



**DIPLOMATIC CLUB  
OF GENEVA**

FONDATION POUR GENÈVE



**2023**

# **ACTIVITY REPORT**



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members,

As the contours of a new world order painfully take shape, the need for a compass is growing ever more acute, and with its unrivalled concentration of international players, such a compass is exactly what International Geneva represents! Overall, Geneva serves as the focal point where all efforts at resolving the complex problems of our time converge, first and foremost the promotion of peace and cooperation among nations. International Geneva is more essential than ever before, and all of us must aid in strengthening and consolidating it. Through its activities and its network, the Diplomatic Club of Geneva adds its own small stone to this edifice.

Recognized by the Swiss Confederation, the Republic and Canton of Geneva, the City of Geneva, and the United Nations Office at Geneva as International Geneva's official club, the Diplomatic Club is the place of privilege where executives, entrepreneurs and opinion leaders meet, exchange views and debate topical issues, while developing synergies between their institutions and cultivating a network of exclusive personal relationships.

Thanks to the invaluable support of the Fondation pour Genève, the Club offers its members around twenty high-level events and meetings each year that showcase the different facets of International Geneva, the full potential of which is yet untapped. The year 2023 fell within the scope of that growth dynamic, and with its more than 850 members, the Diplomatic Club of Geneva once more established itself as a key forum for reflection and exchange.

The Committee extends its gratitude to all those who work tirelessly to deliver the quality and perfect organization of our events, especially to the operational team led by our Secretary-General, Alizée Ehrnrooth.

To all of you, thank you for your loyalty and enthusiasm in sustaining our Club's development, and thus for contributing to the influence of this International Geneva that is so dear to our hearts.

**Raymond Loretan**

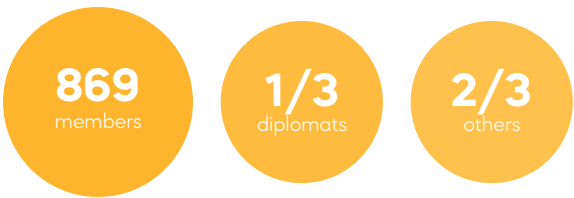
A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized initials 'RL' followed by a surname.

