

Switzerland Voluntary National Review

Major Groups and other Stakeholders Statement

12 July 2022

Delivered by a representative of the NGO Major Group

We commend the Swiss government's effort to present an exhaustive VNR. The government's report clearly shows that progress is not sufficient on several SDGs. It does not shy away from mentioning Switzerland's significant ecological, climate and social footprint in the Global South.

For us, members of the CSOs, Switzerland's implementation of the Agenda 2030 is not on track. The government's translation of the SDGs into national strategies remains below the ambitions of the Agenda 2030. Many people are currently left behind. Poverty is increasing and asylum seekers and persons with disabilities are excluded from enjoying fundamental rights.

The Swiss Government lacks the political will to transform our economy towards a circular one in a way that it respects the planetary boundaries. Swiss trade policy is not geared sufficiently to sustainable development. In free-trade agreements, the Federal Council pushes partner countries to agree to strict intellectual property rights related to seeds, thus violating farmers' rights to the seed they produce. With its fiscal policy, Switzerland protects its tax haven and undermines the efforts of states to contain illicit financial flows.

The present VNR does not mention concrete actions and measures to tackle the identified gaps and challenges. As the Swiss government has recognised civil society as the primary driver of sustainability, we invite them to cooperate with us in the process to adapt the national strategy for sustainable development to 2030 and the action plan that comes with it.

We ask the government the following questions:

- How will Switzerland increase action and policy coherence for a better implementation of the Agenda 2030?
- A recent CSO report sheds light on various gaps in the Swiss VNR analysis. How will the government assure that this expertise and analysis will be considered in the follow-up process?