

How sustainable is Switzerland?

Implementing the 2030 Agenda from
a civil society perspective



**Platform
Agenda
2030**

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Foreword

While many stakeholders welcomed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015 as a paradigm shift, a certain sense of disillusionment has already set in. More than two years have passed, but what has been achieved?

Following Switzerland's announcement that it will present a progress report to the UN in July, the civil society organisations that make up the *Platform Agenda 2030* have been busy drafting their own parallel report. In doing so, they have not followed the UN guidelines for country-led reports. Instead, they have defined the topics and issues they feel to be most important.

The result is a broad spectrum of insights and analyses of the challenges and need for action – both in Switzerland and by Switzerland – that are involved whenever political decisions taken at home spill over and affect other countries. Owing to the cross-cutting nature of the 2030 Agenda, each chapter includes multiple cross-references, thus clearly illustrating the many interdependencies and interlinkages between individual SDGs.

The individual chapters vary in structure and style, reflecting Switzerland's diverse civil society landscape. They clearly point out where action is needed in each of the respective areas. Unfortunately, although progress has been made on certain issues, there have also been setbacks. Identifying the need for action is an important first step towards making the necessary changes. The recommendations in each chapter suggest options for changing course towards sustainable development at the political level. Deeds must follow words!

Eva Schmassmann, President

Recommendations of the Platform Agenda 2030

The 11 recommendations of the *Platform Agenda 2030* are derived from the recommendations put forward in the individual chapters of this report. They were presented to the members of this civil society platform at its 2018 annual general meeting for discussion and approval. Unlike the recommendations formulated by the respective authors in the individual chapters, these 11 recommendations have the backing of the entire platform. In other words, they enjoy broad-based support within civil society: organisations from the fields of development, the environment, peace, human rights, health, the shared economy and trade unions see these recommendations as the cornerstone of sustainable development policy in Switzerland, both at home and in terms of its global responsibility.

1 Leaving no one behind

“Leaving no one behind” is the principle at the core of the 2030 Agenda, whose success can therefore be measured primarily by the progress it delivers for particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including the right to basic needs services. This means that Switzerland is required to take action across all policy areas to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals for all disadvantaged people everywhere. At the domestic and international level, measures must be instituted above all for people affected by poverty, women*¹, migrants, children and young adults, people with disabilities, the elderly, people in unstable employment situations and other marginalised social groups. Switzerland is required to counter all forms of discrimination, and especially to protect people who suffer from multiple discrimination. Internationally, Switzerland must ensure prospects for disadvantaged people by means of the coherent implementation of its sectoral policies and effective development cooperation.

2 Respecting planetary boundaries

If everybody on this planet lived like people in Switzerland today, it would take more than three planet Earths to provide all they demand. It therefore needs to make a determined effort to reduce it. The country must cut its consumption, adopt sustainable production methods, halt the ongoing biodiversity loss in its territory, establish a functioning green infrastructure and take full responsibility for respecting the planet’s boundaries. Crucially in this respect, Switzerland must also accept responsibility for the effects its policies have on other countries. This includes taking responsibility as an importer and trading hub for various commodities and goods, and for the impact of investments abroad made from Switzerland. In addition, it must look at the impact of its consumption patterns on the climate, biodiversity and the natural resource base. Switzerland is obliged to implement all the climate and environment agreements that are binding under international law, both at home and in its foreign and trade policy, in full and by the given deadline. Switzerland must ensure that Swiss

companies also respect international environmental standards, both here and elsewhere.

3 Human rights

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda must comply with basic rights and international human rights treaties, to which Switzerland is bound and accountable under international law. The Federal Government must ensure the necessary coherence and take a strong co-benefits approach. There is a special need for action in relation to the human rights of particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged people and groups. Switzerland must ensure that Swiss companies also respect human rights, both here and elsewhere.

4 Participation and inclusion

Creating peaceful and inclusive societies, removing the legal and structural barriers to equal access, opportunities and the ability to participate, and ensuring the social, economic, political and cultural

inclusion of all people, in particular those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged, is a core concern of the 2030 Agenda. In the interests of achieving this, Switzerland must ensure the full, effective and equal participation of all people in political, social, environmental and economic affairs, and allow everyone to have a say in decision-shaping processes. Among other things, this means guaranteeing public access to information. Those sections of the population affected by political decisions should be systematically integrated in the processes by which those decisions are arrived at, right from the outset. New forms and mechanisms of participation must be applied to this end.

5 Inequality

Switzerland must work towards substantially reducing inequality at both the national and international level. This applies to every dimension of inequality, such as the structural, procedural, social and economic. All policy areas must be designed to eliminate discrimination and inequality, at both the national and international level.

6 The Swiss financial sector and its global responsibility

Switzerland has a special responsibility as a major financial centre and commodity trading hub. The country must stem illicit financial flows from developing countries and put an end to the shifting of profits by multinationals from the global South to Switzerland, not to mention from other developed nations. It must cease to co-finance the trade in war material and ban investments that are not environmentally or climate-friendly.

7 Enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development

Switzerland must prioritise issues from the 2030 Agenda in its policy-making processes. Trade-offs between individual policy areas must be eliminated in favour of sustainable development at home and abroad, based on Switzerland's human rights and environmental obligations (for example, this would affect environmental

policy, economic policy, agricultural policy, migration policy, international fiscal and financial policy, spatial planning, peace and security policy, research and education policy, and health policy). In addition, Switzerland should not enter into any agreements with other countries (such as free trade agreements) under which human rights and environmental standards are not binding. All political business must be subject to an ex-ante sustainability impact assessment to provide a basis for informed consideration and decision-making.

8 Making resources available

The Federal Government, cantons and communes must make the resources required to implement the 2030 Agenda available. In particular, their budget processes should take account of the extent to which the area in question promotes or hinders achievement of the 2030 Agenda goals. Spending and negative incentives that place obstacles in the way of the 2030 Agenda must be reduced (e.g. in relation to defence and air travel). Meanwhile, Switzerland must increase its spending and positive incentives in areas that encourage achievement of the 2030 Agenda goals (e.g. peacebuilding and circular economy). It must give special priority to spending on the particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged (in line with the principle of "leaving no one behind").

9 Institutional embedding

The Federal Council should set up a high-level, central institutional unit that spans government departments and economic sectors. This unit must be given the resources and powers required to monitor and ensure coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda across all departments. It will serve as the central point of contact for actors both within and outside the federal administration. Institutional capacities must also be built by the cantons and communes to serve as central points of contact and facilitate communication and coordination between themselves and the Federal Government.

10 Developing political strategies

Switzerland must firmly align all its political strategies with the 2030 Agenda, especially in federal, cantonal and communal planning procedures. At the federal level, the legislative planning process is key. Where gaps are identified—for instance, there is no national strategy on poverty or strategy to fully implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities—the required strategies must be drawn up in consultation with the stakeholders concerned. The Federal Government must implement existing strategies, such as that on biodiversity in Switzerland, in a consistent and timely manner. Progress on achieving the goals must be monitored for all strategies and the data presented in disaggregated form.

11 Awareness-raising

The Federal Government must ensure that the general population and the actors involved are familiar with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals it contains. It must promote awareness-raising and education for sustainable development at all educational levels and in non-formal educational settings. It should help instil a sense of personal responsibility and empower people so that they are able to recognise the significance of sustainable development and play an active, informed role in shaping it.

1 The use of the gender asterisk is intended to highlight the social construction of sex/gender and include all social gender identities that fall outside of the binary system of female/male or woman/man.

Part 1

General conditions: Switzerland
needs to correct its course!

INTRODUCTION

The 2030 Agenda and its origins

SARA FREY, Platform Agenda 2030

The 2030 Agenda or, more precisely, the UN Resolution entitled “Transforming our world; the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development”, was adopted unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015. It could be described as a “global constitution for sustainable development”, especially as it comprises the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 2030 Agenda marks a great leap forward in the history of international processes for sustainable development. One of its strengths lies in the fact that not only were all the UN member states involved in negotiating it, but they were also able to reach a consensus. Moreover, the 2030 Agenda brings together goals and targets that had previously been agreed in other international processes.

Two of these form cornerstones of the 2030 Agenda: the first is the UN’s own sustainable development process, involving a number of conferences. The 1992 Earth Summit (UNCED) and the 2012 Rio+20 Conference are particularly noteworthy in this context. While UNCED redefined our understanding of the term “sustainable development”, Rio+20 laid the foundations for negotiating the SDGs. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) form the second pillar on which the 2030 Agenda is built. These eight goals, established at the turn of the century with a focus on developing countries, were supposed to have been achieved by 2015.

As a term that is now taken for granted, it is easy to forget that criticism of the idea behind “sustainable development” is almost as old as the phrase itself. Even before the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, voices could be heard claiming that consensus on the concept would be confined to a minimum. Although many stakeholders rallied behind the term, it nevertheless failed to set any priorities and brought little progress on trade-offs, e.g. when it came to reconciling economic and environmental goals. In addition, the goals were not clearly named or sufficiently defined within a proper framework. At least the 2030 Agenda has brought significant improvement in this respect.

Even though the MDGs contained specific objectives, they had been drafted almost single-handedly by the Western nations and applied only to developing countries.

The 2030 Agenda, on the other hand, is universal, which means that all nations share in the responsibility. It is based on a systemic approach and a rethinking of North-South relations in fields as diverse as international financial flows and biodiversity loss. The SDGs incorporate and build on the content of the MDGs, linking them with many other fundamental aspects of sustainable development in a more comprehensive system of interconnected targets. In that sense, although not perfect, the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs nevertheless represent progress in terms of their visionary content.

Realising the vision, and this report

What matters now is to implement this vision and review that implementation. At the international level, the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the platform responsible for monitoring progress towards achieving the SDGs. The Forum meets once a year under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), including a three-day ministerial meeting, and once every four years at the level of heads of state and government under the auspices of the UN General Assembly. Member states have the opportunity to detail their progress each year in reports known as “voluntary national reviews” (VNRs). 47¹ countries, including Switzerland, are to submit VNRs in 2018.

This year’s HLPF meeting is to be held from 9–18 July and includes the ministerial meeting from 16–18 July. Ten days are not likely to be enough to determine how much progress has been achieved by the 47 countries in question and gauge where the world stands in terms of realising the five focal SDGs, given that in addition to following-up the status of implementation by individual countries, global progress in four SDGs plus SDG 17 (North-South partnerships and means of implementation) is subject to an annual review. This year, the focus is on SDGs 6 (water), 7 (energy), 11 (sustainable infrastructure) and 15 (terrestrial ecosystems). A more in-depth review to which additional resources were devoted would therefore be more appropriate.

Switzerland was heavily involved in the process of agreeing the 2030 Agenda. The task now is to ensure it maintains an equally active role in implementing the SDGs. The reports it submits to the UN, and which are approved by the Federal Council, are an important step in this direction. In these, Switzerland is asked to provide its own assessment of the country’s progress in achieving the goals. The Federal Council report should therefore determine the status quo and identify the need for action in and by Switzerland. At the time of writing, the 2018 country report was not yet available.

In the report you are now reading, the *Platform Agenda 2030* presents its view of Switzerland’s efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda at home and abroad. It has attempted to adopt a big picture approach and avoid merely looking at isolated categories. Therefore, the individual sections of the report are not devoted to SDGs, but rather to topics that overlap in part and frequently refer to one another. Each chapter analyses the implementation status of various SDGs in relation to a particular topic, thus reflecting the interconnections between individual goals. A list of which SDGs are addressed in which chapters is provided in the Annex.

The report makes no claims to comprehensiveness. It takes a critical look at the official government stance and encourages everyone to think outside the box on a number of different topics.

Each chapter was written by members of the *Platform Agenda 2030*, all of whom are experts in their respective fields. They begin by outlining the relevant SDGs and considering how these mutually reinforce or contradict one another. The authors then identify shortcomings and give recommendations for achieving the goals, all of which have been collated into 11 overarching recommendations that were adopted by the *Platform Agenda 2030* at its annual general meeting. Each chapter contains cross-references to other chapters.

We hope you will enjoy reading this report!

NOTE

1 Sustainable development knowledge platform, [Voluntary National Reviews Database](#), as at 30.5.18

Everyone responsible, but no-one in charge?

SARA FREY, Platform Agenda 2030

Sustainable development is enshrined as an objective in Article 2 of the Swiss Federal Constitution. By adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Switzerland has also made an international commitment to an environmentally and socially sustainable world. Sustainable development must be the guiding principle behind our society. Both transversal and universal in nature, the 2030 Agenda encompasses fields as diverse as decent work (SDG 8), biodiversity (SDGs 14 and 15), the climate (SDG 13), and fair trade (SDG 17), etc. These areas all influence each other, and their effects are felt beyond national borders. It is key that these interrelationships are recognised and factored in to decision-making processes. To offer just one example here, in the future, trade policy must not be formulated without first considering its impacts on biodiversity or decent work, and not just in Switzerland, but also in other countries. The 2030 Agenda must therefore be accepted as the reference framework for all fields of policy, all sectors of the economy, and all government offices.

The cross-cutting, universal and all-encompassing nature of the 2030 Agenda means that it demands new forms of cooperation within the federal administration. In 2016, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) surveyed 43 governments about how they intended to implement the 2030 Agenda within their administrations.¹ The OECD also regards the 2030 Agenda as a key challenge for governments everywhere. **It emphasises strategic, long-term planning and coherence between the various areas of policy, which is formulated as one of the objectives of the Agenda.** The OECD recommends placing responsibility for implementation right at the centre of government. It sees this central agency as the originator of cross-cutting initiatives, equipped with the ability and power to act across sectors. It suggests that bodies which support and advise government, such as one reporting to the office of the president or prime minister, would be suitable to take on such a role. One third of respondents have entrusted the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to a central agency, and a further third will implement it via a partnership between a government ministry and this central agency. Switzerland belongs to the final third, which has made implementation the task of individual government departments.

The Swiss government and administration face a particular challenge here. With seven Federal Councillors of equal hierarchical status, each of whom heads a government department, the structure of government is heavily reflective of the sectoral approach. There is no president's or prime minister's office to take on over-arching, cross-cutting tasks. Whether or not the Federal Chancellery might assume this role is an open question. To date it has seen itself more as a support unit for the Federal Council with no influence over the policy areas for which the individual departments are responsible. Therefore, its political scope would first have to be broadened, and there would have to be a change in the way in which it sees its role.

> see chapter Enhanced coherence for sustainable development

So far, the Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC have taken the lead in implementing the 2030 Agenda in Switzerland. These two agencies involve others in their work. There is also an Interdepartmental Sustainable Development Committee, ISDC, which brings together around 30 federal agencies and coordinates sustainability policy under the chairmanship of the ARE.²

However, if responsibility for the 2030 Agenda remains with individual agencies within the various government departments, it will be difficult for the administration as a whole to identify fully with the vision that the Agenda embodies. Furthermore, interdepartmental committees run the risk of lowest-common-denominator solutions, because of conflicts between the departments' differing mindsets and interests. It is almost impossible for such a body to take on a clear leadership role. Where trade-offs are concerned, it is unavoidable that decisions will have to be made in the interests of sustainable development, and thus that other interests will have to take second place.

Similar conflicts would also arise if a single government department were to take the lead. If the holistic perspective of the 2030 Agenda is to be transformed into general policy, in the sense of policy coherence for sustainable development, **then sustainability must be an active consideration in all political business.**

> see chapter Enhanced coherence for sustainable development

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda also demands close cooperation between the public and private sectors. In the interests of establishing and strengthening this partnership, it would make sense to have a central point of contact for *all* of those involved, be they civil society organisations or cantons and communes committed to implementing the Agenda.

Consequently, an independent central unit is crucial to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This unit must be in a position to emphasise the primary importance of sustainable development and to take on a leadership role. It must therefore be independent of existing structures and occupy an appropriately high-level position in the administrative hierarchy.

Within the Swiss system, an independent institution of this kind might take a number of forms. For example, the Federal Chancellery might take on the sustainability mantle and act as a central facilitating body, bringing political pressure to bear on other government agencies. It might be an independent office, or an individual with far-reaching powers who reports directly to the Federal Council. These are just three of the options. It is clear that this body must also be in a position to work towards a negotiated solution to conflicting aims at the societal level, taking the interests of all concerned into account. The very particular difficulty here, however, is that those concerned also come from beyond Switzerland's national borders, not to mention the future.

It is expected that the Federal Council's report to the HLPF will also redefine responsibilities within the federal administration. At the time of writing, however, all the signs are that little will change at the institutional level in Switzerland. This would leave a variety of agencies within the larger government departments responsible for implementing the 2030 Agenda, without anyone really being in charge. Given the many challenges that implementation poses, this would be a missed opportunity indeed. For one thing, Switzerland would lag behind other countries in the implementation of an Agenda in whose negotiation it was so heavily involved. And it would also miss an important opportunity to set the nation on the right course and to take sustainable development seriously.

Recommendations

1. A high-level, central institutional unit must be created to implement the 2030 Agenda. This unit should be the central point of contact for actors both within and outside the federal administration for all matters connected with the 2030 Agenda.

2. It must draw up specific action plans for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the federal level, and must review their effectiveness. It must also take the lead with reviewing all federal-level political business to ensure its compatibility with the 2030 Agenda.
3. The unit should be able to support the cantons and communes in implementing their own 2030 Agenda action plans.
4. It should identify trade-offs and facilitate their democratic resolution.
5. It must have sufficient financial and staff resources, and powers, to be able to fulfil the role described above.

NOTES

- 1 OECD Network of Senior Officials from Centres of Government: OECD Survey on Planning and Co-ordinating the Implementation of the SDGs: First results and key issues See also: OECD: Getting Governments Organised to Deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals, Summary Report and Next Steps; High Level Political Forum United Nations. New York, 18 July 2017
- 2 Interdepartmental Sustainable Development Committee (ISDC)

FURTHER READING

OECD: Getting Governments Organised to Deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals, Summary Report and Next Steps; High Level Political Forum United Nations. New York, 18 July 2017.

Means of implementation: invest and regulate sustainably!

EVA SCHMASSMANN, Alliance Sud

The means of implementing the 2030 Agenda are laid down in SDG 17, as well as in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), which was adopted the same year and forms an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The

targets require, for example, domestic resources to be mobilised (tax revenues for developing countries), or development aid increased to 0.7% of economic output. These measures must nonetheless be coordinated and balanced, in particular with SDG 10 (reduced

inequalities) and SDG 16 (inclusive societies). Depending on the specific way in which it is structured, a tax system may increase or reduce inequality. Political decisions must be as inclusive as possible and must give everyone a say.

