REGIONAL NEWS SOUTHERN AFRICA

Editorial

DEAR READERS

For the first time, the Federal Council has adopted a strategy for the entire African continent, placing greater emphasis on the ties between sub-Saharan Africa and Northern Africa. The aim of the Africa Strategy is to build closer relations between African countries and Switzerland. By 2050, the African continent will account for over 25% of the world's population.

WARM REGARDS, GISELA PIERCEY



GISELA PIERCEY, EDITOR «SWISS REVIEW SOUTHERN AFRICA»

Sub-Saharan Africa: Expanding Horizons: Swiss Businesses in Africa

The Swiss Business Hub (SBHSA), integrated into the Embassy of Switzerland and based in Pretoria, operates as the representative of Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE). Our mission is to support Swiss SMEs in expanding their international footprint across Southern and Eastern Africa. Additionally, we assist innovative African enterprises in establishing their presence in Switzerland while promoting Switzerland as a business location.

We are also the coordinating arm of Team Switzerland (Swiss Export Credit Agency, SERV, industry associations, etc.) in sub-Saharan Africa. In this capacity, we support the large infrastructure mandate of the Swiss Confederation, facilitating infrastructure projects across the region by leveraging Swiss expertise and capabilities.



Switzerland's Infrastructure Delegation at the African Development Bank in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. © Simone Malz-Coetzer

II Regional news

SBHSA has supported Swiss companies in forging valuable partnerships in sectors such as renewable energy, healthcare, and sustainable mining.

For example, Swiss energy technology firms are collaborating with local partners to enhance transmission infrastructure, while healthcare innovators are providing solutions to improve medical access and delivery. Similarly, Swiss drone technology companies are offering advanced inspection solutions for confined spaces, enhancing operational safety and efficiency in industries such as mining and infrastructure

Discover how the SBHSA drives Swiss innovation, sustainability, and collaboration across the continent. From sustainable mining initiatives and healthcare advancements to successful market entries, we create opportunities and foster growth for Swiss companies in Africa. Explore our latest success stories, partnerships, and upcoming events. Kindly scan the QR code.



Highlights

 Renewable Energy:
Facilitating Swiss contributions to Africa's energy transformation.

Healthcare Innovations:
Supporting partnerships for improved healthcare solutions.

 Sustainable Mining:
Promoting Swiss value propositions and innovative technologies that con-

tribute to environmentally responsible and socially inclusive mining practices in Africa.

We are proud to serve as a bridge between Switzerland and Africa and look forward to continuing this journey of collaboration and development in 2025.



Sustainable mining event featuring the presentation of Flyability's drone technology. © Simone Malz-Coetzer



The President of the Council of States of Switzerland, Eva Herzog, and her parliamentary delegation participating in the Women CEOs Roundtable of Swiss companies during their visit to South Africa, focused on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). © Stéphanie Labité

Africa: Federal Council adopts its new Africa Strategy 2025–28

At its meeting on 20 December 2024, the Federal Council adopted its new Africa strategy. For the first time, the strategy covers all regions of the continent, setting out objectives and measures that Switzerland intends to implement in the 2025–28 period. The strategy prioritises peace and security, prosperity and competitiveness, the environment, and democracy and governance. It also sets out the objective of building relations with African countries using a partnership-based approach to cooperation.

Switzerland recognises Africa's growing political and economic importance. By 2050, the African continent, which is currently

home to 1.3 billion people, will account for over 25% of the world's population. Switzerland also recognises that Africa is a continent of considerable diversity, which presents both challenges and opportunities. In certain regions, large segments of the population are affected by global crises and climate change, while also coping with challenges such as violent extremism. However, other regions show significant potential, especially in terms of economic growth. Switzerland's Africa Strategy 2025–28 addresses both the opportunities and challenges involved.

This is the first time that the Federal Council has adopted a strategy for the entire continent. In the past, two separate strategies covered relations with Northern African and sub-Saharan African states. The Africa Strategy now builds on the earlier Sub-Saharan Africa Strategy 2021–24 and MENA Strategy 2021-24. It was considered appropriate to place greater emphasis on the ties between sub-Saharan Africa and Northern Africa, which include, for example, cooperation within the African Union on flagship projects such as the African Continental Free Trade Area, economic links, peacebuilding efforts and migration routes. A strategy for the ntire continent affirms the importance of these ties.

