Switzerland’s international engagement

Geneva Environment Network
7 May 2019 | Laura Platchkov, International Affairs Division, FOEN
The broader picture

• **SDG, Paris Agreement, big infrastructure** projects require minerals in vast quantities

• Over the next 2-3 decades, the extractive industry will struggle to meet the demand for raw materials (World Bank)

• **Challenges:**
  - Environmental impacts
  - «Finite» resource
  - Complex value chain, partly informal
  - Fragmented governance

  ➢ Improved governance to face increased demand
  ➢ **Political momentum** on mineral resource governance and sustainable infrastructure - **UNEA 4**
Switzerland’s international engagement

Green Economy Report to the Federal Council (2013, 2016)
Measure on strengthening the **ecological responsibility** and **transparency** of the extractive sector

Recommendation: reduction of environmental impacts of extractive industries, improve transparency and ecologically responsible business’ practices:
2 axes of action:
- development of **international environmental guidelines**
- strengthen the environmental aspect of **existing international initiatives and standards**
Switzerland’s international engagement

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**MEAs, e.g. CBD, BRS, Minamata, climate change**
OP 4. Requests the ED to collect sustainable practices, identify knowledge gaps and options, assessment of existing initiatives and approaches, and to report to the fifth UNEA (February 2021).

OP 5. Encourages governments, businesses, NGOs, academia and international institutions to promote:

(a) **Awareness** of how the extractive industries can contribute to sustainable development; (b) **Due diligence best practices** along the supply chain, including the continuous increase of transparency; (c) Capacity-building; (d) PPP; (e) Research, development and technological innovations; (f) **Sustainable mining and sourcing**; (g) Reduction of impacts
OP 2. Encourages MS, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to apply appropriate **sustainability criteria** to infrastructures, and to collaborate to promote the **mobilization, and realignment** where applicable, of **investments**, towards SI projects.

OP 3. Requests the **ED** to ensure that the UNEP with its relevant initiatives including, but not limited to, 10YFP continues and strengthens its work to promote the development and use of appropriate **sustainability criteria**.

OP 5. Requests the ED to prepare a **compilation report of best practices** drawing on existing initiatives, identify **knowledge gaps**, to help member states **promote and strengthen the sustainability** of infrastructure, and to report to UNEA.
From UNEA 4 to UNEA 5

Implementation of UNEA 4 resolutions UNEA 5 (Feb. 2021) submission of report on mineral resource governance and possibly on sustainable infrastructure
Fostering dialogue

- **EITI Global Conference** (Paris, 18-19.6.19)
  - revised standard incl. environment to be ratified
- **World Resources Forum 2019** (Geneva, 22-24.10.19)
  - governance of extractive industries
  - sustainable infrastructure
- **Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and SD** (Geneva, 10.19)
- **OECD Green Growth and SD Forum 2019** (Paris, 26-27. 11.19)
  - Greener future for extractive and heavy industries: Innovation, digitalisation and fiscal sustainability

**UNEA 5** (Nairobi, February 2021)
Thank you!