



Working Paper on Policy Coherence for Development *Final: March 7, 2012*

1. Background

The DAC describes progress towards Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) as a process dependent on three building blocks:

- A. Political commitment and a policy basis that specifies policy objectives and determines which takes priority in the event of incompatibility.
- B. Policy co-ordination mechanisms that can identify and resolve conflicts or inconsistencies between policies and maximize synergies.
- C. Monitoring, analysis and reporting systems to provide the evidence base for accountability and for well-informed policy-making and politics.

This concept is used in order to assess progress within the peer reviews of the DAC, as it was done for Switzerland in 2009.

2. Political Commitment (building block A)

According to the DAC peer review 2009 of Switzerland (2009), an overarching policy statement, at least politically binding for all federal offices, is needed in order to make further progress with regard to Political Coherence for Development (PCD). Switzerland's system and mechanism to ensure PCD gradually evolved over time. The Federal Council Dispatch on Swiss International Cooperation 2013-2016 ("Dispatch")¹, submitted to the Parliament on 15 February 2012, is a comprehensive policy document, including an overall strategy, specific strategies for sub-sectors, and related financial bills. By his approval, the Federal Council made a political statement for PCD and committed himself to further increase its efforts. In this document, the government confirms that domestic (sectoral) policies impact on developing countries and recognizes that PCD is a key element for reaching development effectiveness.

According to the Dispatch, Switzerland fosters PCD at four levels:

- 1 In international negotiations, Switzerland advocates for global rules fostering sustainable development.
- 2 In its bilateral relations, Switzerland has the objective that all development programs with Swiss financial support are consistent with the goals of global sustainable development.
- 3 As part of the policy dialogue with partner governments, Switzerland advocates for domestic policies of partner countries that are coherent with their development goals and with global sustainable development.
- 4 Switzerland aims at balancing its own domestic sectoral policies to the extent possible with the goals of global sustainable development.

¹ Botschaft vom 15. Februar 2012 über die internationale Zusammenarbeit 2013-2016 („Dispatch“)

To make progress in fostering PCD within Switzerland's domestic policies, the new Dispatch identifies some policy fields – not an exhaustive list, but issues of high priority – and broadly outlines potential incoherencies between those policies and development: agriculture, environment, health, the financial sector (including taxation), security, education/research and migration. For more details see [Annex 1](#). To get buy-in and political traction beyond actors directly active in international cooperation, the Interdepartmental Committee for International Development and Cooperation (ICDC) was involved in formulating the respective fields.

The need to promote PCD is taken into account in all major programmatic documents related to Swiss international relations: Enhancing coherence for sustainable development is part of the Sustainable Development Strategy 2012–2015 of the Federal Council. Issues of PCD are addressed in the annual Foreign Policy Report, the Foreign Economic Report and the Report on International Environment Policy. In the MDG+10 Report², the Federal Council confirmed that further action is needed to strengthen PCD in Switzerland. All these elements constitute the policy framework to guide Switzerland's efforts to enhance its coherence for development.

3. The Swiss Policy Coordination Mechanism to foster PCD (building block B)

Given the political, economic, and linguistic diversity of the country, the Swiss Federal Government has a consensual decision-making system.

The highest executive authority of the country is the Federal Council. Important policy decisions are usually taken on a consensual basis by the Federal Council as a whole. There is no Prime Minister, and each of the seven Federal Councilors contributes to the decisions on all matters from other federal ministries, with the exception of the President of the Confederation who is appointed on an annual basis to chair the cabinet meetings and assume certain ceremonial and representation duties.

According to the number of Federal Councilors, the Federal Administration consists of seven departments (= ministries). Each department is structured into a number of federal offices. Given the small numbers of departments, some offices are, in terms of their portfolios, comparable to ministries in other political systems. International cooperation is attributed to the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) as the lead agency of Swiss international cooperation, and the Federal Department of Economic Affairs (FDEA), with its Domain *Economic Cooperation and Development* within the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).

The institutional backbone of decision-making is a sophisticated and effective mechanism of interministerial coordination, including both the technical and the political level. This mechanism fosters not only political consensus and pragmatic solutions, but also coherence between different policy areas.

a) Interministerial coordination and decision-making

In advance of any governmental decisions, the competent leading office invites other federal offices to comment on proposals (draft decisions) to the Federal Council. This procedure is called “consultation of offices”. Its purpose is to discuss and, if possible, eliminate differences among the federal offices on decisions to be taken by the Federal Council. This process thus

²Swiss Federal Council, Millennium Development Goals Progress Report of Switzerland 2010, June 2010.

offers both SDC and SECO the opportunity to systematically address issues which are not coherent with a development perspective.

