

Switzerland and Climate Justice

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«*Why Climate Justice Matters*» | Genève | 21 Jan. 2019

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From climate change - to climate crisis - to “climate *emergency*”

▶ IPCC 1.5° Special Report:

- ▶ 12 years left
- ▶ Mitigate climate change and its consequences

→ Climate action must include social sensitivity & integrity

- ▶ Gilets Jaunes movement, Greta Thunberg & youth / school strikes..

▶ Climate Justice @ Paris Agreement

→ 3 *equal* pillars: Mitigation and Adaptation / loss & damage and Finance

- ▶ Preamble; implicit @ main text (CBDR - burden sharing / right to develop)
- ▶ Indigenous Peoples & Local Communities Platforms, loss & damage, ...

Are We Living Through Climate Change's Worst-Case Scenario?

“We're a lot closer than we should be,” one Stanford scientist warned.

ROBINSON MEYER JAN 15, 2019



Smoke and steam billow from Belchatow Power Station in Poland, the site of the UN's 2018 climate conference. (GACFER PEMPEL / REUTERS)

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The year 2018 was not an easy one for planet Earth.

Sure, wind and solar energy kept getting cheaper, and an electric car became America's best-selling luxury vehicle. But the most important metric of climatic health—the amount of heat-trapping gas entering the atmosphere—got

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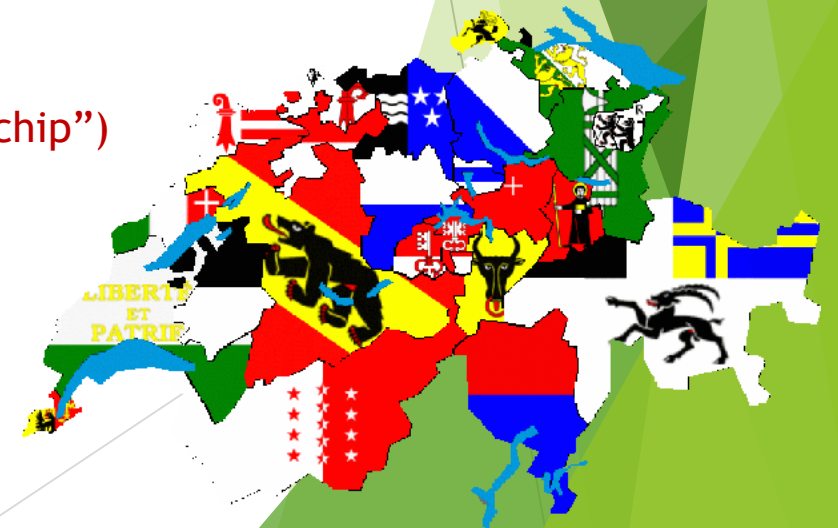


The Global Rightward Shift on Climate Change
ROBINSON MEYER



Swiss government approach Paris Agreement (PA) / climate crises priorities

- ▶ Climate crises as technical challenge → “Combating root causes”
 - ▶ Ambitious & strict mitigation measures for all (✓)
 - ▶ Yet: off-setting (✗)
- ▶ Adaptation to adverse effects of climate change / Loss & Damage
 - ▶ Seen as (sub-) national (individual countries) or humanitarian task
 - Ignoring 3-fold burden on developing countries
- ▶ Climate Finance → “a necessary evil”
 - ▶ Concession to get/keep developing countries on board (a “bargaining chip”)
- ▶ *Human Rights / Climate justice?*
 - ▶ A “preamble issue”
 - ▶ Focus on environmental rather than social integrity



Swiss climate policy

► CO₂-law

→ «*The center piece of Swiss climate policy*»

- Mitigation (mixed focus, low ambition)
 - No mention of adaptation or climate finance
 - “Climate justice”: Absent in strategies, discussions, COP-mandates
-
- Support to vulnerable population / developing countries
 - *Domestically*: a sub-national issue (mountain regions, etc.)
 - *Internationally*: an aid/development cooperation task



Fair, ambitious, effective climate finance ?

