University of Geneva

Participation: 40 members

ACTIVITIES 2020 (1st Semester) 9 EVENTS

28 January 2020 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

Participation: 220 members

6 February 2020 Debate Series (ENG)

Debate with Prof. Stephan Harbath (HUG), Prof. Hanan H. Balkhy (WHO), and Dr. Manica Balasegaram (GARDP), on the topic "Antimicrobial resistance: a growing threat to our society", at the Innovation Centre of the Geneva University Hospitals.

With the support of the Geneva University Hospitals

Participation: 45 members

13 February 2020 Excursions and Discoveries (ENG)

Guided tour of the exhibition "100 Years of Multilateralism in Geneva", at the UN Library Geneva.

Participation: 25 members

25 February 2020 Debate Series (ENG)

Closed-door conversation with Mr. Mohsen Baharvand, Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran, on the topic "Persian Gulf Diplomacy: an Iranian perspective", at the Maison de la Paix.

Participation: 60 members

4 March 2020 Debate Series (ENG)

Dinner discussion on International Women's Day with five women Ambassadors representing the five geopolitical regional groups of the United Nations, on the topic "Women in Diplomacy through the eyes of the Women Ambassadors Group", at the Hotel Le Richemond.

Participation: 80 members

13 March 2020 Debate Series (ENG)

Luncheon-debate with Mr. Scott M. Weber, President of Interpeace, on the topic "What is the role of International Geneva in the prevention of conflicts?", at the Restaurant Maison de la Paix.

Participation: 40 members

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, events scheduled for mid-March to the end of June have been cancelled and postponed to a later date. During this period, the Club organized two video conferences.

14 May 2020 Debate Series (FR)

Video Conference with Dr. Cédric Dupont, Professor of International Relations at the Graduate Institute, Ms. Béatrice Ferrari, Director of International Affairs of the State of Geneva, and Mr. Michael Møller, former Director-General of the UNOG, on the topic "La gouvernance mondiale après le Covid-19: un rôle pour Genève?", on the Zoom platform.

In partnership with Genève Vision – Radio Télévision Suisse

Participation: 85 members

16 June 2020 Debate Series (FR)

Video Conference with Dr. Sylvie Briand, Director Infectious Hazard Management Department of the WHO, Mr. Thomas B. Cueni, Director-General of the IFPMA, and Ambassador Nora Kronig Romero, Head of the International Affairs Division of FOPH, on the topic "Covid-19, le vaccin sera-t-il accessible à tous?", on the Zoom platform.

In partnership with Genève Vision – Radio Télévision Suisse

Participation: 45 members

8 July 2020 Major Events (FR/ENG)

General Assembly followed by an evening in honor of Ambassador Valentin Zellweger, Permanent Representative of the Switzerland to the UNOG, and Mr. Philippe Burrin, Director of the Graduate Institute, at the Domaine du Château de Collex.

Participation: 230 members

On 22 January 2020, the Diplomatic Club of Geneva joined the International Gender Champions network. The Club made the following two commitments:

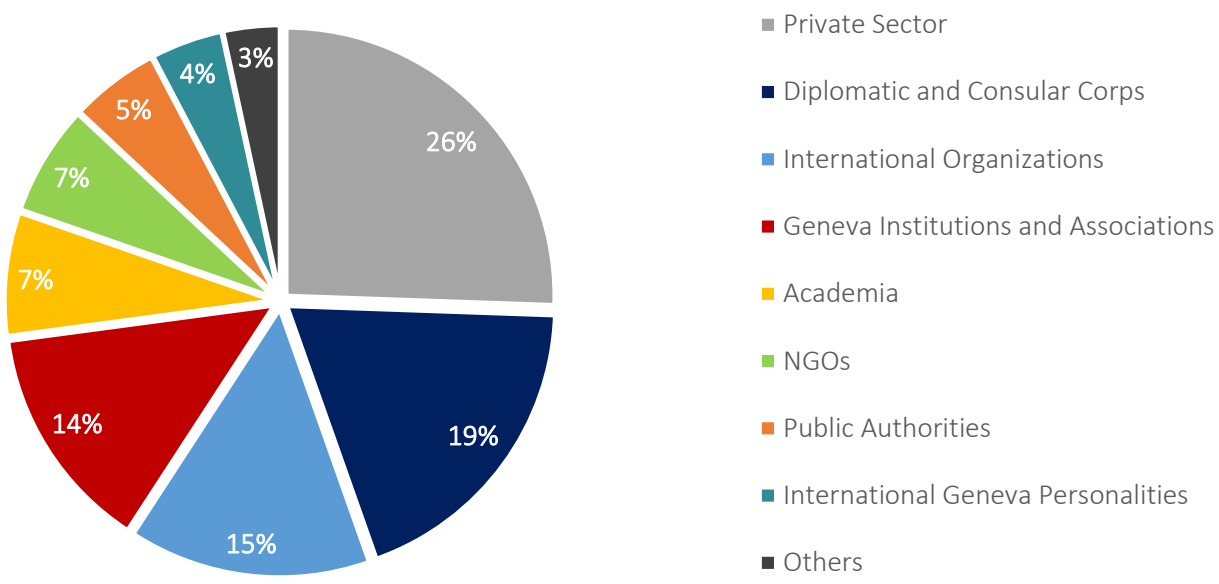
1. To organize at least one event per year that addresses the issue of gender equality
2. Reach the target of 30% women in the panels of the events organized by the Club.

