

Swiss candidature for the Security Council

- Since joining the UN in 2002, Switzerland has obtained key mandates in all its main bodies (Economic and Social Council, Human Rights Council, Presidency of the General Assembly 2011–12) except for the Security Council.
- For the first time, Switzerland is a candidate for a non-permanent two-year seat on the Security Council in 2023–24.
- The Federal Council formally submitted Switzerland's candidature in 2011, after extensive consultations with Parliament.
- This candidature was the object of several parliamentary procedural requests in the years that followed. Parliament has always supported the Federal Council's position.
- The [Federal Council report of 5 June 2015](#) on Switzerland's candidature demonstrates in depth that Swiss neutrality is compatible with Security Council membership. The Security Council is not a party to a conflict in the sense of neutrality law. Its mandate is to maintain international peace and security. The report also confirms that a seat on the Security Council does not imply any additional obligations to the UN, be they legal, political or financial.
- On 26 June 2020, Ignazio Cassis, head of the FDFA, unveiled the [official slogan](#) of the Swiss bid: A Plus For Peace.
- On 29 October 2020, President of the Swiss Confederation Simonetta Sommaruga and Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis marked the final phase of the candidature with a virtual event in New York, followed by a [press conference](#) in Bern on 30 October 2020.
- The Federal Council views this candidature as a key element of the thematic focus area “Peace and Security” of its [Foreign Policy Strategy 2020–23](#).
- In accordance with its [objectives for 2022](#) (French), the Federal Council will specify Switzerland's priorities for the Security Council membership during the second half of the year.

Electoral process

- The election will take place in New York on 9 June 2022, with votes to be cast by the 193 states that are members of the United Nations General Assembly. A majority of two thirds is required to obtain a seat. The vote will be held by secret ballot.
- The candidates for a non-permanent seat in 2023–24 are Switzerland, Malta, Japan, Ecuador and Mozambique.
- To date, Switzerland has no direct competitor. Only Malta has applied alongside Switzerland for one of the two seats in the Western European and Others Group (WEOG).

Coordination of decision-making during a possible 2023–24 membership

- On 11 November 2021, the Federal Council laid out the [coordination process](#) applicable within the Federal Administration during Switzerland's possible membership in the Security Council, as well as its own role.
- As for the role of Parliament, on 11 September 2020 the Federal Council presented the [report entitled 'Switzerland's seat on the UN Security Council. Inclusion of Parliament'](#). It contains a series of specific proposals outlining ways to involve Parliament during Switzerland's term on the Security Council.
- The foreign affairs committees (FACs) concluded their discussions on this matter in October 2021. As a follow-up to these discussions and on the basis of the above-mentioned report, a number of agreements were made, including that the Federal Council would
 - consult the FACs on Switzerland's Security Council priorities;
 - communicate Switzerland's basic policy positions on important regional and thematic issues on the agenda of the Security Council to the FACs before the term starts;
 - keep Parliament abreast of developments on a regular basis during the term via the FACs; and
 - consult with the FACs' chairs when clearly defined and compelling circumstances (e.g. the creation of a new sanctions regime or the authorisation of a military intervention) require such consultation.