



## FACT SHEET

# GEOGRAPHICAL PRIORITY OTHER WORLD REGIONS

Based on its solid anchoring in Europe, Switzerland's foreign policy remains globally oriented. The transition to a world that is less shaped by the West underlines the importance of constructive relations with every region of the world. The rise of the Asia-Pacific region and new dynamics in sub-Saharan Africa and in part in the Middle East and North Africa region show why it makes sense for Switzerland to have a globally oriented foreign policy.

### The Americas

The United States and Canada are among Switzerland's most important partners outside Europe. The significance of the United States for Switzerland's prosperity and security has increased further. Close collaboration on bilateral dossiers and in international organisations is crucial for Switzerland. It maintains close ties with the countries of Latin America, supporting democracy and the rule of law, and continuing to promote sustainable development in the region. The largest regional economies, Argentina, Brazil and Mexico, which are also members of the G20, offer opportunities to strengthen political and economic relations.

### Asia-Pacific

The Asia-Pacific region continues to move towards the centre of global power structures. It is the world economy's growth engine and is increasingly a frontrunner in the field of technology. In this context, Asia-Pacific is becoming more important for Swiss foreign policy. It is vital to deepen collaboration and diversify interests in this complex, promising region.

### Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

The MENA region is the scene of numerous conflicts and humanitarian crises. Nonetheless, it is also home to some of the world's richest countries and it plays a key role in the global energy supply. The geographical proximity and geopolitical significance of the MENA region make it an important partner for Europe, and Switzerland has an interest in its stability and economic upturn.

### Sub-Saharan Africa

The region is increasingly important in global politics and has economic potential. Still, the region faces major challenges, such as demographic growth, widespread poverty, corruption, armed conflicts and violent changes of power. Switzerland is looking into how to shape its international cooperation work in the Sahel more regionally and more flexibly.

## OTHER WORLD REGIONS



**1,4 billion** people live in the 49 countries that make up sub-Saharan Africa; **60% of them are under 26.**



**Switzerland will intensify its regional diplomatic efforts to identify opportunities for good offices.**



Full section of  
the strategy