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 2019, it has 767 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 31.12.2019



TOTAL MEMBERS = 767

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.

In 2019, the Diplomatic Club organized 24 events in which approximately 1'800 members participated. As the participants come from a wide range of professional backgrounds, the Club attaches particular importance to varying the themes of the events, the venues and the collaborations.

Figure 2: Number of Diplomatic Club's events in 2019

77 speakers

Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the UN ; Dr. Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the UNOG; Mr. Ignazio Cassis, Swiss Federal Councillor for Foreign Affairs; H.E. Dr. Hilda Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands ; Mr. Brad Smith, President of Microsoft ; Dr. Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights ; Mr. Pierre Krähenbühl, Commissioner-General of UNRWA ; Dr. André Schneider, Director-General of Genève Aéroport ; Mr. Gilbert Ghostine, CEO of Firmenich SA ; Mr. Jean Claude Gandur, Founder Chairman of the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art ; etc.

17 venues

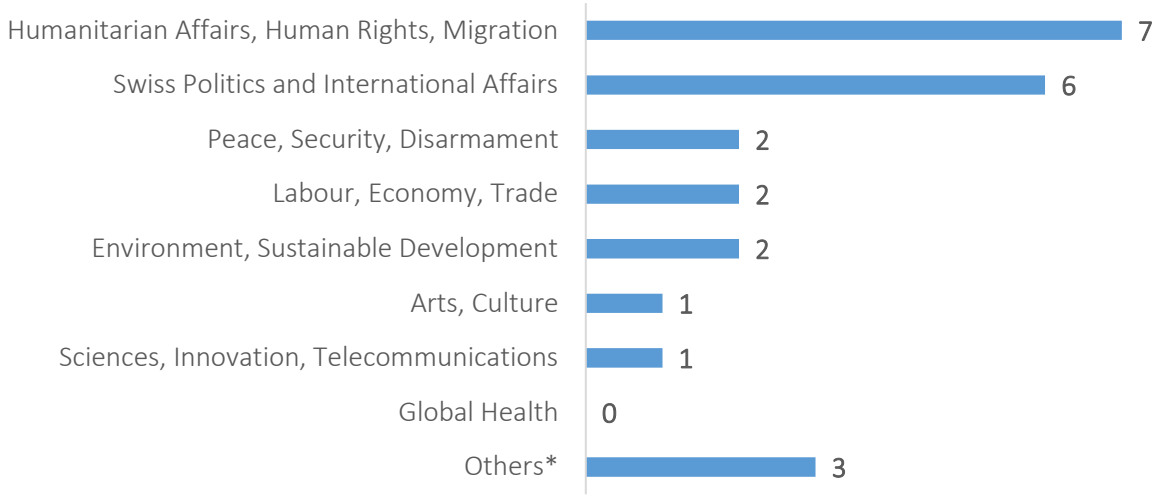
Cercle de la Terrasse, Maison de la Paix, University of Geneva, Palais des Nations, Humanitarium, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, FER Genève, Radio Télévision Suisse Tower, Restaurant Maison de la Paix, Genève Aéroport, Firmenich SA, Palexpo, Salle communale de Plainpalais, Théâtre Pitoëff, Théâtre du Léman, Vullierens Castle, Domaine du Château de Collex.