- ▶ Climate finance:
 - Sine qua non to address the global climate *crises*
 - ▶ Most direct / concrete manifestation of “climate justice”
- ▶ Swiss approach (“Focus on root causes”)
 - ▶ Not wrong, but ignoring reality of most exposed!
 - ▶ Climate Financing: Delegated to Aid / SDC
 - ▶ ODA-financed, compromising regular aid
 - ▶ Ignoring “new & additional” principle (UNFCCC 1992)
 - ▶ In negotiation context:
 - ▶ focus on flexible accounting, minimalistic funding (300-600m CHF/y)

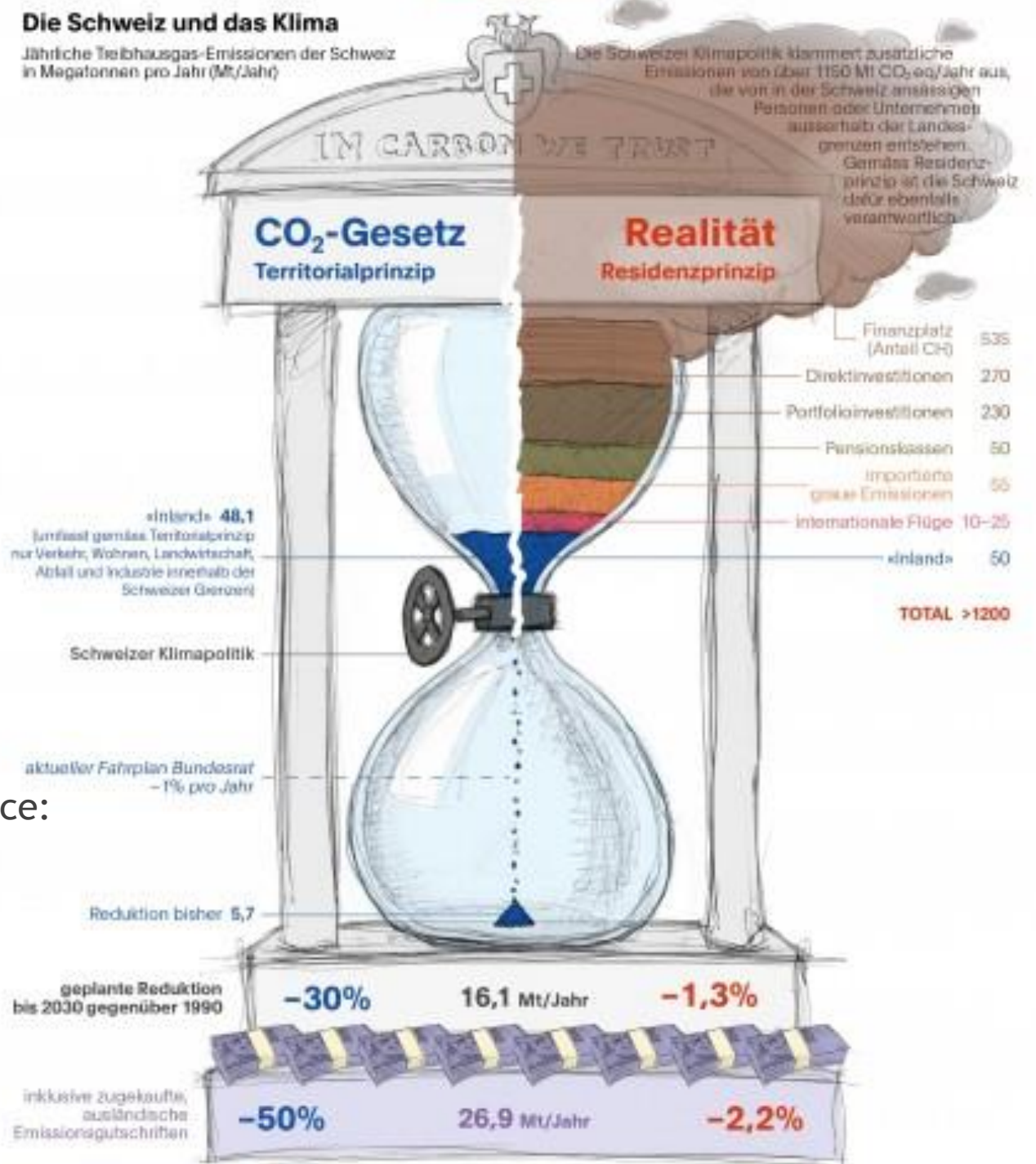


PARIS CLIMATE DEAL: LEADERS DECIDE ON WHO NEEDS MOST SUPPORT

Climate Justice means assuming responsibility

- ▶ National greenhouse gas inventory:
 - ▶ 0.15% of global
 - ▶ Ignoring aviation & grey emissions (import)
 - ▶ Swiss Climate Footprint
 - ▶ Consumption-based: 0.4% of global
 - ▶ Swiss financial off-shore market: >3% of global
 - ▶ Economic capacity:
 - ▶ 1% of OECD
- Fair share of Swiss contributions to climate finance:
- ▶ **Min. 1% of the 100 billion USD/year**
= 1 billion USD/year

<http://www.alliancesud.ch/de/politik/klima-und-umwelt/infografik-die-schweiz-und-das-klima>



Financing Switzerland's contribution to international climate finance

- ▶ Government approach: From existing (aid) budget
 - ▶ Currently: 12.5% (300 Mio. CHF / year) from existing ODA
 - Only 10% to LDCs!
 - ▶ Future: Up to 600 Mio. CHF / year (without any prospects of ODA increase)
- ▶ Tacit (*misleading!*) hypothesis: “climate action = poverty alleviation”
 - ▶ Preventing new poverty & setbacks on development gains
 - ▶ Not necessarily reducing existing poverty!
 - ▶ (→ *Alliance Sud Study underway*)
- ▶ “Leverage” additional funding from private sector ?
 - ▶ Ignored: Polluter-pays-based instruments (→ *Existing Alliance Sud Study*)

The bottom line

- ▶ Climate justice: Big gap in Swiss climate policy & action
