



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Swiss Confederation

CSD-16 on [Agriculture, Rural development, Land, Drought, Desertification, and Africa](#).

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Subject: Switzerland's Statement on **Africa**
Date: 09.05.08
Responsible Person: Hanspeter Wyss

1. Switzerland's development cooperation in Africa is steered according to the following principles:
 - it works in a selective way and focuses on a limited number of themes and partner countries with which permanent relations are maintained and with which programs are jointly implemented
 - its priorities are aligned with the national development strategies of its partner countries

2. Switzerland's humanitarian aid in Africa is guided by the following principles:
 - Main areas of activities are prevention and reconstruction after disasters. Emergency aid and advocacy are conducted following a disaster event.
 - Jointly with other Swiss and international humanitarian organizations, Switzerland's humanitarian aid works with people affected by crises and armed conflicts. The cooperation is with partners who respect the humanitarian principles of neutrality and impartiality.

3. Switzerland's development cooperation in Africa contribute to attaining the following objectives: a) economic perspectives for the people; b) promotion of rule of law as well as legal security; c) building up of sufficient, efficient, socially sustainable and economic infrastructure and services (education, health, water, energy, communication, and transport); d) preservation of the environment as

intact ecosystems are vital since the populations depend on rural resources (agriculture, forests and livestock); and e) protection of the population affected by violent conflict or natural disasters.

4. While economy-wide growth has occurred in Africa, it has contributed to reduce poverty, but without measurable impact on hunger. It is known that agricultural growth is much better at reducing hunger.
5. Most of the so-called “bottom billion” live in Africa. Following traps hinder most the efforts to reduce poverty: violent conflicts, natural resources problems, to be a landlocked country with poor neighbors and to be a country with poor governance.
6. The promotion of local development: is key to reduce poverty. We see four institutional approaches for successful local development: a) decentralized sectoral approaches, b) local government approaches, c) direct community support approaches and d) civil society and private sector approaches.
7. Finally, rural safety nets will become even more important in future because of HIV / Aids, climate change and to assist those left behind by growth.