16 partners

Swiss Confederation, Republic and Canton of Geneva, City of Geneva, UNOG, ICRC, University of Geneva, the Graduate Institute, University of Lausanne, Fondation pour Genève, Radio Télévision Suisse, Genève Aéroport, Geneva Association of United Nations Correspondents, Société des membres de la Légion d'honneur – Section suisse, FIFDH, Institute of Arab and Mediterranean Cultures Vullierens Castle.

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, trade and sustainable development. Events related to Swiss politics and international affairs are also organized several times a year.

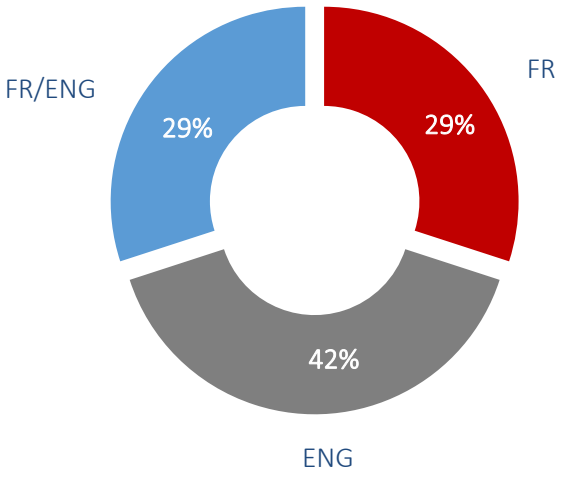
Figure 3: Distribution of events by themes



** Others: Diplomatic New Year, General Assembly, Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève*

Committed to bilingualism, the Diplomatic Club offers events in French and English (29%), in French (29%) and in English (42%). 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: Events languages



THE DIPLOMATIC CLUB IN PICTURES

Public conference with Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Maison de la Paix

Evening in honor of Mr. Michael Møller, Director-General of the UNOG, Domaine du Château de Collex

Public conference with Mr. Brad Smith, President of Microsoft, Maison de la Paix

International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights, Théâtre Pitoëff

COMMITTEE MEMBERS (* Vice-Presidents)

Swiss Confederation
Ms. Danielle Werthmüller, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UNOG

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 Chikvaidze, Chef de Cabinet of the Director-General, UNOG
Dr. 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 Observer of the International Organization of La Francophonie to the UNOG
* H.E. Ms. Carla María Rodríguez Mancia, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the UNOG
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, Deputy Secretary-General, Association du Corps consulaire de Genève

Fondation pour Genève
Mr. Ivan Pictet, President
Ms. Tatjana Darani, Secretary-General, Association des Amis de la Fondation pour Genève

Academic Institutions
Mr. Philippe Burrin, Director, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
Ms. Jacqueline Coté, Director of Public Relations, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
Prof. Yves Flückiger, Rector, University of Geneva

Economic Circles
* Ms. Olivia Guyot Unger, Director Legal Advices, FER Genève
Mr. Vincent Subilia, Director-General, Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services

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 United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva

Republic and Canton of Geneva

Mr. Antonio Hodgers, President of the Council of State

City of Geneva

Ms. Sandrine Salerno, Mayor

United Nations Office at Geneva

Dr. Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General

Fondation pour Genève

Mr. Ivan Pictet, President

Ad Personam

Mr. Michel Barde, former Director-General of the FER Genève
Ms. Ruth Dreifuss, former President of the Swiss Confederation
Dr. Fabiola Gianotti, Director-General of the CERN
Mr. Michael Møller, former Director-General of the UNOG
Dr. Cornelio Sommaruga, former President of the ICRC

OPERATIONAL TEAM

Mr. Raymond Loretan, President
Ms. Alizée Ehrnrooth, Secretary-General
Mr. Alexandre Carvalho, Project Officer

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Banks

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

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Institutions

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As well as the other donors of the Foundation for Geneva who wished to remain anonymous.

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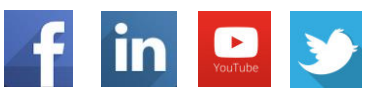
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