According to UN estimates, realising the SDGs will require investment of the order of USD 5 000 to 7 000 billion—annually!¹ The need for financing seems enormous, but is put into a certain perspective if we remember that according to the World Bank, annual global economic output (measured as the combined gross domestic products of all countries), amounts to around USD 76 000 billion.

The funding requirements must also be set off against funds seeking investment opportunities. These naturally include pension fund assets, which by their nature have a long investment horizon. In 2014, the assets under management in the world's 300 largest public and private pension funds totalled USD 15 400 billion². And in 2016, assets invested by Swiss pension funds alone stood at CHF 823.9 billion.³ Enormous sums of money pass through Switzerland's financial centre. For example, in 2018 there is more than CHF 6 170 billion held in securities in customer accounts with Swiss and Liechtenstein banks—assets that are used in investment advisory and/or asset management services.⁴

Sustainable business

The focus on funding requirements nonetheless hides the fact that achieving the SDGs requires a change in financial investment patterns. It is not enough to make sufficient resources available to undertake the necessary investments in sustainability. The real task is to transform the entire financial system so that, at its heart, it facilitates sustainable development. If the core activities of the financial markets impact negatively on the SDGs, this negative impact cannot be cancelled out by a positive contribution to a sustainability fund. The focus should therefore not be on how we mobilise additional funds to realise the SDGs. The key issue here is *what* financial flows and investments are undertaken by private and public-sector actors in their core businesses today, and *what is their purpose?* How can these financial flows be aligned with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change?

With this in mind, both incentives and regulations must be rethought and re-set. A first step would be to recognise that the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement also place obligations on central banks and public pension funds. Mario Draghi, President of the European Central Bank, has already taken this first step for the ECB.⁵ In Switzerland, the National Bank is making a fuss about recognising this global reference framework as such. In view of the scope of the investments concerned, the potential would be enormous: **on its current course, the Swiss National Bank is promoting a catastrophic rise in temperature of 4–6°C.**⁶ This contradicts the target laid down in the Paris Agreement of keeping global warming to less than 2°.

> see chapter Planet and environment

In the current debate about development financing, the parties like to point out that public spending on development cooperation is not in itself sufficient to meet the funding that is needed. States are therefore appealing to the private sector. Equally, it is also true that private-sector resources alone are not enough to meet these needs. The state must have **sufficient public funds** to at least be able to guarantee basic human rights. These include the **right to education** and the **right to health**, for example. Here, the state must have sufficient resources to be able to fund free and universally accessible systems of healthcare and education. With this in mind, the primary contribution that the private sector can, should and must make to financing the SDGs is simple: pay taxes!

> see chapter Foreign economic policy and international tax issues

> see chapter Education policy challenges

> see chapter Good health for everyone

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which was also adopted by the international community in 2015 and forms part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, rightly emphasises mobilising domestic resources, in other words tax revenues. With these revenues, countries can determine their own particular path towards sustainable development. Where SDG 10 of the 2030 Agenda is concerned, which seeks to reduce inequalities not only between but also within nations, it is key that tax systems are progressive in nature. **At the same time, measures must be in place to ensure that the people—and especially disadvantaged groups—are included in political decision-making processes.**

> see chapter A peace-based approach

Savings programmes despite billion Swiss Franc surpluses

In 2017, the Swiss Federal Government once again reported a budget surplus of around CHF 1 billion. Recent years have seen the same old game played with almost ritualistic regularity. In February, the finance minister proclaims an excellent budget result, while at the same time pointing out that prospects for the future are bleak, and announcing new savings programmes. The federal budget (excluding the cantons and communes) has closed the financial year with a deficit only once since 2007. Otherwise, the cumulative surpluses of the other 11 years come to around CHF 27 billion, corresponding to just under half of the Federal Government's annual spending.

Meanwhile, the government has enacted programmes to save billions of francs in the last few years alone. A stabilisation programme for 2017 to 2019 reduced planned expenditure by more than CHF 2 billion overall. International cooperation was particularly badly hit by the cuts. While accounting for around 4% of spending, it had to absorb more than 28% of the savings. As part of budget proposals for 2018, financial plans for future years were once again corrected downwards. As in the past, the savings particularly affected international cooperation. It is no wonder that 2017 saw Switzerland's ODA spending fall back to its 2013 level for the first time. In 2016, it was still some 0.53 per cent of gross national income, before contracting to 0.46 per cent a year later.

In the federalist Swiss system, spending on social welfare is divided between the cantons and the communes. A destructive **race-to-the-bottom on corporate taxation** means that funding prospects here are in some cases even less rosy than at federal level. Instead of having a fair system of taxation to ensure that the public sector is able to fulfil its obligations, the cantons are undercutting each other with savings proposals. Social assistance is the current

> see chapter Foreign economic policy and international tax issues

focus of this. For example, the Canton of Bern plans to cut its social assistance spending to 8% below the minimum defined by the Swiss Association of Welfare Organisations, SKOS. In the **Canton of Bern, the majority of the electorate also rejected funding to support unaccompanied minor asylum seekers.** In 2015, the Canton of Basel abolished Switzerland's only specialist **cantonal body for people with disabilities.** Citing savings, in 2017, the Canton of Aargau **abolished its equal opportunities office.** The savings always affect those in greatest need. **It therefore comes as no surprise that poverty in Switzerland has risen again in the past two years.**

- > see chapter Children and young people
- > see chapter People with disabilities
- > see chapter Women's* rights
- > see chapter Poverty in Switzerland

The Federal Council does not want to make any additional funding available for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In its first Country Report to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2016, for example, it stated that implementation would be funded from within federal agencies' approved budgets. In response to questions from Parliament, in 2018 it repeated that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda should be financed by the competent federal agencies from the resources they had already been allocated.⁷

Regulate!

Experience in recent years shows that sustainable development cannot be achieved by incentives and voluntary approaches alone. Switzerland currently has two good opportunities to set the right course in key areas. One is the revision of the Federal Act on Public Procurement (PPA) and the other is the Responsible Business Initiative. The revision of the PPA could permit the inclusion of criteria for sustainable public procurement in the Act, which uses the 2030 Agenda as a point of reference. Each year, the Federal Government, cantons and communes purchase goods and services for an estimated CHF 40 billion. The Federal Government accounts for around 20% of this, the cantons and communes around 40% each. The aggregate figure corresponds to six per cent of gross domestic product.⁸ This is a significant volume for the Swiss economy. However, the Federal Council's draft does not contain any such criteria, and thus misses the opportunity to make public purchasing compatible with the 2030 Agenda.

The current political debate also offers a chance to drive the implementation of the 2030 Agenda forward by regulatory means where **private-sector responsibility** is concerned. In Switzerland, the Responsible Business Initiative, which is supported by over 100 organisations, **wants businesses to incorporate binding protection for human rights and the environment** in all of their business processes. This due diligence obligation would also extend to the foreign activities of businesses headquartered in Switzerland. Here, too, the Federal Council seems unwilling to pursue regulatory intervention, and is rejecting this civil society initiative.

- > see chapter Foreign economic policy and international tax issues
- > see chapter Planet and environment

Recommendations

1. The Swiss National Bank and pension funds align their investments with the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.
2. The Federal Government, cantons and communes make sufficient resources available to guarantee a minimum standard of living for all. If further savings programmes are deemed necessary, the Federal Council must look in particular at action on the revenue side of the budget. This should not result in additional strain on those on lower incomes, but must instead be progressive in nature.
3. Switzerland sets clear criteria for respecting human rights and environmental standards, where both public procurement and corporate responsibility are concerned.

NOTES

- 1 UNCTAD: World Investment Report 2014. Investing in the SDGs: An Action Plan. p. 140
- 2 Manfred Rösch: Die 20 grössten Pensionskassen der Welt, in: Finanz und Wirtschaft, 2.10.2015.
- 3 Swiss Federal Statistical Office: Die berufliche Vorsorge in der Schweiz. Kennzahlen der Pensionskassenstatistik 2012–2016. Neuchâtel 2018.
- 4 State Secretariat for International Finance SIF: Swiss financial centre. Key figures April 2018.
- 5 Stan Jourdan: European Central Bank is party to the Paris Agreement on climate. In: Positive Money Europe. 28.2.2018
- 6 Klima-Allianz: Empfehlungen zu Klimarisiken an die Schweizer Nationalbank. April 2018.
- 7 Federal Council response to parliamentary questions from Claudia Friedl (18.5114), Lisa Mazzone (18.5051) and Carlo Sommaruga (18.5118) during the 2018 spring session: “the 2030 Agenda can be implemented by the offices responsible for the work from the resources at their disposal.”
- 8 Federal Office for the Environment FOEN: Fachinformationen zu ökologischer öffentlicher Beschaffung

FURTHER READING

www.klima-allianz.ch

www.konzerninitiative.ch

Enhanced coherence for sustainable development requires new instruments

EVA SCHMASSMANN, Alliance Sud

SDG 17.14 calls for the enhancement of policy coherence for sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda is a set of interrelated and highly interdependent goals, none of which can be truly implemented in isolation from the others. What is required, instead, is an understanding of how

individual measures interact with and influence other policy areas, coupled with an awareness of how domestic and foreign policy are connected—and especially how domestic policy “spills over” and affects other countries. Therefore, this particular target is of key importance within the 2030 Agenda

and its many interlinkages between individual SDGs, as it requires the individual nations to take account of policy trade-offs and spillovers, and adopt a whole-of-government approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda.

Policy coherence is generally understood as taking action to minimise any discrepancies and contradictions that might exist between various areas and levels of policy. By making sustainable development the number one goal, policy coherence for sustainable development gives it normative priority when it comes to ensuring consistent action.

Switzerland has a number of mechanisms in place within the federal administration for identifying conflicts and inconsistencies and for pursuing a highly coherent policy. The “technical” consultation procedure involving the various federal offices and interdepartmental working groups, and the joint reporting procedure at Federal Council level play a particularly important role here. All of these mechanisms ensure the greatest possible policy coherence without, however, prioritising sustainable development. Although they provide scope for objection, participation and discussion, they fail to attach sufficient weight to sustainable development to allow decisions to be made in its interest. Any decisions taken thus enhance general coherence with regard to the current political balance of power, but do nothing to improve coherence in relation to sustainable development.

Switzerland’s policies in two main areas are not geared towards sustainable development: **foreign economic policy and international financial and fiscal policy**. In fact, the opposite is true—Swiss tax privileges create huge incentives to shift profits to Switzerland, thus depriving developing countries of potential tax revenues that are desperately needed to implement the SDGs at home.

The Federal Council has explicitly recognised the 2030 Agenda as the new universal framework in its efforts to promote human prosperity and sustainable economic development, and protect the environment both at home and around the world.¹ The implementation of SDG 17.14 urgently requires Switzerland to adopt new instruments in its political processes in order to enhance coherence in respect of sustainable development and ensure that sustainability is prioritised in political decision-making processes. On the one hand, this calls for **institutional adjustments in the form of a high-level institutional body**

> see chapter Foreign economic policy and international tax issues

> see chapter Everyone responsible, but no-one in charge?

that works across departments and sectors and has sufficient financial and human resources to fulfil its mandate as a governance body capable of driving sustainable development forward.

At the same time, there is a need for processes that will allow the economic, social and environmental impacts of political decisions to be identified at an early stage and for these to be checked for alignment with the 2030 Agenda by means of a sustainability impact assessment. This was set down as a guiding principle in the Sustainable Development Strategy for 2008–2011, which states: “It must be ensured that important political decisions are made on the basis of proposals, the social, economic and environmental impact of which have been assessed transparently at an early stage [...]”² The Parliament Act already requires the Federal Council to explain “the consequences for the economy, society, the environment and future generations” in its dispatches on drafts of new legislation (Art. 141.2.g). Despite these legal bases, only a small proportion of Federal Council dispatches contain any serious assessments in this respect.

Last year, the National Council Control Committee (CC-N) expressed its position on sustainability impact assessments. In relation to free trade agreements (FTAs), the Committee recommended that the Federal Council investigate the sustainability impacts: “The CC-N calls on the Federal Council to consider conducting sustainability impact assessments in future whenever it is procuring the information on which the FTA negotiations are to be based. Should the Federal Council consider a sustainability impact assessment unnecessary in individual cases, it must justify this decision in the dispatch on the FTA in question. The results of any sustainability impact assessments carried out should be disclosed in the respective dispatch.”³ The Federal Council rejects this recommendation, mainly “for methodological reasons and owing to the difficulty of accessing the necessary data”.⁴ In doing so, it is preventing informed political decisions from being taken in full knowledge of the potential impacts on sustainable development. It not only fails to recognise the methodological work—performed by a wide range of institutions and organisations—that has gone into such assessments, but also ignores the fact that many different actors have already carried out a variety of impact assessments which do more than simply analyse the environmental effects. The Federal Council is additionally expressing its lack of political will to implement a key element of the 2030 Agenda, i.e. SDG 17.14 on enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development. However, the CC-N does not consider the matter closed; it has put it back on the agenda for 2018.

In the political discourse to date, civil society organisations have led the way in drawing regular attention to trade-offs, inconsistencies and incoherence. They have done so by documenting specific outcomes and uncovering irregularities, thus also enhancing the transparency of decision-making processes. **The focus tends to be placed on human rights violations and environmental pollution.** As the Danish Institute for Human Rights has shown, 156 of the 196 targets involve commitments to human rights and labour law, and 79 are linked to international **environmental** and climate obligations. All of these are binding under international law, and Switzerland has a duty of accountability in this respect. It is therefore clear that the 2030 Agenda can only be realised in conjunction with commitments to human and environmental rights.

The ability to actually enhance policy coherence for sustainable development is also a question of credibility. Switzerland very much played a leading role in the process of negotiating the 2030 Agenda. Acting as a leader in this way entails obligations, making strong, coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda essential.

> see chapter A peace-based approach

> see chapter Planet and environment

Recommendations

1. In the interests of policy coherence for sustainable development, the Federal Council must elevate implementation of the 2030 Agenda to the status of strategic core task.
2. Informed and coherent decisions for sustainable development can only be taken on the basis of the available information. Relevant political business must therefore be subject to an ex-ante sustainability impact assessment in order to gauge the economic, social and environmental impacts of political decisions—both at home (“here and now”) and abroad (“elsewhere”), and on future generations (“later”).
3. A transversal body that coordinates 2030 Agenda issues across departments is needed to ensure that sustainability is taken into account and prioritised in all these processes. This body must be created at a high level within the federal administration and equipped with sufficient financial resources and expertise to tackle its remit.
4. The 2030 Agenda is strongly rooted in commitments to human and environmental rights. This means that Switzerland must have regard to basic rights and its international commitments in its implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and ensure that its reporting procedures are closely interwoven.

NOTES

- 1 Federal Council press release, 18.12.15: [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Federal Council decides measures to allow Switzerland to implement agenda](#)
- 2 Swiss Federal Council: [Sustainable Development Strategy: Guidelines and Action Plan 2008–2011](#). Report of 16 April 2008. P. 11.

- 3 Report of the National Council Control Committee of 4 July 2017 (summary): [Evaluation of the impact of free trade agreements](#).
- 4 Federal Council, press release of 22.9.2017: [Bundesrat nimmt Stellung zur Evaluation der Geschäftsprüfungskommission des Nationalrates über die Auswirkungen von Freihandelsabkommen](#)

FURTHER READING

Discussion paper of the Foreign Policy Working Group of the NGO-Plattform Human Rights: [Wo bleibt die Kohärenz?](#) June 2017 (available in German and French, abstract in English)

Danish Institute for Human Rights: [The Human Rights Guide to the SDGs](#) sdg.humanrights.dk

Part 2

The need for Switzerland to do
its homework: action points

Poverty in Switzerland

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This chapter refers to SDG 1 of the 2030 Agenda—“End poverty in all its forms everywhere”—and specifically to targets 1.3, 1.5 and 1.b. It also touches on areas of the following SDGs: SDG 3 “Ensure healthy lives

and promote well-being for all at all ages”; SDG 4 “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”; SDG 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”;

and SDG 8 “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”.

According to the Constitution, the Confederation and cantons shall endeavour to ensure that in addition to their personal responsibility, every person has access to social security and can work under fair conditions; families and children are protected and supported; everyone can find suitable accommodation on reasonable terms; children and young people can obtain an education, and persons of employable age can access further education (Article 41). In addition, Article 12 sets out the right to assistance when in need: “Persons in need and unable to provide for themselves have the right to assistance and care, and to the financial means required for a decent standard of living”. These legal bases are aligned with SDG 1 of the 2030 Agenda. Nevertheless, 615 000 people in this country are affected by poverty and more than 1.2 million are at risk of poverty. Poverty in Switzerland has been increasing for the past two years.

An above-average number of those affected by poverty are single parents, families with three or more children and people with little education or training. This is primarily attributable to restructuring within the economy that has seen an increasing number of jobs being lost, as well as to the diversity of family structures. At the same time, over the past 15 years, unemployment and disability benefits have been cut. A large number of people who previously drew benefits from these insurance schemes are now forced to claim social assistance.

Institutional and context-related challenges

Overcoming and preventing poverty presents institutional and context-related challenges. Poverty is a cross-cutting issue, and policy-making in this area is both complex and demanding. It is not merely confined to social policy, but also touches on family, tax, labour market, housing and education policy. Because of Switzerland’s federal system, many of these policies are drawn up on different levels of governance (communal, cantonal or federal). Accordingly, policy on poverty is multi-layered and complex, and rules that vary from re-

gion to region are the result. **There is no such thing as a uniform policy on poverty at federal level.**

> see chapter Enhanced coherence for sustainable development

The Federal Government has only recently become committed to adopting policy in this area: following a number of parliamentary procedural requests and a first-ever poverty conference, in 2013 the Federal Government launched the “National Programme for the Prevention and Eradication of Poverty”, to be implemented jointly with the cantons, cities, communes and private-sector organisations by the end of 2018. The programme developed scientific bases, tested innovative approaches to fighting poverty, made practical instruments available and encouraged actors in the field to exchange their views and experience. The Government committed CHF 9 million in funding over five years—a relatively low figure. The Federal Council decided in April 2018 to reduce this amount to CHF 500 000 per year. It also decided not to monitor poverty on a regular basis, thus immediately stifling the momentum that had only just started to build up in anti-poverty policy at the national level. There are still no binding targets for eradicating poverty.

In addition to problems with the institutional framework, Switzerland faces a large number of challenges regarding the content of its policy. **Those with low qualifications, whose jobs are increasingly disappearing, find themselves in a particularly difficult situation.** Almost half of all people drawing social assistance did not attend any form of post-compulsory schooling and now lack sufficient opportunities as adults to fill the gaps in their education. The question of livelihood security while pursuing further education and training thus remains unresolved. In addition, those without further education and training qualifications are unable to keep up with technological progress and have a higher tendency to drop out of the labour market after losing their jobs. **Migrants whose qualifications are not recognised in Switzerland and children growing up in disadvantaged families also experience difficulties. As kindergarten and school in Switzerland start relatively late, any inequality of opportunity they experience in early childhood cannot be compensated for.** Consequently, children from poverty-affected families are therefore often poor themselves later.