# 2023 AT A GLANCE

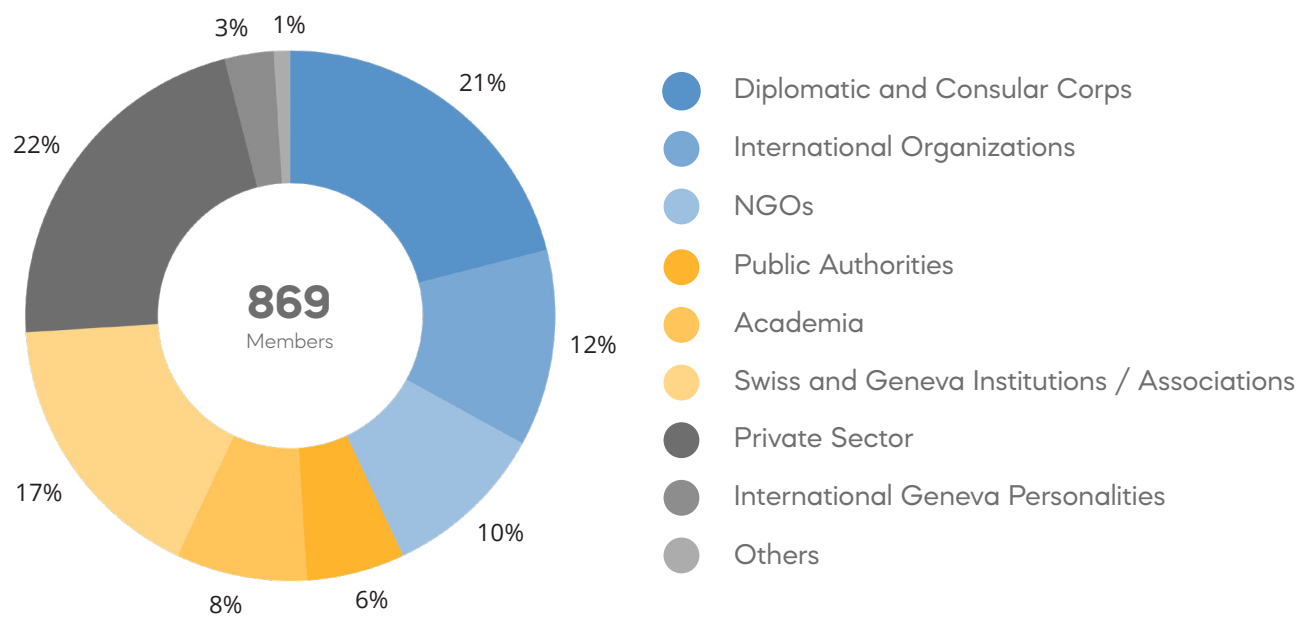
## Events



## Members



## Distribution of members by sectors of activity



Members' Area

6

partner offers













Initiatives and Media

4

initiatives









Statistics



LinkedIn

1854

followers

64

publications



website

+17k

pageviews

190

contact forms



## KEY EVENTS 2023



25  
January

### Diplomatic New Year

As is tradition, the Club celebrates the New Year in January with the actors of International Geneva. Over 200 representatives from the diplomatic, political, economic, and academic worlds gathered at the Cercle du Rhône Restaurant for an evening of exchanges and meetings. An opportunity for Club's partners, the Swiss and Geneva authorities, the UNOG, the Fondation pour Genève and the FER Genève, to extend their best wishes and discuss future priorities.



22  
June

### Business and Human Rights

To mark the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and as part of the World Chambers Congress, a high-level discussion was organized at the Palais des Nations, in partnership with the UNOG and the Geneva Chamber of Commerce (CCIG). The guest of honor, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, delivered an engaging and poignant message, recalling the responsibility of every entrepreneur to respect and promote human rights.



17  
August

### Swiss Evening with Ignazio Cassis

Following its General Assembly, the Club invited its members to a Swiss Evening with Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis, head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, as guest of honor. The evening provided a perfect occasion to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Federal Constitution, marking the birth of modern Switzerland, in the sunny setting of the Geneva countryside, and to reaffirm the values of openness and peace that unite us.

## OTHER EVENTS 2023



7

February

### Concert for the 10th anniversary of the Orchestre des Nations

Concert under the direction of Antoine Marguier, Conductor and Founder of the Orchestre des Nations, with guitarist Miloš Karadaglić, followed by a private reception in the presence of the artist and the orchestra, at Victoria Hall.

Partner: Orchestre des Nations

16

February

### Quelle neutralité pour la Suisse ?

Round table with Micheline Calmy-Rey, former President of the Swiss Confederation, Cédric Dupont, Professor at the Geneva Graduate Institute, Roger Köppel, National Councillor and Editor-in-Chief of the Weltwoche, and Carlo Sommaruga, State Councillor, followed by a reception, at the RTS.

Partner: Genève Vision

28

February

### President of the UN General Assembly

Public conference with Csaba Kőrösi, President of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, on the theme "Crisis management and transformation for the United Nations we need," followed by a private reception, at Uni Dufour.

Partners: UNIGE, FSPI

9

March

### What does the future hold for the Middle East?

Round table with Frank Melloul, CEO of i24News, Vincent Pasquier, Head of Middle East Regional Coordination at the FDFA, Cyrus Schayegh, Professor at the Geneva Graduate Institute, moderated by journalist Isabelle Koumar, followed by a reception, at the InterContinental.

13  
March

### Regards croisés sur la Russie

Luncheon-debate with Giuliano da Empoli, author of the novel “Le Mage du Kremlin” (Grand Prix de l’Académie française 2022) and Nadia Sikorsky, Editor-in-Chief of the Russian-language online daily Nasha Gazeta, at the Terrasse de la Paix.

15  
March

### Journalism in wartime

Luncheon-debate with journalist Maurine Mercier, RTS correspondent in Ukraine, moderated by Aline Jaccottet, Editor of the international section of the daily newspaper Le Temps, at the Terrasse de la Paix.

Partner: FIFDH

26  
April

### Perception Change Award Ceremony

2nd edition of the Perception Change Award Ceremony in the presence of Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the UNOG, as part of the Visions du Réel Festival in Nyon.

Partners: Visions du Réel, PCP, Lagardère

17  
May

### Visit of the Comédie de Genève

Private backstage tour of the new Comédie de Genève in presence of Natacha Koutchoumov, Co-director, followed by a cocktail dinner.

