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Geneva Becomes World Volunteer Capital

This week Geneva was the world capital of humanitarian volunteering. The culmination of the International Year of Volunteers - which was how 2001 has been designated - is the International Symposium on Volunteering which will bring together officials and volunteer leaders from more than 100 countries.

The main purpose of the three day symposium was to evaluate the activities of the International Year of Volunteers and to recommend ways in which governments, the UN system and civil society can support volunteer action.

"This gathering of volunteering experts is crucial as we take stock of the year's extraordinary achievements and work out key messages for the United Nations General Assembly, which will convene two plenary sessions on the subject on 5 December - the annual International Volunteer Day," said Executive Director of the United Nations Volunteer Programme (UNV), Sharon Capeling-Alakija.

The Symposium has received financial support from the Swiss Government, the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation, the Canton of Geneva and the City of Geneva. It is organised by the International Symposium Association and International Conference Volunteers.

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