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## 4.10. Switzerland<sup>302</sup>

In the past ten years the migration-development nexus has become progressively included in Switzerland's policy framework to the point where it is now firmly anchored as one of the strategic objectives of the development agenda 2013-2016. Correspondingly, the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC) has seen the establishment and development of a section solely dedicated to M&D. Since 2011, the interrelationship between the migration and development policy agendas benefits from enhanced interdepartmental cooperation through the "IMZ" mechanism (Internationale Migrations-Zusammenarbeit), ensuring a comprehensive approach to the external migration policy of Switzerland, and going beyond the focus on return, protection of refugees and trafficking issues of the previously existing structures of inter-departmental cooperation. This new conceptual approach is linked to a whole-of-government approach and aims to enhance policy coherence within the Swiss administration. At the international level, Switzerland promotes strengthened collaboration on migration and development issues with international and regional actors at both operational and policy levels. Switzerland is very active in policy discussions in the GFMD and the UNHLD, but also in more development oriented debates like the Post-2015 or the Post-Rio processes.

### 4.10.1. The Migration and Development concept

Over the past ten years the migration-development nexus has been introduced in a number of strategic documents. In 2004, the report of the Interdepartmental Working Group on Migration included the M&D among Switzerland's migration policy interests.<sup>303</sup> The report called for migration to be brought to the forefront in Switzerland's and its partners' development policies, and for considering migrants as potential development players in Switzerland and in their countries of origin. The rationale for this was that M&D synergies should be considered

as supportive to the wellbeing of countries of origin and transit and should therefore form part of the three axes of Switzerland's migration policy: well-being, solidarity and security.

In 2011, the Federal Council acknowledged the *international migration cooperation report (IMZ Bericht)*<sup>304</sup> to introduce a new global and more coherent orientation of the Swiss foreign policy on migration, which further strengthened areas of cooperation such as regular migration, international governance as well as M&D. Previously existing structures of inter-departmental cooperation, notably

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**302** The data collection cut-off date for the Swiss chapter was postponed to December 2012 as a strategic policy document for the Swiss development cooperation, the "Federal Council Dispatch on Swiss International Cooperation 2013-2016" where M&D has been anchored for the first time, was in the finalisation process during the second half of 2012.

**303** IMZ, *Rapport final du groupe de travail interdépartemental Migration*, Berne, 2004, viewed on 12 October 2012, [http://www.ejpd.admin.ch/content/dam/data/migration/rueckkehr/040623e\\_zus-f.pdf](http://www.ejpd.admin.ch/content/dam/data/migration/rueckkehr/040623e_zus-f.pdf). In 2003 the Federal Council established an interdepartmental working group on migration to analyze and review foreign political tools and possible interdepartmental synergies that could support a global strategy on migration. The report was approved by the Federal Council in 2004.

**304** IMZ, *Rapport sur la coopération en matière de migration Internationale*, Berne, 2011, viewed on 12 October 2012, [http://www.eda.admin.ch/etc/medialib/downloads/edazen/topics/migr.Par.0034.File.tmp/Rapport\\_Cooperation\\_en\\_matiere\\_de\\_migration\\_internationale\\_16022011\\_FR.pdf](http://www.eda.admin.ch/etc/medialib/downloads/edazen/topics/migr.Par.0034.File.tmp/Rapport_Cooperation_en_matiere_de_migration_internationale_16022011_FR.pdf)

the platform on return assistance and the former platform for migration cooperation, were merged and given a new and stronger mandate, to enhance the effect of coordination and coherence. The IMZ report presents the three principles underpinning any Swiss migration initiative, including those on M&D. The principles are the following:

1. Switzerland will apply a *global holistic approach to migration*, where the interdependency between the economic, political and social aspects of migration is taken into account.
2. The Swiss administration will work in a *whole-of-government* approach in order to achieve more coherence with the often conflicting mandates of the different actors.
3. The relationship between Switzerland and other countries will be marked by the concept of *partnership* where the vested interest of both sides can lead to a considered, mutual understanding and where solutions are decided accordingly.<sup>305</sup>