> see chapter Decent work

> see chapter Migration for development

> see chapter Education policy challenges

The ability to earn sufficient income to live on requires the right work-family balance. However, the opportunities for achieving this in Switzerland are limited. Despite efforts at the federal level, there are too few affordable and achievable options for childcare outside the family and schools. Institutionalised childcare facilities such as day nurseries offer no solution to parents who work irregular hours.

> see chapter Women's* rights

While the OECD countries spend an average 2.3% of their gross domestic product on family benefits, Switzerland invests as little as 1.5%—**another reason why children in Switzerland are at risk of poverty**, with single parents affected more than others. Every fourth single-parent family throughout Switzerland is forced to rely on social assistance. In Biel, every second single-parent family is affected.

> see chapter Children and young people

The low-tax policy in numerous cantons translates into falling tax revenues and cost-cutting measures, another factor that places more and more pressure on social assistance. The guidelines on granting social assistance (SKOS guidelines) were tightened at the end of a long drawn-out political process, based on the argument that social assistance costs too much. Material support was reduced. Small households, young adults and families in particular receive less money to meet their everyday needs, frequently leaving them unable to participate in society at even a minimal level. In addition, because there is no national law, the rules on social assistance vary from canton to canton. People affected by poverty receive different levels of support depending on where they live. Some cantons are currently in the process of reducing their social assistance benefits to below subsistence level.

Rising costs, too, are causing more and more problems, **with health insurance premiums, for example, taking up a larger and larger share of household budgets.** While the cantons are making savings in the premium reductions they

> see chapter Good health for everyone

grant, current premiums have more than doubled over the past 20 years. Families just above the poverty line find themselves in an increasingly difficult situation. Their access to healthcare services is deteriorating. At present, every sixth person refuses to go to the doctor for financial reasons.

An increasing share of income also goes towards housing costs. 82% of those affected by poverty spend more than 30% of their income on accommodation.

Recommendations

Poverty remains the biggest socio-political challenge for Switzerland over the coming decades. The following steps are urgently needed at the institutional level:

1. The Federal Government, cantons and communes must make it their aim to reduce poverty by half (SDG 1.2). They should demonstrate how they are going to achieve this in a “Swiss strategy on eradicating poverty”, to be developed in collaboration with civil society organisations and those affected by poverty.
2. The Federal Government must strengthen its commitment to eradicating poverty. A national competence centre for combating poverty would pool the knowledge and experience of poverty issues at the federal level and promote an exchange between actors. This should include national monitoring of poverty.

In terms of content, the focus must be on the following topics:

3. The ability to secure a livelihood should be regulated on the national level in such a way as to facilitate social participation. Access to healthcare services and affordable housing must also be guaranteed for those affected by or at risk of poverty. Families should receive financial support in the form of supplementary benefits.
4. Opportunities for lifelong learning must be guaranteed, including promoting early development for all children and providing opportunities that include financial support for adults to further their education, to secure their livelihood during this period. Open access to continuing education and training at every stage of a person’s career must be guaranteed, as well as the recognition of foreign qualifications.
5. Work and family life must be compatible. The availability of childcare outside the home and school must cover the demand throughout Switzerland. Women and men must earn equal pay for equal work and unpaid care work must be distributed equitably.

FURTHER READING

Statistics on poverty in Switzerland: The Federal Statistical Office FSO publishes information on poverty in Switzerland under the keyword: [Economic and social situation of the population](#)

Knöpfel Carlo, Claudia Schuwey: Neues Handbuch Armut in der Schweiz. Caritas-Verlag, Lucerne. 2014

National anti-poverty programme: www.gegenarmut.ch

Several [position papers by Caritas Switzerland](#) on poverty in Switzerland on the website www.caritas.ch

Agriculture and food systems in Switzerland

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Which SDGs are relevant to agriculture?

SDG 1: End poverty: The system of trade impacts on economic growth and thus the fight against poverty worldwide.

SDG 2: Achieve food security and promote sustainable agriculture: Switzerland takes food security for granted, but our patterns of production and consumption impact on other countries in terms of resource use, for example.

SDG 8: Sustainable economic growth: Market access for (processed) agricultural products could achieve sustainable economic growth in developing countries, providing fair trade is assured.

SDG 13: Combat climate change:

Agriculture must reduce its emissions, for example by cutting the use of mineral fertilizers, and expand its carbon sinks, such as by increasing humus levels in the soil.

SDG 15: Protect terrestrial ecosystems: Imports, such as those of soya and palm oil, have a huge impact on the terrestrial ecosystems of other countries.

Synergies between the SDGs:

SDGs 1 and 2: Fair trade will make it worth investing in agriculture, which in turn supports food security.

SDGs 2, 13 and 15: Sustainable cultivation methods are more climate friendly, protect terrestrial ecosystems and achieve long-term food security.

Trade-offs:

SDGs 2 and 15: Industrial agriculture produces more food in the short term, but is detrimental to food production in the long term because soil becomes less fertile. Sustainable cultivation methods can ensure food security for the long term.

SDGs 8 and 2: Exports of agricultural commodities generate economic growth in developing countries. These exports cannot be permitted at the expense of food security, however—a situation in which cash crops are grown instead of food. Processed products should be traded increasingly instead of raw materials, thereby generating greater added value.

Agricultural and trade policy, as well as consumption patterns, are key to achieving the SDGs that relate to agriculture and food. Since Switzerland imports almost half of its foodstuffs, **other countries bear a significant share of the ecological footprint caused by the nation's food system.** It is thus essential to promote environmentally friendly, sustainable agriculture both at home and abroad.

> see chapter Planet and environment

Agricultural policy

Article 104 of the Federal Constitution describes the **multi-functional role of agriculture** in Switzerland, in terms of providing the population with foodstuffs, conserving natural resources, and the upkeep of the countryside.

Agricultural policy has been undergoing major **reforms** for more than 20 years now, away from output-related subsidies towards a system of direct payments¹ which reward environmental performance. The last of these took place in 2014. Agricultural policy for the 2014–2017 period has been extended up to 2021.

The **Proof of Ecological Performance (PEP)** system is a central element of agricultural policy. It monitors the balanced use of fertilizers, proper crop rotation, and areas that are set aside to encourage biodiversity. For a farming business to receive direct payments, it must present a satisfactory PEP.

Direct payments total CHF 2.8 billion annually. Of this figure, 40% ensures security of supply, 33% is accounted for by environmental grants, and 25% is used for countryside conservation. In addition to these direct payments, a total of CHF 440 million per year is paid out in the form of production and sales support. Examples here include the cheese subsidy, monoculture grants, and grants to promote the sale of agricultural produce.

Trade policy

Switzerland imposes high import duties on some products, such as meat, fruit and vegetables. Taking all imports into account, the average duty is approx. 6% of the import value.² Some markets have already been entirely deregulated. For example, cheese has been traded freely with the EU since 2007.

Switzerland also operates a generalised system of preferences for developing countries, meaning that their agricultural products (raw materials only, not processed products) can be imported at a lower rate of duty. Goods from least developed countries (LDCs) can be imported duty-free.

Agriculture in Switzerland

Greenhouse gas emissions have fallen by 12.5% since 1990. Agriculture currently emits around 7.6 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent³ into the atmosphere every year. These emissions must be cut even further to achieve **climate targets**, however, so it is vital that effective action is taken on climate protection.

> see chapter Planet and environment

The introduction of the PEP system in 1997 resulted in an improvement in many **environmental parameters**, but only up to 2000. Since then the relevant metrics have either remained steady, or worsened again in some cases such as ammonia emissions⁴ and biodiversity loss⁵. The economic pressures triggered by the deregulation of agricultural markets have resulted in more concentrated and more intensive agricultural production in order to harness economies of scale. In addition, those in the sector are not sufficiently aware of environmental problems.

The federal government has instituted a number of measures, such as the action plans for plant protection and for biodiversity, which must now be consistently implemented and strengthened. **Action to date to achieve the environmental goals has not been sufficiently effective.**

> see chapter Means of implementation

The new Article 104a of the Federal Constitution, on food security, requires **location-appropriate production**. With its pastureland, Switzerland is perfect for keeping cattle, sheep and other ruminant species which turn grass into high-quality protein. That said, there must be a massive reduction in the use of concentrated feed in milk and beef production. This would reduce imports of such feedstuffs, minimise competition between agriculture for animal feed and agriculture for human consumption, and also limit the environmental impact of producing concentrated feed.

Agricultural trade

Foodstuffs imports into Switzerland have risen by 80% since 1990, from two million to almost four million tonnes.⁶ The country is thus one of the biggest net importers in the world. **More than half of the ecological footprint generated by the Swiss food system is felt abroad.**

> see chapter Sustainable consumption and production

Although imports from least developed countries are exempt from duty and

quotas, only 1% of Switzerland's imports originate from LDCs. Generalised systems of trade preferences are not enough in themselves to encourage imports from LDCs. In particular, it is difficult for small-scale producers to obtain the necessary certificate of origin. Specific import promotion measures are therefore required here. These might involve supporting producer organisations, for example.

Preferential customs duties for developing countries must remain in place and be extended to cover processed products. This is crucial for developing countries to be able to export these products, instead of only (cheap) raw materials.

Additionally, Switzerland should link the granting of import quotas to **sustainability criteria**, as well as factoring such criteria in to its imports generally. This should also apply specifically to raw materials in inward processing traffic, such as coffee and cocoa.

> see chapter Enhanced coherence for sustainable development

Furthermore, Switzerland must stand up for the right of every country to levy **duties** to protect its own output, to avoid small farmers being crowded out of the market. Nowhere in the world can there ever be sustainable agriculture at global market prices.

The new **Article 104a of the Federal Constitution, on food security**, enshrines sustainable trading in agricultural products in Swiss law alongside sustainable production. Specifically, it covers international trade relations which support the sustainable development of the national economy and food industry. At the same time, there is considerable pressure from exporters to deregulate the agricultural market further, so that new **free trade agreements** can be concluded, for example with Malaysia, Indonesia and the Mercosur states of South America.

> see chapter Foreign economic policy and international tax issues

Agreements with Indonesia and Malaysia would make it easier to import palm oil, the production of which has a bad reputation owing to the enormous damage it causes to nature and the environment, as well as the exploitation and displacement of indigenous populations. In addition, easier import procedures would represent strong competition for domestic producers of rapeseed and sunflower oils. The Mercosur agreement would make it easier to import meat. However, industrial meat production in South America damages the climate and impacts negatively on small-scale farmers. Such agreements should thus be concluded only if they systematically factor in **sustainability criteria**.

> see chapter Planet and environment

The new Article 104a of the Federal Constitution must now be implemented by the federal government, but there can be no unilateral dismantling of trade barriers without minimum sustainability standards for imports. Agriculture that is sustainable in all three dimensions—economic, social and environmental—can be achieved only if the agricultural commodity markets are not deregulated further. If agriculture in Switzerland comes under any further pressure than at present, farmers will cease to farm and more and more food-stuffs will be imported, thereby expanding the country's **ecological footprint** abroad.

> see chapter Enhanced coherence for sustainable development

> see chapter Sustainable consumption and production

Patterns of consumption and food waste

The Swiss population eats approximately 50 kg of meat per capita per year, or three times the recommended volume. What's more, almost a third of all food is thrown away, with households accounting for a large proportion (45%)⁷. Fruit and vegetables are increasingly expected to be available out of season, and yet out-of-season produce consumes a huge amount of extra energy in the form of heated greenhouses and/or transport by road or air.

Recommendations

Swiss agriculture must become more environmentally and climate friendly (SDGs 13 and 15, see recommendation 1). Furthermore, trade policy must be shaped to give developing countries better market access for their processed products, while trade agreements must be SDG-compliant (SDG 8, see recommendation 4). Patterns of consumption among the Swiss population must become less resource-intensive (SDG 12, see recommendation 6).

1. **Making Swiss agriculture more environmentally and climate friendly.** Direct payment programmes to promote production in keeping with the local environment should be expanded to include grassland-based milk and meat production, pastureland grants, and to promote organic farming. The federal government must join forces with farmers to achieve the environmental targets for agriculture, and pesticide and fertilizer emissions must be reduced to the point at which they no longer have a detrimental effect on plant diversity and insect populations, and nitrogen surpluses are avoided. The Proof of Ecological Performance, or PEP, system should be enhanced to reduce the ecological footprint.
2. **No concentrated feedstuffs for livestock.** Switzerland's pasturelands are very much an appropriate place to keep cattle, sheep and other livestock. A consistent policy of not feeding these animals concentrated feedstuffs will minimise the competition between farming feedstuffs and farming food for human consumption, and also reduce imports of the related products, thereby cutting ammonia emissions.
3. **Strengthen organic farming research and training.** It is essential to biodiversity and climate conservation that organic farming is strengthened. The soil will become a CO₂ sink if we stop using mineral fertilizers, cultivate the soil less intensively, increase humus levels with the help of organic fertilizers, and support the preservation and extension of pastureland.
4. **Trade policy for sustainable agriculture.** The federal government must implement the new Article 104a of the Federal Constitution. Agriculture that is sustainable in all three dimensions can be achieved only if any deregulation of the agricultural commodity markets is subject to very careful evaluation. Barriers to trade cannot be dismantled unilaterally without any minimum standards for imports. In addition, Switzerland's agricultural, foreign and trade policies must be reoriented so that they do not put pressure on valuable habitats and species, whether at home or abroad.
5. **Improve trade policy to support developing countries.** Fair prices must be paid for imports, specifically tropical fruit, coffee and cocoa. Preferential customs duties must be extended to processed products to allow developing countries to generate more value. Furthermore, Switzerland must stand up for the right of every country to levy duties to protect its own output, to avoid small farmers being crowded out of the market.
6. **Conscious patterns of consumption among the Swiss population.** General awareness must be raised of the impact of consumer behaviour on the environment and on developing countries. It is key that food waste is avoided, and that the Swiss population eats less meat, and subscribes to the philosophy of conscious, "nose-to-tail" eating.

NOTES

- 1 The services that agriculture should provide to society in general, according to Article 104 of the Federal Constitution, are encouraged with their own specific types of direct payment. Most of these direct payments do not depend on output.
- 2 Federal Office for Agriculture, Agrarbericht 2016 (In French, German and Italian: 2016.agrarbericht.ch)
- 3 Source: Federal Office for Agriculture, Agrarbericht 2015 (In French, German and Italian: 2015.agrarbericht.ch)
- 4 Ammonia emissions from agriculture. Emissions of ammoniacal nitrogen were around 48 000 tonnes in 2014. The FOEN's environmental targets for agriculture state that no more than 25 000 tonnes per year should be emitted.
- 5 Switzerland has the land area required to encourage biodiversity and natural habitats, but it is not distributed evenly, and there is a considerable shortage in some regions. This is especially true of the buffer zones surrounding conservation areas. Additionally, most of the areas that have been set aside to promote biodiversity have not yet attained the necessary ecological quality, or have been created in the wrong place. The way in which these areas are connected, and species mobility, could also be improved.
- 6 Federal Customs Administration FCA, December 2017
- 7 Foodwaste.ch

Good health for everyone— in Switzerland and around the world

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Dedicated SDG 3 and its targets: ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for everyone at all ages Since health is determined by a range of factors, the level to which all of the other SDGs are achieved has a very direct impact on health. At the same time, good health is essential to achieving the SDGs in various other areas. There is a particularly close relationship between health and the following SDGs: **SDG 1 Poverty** is a significant threat to health, while in many places illness is a reason for falling into poverty. **SDG 2 Ending hunger and achieving food security are essential to health.** Malnutrition is the cause of many diseases, and the success or failure of treatment can hinge on following a balanced diet.

SDG 4 Education is vital in enabling individuals to make informed decisions about their personal health. At the same time, illness hinders access to education. **SDG 5 Gender equality** is directly related to health and is absolutely crucial to the individual enjoying their right to health. **SDG 6 Access to clean water and sanitation is of great importance to health.** Unclean water is a key factor in making us ill, and sanitation is one of the central infrastructures required for health. **SDG 8 Sustainable economic growth** is important to ensuring the provision of healthcare services. Meanwhile, far too many people around the world are still falling ill as a result of inhumane working conditions that are hazardous to health.

SDG 10 Inequality is the primary factor worldwide that is damaging people's health. **SDG 11 We need sustainable cities and communities** because urbanisation impacts human health and our healthcare systems. **SDG 12 Patterns of production and consumption** have a variety of consequences for the environment. Environmental pollution is an enormous factor in making people ill. **SDG 13 Health** is affected in a whole variety of ways by **climate change**, whether because of a greater incidence of natural disasters, heat waves or pathogens that are better able to develop thanks to global warming. **SDG 16 Peace and justice** are vital to health, as is access to rights-based institutions.

Health-specific challenges around the world and the role of Switzerland

Healthcare systems around the world are facing enormous challenges, which is why the 2030 Agenda is so important as a shared, multi-dimensional framework for action. SDG 3 and all of its health-related targets have universal application. They also have a sound human rights foundation, meaning that each and every one of us has a responsibility to fulfil those targets.

From a health perspective, the spread of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) presents a major challenge, as they account for 70% of the total disease burden. Further problems include the greater incidence of highly infectious pathogens (such as zika and ebola) and neglected tropical diseases, as well as HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. All of these are a huge burden on developing countries. The increase in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a further particular threat to public health, as it will make diseases more difficult or even impossible to treat in the future. Switzerland itself is affected by these

challenges to some degree, or is engaged in attempts to overcome them as part of its international cooperation work. Furthermore, the fragile contexts which arise as a result of **war and conflict**, as well as **natural disasters**, pose a whole set of particular challenges for health and healthcare.

- > see chapter A peace-based approach
- > see chapter Planet and environment

To meet the 2030 Agenda's health-related targets, we need an approach that extends beyond the narrow, disease-specific focus of the past. The holistic nature of the Agenda sets the right course in this regard. Who is exposed to what risks, and to what extent, and who has access to information, prevention and treatment within a given healthcare system, is determined by social, economic and political factors. This is just as true in Switzerland as it is anywhere else in the world. **Discrimination on the grounds of origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability—to name just a few examples—can also have a material impact on health. Fighting inequality and establishing equal opportunities are therefore crucial to health and to the Sustainable Development Goals as a whole.**

- > see chapter Women's* rights
- > see chapter People with disabilities

Ensuring access to healthcare for all is one of the most important tasks of the Swiss health authorities as they implement the 2030 Agenda. Since Switzerland is home to a number of global industries, such as pharmaceuticals, foodstuffs and tobacco, which affect health around the world, the Swiss Government has a particular responsibility to prevent action which damages health, and to help regulate it in a way that promotes health. A further part of Switzerland's overall responsibility is to support states with few resources to develop strong, needs-based systems of healthcare. This is especially true of **Swiss financial and fiscal policy**, helping rather than hindering these states in their efforts to increase their domestic tax revenues, as well as additional action via international cooperation programmes, for example.

