

**Press release from the Foundation board of the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH)**

Geneva, 27 March 2023

**Three Foundation Board Members and the Programme Director Resign**

The Foundation Board of the Geneva International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH) held a closed meeting on Thursday, March 23, to discuss the tensions that have arisen in recent months within the FIFDH, which the media have reported on.

Considering that the mission entrusted last year by the Board to the Programme Director to develop the quality and outreach of the festival did not receive the necessary support from the operational team, and deeply regretting the internal conflicts that led to the current situation, **Nadia Dresti, Ursula Meier** and **Stina Werenfels**, all three members of the Board and renowned personalities of the Swiss film industry, have tendered their resignation.

Sharing the same assessment, and anxious not to further endanger her health, Programme Director **Irène Challand** has also resigned. To ensure continuity, President **Yves Daccord** remains in charge.

**Yves Daccord, Chairman of the Foundation Board, said:** *"I deeply regret the circumstances that bring three prominent members of the Board and the Programme Director to leave the FIFDH today. Thanks to the rigorousness and professionalism of Irène Challand, the 21st edition of the festival presented a very high-quality program met with a resounding public and critical success. The current situation requires a profound rethinking of the functioning of our festival and of its fundamental purposes, which the Board will address in the coming weeks."*