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Swiss Confederation

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Switzerland implements the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Switzerland's Country Report 2018

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Foreword

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) shows the way forward for a sustainable world in harmony with nature, and for peace, prosperity and partnership. As a country with a long-standing humanitarian tradition and an economy with strong international linkages, Switzerland has every interest in such a world. As a reliable partner of the international community, Switzerland played an active role in the elaboration of the 2030 Agenda and is assuming a leading role in its implementation. It is therefore making an important contribution to the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Sustainable development has a long tradition in Switzerland and with a constitutional mandate for all levels of national and international policy since 1999. It is supported since 1997 through a dedicated Federal Council strategy.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda has created a new global framework which will guide Switzerland's sustainable development efforts. Upon the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the Federal Council commissioned a comprehensive baseline assessment on the status of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Switzerland and in its foreign relations. As part of a broad-based process involving the Federal Administration, cantonal authorities, associations, business sector and other organisations, the 17 goals and 169 targets were reviewed to determine where Switzerland stands, which measures are being implemented and what challenges still exist. The review showed that

the 2030 Agenda and its goals are firmly embedded in Switzerland. Numerous cantons, cities, communes, associations, private companies, research institutions and NGOs have committed to the 2030 Agenda and are making valuable contributions towards its implementation. Since the 2030 Agenda was adopted, partnerships have been set up, resources mobilised and initiatives pooled. The baseline assessment also highlighted where challenges lie for Switzerland in achieving the SDGs by 2030. The work done so far has propelled an important process in the right direction. This work will be continued and intensified in the coming years.

This country report is based on the federal government's comprehensive baseline assessment and provides a brief overview of the most important insights from it. Switzerland is therefore following the UN's recommendations to member states that they should review implementation of the SDGs every four years, and considers this reporting an integral part of its sustainable development policy cycle. The 2030 Agenda is an important guiding framework for Switzerland. It is not a binding legal framework in our federal system, but a means of forming political opinion for both domestic and foreign policy. We intend to align the Federal Council's sustainable development strategy as fully as possible with the 2030 Agenda to ensure that Switzerland is able to fulfil its commitment to achieving the SDGs by 2030.



Ignazio Cassis
Federal Councillor



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Federal Councillor

Summary (main messages)

Sustainable development in Switzerland and the 2030 Agenda

Since its adoption in 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has driven Switzerland's commitment to sustainable development, nationally and internationally. It thus underpins the engagement for environmentally sound economic development within planetary boundaries, as well as for peace, respect for humanitarian law and human rights, with which sustainable development is inextricably linked.

From the outset, Switzerland was a driving force behind the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Switzerland advocated for a robust mechanism for follow-up and review, including Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and review of SDG implementation at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

Since 1997 the Federal Council has defined its priorities for implementing sustainable development in a quadrennial strategy; the current strategy is valid until 2019. A comprehensive system for monitoring sustainable development was put in place in 2003, with currently 73 indicators which are regularly updated.

Immediately after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, the Federal Council commissioned a comprehensive baseline assessment and gap analysis of the implementation status at federal level. The analysis concerned all 169 targets and covered both Switzerland's domestic and international contributions.

Based on the existing national-level system, monitoring was expanded for the 2030 Agenda. The gap analysis indicates that, among the chosen 85 indicators, 39 show a positive trend, 12 show no significant evolution, 14 show a negative trend, while for 20 no assessment was possible.

Switzerland is already at an advanced stage in achieving various SDGs and has already fulfilled a number of targets. For example, Switzerland is free from extreme poverty (target 1.1), and there is no hunger (target 2.1). Education (target 4.1) is free, compulsory and of good quality.

However, the baseline assessment identifies areas where efforts at national and international level beyond existing policies are needed in order to achieve the SDGs. Consumption of natural resources (SDG 12), for example, is increasing overall. Use of resources from within Switzerland for consumption by its population is decreasing, but use of resources from abroad is increasing in an unsustainable way.

Other areas call for continued strong engagement so that the SDGs can be achieved. With regard to the principle to 'Leave no one behind', Switzerland is also committed to enabling disadvantaged groups – for example people with disabilities – to benefit from the country's prosperity.

Next steps for implementation

The analysis provides a good starting point for tackling the challenges in a targeted and focused manner. The challenges will mainly be addressed within the framework of existing sectoral policies which exploit synergies where possible, observing the principles of effectiveness and efficiency, both nationally and internationally.

The 2030 Agenda is implemented at the federal, cantonal and communal levels, taking into account current obligations, competencies and established division of tasks. Many cantons and communes have defined their own strategies for sustainable development. The federal government will intensify the dialogue with the cantons and communes and support them in implementing the 2030 Agenda, for example through platforms for exchange and networks.

Switzerland's private sector, NGOs and scientific community have also been committed to sustainable development for a long time. An advisory group composed of interested non-state actors has identified what it considers to be Switzerland's priority challenges. This group provides a platform for further dialogue with the federal government and for partnerships for implementing the 2030 Agenda. Parliament is to be more closely involved in future.

The 2030 Agenda is an important reference framework for Switzerland's international cooperation, which aligns its activities with the SDGs. It will continue to support partner countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda and in achieving the SDGs globally. For example, Switzerland contributes to achieving SDG 17 by strengthening domestic resource mobilisation and capacity building, and by promoting a universal, rules-based, multilateral trading system.

Achieving the SDGs by 2030

Switzerland will continue to support the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda, which has become an important element of Switzerland's strategic cycle on sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda is ambitious and challenging. Switzerland is committed to helping to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

1 Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) is an important guiding framework for Switzerland. The Federal Council has set out corresponding political priorities in its Sustainable Development Strategy for the 2015–2019 legislative period. The objectives set out in the Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2017–2020 are also based on the 2030 Agenda.

In Switzerland, sustainable development is an objective enshrined in the Federal Constitution. It encompasses promoting prosperity for all, social cohesion and cultural diversity as well as the long-term conservation of natural resources and a peaceful and just international order. Government bodies at all levels have the task of seeking a durable and balanced relationship between nature's capacity to regenerate and the demands placed on it.

Key elements of Switzerland's global responsibility in the field of sustainable development are firmly established in its constitutional foreign policy objectives: "The Confederation shall [...] contribute to the alleviation of need and poverty in the world and promote respect for human rights and democracy, the peaceful co-existence of peoples as well as the conservation of natural resources". The cantons, cities and communes, as well as the business sector, the scientific community and NGOs play a key role in the implementation of sustainable development within the country. As Switzerland's political system is organised federally in line with the principle of subsidiarity, good coordination between all levels is essential. Many cantons have their own sustainability strategies and coordination mechanisms in place.






2 Status of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The baseline assessment which was carried out in 2017 shows that the SDGs are already well established in Swiss legislation and important sectoral policies. However, further efforts are needed to achieve them at national level and to make an appropriate contribution to their achievement at global level.

