

Welcome



Favourable historical circumstances, together with a mature and deeply-held desire for consensus, mean that the citizens of Switzerland's four language regions know from experience how much mutual respect and acceptance can contribute to overcoming differences. And they consider it their noble duty to pass on this knowledge.

Pearls of Switzerland, in the way it promotes our country, its culture and history, attempts to present some of this spirit. We wish all our guests a true sense of wellbeing and I extend to you a heartfelt welcome.

Micheline Calmy-Rey
Swiss Minister for Foreign Affairs

The attack on the World Trade Center and its far reaching repercussions have changed our world. More than ever before, our aim now must be to confront the tasks that stem from this. The fight against poverty, the results of which are hunger, sickness and poor education, is just as much our responsibility as the early detection of conflict situations and determined efforts to defuse them. Drawing peoples and their cultures closer together is also one of the most important tasks of our times.

Switzerland, amongst others, has a long-established tradition in which humanitarian services have been of central importance and have contributed significantly to alleviating many of the world's problems. Our neutrality is not the only reason why many international agencies are based in our country. It is also because of our willingness to accommodate them here and, by doing so, to contribute to solving global problems.