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Swiss Confederation

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

**Federal Office for the Environment FOEN**  
International Affairs Division



# Switzerland's international engagement

Geneva Environment Network

7 May 2019 | Laura Platchkov, International Affairs Division, FOEN



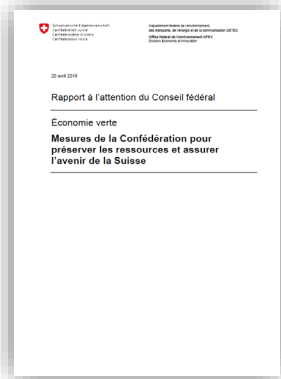
# The broader picture



- **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**

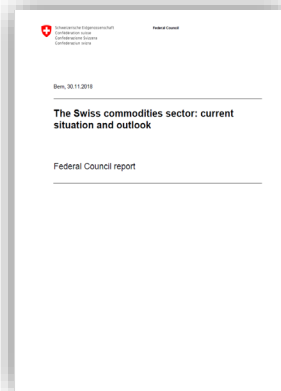


# Switzerland's international engagement



## Green Economy Report to the Federal Council (2013, 2016)

Measure on strengthening the **ecological responsibility** and **transparency** of the extractive sector



## Federal Council's report: Swiss commodities sector: current situation and outlook (2018)

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**





# UNEA 4 - Mineral resource governance

(UNEP/EA.4/L.23 - extracts)



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).

Report at UNEA 5

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

Promotion of awareness, due diligence, incl. transparency, sustainable mining and sourcing



# UNEA 4 - Sustainable infrastructure

(UNEP/EA.4/L.6 - extracts)



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.

— mobilisation and realignment, where applicable, of investments

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**.

— development and use of sustainability criteria

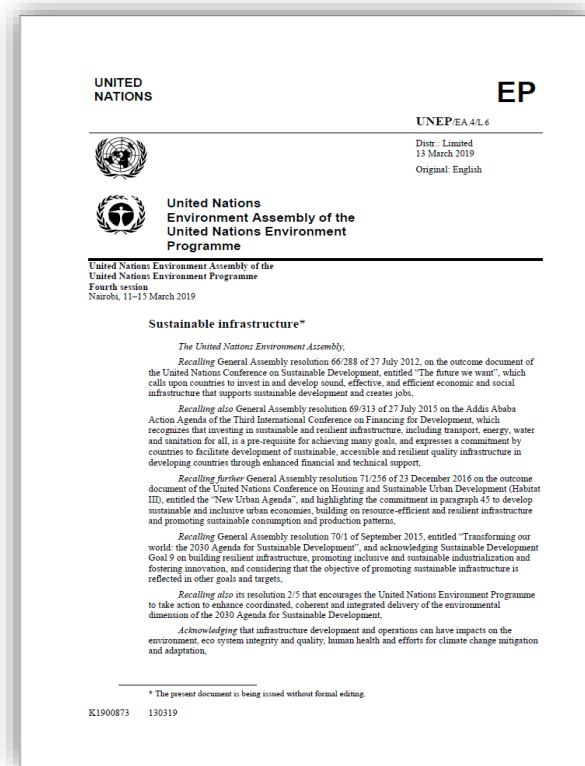
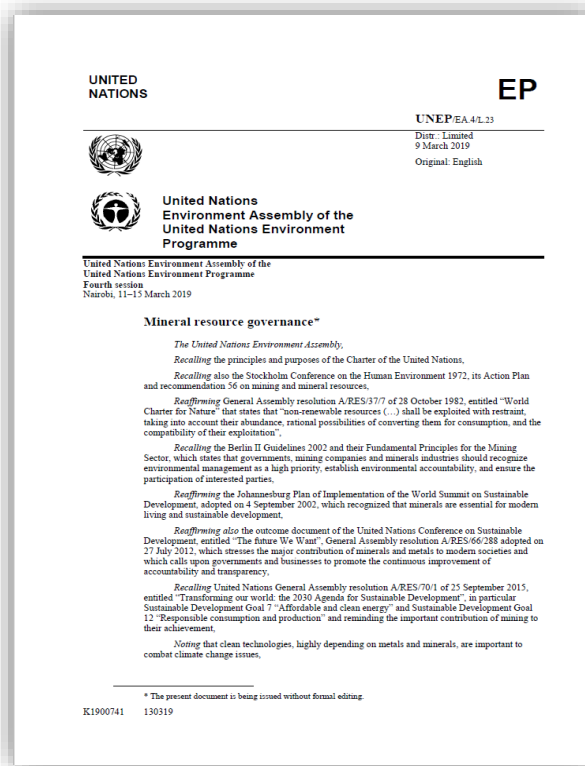
OP 5. Requests the ED to prepare a **compilation report of best practices** drawing on existing initiatives, identify **knowledge gaps**, to help member states **promote and strengthen the sustainability** of infrastructure, and to report to UNEA.

— Report at 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!