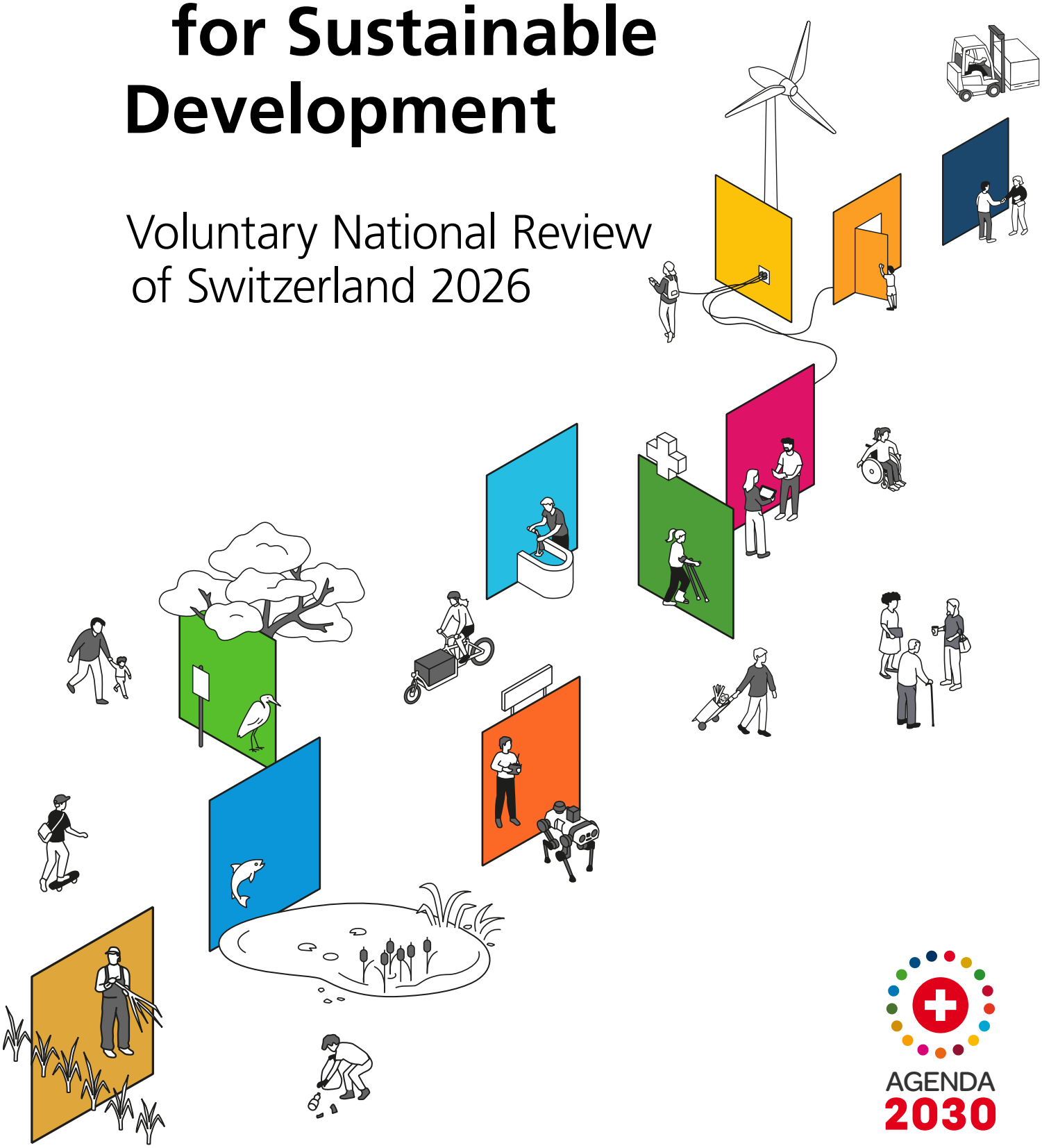
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Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Voluntary National Review of Switzerland 2026



AGENDA 2030

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1 Foreword



Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, the international landscape has changed fundamentally. Recent years have been marked by geopolitical tensions, security challenges and growing restrictions on financial and political scope for action.

These developments have a direct impact on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. What was originally conceived as a comprehensive transformation agenda is now increasingly seen as a reference framework. Its goals remain relevant, but under current conditions they are neither achievable in all areas nor to the extent originally envisaged.

This country report presents a nuanced interim assessment: progress has been made in some areas, while in others the challenges remain considerable. Conflicting objectives, limited resources and the growing complexity of global relations are increasingly shaping implementation.

The report also makes it clear that sustainable development is not an abstract concept, but requires concrete political prioritisation. This presupposes a clear distinction between facts, assessments and interests. Particularly in an environment where numerous actors are simultaneously involved in both problem analysis and implementation, analytical distance is crucial for political governance.

For the Federal Council, the 2030 Agenda remains an important framework. Its implementation takes place within the framework of the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy (2030 SDS), taking into account the changed geopolitical and economic realities as well as Switzerland's domestic policy priorities.

Switzerland will continue to advocate for sustainable development – with a pragmatic approach that prioritises impact over rhetoric. This also involves clearly defining our own language and concepts and placing them in a context that is understandable globally.

International Geneva remains a key location for facilitating dialogue, building trust and developing viable solutions – particularly in the face of profound changes to multilateralism.



Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis
Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)

2 Introduction

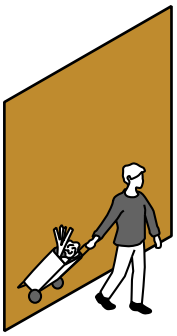
In 2015, Switzerland joined with the other UN member states in adopting the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The objective is to promote prosperity for all, within Earth's planetary boundaries, as part of a shared vision.

However, implementation is hampered by global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, economic uncertainty, growing inequalities and geopolitical tensions. At the same time, progress is evident in areas such as access to education and electricity, as well as maternal and child health and digital connectivity. Although this progress is not sufficient to achieve the SDGs' ambitious targets by 2030 (see Global SDG Report 2025), it inspires and motivates us to push on towards them.

With the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy (2030 SDS) Switzerland is focusing on the areas where it sees the greatest need for action.

The Voluntary National Review as a vehicle for monitoring and dialogue

Switzerland had campaigned for a strong review process as part of the original UN negotiations on the 2030 Agenda. Following on from the reports of 2016, 2018 and 2022, now in 2026 it presents what is already its fourth Voluntary National Review (VNR). This VNR focuses on developments since 2022 and also serves as an interim report on the implementation of the 2030 SDS.

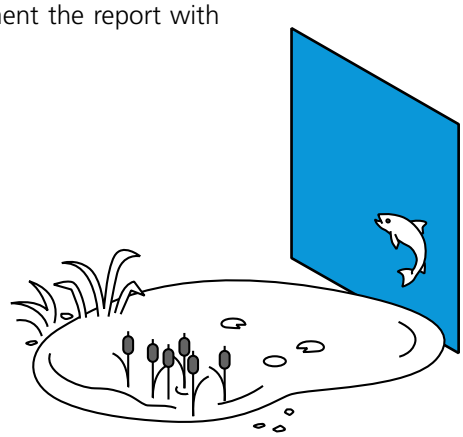


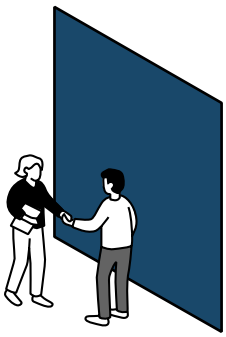
The Federal Council is implementing the 2030 Agenda through the 2030 SDS and the action plans for 2021–23 and 2024–27. At the same time, it calls on non-state actors to fulfil their role as drivers of sustainable development. Cantons, cities and communes are also invited to systematically integrate sustainable development into their planning processes. The 2030 SDS defines the following priority themes, which form the key focus areas of this report:

– Sustainable consumption and sustainable production
– Climate, energy and biodiversity
– Equal opportunities and social cohesion



For the first time, the VNR also gives a direct voice to actors from civil society, the business sector, the financial sector and academia. From their diverse perspectives, they highlight what is already being done today to secure a sustainable future and where the challenges lie – for example, in the impacts of our consumption and production. These contributions are summarised primarily in section 5; they reflect the views of the respective actors and should not be interpreted as statements by the Federal Council. They supplement the report with additional perspectives without prejudging its overall assessment.



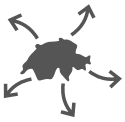


Basis of information for the 2026 Voluntary National Review

The 2026 VNR is based on statistical and qualitative data. Statistical data from the Confederation's MONET 2030 indicator system reveal the quantitatively measurable developments in sustainable development in Switzerland (see statistical annex).

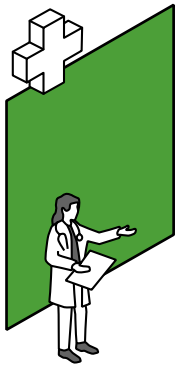
The Confederation also conducted supplementary consultations on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Using the SDGital2030 platform, the current status of implementation was assessed by around 600 subject matter experts from all federal government departments, plus some 140 actors from outside the Confederation, including 15 from the cantons and 24 from Switzerland's cities and communes. The participatory process encouraged exchange on the topic and provided a more comprehensive picture of the progress and challenges faced by various actors. The outcomes can be viewed on the platform. In addition, this VNR gives the four actor groups – civil society, business, the financial market and the education, research and innovation (ERI) sector – the opportunity to present their contributions to implementation, and to pinpoint obstacles and potential.

Focus on spillovers



This VNR pays special attention to spillover effects, defined as cross-border economic, social and environmental impacts. They encompass the consequences of deliberate action such as international cooperation or direct investment abroad, as well as the indirect impacts of policies and behaviours with regard to consumption, trade or production, for example. Their impacts can be measured bilaterally, multilaterally or globally, and qualified as positive or negative. Spillovers therefore represent a central challenge to policy coherence on sustainable development.

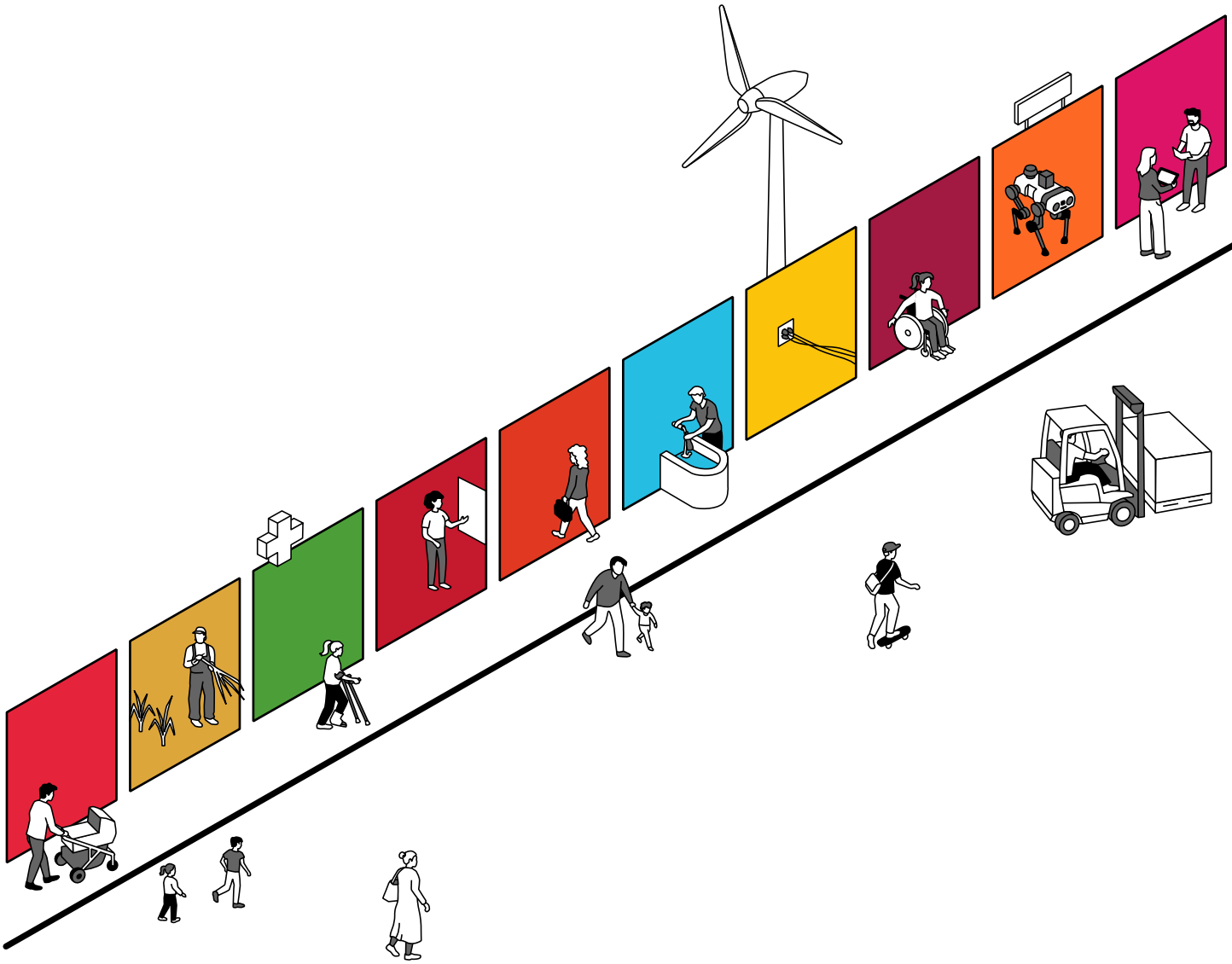
Since 2008, Switzerland has had its own specially developed set of indicators to record spillover effects. Since 2022, the analysis has been deepened in terms of methodology and content by revising the set of indicators and analysing key chains of results (measure 2 of the 2024–27 Action Plan). It was found that Switzerland's most significant spillover effects occur in connection with international supply chains, cross-border infrastructures, the global financial system and international security and stability. Examples of selected spillover effects of Switzerland can be found in the text boxes in sections 4 and 6.

