



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Federal Department of the Environment,
Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC

Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
International Affairs Division

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Switzerland – Conclusions (Agenda item 5)

Our intervention contains two parts. The first part is on the conclusions chapter of the SG's report. The second part is our overall assessment on content and process.

First, on the conclusions of the SG's report:

- The report largely distinguishes between the gaps on the national, regional and global levels. However, the conclusions do not specifically lay out the particularities of these different levels. We would like to understand where the most significant gaps are: Are they on the national, regional or predominantly on the global level?
- The SG's report is focused on the gaps of environmental law. However, it does make some recommendations. It would have been beneficial to lay out gaps and potential response options as there are mentioned throughout the report, for example in a thematically grouped table as an overview.
- Another element which would have been beneficial for our further discussions is a risk assessment of the overarching issue at stake, namely highlighting the possible added value versus the potential risks.

Second, our overall assessment on content and process is as follows:

- As stated in previous interventions, Switzerland sees a risk in attempting to codify principles, whose understanding has grown historically. And we see a bigger potential in strengthening the international environmental governance to address gaps in implementation of existing regulatory regimes.
- To conclude, and as other Member States have mentioned before, the report of the SG has several flaws in various chapters and sections. It can hence only serve as a partial basis for the further process.
- For the further process, we need to make sure that we provide ourselves with the appropriate documents to engage in streamlined and interactive discussion.
- We would like to support Australia in that Member States will need appropriate time to allow for a meaningful participation in a further session. And in advancing in this process, we should bear in mind why Stockholm and Rio could successfully be approved and why their outcomes have had an impact, namely because they were non-legally binding but ambitious, action-oriented and concrete.