



Basel Peace Office

*Advancing international peace, common security
and the abolition of nuclear weapons*

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Submission to the State Secretariat for Security Policy for the Swiss Security Strategy Policy Review 2026

Submitted by Basel Peace Office

Endorsed by the Association of World Citizens, Baha'i Community of Switzerland, Frieda – the Feminist Peace Organisation, Frauen für den Frieden/Women for Peace, Geneva International Centre for Justice, Global Security Institute, Group for a Switzerland without an army/Gruppe für eine Schweiz ohne Armee (GSoA); Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament (PNND), Physicians for Social Responsibility/IPPNW Switzerland, Schweizerischer Friedensrat/Swiss Peace Council and UN Youth Delegates for Switzerland 2025-2027.¹

Summary

The Basel Peace Office (BPO) commends the Swiss Federal Council for undertaking a review of *Swiss Security Policy Strategy*, and for undertaking public consultations as part of the Review.

BPO agrees with the general analysis in the [Draft Security Policy Strategy Review 2026](#) (here-in-after called the *Security Policy Strategy*) that there is a deteriorating security situation due to regional and international developments. BPO also agrees with the draft policy approach of taking a comprehensive security framework rather than focusing solely on national territorial defence through military means.

However, BPO believes that the *Security Policy Strategy* is weak on some critical aspects of such a comprehensive security approach, in particular the extremely important role of Switzerland to advance common security through mediation, conflict resolution, peacebuilding, environmental protection, international law, nuclear risk-reduction and disarmament, supported by the Swiss law of neutrality. Without a stronger focus on these aspects, the security of Switzerland and its citizens will be at serious risk.

BPO makes a number of specific recommendations through proposed edits and additions to the text of the *Security Policy Strategy*, in particular in Sections:

- 1: the subsection on *Comprehensive security*;
- 3.1: the sub-section on *Rule of law, human rights and international humanitarian law*;
- 4.1, Objective 6: *Effective contributions to stability and the rule of law*;
- 5.1 (M.17): *Contributing to European crisis management*,
- 5.1 (M.18): *Contributions to development cooperation, the preservation of international law...*

In our submission, we allow the proposed edits to speak for themselves. However, more detailed discussion on these proposals can be found in the paper [A Nobel Effort: Opportunities for Switzerland to advance peace and nuclear disarmament in 2026](#). (Full paper of 9 pages in [English](#), [French](#) and [German](#). Executive Summary of 2 pages, including the list of recommendations, in [English](#), [French](#) and [German](#)).

Our proposed edits to the *Security Policy Strategy* arise from a series of consultations and public discussions, including an [Intergenerational Dialogue](#) in Basel on January 23, 2026; participation in a consultation with SEPOS organized by KOFF on February 16; and a [parliamentary and civil society consultation in the Swiss parliament](#) on March 3, 2026 organized by BPO and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament.

¹ Endorsing UN Youth Delegates for Switzerland (2025-2027) are Lucia Elena Saunders, Jorina Kaminski and Andreas Elias Bernhard.

In addition, we fully endorse and join the KOFF submission to SEPOS, and we support the submission of Frieda (Swiss Peace Women) and PeaceWomen Across the Globe.

Recommendations:

1. Section 1, subsection on Comprehensive security

Purpose: Adding a common security framework to the *Security Policy Strategy*.

Text: On Page 12, following the introductory paragraph, Add the following text:

“In developing a Comprehensive Security approach, Switzerland gives strong emphasis to building common security, based on the UN Charter and supported by the Swiss Law of Neutrality. Common security is based on the reality that sustainable security cannot be obtained by undermining or threatening the security of others, but rather on resolving international conflicts and ensuring that everyone’s security needs are met. Common Security relies on diplomacy, negotiation, mediation, arbitration and other forms of conflict resolution - as well as on the application of international law - to ensure peace, fairness and security for all.

Switzerland advances common security in a number of ways, including through the peacebuilding and conflict resolution services of its Good Offices, adherence to multilateral treaties and treaty-making, and strong support for the United Nations and international judicial institutions including the International Court of Justice, International Criminal Court, Permanent Court of Arbitration and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.”

2. Section 3.1, sub-section on Rule of law, human rights and international humanitarian law

Purpose: Strengthening the breadth of international law included in the *Security Policy Strategy*.

Text: On page 24, under this section, edit the first sentence to **(new text in bold)**:

“Switzerland can best protect its security policy interests in a world in which power is limited by law, including a world in which governments are held accountable to their obligations under international law, and in which international conflicts are resolved through diplomacy and law – not through war.