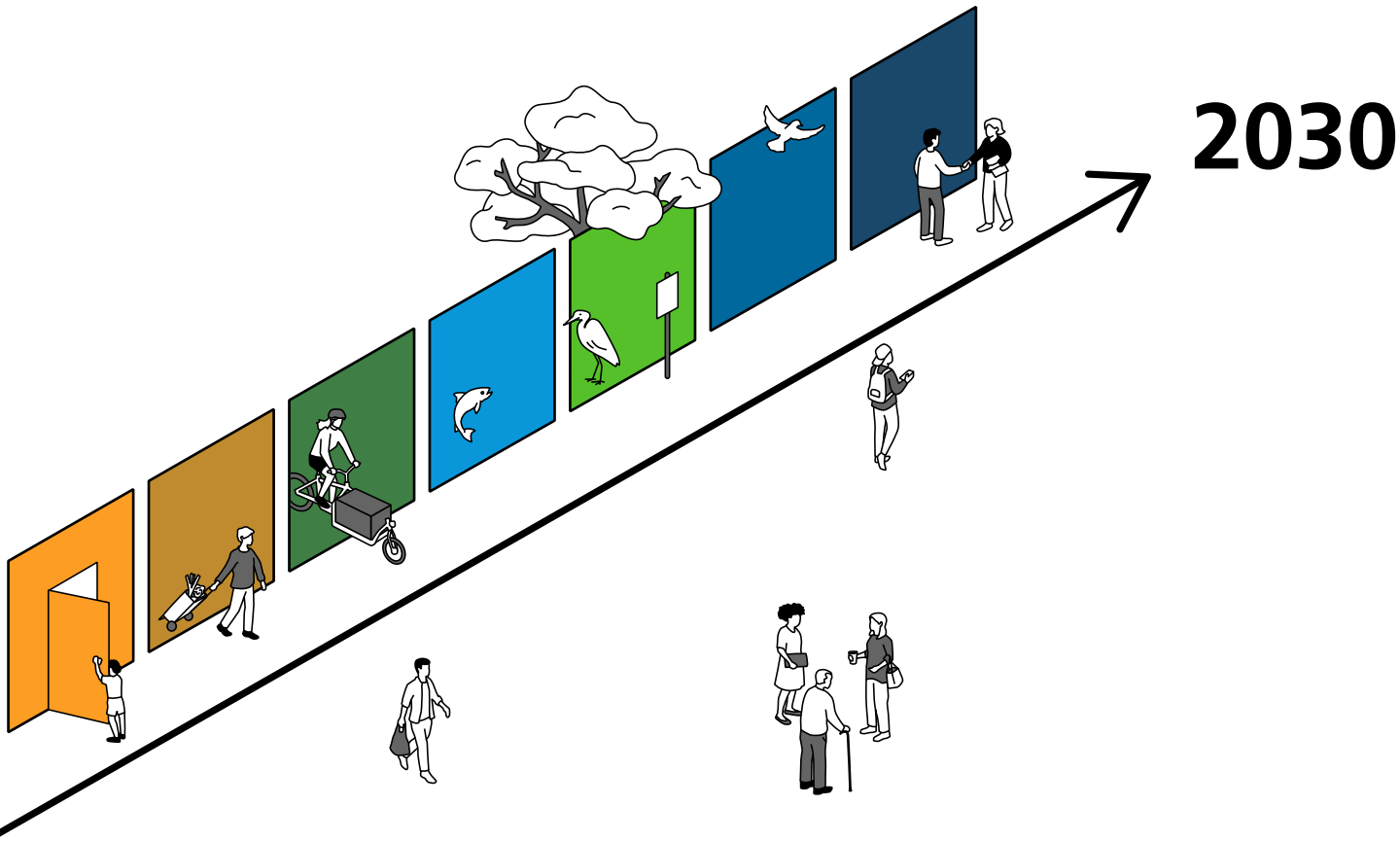






Voluntary National Review – a brief summary





Despite a fundamentally good starting position, the interim review of Switzerland's implementation of the 2030 Agenda shows uneven progress. Although positive trends can be seen in areas such as the circular economy, renewable energies and equality, progress is still too slow. Under current conditions, targets for sustainable consumption, the climate, biodiversity, reducing poverty, affordable housing and discrimination will be difficult to achieve by 2030. Although progress has been made with new strategies, a reformed legal framework, participatory approaches and funding instruments, conflicting objectives and a lack of resources are obstructing their implementation. The impacts in the areas mentioned not only concern Switzerland domestically, but are also happening globally. This review therefore highlights some positive – and some negative – spillovers. Overall, all actors will need to step up their efforts significantly to realise the Agenda by 2030.

3 Developments since 2022

Better coordination and new strategic instruments

The Confederation's organisational structure for implementing the 2030 Agenda is overseen strategically by the 2030 Agenda Steering Committee (ASC), which is composed of key personnel from all departments and the Federal Chancellery as well as the two Federal Council delegates for the 2030 Agenda from the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC).

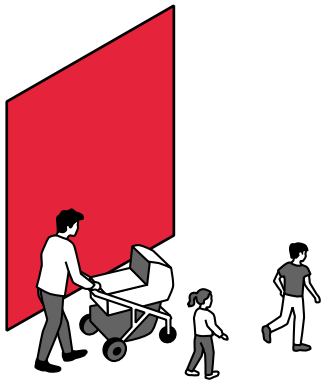
The organisational structure also includes the 2030 Agenda Advisory Group (AAG). It acts as a bridge between the Confederation and the non-state actor groups, and advises the ASC. The AAG is made up of 18 prominent figures from civil society, business, finance and academia. It was given greater weight in 2022 as its membership was expanded and its inclusion in the Confederation's sustainability policy was formalised, thus regularising dialogue between actor groups and government.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy (2030 SDS) and its associated 2024–27 Action Plan with its 22 measures are binding on all federal government policy portfolios (see text box on measure 16 below). Within the scope of their authorities, each Confederation body must contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by integrating its principles and goals into their planning, budgeting and policy processes.

The Federal Administration acts as a role model for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Report on Sustainability in the Federal Administration 2022–23 explains how it fulfils this role in its capacity as purchaser, owner of autonomous entities, investor, employer and consumer of natural resources.

Measure 16 of the 2030 SDS Action Plan: Develop an action plan to combat the housing shortage

The housing shortage in Switzerland is worsening owing to the rising number of households and only a slight increase in housing supply. This also undermines social diversity, as it is becoming increasingly difficult for low-income households to find suitable and affordable housing at all. In Switzerland's mountain tourist regions, where the housing shortage is comparatively pronounced, this shortage also becomes an economic problem. Workers can no longer settle in these places, which exacerbates the local labour shortage. As part of Measure 16, all levels of government worked together to develop an Action Plan to Combat the Housing Shortage. It will become apparent in the coming years to what extent the Action Plan will have an impact.



Better cooperation between the Confederation, cantons, cities and communes

The Confederation maintains and uses partnerships with the cantons and communes to implement the 2030 SDS at subnational level. These relationships were deepened during the reporting period as follows.



The Tripartite Conference (TC), which unites the Confederation, the Conference of Cantonal Governments (KdK), the Swiss Union of Cities (SSV), and the Association of Swiss Communes (ASC), adopted the 2030 Agenda as a focus topic in its work programme for the 2022–26 period. The aim is to further boost the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the three levels of government, to coordinate action and harness synergies. In an initial step, the Conference conducted a study entitled 'Tripartite Coordination to Implement the 2030 Agenda' to produce recommendations for all three government levels on how to increase impact.

The establishment of the association Cantonal Sustainable Development Network (CSDN) in 2022 marks an important milestone. The CSDN is composed of 22 of the 26 cantons and promotes thematic cooperation both horizontally between the cantons and vertically between the cantons, the Confederation and the communes, offering a platform for coordination and reciprocal learning.

Three quarters of the Swiss population live in urban areas. Their administrations are therefore key players in sustainable development and are able to develop and test innovative approaches in partnership with their populations. Since 2022, numerous cities have stepped up their efforts on the sustainable development front, for example by integrating and translating the SDGs into local development strategies or projects in specific fields such as the circular economy or neighbourhood development. The 2030 Agenda toolbox for cantons and communes is a useful instrument for this.

Voluntary Local Review (VLR)

The Voluntary Local Review is a means of monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the subnational level. Local authorities can review their policy programmes in relation to the 2030 Agenda and thus set their priorities for realising the SDGs effectively in their local context. In April 2025, the city of Geneva became the first Swiss city to publish such a document, the City of Geneva VLR. The City of Bern VLR and Canton of Basel-Stadt VLR appeared the same year. In 2026 the Canton of Aargau VLR was published. These publications are now enabling the local authorities in question to reach an international audience.

As part of funding programmes, the Confederation provides financial support for innovative projects run by public and private-sector institutions. It also provides knowledge-sharing formats such as the Sustainable Development Forum and Dialog 2030 to stimulate exchange between actors and share successful practical examples.





4 Implementing the 2030 SDS at the domestic policy level

This section tracks how the priorities defined in the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy (2030 SDS) are being pursued at the domestic policy level. It is based on the statistical indicators on the 2030 SDS from the MONET 2030 indicator system, and on the qualitative assessments of the Swiss targets the SDS contains. The latter derive from the federal agencies responsible, external actors[1] at the subnational levels of government, and groups of non-state actors, and can be viewed on SDGital2030. This section summarises these evaluations, supplementing the statistical data for each target from the 2030 SDS.

Statistical monitoring using the MONET 2030 indicators

Each target from the 2030 SDS is allocated one or more indicators in the MONET 2030 indicator system. The colour of each indicator shows whether or not it is moving in the desired direction. Where the target is quantitative and dated, the ideal trend corresponds to the path that would theoretically have to be taken to achieve the target goal by the planned deadline. Trends are generally analysed from the year 2000 up to the last available value. For each indicator, the average of the first three values is compared with that of the most recent three values, provided that the time series contains at least six data points.[2]

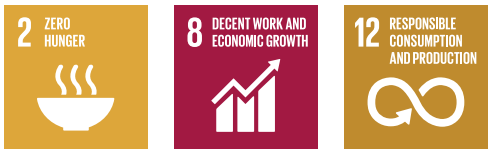
Positive	Observed trend following target path
Negative	Observed trend counter to target path
Unchanged	No statistically significant change detectable
Not qualifiable	No assessment is possible owing to a break in the time series, irregular progression, too short a time series or because the desired development cannot be determined.
No indicator available	For this indicator no data is yet available that meets criteria for official statistics

Additional quantitative information can be found in the statistical annex.

1 In this section 'actors' is used as a collective term for public law corporations (cantons, cities and communes, or the respective dedicated office at these levels of government, as well as other public-law organisations), civil society, business entities and associations, the academic sector and other organisations. The organisations that took part in the survey are listed on SDGital2030.

2 A detailed description of the method used to assess the indicators can be found in the 'Summary of indicators' published by the Federal Statistical Office (FSO).

4.1 Sustainable consumption and sustainable production



4.1.1 Promoting and facilitating sustainable consumption patterns

Indicators monitoring the Swiss 2030 SDS targets

Target	Indicator Status and observed trend
12.8 **Responsible consumption**	**Environmental behaviour in everyday life** Consumers aware of environmental impact: 70.4% when buying small electrical devices and 43.6% when buying food in 2023 | No assessment possible due to too short a time series
12.c **Financial incentives concernig fossil fuels**	**Petroleum tax relief** 3.9% net revenue from mineral oil tax was refunded to companies in 2024 | +52.7% since 2002

Source: FSO – MONET 2030 (data state: 15.04.2026), see statistical annex, section on SDG 12

Progress and challenges

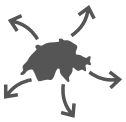
By enhancing and regularly updating environmental assessment data, the federal government creates a basis for sustainable patterns of consumption and production. Private and public-sector organisations play a key role in raising awareness and providing reliable, accessible and appropriately timed information, for example when purchasing products or services. The Confederation and the cantons support public and private entities with the introduction of responsible procurement processes.

Numerous challenges remain, however. Multiple external actors emphasise that simply passing on information is not enough to achieve sustainable consumption. They emphasise the need for stronger framework conditions, including policies to promote more sustainable value chains, greater transparency about true costs, including environmental and social costs, and mechanisms that encourage more sustainable decisions.

Progress was made on reducing subsidies for fossil fuels, for example under the signed but not yet ratified Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS) (see section 6). Following the revision of the Mineral Oil Tax Act, mineral oil tax will be refunded to licensed transport companies only in exceptional cases from 2030. However, the reform, reduction or abolition of other fossil fuel subsidies, such as the exemption of international air traffic from mineral oil tax and VAT, depend on circumstances globally. Refunding mineral oil tax in areas such as snow groomers remains politically controversial. Since 2002, mineral oil tax refunds have risen by 52.7%, meaning that these subsidies continue to have negative impacts on the environment. Work on the Federal Act on the Reduction of CO_2 Emissions (CO_2 Act) with respect to the time after 2030 offers an opportunity to review those federal subsidies that are principally relevant to the climate.

SDGital2030 assessment of target attainment

The federal agencies and the majority of external actors consider it somewhat unrealistic that target 12.8 will be achieved by 2030. Although environmental information is improving all the time, it is still not available for all purchasing decisions. In addition to information, external actors also demand the right framework conditions to bring about changes in behaviour. There is still a disparity between knowledge and action. Federal agencies also consider it somewhat unrealistic that target 12.c will be achieved within the set time frame, because it is unlikely that all fossil energies subsidies can be abolished or adjusted by 2030.



Spillovers: how Swiss consumption affects other countries

Analysis shows that three-quarters of Switzerland's total environmental impact occurs abroad. It is therefore important to include international supply and value chains in this evaluation. In 2023, Switzerland had an estimated material footprint of 134 million tonnes, which works out at approximately 15 tonnes per capita. Compared to 2000, the overall material footprint has decreased by 10% (per capita by 26%). In addition to the raw materials extracted in Switzerland, the material footprint factors in the bulk of all raw materials used abroad to produce and transport goods and services consumed in Switzerland. On average, the raw materials extracted and used in Switzerland covered 40% of the material footprint.

