

AALBORG COMMITMENTS

—
**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
IN THE CITY OF GENEVA:
2010 BASELINE REVIEW**



IMPLEMENTING THE AALBORG COMMITMENTS IN THE CITY OF GENEVA

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Nota bene:

The communal administrative system and the municipal political level are described herein as the City of Geneva, whereas the communal territory will be described herein as the city of Geneva.

FOREWORD BY THE MAYOR OF GENEVA, SANDRINE SALERNO



In June 2007, the newly elected “Conseil administratif” (the name given in Geneva to the municipality’s executive body) set itself the priority of giving a new direction to the City’s sustainable development policy. Our aim was to present the Municipal Council and the citizens of Geneva with a *clear picture* of the challenges that lie ahead and of our ambition to address these challenges through a *shared strategy based on concrete objectives* that can be assessed by means of simple indicators, enabling all those involved to monitor the annual progress of our mission.

Our purpose is to create a sustainable city for its current inhabitants as well as for future generations and we chose the *Aalborg Commitments* as a framework for our actions. As you will discover upon reading this report, these ten Commitments cover all the municipal spheres of activity, from good governance to the proper management of our natural and financial resources and from social solidarity to our efforts to fight global warming. These Commitments force local authorities to define objectives and enable comparisons to be drawn between cities.

Our first step in this process was to work with all 50 services of the Municipal Administration and to assess the current situation in terms of sustainable development. We then undertook an in-depth *consultation* among the main stakeholders of Geneva’s sustainable development. These included representatives from various associations, a range of experts, members of the Municipal Council and state employees working for the Municipal Administration. Our work was transparent and cut across all municipal departments, enabling us to formulate both short-term and long-term commitments.

This process is in no way commonplace and represents a real change of mindset, both in terms of our administrative culture and in terms of local governance. We all have every reason to be proud of the results achieved so far.

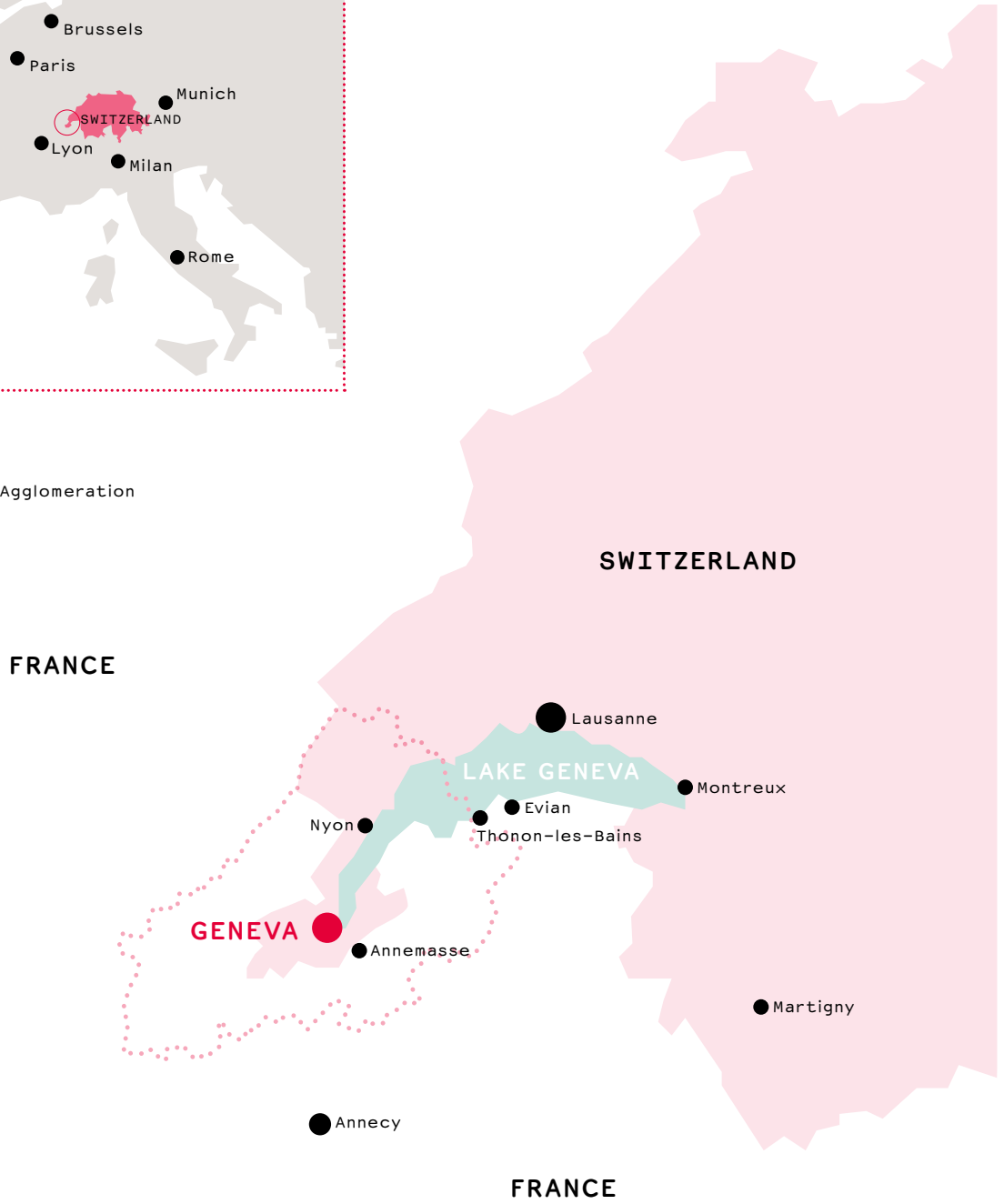
I am particularly happy to write the foreword to this report as it constitutes an important step in our consultation process; it is a review of the current situation of sustainable development in Geneva (the first of its kind) and a baseline from which to launch an ongoing improvement process. For nearly 15 years, and especially since the signing of the *Aalborg Charter* in 1995, which was only three years after the Earth Summit of Rio, the City of Geneva has implemented numerous good practices. In fact, many of these were initiated by an administration acting responsibly to deal with modern environmental and social challenges. Among many examples of best practices, I will mention but a few: we won the *European Energy Award® Gold in 2010* as a result of the phenomenal work carried out by our energy services; our “Plan directeur communal” (Communal Director Plan, a municipal long-term urban development plan) and our mobility plans are among the most advanced of their kind; and finally, Geneva’s social services boast a high degree of innovation, particularly with regard to their community-focused action policies.

Many other achievements could be mentioned here such as the management of our vehicle fleet, the management of our information technology (IT) resources, the organisation of big events and our acquisition strategies. Without forgetting to note the measures that we have taken recently and that have yet to show their full potential, in particular in the field of job creation, the promotion of a social economy based on solidarity, contractual support towards the local economy, the implementation of “Contrat de quartier” (local participatory government projects) and waste management as well as gender equality and equality between Swiss citizens and foreign nationals.

However, until now, we were lacking an overall view, a common project, specific improvement goals and a shared methodology. In short, we were still missing a consistent and ambitious public strategy for truly sustainable development. Now we have just that. The next step will be to implement these measures and to monitor the progress made. In the meantime, I invite you to discover the results.



- Switzerland
- France-Vaud-Geneva Agglomeration



● Lyon

● Chambéry

A CITY AT THE CENTRE OF A RAPIDLY EXPANDING AGGLOMERATION

Geneva is situated between the Alps and the Jura, at the southwestern tip of Switzerland – a privileged and strategic location in the heart of Western Europe. The city was built at the end of Lake Geneva and on the banks of the river Rhône. It is surrounded by a ring of mountains: the Jura, the Vuache, the Voirons and Mont-Salève. For Geneva, this location provides many natural advantages that it has a duty to protect, as well as constraints it has to manage.

The city of Geneva is the centre of a vast 2000 square-kilometre cross-border agglomeration that is home to approximately 800 000 inhabitants: the France-Vaud-Geneva agglomeration. It includes 210 communes in Switzerland, in the cantons Geneva and Vaud; and in France, in the departments of Ain and Haute-Savoie. After a period of slow growth, the economic development regained its momentum at the turn of the 21st century, with an average annual growth rate of 1.2%. The France-Vaud-Geneva agglomeration provides about 385 000 jobs and has become one of the most dynamic areas in Europe.

The city of Geneva covers a territory of 16 square kilometres and is home to a population of around 188 000. The administrative communal structure and the municipal political system were established at the end of the 18th century. In 1930, the mandate of the City was strongly reduced in favour of the Canton of Geneva, in exchange for an increased share of communal land.

The canton has a total surface area of 280 square kilometres and a population of 453 000 inhabitants, 43% of which live in the city of Geneva. The canton shares a 130-kilometre border with France and a 4.5-kilometre border with Switzerland, which it joined in 1847.

Geneva is the second biggest city in Switzerland, after Zurich, and is often rated among the three best places in the world in terms of quality of living. For example, in 2008, it was second place in the “Worldwide Quality of Living Survey” conducted by Mercer, a human resources consulting firm. In comparison with other cities, Geneva’s advantages reside in its scenery, infrastructures, level of comfort, the quality of its environment and its relatively low crime rate.

Geneva is also the seat of the United Nation’s European headquarters. It hosts approximately 50 international organisations, 26 of which are based here, and over 250 non-

governmental organisations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). It owes much of its prosperity to this international profile. Geneva plays a key role in the field of international diplomacy and multilateral cooperation as it is home to several international networks where political, economic, social and environmental ideas are shared. It is a city that combines international functions and a cosmopolitan identity: 43% of the inhabitants are foreigners, first- or second-generation immigrants, expatriates or international officials. Multilingualism is one of Geneva’s striking characteristics, with a population that boasts good language skills and knowledge, on average.

As one of the 45 communes of the Canton of Geneva, the political autonomy of the City of Geneva is restricted by the power and supervisory authority of the canton. This sets the City of Geneva apart from most other cities or towns in Switzerland and Europe. Despite this restriction, the City of Geneva plays an important part in many aspects of the daily life of its citizens such as the environment, public planning, housing, security, local social actions, childcare, culture and sports.

Today more than ever, the City of Geneva has a crucial role to play by addressing the challenges inherent to the region’s current transformation. As a city that is central to the France-Vaud-Geneva agglomeration, it has the responsibility of meeting the new demands of this emerging space. Indeed, the agglomeration’s rapid economic and demographic growth will undoubtedly entail important changes for its population in terms of the quality of living such as a growing urbanisation, increased road traffic or disparities affecting economic development.

The forces of social segregation, which exist in many European cities, are also at work in Geneva. Salary disparity has reached the highest level recorded in Switzerland. Although many consequences of this imbalance have been alleviated by the implementation of existing regulations, the current situation requires strong corrective measures. The idea is to ensure that all the residents of the city of Geneva, the men and women who contribute to its expansion and vitality, may live together in harmony, while ensuring a sustainable development.

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE CITY: A MUNICIPALITY PROJECT

When the Administrative Council of the City of Geneva took office on 1 June 2007, it set about to establish its policy for a “sustainable city”. The idea was to create a city “that ensured, through participative governance, a fair social and economic development, while reducing the ecological impact of human activities on the natural resources of our territory”. In addition to environmental protection and a careful stewardship of natural resources, the sustainable city project includes essential requirements pertaining to social justice and equality, primarily focused on issues of health and social services, access to employment, housing and culture. The goal of the project is to provide the entire population of Geneva with dignified living conditions. Achieving this requires a strong political will and the involved commitment of all municipal employees. Currently, the entire municipality of Geneva is working towards this “sustainable city”.

Promoting social cohesion is a major challenge. Easily accessible, high-quality basic social services are needed to strengthen our quality of living and to develop an enhanced feeling of integration for the residents of the city of Geneva. Furthermore, it is crucial to provide targeted services in order to prevent the increasing marginalisation of specific population groups. We must do all we can to bridge the widening gap within the community and to prevent emerging feelings of incomprehension and rejection that may be entertained by a fraction of the population.

In this context, a priority that concerns the entire municipality is to provide everyone, and especially the less privileged members of society, with access to adequate housing facilities and with social and financial conditions adapted to their family situation.

In a city as multicultural as Geneva, this integration process requires various participatory instruments. Culture is one such instrument and a key factor of success. The City of Geneva regards culture as a unifying element for its residents, and remains committed to its promotion. It encourages cultural diversity and has taken many measures to ensure equal access to culture.

The municipality strives to provide the framework for a harmonious and controlled city development, in compliance with the principles of sustainability. One of the ways to develop and improve the living conditions of the inhabitants of Geneva is to transform and upgrade public spaces so as to ensure that they are used in the best possible manner. Another priority is to continue implementing concrete measures that aim to reduce the impact of human activity on the environment.