Interested non-state actors were able to comment on the results in an open consultation process to give the report a broad-based underpinning. The '2030 Dialogue for Sustainable Development' platform for discussion and information exchange was launched and the 2030 Agenda Advisory Group comprising interested non-state actors was set up.

Switzerland has already made excellent progress. It leads global rankings in important areas such as protection against natural hazards, social cohesion, quality of life and a sustainable economy. Yet some significant challenges remain. For example, Switzerland's resource consumption – when extrapolated to the world's population – significantly exceeds the planet's carrying capacity, and polluting processes have increasingly shifted to countries in the supply chain. One of the challenges facing Switzerland is thus to reduce the negative impact of domestic consumption on people and the environment in other countries.

Switzerland has a system currently comprising 85 indicators to monitor the SDGs and targets of the 2030 Agenda. This system is based on internationally recognised instruments and methods developed by the Federal Statistical Office over the past 15 years.¹

Each indicator has three symbols. The first symbol features a white arrow on a blue background to show the targeted development with regard to Switzerland's objectives. The second symbol features a black arrow on a white background  to illustrate the observed development based on the trend (increasing, no significant change, decreasing) calculated for the period under review.² The third symbol summarises the first two to allow an assessment of the observed development  Positive,  Negative,  Unchanged,  No verdict).








¹ The indicators with descriptions, charts and metadata are published online on the FSO portal <https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home/statistiques/developpement-durable/monitoring-objectifs-agenda-2030.html>).




² In most cases from 2000, or the date of the first survey if later than 2000, up to the last available value.

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere



Switzerland has a well-developed social security system. Nevertheless, implementation of the 2030 Agenda also calls for it to integrate the most disadvantaged people in the economy and society and grant them better opportunities, and to reduce the proportion of the population living below the national poverty threshold. In 2016, 7.5% of Switzerland's permanent resident population – around 615,000 people – were affected by income poverty, 140,000 of whom were gainfully employed.³

1.2	Poverty rate	  
1.3	Total social security expenditure	 
1.5	Deaths due to natural phenomena	 

Poverty rate		
Swiss data	Goal formulation of UN and Switzerland	
7.5% of Switzerland's population was living below the poverty line in 2016 ⁴ .	<i>UN: "Poverty manifests itself in hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion as well as the lack of participation in decision-making."</i>	Goal: 
+0.9% percentage points between 2014 and 2016	Federal government's goal: To achieve long-term poverty reduction in Switzerland.	Trend:  Assessment: 

International level: Switzerland's international cooperation assumes a multi-dimensional concept of poverty that encompasses basic human needs as well as economic, social, environmental, political and socio-cultural aspects. It places special emphasis on women and the most vulnerable sections of society and works to protect them and build their resilience. Since poverty is increasingly concentrated in countries whose governments are either unable or unwilling to ensure the basic functions of the state in the areas of security, rule of law and basic social services, Switzerland is becoming more active in these contexts. Such efforts are geared to the long term to increase their systemic effect.

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



The Swiss agricultural sector produces about 55% of the country's food requirements, employing approx. 150,000 people and utilising about 25% of total land area. The remaining food requirement is met through imports. No one suffers from hunger in Switzerland. Calorie production and income in the agricultural sector are largely stable. Obesity poses a problem in the general population, and represents a significant risk factor for non-communicable diseases. This problem is being combated with public funds.

In the agricultural sector, participation in environmental and animal welfare programmes is growing, as is the percentage of organic farms (12% in 2016). Yet the long-term conservation of sustainable ecosystems and provision of ecosystem services are still compromised by agriculture. Nitrogen pollution, loss of biodiversity and the extensive use of pesticides and antibiotics are not yet in line with the environmental objectives of the agricultural sector. The existing strategies and action plans are designed to reduce

³ For the definition of poverty, see next footnote.

⁴ The absolute (as opposed to the relative) poverty threshold is defined in Switzerland as falling below a specified subsistence level. For the measurement of absolute poverty in Switzerland, the FSO bases itself on the subsistence level, as recommended by the Conference of Cantonal Directors of Social Services (CDSS). Accordingly, persons who do not have the financial means to acquire the goods and services necessary for a socially integrated life are classified as poor.

the target gaps for antibiotics and pesticides. Moreover, agriculture will have to deal with the constant pressure on cultivated land.

Switzerland's agriculture and food sector is strongly integrated in global markets through free trade and WTO agreements and on a global scale is therefore also involved in the challenges of food security, climate, the environment and social justice.

2.1 / 2.2	Consumption of fruit and vegetables		
2.4	Nitrogen balance from agriculture		
	Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture		
2.5	Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture		
2.b	Export contributions		

Nitrogen balance from agriculture		
In 2015, the annual nitrogen surplus in Swiss agriculture was 91,100 tonnes.	UN: "Agriculture, forestry and fisheries can provide nutritious food for all and generate decent incomes, while supporting people-centred rural development and protecting the environment. Right now, our soils, freshwater, oceans, forests and biodiversity are being rapidly degraded."	Goal:
- 5% since 2000	Federal government's goal: [...] to ensure the long-term sustainability of ecosystems and ecosystem services in its agricultural policy.	Trend: Assessment:

International level: Switzerland supports a paradigm shift from short-term food aid to long-term food security and an improvement in the resilience of smallholder farmers and food systems. It is particularly committed to framework conditions in favour of sustainable agriculture and food systems. These include combating malnutrition, which is to a growing extent responsible for non-communicable diseases, including in developing countries. Switzerland promotes innovation to improve smallholder income and productivity, e.g. by securing land rights, developing innovative approaches to crop failure insurance, improving the geographical indication system, assisting with marketing and agricultural education and training, as well as developmental research in the field of plant breeding and improved cultivation methods.

SDG 3

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



In its Health 2020 strategy, the Federal Council set out the following goals for the Swiss healthcare system: maintain quality of life, increase equal opportunities, raise the quality of healthcare and improve transparency. Mandatory health insurance guarantees all Swiss residents access to medical services and products. Life expectancy in Switzerland is very high at 81.5 for men and 85.3 for women in 2016. However, according to Eurostat, in terms of the healthy life expectancy (HLE), Switzerland was below the EU average in 2015.

In recent years, demographic developments, advancements in medical technology and growing capacities have led to a steady increase in healthcare costs, with correspondingly higher funding requirements through health insurance premiums and taxes.

In Switzerland, a quarter of the population suffers from at least one chronic disease and almost 90% of deaths are due to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. Such diseases generate about 80% of Swiss healthcare costs.

By improving the health literacy of the population and through framework conditions which make it easier to adopt healthier lifestyles, a high quality of life should be maintained. An integrated approach that includes veterinary medicine, agriculture and the environment in addition to human medicine is applied to ensure the long-term efficacy of antibiotics for health. A spread of the HIV epidemic among the general population was averted thanks to preventive approaches. However, challenges remain in the increase in other sexually-transmitted infections and immunisation coverage for vaccine-preventable diseases. The WHO's International Health Regulations are of critical importance for combating global health risks.