- > see chapter Foreign economic policy and international tax issues

Challenges for the Swiss healthcare system

Target 3.8 seeks to achieve universal health coverage. This includes financial risk protection, as well as access to quality essential healthcare services. "Health coverage" always means access to information, prevention and treatment, yet it is precisely this access which is made more difficult for certain sections of the Swiss population. **In many cases, healthcare facilities do not cater sufficiently to the specific needs of the deaf or those with mental disabilities.** Migrants relying on translation do not receive adequate care. In many places, those without official identity documents—the *sans-papiers*—are in a particularly vulnerable position, and often only the most urgent emergencies receive medical attention.

- > see chapter People with disabilities

Furthermore, **those affected or threatened by poverty are finding it increasingly difficult to pay for health insurance, and more and more people are uninsured as a result.** This is particularly true of those who receive no support from social assistance, or from supplementary benefits in old age. The system of reductions to health insurance premiums requires a thorough re-think to bring it into line with modern realities.

- > see chapter Poverty in Switzerland

Switzerland is still training fewer healthcare personnel than it needs, and is **reliant on staff coming to work here from abroad.** The country thus plays a negative role in taking healthcare personnel away from countries where the shortage is even greater and the healthcare system in any event is less robust. This contradicts the WHO Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel.

- > see chapter Migration for development

Non-communicable diseases in Switzerland and worldwide

Non-communicable diseases are one of Switzerland's major problems. The shortcomings in the treatment, integration and social acceptance of people with a mental illness or impairment are particularly striking. The lack of funding for

intercultural interpreters effectively excludes the migrant population from psychotherapy, for example. In addition, support for the families of those suffering mental illness, especially children, is still in its infancy. More must be done in general to remove the stigma attached to mental illness.

Contrary to expectations, the spread of non-communicable diseases is also a considerable problem in developing and emerging economies. **There are a number of reasons for this, such as growing urbanisation, but international trade is also a factor, as it makes harmful foodstuffs, drinks and tobacco freely available.**

> see chapter Foreign economic policy and international tax issues

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

A number of SDG 3 targets concern sexual and reproductive health, including the fight against HIV/AIDS and maternal mortality. In the latter instance, Switzerland pursues a broad approach as part of its international cooperation work. In addition to combating maternal mortality, its programmes also address the health of mothers, babies and children in general, as well as their sexual and reproductive health and rights. **Action is also needed at the national level in this regard, as a study on sexual and reproductive healthcare for asylum seekers found significant shortcomings in the care provided to this population group.¹**

> see chapter Women's* rights

SDG 5, on gender equality, is also relevant to sexual and reproductive health and rights—especially ending all forms of violence against women and girls. The Federal Government has committed itself to achieving this goal. Action is needed against domestic violence and human trafficking, among other issues. The Federal Government is also speaking out against female genital mutilation and forced marriage on both the domestic and international stage. **Switzerland's international cooperation work places particular emphasis on gender equality and on improving sexual and reproductive health.**

> see chapter Women's* rights

Furthermore, the 2030 Agenda provides a reference framework to help advance a comprehensive sexual health strategy in Switzerland, as in other countries. The definition of sexual health applied by the Federal Commission for Sexual Health (FCSH) must be made broader and more specific. Where sex education is concerned, German-speaking Switzerland in particular has a patchwork of models of differing quality, resulting in considerable inequality of opportunity.

Shortcomings in implementation in Switzerland

Switzerland still lacks a sufficiently **coherent** approach that would allow the various policy areas to be coordinated more effectively, and make the right to health a priority in the relevant strategy documents, such as that for health-related foreign policy. A further shortcoming is that Switzerland's humanitarian aid provides only highly inadequate health-specific services.

> see chapter Enhanced coherence for sustainable development

In Switzerland itself, significantly more could be done in particular to ensure that vulnerable groups have **access to healthcare**. Indeed, studies conducted by the Federal Office for Public Health (FOPH) show that certain groups are disadvantaged when it comes to their sexual and reproductive health. These findings are backed by others. In addition, action is needed at the national level to tackle the inequality evidenced by the difference between the health statistics for migrant women and those for Swiss women.

> see chapter Means of implementation

There are also two specific shortcomings with regard to sexual and reproductive health and rights, where no objectives have yet been set in response to SDG targets 3.7 and 5.6. Both of these concern universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services, and to reproductive health and reproductive rights. The lack of action here is at odds with the activities of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Federal Department for Foreign Affairs (FDFA), which is also laid down in policy documents.²

There is considerable room for improvement with regard to **sex education** in Switzerland, as many cantons, especially in German-speaking Switzerland, are still a long way from having comprehensive sex education strategies based on WHO standards.

> see chapter Education policy challenges

Recommendations

1. Factors such as gender, age, origin, disability and socio-economic status all determine health. Switzerland must incorporate these factors into its health policy and its international cooperation. It must strengthen human rights, and eliminate discrimination and inequality.
2. In accordance with the principle that no one is left behind, Switzerland's policies on health must ensure that everyone has access to information, prevention and treatment—especially vulnerable groups such as migrants (including asylum-seekers and *sans-papiers*), young people, LGBTI individuals and people with disabilities.
3. The Federal Council must shape its economic and trade policies so that they do not endanger the health of the population either at home or abroad, and it must be an international advocate of regulation to improve global health.
4. Switzerland must secure the financial resources required to support those countries around the world that are not able to build strong healthcare systems for themselves. To do this, it must act to curb illicit financial flows from developing countries, and ensure that nations are able to generate their own funding through their tax revenues. In particular, it must also build health-related capacity and resources in its humanitarian aid work.
5. Switzerland must ensure that a high-quality system of healthcare remains affordable for all, and must secure the resources needed for everyone in Switzerland to have access to healthcare services.
6. Switzerland must also define specific objectives for all SDG targets, including 3.7 and 5.6.

NOTES

1 Berner Fachhochschule, Ed. Cignacco Eva, Berger Anke, Sénac Coline, Wyssmüller Doris, Hurni Anja, zu Sayn-Wittgenstein Friederike: Sexuelle und reproduktive Gesundheitsversorgung von Frauen und ihren Säuglingen in Asylunterkünften in der Schweiz. 2017

2 Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA: Strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Rights. 2017

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Education policy challenges in Switzerland

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SDG 4 calls for inclusive and equitable quality education, and lifelong learning opportunities, for all. Its seven targets set clear priorities for education, especially with regard to access to and the quality of that education, for equal opportunities and for inclusion, for gender sensitivity and, specifically, for a basic education that is free of charge. Education is also mentioned explicitly in SDG 3 (health for all) and SDG 8 (decent work) in relation to the basic and continuing education and

training of healthcare personnel in developing countries, and in relation to vocational education and training in general. Education is an important factor in achieving other SDGs, specifically SDG 1 (no poverty) and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities). Education lays the foundation on which people are able to make a living and to participate as citizens in the political, social and cultural life of the nation. Education for all is thus crucial to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development around the world. Target 4.7

calls for the following: "By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development".

Standards of education in Switzerland are high compared to other countries, but action is still needed in a large number of areas with regard to the implementation of the education-related aspects of the 2030 Agenda.¹ In view of the challenges currently facing the education system, and the forecast increase in the number of pupils at primary and secondary level, the **austerity measures** affecting education at both federal government and cantonal level represent a step backwards with respect to access to high-quality, free school education for all; they also undermine equality of opportunity. Despite the right to a free education, even at the compulsory schooling stage parents are regularly asked to pay for school-run, non-formal educational activities such as camps and excursions.² In 2011 and 2012, more than 34% of young people in Switzerland in the 8th and 9th grades were having paid tutoring outside of school, and the trend continues unabated. Children from academic or well-off families are much more likely to transfer to upper secondary programmes designed to provide access to academic tertiary education.

Action is also needed with regard to early childhood education. According to the OECD, **public-sector spending on early childhood education and care in Switzerland is just 0.2% of gross domestic product**. At 0.6%, the OECD average is three times higher. Early years education places a considerable financial burden on parents, as they pay between 66% (German-speaking Switzerland) and 38% (Canton of Vaud) of childcare costs themselves. Parents in neighbouring countries pay a maximum of 25%.

Particular attention must be paid to people with migrant backgrounds, as children throughout the country with foreign mother tongues **receive too little**

> see chapter Means of implementation

> see chapter Women's* rights

> see chapter Means of implementation

practical and financial support to learn the language of their schooling before they start their education. Furthermore, support within the compulsory schooling system is still not sufficient to ensure that the affected children and young people are given truly equal opportunities in life. In addition, **children and young people who have come to Switzerland as refugees** from areas of conflict, often via long and circuitous routes, frequently suffer from the effects of **traumatisation**, as well as psycho-social stress. Many have been denied their right to education for months or more. Dedicated programmes are therefore needed to cater to the needs of these children and young people, and to enable them to have a good education.

> see chapter Children and young people

> see chapter A peace-based approach

Inequalities that already exist when a child starts school often continue throughout their entire education and vocational training, and have a dramatic impact on their future life. Those without a recognised qualification are proven to be at an elevated risk of **unemployment, poverty and marginalisation**.

> see chapter Poverty in Switzerland

(Corporate) academic sponsorship is a further troubling development. Academic independence is at threat because research is increasingly reliant on private-sector funding from big business. This was criticised by a large number of academics in a 2013 publication entitled “International Appeal for the Protection of Academic Independence”.³ The appeal was triggered by the cooperation agreement signed in 2012 between the University of Zurich and UBS. It is a striking call for complete transparency about the origin and use of third-party funding at institutes of higher education, as well as the disclosure of the interests of teaching and research staff.

Education in international cooperation

Switzerland attaches considerable importance to promoting education as part of its development cooperation work. This is reflected in the increase in resources dedicated to this area⁴, as well as the SDC’s new education strategy for the 2017–2020 period. The latter factors in the goals of the 2030 Agenda and lends greater weight to aspects such as the quality of education, inclusion, and education in humanitarian crisis situations.⁵

At the same time, action is needed in specific areas. In the interests of quality education for all, Switzerland must draft clear strategies to promote inclusion. Where the quality of education is concerned, it must focus on training teachers and strengthening systems of education. Furthermore, development **policy coherence is particularly vital**. Developing countries have a responsibility to ensure their populations’ right to education. And that costs money. Consequently, it is not enough for Switzerland to increase its contribution to education moderately as part of its development cooperation work. Instead, it must focus on ensuring that these countries are able to generate the resources they need from their own tax revenues. Yet this is something it continues to torpedo through fiscal policies which encourage multinational companies that operate in developing countries to move their profits to low-tax areas—such as Switzerland. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates that this **costs developing countries some USD 200 billion annually in tax revenues**. In many countries, the losses sustained because of tax evasion far outstrip national education budget.⁶

> see chapter Enhanced coherence for sustainable development

> see chapter Foreign economic policy and international tax issues

Recommendations

1. **Fund education:** Domestically, the federal government, cantons and communes must make sufficient resources available to ensure equitable, free access to quality education. By adopting a coherent foreign (economic) policy approach, with a particular emphasis on financial and fiscal policy, Switzerland can help to ensure that developing countries are able to generate sufficient funds for their own education systems.

2. **Good education for all:** The federal government, cantons and communes must take effective action to target and reduce the disadvantages faced in particular by those from non-native speaker, low-income and uneducated backgrounds, and to promote equal opportunities along the entire education continuum. By focusing on the quality of education in its international cooperation work Switzerland can help to strengthen state education systems and the actors involved in them through political dialogue and its bilateral programmes.
3. **Transparency in cooperation with the private sector:** Switzerland must create the legal foundation required to establish full transparency about the origin and use of third-party funding in institutes of higher education, and for the disclosure of the interests of teaching and research staff.

NOTES

- 1 This section draws heavily on the publication entitled "[Projekt Schweizer Bildungsagenda 2030](#)" ("The Swiss 2030 Education Agenda Project") issued by CoalitionEducation NGO (2016).
- 2 Dachverband Lehrerinnen und Lehrer Schweiz (Swiss teachers' association): [Ausserschulisches Lernen gehört zur unentgeltlichen Grundbildung](#). Position paper, April 2018.
- 3 [International Appeal for the Protection of Academic Independence](#), published on 28 February 2013, at www.zuercher-appell.ch/index_en.php
- 4 Swiss Confederation: [Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2017–2020](#). Published in: *Federal Gazette* 2016, p. 2477
- 5 Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC: [The SDCs Education Strategy. Basic Education and Vocational Skills Development](#). 2017
- 6 Global Campaign for Education: [A Taxing Business: Financing education For All Through Domestic Resources](#). 2013.

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www.campaignforeducation.org: The Global Campaign for Education (GCE) is a civil society movement that aims to end the global education crisis.

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Women's* rights¹ and gender equality in Switzerland

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From the Swiss point of view, which goals are relevant to gender equality and the empowerment of women* and girls*?

Ironically, Switzerland is a strong advocate of gender equality and women's* rights—it recently linked the 2030 Agenda to the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs' (FDFA) new "Strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Rights", so specifically embedding SDG 5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women

and girls" and equal opportunities as a cross-cutting issue.

In addition to calling for the recognition of unpaid care and domestic work, SDG 5 sets targets for the following: ending discrimination and eliminating violence and harmful practices; participation and equal opportunities; sexual and reproductive health; rights to economic resources and ownership; and gender equality policies and legislation. Synergies can be created in particular with SDG 1 (the fight against poverty); SDG 4 (quality education); SDG 8 (de-

cent work); SDG 10 (reducing inequalities) and SDG 16 (peace and justice).

Trade-offs arise above all with SDG 8 (economic growth), which fails to take unpaid care work into consideration. However, the target of full employment could also have a negative impact on equality, especially among women* as it often results in work of this kind being assigned to low-paid female care workers—a workforce that is not yet sufficiently regulated.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was a global victory for gender equality. Through SDG 5, UN Member States recognised that equality is not only an important goal in and of itself and a catalyst for progress across the entire Agenda, but is also central to the Agenda's transformative vision. In other words, gender cuts across all the 2030 Agenda's goals.

Although great progress has been made in this area at the legislative level, equality between men* and women* in Switzerland remains an issue. Article 8 of the Federal Constitution states that everyone is equal and that no person may be discriminated against because of their gender, amongst other things. The Gender Equality Act was introduced in 1996 and Switzerland adopted the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW) in 1997. Switzerland also ratified the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women* and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) in 2017. Nevertheless, gender-based disadvantage and discrimination continue to affect people's everyday lives and present legal and structural problems. Despite repeated demands from politicians and NGOs, Switzerland does not yet have a national equal opportunities strategy, and various institutions that promote gender equality at the national or cantonal level have been downgraded or even disbanded.

Gender role stereotyping remains widespread in Switzerland, and strategic participation in tackling this problem—for instance, through vehicles such as the media or awareness-raising in schools—is still lacking. Thanks to their considerable outreach, these would be ideal channels for projecting a different picture and presenting alternatives to traditional role models.

> see chapter Means of implementation

> see chapter Education policy challenges

Career choice is another area that continues to be heavily influenced by socially established norms. Although the Vocational and Professional Education and Training Act, which sets out equal opportunities as one of its stated objectives, has been in force for many years now, the Federal Government has yet to launch a project that specifically promotes the achievement of gender equality at every educational level. Similarly, many cantons have still not embedded the issue in their education laws.

Another area in which women* face discrimination is the **world of work**. Women* remain poorly represented in senior management roles. In addition to being paid less than their male* colleagues, more than half of all women* are employed part-time, putting them at a disadvantage in terms of further education and training and social security. Moreover, many women* are entrapped in what is referred to as “precarious employment”, in jobs in low-wage sectors that lack security. **This is particularly true of women* affected by multiple discrimination and women* with disabilities.**

> see chapter Decent work

> see chapter People with disabilities

Childcare issues also play a major role here. Despite the introduction of national minimum standards a few years ago, in reality a number of gaps remain in relation to both maternity allowance and the debate surrounding paternity leave, which is still in its infancy. The same applies to out-of-home childcare, which is much more expensive in Switzerland than in neighbouring countries. Furthermore, many women* in Switzerland find it impossible to balance family and work life without incurring huge financial disadvantages.

In Switzerland too, the face of **poverty** is female, with single mothers, older women* and large families being disproportionately affected. This trend is boosted by various rules in relation to children’s rights and divorce law that frequently have an adverse impact on women*.

> see chapter Poverty in Switzerland

Equal participation in **politics** has not been implemented at either cantonal or national level, despite having been widely discussed for many years.

Gender-based violence, particularly violence against women* (including trafficking in women* and forced marriage), remains a pernicious reality in Switzerland. Once again, it is women* affected by multiple discrimination and girls* who are most badly affected. This trend is less visible at the judicial level, where much has been achieved in recent years, but more so in terms of practical implementation.

When it comes to migration, women* tend to be severely affected, as female* migrants more often than not find themselves employed in underqualified jobs, with any skills or qualifications they have gained back home not being recognised either. In legal terms, these women* are often in a defensive position, whether in relation to domestic violence or their residence status. Unlike the costs of abortion, contraceptives are not included in the catalogue of benefits covered by mandatory health insurance—a fact that makes female migrants an especially vulnerable group. The same applies to access to reproductive health care. Efforts to improve the health of this especially vulnerable segment of the population must therefore take centre stage, as women* from a migrant background are often socially isolated and financially and linguistically dependent on their husbands or relatives. In addition to these socio-economic factors, language difficulties and the lack of available information in many languages are key. A low level of education, stressful work situations and a possibly irregular or unclear residence status are all factors that cause a deterioration in the health of mothers and children from a migrant **background**.

> see chapter Migration for development

> see chapter Good health for everyone

Women* and girls* with disabilities in particular frequently experience multiple forms of discrimination, as evidenced by the following: their social security inequality; stereotyping in the public consciousness and in relation to career choices; lower levels of employment but more precarious work compared with women* and men* without a disability; the greater likelihood of their being affected by violence; discrimination with regard to sexuality and family planning; and a lack of opportunities for empowerment and participation in the political process.

> see chapter People with disabilities

Transgender and “gender identity” are not referred to by name in either the Federal Constitution or any of its cantonal equivalents. This lack of protection stands in blatant contradiction to the discrimination, stigmatisation and violence these people face in their everyday lives.

