



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

**Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC**  
Division Asia - Americas

# Deep Dive

# Latin America and the Caribbean

Shaping partnerships for tomorrow

*Partners Day, Wednesday 14 January 2026*



Asia – Americas Partner Day

# Foresight process SDC and possible future measures

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Deputy head of section Swiss NGO



# Tendencies

- Multipolarity and fragmentation of multilateralism
- **IC = the answer to everything?** Overlapping of objectives and multiplication of expectations: Official Development Assistance (ODA), impact investments, management of Global Public Goods (GPGs)
- Pressure on the budget and cuts
- Criticism
  - Internal: efficiency, usefulness, and profitability of ODA
  - International: neocolonialism
- Me first: fatigue of solidarity ...
- ... and questioning of values
- Return from quality funding to results-based financing
- Localization and reweighting of partnerships
- → Impact on communication around IC (unclear and outdated?)



## Swiss Signature in IC



**Neutrality, legitimacy,  
and trust**



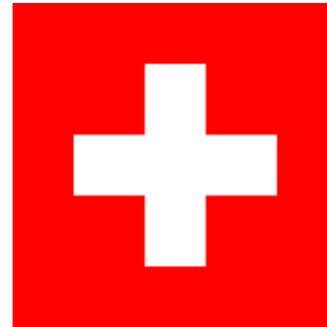
**A unique multilateral  
ecosystem**



**Local anchoring &  
inclusive partnerships**



**Long-term  
commitment, reliability &  
flexibility**



**Innovation & science  
diplomacy**



**Humanitarian  
expertise & normative  
engagement**



**Professionalism &  
expertise**



**Democracy,  
decentralization, the  
common good, and the  
public interest**

## Approach to Swiss IC: purposeful, horizontal, and catalytic

- **Differentiation:** Adapt instruments, partnerships, and approaches to the specific context.
- **Catalysis:** Use IC as a lever to mobilize additional resources (beyond CHF).
- **Horizontality:** Foster partnerships on an equal footing, based on trust and reciprocity, highlighting Swiss expertise and know-how.
- **Integration, less fragmentation:** Align various funding sources, ensure policy coherence, and promote interdepartmental collaboration.
- **New alliances:** Collaborate with other emerging or influential actors, both governmental (BRICS) and in youth, philanthropy, and the private sector – Switzerland with tech expertise and as a bridge builder.



# Swiss actors (NGOs & Foundations)

## Process:

- Definition of changing factors (Switzerland/IC/Swiss actors)
- Identification of implications
- Identification of measures and roles for Swiss actors and SDC
- Deepening of four fields of action

Implications	Role	Measures
<p>Moving away from core <b>values</b> and interests – How do we stand up for our values? Self-censorship</p> <p>Reaffirm values without compromise (resistance)</p> <p><b>Shrinking space</b> for CSOs</p> <p><b>Actors</b> (States, Billionaire and profit-oriented actors, SMEs,) do not share always the same values, not oriented towards public goods, private interests</p> <p>New financial flows, with different <b>conditions</b> and values – positioning</p> <p>Develop “<b>AI for Good</b>”, appetite for risks, innovation possible?</p> <p><b>Focus</b> geographic and thematic on our core mission</p> <p><b>Fragmentation</b> of international cooperation, <b>neglect</b> of certain regions, <b>polarization</b> of political interest,</p> <p><b>Locally-led-development</b></p>	<p>NGOs: <b>Advocacy</b> role as a watchdog for values</p> <p>NGOs enforce <b>Swiss identity</b> by affirming and embodying values (humanity, IHL).</p> <p>NGOs as <b>expert and facilitation</b> (incl. access to funding) <b>role</b> in localization</p> <p><b>NGO and SDC as a bridge-builder:</b> provide dialogue capacities and create common ground and to engage others in dialogue without losing values</p> <p>SDC as an <b>ambassador of values</b> both internally and externally, and coherent role.</p>	<p><b>Narrative/Communication:</b> new narrative that is able to connect, breaking down silos, coalitions, that goes with the mainstream without losing values, reaching diverse audiences, identify communication platform, smart communication strengthened “one voice” approach</p> <p><b>Modalities:</b> maintaining flexibility through core contributions, ring-fencing a percentage for innovation, rethink modalities for localization (fund)</p> <p><b>Working together/ Pooling of resources:</b> common positioning, expertise, support, admin logistics, finances, knowledge, strengthening networks, overcoming competition, coordination.</p> <p><b>Alliances and Networks:</b> create platforms, connect with new donors, private sector, foundations, look for equitable partnership, onboard new generation</p> <p><b>Vision for international cooperation</b></p>