3.3	Measles immunisation coverage			
3.4	Potential years of life lost			
	Suicide rate			
3.5	Heavy alcohol consumption			
3.6	Road traffic accidents			
3.8	Healthcare needs unmet for financial reasons			
3.9	Particulate matter concentrations			
3.a	Smoking rate			

Potential years of life lost		
In 2015, the number of potential years of life lost before the age of 70 per 100,000 inhabitants in Switzerland was 1,521 for women and 2,703 for men since 2000.	UN: "Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages is essential to sustainable development. Significant strides have been made in increasing life expectancy [...] However, many more efforts are needed to fully eradicate a wide range of diseases and address many different persistent and emerging health issues."	Goal: Trend: Assessment:
-33% for women -39.6% for men since 2000	Federal government's goal: To curb the burden of non-communicable diseases and mental illness, and to reduce the number of premature deaths.	

International level: Geneva has a special role in international health policy since it is the seat of relevant international organisations, NGOs and many global initiatives. Moreover, Switzerland is also important as a centre for innovation and research in health. The pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medtech industries are among the most significant Swiss export sectors. Switzerland is involved in multilateral forums and/or projects with partner countries and focuses on (i) combating communicable diseases; (ii) sustainably improving access to medical products without undermining intellectual property rights; (iii) combating non-communicable diseases and promoting a health and human rights-based addiction policy; (iv) enhancing health systems; (v) improving the health of mothers, newborns and children, and strengthening sexual and reproductive health and rights.

SDG 4

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all






Switzerland offers many and varied high-quality learning opportunities at all levels and in all areas. Switzerland's education system is characterised by a high level of permeability. Dual-track vocational education and training is a successful model and is continually adapted to accommodate megatrends and requirements.

Switzerland has significantly expanded its early intervention family support services in recent decades. Challenges include training enough specialist staff, improving the financial sustainability of childcare, setting up a national monitoring and reporting system, and early language support.

Education for sustainable development (ESD) at all levels and in all areas promotes the personal responsibility and initiative of individuals and their ability to act as multipliers for sustainable thinking and action.

4.1	Reading skills of 15-year-olds			
4.3	Teaching staff at higher education institutions (proportion of women)			
4.4 / 4.5	First diploma rate at upper secondary level			
4.6	Participation in continuing education			

Reading skills of 15-year-olds		
80% of 15-year-olds in Switzerland attained at least the minimum level required to manage modern daily life in 2015.	UN: "Obtaining a quality education is the foundation to improving people's lives and sustainable development."	Goal: 
+ 6.3% percentage points between 2000 and 2012 (2015 not comparable, owing to a change in methodology)	Federal government's goal: To ensure that during compulsory education all children acquire and develop basic knowledge and skills, as well as a cultural identity which will allow them to engage in lifelong learning and to find their place in society and the world of work.	Trend:  Assessment: 

International level: In its international cooperation work, Switzerland tirelessly advocates the right to education with the aim of promoting the development of education systems in developing countries based on the criteria of effectiveness, efficiency and equality of opportunity. Switzerland works to ensure that ESD topics are included in basic and vocational education curricula. The priorities of Switzerland's international education efforts are: i) improving the governance of national education systems; ii) enhancing basic and vocational education, and facilitating the transition to working life; iii) increasing the quality of teaching and labour market relevance; and iv) promoting inclusion and equality of opportunity.

SDG 5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls


















Gender equality, particularly in the family, in education and in the workplace, and the right to equal pay for work of equal value are enshrined in the Swiss Federal Constitution. The implementation of these principles in the workplace is governed by the Gender Equality Act. Gender equality is one of the Federal Council's priorities. Switzerland ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and regularly reports on its implementation in Switzerland.

The federal government fosters the participation of women and men at all levels of decision-making in social, economic, political and public life, e.g. through financial support and tax-deductible childcare costs, or through projects that promote family-friendly working conditions, better compatibility of family and work, and improving the status of unpaid work.

In Switzerland women's median pay is 15% lower than men's. Around 40% of this difference cannot be explained by objective factors. In order to promote gender equality, in particular equal pay, the Gender Equality Act is to be revised. It is planned to introduce a regular analysis of wage equality for employers with at least 50 staff members.

Violence against women and domestic abuse are problems in Swiss society too. Two out of three victims are women. To further reduce this violence, the Swiss Civil Code and Swiss Criminal Code were amended, and the Istanbul Convention was ratified. Specialist units to combat violence and forced marriage run public information and awareness campaigns, and a national action plan against human trafficking will be implemented by 2020, including a number of measures to better protect victims from violence.

5.1	Wage gap between women and men	  
5.2	Domestic violence	  
5.4	Time spent on professional activity and on domestic work and childcare	  
5.5	Professional position by sex	  
	Proportion of women in the National Council and in cantonal parliaments	  

Wage gap between women and men		
In Switzerland, women earned 14.6% less than men in the private sector in 2016.	UN: "Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world."	Goal: ▣
- 6.9% percentage points since 2000	Federal government's goal: To achieve gender equality. Legislation ensures equal rights for men and women, both in law and in practice.	Trend: ▣ Assessment: ▣

Gender equality is one of Switzerland's strategic goals in international cooperation. Within the framework of the competent UN commissions and multilateral development agencies, Switzerland is committed to the development of international policies and standards. It engages in the respective policy dialogue with its partner countries.

International level: Women are actively involved on the ground as actors and partners in all Swiss projects, and men are made aware of the issue of equality. Switzerland systematically considers gender equality in context analysis, planning, implementation and monitoring. In the promotion of peace and human security, a gender perspective is included where appropriate. The priorities are: i) tackling gender-based violence and harmful practices (such as violence, child and early marriage, forced marriage and female genital mutilation); ii) fostering the participation of women at all levels of decision-making in economic, political and public life; iii) increasing the economic independence of women.

SDG 6

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Switzerland has extensive water resources. The entire population has access to drinking water. There are also efficient wastewater treatment plants that are operated according to the polluter pays principle. Under its constitutional mandate, the federal government promotes integrated watershed management. The cantons determine the appropriate minimum residual flows for each watercourse and withdrawal site. Switzerland has reduced its water withdrawal over the last ten years.

Switzerland's water sector faces certain challenges, however. Climate change has resulted in local water shortages in recent years. Recent scientific studies indicate that this phenomenon will intensify in the summer months in the future. At the same time, the glacier melt will continue to increase.

Regular inspections are carried out to check drinking water contamination limits. Switzerland implements the WHO Protocol on Water and Health. Thanks to the construction of wastewater treatment plants, nitrogen and phosphorous levels in large and medium-sized watercourses have been significantly reduced. Measures have been taken to combat micropollutants, an action plan on risk reduction and the sustainable use of pesticides has been adopted and legislation on SVHCs (substances of very high concern) has been introduced. In addition, the Waters Protection Act provides for over 4,000 kilometres of watercourses to be restored in the next 80 years. Meanwhile, more than 1,000 barriers to fish migration, 100 hydropower plants that cause artificial run-off fluctuations, as well as 500 hydropower plants and other facilities that lead to bedload deficit in watercourses, are to be rehabilitated by 2030.