30  
May

### Visit of the Fondation Martin Bodmer

Presentation of the Bodmer Lab (digital library of world literature) followed by a private tour of the museum and a reception in the gardens.

Partner: UNIGE

1  
June

### A watershed moment in global politics?

Round table with Ursula Plassnik, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Austria, Jürg Lauber, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UNOG, Cédric Dupont, Professor at the Geneva Graduate Institute, followed by a reception, at the InterContinental.

Partner: ASPE







3  
July

### Visit of the exhibition “Déflagrations”

On the occasion of the Centenary of the Geneva Declaration, private tour of the “Déflagrations” exhibition at the Musée International de la Réforme and visit of the newly renovated museum with its Director, Gabriel de Montmollin, followed by a reception.

23  
August

### Principles for Peace

Presentation of the Principles for Peace Foundation and round table with their board members on the theme “Navigating the Maze: Charting a Path for Peace and Stability in Turbulent Times”, followed by a reception, at the Maison de la Paix.

Partner: Principles for Peace

5  
September

### Geneva Welcome Day

4th edition of the Geneva Welcome Day with the host state authorities and the welcoming services of the International Geneva, at the Palais Eynard.

Partners: CAGI, Swiss and Geneva authorities, Fondation pour Genève

12  
September

### Visit of the GeniLac site

Private tour of the GeniLac site of the SIG followed by a discussion with Jean-Pierre Reymond, Executive Director of 2050Today, on “How to decarbonize International Geneva together,” and a reception, at the Restaurant Vieux-Bois.

Partner: 2050Today

**18**  
September

### **La Paix et la compétition des leaderships**

Luncheon-debate with Jean-Pierre Raffarin, former French Prime Minister and President of Leaders for Peace, moderated by Elisabeth Decrey Warner, board member of Leaders for Peace, at the Terrasse de la Paix.

**2**  
October

### **Navigating the UN ocean agenda in search of sustainability**

Luncheon-debate with Vladimir Ryabinin, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, at the Restaurant Vieux-Bois.

**3**  
November

### **Debrief on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**

Closed discussion with former Swiss President Micheline Calmy-Rey, Thomas Greminger, Ambassador and Director of the GCSP, and Pascal de Crousaz, Middle East specialist, moderated by journalist Imogen Foulkes, at the GCSP.

Partner: GCSP

**6**  
November

### **Visit of the Geneva International Film Festival (GIFF)**

Presentation of the GIFF by Anaïs Emery, General and Artistic Director, followed by a private tour of the virtual territories and a cocktail dinner, at the salle communale de Plainpalais.

**15**  
November

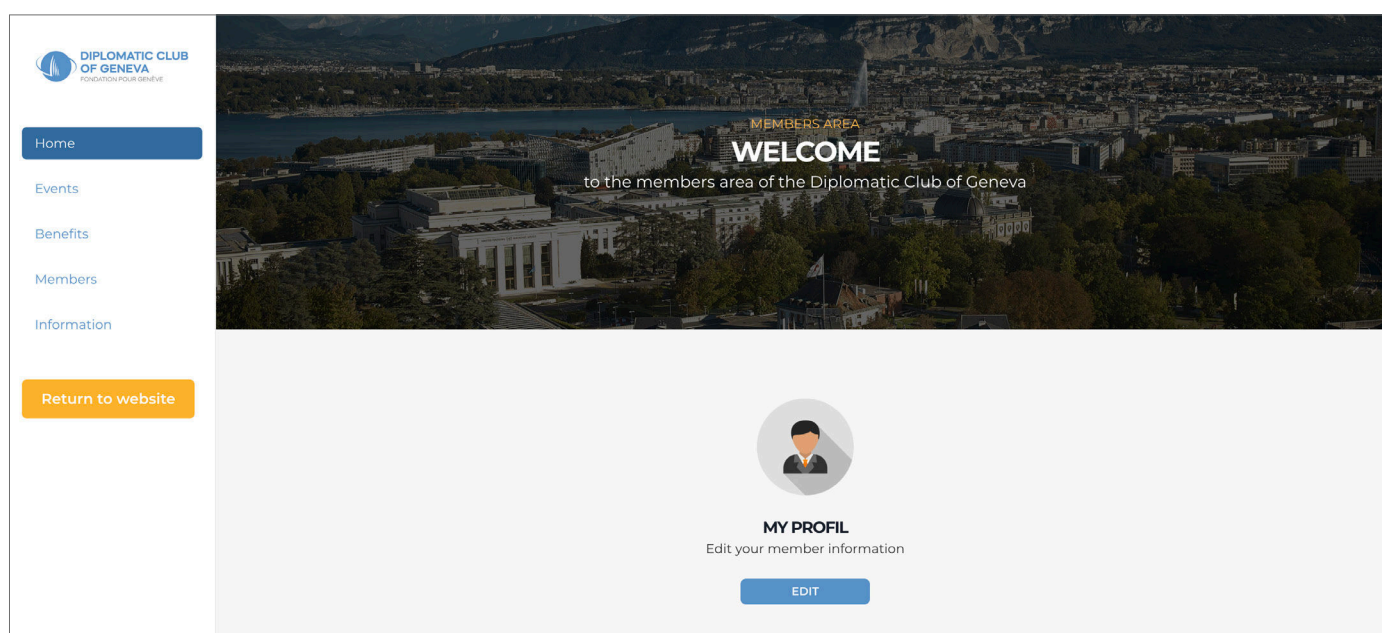
### **Committed to the Fulfilment of the Rights of Every Child**

