

Statement of the Director-General  
at the "Fete de la Communication" of the Geneva Press Club  
Friday, 27 August, @6pm, @ the Villa Pastorale

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Mr. Guy Mettan,  
Madame President of the Correspondents Association,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear Friends,

It is my great pleasure to attend this "Fete de la Communication" organized by the Swiss Press Club- an event which I attended and thoroughly enjoyed last year. Functions such as today's are not only pleasant traditions but serve also to demonstrate the vitality of the Press here- which is so crucial for Geneva International.

We, at the United Nations Office at Geneva, are extremely proud to have such an important press-corps in residence covering UN affairs, second only in number to the one at UN Headquarters in New York. To the Correspondents, I wish to say that we continue to be impressed and expect only the highest standards of professionalism and diligence in your work which are indeed necessary virtues given the crucial role which you play.

Geneva is a repository of political, economic, social and humanitarian know-how and this knowledge is its power. In the rapidly changing world, the Press contribute substantially to this <sup>and role of Geneva</sup> in the most fundamental of ways. We are extremely happy with the partnership that we enjoy here at the UN with the Press Corps and how it has helped to facilitate understanding of our most urgent tasks at hand.

Indeed, without the international media in Geneva, "Geneva-international" would remain hidden from the public eye, and its soft-power, the spreading of its knowledge would be unmistakably curtailed. It is only due to the your efforts that the contrary is true. In other words, it is due to you, ladies and gentlemen of the Press, that Geneva remains "International-Geneva". Thank you for your commitment and hard work and look forward to our joint endeavors in the future.