6.1	Nitrate in groundwater	▣	→	⚠
6.4	Drinking water use	▣	▣	▣
6.6	Structure of watercourses	▣		▣

Nitrate in groundwater		
In 2014, 13% of Switzerland's groundwater monitoring sites exhibited nitrate concentrations above the statutory levels (25mg/l).	UN: "Clean, accessible water for all is an essential part of the world we want to live in."	Goal: ↓
Given the variability of the data, no significant trend can be detected.	Federal government's goal: To preserve groundwater resources in order to guarantee sustainable access to high-quality drinking water.	Trend: → Assessment: ≈

International level: As a country bordering numerous transboundary watercourses, Switzerland is involved in a number of joint water commissions in Europe. At global level, it supports the human right to clean drinking water and sanitation, initiatives to implement sustainable water resource management, integrated monitoring of surface water and groundwater, and increased multilateral coordination in the water sector.

The priorities of Switzerland's international cooperation are: i) ensuring access to drinking water and sanitation for all; ii) improving water quality and preventing pollution; iii) promoting integrated water management and transboundary water cooperation; and iv) efficient and sustainable water use and protection and restoration of water ecosystems.

SDG 7

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



Switzerland currently has a secure energy supply. Domestic production in 2016 generated 59% of electricity from renewable hydropower and 33% from nuclear power plants. The new energy legislation and the 2050 Energy Strategy aim to ensure a sufficient, broad-based, reliable, economical and clean energy supply in Switzerland. Energy efficiency is to be increased and the use of renewables expanded. Meanwhile, the use of fossil fuels, and thus carbon emissions, are to be reduced. Switzerland intends to reduce dependence on imported energy.

The energy and CO₂ legislation contains incentives, instruments and technical regulations to reduce energy consumption, increase energy efficiency and expand renewable energies. There are financial incentives for companies to replace inefficient appliances, lights and other equipment. In addition, by 2020 the initiative entitled 'The Confederation: exemplary in energy' aims to increase energy efficiency across the Federal Administration and federal-government associated businesses by 25% compared with 2006.

In the area of mobility, the focus is on CO₂ emissions targets for cars and the introduction of a CO₂ target for light commercial and articulated vehicles. By agreeing targets with energy-intensive industrial and service companies, the federal government promotes more efficient use of fuel and electricity.

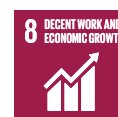
7.1	Final energy consumption by energy source	↓	↓	✓
	Energy dependency	↓	↓	✓
7.2	Renewable energies	↑	↑	✓
	Electricity production from renewable energy	↑	↑	✓
7.3	Final energy consumption per capita	↓	↓	✓

Renewable energies		
In Switzerland, renewable energies accounted for 22.1% of total energy consumption in 2016.	UN: "Energy is central to nearly every major challenge and opportunity the world faces today. [...] Sustainable energy is an opportunity – it transforms lives, economies and the planet."	Goal: ↓
+ 5.2% percentage points since 2000	Federal government's goal: To continuously increase the share of cost-efficient renewable energies in total energy consumption.	Trend: ↑ Assessment: ✓

International level: Switzerland encourages the proliferation of environmental goods and renewable energies in economic and free trade agreements, e.g. by improving market access and fostering private investment. It provides technical assistance and investment to help developing countries produce electricity, heating and cooling in a cleaner, more efficient, more accessible and more affordable manner while bearing in mind economic sustainability. It has specific expertise in hydropower, which it can contribute at international level. Switzerland is also committed to energy efficiency at local level. It participates in the relevant international bodies that regulate cross-border grids and energy flows. The priorities of Switzerland's international efforts in the field of energy are: i) strengthening a reliable, accessible and affordable energy supply; and ii) promoting renewable energies and energy efficiency.

SDG 8

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Switzerland has high productivity, low unemployment, a high quality of work and a high level of labour market participation. It is strongly integrated in the global economy. Its export economy benefits from a developed network of free trade agreements and contractually-secured access to the EU.

The federal government pursues a competition-friendly, sectorally neutral economic policy, which aims to further open up the economy, facilitate imports, eliminate trade barriers, maintain and develop the bilateral path with the EU and reduce red tape. At the same time, it is important to preserve Switzerland's strengths, such as its robust state budget, high level of education and high degree of legal certainty. This also includes an efficient and functioning social partnership agreement, which, with the support of the federal government and flexible solutions at sector and company level, means the labour market can rapidly adapt to changes.

The digital revolution presents the Swiss economy with opportunities. To harness these, it is important to further optimise the framework conditions so that the digital economy can develop. To maintain high labour market participation and good working conditions, the federal government is in favour of steadily enhancing the potential of the domestic workforce, including the participation rate of women. To this end, the federal government and cantons promote work-family reconciliation measures, the professional integration of young people and apprenticeship marketing. The federal government also encourages the labour market participation of older people and vulnerable groups.

8.1	Gross domestic product per capita			
8.2	Labour productivity			
8.3	Jobs in innovative economic activities			
8.4	Material footprint			
8.5	Women's employment rate			
	Wage gap between women and men			
8.6	NEET: Young people neither in employment nor in training			
8.8	Accidents at work			
8.9	Tourism gross value added			
	Tourism employment			
8.b	Youth unemployment			

Labour productivity		
Since 2000, labour productivity in Switzerland has risen at an average annual growth rate of 0.8% .	UN: "Sustainable economic growth will require societies to create the conditions that allow people to have quality jobs that stimulate the economy while not harming the environment."	Goal:
+ 13% since 2000	Federal government's goal: The Swiss economy raises labour productivity in the long term and increases its competitiveness and capacity for innovation.	Trend:
		Assessment:

International level: Switzerland's economic and trade policy measures within the framework of its international cooperation help reduce poverty and global threats, and promote peace and human rights. The primary goal is to contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth in developing countries and to increase their resilience in the globalised world economy. Switzerland focuses its efforts on middle income countries where the majority of the population live in extreme poverty and where economic and social development can influence whole regions. The priorities are: i) improving the economic conditions in developing countries; ii) expanding and developing the global trading system with the active participation of developing countries; and iii) improving working conditions at the global level (*decent work agenda*).

SDG 9

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation



The infrastructure in Switzerland is of high quality. The federal government, cantons and cities are implementing a number of measures to further upgrade the dense and high-quality integrated transport system and increase the efficiency of use, e.g. innovative transport management, easing peak traffic times through intermodal and use-based mobility pricing, the increased transfer of externalities to road users, the expansion of public transport especially in heavily populated areas and an increase in the proportion of slow traffic (by bicycle, on foot etc.)

Compared with other countries, Switzerland has both competitive and inexpensive telecommunications networks, and continually invests in next generation mobile networks and infrastructure. Network expansion is primarily market driven.

