

## PRESS RELEASE

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# International Geneva adopts its Decarbonisation Charter

**At the initiative of 2050Today, the Geneva Climate Action Forum, 39 international institutions have signed the 2050Today Charter, establishing a reference framework for decarbonising International Geneva. Meeting at the Palais Anna et Jean-Gabriel Eynard in the presence of representatives of the City of Geneva, the State of Geneva, the Swiss Confederation, the University of Geneva (UNIGE) and Services Industriels de Genève (SIG), the heads of the institutions that signed the Charter undertook to implement an action plan to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and join in the efforts of the City and State of Geneva's climate strategies.**



Uniting a growing number of partners around concrete decarbonisation actions is the mission of 2050Today, the Geneva Climate Action Forum, within which the institutions of International Geneva meet and strive to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The Forum, which currently brings together 68 institutions from international Geneva, brings together permanent missions, international organisations and civil society bodies to work towards zero emissions. After being formally established in 2022 by an agreement between the City of Geneva, the Republic and Canton of Geneva, the Swiss Confederation, the University of Geneva (UNIGE) and the Services Industriels de Genève (SIG), 2050Today is taking a new step forward with the adoption of the Decarbonisation Charter.

By signing the 2050Today Charter on Tuesday 5 December 2023 at the Palais Anna et Jean-Gabriel Eynard, the headquarters of the Geneva City Council, the 39 institutions expressed their resolve to decarbonise their activities within a defined and common framework. With the goal of a carbon-free international Geneva by 2050 to be implemented as of today, the Charter stipulates five principles for its signatories:

1. Measuring regularly the carbon footprint;
2. Carrying out an assessment of the initial situation for the selected areas of intervention;
3. Defining and implementing an action plan to achieve the chosen objectives;
4. Sharing the decarbonisation process with the 2050Today community;
5. Communicating on the climate action taken.

"Coordinated and promoted by 2050Today, this Charter is the fruit of a year's joint work by 2050Today members. By subscribing to a common framework to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, International Geneva, a global centre of governance, is showing its resolve to act for the climate", says Jean-Pierre Reymond, Executive Director of 2050Today. The relevant public services and the best experts in each of the areas covered by the Charter were involved in drawing it up. The Charter is open for signature by any institution in International Geneva wishing to take action to protect the climate.

"At a time when COP 28 is being held and the whole planet is suffering the consequences of climate change at ever-closer intervals, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is pursuing international support to the two new Global Initiatives: the UN Early Warning for All and Global Green House Watch. The 2050Today Charter proposes that we join together in a common effort to demonstrate resolve and solidarity. This is the very meaning and spirit of an international Geneva that provides solutions," declared Dr Wenjian Zhang, Deputy Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organisation.

### **Defining a clear framework for a successful ecological transition**

To meet the major environmental and climate challenges facing humanity, the Charter recommends transforming the activities of each institution into a sustainable mode in the sectors of energy and buildings, mobility, food, biodiversity, ITC and waste management.

The aim of this transformation is to take account of the need to act within planetary boundaries. Establishing a framework for enhanced climate action, the 2050Today Charter is designed as a practical guide to decarbonisation. It prescribes specific intervention objectives for each sector

and lists more than 300 concrete actions that each institution can undertake, with deadlines in 2025, 2028 and 2030.

This involves, for example, deploying renewable energy systems by connecting to new thermal networks or increasing photovoltaic capacity. As far as food is concerned, it is recommended sourcing sustainably, in particular by increasing the proportion of organic and seasonal produce, and diversifying protein sources by favouring more plant-based products.

To promote biodiversity, the naturalness of habitats in the green spaces of International Geneva should be enhanced by encouraging flora and fauna that are less subject to human intervention. It is also advisable to assess and reduce the main consumption channels that have a negative impact on biodiversity. To achieve sustainable IT, it is recommended that IT equipment be rationalised by increasing its lifespan and favouring devices with reduced emissions.

By signing up to the Charter, institutions will benefit from coordinated support offering them advisory and monitoring resources.

### **Contributing to local climate strategies**

By pooling the efforts made by the signatory institutions, the Charter establishes a framework of reference and encouragement for enhanced climate action by International Geneva. The participating institutions undertake to do their utmost - in line with the climate objectives they have set themselves - to contribute reducing GHG emissions in Geneva by 60% by 2030, and by 50-60% for members located in Vaud, and to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 (carbon neutrality).

"It is only by joining forces, sharing our practices and experiences and moving forward collectively, in a spirit of solidarity, cooperation and exemplarity, that we will achieve real and lasting change for the climate," says Alfonso Gomez, Mayor of Geneva.

### **A message from International Geneva**

The adoption of the Charter comes on the heels of the first Climate Week organised by the City of Geneva, and just as COP 28 is taking place in Dubai.

"For us, the urgency of climate change means that today must be experienced as 2050, and that our decisions in Geneva must be taken in this perspective," points out Ambassador Omar Zniber, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco.

"Working with our partners in International Geneva for the climate means committing to a positive transformation of our world. Today's challenges are all interconnected - action for the climate and the environment, peace work, the fight against inequality, the fight for democracy and for responsible technology all need to be considered in an integrated way. 2050Today is an effective collective compass, a tremendous opportunity for collective reflection and progress, enabling us

to direct our actions and effectively mobilise our community and partners", says Marie-Laure Salles, Director of the Geneva Graduate Institute.

The adoption of the Charter was part of the second high-level meeting of 2050Today, which was held on Tuesday 5 December 2023 and attended by ambassadors, directors and secretaries-general, and members of the Climate Action Forum. Alfonso Gomez, Mayor of the City of Geneva, Michel Balestra, Chairman of the Board of SIG, and the State of Geneva signed the Charter as witnesses for the constituent parties of 2050Today.

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## **Institutions that have signed the 2050Today Charter**

### **Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva**

- Barbados
- Chile
- Costa Rica
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Mexico
- Morocco
- Norway
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom
- European Union

### **International organisations**

- DNDi - Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative
- International Olympic Committee
- ITU – International Telecommunication Union
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- UNAIDS
- UNHCR - United Nations Refugee Agency
- UNOG – United Nations Office at Geneva
- WMO - World Meteorological Organisation

### **Academia and Civil society entities**

- EPFL- Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne
- HES- SO Genève
- Geneva Graduate Institute
- UNIGE - University of Geneva
- CAGI - Geneva International Welcome Centre
- CCIG - Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services
- Diplomatic Club of Geneva
- EBU - European Broadcasting Union
- EGPAF - Elisabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (Geneva Office)
- FIPOI - Building Foundation for International Organisations
- Fondation pour Genève
- Geneva Call
- Kofi Annan Foundation
- NRC - Norwegian Refugee Council IDMC - Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
- Open Geneva
- PATH - Foundation for Appropriate Technology in Health (Geneva Office)
- WCC - World Council of Churches