

During the Global Leaders Meeting held on 27 September 2015, Switzerland made commitments, notably, to combat wage discrimination, achieve a better work-family balance and acting against domestic violence.

Switzerland took critical steps to strongly anchor gender equality and women's rights in its new institutional framework, taking the Agenda 2030 as a new frame of reference. Switzerland's new Sustainable Development Strategy (2016 – 2019), which sets out the Federal Council's policy priorities in this regard, incorporates specific objectives on gender equality, the empowerment of women and strengthening their rights. The Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation (2017 – 2020) also sets gender equality and the rights of women and girls as one of its seven strategic objectives and as a cross-cutting issue.

On the domestic level, Switzerland is currently amending its legislation to make it compulsory for companies with more than 50 employees to review their pay policy with the Logib software with a view to detect any wage gap between men and women. Measures have been developed and implemented to ensure that unpaid care work is shared more equally between women and men. Switzerland supports a national program to create more day care places for children to fill the unmet needs in this regard, including by providing financial support to cantons and municipalities. In addition, the revised national monitoring system on sustainable development (MONET) provides a range of indicators which now allows gender-related aspects to be highlighted by means of a selection of indicators, including time allocated to professional activity and to domestic and family work.

After signing the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women, the internal ratification process of is now well under way and should be approved by the Federal Council and then Parliament in 2017. Switzerland's activities against domestic violence are focusing on socio-educational programmes to encourage perpetrators of violence to change their behaviour with a view to reducing the risk of recidivism, as well as on the protection of children affected by domestic violence. Within its 2 million federal programme to combat forced marriage, Switzerland is also further strengthening its measures regarding prevention, awareness-raising and training for professionals.

Regarding its support to UN Women, Switzerland has contributed USD 16 million during the period of 2015 and 2016 and actively promotes gender mainstreaming within every United Nations entities, through institutional dialogue with the funds and programmes of the United Nations, as well as its participation in different boards of Directors.