To mark the World Children's Day and the Centenary of the Geneva Declaration, concert with soprano Sonya Yoncheva, UNICEF Bulgaria National Ambassador, followed by a reception, at the Palais des Nations.

Partners: Mission of Bulgaria, UNOG, UNICEF



# MEMBERS' AREA



## What's new in 2023

In 2023, the Diplomatic Club developed new cultural partnerships aimed at promoting and introducing its members to the many treasures of Geneva. The Club has four cultural partners: the Comédie de Genève, the Grand Théâtre de Genève, the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande and the Orchestre des Nations. All partner offers are available on the Members' Area.

Following the partnership with COTE Magazine and the "Inside International Geneva" section, the Club developed a collaboration with the AGEFI for a monthly publication titled "Chronique du Club Diplomatique de Genève". The aim of this initiative is to give a voice each month to a member of the Club to speak on a current topic related to International Geneva. The first article will be published in the online and print version of the AGEFI in January 2024.





## INITIATIVES AND MEDIA



### International Gender Champions

Since January 2020, the Diplomatic Club has been a member of the International Gender Champion initiative, which brings together decision-makers committed to making gender equality a reality within their sphere of influence. The Club strives, through its events, to achieve a balanced representation. In 2023, the gender distribution in the panels of its events is 40/60. [Find out our commitments.](#)



### 2050Today

Since May 2021, the Diplomatic Club has been a member of the 2050Today initiative and is committed along with the actors of International Geneva to reach the objective of zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Club works daily to act responsibly and concretely towards the planet, giving priority to local actors and short circuits. [Find out our carbon footprint.](#)



### COTE Magazine

Since September 2022, the Diplomatic Club has been collaborating with COTE Magazine to produce a series of articles titled “Inside International Geneva,” whose objective is to highlight personalities who are working to build International Geneva and to make it shine in Switzerland and abroad. In 2023, ten articles were published in COTE Magazine.

[Find out our interviews.](#)

### Biodiversity Project

As part of its commitment to 2050Today, the Diplomatic Club has embarked on an initiative to finance a local ecological project each year, up to the amount of its carbon footprint. After a potential assessment study of La Pastorale by the cantonal authorities and in agreement with the FIPOI (manager of the Domain), the following biodiversity project was approved: planting of a mini-orchard and construction of a dry hedge (planned for early 2024).



# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## Swiss Confederation

### Danielle Werthmüller

Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UNOG

## Republic and Canton of Geneva

### Olivier Coutau

Delegate to International Geneva

## City of Geneva

### Steve Bernard

(until 31 March)

Head, External Relations and Communication Office

### Pascal Rapillard

(from 1 May)

Head, External Relations and Communication Office

## Diplomatic Missions

### \*Kadra Ahmed Hassan

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the UNOG

### Paul Bekkers

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the UNOG

### Indra Mani Pandey

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of India to the UNOG

## Consular Corps

### Robert Zoells

Honorary Consul General of Austria

## International Organizations

### \*Charlotte Warakaulle

Director for International Relations, CERN

### \*David Chikvaidze

(ex officio since 1 October)

Chef de Cabinet of the Director-General, UNOG

## NGO

### Corinne Momal-Vanien

(from 17 August)

Executive Director, Kofi Annan Foundation

## Fondation pour Genève

### Marc Pictet

President

### Tatjana Darani

Secretary-General, Association des Amis de la Fondation pour Genève

## International Geneva Welcome Centre

### Salman Bal

(until 30 June)

Ambassador, Director

### Yannick Roulin

(from 1 July)

Ambassador, Director

## Academia

### Stéphane Berthet

Vice Rector, University of Geneva

### Marie-Laure Salles

Director, Geneva Graduate Institute

## Economic Institutions

### Olivia Guyot Unger

(until 17 August)

Director Legal Advice, Fédération des Entreprises Romandes Genève

### Larissa Robinson

(from 17 August)

Secretary-General, Groupement des Entreprises Multinationales

### \*Vincent Subilia

Director-General, Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services

## Independent Members

### Raymond Loretan

Former Ambassador of Switzerland, President of the Diplomatic Club

### Georges Gard

President, GP Fiduciaire SA, Treasurer of the Diplomatic Club

(\* Vice-Presidency)

## HONORARY COMMITTEE

### United Nations Office at Geneva

**Tatiana Valovaya**

Director-General

### Swiss Confederation

**Jürg Lauber**

Ambassador, Permanent

Representative of Switzerland to  
the UNOG

### Republic and Canton of Geneva

**Nathalie Fontanet**

State Councillor

### City of Geneva

**Alfonso Gomez**

Mayor

### Fondation pour Genève

**Marc Pictet**

President

### Ad personam

**Michel Barde**

Former Director-General of  
the Fédération des Entreprises  
Romandes Genève

**Ruth Dreifuss**

Former President of the Swiss  
Confederation

**Dominique Föllmi**

Former President of the Council  
of State of Geneva, Former  
President of the Diplomatic Club

**Fabiola Gianotti**

Director-General of CERN

**Peter Maurer**

Former President of ICRC

**Michel Mayor**

2019 Nobel Prize in physics

**Michael Møller**

Former Director-General of the  
UNOG

**François Nordmann**

Former Ambassador of  
Switzerland, Former President of  
the Diplomatic Club

**Ivan Pictet**

Former President of the  
Fondation pour Genève

**Cornelio Sommaruga**

Former President of ICRC

## OPERATIONAL TEAM

**Raymond Loretan**

President

**Alizée Ehrnrooth**

Secretary-General

**Camille Fedrizzi**

Project Officer



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**Many thanks to the Fondation pour Genève and its circle of donors for their precious support.**

## **The banks**

Bordier & Cie SCmA  
Gonet & Cie  
Lombard Odier & Cie SA  
Mirabaud & Cie SA  
Pictet & Cie Group SCA  
Reyl & Cie SA  
UBS Switzerland AG  
Union Bancaire Privée (UBP)

## **The companies**

ACE & Company SA  
Lenz & Staehelin  
Litasco SA  
LS Travel Retail International SA  
m3 IMMOBILIER  
Microsoft  
MKS (Switzerland) SA  
MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company SA  
Procter & Gamble Europe SA  
Richemont International SA  
Rolex SA  
SOCAR Trading

## **The institutions**

Fédération des Entreprises Romandes Genève  
Groupement des Entreprises Multinationales  
Services industriels de Genève  
SuisseNégoce

## **The foundations**

Fondation Hippomène  
Fondation Genève Place Financière  
Fondation du Domaine de Villette

## **The patrons**

Alix Barbier-Mueller  
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Cem Elmastas  
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Thierry Lombard  
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Yves Oltramare  
Charles Pictet  
Ivan Pictet  
Nicolas Pictet  
Renaud de Planta  
Adam Said  
Jacques de Saussure  
Guy Waldvogel

as well as other donors who wish to remain anonymous.

**Many thanks also to the members of the Diplomatic Club!**



## **DIPLOMATIC CLUB OF GENEVA**

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[www.clubdiplomatique.ch](http://www.clubdiplomatique.ch)

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