Recommendations

1. Constant awareness-raising among the authorities, competent bodies and the wider public is crucial. This requires both a national gender equality strategy and a gender mainstreaming process that also addresses the issue of preventing and overcoming multiple discrimination.
2. Voluntary measures are not enough in themselves to achieve equality in a whole variety of areas (political office, key business leaders...). Special action is called for, such as quotas (e.g. quotas for women* in political office or on corporate boards) and statutory regulations (e.g. paternity leave), if the goals set long ago are finally to be realised.
3. As well as increasing the financial resources available to the Federal Office for Gender Equality (FOGE) and its cantonal counterparts, their political position and sphere of influence must be strengthened.
4. Switzerland needs a national action plan against domestic and gender-based violence, specifically against violence towards women* and girls* who are particularly vulnerable to and affected by multiple discrimination.

NOTE

1 The use of the gender asterisk is intended to highlight the social construction of sex/gender and

include all social gender identities that fall outside of the binary system of female/male or woman/man.

FURTHER READING

NGO-Koordination post Beijing: [Short report by NGO Coordination post Beijing Switzerland on Switzerland's 4th and 5th country report. Pre-session of the CEDAW Committee, 7 March 2016. Bern, 2016](#)

Decent work—challenges for Switzerland

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The 2030 Agenda addresses “decent work” specifically in SDG 8. Yet the issue is also clearly linked to the “no poverty” of SDG 1. Living minimum wages and social protections are a major part of achieving it. Calls for

equal pay and for the recognition of care work form part of SDG 5 on gender equality. Meanwhile, SDG 10.4 provides explicitly for action on wage policy and social protection in order to reduce inequality. SDG 16 and its targets for access

to justice and support for the rule of law are crucial to making decent work a reality and to protecting unionised employees, those in financially unstable situations and migrants.

SDG 8 in the 2030 Agenda calls for “sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all”. Here, the 2030 Agenda uses the definition of decent work given in the International Labour Organization (ILO) Decent Work Agenda as its point of reference. This latter agenda was developed by the ILO in 1999 and is regarded as a key element of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization. It was adopted by the ILO in 2008 and describes action areas for four pillars which support decent work: employment creation, social protection, rights at work, and social dialogue. Switzerland faces major challenges in all four of these areas, especially protection against dismissal for employees, safeguarding the right to form and join a trade union, protection against discrimination and equitable access to the labour market for vulnerable groups, minimum wages, the fight against wage and social dumping, and measures to combat unstable (atypical) employment. Looking at each of the four pillars in turn, this paper reflects on Switzerland’s efforts with regard to decent work, as well as the shortcomings identified by the trade unions.

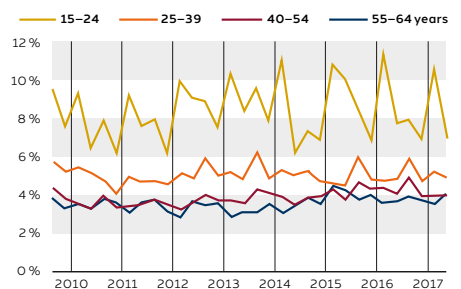
Employment creation

Although Switzerland’s unemployment rate (as measured by ILO unemployment statistics) is low in a European comparison, there are still vulnerable groups who are particularly affected by joblessness. This is true, for example, of young people and employees over the age of 55 who lose their jobs and subsequently have less chance of rejoining the labour market. While unemployment rates are lower in this age bracket, the risk of long-term unemployment is much higher than for other age groups.

Only approximately 41% of women in Switzerland are in full-time employment. There are a variety of reasons for this. Some women are unable to increase their working hours even though they would like to. Others are forced to take part-time jobs because of the lack of (affordable) childcare. Furthermore, women are still doing much of the unpaid care work in Switzerland, which presents

Unemployment rate based on ILO definition per age group

Quarterly averages, permanent resident population



Source: FSO—Swiss Labour Force Survey (SLFS)

> see chapter Women’s* rights

another obstacle to full-time employment. In 2016, this unpaid work amounted to 9.2 million hours—corresponding to some CHF 408 billion according to Federal Government estimates. That is equivalent to around 62% of the figure for paid work (GDP), and approximately 61% of it was done by women.

People with disabilities and employees from the **migrant population** are also regarded as belonging to vulnerable groups.

- > see chapter People with disabilities
- > see chapter Migration for development

There is a trend among young people to find employment in low-paid or unpaid, insecure internships before and after they complete their apprenticeships. Politicians have so far taken no regulatory action to improve these uncertain circumstances in either area.

It must also be remembered that full employment is not a sufficient objective in itself. Rather, there is also a need to analyse the extent to which living minimum wages are being paid, as well as looking into working conditions in general (see section on labour rights).

Social protection

Although Switzerland has a well-balanced social security system, action is needed with regard to **old-age poverty** and **health insurance**. Where old-age poverty is concerned, the AHV state pension system in particular requires attention. Benefit cuts have entered the political debate here. Meanwhile, rising health insurance premiums are proving an increasing burden on employees. In some cases, premiums are increasing faster than wages, thus eroding them in real terms. Additionally, the high cost of occupational pension provision (the second pillar in the Swiss system) when re-entering the labour market, as well as other factors, mean that older workers find it difficult to find new employment if they lose their jobs.

- > see chapter Poverty in Switzerland
- > see chapter Good health for everyone

Rights at work

Swiss labour law is very open and flexible compared with that in the rest of Europe. This purported competitive advantage has a high price, however.

For example, with the exception of sectors, businesses or regular employment contracts that are governed by a collective bargaining agreement, there is no minimum wage. Indeed, only 49% of employees who are covered by such an agreement benefit from a guaranteed pay floor, and only just under 50% are subject to an agreement at all.¹ Switzerland is among the only 11 European countries (out of a total of 35) that have not introduced a universal minimum wage.²

Switzerland keeps statistics on the **gender pay gap** as part of its MONET indicator system. However, 37 years after the equal rights article was incorporated into the Federal Constitution, equal pay is still not a reality. All in all, women in Switzerland earn 18.1% less than men. In the private sector the figure is even higher, at 19.1%. The average monthly salary across the whole of the private sector is CHF 7 661 for men and CHF 6 166 for women. This means that women working full time earn around CHF 1 495 less on average per month than their male colleagues.³ **Political initiatives for binding measures to overcome wage inequality have been rejected by the majority of parliamentarians.**

- > see chapter Women's* rights

Wrongful, anti-union and discriminatory dismissals are still commonplace in Switzerland. In this regard, statutory employment protection in Switzerland complies with neither ILO law nor the European Convention on Human Rights.

- > see chapter Means of implementation

A further action area is the way in which migrants are treated under labour law. Migrants from the EU and from non-EU countries are treated differently, for example, with non-EU migrants generally worse off than arrivals from the EU where access to the labour market and residence status are concerned. Those without official identity documents—the **sans-papiers**—are particularly

- > see chapter Migration for development

badly affected, and can find themselves victims of forced labour. The State Secretariat for Migration SEM estimates that there are between 85 000 and 110 000 *sans-papiers* living in Switzerland.⁴ Most of these have been working in Switzerland for years, their daily lives overshadowed by legal uncertainty. The Canton of Geneva is currently running “Papyrus”, a project to regularise *sans-papiers*, but other cantons have rejected similar proposals.

A further development is the steady rise in unstable, atypical employment, which results in further discrimination. According to the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO, in 2016 around 2.5% of the workforce, or some 113 000 people, were affected by these patterns of working.⁵ Meanwhile, around 6.5% of the workforce is individually self-employed, which also carries the risk of financial difficulties. The incidence of those in unstable employment relationships can be expected to rise as new forms of employment are created in the platform economy.

The regulatory framework in all of these areas is weak, thereby fostering increasingly unstable working patterns and discrimination against specific groups, and ultimately the **destabilisation** of society.

> see chapter A peace-based approach

Social dialogue

Social dialogue in Switzerland, i.e. the partnership-based approach to industrial relations, has been strengthened since 2002 by the free movement of persons and the measures that accompanied it. This is reflected in the increase in the number of collective bargaining agreements being declared generally binding. However, large sections of the service sector, in particular, still have no binding industry-wide agreements or even generally applicable working conditions. The future digitalisation of the economy will give rise to new forms of employment for which fair working conditions must be ensured. Binding collective bargaining agreements should be developed in this area.

Recommendations

To achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda, Switzerland will need a set of inclusive, non-discriminatory labour market policies. All groups of people living in Switzerland (women, men, young and old, migrants, and people with disabilities) must have working conditions that conform to the principles of fair employment and good work.

Key elements of this are:

- Ensuring appropriate compensation and productive work
- Complying with decent working hours
- Permitting a balance between work, family and personal life
- Ensuring equal opportunities and equal treatment when applying for a job
- Guaranteeing social protections
- Encouraging social dialogue, and representation for both employees and employers

The principal means of achieving these conditions is regulatory action, where existing measures must be refined or new ones implemented:

1. The Federal Government and the cantons must consistently foster the full potential of everyone living in Switzerland. The focus here must be on creating and supporting structures that enable people to balance gainful employment and family life (such as affordable childcare), as well as action to simplify official recognition for foreign qualifications.
2. With effective policy frameworks in place, the Federal Government can prevent the financial difficulties caused by reductions in pension benefits or

the continual increase in health insurance premiums. In particular, action is needed to maintain occupational pension cover for those aged 58 and over should they lose their job.

3. The Federal Government must take action to improve employment protections in the case of anti-union dismissals, and extend labour law to cover all forms of employment, including work in private households. There must also be plans to introduce a universal minimum wage, to prevent wage dumping.
4. Measures instituted in connection with the free movement of persons must not be softened in negotiations on a framework agreement with the EU. Furthermore, regulatory mechanisms for those in unstable areas of employment, such as those crossing the border every day to work, temporary employees or those in the platform economy, must be further enhanced and action taken to ensure that they are put into practice everywhere.
5. The Federal Government must take action finally to achieve equal pay. To do so, it must make provision for the federal authorities to conduct spot checks on businesses, similar to workplace inspections. If the business is failing to comply with the statutory requirements, the Federal Government must impose penalties on it.
6. The Federal Government and the cantons must permit *sans-papiers* to be regularised under current legislation. They should not be criminalised for taking a job. Experience from the Canton of Geneva should serve as a model here.

NOTES

- 1 OECD statistic: Collective bargaining coverage (as at May 2018)
- 2 Eurostat keeps statistics on minimum wages in European countries. They are available at: http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=earn_mw_cur&lang=en
- 3 BASS, a labour and social policy research institute, on behalf of the Federal Statistical Office FSO:

- 1 Analyse der Löhne von Frauen und Männern anhand der Lohnstrukturerhebung 2014. 2017.
- 4 B,S,S Economic Consultants: Sans-Papiers in der Schweiz 2015. 2015
- 5 State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO: Die Entwicklung atypisch-prekärer Arbeitsverhältnisse in der Schweiz, 2017. Page 3

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- SGB Dossier 122: Zutritts- und Informationsrechte für Gewerkschaften im Betrieb. 2017
- SGB Dossier 120: Die Bedeutung des Völkerrechts für das Arbeitsrecht. 2017
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Sustainable consumption and production

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This chapter looks in particular at SDG 12 (ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns) and refers to the following targets of the

2030 Agenda: 8.3: promote entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation; 9.1: develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure; 9.2: promote

inclusive and sustainable industrialisation; and 11.1: ensure access to safe and affordable housing.

In a report on the green economy, the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)¹ states that the resource-efficiency of consumption in Switzerland has increased in recent years. However the ecological footprint of the Swiss population remains three times that which is sustainable, and continues to grow in important areas such as the climate and biodiversity. **In other words, our resource use is around three times the planet's natural capacity.** This means that we are already living at the expense of future generations, while also benefiting from the fact that other countries are less wasteful. Producing and consuming sustainably is thus also a question of responsibility and fairness.

Food, housing and mobility combined account for around 70% of our impact on the environment. What's more, some 70% of the impact of consumption in Switzerland is felt abroad. For example, 86% of the land that is used directly or indirectly to feed our consumption is located beyond Swiss borders.² By far the greater part of the negative impact of this consumption is thus felt abroad—something of which Swiss consumers are scarcely aware, because they do not feel these effects in their everyday lives.

With this in mind, it is clear that consumption and production occupy an important position in sustainable development. The FOEN summarises its activities in a report to the Federal Council (the “*Bericht an den Bundesrat—Grüne Wirtschaft*”³), which includes both a review and a look ahead. While these activities may be coherent in their focus—the services provided by the Reffnet (Swiss resource efficiency network) being one example—they are not enough to bring about a genuine shift towards sustainability.

Positive trends can nonetheless be discerned in certain areas. For example, it is pleasing to see the increase in vegetarian and vegan menus in both public and private-sector canteens. That said, it has done little to dent meat consumption in Switzerland, which has remained relatively stable in recent years. At an average of 50.98 kg per capita in 2016 (weight sold), it is much higher than the 2015 global average of 41.3 kg. Meat production has a decisive impact on the environment and the climate. According to the *Zukunftsstiftung Landwirtschaft* agriculture foundation, which refers to the 2013 “Agriculture at a Crossroads” report, it accounts for around 18% of total greenhouse gas emissions in terms of CO₂ equivalent.⁴ Meat consumption therefore has an important leverage effect in reducing our overall impact on the environment and the

> see chapter Planet and environment

climate. In 2016, the Federal Government paid Proviande, the industry organisation for the Swiss meat-producing sector, subsidies of some CHF 6 million.⁵ I.e. instead of working to reduce the consumption of meat in Switzerland, it encourages and stimulates it.

Efforts on the part of the Federal Government and the private sector are primarily devoted to technical innovations and appeals for consumers to change their behaviour. These are largely ineffectual, as there are still incentives to behave in a way that harms the environment, and no strategy for eliminating them. Indeed, there is **almost a complete absence of any strategy** to reduce consumption in general or to make products more long-lasting or manufacture them in sustainable cycles. We would like to see the potential of social innovation and the collaborative economy—concepts such as the sharing economy, social entrepreneurship, and cooperatives—examined and given careful consideration. We believe that social laboratories should be encouraged to trial a move away from conventional patterns of consumption and production.

Support programmes such as those for sustainable development (ARE)⁶ and the Federal Government's New Regional Policy (SECO)⁷ are welcome, but much of this activity tends to be limited to pilot projects or very restricted local contexts. Although awareness-raising projects—concerning food waste, public repair workshops, and public usage or sharing initiatives (i.e. the shared use of consumer goods)—do exist, they are still very much a niche area, and their lack of funding limits their outreach. More research is needed here to determine what conditions must be put in place to ensure that participatory approaches appeal to broader sections of the population. As addressed by SDG target 8.3, there is a need for innovative research which views social innovation as an essential part of development. Existing support programmes must be broadened and should also encourage this social innovation. However, this can only succeed if the right incentives are created and such programmes are sufficiently well funded. The government should use targeted instruments to give preference to private-sector initiatives which generate added social and/or ecological value.

The lack of true-cost pricing for consumer goods also remains a major issue, as the costs to the general public are not fully covered by retail prices. To move closer to true-cost pricing, counter-productive incentives must be abolished, duties levied in accordance with the “producer pays” principle, incentives for sustainable production created, and **awareness raised among the population at large**.

Sustainable consumption and production require a fundamental shift in thinking. This should be reflected in systems of measurement that are designed to focus on public welfare, and social and environmental progress.

Great strides can be made where housing and mobility are concerned by imposing requirements and introducing usage-based levies to **systematically reduce the use of fossil fuels**. Meanwhile, urban sprawl must be curbed by aligning spatial planning with sustainability criteria, and there must be greater incentives for building, redevelopment and renovation for the public good. Innovative projects have shown that construction work can be targeted to encourage sustainable behaviour among residents.

Among the three key areas mentioned above—food, mobility and housing—food waste stands out as a particular example. In Switzerland, a third of all food is thrown away, with households responsible for 45% of that waste.⁸ SDG 12.3 aims to halve the volume of food waste by 2030.

The issue was taken up in the 2013 Green Economy Action Plan in the form of an exhibition, and also in guidelines on the provision of foodstuffs to aid organisations. The FOEN has also conducted studies on food waste.⁹ In addition, there are a number of civil society initiatives and projects intended actively to combat food waste. **Some of these receive a certain amount of funding** from the Federal Government, but a general lack of resources remains a problem. A fundamental shift in **consumer consciousness** is required if target

> see chapter Enhanced coherence for sustainable development

> see chapter Means of implementation

> see chapter Education policy challenges

> see chapter Planet and environment

> see chapter Means of implementation
> see chapter Education policy challenges

12.3 is to be achieved in Switzerland. Initiatives and campaigns will play a key role in raising awareness here, and the government, business world and civil society must join forces to coordinate their activities in this area sensibly and effectively.

Recommendations

1. The Federal Government must promote strategies which reduce Switzerland's ecological footprint to a sustainable one-earth level. Growth based on a further increase in resource use can no longer be permitted to pay off. Rather, as mentioned above, Switzerland should adopt a system of indicators that measures public welfare.
2. More research funding must be made available for social innovation and the collaborative economy. There must also be support for research into local economic cycles, the circular economy and the sharing economy, as well as pilot projects at communal and cantonal level. The findings that are generated must be translated into practice on a broad scale, and the relevant frameworks created.
3. Official requirements and usage-based levies must be introduced in the mobility and housing sectors, in particular, to reduce the consumption of fossil fuels in Switzerland.

