
At international level, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the most important reference document for the Guidelines on Water 2022–25. In relation to this agenda, Switzerland is endeavouring to achieve balanced development, taking account of the three dimensions of the environment, economy and society. It has created the appropriate structures in the Federal Administration and is working with all relevant actors at national and international level to promote protection of the environment, the sustainable use of natural resources and future-oriented economic and social development. SDG 6 concerns water – Switzerland made a major contribution to the formulation of this goal.¹

In addition to the 2030 Agenda, the Guidelines on Water 2022–25 are embedded into an extensive and well-established system of various global frameworks in which Switzerland also participates. The UN Water Convention and the UN Watercourses Convention are unique global legal instruments that aim to ensure the sustainable use of cross-border water resources. In the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, water plays a major role in improving disaster preparedness and aid. The Protocol on Water and Health is a legally binding instrument which seeks to protect human health by improving water management and reducing water-borne diseases. Various other global agreements highlight the universal importance of the water cycle, including the UN Conventions on Climate Change, to Combat Desertification, on Biological Diversity and in the Ramsar Convention.

¹ Section 2.3.

Figure 3: Foreign policy strategy cascade (source: FDFA – illustrative selection of documents).