

Templateⁱ for submitting voluntary commitments to the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (Nicosia call)

To be filled in by submitting country/organization

1. **Country or organization:** SWITZERLAND
2. **Title of the action (referencing in parenthesis the number of the related focus area(s)ⁱⁱ that the initiative will contribute to):** Strengthen the skills needed to develop and construct green buildings through a **programme implemented by the International Finance Corporation (IFC)** (focus areas: 7, 8, 9)
3. **Description of the action:** The program, led by IFC, thanks to financial support from Switzerland, fosters the needed education and training for future architects and engineers, in order to drive green building development. The overall goal of IFC's Green Building engagement is the reduction of GHG emissions and the improvement of energy, water and other resource efficiencies associated with new building constructions. This action follows up previous engagement of Switzerland that led to the development of EDGE - Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies, a green-building certification program.
4. **Timeframe/milestones for the action, as appropriate:** **More than 2200 students and professionals trained in 34 educational entities, which offer new / improved trainings related to green buildings**
5. **Type of actionⁱⁱⁱ:** (c) information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments
6. **Economic sectors^{iv}:** housing, buildings and construction
7. **Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:**
<https://edgebuildings.com/Designing for Greater Efficiency - EDGE Buildings>
8. **Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:** economic and social
9. **SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement:** SDG 9, SDG6, SDG7, SDG13
10. **Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate:** --
11. **Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:** See no. 4
12. **Partners:** International Finance Corporation (IFC)
13. **Contact points:** Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, André Pantzer, andre.pantzer@seco.admin.ch

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^v” does the action contribute: 4, 5, 6*
- **Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme II: “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism”?** NO

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

ⁱⁱ 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.

ⁱⁱⁱ 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.

^{iv} 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.

^v 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>