



**DIPLOMATIC CLUB
OF GENEVA**
FONDATION POUR GENÈVE



2024

ACTIVITY REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members,

As the international order wavers under the weight of conflicts, identity-based retreat, and geopolitical upheaval, the need for a compass is becoming increasingly acute. With its unrivalled concentration of international players, International Geneva embodies a precious compass! It remains the focal point for all efforts to solve the complex problems of our time, including the promotion of peace and cooperation between nations. Even though it is no longer immune to today's tensions, it is more indispensable than ever. We share a collective responsibility to defend and strengthen this International Geneva.

Through its activities and network, the Diplomatic Club of Geneva strives modestly to contribute to this effort.

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 remains the privileged venue where executives, entrepreneurs and opinion leaders meet, exchange views and debate current issues, while developing synergies between their institutions and cultivating a network of exclusive personal relationships.

Thanks to the valuable support of the Fondation pour Genève, the Club was able to offer its members in 2024 around twenty high-level events, reflecting the many facets of International Geneva, whose potential continues to unfold. With over 900 members, the Diplomatic Club of Geneva is more than ever establishing itself as a vital forum for reflection and exchange.

This influence will find particular resonance as we look ahead to the Club's 50th anniversary, which we will celebrate together in 2026.

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

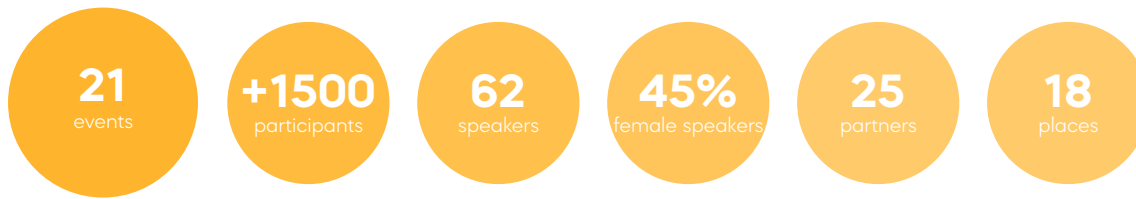
To each and every one of you, thank you for your loyalty and enthusiasm, which sustain the growth of our Club and contribute to the influence of International Geneva that is so close to our hearts.