Finally, as it is essential to have strong financial resources at our disposal if we are to build a “sustainable city”, the City of Geneva will continue to uphold stringent standards regarding the management of public funds.

FIFTEEN YEARS OF COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

For the past 15 years, the City of Geneva has been committed to promoting sustainable development. This commitment stems from the signing of the Aalborg Charter by the Administrative Council (executive power) in 1995, three years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil).

By signing the Charter, the City chose to adopt a long-term approach. It adheres to the fundamental principles of sustainable development, i.e. protecting the environment, defending social justice, promoting cultural diversity and ensuring economic viability. In parallel, the city strengthened its commitment by joining several international networks of cities involved in sustainable development.

In 2000, an administrative agency specifically tasked with addressing sustainability issues was created within the Municipal Administration. It was established under the name “Unité Agenda 21” and has since been renamed “Délégation Agenda 21” (henceforth Agenda 21 Delegation). It serves as a knowledge centre and its actions are implemented by members of the Agenda 21 Network who work for the six departments of the City: Department of authorities, Department of finances and housing, Department of buildings and planning, Department of culture, Department of the urban environment and safety and Department of social cohesion, youth and sports.

In 2001, the municipality defined an initial sustainable development strategy, which included the following three objectives: (i) establishing an exemplary administration; (ii) organising awareness-raising and information campaigns on the topic of sustainable development; and (iii) implementing assessment tools and sustainability indicators to guide the municipal strategy. Following a 2008 evaluation of the progress achieved by this policy, the executive body of the City of Geneva decided to give its actions a new impetus and to sign the *Aalborg Commitments*, thus demonstrating its resolve to transform Geneva into a “sustainable city”. In this context, the *Aalborg Commitments* were deemed by the municipality to be the best-suited instrument for this purpose: a consistent, efficient and transparent approach to sustainability.

By signing the *Aalborg Commitments*, the City of Geneva decided to participate in a highly rigorous process involving analyses, proposals, implementation strategies and evaluations. Currently, only two other Swiss cities have signed these Commitments and started to work on the ensuing obligations. The City of Geneva thus entered into an original and ambitious process, which started in April 2008 and was carried out in three phases:

1st phase (April 2008–June 2009): internal consultation within the Municipal Administration in order to assess the current situation in terms of sustainable development in the administration of the City of Geneva as of 31 December 2008.

2nd phase (April 2009–September 2009): consultation process conducted within the city of Geneva to establish priorities for the sustainable development of the City and progress indicators. This process involved 130 people: employees of the Municipal Administration, experts, civil society representatives and elected members of the Municipal Council.

3rd phase (October 2009–March 2010): adoption of a target setting report for sustainable development by the Administrative Council, based on a series of priorities chosen among those identified during the consultation process and a preliminary review of those objectives.

The Sustainable Development in the City of Geneva: 2010 Baseline Review describes each of the ten Aalborg Commitments with the following approach:

- short presentation of the situation in Geneva in relation with each Aalborg Commitment;
- summary of the actions undertaken by the City of Geneva in each specific field;
- description of the main challenges the City of Geneva must address in the coming years in order to become a sustainable city;
- list of Internet sites that provide further information on the topic.

COMMITMENT 1: GOVERNANCE

SITUATION ANALYSIS

The Swiss political structure is a three-tiered system that includes the communal level, the cantonal level and the federal level. The City of Geneva is one of the 45 communes of the Canton of Geneva but is home to almost half the canton's population. The City's executive power is held by the Administrative Council, which consists of five elected officials who share responsibilities and who take turns acting as mayor for a year. The legislative body of the City, the Municipal Council, consists of 80 members or elected municipal representatives, 49 of whom were women for the 2007–2011 period (Swiss average: 31%). The Council does not vote on laws, but instead on "deliberations" (written decisions) on the municipal budget and investment decisions.

At the cantonal level, the executive body is called the "Conseil d'Etat" (State Council) and includes seven members elected by majority vote. The "Grand Conseil" (Parliament), is elected under a system of proportional representation and has 100 MPs (Members of Parliament), 25% of whom are women and 38% of whom reside in the city of Geneva (2009–2013 legislature).

The debates held in Parliament or by the Municipal Council are open to the public. They are broadcast live and in full on local television and the minutes of each session are available on the Internet.

We are committed to energising our decision-making processes through increased participatory democracy.

The electorate in Geneva may intervene in public life and electors may make their voices heard on political decisions by launching or signing referendums (in order to oppose laws voted in Parliament) or by initiating "popular initiatives" (proposing constitutional or legislative changes). These instruments of direct democracy are called "votations" and are a typically Swiss feature. The electorate in Geneva is frequently called upon to cast its vote, on average four times per year. The participation rate in elections generally varies between 40% and 60%.

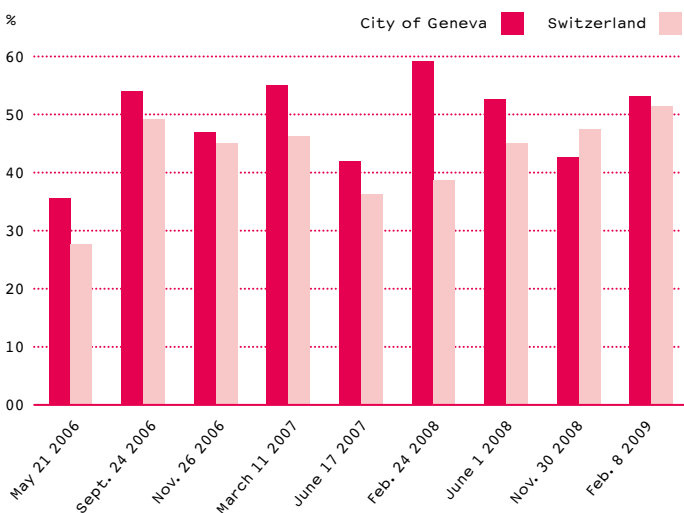
Foreigners make up more than 40% of the population of Geneva. Those who

have been residing in Switzerland for eight years or more are allowed to vote in communal elections, but cannot stand for election themselves. Despite this particular provision, at the cantonal level, experts in political science often perceive the electorate of Geneva as being insufficiently representative of the population residing in its territory.

Given the institutional distribution of responsibilities, a certain degree of collaboration is required between the various political and administrative levels, and in particular between the canton and the City of Geneva. This collaboration often turns out to be rather difficult because of the overlapping nature of the roles and responsibilities at each level. Currently, there is an ongoing project that aims to better define governance in Geneva, conducted by a constitutional convention elected in 2008. By 2012, it is expected make a series of proposals pertaining to the institutional and political organisation of the canton with the view of establishing constitutional reforms.

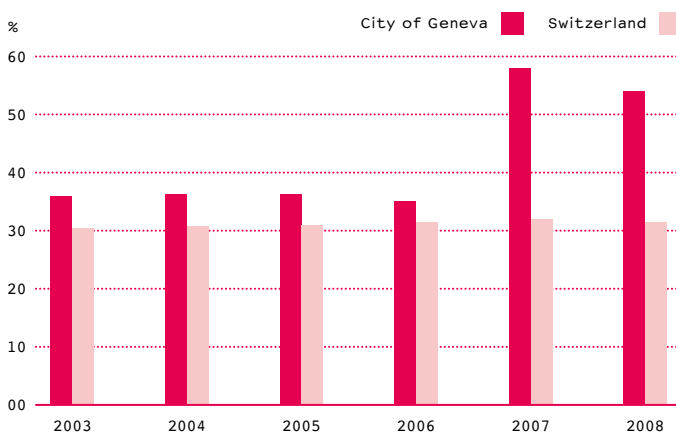
Institutional cooperation is also being implemented within the France-Vaud-Geneva agglomeration and stems from a shared political will to establish

Participation in federal «votations» in the City of Geneva and in Switzerland (2006–2009)



Participation rate in the last nine federal "votations" (2006–2009)
Source: Cantonal Office of Statistics, City of Geneva

Percentage of elected women in communal legislative elections in Geneva and in Switzerland (2003–2008)



The percentage of women elected in communal legislative elections is on par with the national average of Swiss communes. This graph compares it with the percentage of women elected to the Municipal Council of the city of Geneva for the 2003–2008 period.
Sources: Union of Swiss Cities (UVS)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

City of Geneva:
www.ville-geneve.ch

Municipal Council:
<https://www.ville-geneve.ch/conseil-municipal/>

“Contrat de quartier”:
participative programme bringing together the population and the municipality within workgroups:
www.ville-geneve.ch/administration-municipale/departement-autorites-grands-projets/nouveaute-contrat-quartier/

Portal of Geneva’s authorities and institutions:
www.geneve.ch

Association of Geneva’s Communes:
www.acg.ch

The Canton of Geneva:
www.ge.ch

Geneva legislation:
www.geneve.ch/legislation/

France-Vaud-Geneva agglomeration project:
www.projet-agglo.org

coordinated governance adapted to the populations’ living area.

As a result of this unifying approach, the agglomeration has become the largest in the region in terms of the number of communes it includes and the territory it covers.

With regard to voluntary work, which is a key component of participation in community life, the Canton of Geneva has the lowest rates of voluntary commitment in Switzerland: 29.1% compared with 45.5% in Bern, for example. The mobility of the population of Geneva, which varies by approximately 3000–4000 people on a monthly basis, is one of the factors that explains this very low participation rate. There are many other elements that make Geneva stand out among other Swiss cities in terms of voluntary work: women are more involved than men (31% versus 27%)

and the gap of voluntary commitment between the Swiss and foreigners is only 14.9%, compared with an average of 23.7% for the rest of Switzerland.

WHAT THE CITY OF GENEVA IS DOING

The City of Geneva is making every effort to increase the participation of its population in communal life through various actions. A pilot project (“Contrat de quartier”) was launched in 2009, providing a formal framework governing a mutual commitment by authorities, inhabitants and business owners to work towards shared objectives and improve living conditions in the neighbourhood. Meetings that have been dubbed the “Voice of the Neighbourhood” (“Paroles aux quartiers”) are regularly held between members of the Executive Council and the local population and focus on the quality of living. For several years now, schools have been running a participatory budget experiment: representatives of the pupils, teachers, parents and cleaning staff in schools or school-related structures meet to discuss the manner in which the budget should be spent for the improvement of living conditions in schools.

Municipal information is available in Living in Geneva (*Vivre à Genève*), a quarterly magazine that is distributed to every household and is available on the

City’s Internet site. In 2009, the City’s web page was entirely redesigned in order to improve its user friendliness and interactivity.

The departments of the City enjoy technical working relationships with other municipal or cantonal administrations. There is also active collaboration with the French cities of the agglomeration, especially in the cultural sphere. Finally, a growing number of public–private partnerships involving businesses and communes are being established.

CHALLENGES

In order to build a shared vision of sustainable development, there must be a participatory effort based on a strong collaboration between private and public partners and with the entire population of the city of Geneva. On the basis of past experiments, guidelines for participatory actions and norms are needed. This will foster clarity and coordination between the various participatory approaches and with Geneva’s legal and political framework. A data and statistics sharing tool should be created, encompassing the entire territory of Geneva in order to provide an accurate diagnosis of the sustainable development situation and the challenges it holds in store.



COMMITMENT 2: LOCAL MANAGEMENT TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

SITUATION ANALYSIS

For the past few years, a good economic situation has enabled the City of Geneva to generate significant excess revenue. In 2008, this excess revenue was in the amount of 155 million CHF (103 million €) and represented a 10% share of our net revenue.

Municipal revenue, which was 1192 million CHF (795 million €) in 2008, was mostly based on taxation (78%) and revenue from goods (14%). Government spending represented 1037 million CHF (691 million €) in 2008 and included personnel-related expenditure (39%), subsidies (21%), acquisition of goods, services and merchandise (18%), depreciation (6%) and interest on debt (6%).

The investments made by the City of Geneva focus primarily on city planning, cultural infrastructures, the sanitation of water treatment systems and housing and building. In 2008, 66 million CHF (44 million €) were spent in these areas.

For some years now, the self-financing margin of the City of Geneva has enabled us to finance all of our annual investments and to reduce our level of debt. Our financial balance sheet reveals a healthy status. We have, however, a high level of debt when viewed from an international

perspective, with 1490 million CHF (986 million €) of debt. As of 31 December 2008, the amount owed by the City of Geneva totalled 1.38 times its revenues.