In June the same year, the Federal Council adopted the Legislature Plan 2011-2015.<sup>306</sup> The plan sets the Swiss administration's priorities for the next four years through six guidelines and thirty objectives. Migration is mentioned in objective no. 17 *Die Chancen der Migration werden genutzt und ihren Risiken wird begegnet*, which can be translated as "the opportunities that migration brings will be

used and the risks that migration poses will be managed".<sup>307</sup> The approach strives to balance Swiss interests with those of countries of origin and transit, and the development perspective applies to both. Addressing the risks of migration is an ongoing process largely aided by the Swiss concept of 'Protection in the Region' which –similar to the Danish Regions of Origin Initiative – assists in strengthening the capacities of actors in regions of origin of forced migratory movements. In his speech "Migration and Development: a Development Cooperation Perspective" in 2010, Ambassador Martin Dahinden underlined the importance of a global and holistic approach; "the development impact of migration is not limited to remittances, brain-drain or gain, and investments, but includes important socio-political and cultural dimensions".<sup>308</sup> Ambassador Dahinden also highlighted the positive impact of migration on the development of destination countries: "migration is a chance for destination countries with aging societies or labour market shortages. In many European countries, the health system would not work without the labour force from developing countries".<sup>309</sup> This country of destination development perspective was also mentioned in December 2011, at the occasion of the opening of the concluding debate of the Swiss chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development held in Geneva, when Federal Councillor Simonetta Sommaruga underlined that the starting point of Switzerland's migration policy is a national interest and

**305** IMZ, 2011, op. cit.

**306** SDC, *Global Programme Migration and Development, Annual Report 2011, With Planning Part 2012*, Berne, 2011.

**307** Translation of the author. Bundesrat, *Bundesrat verabschiedet Leitlinien und Ziele für die Legislaturplanung*, 2011, viewed on 2 November 2012, 2011-2015 <http://www.news.admin.ch/message/?lang=de&msg-id=39933>.

**308** Ambassador Martin Dahinden, *Migration and Development: a Development Cooperation Perspective*, speech for the 40 Years NADEL, Zurich, 2010.

**309** Ambassador Martin Dahinden, 2010, op. cit.

**310** Sommaruga, S., *Key Note Speech of Federal Councillor Simonetta Sommaruga on the occasion of the opening of the Concluding Debate of the Swiss Chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development held in Geneva on December 1st 2011*, Geneva, 2011, viewed on 4 November 2012, <http://www.ejpd.admin.ch/content/ejpd/en/home/dokumentation/red/2011/2011-12-01.html>.

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that sustainable migration is indispensable for Swiss development.<sup>310</sup>

Switzerland basically refers to the M&D concept as formulated in the 2005 report of the Global Commission on International Migration and the Global Approach to Migration of the European Commission. A holistic and global approach puts more emphasis on the migrants themselves, on migration as a livelihood strategy and, more generally, on migration as a development factor and on coherence for development as a challenge in this field.

Regarding future cooperation, M&D has been anchored for the first time in the Federal Council Dispatch on Swiss International Cooperation 2013-2016. In this strategic document migration is included in the thematic priorities of Swiss cooperation for development under the 5<sup>th</sup> strategic objective “to contribute to a socially sustainable globalization that facilitates development and protects the environment [since] a well-managed migration can contribute to development in the country of origin”.<sup>311</sup> Despite this important statement by the Federal Council, there is also a continuous request by Parliament to better coordinate – where relevant – development activities with domestic concerns from an immigration perspective.

Building on the Dispatch, the section dedicated to M&D within SDC, the Global Prorgame on Migration and Development (GPMD) has adopted a strategy over the next five years (2013-17) that mentions the following areas of policy work in migration in relation to development and poverty reduction:

1. *Labour migration*: maximizing the benefits of labour migration for migrants

themselves and for their families in their home countries, and thus contributing to the development of the latter. Efforts are concentrated on access to rights, women’s migration, the implementation of more comprehensive labour migration policies (pre-departure and arrival information, return and reintegration, recruitment agency regulation, development of work inspection), and improving the situation of migrants under labour law (“decent work”,).

