

SWITZERLAND

Pre-2020 action

We welcome the invitation extended to Parties by decision 1/CP.23 paragraph 14, to submit by 1 May 2018 additional information on progress in implementing decision 1/CP.21, section IV: enhanced action prior to 2020. As a matter of fact, we consider that regular reporting on such actions by all Parties – through National Communications, Biennial Reports and Biennial Update Reports – is a useful step to strengthen climate action. In this submission, we present an additional and non-exhaustive list of actions of Switzerland's pre-2020 climate policy. Switzerland's seventh National Communication and Third Biennial Report under the UNFCCC¹ provides already relevant information on current and planned policies.

Progress in the development and implementation of the Swiss climate policy

The Swiss climate policy and measures put in place over the last two decades prove to be effective and are compatible with the prosperous development of society. In 2016 Switzerland's greenhouse gas emissions have declined to 89.9 % compared to their 1990 level in spite of a 49 % growth of the per capita GDP in the same period and a population growth of 23 %.

Ratification of the Doha amendment to the Kyoto Protocol

Switzerland ratified the Doha amendment to the Kyoto Protocol on 28 August 2015. Its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target in 2020 is 20 % below the emissions of the year 1990. This corresponds to a budget of 84.2 % of the base year 1990. The international emission reduction commitment is implemented nationally by means of the CO₂ Act and the corresponding policies and measures (for details see chapter 4 of Switzerland's seventh national communication).

First step towards climate-aligned financial flows

The Paris Agreement commits the international community to align financial flows with climate goals (Art. 2.1c). In this context, the Swiss Government in 2017 invited Swiss pension funds and insurance companies to test the climate compatibility of their portfolios. The offer attracted widespread interest. The testing of climate compatibility can efficiently contribute to the realignment of financial flows. Switzerland also participates in the Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition (CPLC) of the World Bank.

Contribution to the 100 billion roadmap

Switzerland actively participated in the core group of countries involved in the 100 billion roadmap and is committed to implement the ambitious actions highlighted in the roadmap². Since 2009, Switzerland has continuously increased its support to developing country Parties in need. In 2016, Switzerland provided USD 330 million public finance through bilateral and multilateral channels to its partner countries to support them in their effective climate mitigation and adaptation action.

Short-lived Climate Forcers

In the framework of the Swiss clean air policy, the Federal Council adopted in 2006 an action plan to abate particulate matter, with a focus on soot produced by diesel motors and wood

¹ <https://unfccc.int/fr/node/28527>

² <http://dfat.gov.au/international-relations/themes/climate-change/Pages/climate-finance-roadmap-to-us100-billion.aspx>

burning. The application of particle filters traps on diesel engines allowed to decrease the soot concentrations at traffic-exposed monitoring stations of more than 40%. In addition to the measures applied to diesel engines, new abatement measures are introduced in the revised Ordinance on Air Pollution Control to address stationary sources. Indeed, on 11 April 2018 the Federal Council adopted additional measures to reduce the levels of short-lived climate forcers such as particulate matter and CO from small wood-heating installations and construction machinery. Furthermore, in accordance with eco-design, further measures have been adopted that require increased energy efficiency from heating installations.

At the international level, Switzerland is engaged under the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution Transport and in particular as Party to the Gothenburg Protocol. In line with the commitment of this protocol, Switzerland reports annually on national emissions data related to Black Carbon (BC). A decrease of more than 40% of BC emissions was registered between 2005 and 2016. Switzerland also continues its participation in the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) that promotes action on Short-Lived Climate Forcers (SLCF). Switzerland has a robust national clean air policy and is committed to continue reducing SLCF at the national level and supports such efforts in partner countries in the framework of its international cooperation. Furthermore, Switzerland has provided financial support for the methodological work by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on SLCF.

Promoting environmental technologies

In April 2018 the Federal Council reaffirmed its commitment to continue its financial support for the development of environmental technologies, in particular climate-related technologies through its pilot and demonstration funding instrument. Once these technologies reach a commercial phase, the developers reimburse the support received. At the international level, the Swiss interdepartmental platform on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Promotion in International Cooperation (REPIC) will continue to specifically target technology transfer and development in the energy sector. Beyond enhancing knowledge and coherence, REPIC offers seed money, capacity building and technical advice for promising climate change initiatives during the pre-competitive phases of project development, as well as for technology development and for its market testing.

Ensuring consistency and transparency in domestic compensation projects

The Swiss Government is preparing mandatory standardized methodologies to estimate to what extent emissions are offset through domestic projects that Swiss importers of fossil fuels undertake to compensate the emissions that are generated when these fossil fuels are burnt.

CO₂ levy

The OECD environmental performance review report released on 27 November 2017 points out that Switzerland has currently one of the highest rates of CO₂ levy in the OECD (EUR 77 per tonne). The CO₂ levy on combustible fuels is enshrined in the CO₂ Act that provides the legal basis for:

- ***The buildings programme***

Since 2010, one third of the proceeds from the CO₂ levy have been earmarked for the buildings programme. Since 2018, a maximum of CHF 450 million from the CO₂ levy may be used annually for the buildings programme and the promotion of geothermal energy. In addition, the buildings programme has been extended beyond 2019.

- ***The technology fund³***

The Swiss Confederation may guarantee loans granted to companies that develop and market innovative products and processes to reduce GHG emissions, use renewable energy and preserve natural resources. If a company's project is accepted, the company

³ <http://www.technologyfund.ch/>

obtains a guarantee of bond. The bond is granted to banks or to other funders. Loans defaults are covered by the technology fund that is financed by CHF 25 million per year from CO₂ tax revenues.

Electricity and fossil fuel consumption decrease in Switzerland

Switzerland will continue to implement measures that have led to a decrease of electricity and fossil fuels consumption. These policies foster the use of more efficient technologies (e.g. heat pumps instead of burning fossil fuel for the heating systems). Furthermore, the Swiss Government will continue to financially support projects aimed at electricity savings. The Cantons play also an important role in promoting energy efficiency and climate policy.

Friends of Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform (FFFSR)

Since 2010, Switzerland is an active member of the “Friends of Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform” (FFFSR)⁴, a joint initiative by Costa Rica, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Uruguay to promote the removal or reform of subsidies to fossil fuels in an effort to help fight climate change. Switzerland supports informal exchanges on this topic and the promotion of links to the NDCs through the Friends’ network and through a novel network of francophone countries, which is meeting at the occasion of multilateral climate negotiations.

Agriculture

The Swiss agriculture will continue to reduce its GHG emissions in the future, in particular those of CH₄ and N₂O that have decreased since 1990, while agricultural production has further increased. Since 2011, Switzerland has a climate strategy for agriculture, i.e. the declaration of intent to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture by one third by 2050 compared to 1990 with technical, operational and organisational measures and by another third with measures influencing food production and consumption.

⁴ <http://fffsr.org/fr/>