Edit the final sentence in the paragraph to read (new text in bold):

“At a time when the number and extent of armed conflicts have increased, the respect for ~~them~~ international law is of particular importance and corresponds to the interests and values of Switzerland and those of its European partner states.”

And add a new sentence:

“This international law includes, in particular, law relating to peace and security (primarily the UN Charter), international humanitarian law (laws of warfare), human rights law, disarmament law and environmental law including legal principles to protect the planet’s ecosystems for current and future generations.”

3. Section 4.1, Objective 6: Effective contributions to stability and the rule of law.

Purposes: Enhancing the importance of peace, human security, common security, disarmament and environment in the *Security Policy Strategy*. Enhancing also the role of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations.

Text: Edit the section title to:

“Effective contributions to **peace**, stability and the rule of law.”

Edit the first sentence to:

“Switzerland promotes European security **through active involvement in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe** and through increased cooperation with the EU, NATO and bilateral partners.”

Edit the final sentence to:

“It fosters **human security and common security through** international law - **including the UN Charter, human rights law, and international humanitarian law, disarmament law and environmental law.**”

4. Section 5.1 (M.17) Contributing to European crisis management

Purpose: Enhance the importance of regional and international conflict resolution, the [Swiss Good Offices](#), the OSCE and the regional and international courts, to help resolve conflicts and ensure adherence to international law.

Text: Edit the opening sentence to:

*“Switzerland wants to expand its contributions to crisis management, **risk reduction and conflict resolution**. This includes strengthening the valuable role of the Swiss Good Offices to assist in conflict negotiation and mediation, and elevating the roles of the European Courts and the International Courts for conflict resolution and adherence to law. Switzerland is also exploring new opportunities, such as cooperation with EU and NATO crisis management mechanisms.”*

After the final sentence, add:

“This could include Swiss or OSCE hosted dialogue between USA and Russia on reducing the threats of nuclear war in Europe and on bilateral arms control. It could also include Swiss or OSCE hosted dialogue, based on the Helsinki Principles, between Russian and Ukraine on resolving the disputes between them that escalated into war.”

5. Section 5.1 (M.18) Contributions to development cooperation, the preservation of international law and the global trade order

Purposes: Add disarmament and environmental protection as important to Swiss Security. Add specific support for the International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court, including measures to enable the courts to better prevent aggression and atrocity crimes. Add specific measures on nuclear disarmament and climate change.

Text: Edit the title to:

*“Contributions to **peace, disarmament, environmental protection**, development cooperation, the preservation of international law and the global trade order.”*

Edit first sentence to:

*“Poverty, inequalities, climate change, **weapons proliferation** and scarcity of resources promote conflict and instability.”*

Add the following sentences:

“Switzerland works to strengthen adherence to international law through the international judicial institutions. This includes encouraging and supporting all States to accept the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice. It also includes working to prevent aggression and atrocity crimes through the International Criminal Court, enforcing the legal limits the UN Charter places on the use of veto by permanent members of the Security Council, and engaging in the negotiations for a Crime Against Humanity Treaty.”

“Switzerland works for the elimination of prohibited weapons (nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, landmines and cluster munitions) through the relevant treaties and by ending financing for such weapons through the Swiss War Materials Act of 2013. With regard to nuclear risk reduction and disarmament, this includes being a member of the De-Alerting Group, giving active consideration to joining the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, advancing the Right to Life without the threat of nuclear weapons and promoting full and speedy implementation of the universal obligation to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world.”

“Switzerland is active in its role to help stabilize the climate at no more than 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels, with a commitment to fully implementing its climate change obligations under international law and European law. This includes various measures to support transition to a green economy, plus consideration to joining the Beyond Oil and Gas Coalition and negotiations for a Fossil Fuel Treaty.”

Final comments:

We highly appreciate the decision of the Swiss Federal Council to hold a public consultation process on the draft Security Policy Strategy, and we look forward to continuing to engage with SEPOS and the Swiss Federal Council on implementation of the final adopted policy.

However, we are puzzled and disappointed that this consultation did not include Swiss parliamentarians. Parliamentarians are vital in policy development and implementation, including adopting budgets and legislation for such implementation.

Swiss Parliamentarians also engage with parliamentary colleagues in Europe and globally on security issues, including through the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. This helps build cooperation with those countries on key security issues and initiatives.

As noted in the summary, Basel Peace Office and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament (PNND) held an informal consultation in the Swiss parliament on March 3. Unfortunately, no-one from SEPOS was able to accept the invitation from PNND to attend and speak. We will continue to engage parliamentarians on implementation of the adopted policy

Basel Peace Office
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