WHAT THE CITY OF GENEVA IS DOING

In order to ensure the healthy state of our finances, which is essential for the ongoing success of our actions at the municipal level, the Administrative Council scrupulously controls the evolution of our spending, while granting autonomy to municipal departments with regard to their allocation of resources. Since 2004, each department of the City of Geneva has received a global budget and is free to spread its expenditure among services and types of spending as it sees fit. On top of this fixed budget package, each department is free to make requests for additional funds, which are subject to approval by the Administrative Council.

This effort to control spending at the municipal level is crucial as the City of Geneva can only accurately assess its revenue several years after the end of any given financial year. It is, therefore, unable to make annual expense plans based on its revenue.

With regard to our investment strategy, the objective of the City of Geneva is to

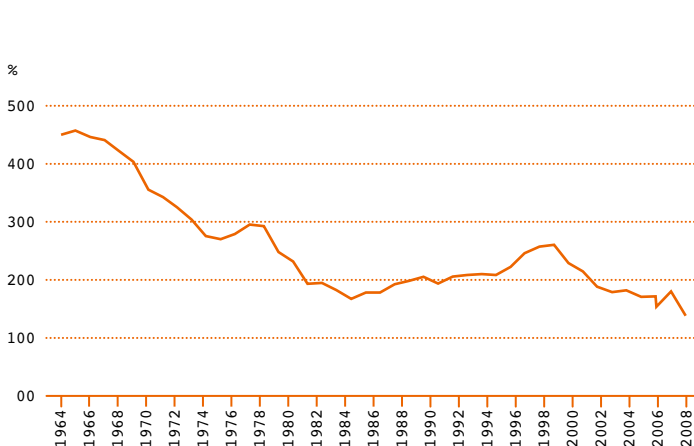
allocate an annual amount of 95 million CHF (63 million €) to investments. We have a financial investment plan that lists our projects by order of priority for the next 12 years. This plan is continuously being updated and a new version is issued each year.

We are committed to implementing effective management cycles, from formulation through implementation to evaluation.

The political authorities of the City give municipal services a series of missions, or services, that are to be carried out on an annual basis. The mission statements are used to present objectives and ensure the transparency of budget allocations for specific missions and services. The budget is presented along with an explanatory document drafted by the Administrative Council.

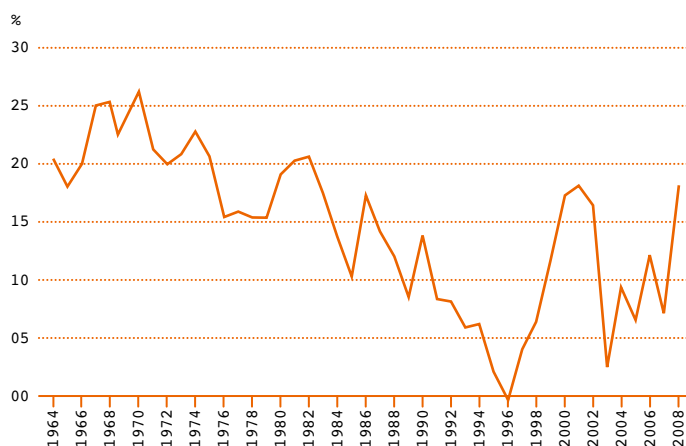
Following a motion in 1998, the Municipal Council implemented a management control process that aims to verify the suitability of missions or services and their objectives, as well to assess the success of their implementation.

Debt/revenue ratio of the City of Geneva (1964 – 2008)

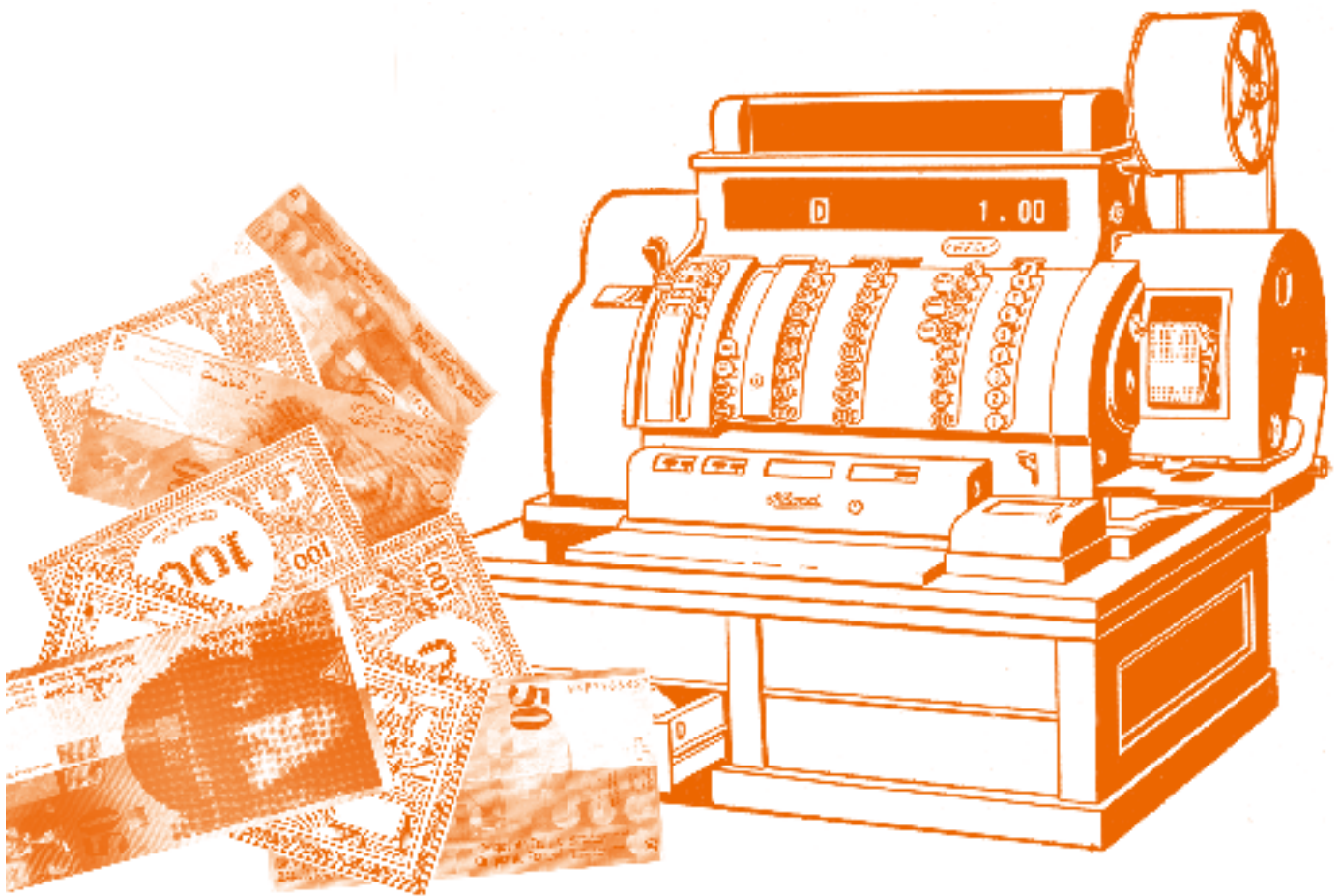


The debt/revenue ratio provides an indicator of the financial health of a public community. The graph shows the level of debt of the City of Geneva compared to its revenue over a 30-year period.
Source: Department of finances and housing, City of Geneva

Self-financing margin of the City of Geneva (1964 – 2008)



The self-financing margin of a given public community measures its ability to finance its expenditure and investments, after settlement of operational costs. The graph shows the evolution of this indicator over a 30-year period.
Source: Department of finances and housing, City of Geneva



This process includes organisational audits, specific analyses and monthly consistency controls. For the moment, it does not assess the suitability of municipal strategies and fails to include sustainability criteria. Furthermore, internal auditing of municipal services is conducted by the financial control centre, which is primarily focused on the City's accounting. On average, eight reports are produced per year.

Several important municipal projects follow the various steps of a precise project management cycle and include associated monitoring instruments. Among these include the establishment of a Plan directeur communal (Communal Director Plan, which is a municipal long-term urban development plan), the European Energy Award®, the implementation of our "City Lighting Management Plan" and the creation of a "Municipal Centre of Acquisitions" (CMAI). However, municipal actions do not yet systematically adhere to all the rules that usually govern management cycles.

CHALLENGES

The challenges that lie ahead for the City of Geneva if it is to achieve sustainable local management are many and varied. On the one hand, it must be able to ensure the sustainability of its current and future actions, based on healthy finances. On the other hand, the City of Geneva must take specific steps: (i) to ensure that the methods used to manage its financial and non-financial resources are consistent; (ii) to establish an integrated management process with regard to municipal action – be it initiated by the Administrative Council, the Municipal Council or the Municipal Administration; (iii) to implement an objective-driven environmental management system; and (iv) to establish a four-year financial investment plan based on sustainable development criteria.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Finances of the City of Geneva:
www.ville-geneve.ch/themes/economie-finances-emploi/finances-communales/

Public spending:
 annual budget, expenditure and subsidies granted by the Department of culture of the City of Geneva:
www.ville-geneve.ch/administration-municipale/departement-culture/argent-public/

Public accounts:
 supervisory body of the Cantonal administration, public institutions and subsidised agencies:
www.ge.ch/cdc

Swiss cities' indicators:
 national platform of sustainable development indicators:
www.aren.admin.ch/themen/nachhaltig/00268/00552/index.html?lang=fr

COMMITMENT 3: NATURAL COMMON GOODS

SITUATION ANALYSIS

The intense traffic levels in the city of Geneva are responsible for two thirds of the pollution recorded in the region. Furthermore, the fact that the city is located in a topographic basin causes the air pollution to be retained in the city. Consequently, air quality is poor and exces-

We are committed to fully assuming our responsibility to protect, to preserve and to ensure equitable access to natural common goods.

sive levels have been noted for three of the most harmful pollutants – nitrogen dioxide, ozone and fine particles. In fact, the average rate of these pollutants regularly exceeds the Swiss legal limits for air pollution. This situation is worrying in terms of public health, and yet, over the years, no progress has been made in our efforts to find a solution.

The city of Geneva enjoys a comfortable situation in terms of its water supply: it is located on the shores of the largest water reserve in Europe, Lake Geneva, and the 820 square-kilometre basin it

occupies is also home to an 800-kilometre network of rivers and the biggest drinkable groundwater reserves of the region. The inhabitants of Geneva view water as a plentiful resource, a fact compounded by its relatively low cost. Water costs approximately 3 CHF (1.98 €) per cubic metre per cubic metre). Water consumption is high with 162 litres per person per day. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 50 litres of drinkable water per day per person is the required minimum. The management of wastewater must be monitored with care, as a slight after-treatment increase of pollutants has been noted in recent years.

Nonetheless, the quantity of pollutants released into the environment is following a downward trend.

In certain areas of Geneva, the quality of the soil has been affected by human activity. This soil pollution generally stems from industrial activities and varies in severity. Soil pollution has been recorded on 192 decommissioned or active industrial sites. A map of polluted and contaminated sites has been established and a plan has been drawn up for their decontamination over the next 25 years.

Despite high urban densities, the territory of Geneva is home to a very rich biodiversity. The stretch of the river Rhône that runs through the territory of Geneva has been listed among the wetlands of international importance of the Ramsar Convention. Around 20% of the city's territory consists of parks and urban forests. There are approximately 40 000 trees (forming the equivalent of a 50-kilometre alignment) and 428 000 plants, including 600 species of flowering plants, around a quarter of which are threatened at different levels. Approximately 200 bird species are listed for the territory, including a significant number of migratory birds. Geneva is on migration paths and a popular destination for wintering birds.

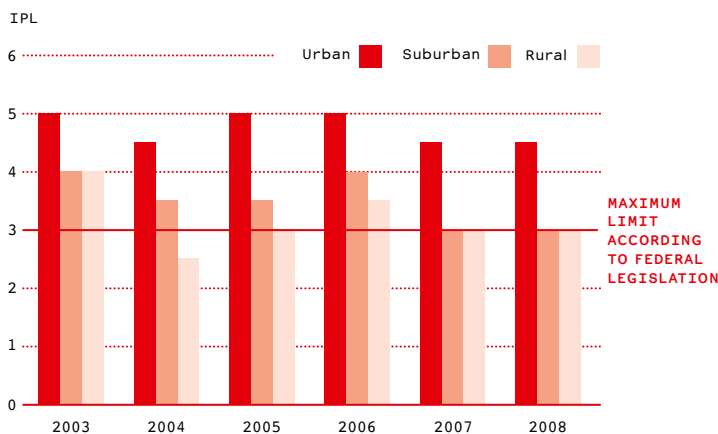
WHAT THE CITY OF GENEVA IS DOING

Despite limited capacities in this field, the City of Geneva is actively pursuing a campaign aimed at protecting and preserving the exceptional natural resources the territory of Geneva has to offer.

