

SWITZERLAND

Summary of the presentation to the Seminar of Government Experts Bonn, 16-17 May 2005

The world is vulnerable to the effects of climate change: so is Switzerland. During the 20th century, the observed increase in temperature in Switzerland has been more than one degree, well above the global increase of 0.6 degrees. Recent natural disasters resulting from extreme climatic events have caused high damages to property, infrastructure and – during the 2003 summer heat wave – to human life.

Therefore, we consider that national and international joint efforts need to be increased in order to protect human society from negative impacts of climate change.

Since the beginning of the international process to combat climate change, Switzerland has contributed to the establishment of the international institutions – the Climate Convention and its Kyoto Protocol - that allow us to cooperate in this field. We are convinced that a global problem such as climate change needs a robust common global response.

At the national level, Switzerland has undertaken a number of measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These measures address all emitting sectors such as industry, transport, building, agriculture and waste. They address all gases. The main framework is the CO2 law, the objective of which is to reduce CO2 emissions by 10 % compared to 1990 levels.

At the international level and for the period after 2012, we advocate an international climate regime that promotes real and substantial GHG emissions reductions on a global scale. This regime should contribute to sustainable development and ensure the participation of all major emitters from both developed and developing countries, be cost-effective by using economic instruments, strengthen international cooperation and foster technology development and diffusion.

We are looking forward to engaging as soon as possible in a dialogue with all Parties to the Convention with the view to shape this regime.