The federal government promotes cooperation between science and industry in order to safeguard the extremely high quality of education and research in Switzerland and the innovativeness of its business sector. The state supports the introduction of new technologies to the market and the launch of new start-ups on a subsidiary basis through applied research and the transfer of knowledge from universities to industry. The federal government and cantons want to support the universities in developing their IT capacity so Switzerland can maintain its position as a leading centre of innovation and research and develop this capability in a targeted way.

9.1	Congestion on Swiss motorway network			
	Average distance to nearest public transport stop			
9.4	Material intensity			
9.5	Expenditure on research and development			

Material intensity		
The ratio of raw material consumption (RMC) to GDP in Switzerland has fallen since 2000: annual average decrease of - 1.2% .	UN: <i>“Technological progress is the foundation of efforts to achieve environmental objectives, such as increased resource and energy-efficiency”.</i>	Goal:
- 16% since 2000	Federal government's goal: Companies achieve maximum resource-efficiency by optimising the design of their production processes and products. Use is made of the economic and technical potential for closing materials cycles.	Trend: Assessment:

International level: Switzerland works towards sustainable industrialisation in developing countries through international cooperation. It promotes a stable economic and financial environment, strengthens the private sector and financial services providers and improves the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises. Switzerland helps producers and companies to position themselves in value chains and promotes the integration of developing countries into the global economy. It also advocates appropriate and economically expedient protection of intellectual property through the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Switzerland also supports developing countries in preparing basic infrastructure. This is primarily done by: i) promoting resource efficiency and clean technologies; ii) improving access to financial services for companies and producers; and iii) promoting access to information and communications technology and the internet.

SDG 10

Reduce inequality within and among countries





























Switzerland promotes prosperity for all through its growth policy, public education system and social security system. Moreover, various policies including rental and housing policy at cantonal and communal level help the poorest sections of the population. Switzerland facilitates access for people with disabilities to education and further training, public infrastructure, transport and services through its Disability Discrimination Act, and promotes their participation in public and political life.

Initial measures have been taken to ensure equality for all people regardless of their sexual orientation, such as access to an officially recognised form of partnership. The Criminal Code contains a provision against racial discrimination. Increased protection against discrimination in individual areas of life is currently under review.

The general standard of living in Switzerland is one of the highest in Europe. Disposable income inequality is in line with the European average and has shown little change overall. Wealth redistribution through progressive taxation and social transfer contributes to stabilisation.

Switzerland is committed to immigration insofar as it is in the country's overall economic interest. In December 2017, 68.5% of the entire foreign population comprised people from the EU-28/EFTA states. Third-country nationals accounted for 31.5%. Workers from EU/EFTA countries receive ready access to the Swiss labour market thanks to the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons. For all other countries, access is subject to certain conditions and restricted. Switzerland grants asylum to persons who meet the conditions for refugee status. It advocates secure migration paths and combats irregular migration. At a European level, it advocates spreading the burden fairly and supporting initial host countries. Switzerland attaches great importance to the integration of foreign nationals and supports measures to improve language, education, employability, information transfer and social integration. This is generally done through formal public institutions (especially schools) as well as through VET and in the workplace. Where special integration needs are identified, specific integration programmes provide support for language learning, occupational integration, career guidance and protection against discrimination.

10.1	Distribution of primary equivalised income (S80/S20) ⁵	  
10.2	Participation of disabled persons in the labour market	  
	Employment rate by migration status	  
10.4	Distribution of equivalised disposable income (S80/S20)	  
10.7	Risk of poverty by migration status	 
10.a	Duty-free imports from developing countries	  
10.b	Official development assistance for poor countries	  
10.c	Remittances by migrants	  

Distribution of equivalised disposable income (S80/S20)		
The equivalised disposable income of the richest 20% was 4.8 times higher than that of the poorest 20% in 2015.	UN: "[...] while income inequality between countries may have been reduced, inequality within countries has risen."	Goal: 
No significant changes since 2000	Federal government's goal: Switzerland promotes prosperity for all. It seeks to ensure equal opportunities to the greatest extent possible for its citizens.	Trend:  Assessment: 

⁵ The indicator shows the factor by which the income share of the top 20% of the population exceeds the income share of the bottom 20% of the population.

Duty-free imports from developing countries		
Duty-free goods imported into Switzerland from least developed countries amounted to 91.2% in 2016.	UN: <i>"The international community has made significant strides towards lifting people out of poverty. [...] However, inequality still persists and large disparities remain."</i>	Goal: 
+ 32.7% percentage points since 2013	Federal Council goal: The federal government recognises the special and differential treatment provisions in the WTO agreements for developing countries and in particular for least developed countries.	Trend:  Assessment: 

International level: As a major international financial centre, Switzerland contributes to shaping a fair global regulatory agenda. Specifically, this includes monitoring the implementation of international standards relating to financial market stability, taxes, combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism, and implementing these standards independently. Moreover, it has adjusted capital and liquidity requirements for banks to reinforce their financial stability and strengthen their credibility. It has also comprehensively revised its legislation on financial market infrastructures, derivatives trading and combating money laundering. In 2017, Switzerland enacted the legal basis for the international automatic exchange of information in tax matters.

Swiss international cooperation aims to reduce poverty, discrimination, exclusion and vulnerability in the developing world. Switzerland is working with international organisations towards a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and a global compact on refugees. It also aims to integrate its international cooperation with its migration policy, in order to achieve greater policy coherence, have a systemic approach to the opportunities and challenges of migration and safeguard Switzerland's interests. In this context, Switzerland focuses its efforts on peace and good governance.

SDG 11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

























Some three-quarters of the Swiss population live in cities and agglomerations, which is where over 80% of jobs and 84% of economic output are concentrated. Population development and growing demand for space for living, business, transport and leisure increase the pressure on the countryside, cultural heritage, land, agricultural areas and biodiversity. The air quality has generally improved in recent years. However, pollutants and noise emissions still cause health problems in some areas. Households are connected to an advanced basic supply network. There are no severely impoverished areas, green and open spaces are generally easily accessible and there is a high level of security.

The public and private transport system is well developed, although it is stretched to the limit on frequently travelled routes at peak times. Transport security is extremely high. However, under the Disability Discrimination Act universal access to public transport should meet the requirements of travellers with disabilities and age-related limitations by the end of 2023.

The spatial planning concept in Switzerland is conducive to cooperation between residential and economic areas and to the review of new ways to balance costs and benefits. The federal government's spatial planning act in conjunction with the Swiss Nature and Cultural Heritage Protection Act form the legal framework for compact settlement development to protect the cultivated land, natural habitats, countryside and the natural and architectural cultural heritage, while at the same time ensuring Switzerland's attractiveness as a place to live and work.

Risk-reduction targets and measures are outlined in the climate adjustment strategy, the strategy for natural hazards, strategy for protection of critical infrastructure, cyber strategy, the overarching risk management systems of the federal government and cantons and in planning on how to deal with disasters and emergency situations as formulated in the structure and utilisation plans.

