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Committee on Agriculture

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NOTIFICATION

The following submission, dated 4 November 2019, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of **Switzerland**. The notification concerns actions taken within the framework of the Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries (**Table NF:1**) for the calendar year **2018**.

In accordance with the notification requirements within the framework of the Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Countries (**Table NF:1**), the following provides details of Switzerland's programmes in favour of such countries.

Table NF:1

**NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 16:2 OF THE AGREEMENT: MONITORING OF THE
FOLLOW-UP TO THE DECISION ON MEASURES CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE
NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THE REFORM PROGRAMME ON LEAST-DEVELOPED
AND NET FOOD-IMPORTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: SWITZERLAND**

REPORTING PERIOD: CALENDAR YEAR 2018

**1 QUANTITY OF FOOD AID PROVIDED TO LEAST-DEVELOPED AND NET FOOD-IMPORTING
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

Switzerland has been a contracting party to the Food Assistance Convention since 2012. Swiss food assistance consists of cash contributions and deliveries of dairy products of Swiss origin.

The provision of food assistance in emergency and chronic situations is one of the decisive ways in which Switzerland's humanitarian mandate to save human lives and alleviate suffering is being implemented. By addressing world food security challenges, Switzerland demonstrates a global perspective that is in keeping with the Zero Hunger Challenge of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the dual food security strategy. Food assistance is complemented by Switzerland's global advocacy efforts and its commitment to tackling the root causes of hunger, for example through support to agricultural research, promotion of small-scale farmers and reduction of post-harvest losses.

In the area of food assistance, Switzerland works in close partnership with international organizations, in particular the World Food Programme (WFP). Of all the UN programmes and funds, the WFP receives the largest amount of Swiss humanitarian aid. The 2008 global food crisis prompted Switzerland to increase its contributions to the WFP significantly, from approximately CHF 50 million in 2008 to CHF 66 million in 2018.

Since 2018, Swiss food aid has consisted of financial contributions to the WFP. The end use of financial food aid is subject to an annual contractual agreement between Switzerland and the WFP. Under this agreement, for Algeria and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, where WFP programmes rely on the distribution of skimmed-milk powder to combat chronic malnutrition, the WFP purchases the powder in Switzerland. It is distributed as a means of supplementing diets, primarily through school meal programmes and in healthcare facilities, with a view to improving nutrition in emergency situations and in cases of severe malnutrition. Deliveries of dairy products of Swiss origin therefore help to prevent the mental and physical harm caused by malnutrition.

Food aid is not allocated on the basis of the criteria of "least developed countries" (LDCs) or "net food-importing developing countries" (NFIDCs). Swiss funds for food assistance operations are instead allocated in accordance with the following criteria: needs (populations affected, urgency and lack of funds), potential synergies with other Swiss programmes, or the presence of a Swiss cooperation office.

**2 INDICATION OF THE PROPORTION IN FULLY GRANT FORM OR APPROPRIATE
CONCESSIONAL TERMS**

All Swiss food aid is provided on fully grant terms.

3 TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER PARAGRAPH 3(III) OF THE DECISION

3.1 Switzerland's official development assistance (ODA)

The overall aim of Swiss international cooperation is to foster global sustainable development with a view to reducing poverty and global risks. Through its development aid, Switzerland supports the work of developing countries with a view to improving the standard of living of their people, strengthening their capacity to assume greater responsibility and ensuring their development by their own means.

Switzerland's official development assistance (ODA) amounted to CHF 3.02 billion in 2018. Switzerland's ODA comes mainly from the budgets of the SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) and SECO (Economic Cooperation and Development Division of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs), the two entities responsible for implementing the Federal Act on International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid and the Federal Act on Cooperation with the States of Eastern Europe. Other federal offices, as well as the cantons and some 200 communes, are also involved in Switzerland's international cooperation.

3.2 Technical and financial assistance to developing countries

The SDC is responsible for the general coordination of technical and financial assistance to countries and regions of the South, namely the majority of low-income countries. The SDC organizes more than 800 development cooperation programmes and projects covering ten subject areas. It tailors priorities to the requirements of its 21 partner countries and regions in the South. With a view to attaining sustainable development, the SDC's work is underpinned by gender equality and good governance. The SDC's development cooperation is twofold: (i) bilateral cooperation with priority countries and regions, i.e. State bodies, civil society, private-sector players and research institutions; and (ii) multilateral cooperation with UN agencies, international financial institutions and global networks and funds.

The SECO implements the economic and trade policy measures related to development cooperation with middle-income countries in particular. Its main priority is to support sustainable economic, ecological and social growth, which helps to reduce poverty and inequality. Economic development is based on cooperation with specialized international organizations.

3.3 Cooperation with countries in transition

Through cooperation with the former socialist states in the Western Balkans, the South Caucasus and Central Asia, the SDC and SECO both lend their support to a sustainable transition towards democracy and the market economy. They contribute to the political and economic reform processes in the fields of public administration and services, healthcare, water and energy supply, vocational training geared towards the labour market, and promotion of the private sector.

3.4 Humanitarian aid and emergency assistance by the SDC

The SDC's humanitarian aid operations constitute an expression of solidarity by Switzerland towards groups of people in distress and are not subject to any geographic restrictions. The SDC works to protect the interests of vulnerable population groups before, during and after periods of conflict, crisis or natural disaster. Preventive and awareness-raising measures also play a key role in this respect.

Swiss emergency assistance takes a number of forms: the mobilization of specialists from the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA) and other crisis units; the distribution of food aid through Swiss relief agencies and the World Food Programme (WFP); and the granting of financial support to International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) activities and UN humanitarian organizations. The SDC also supports non-governmental humanitarian organizations working in the field.

Table 1 – Funds allocated to LDCs and NFIDCs for food and nutrition assistance (CHF)

Country	In cash	In kind	Total
Afghanistan	2,500,000	0	2,500,000
Algeria ¹	2,100,000	0	2,100,000
Bangladesh	2,580,000	0	2,580,000
Burkina Faso	1,865,000	0	1,865,000
Cameroon	558,646	0	558,646
Central African Republic	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
Central America	64,532	0	64,532
Chad	2,011,190	0	2,011,190
Colombia	1,800,000	0	1,800,000
Costa Rica	59,255	0	59,255
Democratic People's Republic of Korea ¹	5,000,000	0	5,000,000
Democratic Republic of the Congo	4,847,394	0	4,847,394
Ethiopia	1,500,000	0	1,500,000
Global (several countries)	8,266,559	0	8,266,559
Haiti	1,700,000	0	1,700,000
Iraq	2,000,000	0	2,000,000
Kenya	305,889	0	305,889
Lebanon	800,000	0	800,000
Madagascar	1,320,000	0	1,320,000
Mali	2,351,088	0	2,351,088
Myanmar	2,500,000	0	2,500,000
Niger	2,600,000	0	2,600,000
Nigeria	3,490,000	0	3,490,000
Occupied Palestinian Territories	5,000,000	0	5,000,000
Pakistan	500,000	0	500,000
Somalia	2,500,000	0	2,500,000
South Sudan	5,408,500	0	5,408,500
Sudan	2,500,000	0	2,500,000
Syrian Arab Republic	1,817,885	0	1,817,885
Yemen	5,900,000	0	5,900,000
Total	74,845,938	0	74,845,938

Source: WFP and SDC.

- 1 For Algeria and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, where WFP programmes rely on the distribution of skimmed-milk powder to combat chronic malnutrition, the WFP purchases this powder in Switzerland.