NOTES

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| <p>1 Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, <u>Green economy: Indicators for progress measurement</u>, 2016</p> <p>2 Yang Yu, Kuishuang Feng, and Klaus Hubacek: <u>Tele-connecting local consumption to global land use</u>, <i>Global Environmental Change</i> 23, no. 5 1. October 2013: pages 1178–86. See also: FOEN, <u>Domestic consumption also generates environmental impacts abroad</u></p> <p>3 Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, <u>Bericht an den Bundesrat—Grüne Wirtschaft</u>, 2016</p> <p>4 Zukunftsstiftung Landwirtschaft (Hrsg), <u>Wege aus der Hungerkrise, Die Erkenntnisse und Folgen des Weltagrarberichts: Vorschläge für eine Landwirtschaft von morgen</u>. 2013</p> | <p>5 Proviande <u>Geschäftsbericht 2016</u></p> <p>6 Federal Office Spatial Development ARE, <u>Förderprogramm Nachhaltige Entwicklung</u>, 2017</p> <p>7 State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO: <u>Projektförderung, Stärkung von Innovation, Wertschöpfung und Wettbewerbsfähigkeit</u>, please refer to the map on the New Regional Policy</p> <p>8 <u>foodwaste.ch</u>, <u>Foodwaste in der Schweiz</u> 2018</p> <p>9 Federal Office for the Environment FOEN: <u>Nahrungsmittelverluste im Detailhandel & der Gastronomie</u>, 2014 and FOEN: <u>Organische Verluste aus der Lebensmittelindustrie</u>, 2017</p> |
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Children and young people at the heart of development

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The preamble to the 2030 Agenda makes explicit reference to children's rights. It envisages "a world which invests in its children and in which every child grows up free from violence and exploitation. A world in which every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality and all legal, social and economic barriers to their

empowerment have been removed." The SDGs present an opportunity to advance the debate on recognising the linkages between human rights and environmental concerns. They highlight the importance of the rights of the child for sustainable development and show how each action area is interdependent with others. The SDGs on health (SDG 3);

education (SDG 4); gender equality (SDG 5), decent work (SDG 8); reduced inequalities (SDG 10); and peace and justice (SDG 16) have a particularly close relationship to key children's rights issues. Target 16.2 calls for an end to abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

No sustainable development without the rights of the child

If the aspiration to "leave no one behind" is to be realised, disadvantaged children and young people must take centre stage in the process of implementing the 2030 Agenda. The SDGs will not be achieved without the large-scale participation of young people. According to the Director of UNICEF, "sustainable development starts with safe, healthy and well-educated children". Sustainability should be measured by the degree to which children's needs are met.

As far as the rights of children and young people are concerned, every one of the 2030 Agenda goals is relevant. The majority of SDG targets can be explicitly linked to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.¹ Children's rights issues are therefore also referred to in other chapters of this report. This chapter focuses on children and young people in the context of migration—the area in which Terre des Hommes feels Switzerland has the greatest need to catch up. On the international level, the chapter concludes with a few thoughts on Swiss development cooperation from a children's rights perspective.

The rights of children and young people in the context of migration—the situation in Switzerland

Children and young people on the move frequently experience neglect, exploitation and abuse. Because of their parents' migration status, they are detained in migrant accommodation centres without access to basic healthcare and education services, and are often subject to the same processes that criminalise adult migrants.²

- > see chapter Good health for everyone
- > see chapter Education policy challenges

Administrative detention of migrant children in Switzerland

Swiss law forbids the administrative detention of children under the age of 15. However, according to a 2016 report by Terre des Hommes, application of the law varies considerably from canton to canton when it comes to the detention of 15 to 18 year olds.³ The cantons have a certain amount of discretion in implementing federal law, and practices differ widely. Some place children in this age bracket in administrative detention, while others are explicitly opposed to the practice. There is a basic lack of detailed, understandable statistics on migrant children in administrative detention in Switzerland.⁴

Protecting asylum-seeking children from disadvantage and discrimination

In implementing articles 2, 3, 6 and 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child recommends that Switzerland “[...] intensify its efforts to eliminate discrimination against children in marginalized and disadvantaged situations, in particular migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking children, children with disabilities and *sans-papiers* children. The Committee also recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to foster a culture of tolerance and mutual respect, and that it adopt comprehensive legislation against discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, and include these grounds in article 261bis of the Criminal Code.”⁵

> see chapter Decent work

> see chapter Women’s* rights

The Conference of Cantonal Directors of Social Services (CDSS) issued recommendations for handling the asylum procedure for unaccompanied children and adolescents in May 2016. However, the individual cantons still have considerable ground to make up in the actual measures taken to implement the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Children from a migrant background face difficulties in accessing education, as is shown by a report published in October 2017 by the Service for Combating Racism.⁶ Young people from a migrant background are grossly under-represented at upper-secondary level, disadvantaged when it comes to accessing vocational education and training, and have a greater tendency to drop out of school.

> see chapter Education policy challenges

Mental health of unaccompanied minor asylum seekers (UMAs)

Sixty to eighty per cent of UMAs suffer from mental health problems, most of which are only detected and treated by chance, if at all. Undetected and untreated mental health conditions can have additional long-term impacts on the lives of these children: they are known to hinder integration and compromise the children’s ability to learn, but may also lead to criminality, desocialisation and radicalisation. The Convention on the Rights of the Child states the every child has the right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health—and that includes mental health. More specialised care and support services are required to achieve this.⁷

> see chapter Good health for everyone

> see chapter A peace-based approach

Global children’s rights: recommendations for Swiss development cooperation

A children’s rights perspective is not only relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Switzerland, but also has a role to play in setting priorities for Swiss development cooperation.

At present, one quarter of the world’s population is under 15 years of age. Some 3.1 billion people are under 25, and around 90% of them live in devel-

oping countries. They have the potential to solve many of our current problems, yet countless challenges limit their opportunities for doing so:

Almost 200 million young people, 60% of whom are girls, have been unable to complete their primary education. 387 million cannot read or count properly, and 61 million do not attend school. Around 570 million children and young people live in poverty. Violence against children, corporal punishment, sexual abuse and child labour are disturbingly pervasive around the globe.⁸ Half of the world's refugees are under 18 and more than 36 million migrants are under 20 years of age.⁹

In setting its development cooperation priorities, Switzerland should make a substantive contribution to implementing those aspects of the 2030 Agenda that touch on children's rights. The 2017–2020 Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation talks specifically in terms of a human-rights based approach and emphasises that children and young people have a right to education, vocational education and training, and healthcare services. In the light of the 2030 Agenda, the priorities set by Swiss development cooperation must be aligned more closely with the challenges facing the young generation. This not only means improving schooling, vocational education and training and healthcare provision, but also and especially making a concerted effort to address violence against children and young adults in all its forms as an obstacle to development.

When designing development programmes, children and adolescents should not be seen as mere beneficiaries of aid and support. Instead, they should be viewed as agents of change with considerable potential to positively influence their environment. Young people must be given a stronger voice in political decision-making processes at the local, national and international level. Encouraging children and young people to play an active role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda must be an important goal for development cooperation.

Recommendations: a child is a child—regardless of their migrant status

1. The rights of all children should be respected, upheld and implemented, regardless of their migrant status, origin, ethnic background or nationality.
2. Migrant children and young people are a particularly vulnerable group and must be protected. Special protection is required for migrant minors, who are first and foremost children and, as such, are protected by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. They are entitled to age-appropriate accommodation and care. Violations of children's rights based on their residence status such as deportation, detention pending deportation or detention on remand should be prevented. The objective must always be to find a permanent solution that is in the best interests of the child or adolescent in question.
3. The Federal Government and cantons should remove the barriers to education and vocational training opportunities, and to social services encountered by children and young people from a migrant background, and develop specific measures to ensure such access. In particular, unaccompanied minor asylum seekers in every canton should be treated and accommodated in line with the recommendations formulated in the CDSS standards. Barriers that impede access to child protection and child support services should be removed and an adequate prevention strategy developed.
4. Healthcare services for child asylum seekers must pay greater attention to mental health and indications of trauma.
5. Children and young people should be involved in national and international political decision-making processes as agents of change.

NOTES

- 1 See also the [Human Rights Guide to the SDGs and UNICEF: Mapping the Global Goals for Sustainable Development and the Convention on the Rights of the Child 2016](#)
- 2 Terre des Hommes: [Migration and development in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda: A child rights perspective](#). December 2015, p. 2
- 3 Terre des Hommes, report: [Illegal detention of migrant children in Switzerland: a status report](#), June 2016.
- 4 Report by the Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muižnieks, on his visit to Switzerland from 22 to 24 May 2017 (in FR). [CommDH\(2017\)26](#), p.30
- 5 Netzwerk Kinderrechte Schweiz (2017): [Bilanz 2017 zur Umsetzung der Concluding Observations des](#)

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- 6 Service for Combating Racism (SCRA)/ Federal Department of Home Affairs: [Rassistische Diskriminierung in der Schweiz. Bericht der Fachstelle für Rassismusbekämpfung 2016](#). P. 56.
- 7 Valentina Darbellay: [Trauma Flüchtlingskind](#). Guest commentary in NZZ newspaper, published online on 24.1.2018.
- 8 UNICEF: [Gewalt gegen Kinder ist Alltag—überall](#). Press release, New York/Cologne, 1.11.2017.
- 9 See also <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-migration-and-displacement/migration/>

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People with disabilities are still not treated equally

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Disability in the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda

The inclusion of people with disabilities is a cross-cutting issue, and is therefore something that Switzerland must consider and measure

comprehensively when implementing the 2030 Agenda at home and abroad. The following are of particular importance to the rights of people with disabilities: combating poverty (SDG 1); health and well-being (SDG 3); education (SDG 4); gender equality (SDG 5); decent work

(SDG 8); industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9); reduced inequalities (SDG 10); sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11); peace and justice (SDG 16) and partnerships (SDG 17).

The 2030 Agenda is an important milestone for people with disabilities, because several of its goals and targets refer explicitly to them, unlike previous international agreements such as the Millennium Development Goals. Furthermore, people with disabilities are also addressed indirectly by most of the SDGs. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) provides the benchmark by which the implementation of the 2030 Agenda must be measured with regard to the inclusion of people with disabilities. Here it is important that such inclusion is not just anchored by SDG 10 (fewer inequalities), but that all of the relevant SDGs under Agenda 2030 are considered and implemented at both the national and international level.

The national level

Switzerland lacks any comprehensive, coherent policy on people with disabilities¹ that spans government departments and has any demonstrable, timetabled objectives for all levels of the public sector—despite the report issued in 2017 by the Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA) on the development of a disability policy. This is severely detrimental to universal social policy objectives such as empowerment, inclusion and the equal participation of people with disabilities in society. The existing legal foundations, such as the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), are in no way sufficient to create an inclusive society.

As the Federal Council itself has found², “people with disabilities are more threatened and affected by **poverty**” than the rest of the population. The corresponding structural deficits with regard to social security, as well as the creation of an inclusive education system and labour market, must be addressed as a matter of urgency, beyond the current revision of the Invalidity Insurance Act, and the Labour Market Conference.

To achieve an inclusive **labour market**, protections against discrimination under the DDA must be strengthened, and Switzerland must establish labour

> see chapter Poverty in Switzerland

> see chapter Decent work

market policies which guarantee inclusive vocational education and training (VET), the assistance that is required and diversified, long-term work placement and support. As the distinction between the primary (i.e. regular or open) and secondary (i.e. protected) labour market blurs, employment opportunities must be created on the open labour market for people with disabilities. These jobs must have low entry requirements while making the most of these individuals’ potential, and must be appropriately paid—by means of subsidies, if necessary.

There is also an urgent need for **education policy** to shift from an integrative approach—which is heavily underfunded at present—towards an inclusive system. The legal foundations at federal and cantonal level, which are at best insufficient and at worst detrimental to inclusion, must be revised. Furthermore, cantonal educational policies and special educational strategies must be aligned with the requirements of Article 24 of the CRPD. Wide-ranging steps are required to ensure that integrative measures and appropriate preventive action (measures to eliminate disadvantage, as well as assistance and individual support) have been taken, and that educational institutions are accessible. **Strict savings programmes where integrative support is concerned must be replaced by a transfer of resources**, ensuring structures which include, rather than divide.

> see chapter Education policy challenges

> see chapter Means of implementation

Finally, there is an urgent need to step up efforts to create a system of public transport that genuinely conforms to the DDA. Those affected must be involved in this process, taking into account the principle of proportionality in the light of long-standing obligations under the DDA and CRPD. The shortcomings that currently exist with regard to access to cities and urban spaces, accessible accommodation and inclusive disaster planning must also be addressed.

The international level: Switzerland’s international cooperation and humanitarian aid

The Dispatch on Switzerland’s International Cooperation for 2017–2020 explicitly mentions people with disabilities for the first time as one of the target groups for the alleviation of poverty. This is of crucial importance, because people with disabilities are over-represented among the poorest sections of the population, and alleviating poverty and “leaving no one behind” are among the key objectives of the 2030 Agenda. The Dispatches for 2013–2016 and 2017–2020 also place people with disabilities—depending on the context—among the most vulnerable groups with regard to humanitarian aid. It must be remembered here that in humanitarian emergencies, those with disabilities are always at particular risk. The 2015–2019 strategic framework for the SDC’s Global Programme **Health** division, as well as the SDC’s **educational and VET strategy**, mention people with disabilities several times in the context of particularly vulnerable groups and as part of their strategic focus.

> see chapter Good health for everyone
> see chapter Education policy challenges

Other key strategy papers nonetheless fail to mention the rights of people with disabilities. In the Federal Government’s online consultations on the 2030 Agenda in the summer of 2017, just two references to people with disabilities, and the UN Convention, were made in the section on Switzerland’s international contribution. Switzerland has also so far failed to sign the “Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action”. Where disaster risk reduction (DRR) is concerned, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 is the currently applicable approach, and is accepted by Switzerland as such. Although Sendai explicitly includes people with disabilities, they are not considered on an equal footing in the SDC’s existing DRR projects.

Therefore, there are not only shortcomings in the Federal Government’s basic strategy documents, **but too little heed is paid in practice to including people with disabilities**. There is a fundamental lack of strategy and systematic

> see chapter Decent work

approach at Federal Government level: the inclusion of people with disabilities must be addressed systematically across the board in all projects and programmes in all areas, such as education, work and income, **gender equality**, humanitarian aid and DRR, to name just a few.

> see chapter Women's* rights

In addition, no data on people with disabilities exists, or is collected, as this is not an area that has been covered by the SDC's impact analyses to date; neither does the SDC disaggregate the data that it actually does collect. The same is true of the indicators that Switzerland has defined to measure the impact of the 2030 Agenda: the Swiss government disaggregates only two targets by disability, and only provides data at the national level, without considering its international contribution towards the inclusion of those with disabilities. Shortcomings also exist with regard to how people with disabilities are consulted in social and political processes. One of the key elements of the UN CRPD is to include people with disabilities in all steps, processes, projects and programmes that affect them. The principle of "nothing about us, without us" also applies to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Federal Government has a considerable way to go to catch up in this regard.

Recommendations

1. Develop a comprehensive policy on disability to implement the CRPD at all federal levels and in all areas of life, including an action plan with measurable targets and associated deadlines. Disability must also be mainstreamed into all legislative policy development and implementation processes.
2. Develop a strategy to include people with disabilities in international cooperation and humanitarian aid work, including DRR, and ensure that disability is integrated into all other FDFA strategies in this area.
3. Systematically develop and apply disability-specific indicators when setting and measuring targets, factoring in the IAEG-SDG indicators and the list of priorities issued by the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities and the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability.
4. Actively include people with disabilities, and their organisations, in all political and other relevant strategy, planning, implementation and monitoring processes.

NOTES

1 Please refer to the postulate submitted by Christian Lohr (13.4245), Kohärente Behindertenpolitik, submitted 13 December 2013

2 Interpellation from Silvia Schenker (17.3833) Alarmierende Zunahme der Armutsbetroffenheit von Menschen mit Behinderungen, submitted 28 September 2017

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Planet and environment: urgent need for greater awareness—and action!

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Which goals are relevant to the environment?

In a step up from the Millennium Development Goals, environmental sustainability now has not just one, but three goals dedicated to it under the 2030 Agenda:

SDG 13: Combat climate change and its impacts

This goal covers adapting to climate change, integrating climate change measures into national policies and raising awareness of climate change.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is acknowledged as the leading global forum for all other aspects of the topic.

SDG 14: Conserve the oceans

This goal is devoted to the protection and sustainable use of the world's oceans, seas and marine resources: prevent marine pollution; reduce acidification; sustainable management of coastal ecosystems; end overfishing, eliminate subsidies and increase the economic benefits to Small Island Developing States.

SDG 15: Protect terrestrial ecosystems

Halt biodiversity loss by 2020: ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems and their services; sustainable management of all types of forests; combat desertification; promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources; end poaching; combat invasive alien species; and systematically integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into decision-making processes.

Co-benefits of goals¹

SDGs 1 (poverty), 2 (hunger), 3 (health), 6 (water) and 15 (terrestrial ecosystems): Intact ecosystems (sometimes referred to as the “GDP of the poor”) provide people, especially those in poor countries, with much of what they need—food, medicine and water—thus alleviating poverty. In turn, sustainable agriculture and water management make a significant contribution to preserving biodiversity.

SDGs 12 (sustainable consumption), 14 (marine ecosystems) and 16 (peaceful and inclusive societies) also have a role to play in achieving Goal 15; their reali-

sation would considerably reduce the pressure on ecosystems.

Potential trade-offs

SDG 8 (sustainable growth): There is still a widespread belief in the “no limits to growth” concept. Despite efficiency gains, this scenario is at odds with the 2030 Agenda’s “healthy planet principle”, which states that we must not overstep our planet’s boundaries. In fact, Switzerland already consumes, per capita, 3.3 times more ecosystem services and natural resources than are available worldwide.²

SDG 13 (climate) and 15 (terrestrial ecosystems): Protecting the climate generally helps preserve biodiversity, and vice versa. Whereas those involved in nature conservation are well aware of the contribution it can make to mitigating climate change, by conserving moorland and forest ecosystems for example, SDG 15 barely features in the climate debate. In addition, monoculture plantations that adversely affect biodiversity are being offset against (inter)national climate goals as carbon sinks.

An intact environment plays an essential role in realising every single one of the SDGs: without the environment, ecosystem services and resources nothing at all can be achieved. Switzerland traditionally has a good reputation on environmental issues. However, this turns out to be unjustified: 5 of the 6 measurable areas that are rated as “critical” or “a threat” to the SDGs are environment-related—climate, biodiversity, consumption, clean energy, and land and forests.³

Baseline assessment

Climate

Switzerland is the least carbon-intensive economy in the OECD in terms of domestic output (88kg of CO₂ per capita per year compared with the OECD

average of 2.56kg). However, demand within Switzerland amounts to a total of 23.5kg of CO₂, as emissions produced abroad account for almost two thirds of the country's carbon footprint. Switzerland's financial industry has the greatest climate impact of any sector, causing twenty times more greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions than the entire nation—a figure that is on the same scale as the territorial GHG emissions of Japan or Germany.

Oceans

Even though Switzerland is a landlocked country, the discharge of its rivers (especially the Rhine, Rhône, Ticino and Inn) contributes to marine pollution. In 2015, for example, 40869 tonnes of total nitrogen were measured in the Rhine near Basel. (Micro)plastics and pesticides are also carried out to sea via Switzerland's rivers. In addition, Switzerland puts pressure on the oceans through its consumption of marine produce. In 2016, it imported more than 30000 tonnes of saltwater fish (not including salmon).⁴ That is three times more than is ecologically sustainable⁵, thus contributing to the decline of fish stocks and species.

