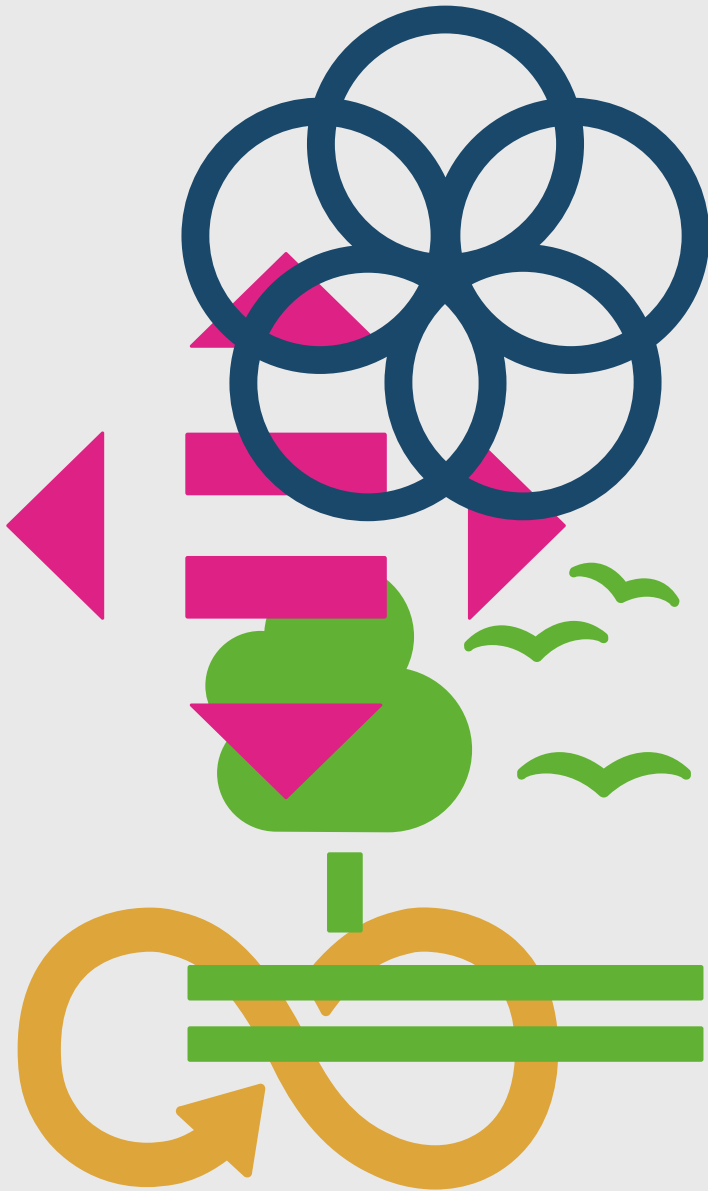


THE COURAGE TO ACT



A Civil Society Manifesto for the Effective Implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, Switzerland made a binding commitment under the United Nations framework to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The 2030 Agenda is not a mere symbolic guideline; it is the defining political mandate for all state action.

HOWEVER, THE CURRENT VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW (VNR) EXPOSES A STARK REALITY:

Switzerland is failing to meet its obligations. Progress is insufficient, and in critical areas, we are witnessing active regression. The Confederation, cantons, and municipalities must move forward with courage and ambition.

The federal government must reclaim its leadership role, rigorously applying the "leave no one behind" pledge. Furthermore, Switzerland can no longer ignore its negative global footprint ("spillover effects") and must advance in the development of a high-quality monitoring system.

This paper outlines the most urgent political measures required by Swiss civil society to ensure the effective implementation of the SDGs.



**Plattform
Agenda
2030**



ROBUST FRAMEWORKS AND CONDITIONS

DEMOCRACY & INTERNATIONAL LAW

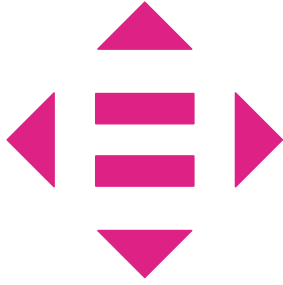
- Switzerland must actively champion a strong UN, just global institutions, and a rules-based international order, ensuring that domestic laws align with international obligations.
- Guarantee democratic pluralism by securing stable funding for non-profits, independent science, and media. Enact immediate legislative safeguards against Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs).