In recent years, Switzerland has developed guidance for the private sector in the form of an Environmental Atlas. It details the impact of the supply chains of various sectors – chemicals, mechanical engineering, real estate, healthcare, food, clothing, and electrical appliances – with a view to helping companies reduce their environmental impact.

4.1.2 Ensure prosperity and well-being while protecting natural resources

Indicators monitoring the Swiss 2030 SDS targets

Target	Indicator Status and observed trend
12.2(a) **Natural ressources exploitation**	**Material footprint per capita** 15.0 tonnes in 2023 | –26.1% since 2000
8.4 **Efficient production processes and circular economy**	**Material footprint** 134.1 million tonnes in 2023 | –10.0% since 2000
8.2 **Conditions conducive to a sustainable economy**	**Labour productivity** 146.1 index points (1991 = 100) in 2024 | +28.3% since 2000
12.4 **Chemicals**	**Hazardous chemicals** 4404 hazardous substances and 247 substances of very high concern listed in 2025 | resp. +6.1% and +92.0% since 2012

Source: FSO – MONET 2030 (data state: 15.04.2026), see statistical annex, sections on SDGs 8 and 12

Progress and challenges

Significant progress has been made on the circular economy. In 2024 the Federal Assembly adopted parliamentary initiative 20.433 on strengthening the Swiss circular economy. In addition, revisions to the Federal Act on the Protection of the Environment (Environmental Protection Act, EPA), the Energy Act (EnA) and the Federal Act on Public Procurement (Public Procurement Act, PPA) strengthen the legal framework for the transition to a resource-friendly, regenerative economy. Cooperation with the cantons and the private sector is crucial here. Examples are the *Cercle Climat, Cercle Déchets* and industry agreements. Cantons and communes are also becoming increasingly involved, in particular by developing strategies, funding programmes and platforms to promote the circular economy and provide targeted support to companies. Many communes are introducing more sustainable waste management systems. Despite this progress there is room for improvement. Materials recovered from waste, known as secondary raw materials, make up only a small proportion of material consumption: approximately 15% in 2023. This figure would be lower still if total material consumption along the supply chain were taken into account. Although Switzerland has achieved high recycling rates for a range of types of waste, the volume of waste per capita rose at the same time. There is still potential to increase the recycling rate for some types of waste, such as plastics, which is currently at 10%. The picture is also mixed at company level. Just over 10% of companies have already adopted comprehensive circular practices, while around 27% have closely integrated the concept of the circular economy into their strategy. A positive thing to note is that companies with a stronger focus on the circular economy generally have a lower environmental impact. This shows that circular business models can make a key contribution to a sustainable transition.

The revision of the CO_2 Act and the adoption of the Federal Act on Climate Protection Goals, Innovation and Strengthening Innovation Security (Climate and Innovation Act, CIA) provide new means of achieving the economy's net-zero target. Despite commitment by many companies, the availability of environmentally friendly products and services is still limited. In the coming years, the transition from analysis to implementation will be of crucial importance, especially in value chains that have heavy environmental impacts. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are not sufficiently integrated in these processes and there is still a major lack of basic knowledge. Stable regulatory frameworks are essential to strengthen the knowledge base and promote transparency about environmental costs.

Progress has been made on reducing the administrative burden on companies and promoting innovation. The Business Cost Relief Act (BCRA) introduces new instruments such as sectoral studies to determine relief options for companies. Certain conditions must be in place for the economy to develop: a guaranteed, reliable and affordable electricity supply, measures to encourage the optimum use of workforce potential, access to skilled foreign workers, stable funding for pensions and an efficient tax system. The internalisation of external costs and a new definition of labour productivity have also been identified by some external actors as key levers of sustainable production.

Finally, the 2023–27 Strategy for Chemical Safety improves inter-institutional coordination and the ongoing alignment of legal provisions with new scientific findings. Compliance with those legal requirements remains a challenge, particularly with regard to placing goods on the market, water quality and substance disposal. Federal agencies, the cantons and communes have identified per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as a major challenge. Working alongside the cantonal labour inspectorates, the Confederation is committed to improving protection in the handling of chemicals at the workplace.

SDGital2030 assessment of target attainment

Achieving the target relating to the sustainable use of natural resources (12.2(a)) by 2030 is regarded as somewhat unrealistic by federal agencies and the majority of external actors. The per-capita material footprint in Switzerland fell by 26% from 20 tonnes to 15 tonnes between 2000 and 2023. The trend is moving in the right direction, but a reduction at the current scale is not enough to achieve the target. SDGital2030 assessments of target 8.4 attainment are divided. Companies are endeavouring to make the most of their resource efficiency potential by optimising their production processes and products. However, according to the 2024 status report on the circular economy in Switzerland, it is unrealistic to assume that the full potential for improvement can be realised by 2030. Achieving target 8.2, which aims to achieve business conditions that promote competition, innovation and productivity, is considered realistic. In a rapidly evolving environment, enforcing the legal requirements for chemicals safety is a challenging task. Despite this, attaining target 12.4 is considered somewhat realistic.

4.1.3 Furthering the transformation to sustainable food systems in Switzerland and abroad

Indicators monitoring the Swiss 2030 SDS targets

Target	Indicator Status and observed trend
2.1 **Healthy and sustainable nutrition**	**Fruit and vegetable consumption** 15.6% of the population consumed at least 5 servings per day in 2022 | –18.4% since 2012
12.3 **Food loss**	**Working title: Avoidable food loss in Switzerland (along the entire value chain) per capita** There are currently no data available that meet the criteria for official statistics for this indicator.
12.2(b) **Climate impact of food**	**Greenhouse gas footprint of food per person** 1.8 tonnes CO_2 eq. in 2023 | 156.1% in adequacy with the theoretical path to meet the goal 12.2(b) (reduction of 25% compared to the 2020 level by 2030)
2.4 **Sustainable agriculture**	**Nitrogen balance from agriculture** 86.9 thousand tonnes in excess in 2023 | –8.0% since 2000
	Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture 6.6 million tonnes CO_2 eq. in 2024 | –8.7% since 2000
	Organic farming 18.4% of the utilised agricultural area in 2024 | +108.8% since 2000

Source: FSO – MONET 2030 (data state: 15.04.2026), see statistical annex, sections on SDGs 2 and 12

Progress and challenges

The Federal Council believes that the agricultural policy of the future, from 2030, should pursue a holistic approach to food systems along the entire food value chain. This is an important new step towards transforming food systems completely. Progress has also been made up to now especially on insurance cover for spouses working on the farm, and on the conservation and sustainable use of native genetic resources. Challenges remain, however, in particular with regard to greenhouse gas emissions, soil fertility, water management and nitrogen pollution and for biodiversity in terms of range and quality. The holistic Agriculture and Food Climate Strategy 2050 aims to adapt the food system to climate change and to reduce its emissions. Interdisciplinary research that encompasses the entire food system, including consumption, is crucial for identifying conflicting objectives and strengthening food security.

The Swiss Nutrition Policy 2025–32 supports the transformation of the food system towards greater sustainability, health, equality, and equity of opportunity. The policy aims to increase the proportion of the population eating a balanced diet. It aligns with the Swiss food pyramid and new nutritional recommendations, which take environmental factors into account for the first time. In March 2025, the towns and cities of Aigle, Basel, Bern, Biel, Fribourg, Geneva, Lausanne, Moutier, St Gallen and Zurich signed a sustainable nutrition charter. Two cities point out that social inequalities, the high cost of fresh produce and the dominance of highly processed foods make it more difficult to access high-quality food. People on low incomes or without legal residence status are particularly affected. Achieving target 2.1 – 'healthy nutrition for one-third of the population' – is feasible; however, according to external actors, more targeted and accessible programs are needed to achieve this goal.

Progress has also been made with reducing food waste. The Action Plan Against Food Waste that was adopted in 2022 sets out 14 measures. They include an industry-wide agreement signed by most of the major companies and associations in the food industry. A progress report on the Action Plan was published in October 2025. While some sectors have achieved considerable reductions compared to 2017, nationwide the overall decline in food loss came to approximately 5%. The challenges to halving food waste by 2030, as stated in the target, are mainly that the measures in individual sectors such as agriculture, processing, wholesale, restaurants, and in raising household awareness more effectively are not having a broad enough impact. In addition, individual measures are not yet having the required impact, which is partly due to the delayed effect of individual measures and the high complexity of the value chains.

SDGital2030 assessment of target attainment

Target 2.1 is to increase to one third the proportion of the population consuming a healthy, balanced and sustainable diet, in keeping with the recommendations of the Swiss food pyramid. The federal agencies regard this target as ambitious and difficult to achieve. In addition, the associated indicator (fruit and vegetable consumption) has been trending down rather than up since the 2022 survey. The targeted halving of food waste set out in target 12.3 is seen as ambitious, but nevertheless realistic. Whether or not it is realised will largely depend on the commitment of business actors and the measures taken as part of the second phase of the Action Plan Against Food Waste (2026–30). Target 12.2(b) aims to cut the greenhouse gas footprint of food. The per-capita footprint for the final demand for foodstuffs should be cut by a quarter compared to 2020 on the basis of the overall environmental impact assessment. The strategies and policies mentioned above help to achieve this target. The trend in the greenhouse gas footprint to date shows that more forward momentum is required to meet the target. More sustainable agricultural output by 2030 (target 2.4) is considered realistic.

4.1.4 Strengthening corporate responsibility in Switzerland and internationally

Indicators monitoring the Swiss 2030 SDS targets

Target	Indicator Status and observed trend
12.6 **Responsible business conduct**	**No indicator at the moment** There are currently no data available that meet the criteria for official statistics for this indicator.

Source: FSO – MONET 2030 (data state: 15.04.2026), see statistical annex, section on SDG 12

Progress and challenges

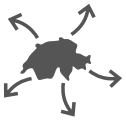
Since 2022, large Swiss companies have been required to prepare reports on non-financial matters such as the environment, social affairs, employees, respect for human rights and anti-corruption and to comply with a due diligence obligation in the areas of child labour and minerals and metals from conflict-affected areas. Requirements for reporting on climate issues were also specified, based on the internationally recognised recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD).

The Confederation is continuing its work in particular to promote the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct. It does so via the national contact point and by continuing to support SMEs in particular with tools such as the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Risk Check. In November 2025, the Federal Council adopted a report to provide SMEs with targeted support in the area of sustainability. It proposes specific measures, including an improved federal CSR portal, digital reporting tools and risk analysis, and closer cooperation with industry associations. The Federal Council has also published an Agenda 2030 Toolbox for Businesses, which supports companies that want to expand their commitment to sustainable development. In 2024, the Federal Council adopted the updated Swiss National Action Plan 2024–27 to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

The Report on the CSR Action Plan 2020–23 shows that 70% of large companies and 40% of SMEs apply due diligence, but often only partially. Despite growing awareness, practices remain voluntary and fragmented, especially among SMEs. Several external actors point out that the lack of binding standards and audit mechanisms is limiting the impact of the current policy. The Responsible Business Initiative (RBI) was rejected in a popular vote in 2020. Instead, the regulations mentioned above came into force in 2022, derived from the counter-proposal to the RBI. In 2025, another popular initiative was submitted that would make Swiss businesses subject to binding, risk-based due diligence obligations in respect of human rights and the environment (RBI-2). In September 2025, the Federal Council decided to submit an indirect counter-proposal.

SDGital2030 assessment of target attainment

External actors have divergent opinions when it comes to the implementation of target 12.6. Despite significant progress in corporate sustainability regulation since 2022 and the efforts of businesses themselves, the risk is that international instability could slow down progress.



Spillovers: global trade in raw materials

Switzerland leads the world in trading in sugar, cotton, oilseeds, coffee and grain and is one of the largest trading platforms for fuels, metals, minerals and agricultural products. In 2023 there were over 900 trading companies operating in Switzerland. Much of their business takes the form of merchanting. As the OECD underlines, the profits from this trading, especially through minerals supply chains, are associated with both positive and negative impacts for the countries, communities and people affected. They provide domestic income, jobs, training and innovation, but the safety and working conditions are sometimes precarious and the practices can have significant impacts on the environment and the population and can carry an increased risk of corruption.

In Switzerland, corporate responsibility is the topic of ongoing discussion with all partners. The government has begun to collect statistical data on the trading sector (2023), and the annual value added statistics from the FSO are being expanded to cover all commodity trading firms with at least three employees (2022). In 2024, the added value generated by commodity trading totalled CHF 19.2 billion, representing the value added by the sector's core businesses, excluding production or service activities. During the reporting period the judicial authorities in Switzerland handed down several convictions for corruption, however. In preparing for the next status report on the commodities sector in 2026, the Federal Council is concentrating on questions of competitiveness and integrity.

4.2 Climate, energy and biodiversity



4.2.1 Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and managing climate-related impacts

Indicators monitoring the Swiss 2030 SDS targets

Target	Indicator Status and observed trend
13.2 **Greenhouse gas emissions**	**Greenhouse gas emissions** 41.3 million tonnes CO_2 eq. in 2024 | 61.8% in adequacy with the theoretical path to meet goal 13.2 (reduction of 50% compared to the 1990 level by 2030[3])
13.1 **Climate related risks**	**Working title: Heat-waves related deaths** Indicator under development
11.b **Protection against natural hazards**	**Damage caused by natural disasters** 905.1 million CHF in damages in 2024 | No assessment possible due to the erratic nature of the observed phenomenon
13.3 **Competences in dealing with climate change**	**Assessment of dangers associated with climate change** 85.6% of the population in 2023 | No assessment possible for this indicator due to a break in the time series

Source: FSO – MONET 2030 (data state: 15.04.2026), see statistical annex, sections on SDGs 11 and 13

Progress and challenges

Switzerland is pursuing several long-term strategies to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change. These cover the climate, energy, agriculture and food, negative emission technologies, tourism, the soil and forest management. The Climate and Innovation Act (CIA) adopted in 2023 enshrines the climate targets in law, in particular that Switzerland should reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. The CO_2 Act implements specific measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as the CO_2 levy on fossil fuels, the buildings programme, emissions regulations for vehicles and offsetting obligations for importers of fossil fuels. Adaptation to climate change is coordinated by the federal government (CO_2 Act, CIA). It is supported, for example, by the Adapt+ funding programme, which was launched in 2025, and which enables the co-financing of projects for the implementation of adaptation measures. On the education side, the national Climate Programme promotes skills-building by specialist staff and managers. Where communications are concerned it provides information and advice to cities and communes on climate

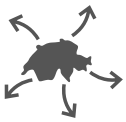
3 The assessment is based on the linear trend between 2008 and the latest available value, 2008 marking the introduction of the CO_2 levy.

protection, specifically how to reduce greenhouse gases and adapt to climate change. In 2025, the new climate scenarios for Switzerland were published in Climate CH2025, which serve as a basis for climate adaptation and climate protection and are regularly updated.