Terrestrial ecosystems

Almost half of all 235 types of habitat in Switzerland are under threat, as are 79% of all reptiles, 62% of amphibians and a total of 36% of all the surveyed species. That is a higher proportion than in neighbouring countries. The number of habitats, birds and vascular plants under threat continues to decline.⁶ Some fish species, such as the *Zingel asper*, still face an extremely high risk of extinction.

The main causes include the intensive use of land and bodies of water, the spread of human settlements and fragmentation of the landscape, atmospheric deposits in the soil, particularly from agricultural sources (ammonia/nitrogen, pesticides), and the spread of invasive alien species.

Spread of human settlements and fragmentation of the landscape: From 1985 to 2009, the share of land given over to settlement areas rose by 23%, mainly at the expense of agricultural land. However, semi-natural areas were also affected.⁷ Land fragmentation in the Swiss Plateau region has doubled over the past 30 years.

River regulation: Around one-fifth of Swiss watercourses today are either completely artificial, heavily damaged or culverted, making it impossible for aquatic organisms to live in them. 75% of the country's fish species are either critically endangered or extinct.

Pollution: Nitrogen deposits from agriculture and combustion (especially ammonia) are so high that, apart from the mountain regions, the entire country is highly over-fertilised. The critical loads for nitrogen have long since been exceeded, with deposits 50 times higher than they should be⁸. This causes huge changes to extensive ecosystems such as moorland, dry meadows and pastures, and forests, with typical species dying out. The decline in insect numbers is just one of the consequences of the widespread use of pesticides.⁹

> see chapter Agriculture and food systems

Impact on other countries of consumption: Consumption, which has been on the rise for decades, is one of the main contributors to biodiversity loss. Two thirds of the associated biodiversity footprint is generated abroad as Switzerland is unable to cover its own consumption-based needs. The use of land in other countries to produce peat, soya, palm oil etc., and for mining, takes a toll on ecosystems such as rainforests and moorlands.

Shortcomings

Climate

While there is a CO₂ levy on (thermal) fossil fuels, Switzerland has no taxation measures in place to deter the use of motor fuels. There is a definite need for action here, as 32% of total emissions are caused by fuels of this kind used in transportation.

In addition, there are no workable regulations in the financial marketplace, a sector in which Switzerland wields the most leverage for making an impact on climate change. The revision of the CO₂ Act got under way in December 2017 but, here too, suggestions for effectively regulating the **financial sector** are lacking.

> see chapter Foreign economic policy and international tax issues

Oceans

Switzerland must generally continue to reduce harmful emissions, avoid (micro)plastics and improve wastewater treatment, e.g. by separating out rainwater and creating a chemical level in wastewater treatment plants. There are no rules on importing fish.

Life on land

As well as the measures referred to in the chapter on “**Agriculture and food systems**”, protecting valuable areas is another important instrument when it comes to realising SDG 15 (Protect terrestrial ecosystems). However, only 6.2% of the country has been designated as a national conservation area, with a further 3% enjoying protected status at cantonal level. Neither is there any binding concept for somehow linking these areas. Compared to the rest of Europe, Switzerland is lagging way behind when it comes to protected areas.¹⁰

> see chapter Agriculture and food systems

Although a number of welcome steps have been taken, such as the introduction of biodiversity incentives and setting of environmental targets for the agricultural sector based on legal requirements, not to mention the adoption of the Swiss Biodiversity Strategy, the country still has a long way to go towards reaching the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets set by the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010. An analysis conducted by three Swiss environmental NGOs—BirdLife Switzerland, Pro Natura and WWF Switzerland¹¹—shows that not only has no progress been made on 67% of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the situation has even deteriorated with regard to a further 11%.

Legal deficits: Although the conservation of nature is, on the whole, well-embedded in the Swiss legal system, several points are still in need of improvement. For instance, there are not yet any arrangements in place for protecting the sites that form part of the Emerald Network.¹² This matter must be given greater weight overall. So as not to undermine biodiversity efforts in third countries, a new article must be introduced to the Constitution requiring companies based in Switzerland to take responsibility for their subsidiaries abroad and ensure they respect international human rights and environment standards. There is likewise a lack of regulation preventing the import of products such as **palm oil** that are damaging to biodiversity.

> see chapter Agriculture and food systems

Implementation deficits: Nature conservation measures are not being implemented in full at federal and cantonal level owing to a lack of resources. Thus, for example, the CHF 108 million in funding that is available each year for updating the national biotope inventory is much lower than the actual amount required (CHF 126 million)¹³.

The obvious crisis in biodiversity and urgent need for action have barely registered in the public mind or in the political arena. In 2013, a mere 21% of Swiss were of the opinion that the country’s biodiversity is suffering¹⁴—a belief that has no basis whatsoever in scientific fact.¹⁵

Recommendations

Climate

1. The financial market must engage in fossil fuel divestment and stop investing in infrastructures that are not climate compatible.
2. Moreover, reducing GHG emissions is key; in particular, a comprehensive levy that covers all greenhouse gases must be introduced and must include the following: extending the CO₂ levy imposed on industry to include all greenhouse gases; introducing a tax on “dirty power”, i.e. energy from non-renewable sources (including imports); increasing the CO₂ levy on fuel;

introducing a GHG levy on imports; introducing vehicle charges on private cars (based on the size and weight of the vehicles) and an incentive tax on motor fuels; introducing a carbon tax on all tickets for flights from Switzerland; and moving transport from road to rail.

Oceans

- Switzerland's adverse impact on the world's oceans must be brought to a halt: measures required to achieve this include banning and reducing deposits of certain materials (microplastics, ammonia); enhancing wastewater treatment (both qualitatively and quantitatively); and creating incentives to reduce the consumption of species that are overfished right through to establishing an import ban on certain species and fishing practices.

Life on land

- A state-backed communication campaign is required to raise awareness of the problem. In addition, each new piece of legislation must be examined in terms of its potential impacts on nature and the environment.
- Nature conservation must receive sufficient funding to enable it to perform its assigned tasks properly. Incentives that are damaging to biodiversity must be identified and eliminated. The Swiss Biodiversity Strategy and official Biodiversity Action Plan must take note of the inputs from the civil society action plan, and be given the financial and human resources needed to implement it as quickly as possible.
- An effective ecological infrastructure must be established by 2020; this should cover 17% of Swiss territory and satisfy the requirements of the Bern Convention for implementing the Emerald Network. An ecosystem map of all habitats throughout Switzerland should be drawn up as a basis for this.

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A peace-based approach to shaping Swiss policy

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Peace and justice in the SDGs

Sustainable development is impossible without peace and justice. At the same time, peaceful and inclusive societies require economic, political and social growth. This relationship was acknowledged in the 2030 Agenda by SDG 16. With the Pathfinders initiative³, Switzerland is supporting a comprehensive approach to addressing those points at which peace and justice intersect with the other SDGs. The reciprocal influence is particularly strong in the following areas:

SDG 1: Poverty. In combination with inequality and the marginalisation of certain sections of society, poverty remains one of the primary causes of conflict. At the same time, war and armed conflict destroy economic and social infrastructures, resulting in a rise in poverty.

SDG 4: Education is absolutely crucial to enabling citizens to make informed decisions in referenda, for example. It also facilitates peaceful solutions to conflict. At the same time, war and conflict hinder access to education, or result in it being instrumentalised to indoctrinate society.

SDG 5: Gender equality is key to peaceful and inclusive societies, and is hindered by armed conflict and violence.

SDG 8: Sustainable economic growth that focuses on the basic needs of the population is essential to peace and justice. Meanwhile, wars are one of the main reasons for economic collapse and for economies being geared to security and defence, rather than to social and ecological concerns.

SDG 10: Inequality, in combination with discrimination against socially weak groups such as migrants and

young people, is one of the principal causes of social conflict in Europe. At the global level, inequality between nations poses a challenge for peace and justice.

SDG 11: Sustainable cities can help to prevent conflict and offer models for peaceful and inclusive societies. However, urban areas are increasingly the setting for criminal violence and armed conflict, which impacts dramatically on the infrastructure they need to achieve other goals such as eradicating poverty, and providing education and decent work.

SDG 17: Partnerships between countries can help to bring about a paradigm shift in security policy towards human security and disarmament. That said, war and armed conflict make it more difficult to establish stable, equitable partnerships.

Switzerland and neutrality

Switzerland sees itself as a peaceful nation. As depository of the Geneva Conventions, it also has a special responsibility—one of the reasons for the country's neutrality. In the light of the two world wars, that neutrality took on an increasing ideological significance in the 20th century, to the point that it became unquestioned. During the Cold War, it was used to justify an unprecedented increase in Switzerland's military might and the adoption of a "total defence" strategy combining military and civilian action. Neutrality was so firmly and dogmatically rooted in the Swiss population's consciousness that the 1986 attempt by the Federal Council and Parliament to join the UN was roundly defeated by the electorate.

By 1992, thinking had progressed far enough for membership and involvement in the Bretton Woods institutions (the IMF and World Bank) to achieve a

clear referendum majority. More than 80% of the electorate also voted in favour of introducing civil defence duty as an alternative to national military service. However, in December 1992 accession to the EEA was defeated by the narrowest of margins (a 50.3% “no” vote). Even today, the result continues to make Swiss-EU relations emotionally charged. Then, in 1994, a “Blue Helmet Act” which would have provided the legal basis for Swiss armed forces to participate in UN peace missions foundered at the referendum stage.²

By contrast, after the end of the Cold War the adoption of the complete overhaul of the Federal Constitution in 1999, with the resulting extension of the aims of the state, opened Switzerland further to the world: “It is committed to the long term preservation of natural resources and to a just and peaceful international order”.

The reform of the Armed Forces Act subsequently resulted—in June 2001—in a second vote on Swiss participation in UN peacekeeping missions. The SVP political party and the GSoA group for a Switzerland without armed forces challenged the Act in a referendum, but were narrowly defeated. This probably also generated momentum for the memorable outcome of the referendum of March 2002 in which Switzerland decided to join the UN.

A new understanding of peace and security

Accession to the UN meant that Swiss neutrality largely lost its significance.³ However, this has had only a marginal effect on Swiss security policy and the country’s armed forces to date. Autonomous defence remains the cornerstone of this policy, and participation in the UN’s system of collective security is only the number three priority.⁴ Autonomous national defence also serves as justification for the **need to export war materials**. Here, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda offers the opportunity for a fundamental paradigm shift that would allow Switzerland not only to stop such exports, and the associated financing deals, but also in particular to cut its military spending sharply. The resources **that this would release** could be used to strengthen the basic interests of the 2030 Agenda in peacebuilding, development cooperation, and promoting social equity around the world. This reorientation of peace and security policy would lend greater legitimation to Switzerland’s participation in UN bodies, especially its candidature for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council, and would make for an even more consistent commitment to disarmament in all areas, across conventional, ABC (atomic, biological and chemical) and autonomous weapons.

> see chapter Enhanced coherence for sustainable development

> see chapter Means of implementation

At the end of 2003, the two chambers of the Swiss parliament passed the Federal Act on Measures Pertaining to Civil Peace Support and the Promotion of Human Rights. This laid the foundation for the establishment of the Human Security Division (HSD) within the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA, the latter having had a strong civil society partner in KOFF, the Swiss Platform for Peacebuilding, since 2001. The concept of human security represents a fundamental change in security policy, because it places the emphasis on the individual and on human dignity, rather than the protection of the state. This links the concept of peace and security with human rights.⁵

This new understanding of security policy was also broadened by the UN resolutions on sustaining peace⁶ which were adopted unanimously by the General Assembly and Security Council in April 2016. These make peace an ongoing task, in the sense of prevention. They also seek to mainstream peace policy and peacebuilding so that, led by the highest level of government, they then influence all other areas of policy. They are regarded as necessary at all times, not just in periods of escalating conflict and at the post-conflict phase. Switzerland’s domestic and foreign policy should also be consistently informed by these principles.

The 2030 Agenda’s SDG 16 and the UN resolutions on sustaining peace broaden the work of prevention and peacebuilding, shifting it away from the traditional agents of peace and transforming it into “peace development”, to

tackle the root causes of fragility and violence, and including efforts to establish inclusive states and institutions. They also specifically address bodies such as the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC and, in the broader sense, agencies such as the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO and the State Secretariat for Migration SEM, as well as development NGOs.

Human rights and the rule of law—still much work to be done

This interlinkage of development, security, peace and human rights in the interests of prevention comes through clearly in many of the FDFA's strategies and programmes. The HSD and the SDC support programmes to protect human rights and strengthen the rule of law in many fragile contexts characterised by conflict and violence. At the same time, however, there is a lack of balance in the domestic policy triangle of democracy, the rule of law and human rights. Switzerland still has no independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.⁷ Similarly, Switzerland continues to lack a system of constitutional review for its legislation. There have been political efforts for some time, on the part of the SVP in particular, to give popular initiatives absolute validity as a lawmaking instrument. Popular initiatives have thus been perverted, and turned from a basic democratic right into a plebiscitary stick with which to beat minorities and undermine their basic rights. It is a development that has been supported by the fact that, for some time now, the two chambers of parliament have all but abdicated their constitutional responsibility to declare popular initiatives invalid, or have interpreted the applicable conditions increasingly restrictively. This has facilitated the inclusion of a number of articles in the constitution that either violate human rights or are in breach of Switzerland's obligations under international law. Although the Federal Council and Parliament acknowledge the problem, they have failed to find a solution. It therefore remains unresolved, with the attendant risk of feeding social conflict and violations of human rights inside Swiss borders.

Recommendations

1. Peacebuilding in the sense of human security and prevention must be upgraded to the primary objective of Switzerland's entire foreign policy, and its foreign economic policy in particular. This must be based on principles for peace issued by the Federal Council.
2. Security policy and the armed forces must be aligned consistently with a concept of security through cooperation, as part of the international system of collective security. The primary remit of the Swiss armed forces should no longer be defence, but the participation of Swiss troops in UN and OSCE missions.
3. The emphasis in the federal budget must shift from military spending to peacebuilding, including development cooperation and humanitarian aid, as well as social spending. Reorienting the armed forces (recommendation 2) would make massive savings possible, with a concurrent gain in security by shifting spending to peace and social issues.
4. Ceasing to export war materials and finance the business of war is the logical conclusion of gearing foreign policy to peacebuilding (recommendation 1) and having the armed forces focus on collective security (recommendation 2). Both of these aspects must be enshrined in the federal constitution. Internationally, Switzerland should take the lead in banning nuclear weapons (in the form of a nuclear weapons convention) and autonomous weapons under international law.
5. With the political emphasis on peacebuilding and participation in collective security, it is natural that Switzerland will take on an active shared

responsibility within the UN body with primary responsibility for peace and security: the Security Council. We thus emphatically support the Swiss candidacy for 2023/24.

6. As a counterbalance to direct democracy, the rule of law must be strengthened in the interests of preventing social conflict and respecting human rights. Specifically, Switzerland must establish an independent national human rights institution, and introduce systematic constitutional reviews of its legislation as well as legal proceedings to test the validity of popular initiatives.

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Coherent foreign economic policy is essential to migration for development

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The 2030 Agenda recognises the importance of migration in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. **SDG 10.7** therefore advocates the facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

Several other targets call for migrants to be protected and supported rather than disadvantaged. SDGs 8.8, 5.2, 8.7 and 16.2 raise the issue of migrant workers, forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking, and the abuse and exploitation of children. SDGs 1.5 and 11.5 focus on preventing forced migration in vulnerable situations, and

SDG 13.1 demands that resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters be strengthened in all countries. SDG 10.c aims to reduce the transaction costs of migrant remittances substantially.

The 2030 Agenda recognises that development and migration go hand in hand. Given the universal nature of the 2030 Agenda, the call to ensure safe, orderly, and regular migration applies to all states: that is why the world's nations are currently negotiating an agreement to this effect—the Global Compact for Migration. The Compact will thus move migration and development—and their significance—**out of the narrow confines of asylum and development policy and place them in the wider context of economic, financial and trade policy.**

At the multilateral level, and with the help of civil society, the Swiss authorities played a major role in creating the migration-development nexus and ensuring it became an integral part of the 2030 Agenda. Switzerland and Mexico are currently co-facilitating the negotiations that will lead to adoption of the Global Compact, which aims to make the migration process of greater benefit to everyone involved. In his latest report on migration, the UN Secretary-General calls on member states to help migrants fulfil their economic and social potential. This is in the interests not only of the countries of origin and destination, but also the migrants themselves (thus constituting a “triple win”).¹ However, the reality is somewhat different—and Switzerland is no exception. Migrants' social and cultural rights in particular are not safeguarded, and their integration into the world of work, equality before the law and right to have a say in shaping policies and decisions remains restricted.

> see chapter Foreign economic policy and international tax issues

> see chapter Children and young people

Promoting social cohesion and participation

Under the Sustainable Development Strategy launched in 2016, Switzerland decided to pursue an active integration policy. Migrants are to be integrated into all areas of life in Switzerland quickly, with a view to their long-term future. More than one third of the Swiss population, i.e. 2.6 million mem-

bers of the resident population, comes from a migrant background.² Every eighth Swiss citizen (0.9 million people) was born outside the country and therefore has experience of migration. According to a survey on coexistence in Switzerland conducted by the Federal Statistical Office, one fifth of those questioned said they had **experienced discrimination, especially in the workplace and when job hunting**.³ The Federal Commission against Racism FCR has identified cases of serious multiple discrimination based on ethnicity, skin colour, cultural background, social status, etc.⁴ The Federal Commission on Migration FCM has issued warnings about inequality before the law in implementing the new Citizenship Act and partly revised Act on Foreign Nationals and Integration.⁵ The cantonal integration programmes are responsible for putting the national integration requirements into practice. However, this has not happened to a sufficient extent, and is handled differently from canton to canton.

> see chapter Decent work

Coherent (foreign) policy on migration

As a business, financial and trading hub, Switzerland both needs and gives rise to migration. Migration is crucial to Switzerland's status as a location for business, helping maintain its attractiveness and strong global links.

> see chapter Foreign economic policy and international tax issues

In the last few years, foreign policy on migration in the Dublin Area has been based on deterring and repatriating irregular migrants, while also calling on potential future migrants to stay in their country of origin. The Swiss parliament decided in autumn 2016 also to follow this course, advocating the prevention of migration flows by means of programmes and measures in the countries of origin and transit. To this end, **the federal administration draws on the development cooperation toolkit** and subscribes to agreements on migration (there are currently 62 repatriation or "return" agreements in effect), migration partnerships and a dialogue on migration, as well as to protection in the region of origin so that people are able to remain there. In addition, the Federal Government maintains a list of priority countries for return arrangements, with the aim of linking the repatriation dossiers to other foreign and foreign economic policy dossiers. In doing so, it hopes to widen its scope for manoeuvre in negotiations with those nations with which it has traditionally experienced difficulty in establishing cooperation on repatriation matters.⁶ What is needed, therefore, are foreign and foreign economic policy incentives that will make countries of origin more willing to readmit failed asylum seekers.