11.1	Housing costs	  
11.2	Independent use of public transport by people with disabilities	 
	Average distance to nearest public transport stop	 
11.3	Building zones (density)	 
11.4	Urban sprawl	  
11.5	Damage caused by natural disasters	 
11.6	Traffic noise pollution	 
11.7	Recreation areas in urban spaces	  

Housing costs		
The proportion of rental costs in the disposable income of the poorest households (lowest 20%) in Switzerland came to 31% in 2012/14.	UN: "The future we want includes cities of opportunities for all, with access to basic services, energy, housing, transportation and more."	Goal: 
No change since 2006/08	Federal government's goal: The proportion of moderately priced accommodation available to buy or rent is maintained or increased in high-demand areas; disadvantaged sections of the population have access to affordable housing.	Trend: 
		Assessment: 

International level: Switzerland's international cooperation efforts increasingly involve urban centres with their connection to rural regions and support them in city planning and management, decentralisation processes and strengthening local democratic structures. There is particular emphasis on disaster risk reduction through integral risk management. Switzerland is particularly active in raising awareness of the close interdependencies between disaster risk reduction, climate change and development cooperation, and encouraging the stakeholders in these areas to work more closely together. As a result, the coherent implementation of the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris climate agreement is fundamental for Switzerland. Efforts concentrate on: i) the promotion of sustainable and inclusive urbanisation; and ii) disaster risk reduction, based on the Sendai Framework.

SDG 12

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



The federal government has declared its aim to transition to a resource-saving, sustainable economy which fulfils its responsibilities along the entire value chain. It is a challenge it intends to tackle in partnership with the private sector. The federal government draws up guidelines and sets frameworks, such as the Green Economy 2013 action plan and the corresponding programme of measures that was adopted in 2016, as well as the Federal Council's 2015 Position Paper and Action Plan on Corporate Social Responsibility, the 2016 National Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and the 2013 Background Report on Commodities.

The federal government is supporting the commitment of the business sector, the scientific community and NGOs by providing fundamental knowledge and tools, and by facilitating dialogue between all of the parties concerned. Technical and social innovations are also key to reducing resource use. To further promote possible approaches to the internalisation of externalities, Switzerland has introduced incentive taxes on CO₂ and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), for example, as well as a heavy vehicle charge. These measures increase awareness among investors and businesses of the increasing scarcity of natural resources.

Switzerland has a smoothly functioning system of waste management, which includes both the public and private sectors. The proportion of municipal waste that is recycled stood at 53% in 2016. The federal government promotes the circular economy by pursuing dialogue and encouraging direct responsibility in the various sectors concerned. It has also set quantitative targets in particularly relevant areas.

The Federal Council expects companies headquartered in Switzerland to fulfil their human rights and environmental responsibilities in all of their activities. The corresponding principles and activities are set

out in the CSR Position Paper and the Action Plan on Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility, as well as in the strategy for the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. As far as commodities are concerned, in 2013 the Federal Council approved measures to ensure more transparency about financial and production flows, and responsible corporate governance.

On the consumption side, the federal government promotes consumer information and awareness. It also monitors and regulates markets in various sectors such as timber, chemicals and vehicles. The federal government has a role model function in terms of its own patterns of consumption. Switzerland's Public Procurement Act is currently being revised. Once the Swiss parliament passes the Federal Council's bill, the various aspects of sustainability will be enshrined in law.

12.2	Material footprint per person			
	Greenhouse gas footprint			
12.5	Total municipal waste generation			
	Rate of separately collected municipal waste			
12.8	Environmental behaviour in everyday life			
12.c	Petroleum tax relief			

Total municipal waste generation		
Switzerland produced 6.1 million tonnes of municipal waste in 2016, 53% of which was collected separately for recycling.	<i>UN: "Sustainable consumption and production aims at 'doing more and better with less,' [...] by reducing resource use, degradation and pollution along the whole lifecycle, while increasing quality of life."</i>	Goal:
+ 28.1% since 2000	Federal government's goal: The environmental impact of waste is limited; use is made of the economic and technical potential for closing materials cycles.	Trend:
		Assessment:

International level: Switzerland's international efforts in relation to SDG 12 concentrate on: i) promoting the green economy by helping to develop harmonised international rules, supporting the UN's 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, and activities within the framework of the international conventions on waste and chemicals; and ii) reducing food losses in developing countries, especially along the entire value chain, improving the capacity of smallholder farmers and supporting governments in establishing appropriate regulations.

SDG 13

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts











Switzerland ratified the Paris Agreement in the autumn of 2017. Its target is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% of their 1990 level by 2030, primarily by cutting domestic emissions. The CO₂ Act principally covers fossil fuels, but also extends beyond CO₂ to all other greenhouse gases which are subject to international regulation. It also accords the federal government a coordinating role in adaptation to climate change.

The current mix of instruments to reduce domestic emissions includes a CO₂ levy on fuels, emissions trading, measures to promote energy efficiency, a technology fund, fuel importers being required to compensate domestically for the resulting emissions, industry agreements, and CO₂ regulations for new cars. Switzerland exceeded its interim targets for 2015 in the building sector (-26% versus only -22%) and industry (-17% versus only -7%), but did not achieve the target of stabilising emissions from transport compared with 1990 (+4 percent versus 0%). Since the interim target for CO₂ emissions from fossil fuels was also missed in 2016, the CO₂ levy was increased from CHF 84 to CHF 96 per tonne of CO₂ as of 1 January 2018. Greenhouse gas emissions are to be reduced by 20% compared with their 1990 level by 2020.

The federal government's strategy in this regard covers action on water management, dealing with natural hazards, agriculture, forestry, energy, tourism, biodiversity management, health and spatial planning, while progress data is collected at two-year intervals.

Also key to reducing the impact on climate change is the early and coordinated warning and alerting of natural hazards by the federal government. Systematic observation of the climate provides an important basis on which to improve capacity to adapt to climate-related risks. Here, the federal government functions as a coordinator within the Global Climate Observing System, as well as in a programme for monitoring the composition of the atmosphere as it is relevant to the climate (e.g. greenhouse gases).

13.2	Greenhouse gas emissions	  
13.3	Assessment of dangers associated with climate change	 

Greenhouse gas emissions		
Greenhouse gas emissions in CO ₂ equivalents amounted to 48.3 million tonnes in 2016.	UN: "Climate change is now affecting every country on every continent. It is [...] affecting lives, costing people, communities and countries dearly today and even more tomorrow."	Goal: 
- 10.5% since 1990	Federal government's goal: By 2030, greenhouse gases will have been reduced by 50% compared with 1990; at least 30% of the total reduction is to be achieved by measures within Switzerland.	Trend:  Assessment: 

International level: Global climate change jeopardises the progress that has been made in recent decades to combat poverty, and also presents an obstacle to strong economic growth in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries. At the same time, many developing countries, and specifically emerging markets such as India and China, have enormous potential to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Switzerland's international cooperation therefore concentrates on the following areas: i) helping developing countries to conserve their climates and to adapt to climate change; and ii) contributing a fair share to international climate funding.

