

Welcome



The end of the cold war has not yet brought peace. Battles still rage and no country is untouched by the consequences, nor can any government distance itself from the responsibility for peace. And in parallel with the armed conflicts runs the rise in terrorism, the drugs trade, organised crime, a scarcity of essential resources and the migration of peoples.

All of these demand internationally co-ordinated action; Switzerland is committed to the international co-operation for security and actively pursues the promotion of peace. To that end it participates in numerous organisations and institutions such as the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Partnership for Peace (PfP), the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and the United Nations Organisation (UNO).

Switzerland attempts to help reduce tension and avoid conflict through specific campaigns, both civil and military. With its participation in The Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, agreed in 2003, Switzerland underlined its engagement in global disarmament. It is entirely possible to combine international obligations with an appropriate and credible military defence. And the same goes for neutrality, which is not an end in itself but a means for protecting legitimate interests.

This brief description of our efforts gives a limited, but important, glimpse into the inter-connected relationships between our country, Europe and the world and demonstrates how security and peace are fundamental components of Swiss foreign policy. It also articulates the historical values which we hold dear and illustrates how we disseminate those values.

Pearls of Switzerland conveys the “inside picture” of Switzerland, its history and its culture – and that, ultimately, is the spiritual source of the co-operation with our partner nations.

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