The procedure takes on average one week. Nowadays, the consultation is primarily undertaken electronically (via e-mail) and is often preceded and accompanied by informal contacts among interested offices. The consulted offices hand in their comments and proposals to the leading office, which decides, whether to take them into account or not.

Once the consultation of offices is completed, the leading office finalizes the proposal to submit to the Federal Council. Each head of department (Federal Councilor) has the possibility to express disagreement in written form (co-reporting), which is done regularly. In controversial matters, different ministers may engage in a cascade of arguments and counter-arguments debate in written. At the end of this process, the Federal Council decides on the proposal.

The type of issues that SDC and SECO are consulted on varies considerably, from very specific decisions (e.g. a free trade agreement with a small developing country, negotiation mandate for an international conference), to decisions with far-reaching political, institutional, financial or legal implications (strategic objectives of the Swiss government for the next four years, frame credit proposal for peace promotion and human rights, etc.). At the same time, SDC and SECO are consulting development policy decisions requiring Federal Council approval with other offices (e.g. key strategies, framework bills, programs with a budget over 20 million Swiss Francs, new framework agreements with partner countries). The new Dispatch to parliament on international cooperation 2013-16 has been widely consulted.

- **Interdepartmental Committee for International Development and Cooperation (ICDC)**

The ICDC's mandate is based on the regulation on international development cooperation and humanitarian aid³. It covers all four domains of Swiss International Cooperation. ICDC, which is chaired by SDC and which consists of representatives of all concerned federal offices, discusses questions related to issues such as the MDGs and development financing with the aim of reaching a coherent Swiss position on development policy matters. The ICDC meets at two levels: heads of federal offices (twice a year) and expert level (four times a year). A recent stocktaking with members concluded that the ICDC is appreciated in particular to debate in an interactive and informal way issues that will be discussed in the Federal Council at a later stage (see a).

- **Interdepartmental thematic groups**

Other interdepartmental committees and working groups focus on specific topics such as migration, water, North Africa or energy (see Annex 2 for a list of these and for examples of interdepartmental thematic groups). Like the ICDC, they review proposals to be submitted to the Federal Council (see a), discuss specific policy positions on a topic (e.g. for international conferences) and serve to exchange information among offices. Some of these fora are based on a specific legal mandate. Others are more informal. Since 2009, many of these groups have decisively contributed to important policy agreements adopted by the Federal Council (e.g. in 2011: North Africa Strategy). To further improve coordination among offices and strengthen PCD, interdepartmental arrangements have been newly defined or adapted

³ Art. 24, Verordnung über die internationale Entwicklungszusammenarbeit und humanitäre Hilfe, SR 974.01

since 2009, for example a coordination group on tax and development, a coordination mechanism on international migration under rotational presidency of SDC, Political Affairs Division IV and the Federal Office for Migration, and on international financing regarding development and environment with the creation of a joint information platform among SDC, SECO and the Federal Office for the Environment.

b) At the interface between State, Politics and Civil Society: the *Advisory Committee on International Development Cooperation*

To facilitate and ensure a continuous dialogue between the Government and a wider range of stakeholders (Parliament, civil society, private sector, universities, etc.), Switzerland maintains an Advisory Committee on International Development Cooperation with representatives from all these sectors. This allows taking into account voices, views, and experiences of stakeholders which are not formally connected within the strategy development processes and implementation issues of international cooperation. Its main task is to advise the Federal Council, the various departments of the Federal Administration and in particular the Management of SDC and SECO. It meets five times a year; its agenda is based on the medium-term planning of affairs treated by the Federal Council and the Parliament and on important topics relating to international cooperation⁴.

c) The Swiss Export Insurance

The Swiss Export Risk Insurance (SERV) was set up as an independent public agency in 2007 and succeeded the previous Swiss Export Guarantee Agency scheme (ERG). The law governing the SERV includes the condition that the coherence with Switzerland's foreign policy must be taken into account. This includes goals with regard to development, human rights, democracy, the peaceful coexistence of nations and also environmental aspects. When assessing applications for insurance coverage, these aspects have to be taken into account. SECO leads the Federal Coordination Board for SERV. SDC, on behalf of FDFA, is also represented in this Board. For projects of great political importance, where a conflict of interests between export promotion (SERV-mandate) and foreign policy coherence might arise, the project has to be brought to the Federal Council for decision. For the purposes of transparency, SERV publishes details of projects involving a contract value in excess of CHF 10 million.

