

International IDEA



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

Switzerland's Objectives as Chair of the Council of Member States – 2025

Switzerland is privileged to take on the role of Chair of the Council of Member States of International IDEA for 2025. This note outlines the overarching objectives and thematic priority that will guide Switzerland's leadership during its tenure.

OVERARCHING OBJECTIVES

Enhance the Implementation of International IDEA's Mandate in close collaboration with the Vice Chairs, the Dominican Republic and Indonesia, through an inclusive and approachable chairship, foster an environment where all Member States and Observers feel empowered to contribute meaningfully. Facilitate solution-oriented discussions during Council meetings, focusing on key issues that align with IDEA's strategic objectives. Ensure that IDEA remains responsive to the evolving needs of democracy worldwide.

Support Celebration of International IDEA's 30th anniversary through dedicated events and campaigns. Support fundraising and visibility efforts to strengthen IDEA's impact and outreach. Promote IDEA as a useful platform for dialogue and collaboration between Member States, the Secretariat, and other key constituencies, and for cross-regional exchanges of knowledge and experiences, enabling Member States to co-develop innovative solutions.

Ensure International IDEA's Financial Sustainability: Secure the financial sustainability of IDEA, recognizing that stable and predictable funding is essential for IDEA to effectively fulfill its mandate. Advocate for the strengthening of core contributions from Member States, emphasizing that such contributions are the backbone of IDEA's ability to respond flexibly and strategically to emerging challenges.

THEMATIC PRIORITY: THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN DEMOCRACY, INCLUSION, AND PROSPERITY

The thematic priority chosen by Switzerland, as Chair of the International IDEA Council in 2025, is the interplay between democracy, inclusion, and prosperity – key drivers of sustainable peace and development.

Why This Priority? The past two decades have seen democratic backsliding, social inequalities, and economic uncertainties. Understanding and addressing the interconnectedness of democracy, inclusion, and prosperity strengthens global resilience and helps counter the sense of unfairness that undermines democracies. Switzerland's expertise in democracy & governance, inclusive peacebuilding, and economic empowerment, combined with its own democratic traditions, makes it well-suited to lead this dialogue.

Proposed Activities

Seminars & Regional Consultations: Seminars and potentially regional consultations will serve as platforms to promote peer learning, where government officials and other stakeholders can exchange experiences on fostering inclusion and strengthening democratic systems.

Research & Knowledge Sharing: Policy briefs on the intersections of democracy, inclusion, and prosperity will be developed, tailored to practitioners and decisionmakers.

Advocacy & Awareness: Switzerland and other Member States' networks will amplify discussions, highlighting democracy's role in achieving inclusive and sustainable development and peace.

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