



Bern, February 9, 2024

Written Input for the zero-draft of the Pact for the Future

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you very much for giving us the possibility to provide a written input to the zero-draft of the Pact for the Future.

We consider your draft a good starting point for the coming negotiations and acknowledge the challenging process of bringing different views and wording-suggestions into a single document. We would like to congratulate you on the result.

Please consider our following suggestions and recommendations:

- We welcome the firm grounding of the Pact in the human rights, esp. §22: *We acknowledge that the goals and targets ... correspond overwhelmingly to existing human rights commitments.*
- We welcome the inclusion of consequences of *our inaction* today on future generations in §15 an §103.
- We regret the weak wording and encourage the co-facilitators to put more action in the text, and not only *reconfirm, recommit etc.* A higher level of ambition and more binding commitments together with the political will to implement the commitments made are necessary to bring the SDGs back on track.
- We propose to add inequality to the list of most pressing and serious threats to sustainability. Not only environmental crises, but also increasing levels of inequality has the potential to damage trust and democracy, thus undermining the very basis needed for inclusive societies.
- We recommend to explicitly refer to the 0.7% target for ODA in §41. We recommend deleting the second phrase of this paragraph. ODA is not a financing instrument for global public goods, but has a clear focus on poverty eradication and the investment in basic services to fulfil the human rights obligation for access to education or health etc. Finances for global public goods need their own financing instruments, that must be new and additional.
- We propose to explicitly make reference to *policy coherence for sustainable development* in §45, thus using the Agenda 2030 language.
- We recommend including *social innovation* in Chapter 3 on science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation. The wording is too much focused on technology and implies a belief, that sustainable development can be achieved through technological innovation. For us, on the contrary, there lies a huge potential in social innovation and the changing of non-sustainable lifestyles in the societies overusing the planetary resources. Harnessing this potential needs more investment in research and funding mechanisms.



- We propose to mention the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the Human Rights Due Diligence instead of (voluntary) CSR processes in §100.
- We recommend revising the wording in Chapter 4 on Youth and Future Generations and refrain from patronising language.
- We recommend reconsidering the interlinkages of the Pact for the Future and the Financing for Development Conference 2025. The Pact should not limit the scope of the latter, but rather formulate open but ambitious expectations for FfD 4 (delete part of §141).
- We suggest using more cautionary language regarding the potential of space technologies to sustain life on Earth (§148). If this potential is to be harnessed, we strongly recommend following strict precautionary principles and a science-based approach including serious risk analysis.

Thank you very much for considering our comments.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Schmassmann', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eva Schmassmann

Director

The Swiss CSO Platform Agenda 2030 is a coalition of more than 50 Swiss civil society organisations from the fields of development cooperation, environmental protection, gender, peace, sustainable business and trade unions. We are working towards implementing the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development within Switzerland as well as elsewhere. It is important for us to consider and promote the Agenda 2030 in its entirety