



# The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which sets out 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs), was adopted by 192 countries, including Switzerland, in 2015.

This agenda encompasses the three dimensions of sustainability – environmental, social and economic – and combines them with the dimensions of partnership (cooperation between relevant actors) and peace. In addition, the SDGs bring together poverty reduction and sustainable development in one agenda for the first time.

The SDGs are to be achieved globally and by all UN member states by 2030. All countries are called on in equal measure to resolve the challenges facing the world together. Countries adapt the objectives to their national contexts as well as their requirements and possibilities.

## The 2030 Agenda in Switzerland

The 2030 Agenda serves as a frame of reference for the development and implementation of Swiss policy. Every four years, Switzerland voluntarily reports to the UN on the progress it has made.

In the global rankings, Switzerland ranks very high when it comes to achieving goals relating to issues such as emergency management, social cohesion, health and education. There is need for action in the areas of sustainable production and consumption, economic growth and gender equality.

The Federal Council designates its medium and long-term priorities for implementing the 2030 Agenda in the Sustainable Development Strategy. The aim of this strategy is to ensure that Switzerland's sustainable development is coherent.

## What does SECO do?

In economic development cooperation, SECO contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda within the scope of its expertise. It advances economic framework conditions and innovative private sector initiatives in its partner countries, covering different SDGs in each case (see Figure 1). Gender equality (SDG 5) and climate and resource efficiency (SDG 13) are taken into account systematically in all activities.

To achieve the 2030 Agenda, SECO works in partnership with other international cooperation players (SDC and HSD) and other federal agencies as well as NGOs, the private sector, academia and civil society.



Figure 1: Allocation of SECO activities to the SDGs

**Challenges**

In the period of 2021 to 2024, SECO’s economic development cooperation will put its focus on four challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

- **Effectiveness:** SECO is committed to constantly increasing the effectiveness of its development cooperation, taking its bearings from the principles of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD.
- **Financing:** SECO promotes the mobilisation of public and private resources in accordance with the specifications of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and helps to bring financial resource streams and policies into line with economic, social and environmental priorities
- **Policy coherence:** SECO takes into account the complexity and interactions with other policy areas. Policy coherence is a firmly rooted principle of Switzerland’s international cooperation strategy 2021–2024, with the aim of identifying conflicting goals, promoting synergies and minimising negative interactions.
- **Monitoring and accountability:** SECO regularly reviews the effectiveness of its activities, ensuring transparency and accountability. In this review, SECO analyses its contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

**Project example: Skills for Competitiveness**

Country: Indonesia  
 Project partner: Swisscontact  
 Duration: 2018-2021  
 Budget: CHF 31 million (SECO share: CHF 8 million)

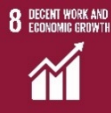


The project contributes to increasing the competitiveness of industries in selected sectors in Indonesia, which is achieved through better qualified skilled workers and professionals. They are trained at five partner institutions of higher learning that work closely with the private sector on a long-term basis. This project allows to contribute to SDGs 4 (education) and 8 (economic growth).




**Project example: Nepal Public Financial Management Multi-Donor Trust Fund**

Country: Nepal  
 Project partner: International Development Association (IDA)  
 Duration: 2020-2026 (Phase II)  
 Budget: CHF 24 million (SECO share: CHF 3 million)

Goals: The project contributes to increasing the competitiveness of industries in selected sectors in Indonesia, which is achieved through better qualified skilled workers and professionals. They are trained at five partner institutions of higher learning that work closely with the private sector on a long-term basis. This project allows SECO to contribute to SDGs 4 (education) and 8 (economic growth).

**Further information:**

[www.seco-cooperation.admin.ch](http://www.seco-cooperation.admin.ch)  
[info.cooperation@seco.admin.ch](mailto:info.cooperation@seco.admin.ch)  
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