The impacts of climate change, and heatwaves, droughts and landslides in particular, are worsening rapidly. As a result, emergency planning, infrastructures and built-up areas are reaching their adaptation limits. Businesses are also increasingly exposed to climate risks. To achieve climate targets by 2030 and achieve the net-zero target by 2050, Switzerland must consistently take and strengthen effective action to reduce emissions. One of the priority challenges is to internalise external costs in accordance with the polluter pays principle. Despite current uncertainty about their effectiveness and significant costs, carbon capture and storage (CCS) and negative emissions technologies (NET) are necessary to offset the last unavoidable emissions by 2050. National Research Programme 73 has developed specific recommendations in this regard. Since 2024, large companies have been required to publish reports on climate issues that include net-zero transition plans that are comparable to Switzerland's climate targets. Progress in the financial market is reviewed every two years by means of voluntary climate tests. The most recent test from 2024 showed progress, although not all financial sectors and asset classes are yet fully aligned with the net-zero target.

SDGital2030 assessment of target attainment

Achieving climate target 13.2 is considered realistic, in the sense of 'possible', as the Confederation can acquire international certificates. Due to increasing climate risks, it is uncertain that the targets on adaptation to climate change (13.1) and protection against natural hazards (11.b) will be achieved. The federal agencies are more pessimistic about achieving target 13.1 than during the last survey in 2022. To achieve target 13.3, additional gaps would have to be closed with regard to information, awareness-raising and education on climate change and its consequences. The reduction in federal funding for environmental education from 2027 could slow down developments.



Spillovers: emissions generated abroad

In 2023 Switzerland's greenhouse gas footprint amounted to 32.8 million tonnes of CO_2 equivalents domestically and 99.5 million tonnes abroad. This means that three quarters (75%) of the emissions caused by domestic demand are linked to imports (2023).

Switzerland actively negotiates minimum environmental standards in its trade agreements and brokered a 2024 agreement with a group of states on climate change, trade and sustainable development. This proposed a definition of fossil fuel subsidies and included a list of goods and services that help to accelerate transition efforts (see section 6).

Finally, Switzerland supports technical alliances and multilateral initiatives to reduce climate risks and strengthen adaptive capacity abroad at the local level.

4.2.2 Lowering energy consumption, using energy more efficiently and expanding renewable energy sources

Indicators monitoring the Swiss 2030 SDS targets

Target	Indicator Status and observed trend
7.3 **Energy consumption**	**Final energy consumption per capita** 77.8 gigajoules per capita in 2024 | 97.3% in adequacy with the theoretical path to meet target 7.3 (–43% compared to the 2000 level by 2035)
7.1 **Energy supply**	**Foreign energy dependency** 67.6% of gross energy imported in total supply in 2024 | –11.5% since 2000
	Final energy consumption by energy source 45.7% obtained from oil products in 2024 | –22.9% since 2000
7.2 **Renewable energies**	**Renewable energies** 29.9% of the energy consumption in 2024 | +61.1% since 2000
	Electricity production from renewable energies Share in the total production in 2024: 57.1% from hydropower plants, +5.1% since 2000; 10.9% from new renewable energies, 67.3% in adequacy with the theoretical path to meet the goal 7.2 of the 2030 SDS[4] (17,000 GWh in 2035)[5]

Source: FSO – MONET 2030 (data state: 15.04.2026), see statistical annex, section on SDG 7

Progress and challenges

Progress has been made on numerous fronts in the energy sector. The Energy Strategy 2050, among other things through the Electricity Supply Act, the Energy Act and the CO_2 Act, aims to gradually phase out nuclear energy, expand renewable energies, increase energy efficiency and ensure a high level of security of supply. With the legislation on accelerated procedures it is now possible to build large solar, hydropower and wind energy plants more quickly. Much more effort is required on energy to achieve the objectives of the climate strategy. Specifically, the Climate and Innovation Act provides for targeted action to replace fossil fuels in buildings and industry. In addition, in the Electricity Supply Act, Parliament has set a target of saving two terawatt hours (TWh) of electricity per year by 2035, in particular through efficiency obligations for electricity suppliers.

4 On 1 January 2025 stricter targets came into effect under the Federal Act on a Secure Electricity Supply from Renewable Energy Sources (Electricity Supply Act, ESA). The assessment given here nonetheless relates to the target as set out in the 2030 SDS.

5 In the case of a quantified and dated target, alignment with the target path that must theoretically be followed must be at least 97% for the indicator trend to be viewed as positive. In the case of this indicator, the assessment consists of an evaluation of two variables: electricity generation from hydropower plants, and from new renewable energy sources. Their trajectories are combined for the overall assessment.

To achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, Switzerland must push ahead with the expansion of all renewable energy sources and rapidly improve energy efficiency, while ensuring a secure, economical and equitable energy supply in an unstable geopolitical environment. The planned electricity agreement with the EU is also expected to contribute to this, in particular for a more secure electricity supply. These ambitions stand in contrast to several major challenges: these include the authorisation procedures for energy infrastructure facilities, conflicts of interest between nature conservation and energy requirements, and the energy-efficient refurbishment of existing buildings. Emissions from new cars and vans are above the targets, while emissions from heavy vehicles such as lorries and articulated lorries are well below the targets due to rapid electrification. Despite progress, electrification still requires work. The operation of commercial and in-house data centres already accounts for 3.6% of national electricity consumption – a figure that could rise further by 2030 given the growth of the sector. Solutions must also be found to expand networks, increase electricity generation in winter and expand storage capacity.

SDGital2030 assessment of target attainment

Switzerland is making progress towards its energy targets. In 2024, final energy consumption per capita was 77.8 GJ. The indicator for final energy consumption per person in accordance with target 7.3 has moved from unchanged to positive since the last review in 2022. The observed trend is now 97.3% on track with the target path.[6] Federal offices are also optimistic about achieving target 7.1 on energy supply. The Energy Perspectives 2050+ analysis shows that Switzerland is able to switch to a climate-neutral energy supply by 2050 while also guaranteeing security of supply. It is not yet possible to estimate whether the target for renewable electricity production (7.2) can be achieved.

6 In the case of a quantified and dated target, alignment with the target path that must theoretically be followed must be at least 97% for the indicator trend to be viewed as positive. The trend is described as unchanged if that alignment is between 0% and 97% of the target path, and as negative if it is below 0%. Further information on the method used to assess the indicators can be found in the statistical annex.

4.2.3 Preserving, sustainably using, promoting and regenerating biodiversity

Indicators monitoring the Swiss 2030 SDS targets

Target	Indicator Status and observed trend
15.5 **Conservation of native species**	**Biocoenosis diversity in meadows and pastures** Index of 0 (uniform biocenosis) to 100 (diverse biocenosis): plants 59.9, mosses 59.9 and molluscs 46.7 (mean 2019/2023) | negative overall evolution of the three indexes since 2000
	Populations of breeding birds 109.4 index points (1990 = 100) in 2025 | +6.4% since 1990
15.8 **Biodiversity, ecosystem services and invasive species**	**Invasive alien species** 174 in 2020 | +33.4% since 2000
15.a **Financial incentives impacts on biodiversity**	**Biodiversity related expenditure** 614 million CHF in 2024 | +101.6% since 2011
15.1 **Natural habitat protection**	**Nationally designated protected areas** 6.7% of the Swiss territory protected at Federal level in 2024 | +25.5% since 2000
6.6 **Natural state of water bodies**	**Structure of watercourses** 24% in an unsatisfactory ecomorphological state (1998–2006) | No assessment possible as there is no time series
15.3 **Soil protection**	**Soil sealing** 5.0% of the territory in 2018 | +39.9% since 1985

Source: FSO – MONET 2030 (data state: 15.04.2026), see statistical annex, sections on SDGs 6 and 15

Progress and challenges

The Confederation created an important basis on which to halt biodiversity loss in its Swiss Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (first phase 2017–24 and second phase 2025–30). The latter contains new measures to integrate biodiversity targets into spatial planning, agriculture and transport policy, for example. Switzerland supports the global *30by30* target, which aims to secure at least 30% of land and marine areas worldwide for biodiversity by 2030.

To reinforce implementation, additional funding for nature and biodiversity in forests was included in the programme agreements between the Confederation and the cantons. The programme agreement on biodiversity in forests received further financial support with a view to adaptation to climate change The legal basis for dealing with invasive alien species has been strengthened. The number of known invasive alien species has risen by 33.4% since 2000. Several cantons and communes point to major challenges in combating invasive species.

Studies show that, although progress has been made in protecting habitats and species and maintaining the biological quality of habitats, the action taken to date is not enough. The situation is particularly critical in bogs and wetlands. Pressures from agriculture, infrastructure, energy production, invasive species and climate change continue to grow or stagnate at a high level.

Federal subsidies, which can impact negatively on biodiversity, amount to around CHF 10 billion annually, excluding border protections for agriculture. The Confederation has analysed these subsidies, submitted targeted proposals for their optimisation and published an initial progress report. The federal government is also examining how it can improve the transparency of tax concessions. Experience to date indicates that it will be almost impossible to resolve all conflicting objectives fully by 2030. More work is needed to factor biodiversity aspects into political decision-making processes even more effectively.

To connect and restore near-natural waters in Switzerland just under 20km of waters were revitalised annually between 2012 and 2024 and work also progressed on the ecological refurbishment of hydropower plants. With the Action Plan for Plant Protection Products and the Pesticide Risk Reduction Act, the federal government aims to halve the risks in the areas of groundwater, surface waters and near-natural habitats by 2027.

Where soil protection is concerned, preparations were made for nationwide soil mapping and cantonal pilot projects were carried out. The Swiss National Soil Strategy provides for the review and adaptation of existing regulations so that greater consideration is given to their impacts on land use.

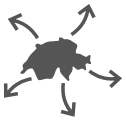
With regard to SDG 15 as a whole, several cantons and external actors have criticised how long it is taking to implement measures, as well as the lack of adequate political frameworks. Although legal foundations exist, they are not sufficiently implementable, and human and financial resources are in short supply at all levels.





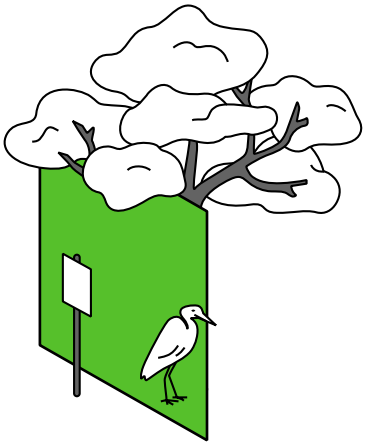
SDGital2030 assessment of target attainment

The assessment of biodiversity targets tend to be critical. The target of conserving native species (15.5) is considered somewhat unrealistic by federal agencies and external actors. Biodiversity remains in an unsatisfactory state in Switzerland, especially where land use is most intensive. Different protected areas show different trends. Federal agencies are more pessimistic than in 2022 about the targets for the impact on biodiversity of financial incentives (15.a), and for biodiversity, ecosystem services and invasive species (15.8), because it is almost impossible to eradicate established invasive species, despite strategies and changes to the law. Assessments also differ with regard to habitat protection (15.1). Federal agencies believe attaining the target is realistic, while the majority of external actors consider it unrealistic. Federal agencies are also more pessimistic than in 2022 about target 6.6 on near-natural waters. Although legal bases and instruments exist, the implementation of revitalisation measures (approx. 20km per year) does not yet meet the target of 50km per year. The target of reducing land use (15.3) is considered somewhat unrealistic by federal agencies. The quantitative loss due to soil sealing, which is up 40% since 1985, continues unabated and the impairments to soil quality are almost impossible to gauge.



Spillovers: deforestation abroad

Switzerland has commissioned a study to analyse its impact on global deforestation and forest degradation, particularly through the import and consumption of selected goods. In 2022, the production of cocoa, coffee, palm oil, rubber, soya, cattle and wood and wood products destined for Switzerland caused the deforestation of around 4,300 hectares of tropical forest in South America, South East Asia and Africa. To reduce its impact on deforestation, Switzerland has joined international initiatives such as REDD+, and supports multilateral agreements to limit deforestation. In 2022, it introduced a regulation banning the trade in illegal timber. In addition, the federal government has introduced supportive measures for companies affected by the EU Regulation on Deforestation-Free Products.





4.3 Equal opportunities and social cohesion



4.3.1 Promoting individual self-determination

Indicators monitoring the Swiss 2030 SDS targets

Target	Indicator Status and observed trend
1.2 **Poverty**	**Poverty rate** 8.4% in 2024 | No statistically significant change since 2014
3.8 **Health care and prevention**	**Foregoing necessary medical care for financial reasons** 9.8% of the population at risk of poverty in 2024 | No statistically significant change between 2015 and 2022
11.1 **Affordable living space**	**Housing costs** 32.2% of the budget for the lowest income 20% of households, 8.8% for the highest income 20% of the households for the period 2020/21 | No statistically significant change since 2015/17
4.3 **Access to education**	**Teaching staff at higher education institutions** 30.8% at UNI and 36.2% at UAS/UTE are women in 2024 | resp. +46.1% at UNI and +14.4% at UAS/UTE since 2013

Source: FSO – MONET 2030 (data state: 15.04.2026), see statistical annex, sections on SDGs 1, 3, 4 and 11

Progress and challenges

The cantons are primarily responsible for supporting people in need, while the federal government's competences lie mainly in poverty prevention. Together with the cantons, communes and civil society organisations, the federal government is now pooling its existing efforts to prevent and combat poverty in an overarching national structure. This includes, in particular, the development of a strategy to combat poverty by 2027. As part of the structure, the National Platform against Poverty with a participatory body (committee for poverty issues) will be continued. In 2025, the Federal Council published the first report on national poverty monitoring. Despite progress, 8.4% of the Swiss population is considered poor.[7] Single parents and people who have not completed further education are particularly affected.