Raymond Loretan

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

2024 AT A GLANCE

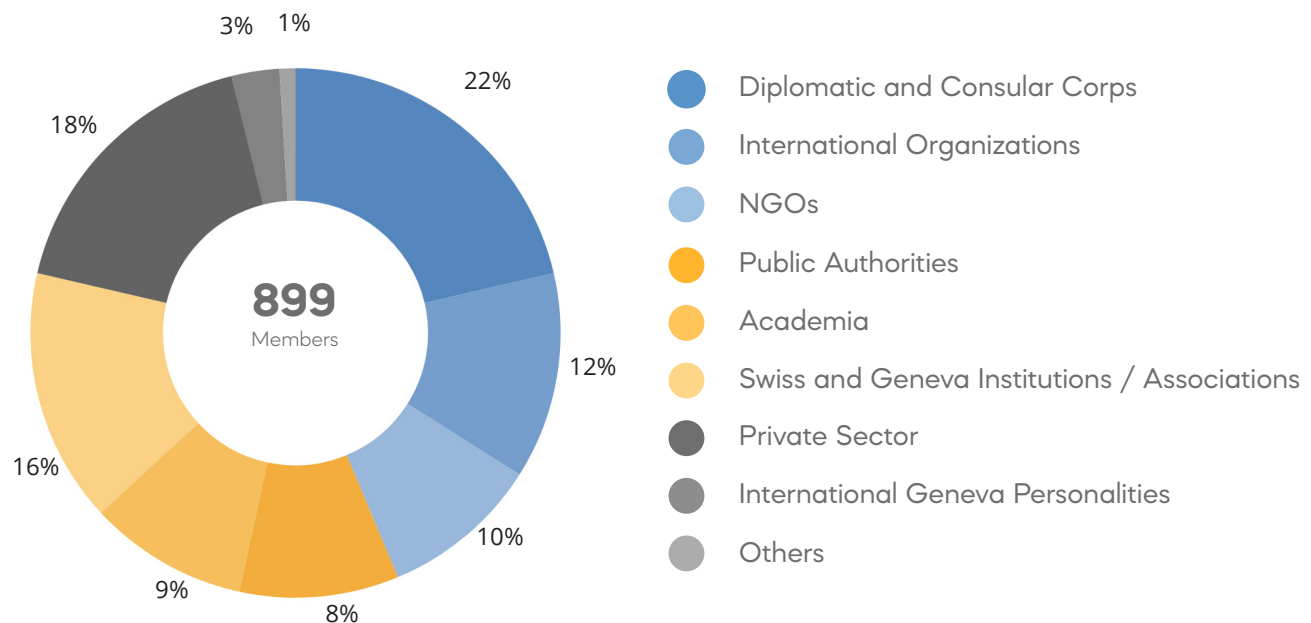
Events



Members



Distribution of members by sectors of activity



Members' Area



Initiatives and Media



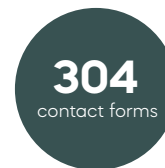
Statistics



LinkedIn



website



KEY EVENTS 2024



24
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.



28
February

Luncheon-debate with Dona Bertarelli

During an exclusive luncheon-debate, organized in partnership with the Society of Members of the Legion of Honor – Swiss Section, Dona Bertarelli, philanthropist, entrepreneur, and sailor, shared her inspiring journey. A patron of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and founder of Sails of Change, she spoke about her commitment to ocean conservation, calling for collective action in favor of the environment.



2
July

General Assembly with Bertrand Piccard

On the occasion of its general assembly, the Diplomatic Club invited its members to an evening with Bertrand Piccard, explorer and ambassador of clean technologies. The evening was celebrated with music and a local meal, highlighting sustainable technological advancements. Bertrand Piccard, who is planning the first round-the-world flight in a hydrogen-powered plane, captivated the audience with an inspiring speech, emphasizing the importance of ecological innovations for the future of the planet.

OTHER EVENTS 2024



5

March

A Report from Davos 2024

Exclusive dialogue with Prof. Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, on the theme “Rebuilding Trust – a Report from Davos 2024,” at the World Economic Forum, followed by a reception at the Villa Mundi in Cologny.

9

April

Luncheon-debate with Robert Mardini

Luncheon-debate with Robert Mardini, outgoing Director-General of the ICRC, on the theme “The challenges of humanitarian action in today’s conflicts and the role of the ICRC”, at the Restaurant Vieux-Bois.

17

April

Perception Change Award Ceremony

3rd 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

2

May

Rehearsal at the heart of the Orchestre des Nations

Immersive rehearsal at the heart of the Orchestre des Nations, conducted by Maestro Antoine Marguier, followed by a reception and a meeting with the musicians, at the Institut Florimont.

Partner: Orchestre des Nations

14
May

A New Balance for Humanity

Special evening with Dominique Rankin, hereditary Chief and elder of the Algonquin tradition of Canada, on the theme “A New Balance for Humanity”, at the ICRC Restaurant.

Partners: Traditions pour Demain, ICRC Alumni

16
May

L’histoire partagée de la Genève internationale

Round-table with Blandine Blukacz-Louisfert, Head of the Institutional Memory Section of the UNOG Library, David Glaser, journalist from geneveMonde, and Sandrine Kott, Professor at the University of Geneva, followed by a cocktail, at the Balcon du Léman.

Partner: geneveMonde

4
June

Exclusive Dialogue with David Baverez

Exchange with David Baverez, private investor in Hong Kong on the occasion of the release of his book “Bienvenue en économie de guerre!”, followed by a book signing and a cocktail, at the Cercle de la Terrasse.

Partner: Geneva Press Club

12
June

U.S. Presidential Election : What’s at Stake

Round-table with Charles Adams, former american ambassador and Partner at Orrick, Caitlin Kraft-Buchman, CEO of Women at the Table, Martin Naville, CEO of the Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce, and David Sylvan, Emeritus Professor at the Geneva Graduate Institute, followed by a cocktail, at the InterContinental.

15
July

Caux Democracy Forum

Opening ceremony of the Caux Forum “How can Democracy be revitalized across Europe and the World?”, followed by a concert and a reception, at Caux Palace.

Partner: Caux Initiatives of Change

21
August

Exhibition of the “Red Sea Corals”

Vernissage of the photo exhibition “Red Sea Corals – Science and Diplomacy Unite for the Reefs of Hope”, followed by a cocktail and a tour of the exhibition on Quai Wilson.

Partner: Transnational Red Sea Center





3

September

Geneva Welcome Day

5th 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, Cercle international

12

September

Debriefing of the Summit on Peace in Ukraine

Exclusive dialogue with Ambassador Alexandre Fasel, State Secretary at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation, followed by a cocktail, at the InterContinental.