d) Parliamentary oversight

The parliament and its Commissions play an important role in scrutinizing and ensuring PCD. On a regular basis, top officials of SDC and SECO are requested to participate in meetings of the Foreign Affairs Committees of the two Chambers. On an annual basis, Control Committees review the Government policies, including Foreign Relations, and comment on strategic coherence. For specific studies, the Control Committees dispose of a scientific task force, the Parliamentary Control of the Administration (PCA) which is the competence centre of the Federal Assembly in matters of evaluations. The PCA provides support for parliament's monitoring activities through scientific assessments and evaluates the concepts, implementation and impact of the measures taken by the federal authorities.

⁴ (a) The Advisory Committee advises the Federal Council on subjects of international development and cooperation, humanitarian aid, and the cooperation with the states of Eastern Europe. (b) It examines, in particular, the goals, priorities, and the overall plan of development cooperation. (c) It can submit its own recommendations (RS 974.1 Art.25).

4. Monitoring, analysis and reporting systems (building block C)

With regard to improving monitoring, analysis and reporting systems, reference can be made to the MDG+10 report which also takes stock on progress made in relation to PCD. Within the Federal Administration, there is no instrument or independent institution to specifically monitor, analyze, and report on PCD. Given the institutional set-up, these responsibilities lie with the institutions of the parliamentary supervision and, eventually, the public opinion. In this respect, the Advisory Committee on International Development Cooperation can also play a role.

The consultation of offices (see a. inter-ministerial coordination) is a high-level and effective mechanism to promote policy coherence on key decisions. SDC keeps track on the results achieved in this process. In 2011, SDC has been officially consulted 275 times (2010: 166 times) by other Federal Offices. SDC has commented on 43 of these (2010: 19). About 78% of the submitted comments have been taken into account (2010: 64%).

5. Conclusions

The Swiss Federal Government has an effective and sophisticated mechanism of interministerial coordination, including both the technical and the political level. This mechanism plays a key role in ensuring Policy Coherence for Development. It has been further strengthened since 2009. Provided that dissenting views are raised to the political level (Cabinet level and Advisory Committee on International Development Cooperation), the political system and its institutional set-up provide mechanisms which offer extended opportunities to raise, discuss, and clarify issues of PCD. The relatively good performance of SDC and SECO in the consultation of offices shows that development interests are being taken into account by other offices. In recent years, development policy has been brought closer to other policy interests, e.g. through the establishment of migration partnerships or the inclusion of sustainable development chapters in free trade agreements.

Therefore, there is no need to establish an additional institutional mechanism as suggested by the 2009 DAC Peer Review. The processes and coordination mechanisms are constantly adapted to new challenges, e.g. by creating new or adapting existing inter-departmental thematic groups.

Consensus is the rule for decision making in the Swiss government, and coordination mechanisms are not lacking. However, Policy Coherence for Development is certainly not perfect in Switzerland, as everywhere. In fields like trade, finance, intellectual property and agriculture, interests of development policy and domestic economic policy can differ.

In order to balance between the different interests, it is needed to use the existing mechanism in a more effective way and to continue discussions in selected policy fields aiming at higher political commitment for PCD. SDC and SECO will therefore maintain their efforts to raise the development perspective in these debates. Annex 1 provides an overview of policy issues relevant under a PCD perspective.

6. Way forward

Internal discussions are ongoing on how to improve PCD in Switzerland. Several measures are being examined:

1. Based on the policy fields, where incoherencies may arise, as identified in the new Dispatch 2013–2016 on international cooperation, SDC and SECO will define a position from

a development perspective on a limited number of specific issues and a possible way forward to tackle incoherencies identified.

2. In view of the inter-ministerial consultations within those policy fields, the needed inputs from a development perspective shall be more systematically planned.
3. To raise and discuss PCD issues, ICDC will be more systematically involved. Selective discussions within other platforms such as the Advisory Committee on International Development Cooperation and Parliamentary Committees on topics relevant for PCD are envisaged.