7 Poverty in Switzerland (definition): according to the Federal Council's summary report on poverty dated 26 November 2025, the poverty rate of 8.4% is based on the social subsistence level as defined by guidelines issued by the Swiss Conference on Social Welfare. A person is considered to be living in poverty if they live in a household with a disposable income below the poverty line (2024: CHF 2,388 per month for a single person; CHF 4,159 for two adults with two children).

Affordable housing is in increasingly short supply in urban centres and tourist regions. Demographic change also means that more age-appropriate homes are needed. The federal government has long encouraged the construction of non-profit housing. In view of the rapid tightening of the housing market in recent years, in 2024 a 'round table' involving all levels of government, the construction and real estate sector and civil society agreed on an Action Plan to Combat the Housing Shortage. The measures it contains are intended to promote more affordable needs-based housing. Some sections of the population are facing other unresolved problems. For example, structural discrimination makes it more difficult for people affected by racism to access the housing market. Freedom of choice in terms of living arrangements and place of residence remains limited for people with disabilities, particularly due to the system's strong focus on living in residential homes and institutions, the lack of affordable, barrier-free housing and often lower incomes. There are also challenges for people with a travelling lifestyle, as the available transit sites cover only half of the demand.

Social mobility remains a challenge in the education sector. The chances of educational success correlate with family background, among other factors. Young people from low-income households or migration backgrounds are less likely to complete upper secondary education. Progress can be seen at university level, however. Measures to promote gender equality have generated positive momentum and helped establish specialised units and a more inclusive work culture. This encourages an increase in both women in management positions and under-represented groups in various specialist areas.

Where early childhood is concerned, the cantons are committed to providing needs-based, high-quality childcare, in part through recommendations on service quality and funding. The cities also promote early childhood education, care and upbringing (for federal measures in this area, see section 4.3.3).

For many, financial obstacles are increasingly getting in the way of access to healthcare. In 2024, 9.8% of people at risk of poverty went without necessary medical services for financial reasons. Despite reforms such as the TARDOC tariff model and cost containment packages to relieve the pressure on compulsory health insurance, reducing the financial burden of health insurance premiums remains an ongoing task. The implementation of the counter-proposal to the Premium Relief Initiative, which obliges cantons to make minimum contributions to reducing the premiums of low-income households, is a step in the right direction here.

SDGital2030 assessment of target attainment

The federal agencies believe it 'very unrealistic' that the objective of access to affordable housing (11.1) will be achieved, and are thus more pessimistic than in 2022. The poverty rate (1.2) is stagnating, which in the view of the federal agencies also makes attaining the target somewhat unrealistic. Meanwhile the majority of external actors consider the target a realistic one. Where access to education (4.3) and healthcare (3.8) are concerned, the federal agencies believe attaining the targets to be realistic, while external actor assessments vary.

4.3.2 Ensuring social cohesion

Indicators monitoring the Swiss 2030 SDS targets

Target	Indicator Status and observed trend
10.3 **Discrimination**	**Victims of discrimination** 26.5% of the population felt discriminated against in 2024 | +23.2% since 2016
8.5(a) **Integration of people with disabilities**	**Participation of disabled persons in the labour market** 37.1% in employment in 2024 | No statistically significant change since 2010
10.7 **Migration and integration**	**Poverty rate by migration status** 9.1% of the population with a migration background, 7.8% of the population without a migration background in 2023 | No statistically significant change in the gap between the two groups since 2014
	Unemployment rate by migration status 6.6% of the population with a migration background, 2.6% of the population without a migration background in 2024 | Evolution of the gap between the two groups: –22.0% since 2021
	First diploma rate at upper secondary level 92.1% of Swiss and 86.7% of foreign nationals in 2023 | Evolution of the gap between the two groups: –68.6% since 2017
1.3 **Social security**	**Total social security expenditure** 26.9% of GDP in 2023 | No assessment as it is not possible to determine the targeted development
10.2 **Participation in social and political life**	**Working title: Political and civic activities** Indicator under development
11.a **Spatial diversity and disparities**	**Working title: Regional disparities** Indicator under development

Source: FSO – MONET 2030 (data state: 15.04.2026), see statistical annex, sections on SDGs 1, 8, 10 and 11

Progress and challenges

To combat discrimination, the Confederation drives progress with its Strategy against Racism and Anti-Semitism and an Action Plan to Combat Hate Crimes Against LGBTIQ Persons. Monitoring and baseline studies create visibility and highlight possible approaches. Implementing anti-discrimination legislation remains difficult, however, in particular because of high procedural costs and a lack of instruments to record multiple discrimination. There are indications of structural discrimination in particular in the areas of employment, housing, dealings with the authorities and naturalisation procedures, as well as in some areas of social security or in the police and justice system. Despite the extension of anti-racism provisions in criminal law to include discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, countering discrimination against LGBTIQ persons remains a challenge.

The Confederation strengthens the rights of people with disabilities and advances their full participation in society in its 2023–26 Disability Policy and the partial revision of the Federal Act on the Elimination of Discrimination against People with Disabilities (Disability Discrimination Act, DDA). The participation of people with disabilities in the labour market in Switzerland is high by international standards. No significant progress in the proportion in gainful employment has been made, however, despite numerous programmes and changes to the law. Developments such as the planned Federal Act on promoting the inclusion of people with disabilities point to a paradigm shift towards more self-representation and participation of people with disabilities.

The Integration Agenda Switzerland (IAS) is the principal instrument supporting the integration of refugees and provisionally admitted persons, with action on language, education and labour market integration. It is implemented via cantonal integration programmes (CIP), which provide specific integration support for the entire migrant population target group in need of that assistance. There are challenges with regard to the funding and permanent integration of low-skilled individuals. For example, the proportion of people living below the poverty line is higher in groups with a migration background than it is in groups without. The Federal Commission on Migration (FCM) has criticised the failure to bring asylum law into line with the causes of displacement today, and warned against dangerous migration routes. Two studies by the FCM show that the living conditions under emergency asylum assistance risk the well-being and development of children and young people.

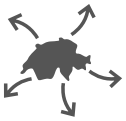
The Confederation promotes social and political participation with new strategies, legal foundations and programmes. The inclusion of people affected by poverty is promoted as part of the platform to combat poverty. The platform is also involved in setting up a participatory body (committee for poverty issues). Political participation among people with disabilities has been improved, for example through accessible information services and pilot electronic voting projects at cantonal level. The cantons of Geneva and Appenzell Innerrhoden have abolished the ban on voting for persons officially lacking legal capacity. Structural barriers nonetheless continue to exist, especially for those without citizenship rights.

On social security, a political basis exists on which to stabilise old-age and survivors' insurance (OASI) by 2030 in the form of the OASI 21 reform. The updated OASI financial scenarios, which are based on the revised demographic scenarios, show that the OASI is in a position to cope with demographic changes thanks to these timely measures. However, future financing requirements will arise due to the introduction of the 13th OASI pension from 2026 and ongoing legislative projects. In the area of disability insurance, a further reform is being introduced for further development and long-term financial stabilisation. A specialist organisation has pointed out social security deficits, particularly in the case of low wages, families, and unpaid care work, all of which lead to gaps in social security coverage. Linking social assistance and immigration law is also seen as problematic.

To even out regional disparities, the Confederation relies on funding and cost-sharing mechanisms and coordinated funding policies. Measures such as model sustainable spatial development projects and the Agglomeration Transport Programme promote cooperation in functional spaces and strengthen solidarity and diversity. The New Regional Policy promotes economic growth in mountain regions, rural areas and border zones.

SDGital2030 assessment of target attainment

While targets such as implementing social protection systems (1.3) or reducing locational disparities (11.a) are considered realistic by the federal agencies and a majority of external actors, others are considered more difficult to achieve. The objective of combating discrimination (10.3) attracts particular criticism, as discrimination remains widespread despite being prohibited by law. As an illustration, the proportion of people who say they have been affected by discrimination has risen to more than a quarter of respondents since 2016. The participation target (10.2) is also considered somewhat unrealistic by external actors. The time remaining to 2030 is thought too short to integrate people with disabilities fully into the job market (8.5(a)). While the federal agencies believe the target set for migration and integration (10.7) to be very realistic, the majority of external actors see marked obstacles to its achievement owing to restrictive policies on migration.



Spillovers: remittances

Migration is more than just a demographic phenomenon. It is also a major lever for the achievement of the SDGs through what are known as remittances. These are sums of money that foreign nationals who have been living and working in Switzerland for more than a year transfer privately to their home countries. They provide an important safety net for family members and are a major element in combating poverty and improving living conditions. Migrants working in Switzerland transferred more than CHF 8.6 billion to their home countries in 2024. To keep remittance fees below 3%, Switzerland is committed to secure, cost-effective and traceable transfer systems via formal financial frameworks (target 10.c). It achieves this by cooperating with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), banks and mobile phone providers. In rural areas in particular, this creates high levels of inclusion via mobile money wallets. Nepal and Moldova are two examples where mobile banking has proven a success.

4.3.3 Guaranteeing real equality between women and men

Indicators monitoring the Swiss 2030 SDS targets

Target	Indicator Status and observed trend
5.1 **Equality between women and men**	**Wage gap between women and men** 11.1% gap between women and men in 2024 (private sector) | –48.3% since 2000
5.4 **Reconciling gainful employment, housework and family life**	**Time spent on professional activity and on domestic work** 3/5 of domestic work carried out by women in 2024 | Gender gap: –21.7% for the period 2010–2020
8.5(b) **Economic independence for women and men**	**Women's employment rate** 61.4% in full-time equivalents in 2025 | +11.2% since 2010
	Wage gap between women and men 11.1% gap between women and men in 2024 (private sector) | –48.3% since 2000
5.5 **Women's participation**	**Women in National Council and in cantonal parliaments** 38.5% of women in National Council 33.4% in cantonal parliaments in 2023 | +63.8% and +38.3% resp. since 1999
	Professional position by sex 21.9% of women and 34.2% of men managers among employees in 2025 | Evolution of the gap between the two groups: –13.6% since 2022
5.2 **Violence against women and domestic violence**	**Domestic violence** 128 victims of whom 78 women | Due to the relatively small number of cases and the high variability, the indicator cannot be assessed

Source: FSO – MONET 2030 (data state: 15.04.2026), see statistical annex, sections on SDGs 5 and 8

Progress and challenges

Action has been taken under the aegis of the Gender Equality Strategy 2030 and ongoing updates to the Action Plan. The interim evaluation of the Gender Equality Strategy 2030 shows progress, but finds that the strategy objectives have not yet been achieved. Examples of progress are the broadening of paternity leave to include the mother's wife in 2024, the increase in the quotas for decision-making bodies in 2023 and the stronger charter for equal pay in 2022. The existing stimulus package to create additional daycare places for children is to be replaced by the new Federal Act on support for additional institutional childcare which was passed by Parliament at the end of 2025 and is expected to enter into force in 2030.

Challenges nonetheless remain. Two cantons and some civil society actors criticise the lack of resources for protection, prevention and support in cases of gender-based violence, the inadequate statute-level implementation of gender equality requirements, the lack of sanctions and the insufficient consideration given to multiple discrimination.

Since 2020, companies with 100 or more employees have had to conduct an equal pay analysis. According to an interim review, they are still not sufficiently fulfilling their legal obligations to analyse, review and provide information. Less than half (approx. 45%) of employers have complied in full with all three legal obligations. The average pay gap between women and men is 17.5%, almost half of which is unexplained.[8] Factors such as marital status, parenthood and age affect these differences, but do not justify them. Women are disproportionately represented in the low-wage sector. Despite tax relief such as tax-deductible external childcare costs and subsidies for non-family childcare, being able to reconcile professional and family life is not yet guaranteed everywhere. The gender-specific distribution gap of gainful employment and domestic/family work has decreased. Nevertheless, women continue to perform the majority of unpaid care work, which has a negative impact on their economic independence and social security. Civil society actors refer to the Shadow Report on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

