

# Audit of the necessity of measures to strengthen Switzerland as host state

## Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

### Key facts

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Within the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), the United Nations and International Organisations Division (UNIOD) is responsible for strengthening Switzerland's role as host state. In order to do so, it has funding of CHF 117.2 million for the period from 2016 to 2019<sup>1</sup>. A strategy has been put in place. It foresees two sets of measures: strengthening reception conditions and facilities and increasing the impact and global reputation of International Geneva.

The Swiss Federal Audit Office (SFAO) reviewed the achievement of objectives and the effectiveness of some of the measures prescribed in the dispatch. With one exception, the results are positive.

#### **The implementation of measures continues, except in the building security sector**

According to the SFAO's audit, the implementation of the strengthening measures is advancing across International Geneva as planned. The objectives have been met or will be soon.

Nevertheless, a critical point remains concerning strengthening the external protection of the sites of the international organisations. These protection measures stem from a legal obligation relating to the security outside the buildings of these organisations. Out of an available CHF 11 million, only around CHF 500,000 has been spent. Various projects have stalled and there is no plan for them to be completed in the short or medium term. The SFAO recommends that the UNIOD reviews the relevant process and clarifies the responsibilities at project management level.

#### **Satisfied subsidy recipients, system of indicators could be improved**

Referring to the results of a questionnaire, the SFAO noted that the recipients of federal subsidies had expressed their satisfaction with the services offered by the UNIOD and the work it carries out. This questionnaire was sent to 28 entities and forms a representative sample.

In order to assess the results of its actions, the UNIOD has four evaluation criteria. This choice is restricted. It is not necessarily representative and will make an objective evaluation in 2019 difficult. As a result, the SFAO recommends that the UNIOD increase the number of indicators in order to better represent the diversity of the tasks it has to fulfil.

**Original text in French**

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<sup>1</sup> These funds were released in the context of the dispatch on the measures to be implemented to strengthen the role of Switzerland as host state (Dispatch 14.085 of 14 November 2014) which was approved by Parliament in 2015.