2. *Diaspora*: promoting the potential of migrants for sustainable development, mainly through improved framework conditions in countries of origin, transit and destination and through selected innovative initiatives of migrants’ associations and/or partners.
3. *Mainstreaming migration into development policies*: advocating for and supporting the integration of migration into development planning and in specific sector policies within the framework of poverty reduction strategies at national and local levels. These efforts include the integration of migration as a theme in SDC regular activities .
4. *Global Dialogue on M&D*: participating and influencing the global dialogue on M&D focusing on policy implementation. Supporting the creation and sharing of knowledge on specific M&D topics and advocating for structured interaction between governments and other stakeholders (civil society organisations, the Global Migration Group and the private sector) in these fora.
5. *Coherence for development in Swiss migration policy*: contributing to the

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**311** Federal Council, Message on *Switzerland’s International Cooperation in 2013–2016*, Berne, 2012, viewed on 4 November 2012, [www.deza.admin.ch/en/Dossiers/ressources/resource\\_de\\_208305.pdf](http://www.deza.admin.ch/en/Dossiers/ressources/resource_de_208305.pdf).

implementation of the new Swiss external migration policy in promoting win-win situations where Swiss development interests match domestic migration interests and bringing the development perspective into the IMZ-platform.

#### 4.10.2. Institutional framework and policy coherence for Migration and Development

At federal level, different ministries are involved in foreign migration policy-making. The *Federal department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)* is involved in M&D through SDC and the Human Security Division (HSD). *SDC* is responsible for the overall coordination of development activities and cooperation as well as for humanitarian aid. Through the GPMD, which was established in 2009<sup>312</sup>, SDC is engaged in the international dialogue on M&D, finances operational programmes with an innovative character and supports the exchange of knowledge and experience. Programmes by SDC are crucial elements of Migration Partnerships as well as programmes under the Protection in the Region Initiative. SDC does however also manage M&D projects in countries which do not fall under the priorities identified for either a migration partnership or 'Protection in the Region'. Such programmes are run by the GPMD and increasingly also by the regional cooperation of SDC as part of their national/regional strategies. *HSD* facilitates cooperation and coordination within FDFA to ensure consistency between Swiss migration and foreign policies and has an overall coordination role regarding international dialogue on migration. They also have the lead concerning the 'Nansen Initiative' launched in 2012, and have some mainly policy related projects related to the fight against human trafficking.

The *Federal Department of Economic Affairs (FDEA)* contributes to the implementation of the Swiss external migration policy through the *State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)*. SECO is the federal government's centre of expertise for all core issues relating to economic policy. It is active in the following areas: economic development cooperation, cooperation with international organizations (ILO, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)) and labour market policy. In the framework of its competence, SECO pursues activities related to migratory flows particularly in the context of international agreements covering trade in services (e.g. WTO/GATS Mode 4 and free trade agreements). SECO also cooperates with the GPMD, in particular in the sector of remittance transfers.<sup>313</sup>

The *Federal Office for Migration (FOM)* is part of the *Federal Department of Justice and Police (FDJP)* and is the lead agency for the formulation and implementation of Swiss migration policy. Concerning the international aspects of Swiss migration policy, the FOM takes a lead role regarding bilateral, as well as selected regional and multilateral migration dialogues, voluntary and forced return, prevention of irregular migration, *contribution to protection programmes and migration partnerships*. This is done in close collaboration with the FDFA.

