A shared strategic framework with clear guidelines is instrumental for pursuing policy coherence. The Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) 2016–2019, adopted by the Federal Council, is an important instrument and reference framework for implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It includes an action plan with nine thematic areas explicitly linked to each SDG. Furthermore, new legislative projects and processes must reference the SDGs. PCSD is an important instrument for integrating sustainable development into sectoral policies, and one of five Federal Council guidelines. Political commitment to PCSD is thus expressed at the highest federal level. The Swiss decentralised governance system and culture of consensual decision making means, however, that the SDS has limited practical implication at the local level. Instead, it will be crucial to strengthen alignment or vertical policy coherence between the Confederation, cantons and communes.

Co-ordination and consultation across and within levels of government can support coherent policies. The Federal Council, a seven-member executive council heading the federal administration and operating as a collective presidency and a cabinet, promotes PCSD through a regularly two-tiered consultation mechanism. First, the office in charge of a policy organises a technical consultation to gather and consolidate comments from other offices. Thereafter, political consultation among Federal Councillors prior to and in view of final decisions balances out different perspectives, trying to take into account concerns of sustainable development. Nevertheless, the political consultation reflects political interests and power structures and outcomes are not always in line with sustainable development. Implementation of the SDS and the SDGs in domestic policy is co-ordinated by an interdepartmental committee of directors and the associated management office, co-led by the Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). They co-ordinate work on national and international SDG implementation and include representatives from relevant Federal Offices, such as the Federal Offices for the Environment, Health, Agriculture, Statistics, Economic Affairs, Foreign Affairs and Federal Chancellery. This co-leadership arrangement by the MoE and MFA helps to take into consideration both domestic and international objectives and foster coherence in the implementation of the SDGs.

Current systems can be adapted to monitor policy coherence as part of overall SDG implementation. Switzerland envisions reporting progress on implementing the 2030 Agenda and the national SDS every four years starting in 2018. The Federal Council will take stock of its progress midway through the four-year legislative term, using the opportunity to discuss and – if necessary – adjust future actions and priorities. Current ongoing work includes efforts of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators to link the MONET indicators with the SDGs and to prepare for the comprehensive assessment of its actions towards each SDG at the target level, including SDG 17.14. The results will also be presented as part of the countries’ second VNR at the HLPF in 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Block</th>
<th>Switzerland</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Political commitment</td>
<td>The current Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) 2016–2019 is part of the government legislative plan and highlights Switzerland’s commitment to use PCSD for 2030 Agenda implementation. Decision makers at all levels of government are tasked to enhance their engagement and to launch relevant initiatives.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy integration</td>
<td>The sectorial federal departments implement the SDGs nationally following technical and political level consultations. This process helps to identify trade-offs and synergies and promote PCSD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intergenerational timeframe</td>
<td>The Swiss governance system is characterised by stability and not prone to immediate strong responses to electoral results. By law, the Federal Council is obliged to consider long-term</td>
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</table>
The Federal Assembly (the Swiss parliament) elects the seven members of the Swiss government, the Federal Council. Each council member heads a federal department, roughly equivalent to ministries with a broader scope.

**Policy effects**

Some policy instruments exist to assess ex-ante and ex post effects, such as VOBUs for evaluating policies and regulatory impact assessments (RIA), but the political will is lacking to use them more systematically including for transboundary effects.

**Co-ordination**

The Federal Council can promote PCSD within its regular governing framework. Two additional federal bodies, the Interdepartmental Sustainable Development Committee (ISDC) and the National 2030 Agenda Working Group, help to promote coherence through information sharing and arbitrage. The final decision rests with the Federal Council. Coordination between national and international levels is assured by means of a regular exchange between the ISDC and the Working Group.

**Local involvement**

The major policy decision-making competencies lie within sub-national entities. Cantons and communes have their own strategies and implementation entities. A dialogue with cantons is therefore an important part of the implementation process. In addition, municipalities co-operate among themselves and are represented in cantonal and federal decision making.

**Stakeholder participation**

NGOs and civil society can influence government decisions via direct democracy in the form of referendums and people’s initiatives. In addition, a platform on SDG implementation has been created for dialogue and arbitrage with non-state actors including private sector, science community, environmental, social and development NGOs, and youth. Their inputs are taken into account but decision making rests with the federal government.

**Monitoring and reporting**

Switzerland plans to report every four years on the status of implementing the 2030 Agenda and the national SDS, starting in 2018. The country will build on its comprehensive sustainable development monitoring system (MONET) to track progress on both national and international implementation. Field-level resources of the SDC are consulted to substantiate and inform the policy coherence dialogue in Switzerland. The SDC currently examines the feasibility of a non-governmental PCD Observatory to monitor and assess strategically important upstream policy decisions taken on an annual basis by the Swiss Government and the Federal Parliament. The upcoming VNR 2018 will also report progress on SDG17.14.

**Box 3.13. Using the MONET indicator system to monitor SDG implementation**

Since 2003 the MONET indicator system assesses whether Switzerland is on the path to sustainable development. The Federal Statistical Office (FSO) publishes 73 regularly updated indicators measuring SD in a holistic manner. The indicators integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development, consider interaction between them as well as intergenerational and transboundary dimensions (“here and now”; “later”; “elsewhere”).

In May 2016, the system’s reference framework was amended laying the foundation for both national and international reporting on SDG implementation. A selection of 36 indicators is used for monitoring progress in the implementation of the SDS 2016–2019. To allow a broader analysis, the indicators were linked with the goals instead of targets. To facilitate the communication of this first analysis, four indicators maximum have been selected for each goal. In 2017 the MONET indicator system was extended to MONET+ to match the SDG targets.

The nine example indicators for monitoring the global dimension of sustainable development as presented in Switzerland’s 2016 VNR are: material footprint of imports; greenhouse gas emissions; energy dependence; remittances by migrants; direct investments in developing countries; carbon footprint, official development assistance; multilateral treaties and duty-free imports from developing countries.