



**Message from the Local Arrangement Committee Chair, Doris Boscardin**

Dear members,

As President of Graduate Women Switzerland (SVA) and as chairwoman of the LAC, I am delighted to welcome you next year in Geneva, Switzerland's second largest and most international city with 200,000 inhabitants.

In organising this major event, we are guided by the motto "Small is beautiful". Switzerland is a small, cosmopolitan country in the heart of Europe, with four national languages and 8.4 million inhabitants. This internationality, typical of Switzerland, applies in particular to Geneva, where GWI's Triennial Meeting will be held. Also known as the "smallest of the major metropolises" or the "city of peace and human rights", Geneva is not only the seat of the United Nations in Europe, but also the seat of the Red Cross and other important NGOs and multinational societies. The city borders with France, and the French influence is reflected in the language as well as in the gastronomy. The elegant quays on the shores of Lake Geneva, the romantic English gardens – Geneva is one of the greenest cities in Europe –, the enchanting old town and the exquisite boutiques invite you to stroll around. The rich cultural offer and the many great museums will surely inspire you, too.

We chose the prestigious University of Geneva as the conference venue. The University is located in the heart of the city, hence, all places of interest are within walking distance. The main tourist attraction of the city is the over 100 m high water fountain in the middle of the lake basin.

One highlight of the conference is the Swiss Evening, a festive dinner on a paddle steamer. The ship is an older "lady" of 100 years – just as GWI. The dinner cruise on Lake Geneva is accompanied by Swiss folkloric music and performances. And of course, we will enjoy the magnificent lake scenery with the mountains in the background. An occasion you should not and cannot miss!

If you love the mountains, you can enjoy a day trip to Chamonix, the ski resort at the foot of Mont Blanc, the highest peak in Europe. Even though Switzerland is small, the SVA has 650 members, and it is a great honour and pleasure for us to welcome you as our guests and to spend four unforgettable days with you in Geneva.

Cordially, Doris