



Switzerland's priorities for the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly

Switzerland has set the following priorities for the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly:

Sustainable development

Switzerland is committed to a comprehensive, global agenda for sustainable development with universally applicable goals, which should enable sustainable development and the elimination of extreme poverty while considering at the same time the Earth's environmental limits, the promotion of peace and inclusive societies and the fulfilment of human rights obligations. In terms of content, Switzerland is particularly committed to independent objectives in the areas of water, health, gender equality as well as sustainable peace and inclusive societies. Furthermore, the sustainability of consumption and production, disaster prevention and migration relevant aspects should also be considered when setting the agenda.

In designing the new target agenda, Switzerland is dedicated to the consistent and balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development (economy, social aspects and the environment). The objectives should consider existing interactions between various thematic areas. At the same time, any conflict of objectives should be avoided.

In order to implement the global objectives, a closer cooperation between state and non-state actors is important. Switzerland works to ensure that, in addition to the official development cooperation, which remains particularly important for the poorest countries, additional financial resources and channels are included to provide funding to implement the new framework of objectives. Furthermore, Switzerland supports the creation of an international environment which promotes the implementation of the objectives.

Switzerland is also committed to creating a solid framework for monitoring and accountability. This is why Switzerland is particularly engaged in introducing a universal mechanism for regular review, accounting and reporting on the achievement of goals within the framework of the new High-Level Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

Peace and security

The commission's peace consolidation review will shape the UN's future support for states in post-conflict situations. Switzerland will play an active role in this review, contributing its experience of chairing the Burundi configuration, therefore working towards strengthening the UN's capacities in post-conflict situations.

Switzerland is dedicated to better cooperation between the UN and the regional organisers, especially with the OSCE, in conflict prevention and mediation. It supports the expansion of the UN's human rights capacities and the implementation of the UN Secretary-General's Rights Up Front Initiative to consolidate its capacities in crisis situations.

Switzerland is continuing its efforts to promote a balanced implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy while safeguarding the rule of law and human rights in addition to supporting the reinforcement of the strategy's review mechanism.

In the field of nuclear disarmament, Switzerland is involved in the humanitarian dimension and advocates decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons. In the field of conventional arms, Switzerland is committed to the swift entry into force and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty. The revitalisation of disarmament institutions also remains an important theme.

Human rights

Special attention will be paid to increasing accountability for serious human rights violations and to criminal prosecution at the national level and international level, especially in Syria. Another key concern for Switzerland is the strengthening of the rights of women and girls.

The abolition of the death penalty, the fight against racism, the prohibition and prevention of torture, the protection of human rights defenders, the protection of privacy on the internet and the protection of human rights during political transitions continue to be priorities. In the field of children's rights, Switzerland is particularly committed to the fight against the recruitment of child soldiers by armed groups.

In the institutional arena, the strengthening of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Human Rights Council, both of which are based in Geneva, is of key importance. Switzerland is advocating adequate funding of the UN's human rights activities. It is of great interest to Switzerland that recently decided measures to consolidate the UN treaty bodies responsible for monitoring the application of the UN human rights conventions are implemented effectively.

Humanitarian efforts

Switzerland is committed to strengthening the humanitarian system to establish a more efficient emergency response and to integrate the affected countries more effectively into the system. Important concerns include the strengthening of protection of civilians and better access to victims. Switzerland endeavours to strengthen international involvement to reduce natural disasters and strives to closely link this theme with the post-2015 agenda for sustainable development. It is also involved in the preparation process for the World Humanitarian Summit which will take place in 2016.

Budget and reforms

Switzerland is working to ensure that the UN uses its resources as efficiently as possible and implements its mandates effectively. It advocates reforms to modernise the UN administration and makes the improvement of the UN budget process a priority. The objectives include increasingly results-based management, the strengthening of internal control mechanisms and greater effectiveness through wider use of modern information technology and management tools.

The UN Security Council's working methods should also be reformed to achieve greater legitimacy, effectiveness and efficiency.

International Geneva

The strengthening of Switzerland as a host state is a priority for Switzerland. Switzerland advocates the securing of another loan for the detailed planning of the Palais des Nations renovation in Geneva by the UN General Assembly. It works to strengthen its role as a centre of global governance, partly by ensuring an even better flow of the existing, comprehensive expertise in Geneva into the UN General Assembly.