



FACT SHEET

THEMATIC PRIORITY DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

The global democratic ‘recession’ is a challenge for Switzerland’s foreign policy. Strengthening democratic values and freedoms serves Swiss interests globally. The current context makes it necessary to put a new emphasis on Switzerland’s constitutional and legislative mandate to promote democracy.

Democracy

Switzerland will sharpen its profile in its foreign policy on democracy. It will implement programmes to strengthen democratic institutions and processes in partner countries and it will promote democracy in policy dialogue and at the multilateral level.

Human rights

Switzerland also has a constitutional and legal mandate to promote human rights. It will work bilaterally and multilaterally to protect and promote human rights. It stands up for the universality and the indivisibility of human rights, while concentrating on its thematic priorities: abolishing the death penalty, preventing torture, defending freedom of expression, promoting women’s rights and protecting minorities.

International law

An advocate of international law, Switzerland is facing a fragmenting international regulatory framework. Bilateral and multilateral treaties, national legislation and private-sector standards sometimes overlap. To support internationally active Swiss companies that are dealing with different legal jurisdictions, the Confederation will draw up practical guidelines.

New technologies and digital governance

Switzerland advocates open, inclusive digital governance. Democratic self-determination, the rule of law and respect for human rights need to be guaranteed in the digital space too. Technological progress in the area of artificial intelligence makes it crucial to develop an international regulatory framework.

Anticipatory science diplomacy

Anticipatory science diplomacy aims to identify the implications of new scientific developments for the global common goods as early as possible. Switzerland has a strong position in education, research and innovation. Combined with Geneva’s international profile, it has the capability to develop and offer its expertise in this area. The Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA) foundation reinforces this position.

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE



42 countries shifted towards more autocratic forms of governance between 2012 to 2022.



To sharpen Switzerland’s profile in its foreign policy on democracy, guidelines will be issued at the start of the new legislative period.



Switzerland will play an active part in **developing an international regulatory framework for artificial intelligence.**



Full section of the strategy