Policy Coherence of Development – the Swiss approach

Dispatch of the Federal Council on Swiss International Cooperation 2013-2016, approved on 15 February 2012: Excerpt (chapter 1.4.1)

1.4.1 Cohérence du développement et des politiques sectorielles

En tant que dimension de la politique extérieure, la coopération internationale tient compte des intérêts de la Suisse. Les cinq objectifs stratégiques se fondent sur ce principe de base (cf. chap. 1.1.1).

Des relations extérieures aussi cohérentes que possible quand il s'agit de promouvoir un développement global durable (au niveau écologique, social, économique) favorisant la réduction de la pauvreté et des risques globaux, ne peuvent qu'augmenter l'efficacité de la coopération internationale de la Suisse. Ceci est confirmé par les recommandations du CAD de l'OCDE. Selon la Stratégie pour le développement durable 2012–2015 du Conseil fédéral, tous les départements fédéraux œuvrent pour la paix et le développement durable, que se soit sur le plan national ou international. Cette démarche permet d'améliorer la synergie des politiques sectorielles. Il en résulte une plus value pour chaque franc engagé dans la CI. C'est pourquoi le Comité interdépartemental pour le développement international et la coopération (CIDC) sera renforcé de sorte à mieux identifier les éventuels conflits d'objectifs et à mieux les gérer. Si la cohérence intégrale reste une vue de l'esprit, il conviendra néanmoins de continuer à négocier des compromis de politiques.

Pour augmenter les synergies entre politiques, la Suisse déploie des efforts sur cinq niveaux différents: premièrement, en adhérant à des organisations internationales, elle participe aux négociations en vue d'adopter et de mettre en œuvre à l'échelle planétaire des règles contraignantes ou incitatives pour faire advenir le développement durable. Deuxièmement, dans le cadre de ses relations bilatérales, elle s'efforce à ce que tous les programmes ou projets de développement co-financés par la Confédération poursuivent les objectifs du développement durable. Troisièmement, sur place dans les pays partenaires, elle crée des incitations pour que les politiques nationales conduisent au développement durable. Quatrièmement, elle fait en sorte que, dans la mesure du possible, il en soit de même pour ses propres politiques sectorielles – ce qui peut faire apparaître des conflits d'objectifs. Cinquièmement, la Suisse utilise son engagement en faveur du développement pour défendre ses intérêts relevant d'autres politiques sectorielles.

C'est notamment le cas en matière de *politique migratoire*. En impliquant les offices compétents, la DDC et le SECO garantissent que les intérêts bilatéraux de la Suisse sont dûment pris en compte lors de la préparation des projets et de la négociation des accords avec les pays partenaires. En accord avec l'Office fédéral des migrations (ODM), ils évaluent systématiquement et de manière précoce si l'engagement suisse en matière de politique extérieure et économique au sens du présent message peut être associé à des progrès dans la coopération migratoire avec les pays partenaires concernés. La Suisse s'efforce ainsi de mettre sur pied des mesures ou des accords pour favoriser le retour des personnes migrantes et lutter contre la migration irrégulière. Au sein des structures de la collaboration in-

ternationale en matière de migrations, la DDC et le SECO élaborent des rapports sur les projets et les négociations en cours avec leurs partenaires.

Voici d'autres domaines où davantage de coordination pourrait être souhaitable:

Politique agricole: subventions à l'exportation, admission sans contingent ni tarif des produits en provenance des pays moins avancés, progression tarifaire sur les produits élaborés dans les pays pauvres, système des paiements directs qui augmentent indirectement le produit agricole, fournitures de produits suisses par l'aide humanitaire.

Politique environnementale: promotion des sources d'énergies renouvelables et du transfert de technologies, principe du pollueur payeur dans le domaine des émissions de CO₂, gestion durable de l'eau, poursuite d'une politique mondiale de recyclage et d'élimination des déchets, gestion des produits chimiques, biodiversité et prévention des catastrophes naturelles (inondations, sécheresses, désertification, etc.). Une approche davantage cohérente et coordonnée des questions de financement international et de coopération au développement dans le domaine de l'environnement sera assurée par une nouvelle plateforme créée par la DDC, le SECO et l'OFEV.

Politique de santé: l'approvisionnement des pays les plus pauvres en produits pharmaceutiques à prix abordable et de qualité, la prise en considération des besoins des pays en développement dans la recherche pharmaceutique, la prise en compte de la synergie entre promotion de l'innovation et protection des brevets. La cohérence des acteurs suisses est assurée dans le cadre des mécanismes de la «Politique extérieure suisse en matière de santé».