> see chapter Means of implementation

The impact of the planned instruments on global migration movements and on migration flows to Switzerland remains hypothetical and barely verifiable. Little thought has been given to the linkages between trade and economic policy as regards their impact on migration in the poorly educated labour and agricultural markets of developing and emerging economies. Is the Federal Government in the process of distorting tried-and-tested instruments of international cooperation through its current migration policy, and drawing up agreements that will neither effectively put an end to "undesired" migration nor make the long-term return of these migrants to their country of origin possible?

Recommendations

1. The cantons must make efforts to improve migrants' labour market integration, equality before the law and right to have a say, regardless of their status.
2. To achieve an effective foreign policy on migration, the Federal Government must align its economic, trade and financial policies with the goals of the 2030 Agenda, and address the topic of migration in this context. The

Federal Government must develop measures to encourage orderly, safe and regular migration. In particular, it must pay attention to the impacts on global migration of Switzerland's status as a business, financial and trading hub.

3. As far as asylum is concerned, the Federal Government must facilitate early regularisation and re-introduce the procedure of seeking asylum at an embassy. This would help curb the black market and stop people from putting their lives at risk on dangerous routes.

NOTES

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HELVETAS, Issue Sheet, Migration & Development (and other relevant publications) https://www.helvetas.org/news_blog/publication/migration.cfm

The website of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office features a variety of information on migration and integration. www.bfs.admin.ch

Federal Commission on Migration FCM www.ekm.admin.ch

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Foreign economic policy and international tax issues

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The focus here is on Goal 17, which is devoted to the global partnership that is essential to realising the 2030 Agenda. It requires all countries to strengthen the mobilisation of domestic resources for sustainable development (17.1) and the developed countries to step up their

development cooperation (17.2). Policy coherence for sustainable development (17.14), sufficient decision-making scope for individual countries to implement policies for sustainable development, and fair trade relations (17.10-17.12) are further crucial factors. The targets relating to taxation and the

financial markets also play a key role, including target 16.4 that aims to curb illicit financial flows, and target 10.5 on regulating the financial markets. Targets affecting agricultural trade policy, such as target 2.b, should also be mentioned.

The 2030 Agenda calls upon prosperous countries like Switzerland to significantly increase their investments in international development cooperation—a requirement that Switzerland is sadly **failing to meet at present**. First and foremost, however, in the interests of policy coherence for sustainable development, these countries must design their international financial and tax policies in such a way as to mobilise financial resources at the local level and ensure that these policies now promote—rather than hinder—sustainable development in countries that are less well off. Trade policy in particular presents a number of key challenges, specifically with regard to commodities trading, curbing illicit financial flows and cross-border profit shifting by multinationals for tax reasons.

Switzerland bears a great deal of responsibility in all of these areas. Not only is it one of the world's major financial centres and a global leader in cross-border asset management, where it has a 30% market share, it is also home to a large number of multinational corporations. Many of these companies are involved in commodities trading. For that reason, it is hardly surprising to learn that Switzerland handles around 20% of the global trade in commodities¹. Nevertheless, the Federal Council refuses to adopt transparency requirements that would enable misuse and corruption in commodities trading to be uncovered. In its proposed revision of company law, it follows the EU's example by restricting itself to transparency rules that apply to companies in the extractive sector only, with no impact on commodities trading—the very sector that is so important to Switzerland.

On the whole, Switzerland's foreign economic policy and its international financial and tax policies still have a long way to go in ensuring that sufficient, consistent consideration is given to global respect for human rights and the requirements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A number of Swiss NGOs recently joined forces to produce a detailed report in which they pointed out various questionable gaps². In a report submitted to the Human Rights Council following his official country visit to Switzerland, UN expert Juan-Pablo Bohaslovsky drew particular attention to deficiencies in curbing

> see chapter Education policy challenges

illicit financial flows and problems in relation to international corporate taxation³.

Foreign economic policy: trade and investment

The 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals have yet to feature in the Federal Council's strategy on foreign economic affairs. However, this is partly due to the fact that the strategy, originally formulated in 2004, was last revised and updated in 2011. Although the principle of sustainable development is mentioned in the strategy, it is merely alluded to as a task for economic development cooperation. It is high time, therefore, for the Federal Council to draw up a new foreign economic strategy in which it embeds implementation of the 2030 Agenda and policy coherence for sustainable development as key strategic tasks.

It should be noted that companies registered in Switzerland are still under no obligation to screen their foreign direct investments and supply chains for human-rights risks and potential environmental damage. Instead of adopting a “smart mix” of legally binding measures in its National Action Plan for implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the Federal Council places its faith entirely in voluntary corporate social responsibility. A **popular initiative** that has now gained the support of some 100 civil society organisations seeks to remedy this situation⁴. The Federal Council has recommended that Parliament and the electorate reject the initiative.

As far as its **free trade agreements** are concerned, in the past Switzerland—mostly acting together with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), but occasionally also on a bilateral basis (e.g. with China)—has entered into agreements that fail to include specific protective clauses regarding human rights and sustainable development. Although it strives to include these human rights clauses and chapters on sustainability in ongoing negotiations, it nevertheless seems more than willing to make concessions in this area. Neither is Switzerland afraid to enter into negotiations with countries that have not signed the relevant international **environmental agreements** or conventions on labour, and in which the human rights situation is precarious. This makes the Federal Council's continued refusal—despite the submission of a variety of parliamentary procedural requests on the subject—to review free trade agreements prior to signing for their impact on human rights and **other aspects of sustainable development all the more alarming.**

At the same time, subsidies and non-tariff protective measures that support Swiss farmers in the international agricultural market considerably distort competition. **Ultimately**, it is farming enterprises in developing countries that adopt sustainable production methods which suffer. Although Switzerland is currently in the process of phasing out its export subsidies for agricultural products under pressure from the WTO, it is replacing them with compensation measures that have the exact same effect. Direct payments are now to be made to producers that act as suppliers to the export-driven food industry. In other words, Switzerland still has a great deal to do in terms of correcting competition-distorting measures in the agricultural sector.

> see chapter Enhanced coherence for sustainable development

> see chapter Means of implementation

> see chapter Enhanced coherence for sustainable development

> see chapter Planet and environment

> see chapter Enhanced coherence for sustainable development

> see chapter Agriculture and food systems

Financial and tax issues: illicit financial flows and corporate taxation

The Federal Council's most recent strategy report on Switzerland as a financial hub neglects to mention the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.⁵ The same is true of the “Report on International Financial and Tax Matters” published each year by the Federal Department of Finance. The fact that this department's main remit also has a part to play in achieving the SDGs seems to have escaped its notice thus far.

In both these documents, the fight against illicit financial flows from developing countries to Switzerland is referred to purely as a development cooper-

ation task, thus creating the impression that the countries of origin are solely responsible for such flows. However, in demanding a significant reduction in illicit financial flows, the 2030 Agenda also addresses the destination countries, which are urgently called upon to take effective measures to combat untaxed or illegally obtained assets.

There is still a considerable amount of work to be done by Switzerland in this respect. In an evaluation conducted at the end of 2016 by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF/GAFI), the body that develops international standards on combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism, Switzerland's measures to prevent money laundering were found to contain a wide range of shortcomings. The country is called upon to remedy the situation by the end of 2019. The Federal Council has announced it will present a draft package of follow-up measures by mid-2018; however the results remain to be seen.

What is clear is that Switzerland has agreed to the automatic exchange of financial account information in tax matters (AEOI) with numerous countries in recent years. However, actually putting these agreements into practice will entail far-reaching data protection obligations. And low-income countries are nowhere to be found on Switzerland's list of AEOI partners, which currently comprises OECD member states and a select few of the more advanced emerging economies.

Switzerland's official reason for excluding poorer countries from the AEOI is that these nations have not signed the requisite multilateral conventions. However, one option available to Switzerland would be to agree to set up pilot projects for the introduction of AEOI in certain developing countries, under which it provisionally waives the reciprocity requirement for the partner jurisdictions. Unlike other industrialised nations, Switzerland has not yet seized this opportunity.

Lastly, the existing Swiss tax privileges for the foreign earnings of multinational corporations are extremely problematic in terms of implementing the 2030 Agenda. They create huge incentives to shift profits to Switzerland—and transfers of this kind are causing developing countries to lose hundreds of billions in potential tax revenues. (According to International Monetary Fund estimates, the figure amounts to some USD 200 billion a year.) Although the Federal Council intends to abolish the current tax privileges in its plans to reform company taxation in Switzerland (commonly known as "Tax Proposal 17"), it also means to replace them with measures that will ultimately have the same effect (patent boxes, general reductions in corporate taxes, etc.). In other words, the practice of transferring profits from abroad—especially from poorer countries—to Switzerland will remain attractive for multinationals.

Recommendations

1. Switzerland's official foreign economic strategy and financial market strategy must be aligned with the 2030 Agenda and revised accordingly in the interests of policy coherence for sustainable development.
2. In addition to reforming the way companies are taxed, investment protection and fair trade agreements must be thoroughly scrutinised for relevant impacts on sustainable development. Agreements that could be damaging to sustainable development in partner countries should not be entered into, and any such agreements should be free of potentially damaging content.
3. Actions to counter illicit financial flows (including the automatic exchange of information on tax matters) must be designed to include financial flows from developing countries, as required by the 2030 Agenda.
4. In redesigning subsidies and non-tariff protective measures for Swiss agriculture, care must be taken to ensure that sustainable production methods are promoted both at home and abroad, and that such measures do not put less privileged economies at a competitive disadvantage.

NOTES

- 1 Public Eye: Commodities, <https://www.publiceye.ch/en/topics-background/commodities-trade/commodities/>
- 2 Foreign Policy Working Group of the NGO-Plattform Human Rights: Finanzplatz Schweiz und Menschenrechte: Weissgeldstrategie mit schwarzen Löchern, in: [Wo bleibt die Kohärenz? Menschenrechte und die Schweizer Aussenpolitik](#), 2017, p. 24–25.
- 3 Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky: [Report of the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, on his visit to Switzerland—Advanced Edited Version](#), ohchr, 15. März 2018.
- 4 Responsible Business Initiative: www.konzern-initiative.ch
- 5 Federal Department of Finance FDF: [Financial market policy for a competitive Swiss financial centre](#), October 2016

Appendix

Agenda 2030



Goal 1.

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

- 1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day
- 1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
- 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
- 1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

- 1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions
- 1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions

Goal 2.

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

- 2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
- 2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons
- 2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and op-

opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

- 2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality
- 2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed
- 2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries
- 2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round
- 2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- 3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100 000 live births

3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1 000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1 000 live births

3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases

3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol

3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate

3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on

Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all

3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States

3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable

development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

- 4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all
- 4.b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries
- 4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
- 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportuni-

ties for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

- 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
- 5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
- 5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- 5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- 6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
- 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
- 6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity

6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

- 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
- 6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies
- 6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

- 7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
- 7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
- 7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency
- 7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology
- 7.b By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, and land-locked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support

Goal 8.
Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- 8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries
- 8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors
- 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
- 8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead
- 8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
- 8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
- 8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms
- 8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment

8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

8.a Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries

8.b By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization

Goal 9.
Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all

9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries

9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets

9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities

9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of

industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending

9.a Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities

9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020

Goal 10.
Reduce inequality within and among countries

10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations

- 10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions
- 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies
- 10.a Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements
- 10.b Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes
- 10.c By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent
- 11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
- 11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
- 11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
- 11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
- 11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
- 11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels
- 11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials
- 12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
- 12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses
- 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
- 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
- 12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle
- 12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities
- 12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature

Goal 11.
Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

- 11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
- 11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
- 11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

Goal 12.
Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

- 12.1 Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries
- 12.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production
- 12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
- 12.c Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*

- 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
- 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
- 13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
- 13.a Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible
- 13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

- 14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
- 14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for

their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

- 14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels
- 14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics
- 14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information
- 14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation
- 14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism
- 14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries
- 14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

- 14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want

Goal 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

- 15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements
- 15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
- 15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world
- 15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development
- 15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species
- 15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed
- 15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both

demand and supply of illegal wildlife products

- 15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species
- 15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts
- 15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems
- 15.b Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation
- 15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities

Goal 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

- 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
- 16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime
- 16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
- 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

- 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- 16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
- 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
- 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements
- 16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
- 16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

Goal 17.

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

- 17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection
- 17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries
- 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources
- 17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring,

as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress

- 17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

Technology

- 17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism
- 17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed
- 17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology

Capacity-building

- 17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

Trade

- 17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda
- 17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020

17.12 Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access

Systemic issues

Policy and institutional coherence

17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence

17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

17.15 Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development

Multi-stakeholder partnerships

17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

Data, monitoring and accountability

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries.

Which chapter refers to which SDG?

SDG 1

Lead chapter

- Poverty in Switzerland

Chapter referring to SDG 1

- Agriculture and food systems in Switzerland
- Good health for everyone – in Switzerland and around the world
- Education policy challenges in Switzerland
- Women's* rights and gender equality in Switzerland
- Decent work – challenges for Switzerland
- People with disabilities are still not treated equally
- Planet and environment: urgent need for greater awareness – and action!
- A peace-based approach to shaping Swiss policy
- Coherent foreign economic policy is essential to migration for development

SDG 2

Chapter referring to SDG 2

- Agriculture and food systems in Switzerland
- Good health for everyone – in Switzerland and around the world
- Planet and environment: urgent need for greater awareness – and action!
- Foreign economic policy and international tax issues

SDG 3

Lead chapter

- Good health for everyone – in Switzerland and around the world

Chapter referring to SDG 3

- Poverty in Switzerland
- Education policy challenges in Switzerland
- Children and young people at the heart of development
- People with disabilities are still not treated equally
- Planet and environment: urgent need for greater awareness – and action!

SDG 4

Lead chapter

- Education policy challenges in Switzerland

Chapter referring to SDG 4

- Poverty in Switzerland
- Good health for everyone – in Switzerland and around the world
- Women's* rights and gender equality in Switzerland
- Children and young people at the heart of development

- People with disabilities are still not treated equally
- A peace-based approach to shaping Swiss policy

SDG 5

Lead chapter

- Women's* rights and gender equality in Switzerland

Chapter referring to SDG 5

- Poverty in Switzerland
- Good health for everyone – in Switzerland and around the world
- Decent work – challenges for Switzerland
- Children and young people at the heart of development
- People with disabilities are still not treated equally
- A peace-based approach to shaping Swiss policy
- Coherent foreign economic policy is essential to migration for development

SDG 6

Chapter referring to SDG 6

- Good health for everyone – in Switzerland and around the world
- Planet and environment: urgent need for greater awareness – and action!

SDG 8

Lead chapter

- Decent work – challenges for Switzerland

Chapter referring to SDG 8

- Poverty in Switzerland
- Agriculture and food systems in Switzerland
- Good health for everyone – in Switzerland and around the world
- Education policy challenges in Switzerland
- Women's* rights and gender equality in Switzerland
- Sustainable consumption and production
- Children and young people at the heart of development
- People with disabilities are still not treated equally
- Planet and environment: urgent need for greater awareness – and action!
- A peace-based approach to shaping Swiss policy
- Coherent foreign economic policy is essential to migration for development

SDG 9

Chapter referring to SDG 9

- Sustainable consumption and production
- People with disabilities are still not treated equally

SDG 10

Chapter referring to SDG 10

- Means of implementation: invest and regulate sustainably
- Good health for everyone – in Switzerland and around the world
- Education policy challenges in Switzerland
- Women's* rights and gender equality in Switzerland
- Decent work – challenges for Switzerland
- Children and young people at the heart of development
- People with disabilities are still not treated equally
- A peace-based approach to shaping Swiss policy
- Coherent foreign economic policy is essential to migration for development
- Foreign economic policy and international tax issues

SDG 11

Chapter referring to SDG 11

- Good health for everyone – in Switzerland and around the world
- Sustainable consumption and production
- People with disabilities are still not treated equally
- A peace-based approach to shaping Swiss policy
- Coherent foreign economic policy is essential to migration for development

SDG 12

Lead chapter

- Sustainable consumption and production

Chapter referring to SDG 12

- Good health for everyone – in Switzerland and around the world
- Planet and environment: urgent need for greater awareness – and action!

SDG 13

Lead chapter

- Planet and environment: urgent need for greater awareness – and action!

Chapter referring to SDG 13

- Agriculture and food systems in Switzerland
- Good health for everyone – in Switzerland and around the world
- Coherent foreign economic policy is essential to migration for development

SDG 14

Lead chapter

- Planet and environment: urgent need for greater awareness – and action!

SDG 15

Lead chapter

- Planet and environment: urgent need for greater awareness – and action!

Chapter referring to SDG 15

- Agriculture and food systems in Switzerland

SDG 16

Lead chapter

- A peace-based approach to shaping Swiss policy

Chapter referring to SDG 16

- Means of implementation: invest and regulate sustainably
- Good health for everyone – in Switzerland and around the world
- Women's* rights and gender equality in Switzerland
- Decent work – challenges for Switzerland
- Children and young people at the heart of development
- People with disabilities are still not treated equally
- Planet and environment: urgent need for greater awareness – and action!
- Coherent foreign economic policy is essential to migration for development
- Foreign economic policy and international tax issues

SDG 17

Lead chapter

- Means of implementation: invest and regulate sustainably

Chapter referring to SDG 17

- Enhanced coherence for sustainable development requires new instruments
- People with disabilities are still not treated equally
- A peace-based approach to shaping Swiss policy
- Foreign economic policy and international tax issues



Platform Agenda 2030

The “Platform Agenda 2030” represents collaboration among more than 40 civil society actors engaged in development cooperation, environmental protection, gender, peace, sustainable business and trade unions. We are working towards implementing the Agenda 2030 within Switzerland as well as elsewhere. It is important for us to consider and promote the Agenda in its entirety.

Our objectives are:

- The organisations involved in the platform will, wherever possible, jointly address key issues and contradictions in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. They will recommend action on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Swiss policy makers and administrations, other decision-makers and the interested public. The platform enables structured dialogue and exchange between different actors, thus promoting cooperation between civil society actors, as well as facilitating partnerships. Through such exchange among the organisations, the platform promotes the inclusion of various perspectives and will contribute to a better understanding of interconnections between the SDGs.
- The platform raises awareness of and provides information about Agenda 2030.

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Platform Agenda 2030