Other Federal Departments and Offices are also involved in the inter-departmental framework IMZ, but more on an *ad hoc* basis, such as the Federal Office for Police (human trafficking and smuggling, police cooperation); the Directorate of International Law (legal issues relating to agreements, MoUs, etc.); the Direc-

<sup>312</sup> The creation of the GPMD was part of the reorganisation process of SDC in 2008. The Global Cooperation domain is a new instrument of SEDC to respond to global challenges, the other global programmes being water, climate change and food security

<sup>313</sup> Federal Council, 2012, op. cit.

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torate for European Affairs (EU cooperation); Federal Office of Public Health (migration and public health).

At the local level, Swiss cantons and municipalities are involved in the implementation of internal (e.g. labour market, asylum) and external migration policies (e.g. assisted voluntary return). In 2011, a process of evaluating possible cooperation opportunities on M&D with civil society organisations, diaspora organisations, think tanks, and the private sector was initiated.<sup>314</sup>

By 2008 Switzerland had anchored the concept of *Migration Partnership* in the Federal Law on Foreigners. Its aim is to strengthen cooperation on migration with countries of origin and transit by taking into account the interests all the partners involved (win-win situation), as well as to adopt a comprehensive approach to migration. A migration partnership provides a framework for all aspects of cooperation on migration issues between Switzerland and the partner country (such as, bilateral agreements and projects) and is formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding. The content is flexible and varies from one partnership to the next. The key elements of a migration partnership are, on one side, cooperation in the “traditional” areas (for example, readmission, assisted voluntary return, visa policy, fight against trafficking in human beings) and, on the other, projects in more innovative areas such as synergies between M&D.<sup>315</sup> Currently Switzerland has formalized migration partnerships with the following countries: Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo (since 2009), Nigeria (since 2010), and Tunisia (since

2012).<sup>316</sup> A second instrument used as part of the Swiss foreign migration policy is comprised of the above-mentioned ‘Protection in the Region’ programmes. Swiss activity in the framework of ‘Protection in the Region’ is designed to ensure that *refugees* receive effective protection as soon as possible in their region of origin and that *first host countries are supported* to provide the necessary protection for the persons concerned. The third instrument is Swiss engagement in international fora (see section 4.10.4).

In general the Federal Government has a consensual decision-making system, and the institutional backbone of decision-making is a sophisticated and effective mechanism of inter-ministerial coordination. The so called “*consultation of offices*” is in place to reduce differences among the federal offices on decisions to be taken by the Federal Council. Through this process SDC has the opportunity to address issues and to help ensure that technical and political decision are coherent with development perspectives, including those related to Switzerland’s migration policy.<sup>317</sup> In the case of foreign policy, SDC, AMS and FOM jointly and systematically evaluate whether the Swiss commitment can facilitate cooperation on migration with the concerned partner countries.<sup>318</sup> This structure, as well as other coordination platforms – predecessors of the IMZ, has helped to coordinate the work of its ministries and agencies and to enhance the coherence of its migration and development agendas for over ten years.

In accordance with the IMZ-report of 2011 and its principles, the federal administration has

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**314** IMZ, 2011, op. cit.

**315** IMZ, 2011, op. cit.

**316** Reisle, M., *International Migration Cooperation-Internationale Migrationszusammenarbeit IMZ, Switzerland’s way to increase policy coherence*, EMN Conference and Cluster Meeting, Oslo, 2012.

**317** *Policy Coherence for Development*, Internal Document, March 7, 2012.

**318** IMZ, 2011, op. cit.

put in place a new structure in order to model a coherent governmental position towards migration issues. With the new structure, former cooperation mechanisms were merged, and a revised interdepartmental architecture put in place.<sup>319</sup> Specific bodies facilitate interdepartmental coordination:

- The plenary session of the interdepartmental working group on migration (*Plenum der Interdepartementalen Arbeitsgruppe für Migration (IAM-Plenum)*) is the main strategic body for the interdepartmental coordination on migration. The IAM-Plenum meets twice per year. It is co-chaired by the FDJP and the FDFA for external migration policy issues, and by FDJP only for integration issues or internal migration policy.
- The Committee for cooperation in international migration (*Ausschuss für Internationale Migrationszusammenarbeit (IMZ-Ausschuss)*) acts as an operational body. It coordinates all the instruments of Switzerland's external migration policy (e.g. migration partnerships, assisted return programmes and protection programmes). According to its mandate, the IMZ-Ausschuss is also responsible for the development and the implementation of migration partnerships under Article 100 of the Federal Law on Foreigners. It advises the strategic body (IAM-Plenum) and manages the various thematic and geographical working groups linked with the structure. The IMZ-Ausschuss is co-chaired by SDC, FOM and HSD and convenes at least six times per year.<sup>320</sup>
- The Federal Council nominated a *Special Ambassador on International Migration Cooperation*, who embodies the "whole-of-government-approach", being tasked to represent Swiss government

when a close interdepartmental cooperation on migration is needed.<sup>321</sup>

The *Federal Commission on Migration (CFM)* was established by the Federal Council on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2008. It was created through the merging of the former Federal Commission for Foreigners (FCF) with the Federal Commission for Refugees (FCR). It is an extra-parliamentary commission providing advice and recommendations on migration issues. It is composed of thirty members elected for the legislative period.<sup>322</sup>

### 4.10.3. Operationalising the Migration and Development policy

#### 4.10.3.1 Priority countries and regions

Swiss development cooperation on M&D is described in the GPMD Strategy 2013-2017. At the geographical level, GPMD concentrates on the South Asia region (Sri Lanka), the Gulf and the Middle East (Lebanon, Jordan, Yemen), North Africa (Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco) and West Africa (Nigeria, Burkina, Benin). Countries touched by the Arab Spring are under particular consideration and an extension of the programme in the Horn of Africa is foreseen. Other regions may fall within the field of implementation of some of the global projects of the GPMD, or of some regular SDC projects as a result of the mainstreaming process within SDC, for example: Eastern Europe (Western Balkans, Moldova) or Asia (Nepal, Bangladesh).

#### 4.10.3.2 Project portfolio

GPMD's regular portfolio constitutes of about 30 ongoing projects at national and global level.

319 SDC, 2011, op. cit.

320 IMZ, 2011, op. cit.

321 Ibid.

322 Federal Commission on Migration: website, viewed on 3 November 2012, <http://www.ekm.admin.ch/content/ekm/en/home.html>.

- *The Sri Lanka programme*: collaboration with ILO (implementation of national labour migration policy) and Helvetas (strengthening civil society actors while engaging them in pre-departure and reintegration schemes). Activities include: translation of the National Migration Policy into laws and mechanisms; institutional and operational strengthening of CSOs and the launching by the government of research aiming at defining policy recommendations in the field of the reduction of psychosocial costs of migration; and a study on the tourism industry as employment opportunity for returning migrants.
- *South Asia regional programme*: support from the Nepalese-based M&D advisor for the implementation of development related migration projects in Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka contributes to identifying potential synergies, discovering opportunities for information exchanges with peers, collating more evidence on gaps between policy and implementation, and gaining a better understanding of the dynamics in the South Asia – Middle East migration corridor as well as the impact of migration on the development of these countries, especially at local level.
- *Middle East*: main policy outcomes have been defined in the Middle East programme Strategy 2012-2014: Improving regulation of the labour market system, contributing to the reform of some aspects of the kafala system, protecting the rights of migrants to develop, improving access to justice through information and capacity building activities of key civil society and government stakeholders, and supporting the dialogue between Asian countries of origin and middle eastern destination countries. The ILO project for the inclusion of domestic workers under labour law in Lebanon is ongoing and UNODC project for improving criminal justice responses to trafficking in human beings was phased out at the end of 2011.
- *Nigeria programme*: GPMD is engaged in three domains in line with its action plan and with the Migration Partnership: diaspora for development, migration and development policy, and reintegration of youth on the move within a regional dimension.
- *Tunisia programme*: the focus is on a) on reform of the *Office des tunisiens à l'étrangers* and more generally supporting contribution of diasporas to the current development of Tunisia; b) revising the M&D approach within a more general review of migration policy; c) promoting the integration of migration as a factor of development in the review process of selected sectoral policies; and d) supporting local governance for better integration of different categories of migrants, including numerous returnees, while tackling the challenges of local development.
- *Global operational projects*: GPMD is engaged in in-depth discussions with ILO, IOM, World Bank, and UNDP with clear policy outcomes in the field of M&D. Some of these joint ventures are already ongoing, for instance: diaspora (AMEDIP-ICMPD and IOM) and the impact of return on development (CRIS-University of Florence).<sup>323</sup>
- The GPMD's annual plan for 2013 foresees the launch of the following projects:
  - UNDP-IOM Joint venture that will go beyond the 4 initial pilots and include Tunisia from 2012.
  - The WB project "*Knowledge Platform on Migration and Development*".<sup>324</sup>