Politique financière: mise en œuvre de la stratégie «argent propre», lutte mondiale contre la criminalité financière, en particulier dans les domaines suivants: corruption, blanchiment d'argent et financement du terrorisme. Promotion de dispositifs fiscaux simples et équitables, aide aux pays en développement pour accroître leurs capacités dans le domaine fiscal.

Politique sécuritaire: interventions multi-niveaux pour prévenir ou régler efficacement les conflits, autorisation conditionnelle d'exporter du matériel de guerre dans les pays en voie de développement, négociation d'un accord international sur le commerce des armes dans le cadre de l'ONU, engagement pour une réforme du secteur de la sécurité.

Politique en matière de formation, de recherche et de culture: promouvoir la formation concernant le développement durable en Suisse, mettre à contribution la recherche suisse sur des thématiques globales dans un contexte de développement, appuyer la diffusion de savoirs et de technologies vers les pays en voie de développement. Activités en matière de formation et de recherche, compte tenu de la stratégie internationale de la Confédération pour le domaine formation, recherche et innovation (2010).

Report of the Federal Council, *Millennium Development Goals Progress Report of Switzerland 2010*, approved in June 2010: Excerpt

Coherence for development (p. 11f.)

MDG 8 makes industrialised countries responsible for development policy coherence. Development cooperation is only one of the external factors affecting a developing country – and in most cases, it is not even the most important one. All foreign relations of a country such as Switzerland have an impact on the overall quality of sustainable development (social, economic, environmental). Relations that are as coherent as possible between Switzerland and developing countries will make it easier to achieve the MDGs. In order to increase the efficacy and therefore also the value of every Swiss franc pledged for development, Switzerland has been endeavouring to establish a foreign policy that is as coherent as possible. We must avoid a situation where Swiss development cooperation helps reduce poverty in some areas but Swiss policies in other areas actually increase it. This is why development issues must be taken into account in the decision-making process in the following areas: the environment, agriculture, fisheries, the economy and finance, trade, intellectual property, migration, security, energy, science and technology. In this respect, Switzerland can rely, among other things, on established interdepartmental committees and mechanisms such as the Interdepartmental Committee for Development and Cooperation (IKEZ) or the Interdepartmental Committee for Sustainable Development (IDANE).

The road to coherence for development is not always paved with win-win solutions. It is only logical for there to be conflicting interests. The interests of financial centres in the northern hemisphere are not always in line with the interests of certain developing countries. Patent protection for pharmaceutical products or other products does not serve the short-term interests of aspiring industries in developing countries. The interests of European farmers are often at odds with the interests of farmers in the southern hemisphere. There is no such thing as perfect coherence, including in Switzerland. It is an objective that we need to pursue on a daily basis. The Swiss policymaking system has various tools and mechanisms at its disposal to ensure greater policy coherence. For one thing, interdepartmental consulting and reporting processes have been established within the Federal Administration to enable the various federal agencies to coordinate their respective policies. Existing policy differences can then be identified and eliminated. The Federal Council is therefore able to base its decisions on all relevant policy aspects. In addition, interdepartmental working groups comprised of representatives from various federal agencies coordinate activities relating to areas of common interest. While there is no independent body to regulate conflicting goals and interests, the Federal Council is responsible for the political balancing of interests. As the “Sustainable Development Strategy: Guidelines and Action Plan 2008-2010” shows, the Federal Council considers improvement of the coherence of the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development to be a priority objective for the years to come.

Example: Climate and development. A sustainable climate policy can only be established if development policy concerns are also taken into account. Developing countries are the most severely affected by the effects of climate change and need support in switching to a low-emission development path. In the context of Switzerland’s participation in the Copenhagen climate conference, development policy concerns have strongly shaped the negotiating mandate. There is growing consensus that post-Kyoto funding of the new international climate regime after 2012 should be based on higher ODA and the “polluter pays” principle. In this regard, Switzerland observes an internationally recognised principle in the development and climate policy agenda.

Example: Trade and development. According to the latest OECD/DAC Peer Review report on Swiss development cooperation, Switzerland has made progress in recent years towards including trade aspects in its development cooperation activities. In addition to covering other sustainability criteria, bilateral agreements that Switzerland has signed with Peru and Co-

lombia include an article on recognition and protection of biodiversity and traditional knowledge. Through economic cooperation, Switzerland has established a complementary programme to improve institutional and entrepreneurial capacities for sustainable trade in biodiversity products and services.

