

# 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):** Support the development of the **Hydropower Sustainability Standard** and its deployment in priority countries of the Swiss development cooperation (focus area:2, 3, 8)
3. **Description of the action:** The Hydropower Sustainability Standard certification system was launched in September 2021. The support focuses on capacity development to sustainably plan, implement and operate sustainable hydropower plants in four selected priority countries (Albania, Colombia, Indonesia, and Tajikistan) and on the co-financing of sustainability assessments in priority countries of the Swiss development cooperation. It also aims to develop opportunities for climate finance investment in hydropower projects.
4. **Timeframe/milestones for the action, as appropriate:** 2021 (launch of the standard) – 2024 (target date for ending SECO support).
5. **Type of action<sup>iii</sup>:** (c) information, education-based, capacity-building and voluntary instruments.
6. **Economic sectors<sup>iv</sup>:** energy sector
7. **Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:**  
[Hydropower Sustainability Standard — Hydropower Sustainability Council \(hydrusustainability.org\)](https://www.hydrusustainability.org/)  
[Hydropower ESG Fund — Hydropower Sustainability Council \(hydrusustainability.org\)](https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/projekte/projekte.filterResults.html/content/dezaprojekte/SECO/en/2014/UR00784/phase2?oldPagePath=/content/deza/en/home/projekte/projekte.html)  
<https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/projekte/projekte.filterResults.html/content/dezaprojekte/SECO/en/2014/UR00784/phase2?oldPagePath=/content/deza/en/home/projekte/projekte.html>
8. **Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:** economic
9. **SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement:** SDG9
10. **Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate:** ---
11. **Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:** Number of national stakeholders trained on hydropower sustainability, number of accredited national stakeholders, number of HESG (hydropower environmental social and governance) assessments (target is 40).
12. **Partners:** <https://www.hydrusustainability.org/>
13. **Contact points:** Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), Daniel Menebhi, [daniel.menebhi@seco.admin.ch](mailto:daniel.menebhi@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<sup>v</sup>” does the action contribute: 1, 3, 4*
- **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>