

English translation of the French original

**Statement by  
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**Federal Councillor and Head of the Swiss Federal  
Department of Foreign Affairs**

**at the  
*Member States & Stakeholders  
Announcements Plenary***

***"The Swiss contribution:  
five concrete priorities to reduce suffering in  
the world"***

**World Humanitarian Summit  
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Switzerland thanks the United Nations and Turkey for having organised this summit. At a time when our world faces enormous challenges, a summit such as this one, which aims to mobilise humanitarian forces, is vitally important. All the same, this summit only makes sense if it allows us to steer the international community towards real solutions to the problems on the ground, towards answers to the calls for help by those who are suffering.

My country, Switzerland, welcomes the report of the Secretary-General. It sees it as a strong confirmation that the international community must apply the fundamental principle of humanity in responding to crises. We are determined to make a concrete contribution, which can be summed up in five priorities.

First and quite simply, we must constantly aim for peace. The best way to put an end to suffering is by ending conflicts and restoring peace. Switzerland is a country with long-standing experience in providing good offices and mediation. We are always available to offer our good offices in all its forms and are determined to further strengthen our mediation capacities in the coming years. In addition, we are ready to step up our support for the peace efforts of the UN and other organisations in Geneva (the birthplace of humanitarian action) and elsewhere.

At the same time, the international community must *preserve* the peace, which requires investing more in the prevention of conflicts. To this end, the international community must finally be able to open its eyes to the early signs of instability. One of these indicators is how the human rights situation evolves in a given country. That is why we will make an appeal with other countries this June to strengthen the link between the Human Rights Council and the Security Council.

The second priority is respect for international humanitarian law. Respect for humanity and human dignity must be a goal even in war. Violations of humanitarian standards must be firmly and widely condemned. The universality and relevance of international humanitarian law must be reaffirmed. What is lacking however is an international forum for these issues: that's why Switzerland is working to define the details of an intergovernmental forum on international humanitarian law.

The third priority is that humanitarian action must be impartial so as to ensure access to all people in need of assistance. As we speak, Switzerland is dispatching another humanitarian convoy to eastern Ukraine to help the people on both sides of the contact line in equal measure.

The fourth priority is that migration must not be driven by suffering. In order to reduce forced displacements, a major effort must be undertaken to create prospects for people, and for young people in particular. Through our projects in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa, we intend to help ensure that displaced men, women and children live free of violence and can have hope for the future in their own region. Furthermore, Switzerland is committed to helping draw up a Global Compact on Responsibility Sharing at the next UN summit and ensure compliance with international law related to migration.

Last, the fifth priority is that we must mobilise all forces to tackle the underlying causes of fragility, violence, extremism and forced displacements. That is why we are firmly committed to the New Deal and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular goal 16. All States, and each and every of us here, must ensure that we promote peaceful and inclusive societies.

The solution to effectively address the roots of these problems is to ensure that international cooperation instruments – humanitarian, development, human rights, peace and security-promotion instruments – are used coherently and in accordance with common goals. This is precisely what we have decided to do in the new strategic

framework for Switzerland's international cooperation until 2020. This is what I mean by mobilising all forces and what will allow reducing, despite limited resources, suffering around the world more effectively.