Example: Energy and development. The Federal Council was guided by environmental and development policy considerations during revision of Swiss petrol tax legislation. Switzerland was the world's first country to introduce environmental and social standards to promote bio-fuels. Although administrative hurdles to obtain tax exemption are expected to ease somewhat, the Federal Council will continue to uphold environmental and social standards. In doing so, the Federal Council endorses the development policy principle whereby crops should first and foremost be used to feed humans, then to feed animals and whatever remains may then be used as fuel.

Example: Water and development. As a water reservoir of Europe, Switzerland possesses useful experience in the sustainable management of water resources. In the Interdepartmental Working Group on Sustainable Development (IDANE), the relevant federal agencies establish Switzerland's position in international conferences and conventions. The SDC's chairmanship of IDANE ensures that development policy aspects are taken into account in this working group and that Switzerland's national and international stance on the various issues remains coherent. This is where very mountainous developing and transition countries (e.g. in the Himalaya-Hindu Kush region, the Andes region or the Central Asian region) come into play.

Example: Sustainable agriculture, food security and development. Switzerland actively lends support to the standardisation of sustainability criteria in relation to biomass. It supports the G8's Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP), the Secretariat of which is coordinated by the FAO. Within the GBEP framework, Switzerland exchanges and discusses information regarding the worldwide sustainable use of biofuels. It also provides support to the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB), an international initiative launched by the Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL). The RSB initiative is intended to enable all interested parties to establish common criteria for the sustainable production and use of biofuels.

Example: Migration and development. In recent years, globalisation has greatly facilitated international trade in goods and services. There has not been a concomitant effect as far as the movement of people is concerned. Free movement of persons has been limited to specific geographical areas (e.g. EU, ECOWAS). Major restrictions have been placed on entry of nationals from developing countries to rich countries, especially in the Euro zone. It is very difficult to manage migration flows worldwide for the benefit of all countries (countries of origin, transit and destination), for the benefit of the migrants themselves as well as in the interests of furthering development. The SDC contributes to discussion of this issue at the interdepartmental level by combining development perspectives with the notion of shared responsibility and benefits. It provides funding for structural aid projects to help local populations and works to strengthen the capacities of the authorities in countries of origin and transit so that they may better manage the problems associated with migration. At the international level, the SDC seeks to draw greater attention to the need for institutional coherence in the area of migration policies. It also encourages partners to consider the impact that migration policies have on development.

Example: Human rights and development. Poverty prevents people from satisfying fundamental needs that are defined in international agreements and addressed in commitments made by most countries. If we consider this fact, we find that development cooperation and

respect for human rights are very closely linked. Poverty is a human rights violation. Donor countries such as Switzerland all agree that defending human rights should be an essential aspect of development cooperation. Human rights enable development practitioners to focus their poverty reduction efforts on specific objectives such as reducing social, political and economic exclusion and promoting social justice. Switzerland takes these aspects into account in its human rights-based approach. Poverty reduction invariably involves two pursuits: 1) recognising the rights of the poorest population segments and helping them to play a more active role as citizens; 2) lending support to government authorities so that they can uphold and safeguard human rights more effectively.

Annex 2

List of interdepartmental thematic groups relevant for policy coherence for development

- Working Group SDC – Federal Department of Defense, Civil Protection and Sport
- Working Group North Africa
- Working Group “Pentapartite” (Culture)
- Interdepartmental Sustainable Development Committee (ISDC) for water
- Interdepartmental Committee and Working Group Migration (IMZ/IAM)
- Task Force Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)
- Resource Management Civil Protection
- Interdepartmental Committee on security sector reform (SSR)
- Interdepartmental Committee on small arms
- Interdepartmental Committee on security council resolution 1325
- Interdepartmental Working Group on combating corruption
- Coordination committee on mine action
- Interdepartmental Working Group on terrorism
- Interdepartmental Committee on international humanitarian law
- Interdepartmental Working Group on terrorism
- Interdepartmental Working Group on communication
- Interdepartmental Working Group on energy
- Interdepartmental Working Group on Kosovo
- Interdepartmental Working Group on Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- Interdepartmental Working Group OSCE
- Interdepartmental Working Group Council of Europe
- Interdepartmental Working Group on climate policy
- Interdepartmental Working Group on Swiss foreign health policy
- Interdepartmental Working Group United Nations
- Core Group international human rights
- Core Group Peace
- Swiss Coordination Unit against the Trafficking of Persons and Smuggling of Migrants
- Joint platform, on international financing regarding development and environment