## Fields of action

### Communication

- Jointly develop shared narratives (based on successful examples)
- Leverage third parties (e. g. private sector representatives, media, ...) as “door-openers” to reach broader audiences
- Engage multiple channels

### Locally-Led Cooperation

- Connect local actors with government partners (utilize synergies)
- Common narrative on LLC
- Capacity sharing instead of capacity building
- Clarify financial framework conditions and document return on investment

### Innovation

- Create hubs and spaces for creativity and collaborative work
- Promote collaboration and networks (strengthening civil society)
- Flexible and small-scale financing instruments
- Less stringent accountability requirements

### Collaboration in IC-Ecosystem

- Increase thematic cooperation
- Enhance exchange between SDC/NGOs
- Build and strengthen alliances -> alliances as “collective-IC”



# Next Steps



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# Panel – «Shaping partnerships for tomorrow»



Michael Szönyi  
*Director*  
**Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance**



Martin Jovanov  
*Regional Manager Latin America*  
**SWISSAID**



Laura Bott  
*Head of Latin America and the Caribbean Section*  
**SDC**



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# **Coordination Platform of Swiss actors active in Latin America and the Caribbean**

## **Current state & next steps**

*Partners Day, Wednesday 14 January 2026*



# Chronology of events

- Origin: **demand from Swiss NGOs** after the announcement of bilateral closure
- January 2025: Announcement of **project launch** at SDC Partners Day
- June 2025: Discussions with **Central America Platform** to open up to LAC
- Summer 2025: Establishment of **working group** and organization of two meetings
- Autumn 2025: **Draft concept note** ready but open questions remaining
- December 2025: Decision of **NGO Co-Lead COMUNDO**



# Content of the concept note

## Mission:

The Coordination Platform of **Swiss actors active in Latin America and the Caribbean** is a network of Swiss institutions working in the fields of **development cooperation and humanitarian aid** in Latin America and the Caribbean. Its purpose is to **coordinate and optimise interventions** in order to **enhance and strengthen their contribution** to equitable and sustainable development, based on human and environmental rights.



# Content of the concept note

## Objectives:

- **Context analysis** and exchange
- **Promotion of initiatives** in Switzerland
- Exchange on **increasing the visibility** of the Swiss presence in the region
- Discussion on the **impact of Swiss actors** in the region
- **Innovate and transform** together – new ways of working on the region



# Content of the concept note

## Modus operandi:

- The platform meets at least **twice a year** (2.5 hours per meeting)
- **Sub-groups** by country or type of actors may be organized autonomously
- Participants can **propose agenda items** for meetings
- Most meeting time is dedicated to **exchange, reflection and dialogue** on issues of common interest
- On a rotating basis, **one institution together with SDC assumes the responsibility** for a one-year period



# Content of the concept note

## Draft Agenda:

Agenda item	Time
<b>Welcome</b> and brief introductions of participants (in person or online)	15 min
<b>Context discussions</b> in three groups (South America, Central America, Caribbean) – <i>Three groups</i>	45 min
Break	15 min
<b>Thematic exchange</b> on an innovative/transformational aspect of work in the region <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Input from a guest speaker (15')</li><li>- Group discussion, sharing of experiences, lessons learned, solutions for the future, etc. (60')</li></ul>	75 min
NB: The topic is defined in advance based on common core challenges.	
<b>News from platform members</b>	15 min
Any other business and coordination topics	15 min



# Content of the concept note

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What does this mean?



# Next steps

- **Review concept note** based on today's inputs
- Share document with **working group**
- Hold last **meeting with working group** in February/March 2026
- Hold **first meeting of the platform** in June 2026



**Thank you!**