



International Meeting Stockholm+50 – preparatory meeting

New York, March 28, 2022

Statement by Switzerland

Excellencies,

Dear colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank all the briefers for their excellent inputs today and their great work done in the run-up to the international meeting of Stockholm+50.

Switzerland agrees, Stockholm+50 provides the opportunity for bold steps to accelerate global environmental action. We need to build on recent successes such as the outcomes of UN Environment Assembly a few weeks ago and foster further actions. The work and commitment of all stakeholders including civil society and the private sector are critical to that end.

The Chair's summary of Stockholm+50 should therefore act as a strategic roadmap for the international community and include concrete recommendations to mobilize attention and resources.

- Switzerland would therefore like to know how the Co-Chairs of the international meeting as well as the Co-Chairs of the three Leadership Dialogues plan to ensure that concrete and meaningful recommendations as well as a way forward post-Stokholm+50 are going to be included in the summary?

- In the same spirit, Switzerland believes that we should strive for an active participation on Ministerial level building on past good practices. What type of formats of ministerial engagement are foreseen for the Leadership Dialogues to ensure high-level participation, beyond the plenary format?

Finally, Switzerland would like to name eight key issues which we believe should be addressed by the three Leadership Dialogues of Stockholm+50:

- 1. First, strengthening global environmental governance** remains a challenge and despite progress, there is a need to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the environmental regime.
- 2. Second, we need to step up our efforts to ensure a more sustainable consumption and production**, notably through the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns.
- 3. Third, there is an urgent need to transform food systems towards more sustainability**, and to link the environmental agendas holistically to food consumption and food production.
- 4. Fourth, to address the three planetary crises, we need more action on Fossil Fuels Subsidies Reform.**
- 5. Fifth, we need to look at emerging issues and risks** such as Climate-Altering Technologies and Measures that need to be addressed swiftly and effectively. .

6. Sixth, on the issue of pollution we need to strengthen our commitments towards a pollution-free planet and ensuring the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment taking into account recent significant developments in Geneva.

7. Seventh, digital transformation and environmental data: Science, policy and action is the trilogy that allows us to protect the environment, in line with the SDGs. The World Environment Situation Room launched this month will be a critical tool in that regard.

8. Eighth, address the trade and environmental sustainability nexus.

A more detailed version of this statement will be transmitted in writing by my delegation.

I thank you very much for your attention and for taking our inputs into consideration.

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Switzerland's Full Input

- Stockholm+50 provides the opportunity for bold steps to accelerate global environmental action. The triple planetary crisis requires urgent and concrete collective actions. We need to do more and better. A few weeks ago at the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2) – States have been able to come together to agree on key issues on a range of subjects such as Nature-Based Solution, mineral resources and a “Science-Policy Panel on chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution”. A historic decision to address plastic pollution through an international treaty was also taken.
- We need to build on these successful outcomes in order to create synergies and foster further actions. The work and commitment of all stakeholders including civil society and the private sector were critical to that end.
- The Chair’s summary should therefore act as a strategic roadmap for the international community and include concrete recommendations to mobilize attention and resources to tackle the very many challenges.
 - Switzerland would be keen to know what is the process envisaged to ensure we can have concrete and meaningful recommendations as well as a path forward post-Stokholm+50?
 - In the same spirit, Switzerland believes that we should strive for an active participation from Ministers building on past good practices (such as in the World Economic Forum or in the context of Global Multilateral Environmental Agreements MEAs). What is foreseen to ensure we can really benefit from ministerial engagement and avoid having only plenary session format?
- Switzerland would like to share some issues that we believe should be addressed at Stockholm+50, notably in the context of the leadership dialogues, with a view to elaborate concrete recommendations, including on next steps.
 1. **Strengthening global environmental governance** remains a challenge and despite progress, there is a need to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the environmental regime. We notably need to:
 - Increase coherence and synergies among the different actors, including with the MEAs is key.
 - Highlight the visibility and commitment to international environmental issues. For that reason, Switzerland had initiated the publication by UNEP of a compilation of internationally agreed environmental goals. Such a compilation should be updated and Stokholm+50 could provide a platform to do so.
 - Ensure UNEP can act as the global authority that sets the global environmental agenda and promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of SDGs. To achieve this it needs to have adequate financial resources and Member States should contribute to the Global Environmental Form through “fair share” contributions.

2. **We need to step up our efforts to ensure a more sustainable consumption and production (SCP), notably through.** 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP). This strategy should be launched at Stockholm+50, reflect an ambitious and inclusive pathway for systemic and circular approaches, including with regard to food systems and call for enhanced multilateral and multi stakeholder cooperation.
3. As evidenced by the recent UN Food Systems Summit, **food systems hold the key to address several of the environmental challenges and crises of our time.** For example, resilient food systems are essential to help us overcome external shocks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. There is an urgent need to transform food consumption and production patterns towards more sustainability. Therefore, food systems must be addressed holistically in the context of all relevant MEAs. To strengthen the environmental dimension of sustainable development, the environmental policy agendas must be proactively linked to cross-cutting areas including SCP, food, and health. Stockholm+50 offers a unique opportunity to consolidate and further promote these linkages.
4. **To address the three planetary crisis, we need more action on Fossil Fuels Subsidies Reform (FFSR).** After the recent development at the COP26, Stockholm+50 could mark a new turning point in the push for greater international cooperation notably by recognizing the need for global cooperation on fossil fuels to accelerate a global just transition to low-emissions energy systems.
5. **We need to look at emerging issues:** the planet is under threat of new and emerging environmental risks that need to be addressed swiftly and effectively. Such emerging issues are for example Climate-Altering Technologies and Measures (CATM) such as CO2 capture and storage or technologies such as solar radiation management or ocean fertilization. We need to look at these technologies to better understand them, including the risks involved and Stockholm+50 could encourage these discussions.
6. **Strengthen our** commitments towards a pollution-free planet and ensuring the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment taking into account recent significant developments. The recent agreement to establish a science-policy panel on chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution will support the action of the international community as well as the historical decision to address plastic pollution through an international legally binding instrument. Stockholm+50 could further build momentum.
7. **Digital transformation and environmental data.** Science, policy and action is the trilogy that allows us to protect the environment, in line with the SDGs. Availability and accessibility of environmental data are therefore key to design relevant and targeted policies. The World Environment Situation Room launched this month will be a critical tool in that regard. We need to ensure there is synergies with this instrument and other initiatives and see how it can best support Member States and other relevant actors. Stockholm+50 could therefore contribute further to the development of UNEP environmental data strategy.
8. **Address the trade and environmental sustainability nexus:** trade policies and rules have an important and substantive role to play in addressing the triple planetary crisis. A number of important initiatives are taking place at the WTO and elsewhere such as the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability. Enhancing cooperation with the trade policy community to achieve environmental and climate goals should be further encouraged and action could be taken at Stockholm+50.