It has implemented numerous measures to reduce air pollution levels, in compliance with cantonal guidelines, including:

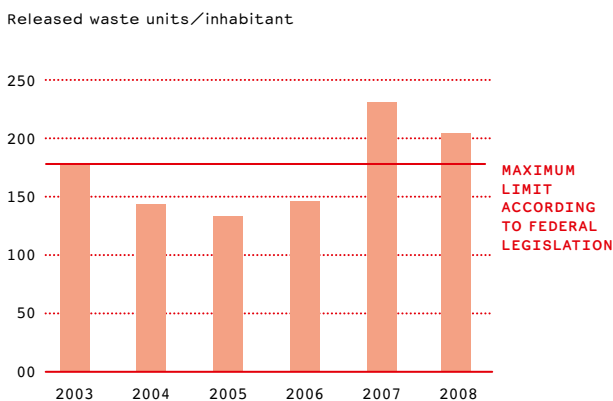
- promoting soft mobility;
- supporting regional action projects

Long-term air pollution index (IPL) in Geneva (2003 – 2007)



The IPL is a mixed index that provides information on air pollution based on concentration levels of the three most harmful air pollutants: nitrogen dioxide, ozone and fine particles
Source: Cantonal Service for the Protection of Air, Geneva

Presence of post-treatment water pollutants in Geneva's sewage treatment facilities (2003 – 2008)



The graph shows the quality of water leaving Geneva's sewage treatment facilities, measuring the quantity of mud, nitrates and phosphates released into the environment in relation to the number of inhabitants connected to the water system.
Source: Industrial Services of Geneva (SIG)

- aimed at reducing individual motorised traffic;
- developing the cycle path network and pedestrian routes;
- improving public city planning;
- upgrading the municipal heating system;
- taking measures to reduce the environmental and climatic impact of transport by the Municipal Administration;
- establishing a climate and energy policy.

Since 1996, the City of Geneva has been pursuing a diversified strategy for a judicious management of its water supplies. This project has resulted in a 35% reduction of the municipality's water consumption, while maintaining the level of service

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Geneva 2020, sustainable renewal of a centre-city:

Communal Director Plan:

www.ville-geneve.ch/themes/amenagement-construction-logement/urbanisme-planification/plan-directeur-communal/

Green spaces in town and sustainable development:

a list of best practices for the management of Geneva's green areas:

www.ville-geneve.ch/fileadmin/public/publications/developpement_durable/nature-developpement-durable-brochure-ville-de-geneve.pdf

Conservatory and Botanical Gardens of the City of Geneva:

www.ville-geneve.ch/plan-ville/parcs-jardins-plages-bains-publics/jardin-botanique/

Museum of Natural History of the City of Geneva:

www.ville-ge.ch/mhng/

Air Sanitation Plan in the Canton of Geneva:

<http://etat.geneve.ch/dt/air>

Geneva's Information System (SITG): geo-referenced maps with numerous environmental indicators:

<http://etat.geneve.ch/sitg/accueil.html>

offered to the residents of Geneva. The steps that have been taken include: (i) the establishment of closed circuits for the water cycle of fountains; (ii) the recuperation of rainwater, leading to a 95% reduction of drinking water consumption; and (iii) the use of rainwater to wash state-owned vehicles, to water parks and sports centres, and to fill flush tanks.

In 2009, the City of Geneva adopted a new Communal Director Plan, with one of its main objectives to establish a rational and sustainable exploitation of our land. In parallel to this effort, municipal services have initiated a coordinated strategy for the decontamination of the 54 polluted sites identified in the territory under municipal responsibility. The City of Geneva actively promotes the biodiversity of its territory's "green heritage". Parks, walking paths and green spaces are cared for according to "differentiated management" principles that take into consideration their uses and purposes. Municipal services and institutions are currently involved in a dozen projects of regional, national or international scope that are aimed at

protecting the territory's natural resources. The new Communal Director Plan includes ecological "green corridors" that are to be protected or created in the heart of the urban area.

CHALLENGES

The City of Geneva will pursue its ongoing efforts to ensure that air quality does not negatively impact public health. This has been identified as a priority. Furthermore, the collaboration of all the residents of Geneva and of the France-Vaud-Geneva agglomeration is required if we are to achieve a sustainable compliance with the relevant standards. This objective also implies a rescaling of our road network and the establishment of limits governing individual motorised traffic.

In order to increase biodiversity in its territory, the City of Geneva is developing a network of natural spaces and habitats. The aim of this project is to create a diversified and natural environment that is perceived as a factor of well-being by the population.



COMMITMENT 4: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND LIFESTYLE CHOICES

SITUATION ANALYSIS

Globally, Switzerland is among the countries that show the highest levels of economic development. The gross domestic income is 66 365 CHF (43 938 €) per inhabitant. The general living conditions in Switzerland are marked by an intensive use of natural resources and a high consumption of goods. As the second biggest city of the country, Geneva does not escape this trend.

The electricity consumption in Geneva shows a slight upward trend but it remains below the Swiss national average. The most commonly used heating source in city houses is fuel (71.4% of homes), followed by gas heating (23.6%).

The City of Geneva is one of the biggest employers of the canton and owns approximately 800 buildings, making it a significant consumer of energy and goods. One third of its demands in terms of energy are met by renewable or environmentally friendly resources and two thirds by non-renewable fossil fuels. The electricity it uses comes from 100% renewable or environmentally friendly sources. The sources of energy used for heating the administrative facilities of the City of Geneva break down as follows: 50% gas; 44% fuel; 4% wood; and 2% solar. The impact on the environment is, therefore, high and the dependence on non-renewable sources of

energy represents a financial and structural danger.

The lighting of public areas represents more than 20% of the municipality's electric consumption. The pool of lighting fixtures, which includes over 14 000 lamps, is outdated and shows poor energy efficiency. Nearly one third of all lamps are obsolete and at least half show very weak energy efficiency.

Switzerland shows a slow, albeit constant, upward trend with regard to the consumption of goods that are produced according to the principles of sustainable development. Certain sustainable products are gaining increasing popularity and have acquired considerable market shares (66% for recycled paper, for instance).

The volume of waste produced in Geneva per year is 390 kilograms per Inhabitant on average, which is 10% higher than the Swiss average. Around 33% of this waste is recycled, which is less than the Swiss average (51%) but some progress has been made in this area.

WHAT THE CITY OF GENEVA IS DOING

For the past 30 years or so, the City of Geneva has been pursuing a proactive strategy aimed at reducing its energy

consumption and increasing its use of renewable energies. These efforts have yielded good results; the energy consumption for heating municipal facilities has decreased by 40% and the electric consumption of the municipality has also been reduced. In 2006, an ambitious strategy was implemented to make the energy consumption for heating pur-

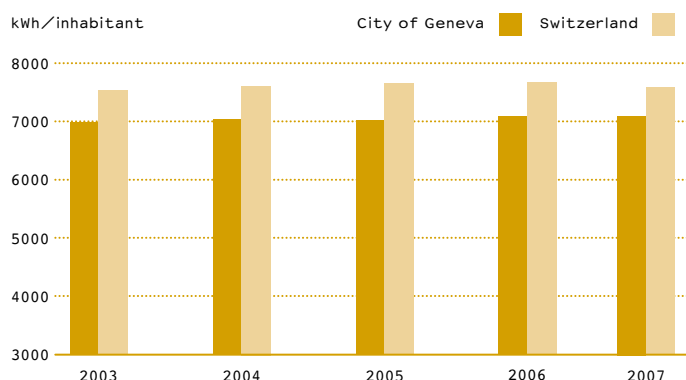
We are committed to adopting and facilitating the prudent and efficient use of resources and to encouraging sustainable consumption and production.

poses of all municipality-owned buildings 100% renewable by 2050. Now, whenever a municipal building is constructed or undergoes renovation works, high-energy efficiency standards are set and new alternative sources of energy are used such as geothermal and wood energy.

In 2009, the city of Geneva was awarded the European Energy Award® label in recognition of its active efforts in the field of sustainable energy production.

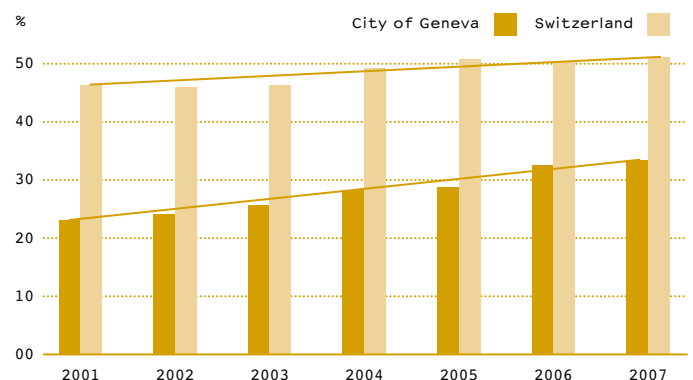
The City of Geneva has already achieved

Electricity consumption per inhabitant in the city of Geneva and in Switzerland (2003–2007)



The graph compares the electricity consumption trends in Kilowatt hours (kWh) per inhabitant per year in Geneva and in Switzerland for the period 2003–2007. Sources: Cantonal Energy Service, Geneva; Federal Office of Statistics

Waste sorting rate in the City of Geneva and in Switzerland (2001–2007)



Waste sorting rate = [Total amount of sorted waste collected]/[Quantity of household waste that is incinerated or dumped (=combustible household waste) + quantity of sorted waste collected]. Source: Cantonal Office of Statistics, City of Geneva



three quarters of the goals that qualify a town for a European Energy Award®. This excellent result places Geneva among the best-performing communes of Switzerland and Europe in terms of energy policies.

The City of Geneva has also defined a new objective for its “energy and climate policy” by proposing a long-term vision, dubbed “Together for a 100% renewable city by 2050”. Strategic objectives and specific programmes were identified and an agenda of energy-related projects has been established until 2013.

A public lighting master plan, the “Light Plan” was established in 2009. It includes upgrading 4500 light fixtures, which should lead to a 30% reduction of the municipality’s electricity consumption.

The acquisition of goods and services is the third highest source of the City of Geneva’s expenditure and represents 18.7% of municipal spending. In 2007, the City of Geneva created an acquisition centre tasked with purchasing sustainable goods and services. Already, our acquisitions in the field of information technology equipment and vehicles target products that show a slower rate of obsolescence. E-commerce has been introduced into our acquisition strategies pertaining to common consumer goods such as information technology

consumables and office supplies, which reduces the amount of waste produced and limits transport and associated energy consumption.

The city of Geneva manages ten waste recycling plants and 110 waste sorting facilities in its territory. It bears the burden of the costs relating to its waste management policy, whereas companies have to bear the burden of theirs. A series of measures has been taken to improve the collecting and recycling of waste. An intensive programme was successfully implemented to address the issue of illegal dumping of cumbersome objects. The Polluter Pays Principle is applied to all public events and, as a result, waste sorting facilities have become commonplace. Several eco-contracts have been established between the City and private partners in order to reduce the impact of commercial activities on the environment.

CHALLENGES

We must increase our efforts to reduce the volume of waste and to make recycling widespread. The City should improve its collection of sorted waste and its recycling processes in order to achieve, as a minimum requirement, the same results as those noted in the rest of Switzerland. In order to reach these goals,

we must increase the number of selective collection sites, intensify awareness-raising campaigns that target the population and take measures to facilitate waste sorting in households. The use of sustainability criteria governing the acquisition of goods and services by the City is crucial and must be implemented, and it should extend to purchases made by independently managed City-owned facilities and by subsidised organisations. The City of Geneva is planning to intensify and pursue its efforts with regard to its energy and climate policy, with the aim of achieving 100% renewability over the entire territory of the city by 2050. As a result of our efforts in pursuing a sustainable energy strategy, in 2010 we won the European Energy Award® GOLD, the highest European prize with regard to energy and cities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Energy and sustainable development: overview of the best practices regarding energy management in Geneva:
www.ville-geneve.ch/themes/developpement-durable-energie/energie-climat/ecogestes/

“100% renewable energy by 2050” strategy for heating municipal buildings:
<http://www.ville-geneve.ch/themes/developpement-durable-energie/energie-climat/politique-energetique-climatique/chauffage-100-renouvelable/>

Public lighting plan for the City of Geneva: upgrading Geneva’s public lighting system:
www.ville-geneve.ch/themes/amenagement-construction-logement/urbanisme-planification/plan-lumiere/

Energy and climate policy of the City of Geneva:
<http://www.ville-geneve.ch/themes/developpement-durable-energie/energie-climat/politique-energetique-climatique/>

European Energy Award®: an award in recognition of the efforts of Swiss communes pursuing a sustainable energy strategy:
www.european-energy-award.org

COMMITMENT 5: PLANNING AND DESIGN

SITUATION ANALYSIS

The city of Geneva is the most densely populated commune in Switzerland and one of the most densely populated cities in Europe (120 inhabitants per hectare). The centre of Geneva is the most populous area and is thus the most exposed to environmental damages. The peripheral region of the commune is less densely populated and is marked by a high degree of land partitioning. Some parts of the communal territory are undergoing changes and are awaiting an urban renewal plan – for example, near railway stations and warehouse areas. Geneva is the only Swiss city that has a population increase (+4.2% in ten years). This rise is accompanied by a slight decrease in the number of jobs, which has enabled the city to retain a certain degree of functional diversity in terms of employment versus housing (0.7 homes per job).

