



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA

**Swiss Federal Statistical Office FSO**  
Resources and International Affairs

# Written comments for the 47<sup>th</sup> UN Statistical Com- mission in March 2017

2 March 2016

Item	Item 3I: Governance statistics
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### **Swiss Position**

At multilateral level there already exists a great deal of published governance indicators for a very large number of countries, for example the World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators or the OECD's Government at a Glance report. The OECD also published a report in 2006 with the title "Uses and Abuses of Governance Indicators" highlighting the dramatic growth in the number of indicators on this subject.

Switzerland welcomes the work of the Praia City Group on Governance Statistics. However, the roadmap appears quite ambitious as conceptual work is still necessary (definition and measurement of governance). Switzerland considers this work to be very important as there is currently no clear definition of governance. The present understanding of governance is a very broad one. Furthermore there is confusion between goals and processes, and the measurement of individual policies, for example "crime" in SDG 16 has been suggested. In contrast, a precise understanding of governance includes only processes, such as consultations and the involvement of stakeholders and citizens. The measurement of these "processes" is, however, difficult and sometimes impossible with official statistics data. There are data on this subject but they often come from expert interviews.

Risks exist especially when statistics are proposed which do not meet the criteria of official statistics (e.g. expert interviews, certain perception and trust surveys from NGOs or other parties/institutions).

In Switzerland we already have well-established statistics for certain topics/policies with clear concepts and definitions (e.g. crime, equality).