SDG 14

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development






As a landlocked country, Switzerland may have no direct ocean or sea access, but through its links to the Mediterranean, North Sea (Atlantic), Adriatic and the Black Sea via four major rivers and use of the world's seas and oceans via its consumption of fisheries products, the use of fish meal as a fertiliser, and the importation of fossil fuels and sand from ocean ecosystems, Switzerland not only has an interest in protecting the oceans, seas and their resources, but also a certain responsibility to do so.

To protect Swiss watercourses, Switzerland has joined forces with its neighbouring countries to press for reductions in pollution from nitrogen and microcontaminants. This work takes the form of measures to control air pollution, in agriculture, and to prevent water pollution, for example, through state subsidies to reduce pesticide use or measures to reduce nitrogen emissions.

To put an end to overfishing, Switzerland takes the same measures as the EU to ensure that no illegal fisheries products enter the Swiss market.

14.1	Nitrogen load exported	  
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Nitrogen load exported		
The total nitrogen load in the Rhine at Basel amounted to 50,686 tonnes in 2016.	UN: "The world's oceans – their temperature, chemistry, currents and life – drive global systems that make the Earth habitable for humankind. [...] Careful management of this essential global resource is a key feature of a sustainable future."	Goal: 
- 27.4% since 1990 (the variability in data means that a longer time series has to be taken into consideration in order to detect any trend)	Federal government's goal: Nitrogen deposition from air and water is reduced.	Trend:  Assessment: 

International level: Switzerland promotes the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources by supporting international conventions and UN organisations in their efforts to prevent marine pollution. It has also ratified a large number of international covenants protecting marine and coastal ecosystems, and plays an active part in these covenants' international organisations and bodies. The principal areas of focus are: i) protecting and sustainably managing coastal regions, marine areas and marine biodiversity; ii) participating in polar and climate research; and iii) monitoring international shipping under the Swiss flag.

SDG 15

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss






Switzerland preserves biodiversity primarily by ensuring habitat protection, a task for which the cantons are responsible. A limited number of endangered species also benefit from federal and cantonal recovery programmes. These include measures to revitalise watercourses and prevent soil erosion and depletion.

In agriculture, the setting aside of specific areas to encourage biodiversity is encouraged by means of direct subsidies. Switzerland has also defined the principal strands of its policy on biodiversity in forestry. Despite the many measures that are in place, biodiversity in Switzerland is still on the decline. Switzerland has defined measures and a timeline to create a functional ecological infrastructure. Through its biosphere reserves, Switzerland is implementing solutions which aim to reconcile biodiversity conservation with its sustainable use.

Although various measures have helped to halt the rise in certain soil impacts, and certain impacts have even declined, the economical and appropriate use of soil in Switzerland remains a considerable challenge. A national soil strategy is currently being drafted. The principal objectives of the national forest policy are to ensure sustainable, efficient and innovative forest management, an increase in the use of domestic timber, conserving forest area in its current geographical distribution, achieving economic improvement in the forestry sector, and consistently protecting the forests against the threats of harmful organisms and high nitrogen levels.

15.1	Protected areas			
15.2	Sustainable wood harvest			
15.3	Soil sealing			
15.4	Summering pastures			
15.5	Biocoenosis diversity in meadows and pastures			
	Red list			
15.6	Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture			
15.8	Invasive alien species			
15.a	Biodiversity spending			

Soil sealing		
In 2009, 4.7% of the land area was sealed with impermeable material.	<i>UN: "Deforestation and desertification – caused by human activities and climate change – pose major challenges to sustainable development."</i>	Goal:
+ 1% percentage point since 1985	Federal government's goal: Soil function is preserved for the long term. Soil use does not result in degradation and, where possible, soils and their function are restored.	Trend:
		Assessment:

Red list		
Since 2000, populations of nesting birds on the red list have declined at an average annual rate of -1.9% .	UN: "Deforestation and desertification – caused by human activities and climate change – pose major challenges to sustainable development."	Goal: 
- 30.6% since 2000	Federal government's goal: The conservation status of the populations of national priority species is improved by 2020 and extinction is prevented as much as possible. The condition of endangered habitats is improved.	Trend:  Assessment: 

International level: Switzerland participates in a large number of international conventions; it has ratified all those which are key to protecting biodiversity. Switzerland also assists with the drafting and implementation of national biodiversity strategies in developing countries.

Switzerland's principal areas of focus are: i) protecting and making sustainable use of genetic resources; ii) mobilising resources to protect the environment; iii) containing soil loss and desertification; iv) conserving and making sustainable use of forests; and v) preventing the illegal trade in plants and animals.

SDG 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels














The political system in Switzerland is characterised by decentralised power based on direct democracy, federalism and a 'militia system' according to which most Swiss politicians work part-time and are remunerated accordingly. Basic rights are protected by the constitution. The right of action and right of appeal ensure access to justice at all federal levels. For example, under international conventions, individual human rights appeals can be lodged with the European Court of Human Rights and with the UN Committee Against Torture, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, and Committee on the Rights of the Child.




Corruption exists only to a very limited extent in Switzerland. In the 2017 Corruption Perceptions Index it was placed at number three, out of 180 countries. Public confidence in institutions and politicians is high.

Switzerland uses a mix of prevention, prosecution and victim support to protect its population against violence in public places, against domestic violence, and against human trafficking and smuggling. The prosecution of sexual offences against children, and of illegal pornography, as well as measures to combat human trafficking and smuggling, are coordinated nationwide. To combat violent extremism, Switzerland has adopted a national action plan to prevent and combat radicalisation and violent extremism, and is in the process of drafting a Federal Act on Police Counter-terrorism Measures.

Switzerland has a keen interest in the integrity of its financial centre. It recognises illicit financial flows as a challenge that can be tackled successfully only in association with their countries of origin and destination. Switzerland applies international standards on combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism, on the exchange of information on tax matters, on tax avoidance and shifting, and on fighting corruption.

Switzerland produces regular reports on its domestic human rights situation, as well as on the implementation of the UN and Council of Europe conventions on protecting human rights. It has also been the subject of a number of individual human rights-related appeal proceedings. The country abides by the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights, as well as by the findings of the various UN treaty bodies established to protect human rights. The latter are not legally binding.