- ▶ Swiss trend in climate finance
 - ▶ Undermine regular development cooperation (shifting existing funds)
 - ▶ Use ODA to “leveraging private funds” → shift of ODA towards non-LDC countries
 - ▶ Lacking political willingness to mobilize new & additional public funds
- ▶ Imperative to address *additional* climate challenge with *additional* means
- ▶ In absence of public funding
 - ▶ Need for innovative & alternative sources (incl. charity?) to support most vulnerable regions & populations
 - Emerging opportunities for new actors?
 - ▶ But: Complementing, not replacing, government action
 - ▶ Complementing private investments (“business cases”)



Thank you
for your attention

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Paris Agreement & Climate Justice

- ▶ Explicit in preamble (only):
 - ▶ Noting “...the importance *for some* of the concept of “climate justice”, when taking action...”
 - ▶ Acknowledging obligations of Human Rights (right to health, development; of indigenous people and local communities, migrants, children, people with disabilities and in vulnerable situations; as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity.
 - ▶ imperatives of a just transition, special needs of least developed, intrinsic relationship to eradication of poverty
 - ▶ Art. 6 (Carbon Market Mechanisms - unfinished @ Katowice): Strictly promote SD
- ▶ Implicit throughout main text: CBDR - Common but differentiated responsibility
 - ▶ Burden Sharing in light of (historic) responsibility & respective capacity (→ basis for support / finance)
 - ▶ HR-references in var. APA agenda item (3 NDCs, 4 adaptation, 5 transparency framework, 6 global stocktake)
- ▶ Concrete mechanisms / action:
 - ▶ Indigenous Peoples & Local Communities Platforms, WIM, Response Measures & Just Transition
 - ▶ 3 pillars: Mitigation, Adaptation, Support (Finance)