This situation is threatened by the very difficult situation of the housing market. Indeed, a population increase and economic growth have led to a strong need for space and generated a housing crisis. Shortages affect all categories of real estate. The rate of available homes in Geneva is one of the lowest in Switzerland and in Europe (0.19%); it is

considered that a minimum vacancy rate of around 2% is required for the market to remain open. Given this shortage, the growth of the property market is clearly insufficient (+7.4% in 15 years).

We are committed to a strategic role for urban planning and design in addressing environmental, social, economic, health and cultural issues for the benefit of all.

The situation has led to a steady increase of the price of land and property prices. Only one third of the Swiss population consists of home owners, which makes it the country with the fewest home owners in Europe. In the city of Geneva, 93.4% of the population lives in rented homes. Rents are extremely high and, in Europe, are second only to London prices. The average gross monthly rent paid in Geneva is 2000 CHF (1340 €).

WHAT THE CITY OF GENEVA IS DOING

Communes have limited power in terms of urban planning. However, the City of

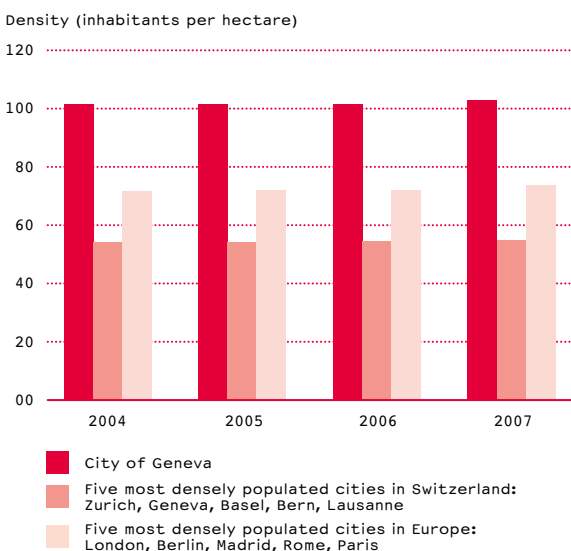
Geneva does have some responsibility with regard to planning and urban management. Furthermore, most heritage sites and the major symbols of architecture and history are located in its territory. Federal as well as cantonal law protect this cultural heritage of historic buildings.

The City of Geneva owns a considerable amount of communal public property, a fact that implies many challenges. The City is a major landowner with a portfolio that includes a variety of built and non-built sites (e.g. land, buildings, facilities, forests, parks). The municipality has undertaken a systematic inventory of its architectural heritage.

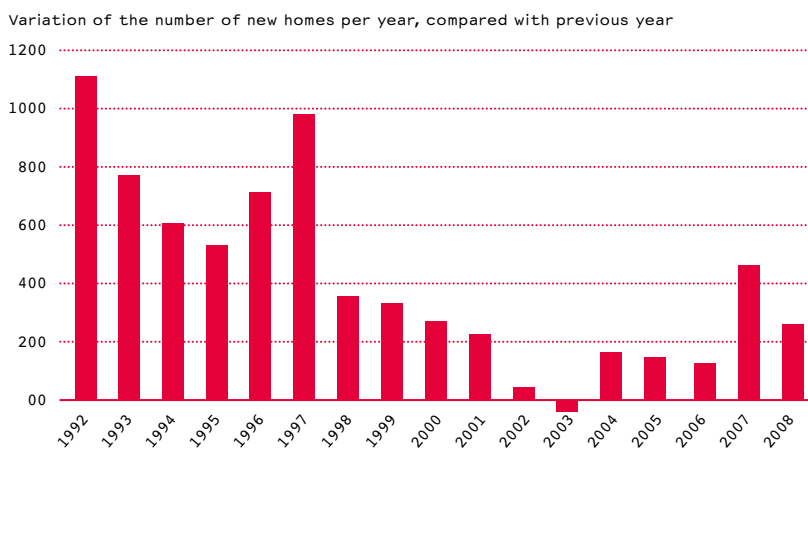
In the context of its plan for land exploitation (PUS – Plan d’utilisation du sol), which it established in 2007, the City of Geneva imposed a 70%–80% housing rate depending on the area considered, a mandatory share of public or private green areas for any plot of land exceeding 1000 square metres, and activities open to the public on the ground floors of buildings to encourage street level activities.

In 2009, the City adopted a new Communal Director Plan, “Geneva 2020, sustain-

Density of the population in the city of Geneva, compared with Switzerland and Europe (2005 – 2008)



Annual variation of the number of homes in the city of Geneva (1992 – 2008)



Sources: Union of Swiss Cities (UVS); Eurostat and Urban Audit

Source: Cantonal Office of Statistics, City of Geneva

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

GENEVA 2020, sustainable renewal of a centre-city: Communal Director Plan: establishing a set of mid-term and long-term strategies for city planning and the development of its territory:

www.ville-geneve.ch/themes/amenagement-construction-logement/urbanisme-planification/plan-directeur-communal/

Municipal real estate management by the City of Geneva:

www.ville-geneve.ch/administration-municipale/departement-finances-logement/services-municipaux/gerance-immobiliere-municipale/

France-Vaud-Geneva agglomeration: long-term planning of the development of the Geneva region:

www.projet-agglo.org

able renewal of a centre-city". It provides a contractual and strategic framework and represents a commitment made by public authorities. It defines eight priorities regarding communal urban planning, which are to be achieved by 2020. Among these priorities are the promotion of a healthy mix of employment and housing, construction of new homes and the availability of affordable homes.

For the past several years, the City of Geneva's policy has been to improve the quality of its public spaces. It has adopted a Communal Director Plan governing its strategy with regard to its public amenities in order to improve equipment coherence and its integration in the environment. This concept has led to a reduced use of municipal public spaces and to less heterogeneous equipment (benches, billboards, etc.). The City of Geneva does not have sufficient influence to change the prop-

erty market in its entire territory and has, therefore, targeted its actions on maintaining and reinforcing the number of affordable accommodations it has to offer and promoting diversity in the use of public spaces. City-owned real estate, which includes 5300 homes (i.e. 5.25% of the housing units for the entire communal territory), is managed by a central office, the Municipal Real Estate Management Committee (GIM – Gérance Immobilière Municipale). Approximately 95% of these homes are rented according to social criteria and allow low-income residents to live in them for half the value of the going rent on the free market. Approximately 400 City-owned buildings are administrative or public buildings (e.g. schools, sporting facilities, cultural sights). Many of these have historical value.

CHALLENGES

The City of Geneva would like to gain full control of the evolution of its territory and encourages public and private partners to pursue tangible objectives in terms of sustainable urban planning. Building, renovating and managing municipality-owned real estate and buildings by following a sustainable strategy (in terms of energy, building materials, water treatment and skills) is in itself a challenge. So is our project to increase the number of exemplary buildings in terms of sustainability.

The City of Geneva intends to pursue a proactive policy by creating more social housing units (+2000 homes) by prospecting the housing market more intensively, leveraging its pre-emptive rights and creating new partnerships with private and public stakeholders.

The City also has a principal part to play in enhancing and redeveloping abandoned or run-down areas and in renovating various industrial areas. Another challenge that the City is keen to address is to ensure that every new neighbourhood is a zero energy development project and that there is an ongoing effort to transform the city into a series of sustainable neighbourhoods.



COMMITMENT 6: BETTER MOBILITY, LESS TRAFFIC

SITUATION ANALYSIS

Most jobs in the region are concentrated in the city of Geneva, whereas the housing situation is marked by a much broader distribution. Consequently, a 2005 survey revealed that there were close to 500 000 cantonal border crossings per day, with over 90% of cross-border trips being carried out in individual motorised vehicles. Within the canton, approxi-

We recognise the interdependence of transport, health and environment and are committed to strongly promoting sustainable mobility choices.

mately 40% of our commuting needs are met by the use of personal motorised vehicles. This situation is damaging to the quality of living conditions in the city as well as to the quality of public spaces. The road network is saturated, the air is polluted and noise pollution is increasing. Traffic is the main source of noise in the communal territory, with 63 kilometres of streets measuring sound levels that exceed the authorised limits and approximately 80 000 inhabitants affected by excessive noise.

In the city of Geneva, personal motorised vehicles are the main mode of transport. Proportionally, however, their importance has followed a downward trend with a 17% decrease between 1994 and 2005. The car-to-home ratio is now 0.7, and 36% of the population does not own a car (+6% in five years). However, there has been an increase in the number of two-wheeled motorised vehicles (+4% on average). This is primarily explained by the development of the cycling infrastructure and of free parking for two-wheeled vehicles. There are no longer any unlimited free parking places in the commune.

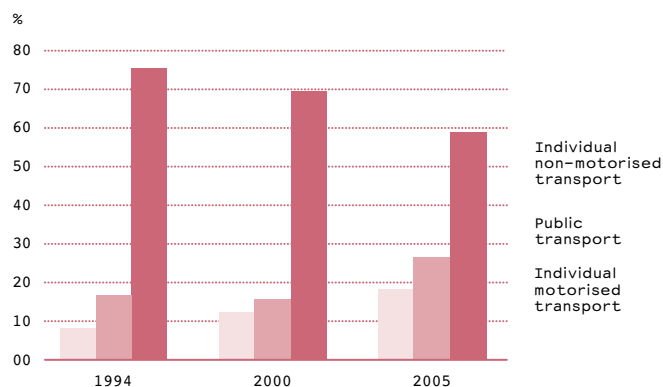
For residents, a special system has been established: the payment of a fee entitles them to park their car for an indefinite period in so-called "blue zones". Visitors may only use short-term parking places, which are free in blue zones for one hour, or they may use white zone parking places, which they pay for at parking ticket machines. Out of the 80 500 parking places in the communal territory, 60% are located on private property. Out of these, only 9% belong to the City of Geneva. This is the only leverage the City has in terms of parking management. New construction sites are subject to a standard that varies according to the area (maximum of 1.6 parking places per inhabitant for 100 square metres of gross surface area and a minimum of one bicycle parking place).

The modal share of public transport in the city of Geneva has not evolved much in recent years (+1% between 2000 and 2005). The public transport network is reaching its limits. It follows a radial geometry and is, therefore, ill-suited to meet the commuting needs of the population and badly adapted to the current traffic conditions. Its performance levels have reached full capacity. New regional public transport infrastructures are currently being built and include several tram lines. A transborder railway link (CEVA) between Cornavin station (Geneva) and Annemasse (Haute-Savoie) is being considered. It would connect the French and Swiss rail networks and would include a regional express train network (RER).

There is an increasing use of soft mobility by the population (cycling and walking), and in 2000 it became the most widely used form of transport in town (49%). Bicycle traffic is also following a steady increase; since 1987, the number of bicycles crossing the bridges of Geneva has increased threefold.

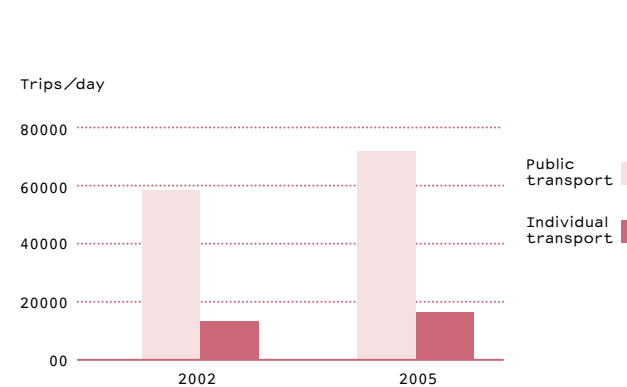
Road safety is generally good in Switzerland and, in this regard, Geneva follows suit. In 2007, there were 3.18 accidents involving victims per 1000 inhabitants (the national average is 3.49). However, the safety afforded to cyclists remains to be improved.

