

## Media Release

# Federal Council (still) failing to recognise the potential of the Agenda 2030

Zurich, 20 June 2018: Biovision is disappointed by today's report of the Swiss Federal Council on the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. There is still no conclusive evidence that the Government intends to pursue a genuine sustainability policy. The Federal Council has not only failed to identify clearly the challenges faced by Switzerland as it moves towards a sustainable future but it has also failed to recognise the opportunities for business, research and society that the Agenda 2030 presents.

The Country Report to be submitted by Switzerland in July to the HLPF, the UN's High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development represented an opportunity to look back at what has been achieved to date whilst at the same time putting down markers for a forward-looking sustainable development policy in future. The [Report submitted by the Federal Council](#) today falls short of these expectations.

The challenges facing Switzerland, such as consumer behaviour and its impact on the environment and society have been known for some time. Long overdue is an announcement on the concrete measures that the Federal Council considers necessary if it is to meet its objectives by 2030. A further serious omission is the fact that the interlinkages between sectoral policies, as well as between domestic and foreign policies are not placed central stage when implementing the Agenda 2030 (buzzword: policy coherence). If Switzerland is to implement the Agenda 2030, it is essential to identify both synergies and conflicts of interests. Only then, will it be possible to derive transformative measures that simultaneously make a contribution towards the implementation of several SDGs.

In summer 2017 and as preparation for the Country Report, the Federal Administration compiled a comprehensive baseline assessment in cooperation with the scientific community, industry and civil society - Biovision was one of those who contributed to this assessment. Very few of its findings have made it into the current Report: "Official" Switzerland devotes just 26 pages to progress made to date on implementing the Agenda 2030. This "brief report" is at variance with the decisive role played by Switzerland over several years during the drafting of the Agenda 2030.

In order to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs, Biovision calls on the Federal Council and Parliament, to incorporate a coherent road map of the requirements of the Agenda 2030 in upcoming domestic and foreign-policy activities, and link them to a forward-looking sustainability policy. This applies in particular to the Sustainable Development Strategy 2020-2023, which should encompass both implementation in Switzerland and activities with an external focus, as well as

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strongly interdependent sectoral policies such as the Agricultural Policy 2022+. Of particular relevance are the forthcoming Dispatches on International Cooperation 2021-2024 and the Promotion of Education, Research and Innovation for the same period.

Biovision plans to work with partners – in particular the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Switzerland, the Platform Agenda 2030 representing players from civil society and the Agrarallianz – to ensure that the necessary transformational processes get back on track.

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### **Biovision – Foundation for ecological development, [www.biovision.ch](http://www.biovision.ch)**

For 20 years, Biovision has encouraged the development, dissemination and application of sustainable, ecological farming methods designed to help people in developing countries to help themselves. A holistic approach is crucial here and healthy people, animals and plants together with an intact environment are an integral part of all projects. In Switzerland, Biovision is an active member of various networks designed to implement the global Sustainable Development Goals of the UN Agenda 2030 both in and by Switzerland. In 2013, the Biovision Foundation and its founder Hans Rudolf Herren – one of the world's leading experts in sustainable agriculture – were awarded the Alternative Nobel Prize.

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