17

September

Tech Diplomacy Talks

Round-table “Tech Diplomacy Talks – Building Trust in AI”, with Corneliu Bjola, Professor at the University of Oxford, Amanda Craig, Director of AI Public Policy at Microsoft, and Lennig Pedron, CEO of Trust Valley, followed by a cocktail, at the Maison de la Paix.

Partners: Trust Valley, Tech Hub, Geneva Graduate Institute

18

September

Exclusive Dialogue with André Hoffmann

Exchange with André Hoffmann, Vice-President of the Roche Group, at his Pierre Latine vineyard, followed by a wine tasting from the estate and a dinner, in Yverne.

21
October

U.S. Diplomacy and the 2024 Presidential Election

Conference with Nicholas Kralev, Executive Director of the International Diplomatic Academy in Washington, followed by a private reception, at the Maison de la Paix.

Partner: Geneva Graduate Institute

23
October

Switzerland-EU Relations and the EU's Influence in Global Affairs

Exclusive dialogue with Petros Mavromichalis, European Union Ambassador to Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein, followed by a cocktail, at the InterContinental.

6
November

Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève

Private tour of the exhibition of the 90 watches nominated of the Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève, with the watchmaking expert Gianfranco Ritschel, followed by a cocktail reception, at the Rath Museum.

Partner: Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève Foundation

21
November

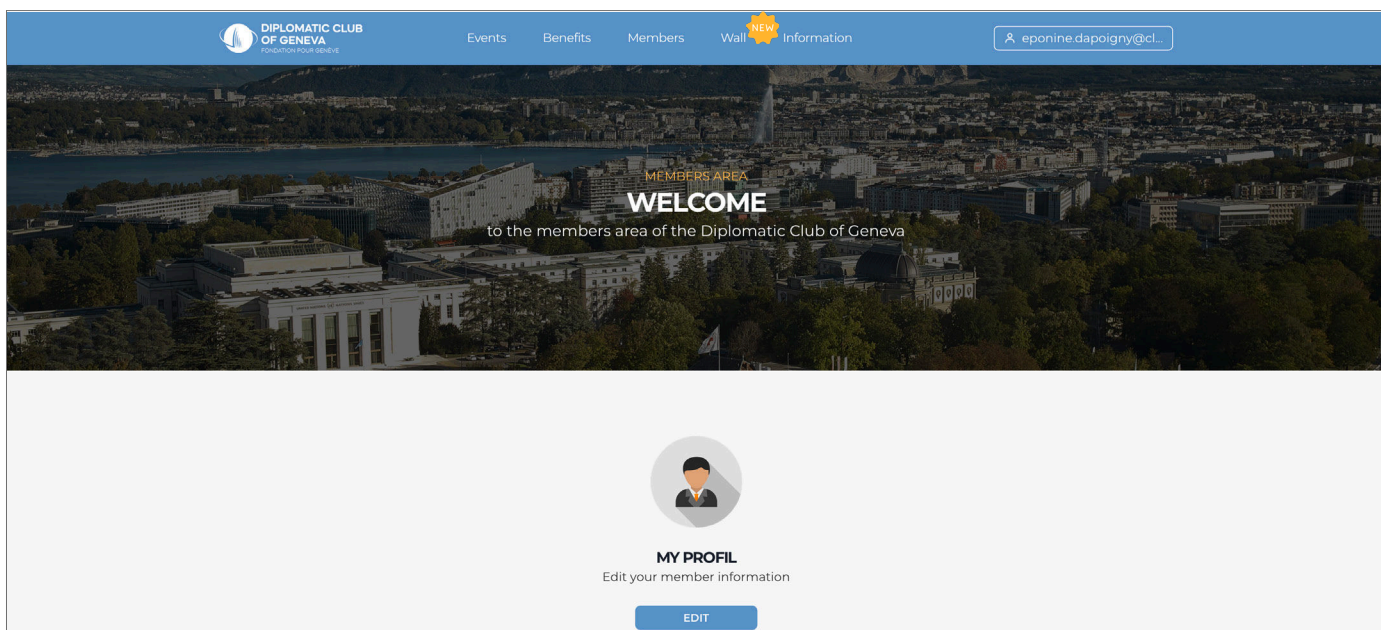
Martin Ennals Award Ceremony

30th Martin Ennals Award, preceded by a private reception with the members of the Martin Ennals Foundation and the Administrative Councillor, Alfonso Gomez, at the Salle communale de Plainpalais.