16.1	Violent offences	  
16.5	Corruption Perceptions Index (ranking of Switzerland)	  
16.6	Confidence in the Federal Council	  
16.b	Victims of discrimination	 

Violent offences		
905 violent crimes were reported to the Swiss police in 2016.	UN: "Goal 16 [...] is dedicated to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development [...]."	Goal: 
- 15.2% since 2009	Federal government's goal: Switzerland prevents violence, crime and terrorism and combats them effectively.	Trend: 
		Assessment: 

International level: As a leading financial centre, Switzerland applies international standards on combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism, on the exchange of information on tax matters, on tax avoidance and shifting, and on fighting corruption. To curtail illicit financial flows into Switzerland from developing countries, Switzerland helps these countries to better manage their revenue from commodities transactions, to institute effective taxation, and in their fight against money laundering and corruption. Switzerland pursues a proactive policy to track, freeze and recover assets stolen by politically exposed persons from foreign countries. It supports the countries of origin in their efforts to recover such stolen assets, returning some USD 2 billion in recent years. It is also committed to combating the illegal transfer of items of cultural significance.

Switzerland is a committed advocate of respect for human rights, promotes democracy, and contributes to peaceful co-existence between nations. In this regard, it focuses on combating the underlying causes of fragility and violence by means of preventive development policy measures that are designed to have a long-term effect. Switzerland's efforts concentrate on: i) promoting good governance; ii) peace-building and protecting people from violence; iii) promoting the rule of law, respect for human rights, and access to justice; and iv) supporting UN reforms.

SDG 17

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development



Switzerland supports the broad-based financing concept of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which calls for the mobilisation of national and international financial flows and recognises the importance of policy coherence. By committing to the 2030 Agenda slogan of 'leaving no-one behind', Switzerland likewise places a focus on the most disadvantaged.

Switzerland increased its official development assistance, calculated in accordance with the OECD's DAC guidelines, to 0.5% of its gross national income in the period that ended in 2015. This involved channelling more money into assistance for least developed countries and countries in fragile contexts. The current financial framework for international cooperation sets a target figure of 0.48%.

Switzerland helps developing countries to mobilise domestic resources in both the public and private sectors. An efficient budgetary and spending policy, transparent public procurement transactions, sound financial reporting and accountability, autonomy in local financial management and the responsible handling of debt and natural resources are just some of the factors involved. It is also committed to developing tools that will support the mobilisation of domestic resources by helping developing countries get to grips with the transfer pricing practices of multinational corporations. In the commodities sector, Switzerland campaigns for increased transparency, e.g. through its support for the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.




It strengthens the mobilisation of private investments for long-term, sustainable growth in developing and emerging economies through SIFEM, the Swiss Investment Fund for Emerging Markets. In addition, numerous partnerships with the private sector mobilise additional private funding dedicated to specific thematic areas. Switzerland also supports programmes that optimise the development impact of money transfers by migrants and make such remittances less expensive.

Switzerland is committed to establishing a rules-based, open and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system. It has put into practice the decision adopted by the WTO Ministerial Conference to provide duty- and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for at least 97% of products originating from least developed countries, defined at the tariff line level, to which it is also applying simple and transparent rules of origin. It supports developing countries in creating more favourable conditions for trade and private enterprise and in strengthening responsible competition all along the export value chains with a view to making sustainable trade more widespread. Its import promotion programme facilitates market access for certain products from developing and emerging economies.

Switzerland supports the sharing of expertise and technology through its involvement in partnership-based research programmes and networks in the fields of water, agricultural research, medical devices and green technologies, for example, and is generally committed to establishing favourable conditions for technology transfer. Ensuring adequate protection of intellectual property that benefits the domestic economy in the recipient countries is another primary concern in this respect.

Switzerland helps developing countries to improve the data they collect on water or gender, for example, build up a system of national statistics, strengthen their evidence-based planning and policies, draw up national strategies for sustainable development and build their capacity for implementing the 2030 Agenda.

17.2	Official Development Assistance	 
17.3	Direct investment in developing countries	 

Official Development Assistance		
Swiss official development assistance amounted to 0.46% of gross national income in 2017.	<i>UN: "A successful sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society."</i>	Goal: 
+ 0.13% percentage points since 2000	Federal government's goal: In 2011, Parliament set the target of achieving an ODA rate of 0.5% of GNI by 2015. The federal government also fundamentally recognises the international goal of spending 0.15% to 0.2% of GNI on supporting the poorest developing countries.	Trend:  Assessment: 

3 Integrating the three dimensions and policy coherence for sustainable development

Switzerland promotes policy coherence through a number of different procedures that ensure legislation of a high quality, achieve a balance between conflicting interests, foster synergies between policies in various sectors and reconcile national and global perspectives. This entails a consultation procedure involving all the main stakeholder groups and a further ‘technical’ consultation involving all the relevant federal offices, with the members of the Federal Council formulating their views as part of the political-level joint reporting procedure. Decisions taken by Parliament can be challenged directly by referendum. Prospective evaluation instruments, such as regulatory impact assessments, sustainability assessments, environmental assessments, energy impact assessments and health impact assessments, are available for analysing the impact of the government’s proposed policies and actions. They are used to varying degrees at present – partly out of cost-benefit considerations.

The MONET monitoring system for sustainable development also provides an important frame of reference for keeping track of the temporal dimension of policy coherence to ensure that development is not taking place at the expense of future generations.

In the majority of cases, two or more federal offices and policy areas are responsible for implementing the SDG targets, a fact which reflects the strong mutual dependencies that exist within the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. As a result, not only is there a great need to address policy coherence problems and capitalise on positive synergies, but also great potential for doing so. Parliament and its committees are to be more closely involved in future.

Tensions are known to exist, for example (i) in mainstreaming the economic, social and environmental dimensions of innovations, and (ii) in conflicts of use between environmental protection, human settlement, transport and energy, or in areas such as gender equality in the labour market, work-family balance and the economic integration of disadvantaged population groups versus economic freedom, and in the design of tax policies and easing of regulation. Further challenges are (iii) the trade-offs between national policies and international agreements, and (iv) domestic policy spillovers, in particular the effects on developing countries.

4 Institutional embedding and partnerships

The 2030 Agenda provides a frame of reference for implementing sustainable development in those Swiss sectoral policies for which the federal government is responsible. Implementation is achieved through the specific focuses set in and between sectoral policies, and funds for implementation are applied for as part of the budget process.

The *Forum Nachhaltige Entwicklung* (“Sustainable Development Forum”) ensures that the different levels of state authority remain in contact and exchange information. In addition, the federal government’s programme promoting sustainable development also provides targeted support to initiatives that help strengthen sustainable development. A special focus is placed on strengthening cooperation with the cantonal sustainability offices and officers, who also serve as the first point of contact for the communes. In addition, the federal government engages in a dialogue with the umbrella organisations for Switzerland’s cities and communes.

Coordination between areas and actors, and multi-stakeholder partnerships for implementing the 2030 Agenda, are to be further strengthened. Actors from civil society are given the chance to have a say by means of the “2030 Dialogue for Sustainable Development” platform. A “2030 Agenda Advisory Group”, in which NGOs, the private sector and academia are represented, has thus far proven its considerable worth as a participatory instrument. The Group will continue to play a role in designing processes and in discussions regarding the content of the federal government’s sustainability policy. A broader political discussion, with the participation of Parliament, should confer greater democratic legitimacy on the procedure

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