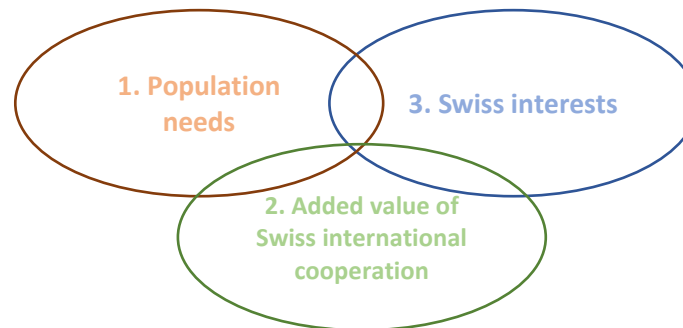


SWP Position Paper on the Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2021–2024 (first draft for GA 12.06.19)

Objective: create a Swiss position paper with the focus on the water theme

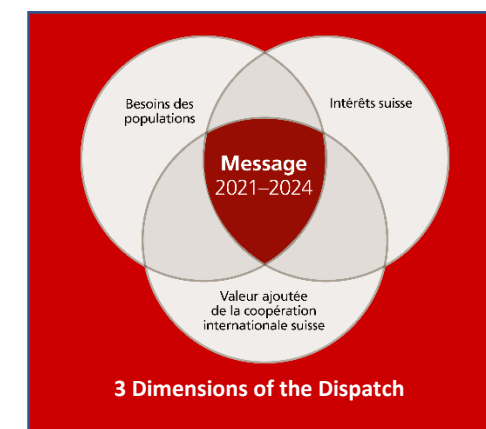
3 Dimensions of the Dispatch (criterias)

Elements to be considered
<p>1.1 Access to Water and sanitation is still unsolved globally ≥ should specifically be considered, in Humanitarian Aid but also in Development Cooperation (to reduce the root cause for migration based on lack of access to the basic service)</p> <p>1.2 Investing in urban sanitation is key to improve water quality <u>and reduce water stress</u> (strong Swiss know-how on a sanitation and waste water treatment since 1960s)</p> <p>1.3 Swiss know how on water quality (surface, ground) can be put to use to monitor, treat and improve quality of the resource</p> <p>1.4 Global water crisis is real and threatens economic development, which is visible through water cycle perturbations related to CC</p>



Elements to be considered
<p>2.1 Continue to invest in infrastructure and support the establishment of inclusive governance to ensure clear decision-making mechanisms and implementation in water and sanitation issues (combination of technical solutions that respect nature and a clear legal framework for decision making on municipal level)</p> <p>2.2 water for peace increases stability to allow economic growth (export decentralized water management model to ensure better governance of public services)</p> <p>2.3 consensus-based approach and neutrality allows interventions on transboundary water issues by integrating Blue Peace as a water diplomacy tool into foreign affairs policy)</p>

Elements to be considered
<p>3.1 Contribute to a more secure world and ensure a sound natural resource management are elements described in the foreign policy strategy and in line with the water and sanitation sector</p> <p>3.2 Be aware and import new climate change mitigation strategies /solutions from other countries for CC adaptation</p> <p>3.3 Push for efficient water resources management globally to ensure economic growth through imports of water intensive goods (CH water footprint)</p> <p>3.4 Establishment of a stable institutional environment to prevent massive migration by investing in sustainable municipal water and sanitation services</p>



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4 Thematic Priorities of the Dispatch (accents)

O1 Contribute to sustainable economic growth, market creation and employment creation (economic)

1.1 The water and sanitation sector recommends that **vocational training** programmes be oriented towards the professions that will **build and operate the infrastructure of tomorrow**, such as masons, plumbers, electricians, laboratory technicians and engineers.

1.2 **Municipal water and sanitation authorities** are interested in collaborating with partners in the South, SDC and SECO could facilitate such **public-public partnerships**.

1.3 The expertise available at **EAWAG** and the know-how of Swiss companies to **extract energy and fertilizers from wastewater** should be more systematically integrated into the projects of United Nations agencies and Swiss cooperation.

1.4 The **water use** along **value chains** of goods that contribute to swiss water footprint should be optimized for mutual benefits (producers, consumers and environment), and support for increasing **resilience** to climate change in **agricultural production**.

O2 Combat climate change and its effects and manage natural resources in a sustainable way (environment)

2.1. The Swiss water and sanitation sector welcomes the environmental dimension highlighted in message 2020/2024. It encourages parliament to set **ambitious but achievable mitigation measures** in relation to global warming, which particularly affects water resources.

2.2 In order to benefit from the know-how developed in other countries, Switzerland should participate in or initiate, as appropriate, applied research programmes on the active **management of aquifers** with countries particularly affected by climate change.

2.3 Switzerland should insist on the need to address the **water cycle in its entirety** in international fora. Visibility on the impact of glacier loss on river regimes is limited and international collaboration on this theme is urgently recommended. Switzerland has some experience in groundwater monitoring, as the FOEN and the cantons have set up a national monitoring network that could serve as a model for other countries.

2.4 Switzerland should invest more in **water and sanitation infrastructure that meets DRR standards**

2.5. Climate change is affecting through water (too much, too little, too late) **water and food security** of the poorest populations, and puts them at greater risk of falling back into poverty. Swiss experience on climate (services), water resource management, resilient agriculture and sustainable NRM is relevant to share and apply globally

2.6. **Nature based solutions and healthy ecosystems** are a key ingredient for climate change adaptation and DRR in the water sector.

O3 Saving lives, providing quality basic services and reducing the causes of forced and irregular migration (human)

3.1 Switzerland should invest heavily in **the use of solar energy in water and sanitation infrastructure** that reduces the carbon footprint while increasing the independence and resilience of such systems.

3.2 Switzerland should engage in **fragile contexts** by combining investment in infrastructure with a contribution to more inclusive governance.

3.3 Switzerland should contribute to the **transition to automated network management systems**, which often allow more efficient use of water supply systems or waste water treatment plants.

3.4 Switzerland should continue to promote the development of **innovations** in development projects, for example by proposing innovative mechanisms for collaboration with the private sector or the digitisation of infrastructure.

3.5 Swiss cooperation should **better integrate the instruments** of global cooperation, development cooperation and humanitarian aid, particularly in the water and sanitation sector, which has many potential synergies that could be better exploited.

3.6. Lack of access to **water and sanitation services** is a root cause for migration. Increasing sustainable access and quality services by scaling up proven approaches, technologies and investment mechanisms is still key to reach SDG6.

3.7. Increased urbanisation could benefit from Swiss expertise on **urban sanitation and waste water treatment**.

O4 Promote peace, the rule of law and gender equality (peace and governance)

4.1 As the depositary State of the Geneva Conventions, Switzerland should commit itself to ensuring that the fundamentally civilian character is recognised and **that water and sanitation infrastructure is better protected in conflicts**

4.2 Based on its national experience (50% comes from groundwater) Switzerland should also commit itself to a **more systematic integration of groundwater into discussions on the management of transboundary basins**.

4.3 Engagement in **hydrodiplomacy** through the Blue Peace process should be developed and more **systematically integrated into Swiss foreign policy**.