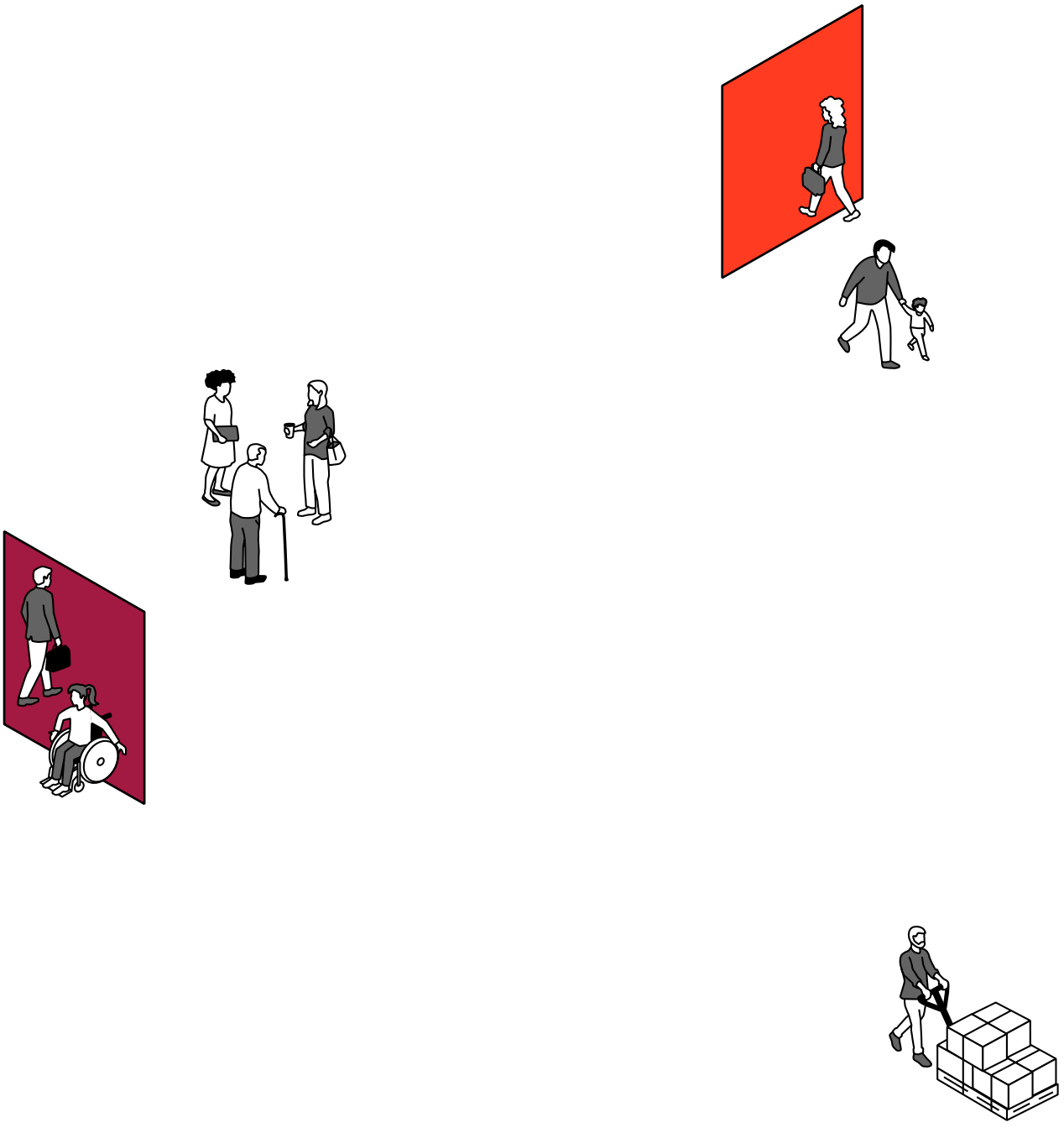
Women continue to be underrepresented in decision-making bodies. The quotas for extra-parliamentary commissions and for federal government-associated businesses have been increased. The proportion of women in management positions is growing, albeit slowly.

Gender-based violence remains a major issue and the number of domestic violence cases is still rising. This is despite the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and stricter legislation such as the obligation for perpetrators to wear an electronic ankle bracelet, as well as the reform of criminal law on sexual offences with regard to rape ('No means No'). In view of the alarming situation, the Confederation, cantons and communes on the committee of the Istanbul Convention 2025 have set out urgent measures. In 2025, the Federal Council adopted the second state report on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. The Alternative Civil Society Report also shows that urgent action is needed. Further challenges exist with regard to sexual harassment in the workplace and cyberviolence. The first national prevention campaign against domestic, sexualised and gender-based violence was also launched in 2025.

8 The MONET 2030 indicator for the Swiss 2030 SDS targets 5.1 and 8.5(b) (wage gap) is calculated on the basis of the standardised gross monthly wage (median) in the private sector. However, the average salary must be used to calculate the unexplained portion, which is why the values in the body text differ from the table.

SDGital2030 assessment of target attainment

While the federal agencies believe it realistic that the equality targets can be achieved, the majority of external actors consider this somewhat unrealistic. However, the federal agencies are less optimistic than in 2022 that the targets for real equality (5.1) and female participation in decision-making bodies (5.5) can be achieved. Although there has been progress on women's participation in the labour market (8.5(b)), equal pay (5.1) and the political representation of women (5.5), it is too slow to achieve the targets by 2030.



5 Drivers of sustainable development

This section sets out the perspectives of selected external actors from civil society, the business sector, the financial sector and academia. The texts are the result of four workshops involving members of the 2030 Agenda Advisory Group and representatives of selected organisations.

The assessments and demands presented reflect the views of the respective actors and should not be construed as statements by the Federal Council. They do not constitute a position of the Federal Council and do not represent the full spectrum of the respective actor groups.

The contributions supplement the report with additional perspectives and contribute to a broader understanding of the challenges and options for action.

5.1 Civil society

This group of drivers covers a wide variety of organisations, from social, equality, development and environmental policy NGOs, to charitable foundations and housing cooperatives, to youth organisations and economic initiatives for the common good.

Activities: Broad spectrum of topics and target groups covered

Civil society supports the 2030 Agenda substantially with its work on societally important social, humanitarian and environmental issues. This takes the form, for example, of education and awareness-raising, individual support for disadvantaged groups and projects in all SDG areas, not to mention political advocacy and network-building with the scientific and business sectors.

Major challenges: Dwindling resources and increasing legal uncertainty

A conflict of principles exists at the structural level: on the one hand, civil society organisations are increasingly expected to fill gaps in areas that actually fall under the government's remit, while on the other the Confederation is cutting the related resources, for example as part of the 2027 budget relief programme. A lack of long-term funding and reductions in specific financial support in contributions make it difficult to commit to the 2030 Agenda in a way that will have a lasting impact. Political tendencies that question the non-profit nature and political legitimacy of civil society work are also unhelpful.

Potential: Intergenerational solidarity, equal opportunities and greater participation

There is potential to be found in youth organisations that are calling for young people to be included systematically in political decision-making processes. One example would be a non-partisan youth council embedded in an institutional framework. The aim is to improve the prospects of young people, bring new energy to the 2030 Agenda, and entrench democratic participation as a habit in the younger generation. At the same time, the 2030 Agenda cannot be fulfilled without the involvement of the influential older generations.

Great potential also exists in unlocking gender equality, for example with statutory action on stereotypical roles, truly equal pay, hate speech and a fair whole-of-society distribution of care work. Social justice and inclusion should also be strengthened, especially for those who are disadvantaged or facing multiple forms of discrimination.

International agreements on social matters, such as the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, should be ratified and put into action. This requires a binding legal basis, effective projects and sufficient funding. There is also scope for further growth in the monitoring instruments used in areas such as poverty, environmental impacts and inclusion. Moreover, it is vital to pick up the pace of action to achieve environmental targets, specifically those on conserving biodiversity and combating climate change, for example by reducing environmentally harmful subsidies. Finally, there is the potential to raise voluntary commitments to the 2030 Agenda among the population and raise the visibility of the contribution that society makes.

Conditions required: Better coherence and binding force

Civil society is calling for better fundamental frameworks. These include more political backing for the 2030 Agenda, which is a binding standard for all government policies and should be integrated into legislative programmes. This would require additional environmental and social performance indicators and a better means of capturing negative spillovers. There is also a need for better instruments to review policy coherence and coordinate the implementation of the SDGs more efficiently. The role of the federal delegates, the Steering Committee and the 2030 Agenda Advisory Group could be expanded, for example. Switzerland should also be more active in international discussions on alternatives to GDP as a metric.

Implementing the 2030 Agenda demands a strong, independent and well-networked civil society. At the same time its long-term project and grassroots work cannot be assured without maintaining and expanding financial resources, freedom of expression and rights of appeal, and political agency. It is also important to expand opportunities for political participation, for people with disabilities or a migration background, for example, and to recognise civic engagement and not-for-profit political work.

All in all, the Confederation is expected to create conditions that not only enable all actor groups to implement the SDGs, but also oblige them to do so. The 2030 Agenda is an agenda for all, by all.

5.2 Business

The business (economy) group of drivers comprises small, medium-sized and large enterprises, employer and employee organisations, and networks and associations.

Activities: Varied yet fragmented efforts

The economy is a key driver of innovation, employment and prosperity. It contributes to the 2030 Agenda in tangible ways, such as: greenhouse gas reductions in the industrial sector, investments in decarbonisation, new business models to promote the circular economy, action to improve equal opportunities, cooperation along supply chains, training on sustainability, and engagement in political processes. Many companies are involved in networks and projects organised by associations, foundations and the public sector. One example is the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), under which companies set themselves climate targets founded on scientific evidence. The form these efforts take varies depending on the sector and size of the company. While some companies are already implementing comprehensive sustainability strategies, others are hesitant. SMEs in particular can be overwhelmed by unclear standards, reporting obligations and a lack of resources. Activities are fragmented overall, and there is a lack of general overview and high-level coordination.

Fundamental questions: Uncertain environment exacerbates problem of conflicting objectives

Geopolitical and trade policy uncertainties, rising energy prices, the unsettled relationship between the EU and Switzerland, the shortage of skilled workers, the cuts to innovation programmes and unresolved regulatory issues are making it more difficult to plan long term and make investment decisions that favour sustainable business practices. Companies competing internationally cannot put sustainability into practice effectively without stable and reliable frameworks that are open to new technology.

There is a broad consensus in the business world about the importance of sustainability as a guiding principle and goal. The dispute is about how to get there. While many companies believe in technological innovation, voluntary action and market mechanisms to decouple growth from environmental impact, parts of the business world are calling for clear rules and an active role for the state. This means that sufficiency strategies, for example to resolve the tension between economic growth and planetary boundaries in the sense of doughnut economics, or obligations to disclose sustainability information, may be seen as vital or as unrealistic, depending on standpoint.

Potential: Broader leverage from innovation and exports in particular

The private sector has enormous potential to contribute even more to the implementation of the SDGs. Specifically, this includes technological innovation, process digitalisation, and rising resource efficiency. In addition to contributions in the areas of climate and energy, there is further potential in the social and, of course, economic areas of sustainability. Many business actors believe that the economy as a whole is playing its role as a driver of sustainable development, but that it could do more, and do better.

The circular economy in particular offers crucial potential, especially in the construction industry. The leverage effect is particularly strong in areas in which Swiss companies are international leaders, such as the export of sustainable technologies, long life-cycle industrial and construction products, and innovative services to reduce the use of energy and materials. Positive spillovers help to achieve global sustainability targets. There is further potential to be found in consolidated industry solutions, better networking between existing initiatives, a joint platform for the various enterprise support programmes, especially SMEs, and improved education and training at all levels.

Conditions required: More efficient regulation and more social innovation?

Business associations, in particular, see regulatory density as a prime obstacle. Oft-cited demands therefore include less red tape, especially for SMEs, as well as a focus on the impact of action rather than on burdens of proof.

The necessary incentives are also still lacking. These include social and environmental impact costs being reflected more closely in pricing, although this requires a concerted international effort. In addition, stable funding and financing instruments are important for planning security, not least because of recent austerity programmes. Some warn against cuts in climate protection, research or vocational training, as these directly jeopardise the economy's ability to transform.

Multiple actors are calling not only for technological innovations, but also increasingly social ones to be promoted to a greater degree. These factors should be incorporated more closely into government funding for innovation, such as living labs, targeted funding lines or a dedicated fund. After all, social innovations can contribute to both economic success and the achievement of other SDGs. Others reject this proposal, citing limited resources.

5.3 Financial sector

The financial sector group of drivers consists of firms and organisations from the financial sector (banks, insurance companies, asset managers and institutional investors), and additional actors from the sustainable finance field.

Activities: Important developments in the sector

The financial sector contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in a variety of ways, for example by financing companies and projects, developing innovative financial and investment products (e.g. impact funds) or through self-regulatory measures and tools for integrating environmental, social and governance criteria. Examples include the Swiss Stewardship Code, binding self-regulation guidelines to prevent greenwashing, and standardised CO_2 reporting in the real estate sector.

Fundamental problem: Role and conflicting objectives

There is a broad consensus that the financial sector plays an important role in sustainable development and can exercise leverage. One section of this actor group believes that the main responsibility for progress lies with the real economy and its regulation, through binding climate policy frameworks, for instance. Others believe that the financial sector has an additional, active role to play, with its own potential to shape the future. One dilemma is that banks and asset managers are dependent on the objectives and mandates of their clients (fiduciary duty). Most of these clients are looking primarily for returns and security. At the same time, up to now it has not generally been the investor's job to consider other sustainable development objectives, and this option is not always seen as an opportunity.

The potential is there: Impact investing as a case in point

The financial sector is quite successful in fulfilling its role as a driver of sustainable development, but it could still do more. This is true, for example, with regard to developing innovative financial solutions, in particular blended finance, a mix of private and public-sector development financing. The sector could also do more to make impact investing more

accessible. Obstacles to the expansion of blended finance are the ongoing lack of available risk (concessional) capital and insufficient scalability. In addition to equity investments, the markets for bonds, real estate, infrastructure and commodities also offer opportunities to pay greater heed to sustainability aspects. The decisive factor in shifting capital allocation towards innovative and sustainable investment solutions is the prospect of market-level returns. Potential also lies in the expansion of stewardship, i.e. dialogue with companies and the exercise of shareholder voting rights.

Conditions required: Enhanced shareholder rights and greater transparency

According to several actors, the legal framework needs to be clarified: to give investors a stronger role it must be clarified to which extent it is the fiduciary responsibility of investors such as pension funds to orient themselves to sustainability goals and consider climate risks and other factors. The Confederation and other public institutions should also step up and fulfil their responsibilities in this regard when investing their money. Clarity is also required about what forms of investor cooperation on sustainability are permissible under anti-trust law, and do not constitute acting in concert. Furthermore, it should be made possible to transfer voting rights (proxy voting for deposited shares), namely in the case of private asset management mandates.

Improving data availability and transparency is also key. To achieve this, a standardised digital recording format for companies' voluntary sustainability information has been proposed, similar to the European ESG Template (EET). Another example here is the project to make data on the environmental impact of district heating available centrally. This impact depends on the energy mix of the provider in question.

The question of whether further-reaching climate or explicit sustainability targets are needed is assessed differently. Some circles are calling for sanctions if targets are missed. Major financial industry associations, on the other hand, warn against overly ambitious regulation of the financial centre and against going it alone, possibly resulting in regulatory arbitrage owing to the 'Swiss finish', the tendency for tougher regulation domestically than elsewhere. These associations represent the position that emissions must primarily be reduced in the real economy; the financial industry can support this, but cannot force change.