Partner: Martin Ennals Foundation



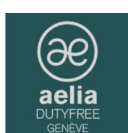
MEMBERS' AREA



What's new in 2024

In 2024, the Club is enhancing its members' area with new features, including the *Members Wall*, designed to facilitate the sharing of events, articles, and publications. This tool aims to foster exchange and strengthen the network's dynamism.

By the end of the year, **a significant portion of members is actively using this space**, highlighting its potential to play a central role in the Club's life. This platform reflects the Club's commitment to innovation, to strengthening connections among its members, and to showcasing their contributions.



-30%



-20%



-15%



-20%



-20%



-15%

INITIATIVES AND MEDIA



International Gender Champions

Since January 2020, the Diplomatic Club of Geneva has been a member of the International Gender Champions initiative, reaffirming its commitment to gender equality. In 2024, the gender balance in its panels reached **45/55**, reflecting its efforts towards more inclusive representation. The Club continues to adapt its practices to further strengthen diversity and equality in its events and international discussions.

[Discover our commitments.](#)

2050Today



Since May 2021, the Diplomatic Club of Geneva has been a member of the 2050Today initiative, committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Each year, the Club offsets its footprint by funding a local environmental project. In 2024, **two beehives were adopted** in Satigny in collaboration with the Apidae association, contributing to bee conservation. The first jars of honey were harvested in autumn, illustrating the tangible impact of this initiative on biodiversity.

[Discover our initiatives.](#)

AGEFI - Nouvelle Agence Économique et Financière



Since January 2024, the Diplomatic Club of Geneva has been collaborating with AGEFI on the article series “Chronique du Club Diplomatique de Genève”, where a Club member shares insights each month on a current topic related to International Geneva. In 2024, **ten articles** were published, enriching public debate, enhancing the visibility of International Geneva, and showcasing the expertise of its members.

[Discover our articles.](#)

COTE Magazine



Since September 2022, the Diplomatic Club of Geneva has been collaborating with COTE Magazine on the Inside International Geneva series, highlighting key figures dedicated to promoting International Geneva. In 2024, **seven articles** were published, providing a platform for those who contribute to its influence in Switzerland and abroad.

[Discover our articles.](#)

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

Pascal Rapillard

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

Francisca E. Méndez Escobar

(from 10 December)

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the UNOG

Yuri Sterk

(from 10 December)

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the UNOG

Ram Prasad Subedi

(from 10 December)

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the UNOG

Consular Corps

Robert Zoells

Honorary Consul General of Austria

(* Vice-Presidency)

International Organizations

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Cheffe de Cabinet of the Director-General, UNOG

*Charlotte Warakaulle

Director for International Relations, CERN

NGO

Corinne Momal-Vanian

Executive Director, Kofi Annan Foundation

Academia

Stéphane Berthet

Vice Rector, University of Geneva

Marie-Laure Salles

Director, Geneva Graduate Institute

Economic Institutions

Larissa Robinson

Secretary-General, Groupement des Entreprises Multinationales

*Vincent Subilia

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

Structures of International Geneva

Tatjana Darani

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

Marc Pictet

President of the Fondation pour Genève

Beatrice Roetheli-Mariotti

(from 2 July)

Co-President, Cercle international de la Fondation pour Genève

Yannick Roulin

Ambassador, Director of the International Geneva Welcome Centre

Independant Members

*David Chikvaidze

former senior official of the United Nations

Raymond Loretan

Former Ambassador of Switzerland, President of the Diplomatic Club

Georges Gard

President, GP Fiduciaire SA, Treasurer of the Diplomatic Club

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

President of the State Council

City of Geneva

Christina Kitsos

Mayor

Fondation pour Genève

Marc Pictet

President

Ad personam

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Ruth Dreifuss

Former President of the Swiss Confederation

Yves Flückiger

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Dominique Föllmi

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

Alain Frank

Founder and former President of the Diplomatic Club of Geneva

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

OPERATIONAL TEAM

Raymond Loretan

President

Alizée Ehrnrooth

Secretary-General

Eponine Dapoigny

Project Officer

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The banks

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MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company SA
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The institutions

Fédération des Entreprises Romandes Genève
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Services industriels de Genève
SuisseNégoce

The foundations

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as well as other donors who wish to remain anonymous.

Many thanks also to the members of the Diplomatic Club!



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