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Action Plan between Swiss State Secretary for Education and Research, Switzerland And National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research, Republic of Chile

On 24th January 2007, the Swiss Federal Council took a positive decision on the Message on the Promotion of Research, Education and Innovation for 2008-2011, which aims at a strategic focus on countries with considerable potential for scientific and technological development. Besides the four priority countries China, India, Russia and South Africa, four further countries, namely Chile, Brazil, Japan and South Korea have been mentioned too.

On 1st June 2007, during the visit of President Bachelet to Switzerland, a Letter of Intent has been signed and the interest in fostering together new areas of knowledge, that will contribute to prosperity and development has been confirmed.

The Swiss State Secretary for Education and Research and the National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research of the Republic of Chile (hereinafter referred to as "the Signatories") aim at determining a four years Chilean-Swiss science and technology cooperation strategy 2008-2011, based on the principles of reciprocity, mutual benefits, mutual respect and sustainability. This strategy will be developed and implemented in joint efforts with different Chilean and Swiss partners in their respective field of competence.

The strategy would have to integrate elements and to honour mechanisms as follows:

1) Major areas of cooperation (For the period 2008-2011)

In reference to the Letter of Intent, the report of Professor Jean-Claude Bolay, and the exploratory mission led by State Secretary Kleiber to Chile in August 2007, the possible main fields of cooperation have been identified as follows.

- **Energy:** energy efficiency, alternative renewables (PV, thermo solar and geothermal of common interest and wind, primarily for Chile), small hydro, public policy, regulatory policy, second generation biofuels
- **Climate Change:** (past, present and future scenarios), Climate variability including long-term trends, observations and regional models, impacts of Climate Change on natural and managed systems (life support systems, including economy and society).
 1. Ecosystem dynamics and services to society (water, biodiversity and productivity, food security and agriculture, energy, tourism)
 2. Freshwater ecosystems and glaciers (water resources, quality of aquatic systems, bio-monitoring)
 3. Natural hazards (extreme weather events, slope stability, heavy rainfall, drought, snow)
 4. Seismic risks (earthquakes and tsunamis, lahars)
 5. Management and research in biosphere reserves (trans-disciplinary research)



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Possible further areas for the period after 2011:

- **Industrial processes**, systems biology, Bio active processes
- **Applied Maths and Computer Science**
- **Astronomy and Astrophysics and Applied related technologies**
- **Health**: social epidemiology, mental health, HIV
- **Technology Transfer**: Solar power generation, MEMS technology, S&T TechParks, process of tech transfer and technoparks, photo voltaic and thermo solar.

Other areas may be mutually agreed upon.

2) Instruments

The S&T cooperation strategy may make use of the following instruments:

- Joint projects – high added value projects in given scientific areas.
- Joint conferences
- Joint professorships
- Joint Labs
- Grants and exchanges
 - Existing instrument
 - Scholarships (SER - ESKAS) – 5 to 10 postgraduate scholarships for Chilean students per year
 - New instrument
 - Postgraduate Scholarship (mainly PhD) – 5 postgraduate scholarship for each of the countries (receiving country pays the tuition fees and sending country pays for the stay)
- Fellowships for post-doctoral training
- Joint degrees (Co-Tutelle)

3) Mechanisms: implementation of the Chilean-Swiss strategy

3.1) Implementation

On the Swiss side: State Secretariat for Education and Research SER

The SER will be in charge of organizing the implementation of the Chilean-Swiss Strategy.

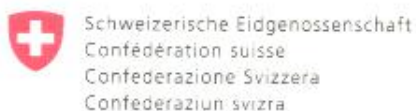
On the Chilean side: National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research CONICYT

CONICYT will be in charge of organizing the implementation of the Chilean-Swiss Strategy.

3.2) Scientific evaluation

The process of scientific evaluation will be managed by each country according to its own national legislation.

On the Swiss side: State Secretariat for Education and Research SER



Swiss Confederation



The SER is responsible for assessing the activities.

On the Chilean side: National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT)

CONICYT is responsible for assessing the activities in its competent fields.

4) Financial resources

The Signatories convene that the contribution of each country should be overall balanced within the 4-year-period 2008-2011.

Funding of selected initiatives will be jointly agreed.

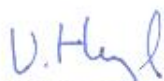
Funding can be completed by other institutions.

5) 2008 activities

The Signatories approve the following activities during 2008:

- Potential organization of the first Swiss Chilean workshop in Energies
- Implementation of the Action Plan

Signed in Santiago de Chile on 26 June 2008, in two copies, each copy has equal validity.



Vivian Heyl
President of National Commission for Scientific
Technological Research
Republic of Chile



André Regli
Ambassador of Switzerland to Chile
on behalf of the
State Secretariat for Education and Research
Federal Department of Home Affairs
Switzerland