

Why has Geneva been, and continues to be, the place where major international agreements are forged, the center for managing the implementation of several international conventions, and the point where scientific knowledge is pooled and applied in practice? Thanks to a hundred or more institutions based in the city and its surrounding areas, decision-makers, experts from inter-governmental organizations, businesspeople and civil society representatives are able to put their ideas and proposals concerning the future of the planet to the test on a day-to-day basis. For these people, whose actions have worldwide ramifications at all levels of society, it is possible to have a global impact as a result of their joint efforts here in Geneva.

**Micheline Calmy-Rey**, President of the Swiss Confederation in 2007

A globalized world is a decentralized world. Yet each major city can act as a node in the extended network of global policy. For those living and working outside Switzerland it still means coming regularly to Geneva. Many of our partners are here. This is where the world's information and expertise habitually gathers. Here is where international initiatives frequently start or are nurtured. Geneva is where global programs often can be most effectively managed. Switzerland has for many years been a country in the center of international affairs including the environment and in doing so has in many ways shaped the modern Geneva of today – a city that is and will remain an important part of the global imperative for sustainable development.

**Achim Steiner**, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

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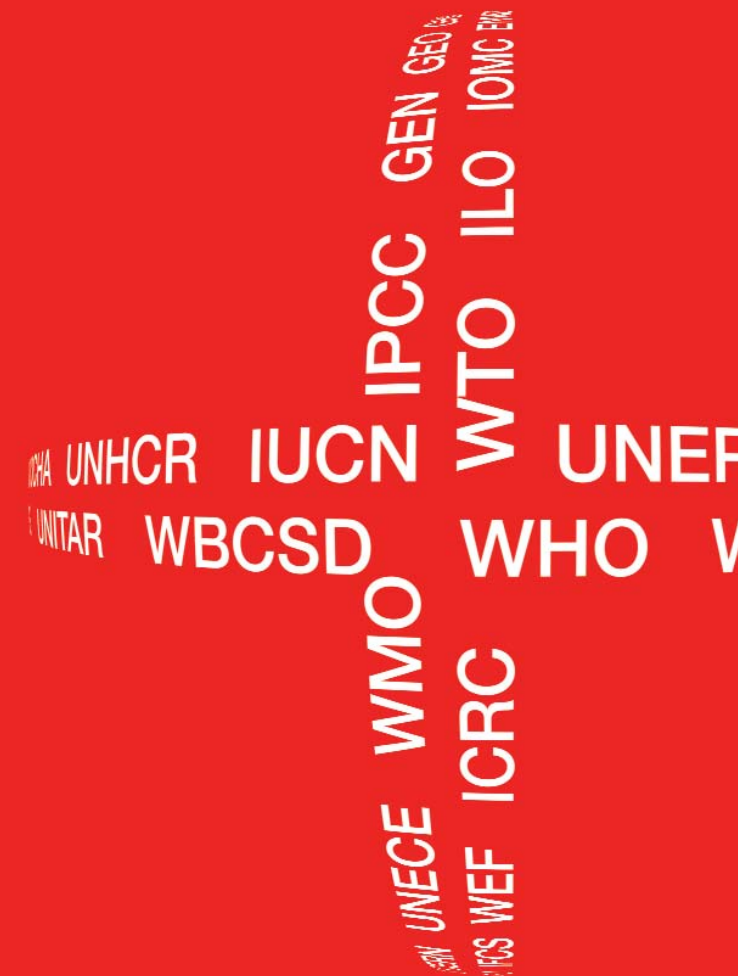
The World Conservation Union moved to the Lake Geneva region almost 40 years ago. Being based in a neutral country with a reputation for impartiality has served us well over the years. Just as Switzerland wants to make Geneva a world center of excellence on sustainable development, the World Conservation Union is facing the urgent task of informing and educating the next generation of environmentalists. This will be helped with our plans for a World Conservation Campus – an extension of our Gland headquarters. The challenges of the future may be worldwide but the Geneva region is a good place to explore the solutions.

**Mohammed Valli Moosa**, President, World Conservation Union (IUCN)

For the WBCSD, there is no paradox in coordinating all our global work from Geneva. The Earth Summit – which gave business a voice in international deliberations on sustainable development – was prepared from Geneva, making use of the same advantages as those that attract us. The multiplicity of organizations in the region, concerned with all aspects of sustainable development, along with the diplomatic missions that work with them, and the range of NGOs make this an ideal place for dialogue on new ideas and planning international action.

**Björn Stigson**, President of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

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