#### 4.10.4. Involvement in international fora on Migration and Development

Since the launch of the Berne Initiative, which led to the adoption of the International Agenda for Migration Management (IAMM), Switzerland has remained actively involved

323 SDC, 2011, op. cit.

324 Ibid.

**Table 6.** GPMD's financial plan on M&D<sup>325</sup>

Programme Components	2013 (Actual)			2013-2017 (planning)		
	in CHF	In Euro	in %	in CHF	In Euro	in %
Global Dialogue	1 610 000	1 323 080	14%	11 000 000	9 039 660	14%
Decent work	3 300 000	2 711 900	29%	20 300 000	16 682 300	26%
Migrants' contribution to development	2 380 000	1 955 850	21%	20 000 000	16 435 700	25%
Integration of Migration in the development planning	3 371 000	2 770 240	30%	23 500 000	19 312 000	29%
Coherence for development in Swiss migration policy	100 000	82 178 7	1%	1 500 000	1 232 680	2%
Misc. / Management	570 000	468 419	5%	2 700 000	2 218 830	4%
<b>Total Budget GPMD</b>	<b>11 331 000</b>	<b>9 311 670</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>79 000 000</b>	<b>64 921 200</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 7.** SDC's overall engagement in the field of migration<sup>326</sup>

Programmes/ Contributions	Description	2012	
		CHF	Euro
Activities of the GPMD	Projects according to the strategy 2013-2017	8 m	6 574 300
<b>Programmes which directly address migration issues</b> (in Humanitarian Aid and Development Cooperation (South & East))	Protection of vulnerable groups, capacity building of governments & NGOs, information / sensitization / prevention, research, rehabilitation and the fight against human trafficking	48 m	39 445 800
<b>Contributions to multilateral organizations</b> dealing directly or indirectly with migration issues	UNHCR (28.5 Mio), UNRWA (14.7 Mio), WFP (42.2 Mio), ICRC (70 Mio) and IOM (0.4 Mio)	155.8 m	128 034 000
<b>Total SDC Migration (direct and indirect programmes)</b>		<b>178.4 M</b>	<b>146 607 000</b>

<sup>325</sup> SDC, Mid Term Strategy of the GPMD 2013 – 2017, Berne, 2012.; OANDA currency converter was used, exchange rate which was applied on 15 April 2013 was 0.82179. applied on 15 April 2013 was 0.82179.

<sup>326</sup> SDC, –2012, op. cit.

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at the international stage. This is based on the conviction that regional and international cooperation is required in order to ensure adequate responses to this transnational phenomenon. Switzerland co-chaired jointly with Sweden the core group supporting the work of the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM), which presented the milestone report “Migration in an interconnected world: New directions for action” in October 2005.

In view of the first UNHLD on Migration and Development, Switzerland engaged on various levels in the preparatory process and had an active presence in New York, arguing for, *inter alia*, periodical dialogues within the UN based on the fact that only the UN has the universality and legitimacy to serve as a clearing house as well as a catalyst for the debate on M&D. Switzerland will again support and participate in the various processes leading to the UNHLD 2013.