Evolution of the modal distribution revealing the commuting habits of the population of the City of Geneva (1994 – 2005)



Modal distribution is calculated as a percentage of the distances covered. Individual non-motorised transport includes cycling and walking. Source: Director General of Mobility, Canton of Geneva

Number of daily commuters, by mode of transport, coming into the Canton of Geneva and the city of Geneva (2002 – 2005)



The graph shows the number of people, by mode of transport, coming into the Canton of Geneva and going into the city of Geneva during an average 24-hour working day. Source: Office of Mobility, Canton of Geneva



WHAT THE CITY OF GENEVA IS DOING

Despite its limited authority in terms of organising and managing traffic on its territory, the City of Geneva has for several years pursued a vigorous strategy promoting sustainable mobility. It strives to direct city planning towards a functional diversity of housing and jobs and endeavours to improve the quality of life in residential areas.

As per the federal ruling on protection against noise, the City is legally bound to find solutions for the sections of roads that exceed the limit values in terms of noise pollution by 2018. A noise-reduction programme is currently in progress and concerns a 63-kilometre stretch of roads. In order to reduce noise pollution and to improve the quality of living in residential areas in a sustainable fashion, the City is also establishing a 30 kilometres per hour speed limit in certain zones; 15 such zones have already been created and another 12 are planned by 2020.

Each year, there are several awareness-raising campaigns promoting soft mobility that target specific audiences, and especially children. In 2004, the City of Geneva adopted a strategy governing its network of cycling lanes. Out of 125 kilometres of planned cycling paths, 92 kilometres have already been reworked to accommodate the growing number of cyclists (lanes,

strips, cohabitation with pedestrians and bus lanes), which amounts to approximately one half of the total road network. More than 7000 secure parking places for bicycles have been created and the City of Geneva supports an association that promotes cycling and offers bicycle rental and loan services.

An action plan aiming to promote urban walking was established ten years ago and is still actively followed. The City of Geneva has adopted a Communal Director Plan governing the creation of pedestrian paths. The second phase of the plan, which is to be launched in 2010, includes the expansion of the pedestrian network and the development of pedestrian priority. Furthermore, interventions carried out on an ad hoc basis, or in the context of global projects, have improved the safety of walkers and the continuity of pedestrian itineraries.

The city of Geneva is taking part in the sustainable mobility efforts made within the France-Vaud-Geneva agglomeration by encouraging the creation of new public transport infrastructures that will provide important new public services.

Several measures have been taken within the Municipal Administration to promote soft mobility; an example is the “range of transport options” that proposes various incentives to use non- or low-polluting

modes of transport – for instance, municipal employees are encouraged to use city bicycles to go to professional meetings.

CHALLENGES

The project of enabling the road network to comply with federal rulings governing noise protection is a major challenge. Municipal authority is limited in terms of traffic and interventions that aim to moderate the flow of traffic are particularly complex to implement on the busiest routes of the network.

The city of Geneva is taking part in sustainable mobility efforts within the France-Vaud-Geneva agglomeration by lending its support to the creation of new public transport infrastructures, including exchange centres that will provide vital new public services.

The City of Geneva will continue to encourage non-motorised modes of transport through city planning, adequate strategies and the promotion of eco-mobility.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Pedestrian itineraries: Geneva on foot, 10 routes with 10 different themes:
www.ville-geneve.ch/themes/mobilite/pieton/10-promenades-decouvrir-geneve/

20 kilometres/hour and 30 kilometres/hour zones: reduced speed, increased enjoyment:
www.ville-geneve.ch/themes/mobilite/voitures-motos/zones-20-30

GENEVA 2020, sustainable renewal of a centre-city:
 Communal Director Plan:
www.ville-geneve.ch/themes/amenagement-construction-logement/urbanisme-planification/plan-directeur-communal/

Mobility and sustainable development:
www.ville-geneve.ch/fileadmin/public/publications/developpement_durable/mobilite-developpement-durable-brochure-ville-de-geneve.pdf

COMMITMENT 7: LOCAL ACTION FOR HEALTH

SITUATION ANALYSIS

In the Canton of Geneva, life expectancy is 83.3 years for women and 77.6 years for men. An indicator that measures premature mortality rates (before age 70) reveals that it has regressed between 1995 and 2005, due to a reduction of infectious diseases, accidents, suicides and violent aggressions. The progress made is essentially due to medical advances in the treatment of cancer, cardiovascular and infectious diseases as well as efforts made in traffic accident prevention and anti-tobacco campaigns. At least 85% of the population considers itself to be in good or excellent health. There are 750 hospital beds per 100 000 inhabitants (compared to 610 beds per 100 000 inhabitants in Switzerland and 590 beds per 100 000 inhabitants in the European Union).

The main pathologies identified in Geneva are representative of those found in European developed countries and are largely linked to lifestyle choices. In Geneva, social and health-related issues stem in large part from the deterioration of social cohesion – for example, isolation, marginalisation, exclusion, and dwindling inter-generational relations.

Participating in sports, which is one way of limiting health problems, is widely practised in Geneva. At least 115 000 people partake in some form of sporting activity and the city is home to 800 clubs and sporting associations. Sports are experiencing a growing popularity, in particular with regard to leisure activities practised outside the constraints imposed by a club (such as running), and the population is increasingly aware of the impact of exercise and a proper diet on health. The local boom of organic foods and markets that offer organic products illustrates an evolution in ways of thinking and behaviours.

WHAT THE CITY OF GENEVA IS DOING

Health planning and public health are the responsibility of The Canton of Geneva, while the City is in charge of the social strategy and health-related actions on a community level.

Community Action Units (UAC) created by the Municipal Administration operate in various neighbourhoods and focus their efforts on identifying the different factors pertaining to health – living condi-

tions, sense of insecurity, general atmosphere, etc.

They work towards the social integration of inhabitants (French lessons, intercommunity meals, reading and homework workshops, meetings between parents and children of various nationalities), on local solidarity projects (neighbourly support), and on the use of public spaces with a special focus on social relations (mediation between the users of public

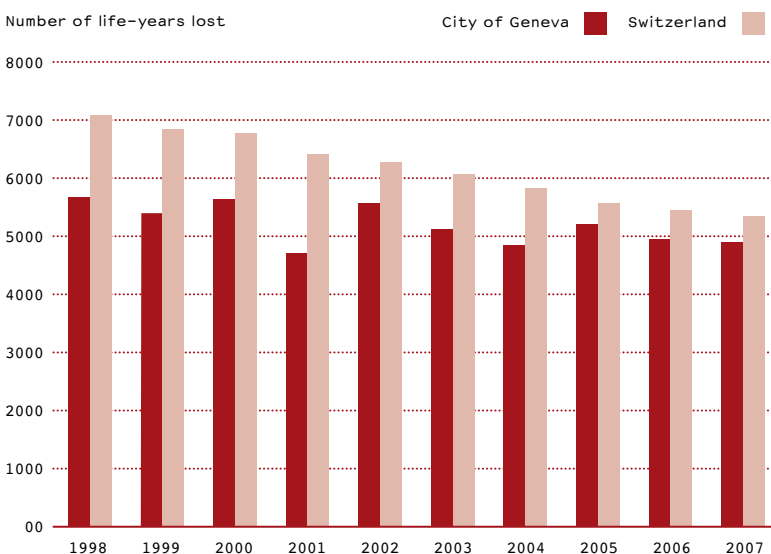
We are committed to protecting and promoting the health and well-being of our citizens.

spaces in various neighbourhoods).

Many preventive actions were conducted among the general public and in private companies such as raising awareness in terms of soft mobility or promoting safety at work or at home.

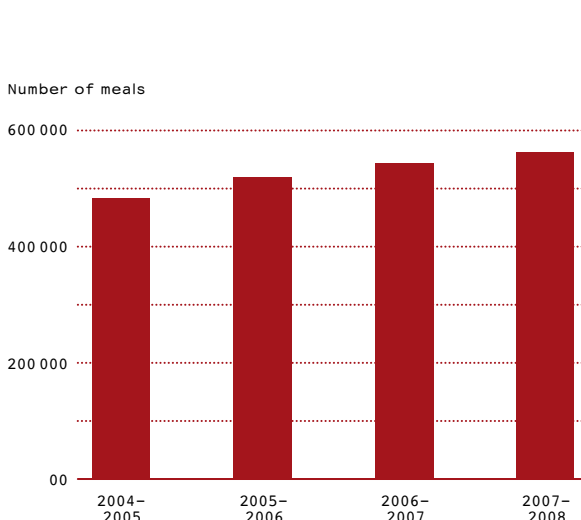
A special prevention effort has also been made to protect the health of toddlers and schoolchildren, with a

Number of life-years potentially lost in the City of Geneva (1998 – 2007)



The number of life-years potentially lost illustrates the rate of premature mortality. The rate is calculated on the basis of the number of deaths that occur before the age of 70 and takes into account the years of life lost between the age of 70 and the age of death. The rate is standardised for 100 000 inhabitants and is calculated demographically for men and women.
Source: Cantonal Office of Statistics, City of Geneva

Number of meals, with a food quality label, served during each school year in the school canteens of the City of Geneva



The number of meals, awarded a label that guarantees a balanced diet, served to children in the school canteens of the City of Geneva over four school years.
Source: Department of social cohesion, youth and sports, City of Geneva

policy ensuring the quality, diversity and safety of food served in 40 school canteens established and financed by the City. These canteens were awarded the “Green Fork” junior label. The City of Geneva also takes the health and living conditions priorities of its citizens into account when selecting building materials for construction projects.

The City of Geneva supports sporting activities as it considers that they can be used as an instrument of integration for the promotion of health and social interactions, especially when the participants are young, elderly or underprivileged. The City organises numerous events aimed at promoting sports among the less privileged members of the population. Furthermore, recreational and sporting activities are organised in schools in underprivileged neighbourhoods. Several new urban sports, popular among the teenage population, have received our support, for instance, through the construction of skate parks in seven neighbourhoods. The City uses these as a platform to conduct campaigns aimed at reducing the risk of accidents and discouraging young people from using drugs. Another way in which the city lends its support to sporting activities is by making school sports facilities available to

various associations. Sporting activities are proposed at very low rates in order to enable access to all. Thus, the younger members of the community enjoy free access to sporting events organised by the municipality. And for about 20 types of physical activity, courses are offered at no cost to people over age 55. These activities are becoming more and more popular as attendance has increased by 12.5% between 2003 and 2005.

CHALLENGES

In a multicultural context such as the city of Geneva, strong municipal action

aimed at strengthening social cohesion is crucial. The City of Geneva intends to respond to and resolve the various urban issues as rapidly as possible. To achieve this, it must have objective assessments of the social cohesion problems it is facing and of the impact of its action on the health of its citizens. A locally coordinated municipal social and health policy can lead to the establishment of a strategy aimed at overcoming health inequalities. The priorities that have been identified, in collaboration with the canton and in the context of prevention policies, relate to dietary issues, mobility, teenage alcoholism and depression.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

City of Geneva Community Action Units (CAU):

www.ville-geneve.ch/themes/social/action-communautaire/

Sports and sustainable development:

www.ville-geneve.ch/fileadmin/public/publications/developpement_durable/sport-dev-dur-brochure-ville-de-geneve.pdf

A city for the elderly: information

site for the elderly living in Geneva:
www.seniors-geneve.ch/cite_seniors.php

Fourchette verte: a food quality label given to restaurants that promote a healthy diet:

www.fourchetteverte.ch



COMMITMENT 8: VIBRANT AND SUSTAINABLE LOCAL ECONOMY

SITUATION ANALYSIS

The city of Geneva provides 150 000 jobs, which is more than half the jobs available in the entire canton. The service industry represents around 93% of the economic activity, whereas the manufacturing industry is responsible for the remaining 7%. The importance of the agricultural, fishing, forestry and mining industry is marginal. Since 2001, the number of jobs has followed an upward trend in Geneva

We are committed to creating and ensuring a vibrant local economy that gives access to employment without damaging the environment

(+3% per year), while the economic activities carried out in the territory have fundamentally evolved.