5.4 Education, research and innovation

This group of drivers includes actors from all levels of education (primary, secondary and tertiary), and from university-level research and innovation.

Activities: Education, research and innovation play an important role …

Embedding education for sustainable development (ESD) in the curricula of compulsory schooling and subsequent study provides important leverage to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda more fully. Numerous academic courses and projects have been launched on the topic by universities and research institutions, sustainable consumption and social change being examples. Funding for innovation funding has also focused on themes such as the circular economy, mobility, food and defossilisation.

… but broad implementation and recognition are challenges

Despite good strategies and some success in incorporating sustainable development more closely into education and research, broad implementation remains a demanding task. For example, alongside other rising expectations it is difficult for teachers to build cross-cutting

sustainability issues into their lessons. At university level, there are still few incentives for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary projects in partnership with stakeholders, or careers, because these often count for little in the academic world.

Furthermore, the funding cuts implemented as part of the 2027 budget relief programme jeopardise the continuity and necessary expansion of educational offers and research projects that are required to achieve sustainable development.

Great potential and important multiplier effect of education at all levels

There is great potential in focusing research and support for innovation on key sustainable development topics, but also in coordinating such efforts more effectively nationwide, between higher education institutions and funding bodies, for example. The impact of research could be multiplied if dialogue with policymakers were strengthened and institutionalised.

Instead of cutting funding, the financial and structural frameworks should be improved to overcome siloed thinking and provide more targeted support for interdisciplinary and practice-based research and teaching. In particular, greater use should be made of the contributions made by the social sciences and humanities.

It is especially important to approach compulsory schooling and vocational education and training as multipliers. It is at these levels that skills are taught that will help drive sustainable development throughout the population for many years to come.

Conditions required: More dialogue with policymakers and more incentives for sustainability

There is a need for stronger thematic research programmes that tackle the specific key challenges of sustainable development from the practical perspective. Such programmes, in the tradition of Switzerland's National Research Programmes (NRP) would also promote the third space where research and application meet.

In many areas there are enough studies and sufficient data on action for sustainable development, but closer dialogue is still needed for scientific findings to flow more smoothly into political processes and thus help support knowledge-based decisions. A parliamentary commission for sustainable development might fill the present gap and act as the missing link in this science-policy dialogue.

The threat of funding cuts is a major obstacle to the interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary projects referred to above, and undermines the planning security that is needed to develop new educational programmes.

To redress the frequent lack of recognition for research and teaching in the SDG space, the inclusion of sustainability topics in the curriculum could be applied more consistently as a criterion for university accreditation. A great deal of attention and more resources are also needed to root education, research and innovation more firmly in compulsory education, as well as in vocational education and training and the upper secondary level generally.

6 Switzerland's impacts on the world

The effect of Switzerland's actions is not limited to our own country, but also felt abroad. In view of the diversity of economic, environmental and social impacts, this section is confined to selected areas in which there was significant change during the reporting period. Additional information can be found on the SDGital2030 platform.

International cooperation (IC) is one of the foreign policy instruments that enable Switzerland to help tackle global challenges such as poverty and social inequality, climate change, pandemics, migration and conflict prevention. On the basis of its International Cooperation Strategy 2025–28 Switzerland supports partner countries in their efforts to advance sustainable development in its three dimensions of the economy, the environment and society. As part of measures to stabilise the federal budget in the longer term, funding commitments for international cooperation were also cut in 2024, by CHF 150 million. Further reductions of over CHF 400 million are planned between 2025 and 2028. Even with reduced resources and amid a shifting geopolitical situation, Switzerland will remain a reliable partner in the worldwide implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

At the multilateral level, Switzerland participates actively in negotiations and international conferences, as well as in UN organisations and development banks through seats on steering committees and financial contributions.

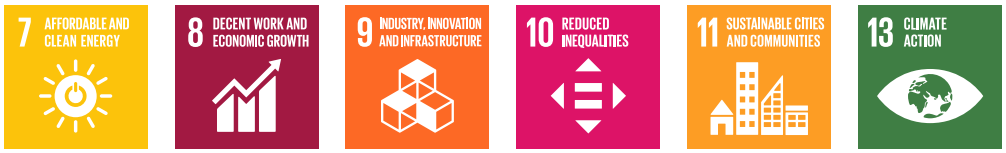


International Geneva: an ecosystem for action towards the Sustainable Development Goals

International Geneva has been a global centre of multilateral diplomacy for 160 years. Hosting 46 international organisations, representations from 185 UN member and observer states and around 460 NGOs, this unique, open and accessible ecosystem offers favourable conditions for creating international standards and developing innovative solutions. The focus is on global challenges in the areas of humanitarian affairs, security, peace, human rights, health, labour, trade, and the environment, as well as science diplomacy and new technologies. As the host state, Switzerland is committed to ensuring that the various UN organisations and convention secretariats based here can work together efficiently and coherently. Geneva as a location is facing challenging conditions due to the UN reforms. International Geneva is an important element of Swiss foreign policy, and is therefore receiving an additional CHF 269 million in support from the Federal Council for the 2026–29 period.

The UN Forum of Mayors in Geneva is an example of how International Geneva brings together actors at local, regional and global level. Switzerland supports the forum in a number of ways, including the Global Cities Hub, which aims to tackle challenges associated with sustainable urban development through networking and experience-sharing.

6.1 Global competitiveness and lasting prosperity



As a medium-sized economy with limited natural resources and a small domestic market, Switzerland is dependent on international trade. It aims to secure its prosperity and to increase it in the long term, in alignment with the 2030 Agenda. To this end, it furthers sustainable trade and responsible business conduct, and supports developing and newly industrialising countries with their economic development. Strong partnerships play a central role in Switzerland's foreign economic policy.

Commitment to more sustainable trade policies

Sustainability is recognised as a principle in the thematic 'Prosperity and competitiveness' priority in Switzerland's Foreign Policy Strategy 2024–27, and as an action area of the Foreign Economic Policy Strategy. At the multilateral level Switzerland participates in all World Trade Organisation (WTO) processes concerning trade and the environment, and it took the chair of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment in 2024 and 2025. Switzerland has signed an agreement on climate change, trade and sustainability with Costa Rica, Iceland and New Zealand (see box below: ACCTS). It also ensures that environmental and social standards are built into free trade agreements (FTAs). Successful examples of this are the new FTAs with Moldova, India, Thailand, Kosovo, Malaysia, and the Mercosur member states, as well as the updated FTAs with Chile and Ukraine.

Geopolitical tensions have led to greater economic uncertainty, protectionism and industrial policy interventions, often at the expense of multilateralism and open markets. Switzerland continues to honour its international undertakings, and advocates for clear rules in the global economy and close cooperation in the multilateral trading system.

Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS)

In 2024, Switzerland, Costa Rica, Iceland and New Zealand signed the plurilateral Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS). The ACCTS provides for liberalisation in the trade of environmental goods and services, restricted subsidies for fossil fuels and higher-quality environmental labels. Setting high and binding standards, it advances mutually supportive trade and environmental policies and thus promotes sustainable development. The ACCTS is expected to expand with the accession of further WTO members.

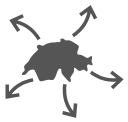
Support for responsible business conduct

Switzerland is also committed internationally to corporate social responsibility (see section 4.1.4) and supports International Labour Organization (ILO) programmes for better working conditions, higher productivity and fairer wages in partner countries. Thanks to these Swiss-funded projects, 800 SMEs in Ghana, South Africa and Vietnam were able to increase their productivity between 2022 and the beginning of 2025, for example, and 45,000 employees benefited from better working conditions (see Productivity Ecosystems for Decent Work factsheet). It also promotes private sector initiatives, such as Integrating Sustainability and Diversity in Boards (ESG4Boards).

Promoting sustainable economic development

Switzerland supports developing countries and emerging economies on their path towards sustainable economic growth. This is achieved by creating jobs locally, improving operating conditions, strengthening the local economy and consistently involving the private sector. A major part of this are public-private partnerships to promote impact investments, such as the SDG Impact Finance Initiative (SIFI) (see box: Spillovers: sustainable finance and investment).

Sector-specific multi-stakeholder initiatives have also gained in importance. Examples here include the Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa (SWISSCO) and the Swiss Sustainable Coffee Platform (SSCP), launched in 2024. The members of the two platforms work to improve the social, environmental and economic sustainability of the cocoa and coffee value chains in Switzerland and in producing countries.



Spillovers: sustainable finance and investment

Switzerland is one of the world's top-ten exporters of capital. In 2024, CHF 15.7 billion flowed from Switzerland to middle-income countries (MICs), while CHF 0.09 billion flowed from least developed countries (LDCs) (capital outflow). Between 2004 and 2024, Switzerland's direct investment abroad averaged CHF 29.5 billion per year, of which CHF 7.9 billion was invested in developing countries (MICs and LDCs). In 2021, Switzerland signed the Glasgow Declaration at COP26. It provides for public funding for fossil fuels to be phased out and calls for the targeted promotion of clean energies instead. Exceptions for fossil fuel projects are still possible in certain cases, however.

In 2022, Switzerland set itself the objective of consolidating its role as a leading centre of sustainable finance. Regulations governing large companies' reporting on climate issues have been in force since 2024. To increase high-impact finance, Switzerland is supporting the SDG Impact Finance Initiative (SIFI), for example, with the aim of mobilising CHF 1 billion in private funding by 2030. Contributions to funding instruments such as the Swiss Investment Fund for Emerging Markets (SIFEM) or large climate funds such as the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) remain substantial despite fiscal policy challenges. Finally, in the decision-making bodies of multilateral banks Switzerland works to ensure that more funds are mobilised for sustainable development.

Switzerland updated the Swiss Climate Scores, a voluntary climate rating for financial institutions, in 2023, thereby increasing transparency about the climate compatibility of financial products. In 2024 a voluntary horizontal assessment was conducted, the Paris Agreement Capital Transition Assessment (PACTA) test. The outcomes showed that the financial sector remains exposed to risks from companies operating in the fossil fuel sector, despite the encouraging progress that has been made.

6.2 Human development



Access to high-quality healthcare, a healthy diet, education and basic infrastructure is crucial to reducing poverty and inequality. Switzerland's international cooperation takes a holistic approach to improving basic services both in its priority countries and globally.

Robust healthcare systems worldwide through contributions to funding and research

ealthcare is a key dimension of human development. Its significance became all the clearer after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Switzerland puts its commitment to more resilient and robust healthcare structures into practice through its financial contributions to international organisations. Its holistic approach to supporting the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria helped to ensure that the provision of services to combat these diseases quickly returned to pre-pandemic levels. The factors in this success included ensuring financial continuity for ongoing programmes, reallocating resources flexibly, and reinforcing local healthcare structures. The structural erosion of healthcare systems around the world and the withdrawal of traditional donors from global healthcare financing remain challenging. Switzerland, too, reduced some of its financial support for global health programmes from 2025, or discontinued it altogether, as in the case of UNAIDS. Despite good networks in Geneva, multisectoral approaches such as those to gender equality, education, nutrition and health, are still proving difficult to coordinate. In addition, strengthening political headwinds against sexual and reproductive rights are making it more difficult to implement the relevant programmes.

Combating hunger and promoting healthy nutrition

Climate change and armed conflict have been factors in the deterioration of food security in many regions. The situation was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and inflation in food and fertiliser prices as a result of the war in Ukraine and other drivers. Flexible instruments and an increase in the corresponding funding made it possible quickly to expand humanitarian food or cash aid and bilateral agricultural projects in particularly hard-hit contexts, such as the Horn of Africa, Burkina Faso, Afghanistan and Laos.

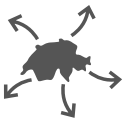
Alongside short-term food aid, it is essential to establish food systems that are sustainable, resilient and inclusive. Switzerland participates in various multilateral bodies to achieve this. For example, during the reporting period it offered both political and financial support for the agriculture, food and water efforts of multilateral development banks and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Switzerland also advocated for improved international frameworks via processes in international bodies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), intergovernmental platforms such as the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), and scientific organisations such as the CGIAR global partnership for agricultural research (see box: Innovating to beat hunger).

Innovating to beat hunger

The innovations of the Swiss-supported global partnership for agricultural research CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research) in the areas of plant technology and management are used on at least 221 million hectares in Africa, Asia and Latin America and generate an annual economic prosperity gain of USD 47 billion (as of 2024). The combination of highly productive, climate-resistant plant varieties, sustainable farming practices and targeted Swiss co-financing creates a multiplier effect that not only increases agricultural productivity, but also sustainably improves economic resilience, food security and protections for natural resources in the affected regions in the long term.

In the interests of monitoring progress towards SDG 2 at the global level, and as part of measure 4 of the 2024–27 Action Plan on the 2030 SDS, Switzerland worked with other countries and organisations to develop a new statistical indicator on minimum dietary diversity for women and children. It has been incorporated into the global sustainability indicators since 2025.

Global food systems must be transformed from the bottom up to ensure global food security in the medium to long term. To this end, Switzerland is actively involved in multi-stakeholder partnerships focusing particularly on the topics of water, livestock, biodiversity and the climate. One example is its role as co-head of the UN Sustainable Food Systems Programme (SFSP). Switzerland submitted its first National Pathway to transform food systems in support of the 2030 Agenda in 2021. An updated version was published in 2025.



Spillovers: education, research, innovation (ERI) and contributions to the global knowledge base

Switzerland's public and private-sector ERI actors are a major driver of sustainable development at international level as well as domestically. Positive spillovers are generated by sustainability-related teaching and research at universities, innovation-focused start-ups, sustainability-oriented funding programmes, and international cooperation in the context of Horizon Europe, for example. Combined with knowledge and technology transfer via qualified experts or open science, Switzerland thereby contributes significantly to the global knowledge base. In this way, open science (e.g. in the form of open access publications) facilitates access to information at home and abroad, regardless of income and funding circumstances, and supports equality of opportunity.

Sustainable solutions for migration and forced displacement

Since 2020, migration has been a cross-cutting component of Switzerland's foreign policy strategies. The focus is on reducing irregular migration and forced displacement, as well as protecting people fleeing from conflict and crisis zones. In addition, Switzerland promotes the economic integration of migrants – in particular through improved access to capital and support for entrepreneurship – and is committed to combating sexual and gender-based violence.

