



Media invitation

Bern, 15 January 2016

Annual Conference of Swiss Development Cooperation

Together towards a sustainable future –
the 2030 Agenda for Switzerland and the world

with Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter and
UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Friday 22 January 2016
1pm (doors open 12pm) until 5.45pm

Messe Zürich (Hall 3)

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is ambitious. If its goals are met, by 2030 there will no longer be any hunger or poverty in the world. Everyone will be leading a healthy life and will be able to access high-quality education. Relations between the sexes will be marked by equality and the empowerment of women. Water and energy will be supplied sustainably; oceans, marine resources and terrestrial ecosystems will be protected. There are a total of 17 goals that aim to make sustainable development possible for people, the economy and the environment.

The programme is highly demanding, but it is exactly what the international community has signed up for – including Switzerland. The 2030 Agenda was signed at the summit meeting of heads of state and government in New York in September 2015. It replaces the Millennium Development Goals but goes even further, setting out new goals that form a common approach for industrialised *and* developing countries to overcome poverty and promote a sustainable and environmentally friendly economy. During the three-year negotiating process, Switzerland was a driving force for the new agenda.

Various aspects of the 2030 Agenda will be discussed at this year's annual conference of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). The two keynote speakers, **UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon** and **Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter**, will emphasise the importance of the agenda – for the world and for Switzerland. In the first discussion, **Thomas Gass** (UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs) and Ambassador **Michael Gerber** (special representative of the Federal Council for

global sustainable development) will share their experience of drafting the new goals, and the implications these goals have for the international community.

SDC Director-General Manuel Sager will talk about the new parameters that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda will bring in terms of international cooperation for Switzerland. Specialists from the SDC, the canton of Vaud and the private sector will take part in two panels discussing the issue of sustainable water management as well as public and private funding for sustainable development. The closing speech will be given by SECO Director and **State Secretary Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch**.

Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will discuss issues during a working lunch prior to giving their speeches at the conference. Visual media representatives are invited to a **photocall at 11.30**. Please be at the registration desk in good time.

Upon request and subject to availability, we will gladly schedule interviews with the specialists attending the event. A press release will be published after the annual conference.

If you are interested, please register by **Wednesday afternoon 20 January 2016** with FDFA Information (info@eda.admin.ch).

Best regards
FDFA Information

Contact

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Further information

Annual conference dossier
<https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/aktuell/news-medienmitteilungenartikelundreden.html/deza/en/meta/news-deza/2015/12/18/conference-annuelle-sur-lagenda-2030>

Annual conference programme
<https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/aktuell/agenda/jahreskonferenzen/jako-eza-2016/programm.html>