The development of the communes surrounding Geneva has led many industries to shift their activities from the centre to the periphery. In the past 20 years, 62% of the jobs in the manufacturing sector have disappeared and the city has lost approximately 7300 jobs. These have

largely been replaced by jobs created in the wake of the massive boom of the service industry. Nowadays, financial and retail activities are mainly concentrated in the centre of the City. Eight financial jobs out of ten and six retail and hotel jobs out of ten are located in central Geneva. The finance industry and luxury goods business have gradually taken over local shops and services in the centre and they currently experience a lack of diversity in terms of economic activities.

Despite its highly dynamic economy, the city of Geneva has the highest unemployment rate among Swiss cities, rising to 7.3% in 2008. This figure is explained by structural factors that are specific to Geneva: (i) the education level and/or qualifications of the jobless population are lower than those of the working population; (ii) there is a large regional pool of workers from which companies can pick; (iii) longer unemployment periods; and (iv) the average age of the jobless population is high, making career opportunities scarce. The unemployment rate in the city of Geneva is on par with the European average.

The number of jobs in the agricultural, fishing, forestry and mining industry sector is negligible. Only 1.5% of the

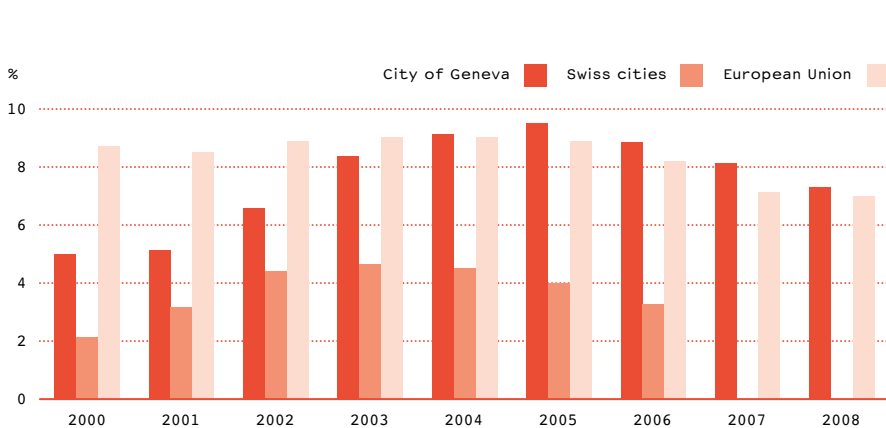
communal territory's surface area is farmland, which represents a 50% decrease over 20 years. At the cantonal level, the number of farms and agricultural jobs has fallen by half but there are still some farms and land to provide the city's population with local produce. Local agriculture, though limited, has seen a surge in popularity.

Geneva is also the destination for many business travellers (80% of tourism). The private sector conducts 99.5% of tourist promotion activities. The average price for a hotel night in town is the highest in Europe – 300 CHF (185 €) for a double standard bedroom. The average price in European cities is 158 CHF (105 €), whereas a hotel room in London costs 235 CHF (156 €).

WHAT THE CITY OF GENEVA IS DOING

The Canton of Geneva is in charge of economic promotion, while professional training lies within the competence of the Confederation of Switzerland and professional federations. Within the limits of its responsibilities, the City of Geneva strives to support local jobs and sustainable economic activities. Through Fondetec, its foundation for the

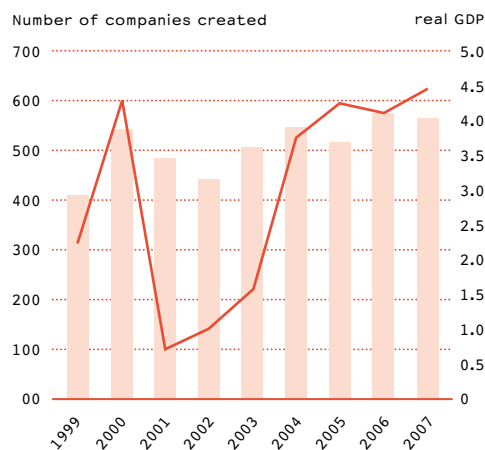
Unemployment rate in the city of Geneva, compared with Switzerland and Europe (1999 – 2007)



The graph shows the unemployment rate compared with the working population in Geneva. This rate is then compared with the average unemployment rate in Swiss cities (no available data for 2007 and 2008) and with the average unemployment rate in the European Union.

Sources: Cantonal Office of Statistics, City of Geneva; Federal Office of Statistics; Eurostat

Real GDP variation (%)



The number of companies created annually in the territory of the city of Geneva compared with the annual variation (%) in the gross domestic product (GDP) of the Canton of Geneva. The graph compares the economic situation with the creation of new companies.

Source: Cantonal Office of Statistics, City of Geneva

The economic promotion of Geneva:
www.whygeneva.ch

Fondetec: a foundation that aims to promote new job-creating companies, to support and to develop existing companies and to stimulate innovation in the city of Geneva:
www.fondetec.ch

APRES-GE, organisation for a social and solidarity-based economy:
www.apres-ge.ch

Think-tank for a social and solidarity-based economy:
www.essaim.ch

Fourchette verte (Green Fork): quality label awarded to catering establishments in recognition of their efforts to promote health:
www.fourchetteverte.ch

Campagnon.ch: guide of ecologically friendly leisure activities and rural tourism in Geneva's countryside:
www.campagnon.ch

Platform for a socially sustainable agriculture:
www.agrisodu.ch

Geneva's Tourist Office:
www.geneve-tourisme.ch

development of jobs and of the economic fabric in the city of Geneva, it promotes new job-creating companies, supports and develops existing businesses and stimulates innovation.

Since it was created in 1997, Fondetec has lent approximately 47 million CHF (31 million €) to over 350 companies. Roughly a quarter of the projects accepted in 2008 were budgeted at less than 50 000 CHF (33 000 €) and are considered "micro-credits". The initiators of these projects are often unemployed citizens looking for work. Fondetec also strongly supports women entrepreneurs. In 2008, nearly half of the accepted projects were exclusively led by women.

Several projects pertaining to social and professional reintegration receive support from the City of Geneva, including an



"Unemployment Fund", which finances the social and professional reintegration of the unemployed or people searching for employment by supporting professional reintegration associations and companies.

Geneva also encourages the social economy sector (non-profit, cooperatives, mutual organisations). In 2009, the City of Geneva financed the creation of the first think-tank for social economy (Essaim), which will develop a social and solidarity-based economy by 2014 by combining classic economic theory with social and solidarity-based economic concepts. More broadly, the City is in favour of providing facilities and funds to companies and non-governmental organisations that contribute to the development of a sustainable and vibrant local economy.

The City of Geneva lends its support to cultural activities and more generally to the cultural world by allocating about 60 million CHF (39.6 million €) in financial subsidies and about 10 million CHF (€ 6.6 million) in material resources (i.e. by providing facilities). At least six types of grants for artists are handed out each year. In addition to facilitating the creation of events, this support allows dozens of local cultural institutions to function and employ hundreds of people in this sector.

With approximately 4000 employees, the City is one of the biggest employers of the France-Vaud-Geneva agglomera-

tion. It pursues a deliberate strategy in favour of job creation by increasing the number of apprenticeships and through the support provided by municipal services to beneficiaries of professional reintegration measures. The City of Geneva holds a seat on numerous administrative boards and foundation councils and strives to influence the policies implemented by companies and institutions it has some control over. It encourages such companies to promote and adopt best practices in order to address social and environmental issues.

CHALLENGES

The City of Geneva endeavours to collaborate with local companies in order to promote and adopt best practices in terms of their environmental and social responsibilities. Geneva must continue to be an attractive city. This may be achieved by increasing the quality, accessibility and sustainability of public spaces, cafes, restaurants and bars owned by the City. A significant increase in the percentage of local and seasonal produce served in these catering establishments would benefit local producers and lead to reduced transport of goods. Public spending policies are also a manner in which the City may help sustainable companies grow. More generally speaking, contributing to the establishment of sustainable tourism and ecotourism is also a major challenge.

COMMITMENT 9: SOCIAL EQUITY, JUSTICE AND CULTURE

SITUATION ANALYSIS

Geneva is a prosperous city, an attribute it shares with the rest of Switzerland. However, poverty does exist even though it remains unseen by the general public, and the income gap has widened since 2003. In Switzerland, the poverty threshold is fixed at 2200 CHF (1450 €) per month per single-person household and 4650 CHF (3000 €) per month for a couple with two children. Social services have noted an increased vulnerability of new population groups: single and/or isolated individuals, illegal migrants, young adults (20–25 years), single-parent families and families with several children.

The population of Geneva includes 182 nationalities, 24 of which count at least 1000 representatives. The foreign population enjoys quite varied socio-economic conditions. The integration rate of foreign residents is the highest in Switzerland (7.7% compared with the national average of 5.5%). Schools play an important role in the integration of foreigners. Geneva's public teaching facilities provide schooling for all children, including those without a legal status.

Compared with most European cities, Geneva is relatively safe. Serious and vi-

olent crime remains below the European average (15 homicides in 2008). Crimes against public and private property represent 80% of all penal code violations. The number of car thefts has decreased by 45% in 15 years and bicycle theft has diminished by roughly 35%. However, the number of burglaries has shot up (+21.6% between 2007 and 2008), especially in apartments.

We are committed to securing inclusive and supportive communities.

As in many other similar-sized cities, there is a strong feeling of insecurity among large portions of the population. In some areas, the presence of drug dealers breeds fear, and large gatherings of youths in public areas lead to a sense of insecurity.

Geneva is a culturally dynamic city. It includes about 40 museums and art centres, around 30 theatres and one opera house, 50 art galleries and exhibitions and around 15 libraries and cinemas. Approximately 100 festivals and events presenting a wide range of artistic disciplines are held each year.

tonnes in 2006). The city of Geneva provides a civil protection shelter as emergency accommodation for the homeless, with 15 000 beds provided during the winter of 2008–2009.

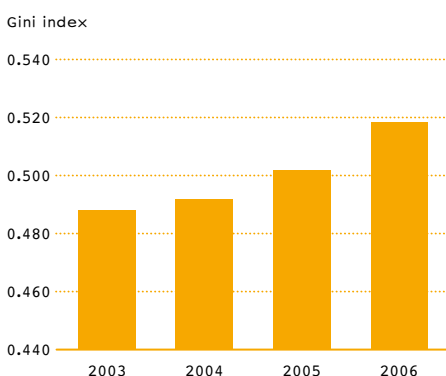
The social policy of the City of Geneva focuses on local community actions, whereas the canton establishes policies relating to health, social and financial assistance, and unemployment benefits. However, the City grants supplementary financial aid to about 8000 people in the amount of 11 million CHF (7.2 million €). The City of Geneva also provides about 5000 social housing units.

At the local level, Community Action Units (UAC) work closely with local residents to address problems such as the isolation of the elderly, integration of migrant children and assistance to families that have to care for a disabled relative or a dependent person. The City has developed other instruments to facilitate the participation of its residents such as the “Contrat de quartier”, a participative programme bringing together the public and the municipality within specific work groups.

Although gender equality is a legally established right, and despite the significant progress that has been made in this area, it is still not a reality. One of the priorities of the City of Geneva is to reduce inequality between men and women by fighting gender-related stereotypes. In 2008, it signed the European Charter on Gender Equality in Urban Environments, and in 2009 it adopted regulations governing gender equality in the Municipal Administration as well as taking a series of related measures. Current human resources policy (expressed within the new statutes for municipal employees) includes a five-month maternity leave, a four-week paternity leave as well as parental leave.

Ensuring safe public areas is also one of the City of Geneva's priorities. For this purpose, it installed video surveillance equipment in 2009 and employs municipal security agents. City-employed

Income disparity levels in the city of Geneva – the Gini Index (2003–2006)



The Gini Index measures disparities in income distribution within a given population. It ranges between a minimum of 0 and a maximum of 1 (0 being the absence of inequality and 1 being the greatest inequality possible). The graph shows the index as calculated on taxable revenue.

Sources: Cantonal Department of Finance, Geneva; Cantonal Office of Statistics, City of Geneva

WHAT THE CITY OF GENEVA IS DOING

Fighting poverty and exclusion remains a priority for the City of Geneva. For this purpose, it coordinates the actions undertaken by all of its private and public partners and offers a series of services such as free meals and emergency accommodation. Approximately 80 000 meals are served in municipal “social clubs” per year, a figure that has doubled between 2004 and 2006. The City also supports a social project called Partage, which collects food surpluses from local companies that would otherwise be thrown away and distributes them to private and public social agencies. Approximately 380 tonnes of food were handed out in 2008 (versus 280

school patrollers ensure the safety of children to and from school. In city-owned buildings, janitors are trained to carry out minor conflict resolution.