6.3 Environment



Extreme weather events, harvest shortfalls and water shortages increased again during the reporting period, jeopardising the livelihoods of millions of people globally. In areas with scarce water resources, climate change frequently exacerbates already precarious conditions. Switzerland therefore supports the development of sustainable measures to combat the negative impacts of climate change. However, it is also committed to fighting climate change and to protecting the environment at the global level through multilateral environmental agreements and scientific cooperation.

Combating climate change and supporting adaptation measures

Switzerland took part in the negotiations on the first mid-term review of the Paris Agreement in 2023 and advocated a resolution at COP28 calling for a global transition away from fossil fuels towards sustainable energy systems, in order to achieve net zero by 2050 in line with scientific findings. In addition, Switzerland was actively involved in the negotiations on the climate financing target set in 2024, of USD 300 billion per year by 2030. Between 2022 and 2024 it contributed an average of CHF 772 million per year to climate financing from public and mobilised private sources. Through this it supports objectives such as greater energy efficiency around the world, the expansion of renewable energies and climate adaptation measures. Switzerland is calling for the UN to continue to treat the fight against climate change as a global challenge.

The climate targets and national contributions under the Paris Agreement and their continuous tightening and consistent implementation remain a prerequisite for combating climate change. Switzerland was one of the first countries to present its second nationally determined contribution, in January 2025. It provides for greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced by at least 65% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels.

Switzerland supports several multilateral climate funds, including CHF 15 million per year between 2025 and 2028 to the Paris Agreement Adaptation Fund. Furthermore, in 2024 Geneva was chosen to host the secretariat of the Santiago network. The network offers developing countries technical support in dealing with damage and losses caused by climate change. Switzerland provided financial support with a core contribution of CHF 2 million and is actively involved in setting up the network.

Protecting biodiversity and combating chemical and plastic pollution

Switzerland supported the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) to counter the loss of biodiversity. It was also an active participant in the negotiations on the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), which was adopted as part of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in 2023.

The current geopolitical situation is also hampering progress on the environment. In the ongoing UN process on an agreement against plastic pollution, the oil states and the USA in particular are rejecting global measures to regulate plastic products and the potentially hazardous chemicals they contain. Furthermore, scientific findings are increasingly being called into question as a basis for political decision-making if they do not correspond to the parties' own political orientation. Discussions at the last session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) also showed that the level of ambition is somewhat modest. Switzerland nonetheless helped to ensure that follow-up work on chemicals was decided upon and new scientific findings were taken into consideration.

Facilitating science-based decisions on the environment

Thanks to Switzerland's initiative and support, a new Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP) was established in 2025. Modelled on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the ISP-CWP will facilitate informed, science-based decisions and sharpen instruments for the sustainable management of chemicals and waste.

Cross-border cooperation on water to lessen conflict

Given that 60% of freshwater flows across borders, water-related conflicts and tensions – between both user groups at municipal level and neighbouring states – are likely to increase in connection with climate change. Growing cooperation on water-related issues is promising. At the UN 2023 Water Conference, Switzerland co-chaired the interactive dialogue on water for cooperation with Senegal and helped to put this previously sensitive topic firmly on the global agenda. Another example of successful Swiss water diplomacy is its involvement in the guidelines on cross-border groundwater cooperation for the water strategy of the Arab League.

6.4 Peace, security, democracy and governance



Democratic principles and good governance face challenges as institutions weaken and authoritarianism gains ground. According to the V-Dem Democracy Report, in 2024 72 % of the world's population lived under autocracies. It is the highest figure since 1978 and covers 26 of the priority countries for Switzerland's international cooperation. The Global Peace Index fell for the tenth consecutive year in 2024, reflecting events such as the ongoing war in Ukraine, instability in West Africa and the conflict in the Middle East. Around a quarter of the world's population lives in conflict-affected areas. Promoting peace and democracy as the foundation of sustainable development is therefore a priority for Switzerland.

Committed to conflict resolution and peacebuilding

Working for peace through mediation, humanitarian aid or the deployment of civilian and military experts is one of the cornerstones of Swiss foreign policy. To resolve conflicts and promote peace, Switzerland initiates process of dialogue that aim to prevent violent conflict breaking out and to create the conditions for lasting peace. At the same time, international cooperation addresses the structural causes of conflict. It promotes equitable access for all to a good level of basic services and works to open up good prospects for everyone. Switzerland continues to fulfil its long-standing role as a protecting power, for which demand has risen again.

Despite tougher competition between locations, Switzerland has continued to play an important role as a host state in recent years. The Bürgenstock Summit on Peace in Ukraine in 2024 brought together nearly 100 high-ranking delegations and was the largest peace conference that Switzerland has ever organised. Demand for mediation services is also unabated. Conflict parties have entrusted Switzerland with new and sometimes confidential mandates in connection with domestic conflicts, in particular.

Promoting gender equality

Switzerland's International Cooperation Strategy for both the 2021–24 and 2025–28 periods integrates the promotion of gender equality into all international cooperation activities. Between 2021 and 2024 some 80 % of programmes and projects included targets to improve gender equality. Of these, just under 4 % had gender equality as their primary focus.

Gender equality and recognition for the role of women are also cornerstones of sustainable peace and security. This makes it all the more important for Switzerland to implement the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. The focus is on two priorities: (1) affirming the role of women in preventing conflict, and (2) the full, equal and effective participation of women in conflict resolution. In both areas Switzerland played an active role in the multilateral context, with its seat on the UN Security Council in 2023–24 (see box: UN Security Council), regionally, and in the WPS Focal Point Network. It also worked hard bilaterally to support dialogue and peace processes.



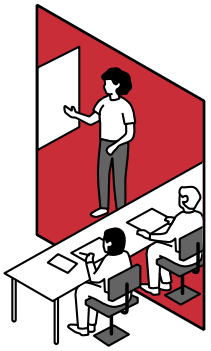
Promoting comprehensive peace on the UN Security Council, 2023–24

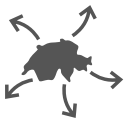
Switzerland used its 2023–24 seat on the UN Security Council to drive comprehensive peace and security. Addressing climate security was one of its four priorities for this tenure. It campaigned successfully for climate risks to be given greater consideration in peace and security issues, for example by mandating peace missions to analyse climate risks and their impacts more systematically. Their integration in seven recent resolutions enables climate risks to human security to be anticipated more fully, first-time examples being West Africa and the Sahel.

Promoting democracy and repatriating assets

The Guidelines on Democracy 2025–28 that were published in 2025 define the objectives of Switzerland's democracy promotion work and the foreign policy instruments that it uses to reinforce democratic processes and institutions. Their objectives include taking targeted action to promote and protect democracy in dialogue with interested states. This means not only defending existing democratic structures, but also strengthening democratic institutions and processes in countries where democracy is still in its infancy, or facing challenges.

Another area in which Switzerland has proven expertise is the repatriation of assets (see box: Spillovers: illicit financial flows).



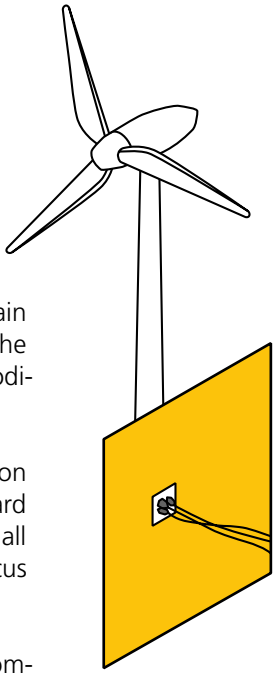


Spillovers: illicit financial flows

As a leading financial centre, Switzerland is exposed to illicit financial flows related to money laundering, corruption, fraud and tax evasion. Switzerland is actively committed to international standards for combating abuse and implements numerous measures to ensure the integrity of the Swiss financial centre, e.g. in the areas of exchange of information in tax matters and administrative and legal assistance. Due to the strong international integration of its financial centre, there is a particular risk for Switzerland that it will be used for money laundering stemming from predicate offences committed abroad. Following the last country review of Switzerland by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in 2016, in 2023 the FATF recognised the progress made in the areas of preventive measures, the responsibility of financial intermediaries, the exchange of information and the identification of beneficial owners, and also highlighted the efforts of the Money Laundering Reporting Office Switzerland (MROS). In 2025, recommendations 22 to 25 of the FATF were implemented by means of a law to strengthen the transparency of legal entities and the amended Anti-Money Laundering Act in Swiss law.

Lastly, Switzerland is actively involved in the relevant intergovernmental discussions, known as the 'Addis process', and has introduced best practice in several areas to ensure that the returned assets benefit the population of the countries of origin. Assets are currently being returned to Uzbekistan (USD 313 million) and Peru (USD 16 million). Repatriations to Nigeria (USD 321 million), Kazakhstan (USD 49 million) and Turkmenistan (USD 1.3 million) were completed between 2022 and 2026.

7 Looking ahead



The Voluntary National Review presents a mixed picture. Progress has been made in certain areas, particularly in renewable energy, the circular economy and gender equality. At the same time, key challenges remain, notably in sustainable consumption, climate action, biodiversity, affordable housing and the fight against discrimination.

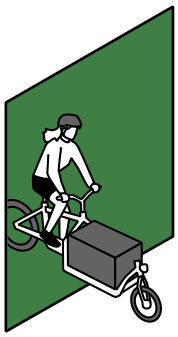
Against the backdrop of changing geopolitical and economic conditions, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda has become more challenging. The Federal Council continues to regard it as an important reference framework. However, its goals are no longer achievable in all areas and within the originally envisaged timeframe. Clear priorities and a consistent focus on effective measures are crucial.

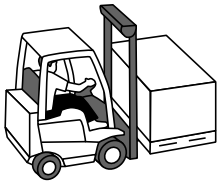
A shift is also evident at the international level: the 2030 Agenda is evolving from a comprehensive transformation agenda into a pragmatic reference framework. The focus is on targeted acceleration in selected areas, greater mobilisation of financial resources and a more realistic assessment of target achievement. Against this backdrop, this VNR represents Switzerland's final national report in its current format. The Federal Council has tasked the FDFA with submitting a proposal to it by the end of 2028 on how to approach the comprehensive evaluation of the 2015–30 period.

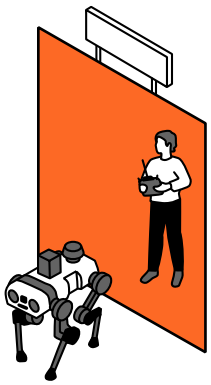


Key levers remain enhanced cooperation between the Confederation, cantons and communes, as well as the consistent integration of sustainability goals into planning, budgeting and steering processes. Conflicting objectives must be identified and resolved through political decision-making. A coherent approach also remains central in foreign policy, particularly when dealing with cross-border impacts ('spillover effects'). Four areas of action are emerging: demographic change, climate and biodiversity, resource-efficient economy, and technological change. These developments require adjustments in the areas of infrastructure, the labour market, education and governance, as well as a strengthening of social cohesion.

Switzerland will continue to champion sustainable development internationally – with a pragmatic approach geared towards concrete results. International Geneva will remain a key location for facilitating dialogue and developing joint solutions, particularly in light of profound changes in multilateralism.







List of abbreviations

2030 SDS	2030 Sustainable Development Strategy
AAG	2030 Agenda Advisory Group
ACCTS	Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ASC	2030 Agenda Steering Committee
ASC	Association of Swiss Communes
BBNJ Agreement	Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement, also known as the High Seas Treaty
BCRA	Business Cost Relief Act
CCG	Conference of Cantonal Governments
CGIAR	Global partnership for agricultural research, derived from its full original name, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CHF	Swiss francs
CIA	Climate and Innovation Act
CIP	Cantonal Integration Programme
CO_2	Carbon dioxide
CO_2 Act	Federal Act on the Reduction of CO_2 Emissions
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPA	Federal Act on Climate Protection Goals, Innovation and Strengthening Energy Security (Climate Protection Act)
CSDN	Cantonal Sustainable Development Network
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DDA	Federal Act on the Elimination of Discrimination against People with Disabilities, Disability Discrimination Act
DETEC	Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications
EET	European ESG Template
EnA	Federal Energy Act
EPA	Federal Act on the Protection of the Environment (Environmental Protection Act)
ERI	Education, Research and Innovation
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
ESG	Environment, Social and Governance
EU	European Union
FAO	UN Food and Agriculture Organization
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FCM	Federal Commission on Migration
FDFA	Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
FOEN	Federal Office for the Environment
FoM	Forum of Mayors
FSO	Federal Statistical Office
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
G20	Group of Twenty
GBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
GDP	Gross domestic product
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GESDA	Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator
GF	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
GJ	Gigajoule
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
IAS	Swiss integration agenda
IC	International Cooperation
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISP-CWP	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LGBTIQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer
MROS	Money Laundering Reporting Office Switzerland
NAP	National Action Plan
NCD	Non-Communicable Diseases
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRP	National Research Programme
OASI	Old-age and survivors' insurance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PFAS	Per- and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances
PPA	Public Procurement Act
RBI-2	Responsible Business Initiative 2
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in developing countries, a Paris Agreement framework
SBTi	Science Based Targets initiative
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
SDGital2030	www.sdgital2030.ch platform
SFSP	Sustainable Food Systems Programme
SIFEM	Swiss Investment Fund for Emerging Markets
SIFI	SDG Impact Finance Initiative
SKOS	Swiss Conference for Social Welfare
SME	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
SSCP	Swiss Sustainable Coffee Platform
SSV	Swiss Union of Cities
SWISSCO	Swiss Platform for Sustainable Cocoa
TARDOC model	Swiss tariff structure for the billing of outpatient medical services
TC	Tripartite Conference
TCFD	Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures
TWh	Terawatt hours
UN	United Nations
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNEA	UN Environment Assembly
UNODC	UN Office on Drugs and Crime
USD	US dollar
VLR	Voluntary Local Review
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WPS Agenda	Women, Peace and Security Agenda
WTO	World Trade Organization