Switzerland's interests on the African continent

The aim of the Africa Strategy is to build closer relations between African countries and Switzerland. Switzerland already has an extensive network of representations (18 embassies and 10 cooperation offices) in Africa, with an embassy or cooperation office in almost every country. In spring 2025, the cooperation office in Rwanda will be upgraded to an embassy. The strategy covers all five regions of Africa

SWISS CLUB INFO

GAUTENG

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Swiss Country Club Rest

«The Courier», T 011 805 3040 Devan Govender, C 079 519 3563, (Northern Africa, Western Africa, Central Africa, Eastern Africa and Southern Africa) and defines Switzerland's objectives and measures. A further section focuses on African multilateralism. The Africa Strategy 2025–28 is based on the four thematic priorities defined in the Foreign Policy Strategy 2024–27: peace and security, prosperity and competitiveness, the environment, and democracy and governance.

Switzerland is perceived as a trusted, independent bridge-builder and has a record of success as a mediator. It therefore has a key role to play in peace policy work. Certain African economies are experiencing strong growth on the back of an expanding middle class and a young and dynamic population, opening up new markets to Swiss companies. At the same time, various conflicts are causing migrant and refugee movements that potentially have a direct impact on Europe. The Africa Strategy deals extensively with migration issues.

The Federal Council

Tue-Sat 11-21h30 Rest./kitchen, 11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h

■ Our Clubs of Society: Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia, Skittling Club. Associated Groups: Swiss Choir, Swiss Rifle Club, Swiss Golf, Senior Swiss Circle meets every 2nd Saturday of the month for Lunch, Swiss Ladies meet every 4th Thursday of the month for lunch.

Pro Ticino Pro Grischun Boccia Club

Johannesburg Contact: Felix Gerber gerber.felix@icloud.com

CAPE TOWN

SWISS SOCIAL AND SPORTS CLUB

P.O. Box 2279, Cape Town 8000 Contact: <u>info@swissclub.co.za</u> PRESIDENT: *Christian Schiess*, <u>president@swissclub.co.za</u>

ASO Report

At the beginning of 2025, elections for the 140 members of the Auslandschweizerrat will once again take place for the 2025-2029 legislative period.

The current ASR Members, Hans-Georg Bosch (HGB) and Pierre-Yves Rooten (PYR), have made themselves available for re-election for a further 4-year period.

The necessary information about the candidates, such as CV's etc are available from the Election Coordinator, Ms Gisela Piercey, Editor of Swiss Review Southern Africa. This information will also be distributed to all the Swiss Clubs in the SADEC region by end January.

Ms Gisela Piercey is the Election Coordinator. Please direct all communication to her. (giselapiercey@gmail.com)

Yours sincerely, Hans-Georg Bosch, ASR member.

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PRESIDENT: Dierk Lüthi, C 083 441 4626 hdluthi@gmail.com SECRETARY: Eric (Pops) Fraser C 072 570 2915, popsfraser@gmail.com Marcel Matusik C 082 650 0662 email: treasurer@swissrifleclub.capetown website: https://swissrifleclub.capetown Facebook: swiss rifle club - cape town & swiss rifle club cape town.

■ We shoot at the Navy's KLAWER shooting range off Red Hill road above Simon's Town, near "Just Nuisance" grave. Occasionally we use the Atlantis 'Good

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Hope' range of the SA Army. In May we hold our popular 'Piggy Shoot' at the WCSU range, also near Atlantis.

KWAZULU-NATAL

SWISS CLUB NATAL Durban PRESIDENT: Kurt Bacher, Contact: <u>kurtbacher@mweb.co.za</u> <u>http://www.swissclubnatal.org.za/</u>

■ JASS EVENTS: This is held on the second Friday of each month and will commence at 2 p.m. and is held at Rolf Klein Jass Stube, 3 Bona Terra Road, Assagay (directions on our website).

SPORT TARGET SHOOTING:

Held on the 4th Saturday of each month (weather permitting) commencing at 08:30 a.m.- Nottingham Road (calendar available on our website). *For more up-to-date information regarding times/venues/directions, please visit our most informative website – <u>www.swissclubnatal.org.za</u>

LIMP0P0

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IMPRESSUM

DELEGATES OF THE ORGANISATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

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FOR ADDRESS CHANGES, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICIAL SWISS REPRESENTATION IN YOUR COUNTRY AND DON'T EMAIL THE EDITOR OF SWISS REVIEW SOUTHERN AFRICA. THANK YOU.