

**INTERSESSIONAL PANEL OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)**

**Geneva, Switzerland
23-25 January 2017**

Contribution of Switzerland

to the CSTD 2016-17 priority theme on 'New innovation approaches to support the
implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals'

DISCLAIMER: The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for investment in infrastructure and innovation as crucial drivers of economic growth and development.

Key to meet the targets set out in the 2030 Agenda will be strong partnerships. This means that we need to involve not only civil society, the private sector, academia and governments, but all stakeholders along the value chain.

We need to leverage international collaboration, networks and research, stimulate innovation, scale up current initiatives and design new solutions in an inclusive and participatory way. We think this requires pragmatic and practice-oriented approaches. We are convinced that promoting innovation, technology and science, but also education and extension are important driving forces in adapting to changing society needs.

The Swiss Federal Council considers education, research and innovation to be a top priority. Education, research and innovation are of vital importance to common welfare, social cohesion and Switzerland's competitiveness. Consequently, these issues constitute a specific action area in the Swiss Sustainable Development Strategy 2016-2019 (see http://www.are.admin.ch/dokumentation/publikationen/00014/00606/index.html?lang=en&download=NHZLpZeg7t,lnp6l0NTU042l2Z6ln1ad1lZn4Z2qZpnO2YUq2Z6gpJCEe393e2ym162epYbg2c_JjKbN0KSn6A--).

The Confederation supports the availability of basic services, more efficient and ecological energy service providers, and properly functioning water and waste water infrastructures. It promotes initiatives for inclusive and sustainable industrialization which ensure that developing countries are increasingly included in the profitable stages of international value chains, and that the resulting gains benefit a broad section of the population. Energy and resource-efficient production is another area of focus.

Furthermore, there is the Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI, see <https://www.kti.admin.ch/kti/en/home.html>), which is the federal agency responsible for innovation promotion and for encouraging science-based innovation in Switzerland by providing financing, professional advice and networks. Its work is based on Article 64 (Research) of the Swiss Constitution: "The Confederation shall promote scientific research and innovation."

Regarding the CSTD Priority theme, we would like to highlight two approaches which support the implementation of sustainable development goals through innovation:

Closing Material Cycles

Closing materials cycles means exploiting the potential of waste that is currently disposed and recycling it for reuse as productive raw materials. The Confederation is involved in creating the foundations and frameworks that enable political and business decisions to be taken first and foremost on the basis of a holistic view of material and product life cycles. The focus is on waste prevention, the recycling of waste and structural elements from the construction industry, and metals recycling, specifically the possibility of reclaiming rare metals used for technical applications.

In addition to the creation of foundations and a coordinating framework, the revision of the Ordinance on the Prevention and Disposal of Waste in particular will support the closure of materials cycles, for example for metals from incineration residue, bio-genic waste, and the reclamation of phosphorus from sewage sludge and construction waste. This also includes the elimination of persistent organic pollutants and the separation of toxic heavy metals from materials cycles.

Furthermore, the Confederation supports the 'Resource Dialogue 2030 on the future of waste and resource management in Switzerland', a forum for dialogue between government, business and society aimed at transforming today's throwaway economy into

a resource-based economy (see https://www.gruenewirtschaft.admin.ch/grwi/en/home/opinions/opinion_attiger.html)

Ecodesign

Both consumer and capital goods should be produced in a resource-efficient, socially and environmentally-friendly way, with no impact on health. Consumer durables are designed to be low-consumption, long-lasting, easy to repair and recyclable. Innovation is being fostered in promotion of flagship projects: product designs that reduce environmental impact at all stages of the product life cycle.

At the same time, the knowledge base about green economies is being expanded by the Swiss National Research Programme "Sustainable Economy: resource-friendly, future-oriented, innovative" (NRP 73, see www.nrp73.ch) which aims to generate scientific knowledge about a sustainable economy. NRP 73 will take account of the environment, the economy and society as well as all natural resources and stages of the value chain.

NRP 73 pursues the following aims:

- Expand existing knowledge
- Highlight opportunities and risks
- Analyse measures and instruments as well as their effects
- Develop results into concrete applications.

These are just two examples of the role of innovation in Switzerland's sustainable development strategy. Other efforts focus on the internalization of external costs, structural change and competitiveness of mountain and rural areas, changing the energy system, and urban densification. As contact person for these issues we may mention Mr. Till Berger till.berger@are.admin.ch, Coordinator Sustainable Development Strategy, Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE. Enclosed you'll find a presentation on Switzerland's Sustainable Development Strategy and the role of innovation which he presented at UNECE's Committee on Innovation and Public-Private Partnerships.

For additional information:

<http://www.are.admin.ch/themen/nachhaltig/00262/00528/index.html?lang=en>

Tour of Switzerland - Best practices in sustainable development

http://www.are.admin.ch/dokumentation/publikationen/00014/00595/index.html?lang=en&download=NHzLpZeg7t,lnp6i0NTU042i2Z6ln1ad1iZn4Z2qZpnO2Yuq2Z6gpJCEe314g2ym162epYbg2c_JjKbNoKSn6A--

Switzerland's initial steps towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

http://www.are.admin.ch/dokumentation/publikationen/00014/00613/index.html?lang=en&download=NHzLpZeg7t,lnp6i0NTU042i2Z6ln1ad1iZn4Z2qZpnO2Yuq2Z6gpJCEe4J4hGym162epYbg2c_JjKbNoKSn6A--