PEACE & INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- Adopt a comprehensive security strategy that shifts focus from military reaction to conflict prevention, diplomatic peacebuilding, and the protection of human rights.
- Fulfill Switzerland's international duty by addressing tax injustice and debt crises. Immediate realization of the long-promised target to allocate 0.7% of Gross National Income to international cooperation.

JUST TRANSITION & FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Promotion of a socially just and inclusive transition to a sustainable, climate-neutral economy.
- Abandon fiscal policies that undermine social and ecological goals. Realign public finance to drive a socially just transition, actively reducing inequalities within and between nations.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SOCIAL COHESION

The right to a self-determined and dignified life is currently denied to too many in Switzerland. High poverty rates, widening inequality, and systemic discrimination against women, migrants, racialized communities, people with disabilities, and LGBTQIA+ individuals remains widespread.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SWISS GOVERNMENT:

- Implement a binding national strategy on poverty to guarantee a dignified minimum standard of living for all, directly tackling wealth concentration and promoting radical equal opportunity.
- Rigorously enforce the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW. Eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination without exception.
- Recognize, reduce, and redistribute unpaid and underpaid care work through structural reforms and fair compensation models.
- Overhaul working conditions in the healthcare system. Ensure universal, non-discriminatory access to primary healthcare as a fundamental right.
- Dismantle structural barriers preventing people with disabilities from living independently. Enforce the right to self-determination and guarantee full participation in all democratic processes.



CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND BIODIVERSITY

Intact ecosystems and a stable climate are the bedrocks of long-term prosperity, Yet biodiversity is still under severe pressure, and Switzerland's current climate policy is insufficient to meet the Paris Climate Agreement. Despite progress in renewable energy, significant action is still needed to achieve the set climate and biodiversity goals.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SWISS GOVERNMENT:

- Commit to a legally binding, cross-sectoral plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% by 2030 and achieve net-zero by 2050. This requires massive expansion of renewables and strict efficiency and sufficiency mandates.
- Drive the transition to climate-friendly mobility and energy-efficient renovations, ensuring that costs do not fall disproportionately on low-income households.
- Mandate that all Swiss financial actors align their international portfolios with global climate and biodiversity targets.
- Fully implement the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Legally protect 30% of land and water as biodiversity areas, restore 30% of degraded ecosystems, and integrate biodiversity into all legislative decisions.
- Immediately abolish all subsidies which result in damage to the climate and biodiversity. Redirect financial incentives to actively drive SDG achievement.



SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Despite initial progress, current measures are insufficient to align consumption, production, and value creation with sustainability and planetary boundaries. Harmful incentives such as subsidies for fossil fuels and aviation persist, the material footprint per capita remains very high, and the food system pays too little attention to the environment, climate, and animal welfare.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SWISS GOVERNMENT:

- Create binding framework conditions for a just economic transformation, backed by strong social safety nets for workers in transitioning industries.
- Move beyond “end-of-pipe” solutions. Enforce the revised Environmental Protection Act to mandate a shift toward a resource-efficient circular economy.
- Support SMEs in transitioning to sustainable business models where people and the conservation of natural resources are at the center of their strategy.
- Promote regenerative agroecology and sustainable food systems. Create clear incentives to shift toward organic and plant-based diets, involving all actors in the value chain.
- Enforcement of corporate accountability in matters of human rights and environment by combining due diligence obligations with effective enforcement mechanisms.



THE PLATFORM AGENDA 2030



The Swiss CSO Platform Agenda 2030 is a network bringing together around 50 civil society organizations from the fields of development cooperation, environmental protection, gender equality, peacebuilding, sustainable economy, and trade unions. Our mission is to ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Switzerland and by Switzerland.

We actively participate in political processes and engage with political authorities and public administration through our own analyses and policy recommendations. We connect civil society actors across Switzerland and work towards finding sustainable solutions for the future.



SWITZERLAND'S VNR



IMPRINT

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