PCSD is a guiding principle of Switzerland's action-oriented Sustainable Development Strategy to foster effective SDG implementation. The 2016-2019 Sustainable Development Strategy is Switzerland's main instrument and reference framework for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at federal level. It includes an action plan defining targets for 2030 in nine thematic areas with explicit links to the SDGs. It also highlights policy coherence for sustainable development as one of the five key priorities of the federal strategy. The four other priorities are: taking responsibility for the future; balancing economic, social and environmental responsibility; mainstreaming sustainable development; and forging development partnerships (Swiss Confederation, 2016[1]).

Grass-roots democratic structures and numerous participation instruments foster a coherent approach to sustainable development at all levels. Various instruments of direct democracy enable stakeholders to influence and determine government action at local and federal level, including referendums and popular initiatives on sustainable development. Key stakeholders from civil society, business, science, as well as the cantons and communes are involved in the design of the Sustainable Development Strategy. Regular technical and political consultations before and during the legislative process, the formulation of national strategies and government action further promote PCSD (Swiss Confederation, 2016[1]; 2016[2]).

Switzerland's proven MONET monitoring system tracks progress on sustainable development on the domestic, international and intergenerational level (Box 1). During the establishment by the federal government of a baseline assessment and gap analysis for the implementation of the 169 SDG targets in Switzerland, the MONET indicator system was expanded for the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda in 2018. This system takes a holistic approach which measures the quality of life of the present generation, as well as fairness of distribution geographically and over time (Swiss Confederation, 2016[1]).

Box 1. Using the MONET indicator system to monitor SDG implementation

Since 2003, Switzerland relies on the MONET indicator system to assess its progress on the promotion of sustainable development. The Federal Statistical Office measures 73 indicators to monitor economic, social and environmental developments. Half of the MONET indicators now track advancements in the implementation of the 2016–2019 Sustainable Development Strategy.

In 2018, the MONET indicator system was expanded in order to monitor the achievement of the 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda. Since enlargement, it comprises 85 indicators. It relies on an inventory of national and international activities of the Swiss Federation for achieving the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda in the Swiss context. The indicators are published on the website of the Federal Statistical Office.

Source: Swiss Confederation (2018[3]).

OECD

Table 1. Institutional Mechanisms for PCSD in Switzerland

PCSD Building Blocks

Political commitment	Switzerland's commitment to sustainable development is enshrined in Articles 2 and 73 of the Federal Constitution from 1999. Pursuant to the Government's 2016–2019 Sustainable Development Strategy, policy coherence for sustainable development is a priority issue for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda at national and international level. PCSD also figures prominently in the country's annual Foreign Policy Reports and the 2018 Voluntary National Review.
Policy integration	The 2016-2019 Sustainable Development Strategy outlines Switzerland's national, international and legislative framework for sustainable development. The strategy sets out actions in nine priority areas: consumption and production; urban development; mobility and infrastructure; energy and climate; natural resources; economic and financial system; education, research and innovation; social security; social cohesion and gender equality; and health. To ensure coherent implementation of the strategy, consultations at the technical and political level precede the implementation by federal departments.
Intergenerational timeframe	The Confederation's Federal Council[1] is legally obliged to consider long-term intergenerational effects in legislative proposals to the Parliament. The Sustainable Development Strategy sets medium-term targets for 2030. Switzerland's long-term priorities are highlighted in its 2016 and 2018 Voluntary National Reviews in the areas of international development policy, the conservation of national resources, agriculture, sustainable growth, energy, health and the viability of social-security systems. Many sub-national authorities have developed their own long-term strategies.
Policy effects	To analyse the effects of federal policies on SDG implementation, the government can request regulatory impact assessments on sustainability, health, energy and environmental issues. The available ex-ante and ex-post evaluation instruments are currently only used if there is concrete political interest and a favourable cost-benefit ratio.
Coordination	The supreme responsibility for the coherence of Switzerland's sustainability policy lies with the Federal Council. The Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE) is responsible for coordinating the coherent implementation of the federal Sustainable Development Strategy. ARE also heads the Interdepartmental Sustainable Development Committee (ISDC), a platform for information sharing on the country's numerous activities related to sustainable development. Together with the National 2030 Agenda Working Group, the ISDC also offers a forum to foster interdepartmental cooperation, align priorities and solve policy conflicts at national level.
Local involvement	Switzerland's federal structure requires a high degree of engagement with sub-national and local authorities to ensure vertical coherence and effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy, as cantonal, regional and local authorities have considerable decision-making competencies. They participate in discussions on sustainable development in the framework of the Forum for Sustainable Development, devise their own development strategies, and co-operate and support each other in the sub-national implementation of development programmes and projects.
Stakeholder participation	Various instruments of direct democracy enable stakeholders to influence and determine government action at local and federal level, including referendums and popular initiatives on sustainable development. To ensure broad support and efficient implementation of the Swiss 2016-2019 Sustainable Development Strategy, key stakeholders from civil society, business, science, as well as the cantons and communes were involved in the design of the strategy and national action plan through a stakeholder dialogue running from November 2014 to May 2015. The outcomes of the dialogue also included contributions to Switzerland's long-term vision and sustainability development targets for 2030.
Monitoring and reporting	After submitting its first Voluntary National Review in 2016, Switzerland presented its second VNR in 2018, setting out priorities, baseline values and strategic targets for SDG implementation until 2030. Future VNRs will be published at the midpoint of the Swiss legislative period every four years. To track progress on sustainable development both at national as well as international level, the country relies on its comprehensive sustainable development monitoring system (MONET) established in 2003. During the establishment by the federal government of a baseline assessment and gap analysis for the implementation of the 169 SDG targets in Switzerland, the 2003 MONET indicator system was expanded for the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda in 2018. In addition, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) examines the feasibility of a non-governmental Policy Coherence Observatory to assess strategic policy decisions taken by the Swiss Government and the Federal Parliament on an annual basis.

Source: OECD (2018[4]; 2017[5]), Swiss Confederation (1999[6]; 2016[2]; 2016[1]; 2018[3])

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[1] *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.*

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