In addition to this, Switzerland also actively supports the GFMD and is convinced of the need for a practical, informal and action-oriented process complementary to the UNHLD. Together with Morocco, Switzerland launched the working group on policy coherence, data and research, which contributed to bring these issues to the top of the international agenda. Switzerland is also a member of the GFMD Steering Group and has always financially supported the GFMD, placing emphasis on the importance of the Support Unit. Switzerland has co-led a number of GFMD roundtables in the past, and has been an advocate and supporter for a more active inclusion of the Civil Society in the GFMD process while maintaining its state-led character. In 2011, Switzerland took over the chairmanship of the

GFMD under the flagship theme “Engaging on migration and development: coherence, capacity and cooperation”. With the support of various partners, Switzerland engaged in an innovative initiative, organizing 14 thematic meetings around the globe, establishing a direct partnership with the civil society, enhancing the GMG voice in the process in addition to direct collaboration with selected GMG members, and organizing a special event with the private sector. The focus of the 2011 GFMD was on three main areas: a) the mobility of labour and development; b) addressing of irregular migration through migration and development coherent strategies; and c) the use of tools to develop migration and development policies based on evidence and aimed at greater coherence. The concluding debate of the 2011 GFMD took place in Geneva in early December 2011.

Moreover, Switzerland is engaged in various fora to discuss the possibilities of anchoring migration as a development enabler in a sustainable, global and new, equitable development agenda. Therefore, to promote coherence between the migration and the development international/UN agendas, Switzerland decided in early 2013 to take the co-lead with Bangladesh for the thematic area “Population Dynamics”, which includes migration as a sub-theme, in the framework of the global consultations on a Post-2015 UN Development Agenda. In addition, Switzerland will promote the discussion on population/migration within the Post-Rio process while debating the future Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Concerning regional processes, Switzerland is directly involved in the following regional dia-

logues on migration: Rabat Process, Budapest Process, and Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC). Switzerland has twice held the chairmanship of the IGC (1998-99, 2008-09). Switzerland considers these processes to be instrumental in building bridges between countries of origin, transit and destination, encouraging a shared understanding of the migration phenomenon and enabling joint mechanisms to be devised to reduce the negative aspects of migration and take advantage of the opportunities it offers. It therefore supports other regional dialogues around the world, such as the Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA) and has co-funded the third global consultation of Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) hosted by the Government of Botswana in 2011. In order to better identify opportunities in RCPs to consolidate a systematic M&D approach in certain regions, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is supporting a mapping of RCPs that will be published in 2013.

Switzerland was one of the initial funders of the ACP Migration Observatory and has since extended its financial support. Additionally Switzerland, through SDC, supports a variety of other global projects that will strengthen the approach to M&D (cf KNOMAD and mainstreaming projects at national and local levels).

The participation of Switzerland at international fora on M&D is coordinated with all

relevant ministries through the above mentioned IMZ-Platform, and ultimately for key political decisions by the Federal Council. This ensures that the Swiss involvement adheres to all operational aspects of the Swiss migration policy, allowing for a proactive exchange and cross-fertilization between international – national perspectives, as well as policy-operational approaches. Switzerland also maintains the practise of regular reflections and interactions with national civil society organizations.

In related fields at the international level, Switzerland is also very much active in the protection of refugees and other vulnerable groups, notably in its support to the UNHCR, IOM and other humanitarian agencies (for example, UNWRA) and actors as well as in the framework of the programme to strengthen the protection of refugees in their regions of origin ('Protection in the Region'). Switzerland condemns trafficking in human beings as a serious violation of human rights. The government has set itself the objective at the international level of making a significant, visible and verifiable contribution to the prevention of human trafficking and the protection of victims. For this reason, Switzerland supports programmes in known origin and transit countries for victims of trafficking. In addition, Switzerland is also involved in policy work and is active in the relevant multilateral forums, e.g. the UN and the OSCE, on further developing standards for improving the protection of victims of human trafficking.

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