The City of Geneva plays a major role in the cultural life of the region. It spends close to 20% of its budget in this area and 15%–20% of its investments goes to culture, which is one of the highest rates among European cities. Around 20 events are held each year; these illustrate the great cultural diversity and heterogeneity of populations and cultures in the city – for example, the “Fête de la Musique” (Festival of Music) or the “Nuit de la Science” (Science Night). It supports music, theatre, dancing, cinema, modern art, writing, publishing and multidisciplinary events. It pays special attention to new forms of artistic expression and independent productions.

The main priority of the City’s action in terms of cultural promotion is the accessibility to culture for all, independently of socio-cultural origin, age or income. The biggest cultural events put on by the City are free and special rates are offered to the elderly, the young and people with disabilities as well as to people with a low income.

CHALLENGES

In an urban context undergoing constant transformation with strong migration flows, the challenge resides in pursuing a local municipal policy that preserves social cohesion and that is adapted to the rapidly evolving environment. Neighbourhood meetings and social and cultural projects should be encouraged as they contribute to the participation of the local population.

Fighting insecurity and the feelings thereof, both of which have a negative impact on the sense of conviviality in neighbourhoods, are priorities. It is crucial to facilitate collaboration between different municipal services, in particular between municipal agents and Community Action Units (UAC) and to further develop the «Contrat de quartier» projects.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Regulations of the Administrative Council concerning gender equality in the Municipal Administration:
www.ville-geneve.ch/fileadmin/public/Cadre_legal/egalite-reglement-2009-ville-de-geneve.pdf

The City of Geneva’s policy regarding equality and diversity:
www.ville-geneve.ch/themes/vie-privee-egalite-citoyennete/egalite-diversite/

Social cohesion: best sustainable development practices relating to social issues in the city of Geneva:
www.ville-geneve.ch/fileadmin/public/publications/social/Cohesion-sociale-developpement-durable-brochure-ville-geneve.pdf

The City of Geneva’s Community Action Units:
www.ville-geneve.ch/themes/social/action-communautaire/

Culture and sustainable development: best practices governing the sustainable development of the City of Geneva in the cultural domain:
www.ville-geneve.ch/fileadmin/public/publications/developpement_durable/culture-et-developpement-durable-brochure-ville-de-geneve.pdf

It’s Your City: neighbourhood festivities that provide the population with the opportunity to enjoy the public space, various stalls and animations:
www.ville-ge.ch/culture/vav

Neighbours’ Party: friendly social gathering among the residents of a building, street or neighbourhood:
www.ville-geneve.ch/themes/social/manifestations-evenements/fete-voisins/

Disabilities & Culture: provides cultural institutions with specific measures to accommodate for the needs of citizens with disabilities:
www.ville-geneve.ch/themes/culture/culture/handicap-culture/publications/

Cultural chequebook: special offers and discounts on shows and other cultural events in Geneva:
www.ville-geneve.ch/themes/culture/culture/mesures-specifiques/

Measures facilitating access to culture for a young audience:
www.ville-geneve.ch/themes/culture/culture/jeune-public/

20 francs for 20-year olds: discount card for under 20s on cultural events:
www.20ans20francs.ch

Senior city: information site for the elderly in the city of Geneva:
www.seniors-geneve.ch/cite_seniors.php

COMMITMENT 10: LOCAL TO GLOBAL

SITUATION ANALYSIS

Geneva is the second-largest United Nations office and the host city of numerous governmental and non-governmental organisations, diplomatic missions and international meetings. Geneva is thus one of the world's main capitals in terms of multilateral cooperation for peace, justice and sustainable development.

We are committed to assuming our global responsibility for peace, justice, equity, sustainable development and climate protection.

Because of the presence of a wide range of political, economic and social stakeholders, many of the most serious modern challenges are discussed and addressed on a daily basis here, including climate change, environmental impacts, pandemics, migration issues and international exchanges. Geneva is a major research centre where agreements are reached and consensus is found between parties. In this process, attention is directed to the sustainable development of the world. The rules and standards that govern many activities of the

modern world and the challenges that it faces are established here: these pertain to the environment, health, the economy, trade, social and humanitarian assistance and human rights.

Development aid spent in Geneva (by the canton and the communes) is the highest in Switzerland. In 2006, it represented 46.2% of cantonal and communal contributions at the national level.

There is no global monitoring of CO₂ emissions in the territory of the city of Geneva. Nor does the city have any figures relating to current levels of greenhouse gas emissions generated by the activities of its administration. However, the climate issue, which was until now tacitly integrated into our energy policies, has become a crucial element of our future action.

WHAT THE CITY OF GENEVA IS DOING

The City of Geneva serves as a host city for international organisations, non-governmental organisations, diplomatic representations and international meetings in collaboration with the Confederation of Switzerland and with the Canton of Geneva. It implements many measures to facilitate the arrival and integration of the international commu-

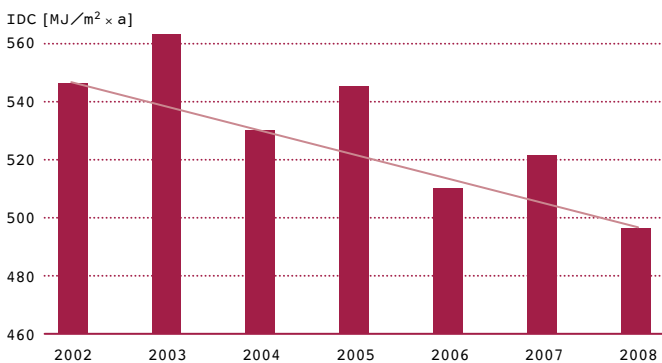
nity and in particular that of non-governmental organisations.

The City of Geneva participates actively in the international cooperation between cities. In addition to its UCLG membership (United Cities and Local Governments – an international network of cities), it is also a member of 30 general and specialised city networks at the Swiss, European and global level. It favours networks dedicated to the environment, human rights, peace and democracy. In addition, the City belongs to key networks that are working on climate protection, for instance, the Mayors Council on Climate Change, EnergieCités, City of Energy, and ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability).

The city of Geneva has defined its international solidarity objectives and aims to spend 0.7% of its operational budget in this domain. Currently, it allocates somewhere between 0.25% and 0.4% of its national annual budget to international solidarity. In 2008, the amount allocated in the context of the municipality's efforts towards international solidarity was of 3.7 million CHF (2.45 million €).

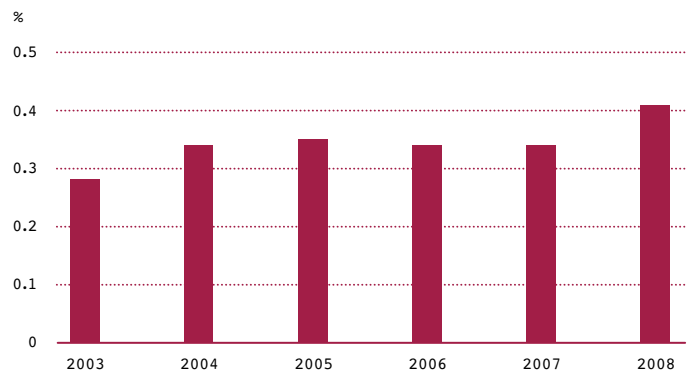
In 2009, the City of Geneva redefined its energy and climate policy based on a reduction of consumption and the develop-

Heat expenditure index (IDC) of buildings in the city of Geneva (2002 – 2008)



The graph shows the evolution of the average heat expenditure index of buildings in the city of Geneva that existed in 1993 and that have five tenants and more than one central heating system, i.e. 5000 known buildings. The index represents the final energy in megajoules, consumed for the production of heat during one year in one building, divided by the reference surface of the building in square metres.
Source: Cantonal Energy Service, Geneva

Share of City spending used for international solidarity efforts (2003 – 2008)



The graph shows the percentage of the City of Geneva's expenditure for foreign aid (towards development and humanitarian aid) compared with the total of amount of the City of Geneva's current spending (expenditure without depreciation). The actions considered herein include aid in favour of public communities and private structures that provide public services.
Source: Department of finances and housing, City of Geneva



ment of renewable energies. Its policy now integrates climate-related goals.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

European Charter of Human Rights in Urban Environments (City of Geneva is a signatory to the Charter):

www.aidh.org/Europe/Charte_des_DH.htm

World Mayors Council on Climate Change:

www.iclei.org/index.php?id=7192

Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI):

www.iclei.org

Covenant of Mayors

www.eumayors.eu

European Energy Award®:

www.european-energy-award.org

We are currently examining how to best achieve our goals in a long-term vision, dubbed “Together for a 100% renewable city by 2050”. Considering the limited authority of the commune, the action that the City undertakes to fight greenhouse gas emissions mainly pertains to its real estate (800 buildings), its fleet of vehicles and urban planning.

In 2010, the City of Geneva will join the 1000 signatory cities of the Mayors’ Convention of the European Commission, which is an association committed to exceeding European objectives regarding greenhouse gas emissions, known as the “3 x 20” (reduction of energy consumption by 20%, covering 20% of energy requirements with renewable energy and a 20% reduction of CO₂ emissions by 2020). The City of Geneva has also decided to establish calculation and assessment methods in order to measure regional and transborder greenhouse gas emissions

CHALLENGES

The City of Geneva must define a policy of solidarity and international co-operation that is both consistent and transparent. Furthermore, it must be accountable and integrate sustainable development criteria. For this purpose, it will allocate 0.7% of its budget to international cooperation and solidarity.

A voluntary action plan must be established to achieve the objectives relating to the municipal energy and climate policy, as described in the “Together for a 100% renewable city by 2050” project. To do so, it must include accurate instruments to monitor the evolution of greenhouse gas emissions.

CONCLUSION

The Sustainable Development in the City of Geneva: 2010 Baseline Review is an essential phase of the process that aims to turn Geneva into a sustainable city. Drawing up this overview has been a mobilising exercise for the municipality and for those who took part in the project. It also has been a difficult process, as is often the case when using a new perspective to analyse a situation and establish an action plan.

Identifying the strong points, detecting the areas that show room for improvement, completing sparse data, monitoring the progress made and agreeing on the challenges that are to be addressed are all crucial steps in our ongoing municipal efforts to achieve sustainable development for the city and its environment.

The City of Geneva will use this review to continue its efforts by implementing an action plan for sustainable development that includes a series of priority targets.

As Geneva enters the second decade of the 21st century, this process provides a solid sustainable development strategy, with tangible goals and adequate means to measure the progress made.

Minimising the impact of human activity on the environment is, for the industrial society in which we all participate, an exceptional challenge that will change our way of thinking, working and living our daily lives. By consuming less to live better, we acknowledge that public administrations have an added responsibility in this area, as their primary mandate is to provide what is best for the population. We, therefore, have a duty to set an example and to demonstrate cohesion for all of our citizens.

In December 2009, the United Nations Climate Conference in Copenhagen highlighted the failure of states to agree on a global response to the worldwide challenges that lie ahead. It demonstrated the importance of the role that the international civil society must play in realising the urgency and gravity of the situation. However, the Conference also had to acknowledge that it is powerless to transform the daily lives of millions of people who are subject to the permanent consequences of flawed development. It confirmed the growing importance of cities as new stakeholders in the field of environmental and social governance. Their local management role has made them key actors of local governance. The establishment of networks on a global and continental scale is a significant measure taken to address the challenges that lie ahead as we move forward in the 21st century.

Geneva is an “international city” and, for those who know it, a city with a strong sense of community. The process that led to the signing of the Aalborg Commitments helped us understand the importance of the role we have to play locally. And it also allowed us to gain a better understanding of the opportunities afforded by our position on the international scene, especially as the European seat of the United Nations and as a member of the UCLG (United Cities and Local Governments an international network of cities).

Our understanding of sustainable development strengthens our commitment towards a global governance that is capable of responding in a timely and efficient manner to the expectations of the most vulnerable members of society as well as to ensure the protection of the planet.

SOURCES

The facts and figures provided in this Sustainable Development in the City of Geneva: 2010 Baseline Review come from the following main sources:

- City of Geneva: www.ville-ge.ch
- Republic and Canton of Geneva – Cantonal Office of Statistics (Office cantonal de la statistique – Ocstat) www.geneve.ch/statistique
- Swiss confederation – Federal Bureau of Statistics (OFS): www.statistique.admin.ch
- French-Vaud-Geneva agglomeration project: www.projet-agglo.org
- Industrial Services of Geneva (SIG): www.sig-ge.ch
- Geneva Association for Sports (AGS): www.sports-geneve.ch
- Database of Swiss cities and cantons: www.badac.ch
- Urban audit: www.urbanaudit.org

