

# Template<sup>i</sup> for submitting voluntary commitments to the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (Nicosia call)

*To be filled in by submitting country/organization*

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1. **Country or organization:** SWITZERLAND
2. **Title of the action (referencing in parenthesis the number of the related focus area(s)<sup>ii</sup> that the initiative will contribute to):** Set up an inter-ministerial coordination unit to support participation of Swiss companies in infrastructure projects abroad and promote the use of high sustainability standards. (potential focus areas: 4, 5, 7, 8)
3. **Description of the action:** In order to strengthen the participation of Swiss companies in major infrastructure projects abroad, an inter-ministerial coordination unit has been established end of 2019, within the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). The coordination unit will better connect stakeholders, and, in particular, promote the use of high sustainability standards like the SuRe Standard and the upcoming Sustainable Infrastructure Label from FAST Infra, in the planification, realisation and maintenance of infrastructures.
4. **Timeframe/milestones for the action, as appropriate:** The first phase of the action is going on from 2021 to 2024 and will probably be prolonged for some more years
5. **Type of action<sup>iii</sup>:** (a) legal, regulatory and policy instruments
6. **Economic sectors<sup>iv</sup>:** economy-wide
7. **Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:** [FAST-Infra - CPI \(climatepolicyinitiative.org\)](https://climatepolicyinitiative.org)
8. **Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:** economic, ecological and social co-benefits
9. **SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement:** SDG 9
10. **Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate:** --
11. **Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:** indicators are under development
12. **Partners:** Climate Policy Initiative, Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation
13. **Contact points:** Daniel Zürcher, [Daniel.zuercher@bafu.admin.ch](mailto:Daniel.zuercher@bafu.admin.ch), Federal Office for the Environment

Additional information on the Nicosia focus of the action:

- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme I: “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure”?** YES
  - *If yes, please indicate below to which “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure<sup>v</sup>” does the action contribute: 1 strategic planning*
- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme II: “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism”?** NO

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<sup>i</sup> Based on the “Pan-European Strategic Framework for Greening the Economy” (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/6, appendix).  
Webpage: <https://unece.org/documents-and-materials>

<sup>ii</sup> Nine integrated focus areas were identified in the Strategic Framework are:

- 1: Improve the measurement and valuation of natural capital;
- 2: Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital;
- 3: Enhance ecosystems and ecosystem services as part of ecological infrastructure;
- 4: Shift consumer behaviours towards sustainable consumption patterns;
- 5: Develop clean physical capital for sustainable production patterns;
- 6: Promote green and fair trade;
- 7: Increase green and decent jobs, while developing the necessary human capital;
- 8: Improve access to services, healthy living and well-being;
- 9: Promote public participation and education for sustainable development.

<sup>iii</sup> In accordance with the Strategic Framework, the following three types of actions are suggested:

- (a) legal, regulatory and policy instruments;
- (b) economy and fiscal instruments; and
- (c) information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments.

Countries and organizations should refer to any of these three types, as appropriate and relevant.

<sup>iv</sup> In accordance with the Strategic Framework, the following three clusters of sectors are suggested:

- (a) economy-wide;
- (b) cities; and
- (c) sectors, including: agriculture, forestry and fishing; energy; mining; manufacturing; transport; water; waste; tourism; and housing, buildings and construction.

<sup>v</sup> The “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure” (as reflected in a subsequent UNEA Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.9) set out ten guiding principles that policymakers can follow to help integrate sustainability into infrastructure planning and delivery:

1. Strategic planning;
2. Responsive, resilient, and flexible service provision;
3. Comprehensive lifecycle assessment of sustainability;
4. Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature;
5. Resource efficiency and circularity;
6. Equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment;
7. Enhancing economic benefits;
8. Fiscal sustainability and innovative financing;
9. Transparent, inclusive, and participatory decision-making;
10. Evidence-based decision-making.

Web link: <https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/international-good-practice-principles-sustainable-infrastructure>