



## **Jungfrau Climate, Grindelwald, 4 June 2009**

Short paper by Marie-Thérèse Niggli, Head of the Environment and Energy Policy Department, State Secretariat for the Economy SECO, Bern

Madam State Councillor

Mayors

Ladies and gentlemen

In the name of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, I would like to thank you for the invitation to this Jungfrau Climate Day here in Grindelwald. It gives me great pleasure to be able to participate in this impressive event.

The formation of the Gletschersee at the lower Grindelwald glacier and the related dangers makes us spectacularly aware that climate change brings with it new risks. Unique regions, such as the Jungfrau area can react particularly sensitively to climate change. It not only has an effect on the landscape, but also on economic structures.

From the federal point of view, climate change represents one of the greatest challenges to both this and future generations. Coping with it requires close cooperation between science, politics and the population on regional, national and international levels, as well as the courage to engage in active measures and changes of behaviour.

In other words, strong, transnational cooperation is needed in all respects.

The World Bank estimates global, climate-induced adaptation costs for the next 10 years to be around 30 billion USD annually. Every country is therefore called upon for solidary cooperation and mutual support. Only in this way can the most serious, large-scale catastrophes be averted.

Comprehensive cooperation is even more urgent for combating the cause, i.e. the reduction of globally active greenhouse gas emissions. Fortunately, science and research have shown that we can effectively counter climate change. This will require relatively high investments, on the one hand in industrial countries and, on the other, in the rapidly expanding development nations, enabling them to benefit from a climate-friendly growth process. According to the predictions of the International Energy Agency, more than two thirds of the emission growth expected in the future will be caused by the newly emerging industrialized countries. Much as industrialization of the developing nations is to be welcomed from the point of view of the fight against poverty, it does mean that industrialized countries will be required to support the process by means of climate-friendly technologies and know-how. All those countries with significant emissions must also be included bindingly in the new climate agreement. It will not be possible for the industrialized nations alone to reduce global emissions sufficiently. We are all in the same boat. Everyone's cooperation is needed.

Switzerland is working hard towards the adoption of a new climate agreement covering the period up to 2012 this December in Copenhagen. The Federal Council is equally as ready as the EU to enter into committed emission-reduction goals.

For their implementation, in parallel with the international process, it has revised the current CO<sub>2</sub> law. The bill should be passed to parliament this autumn already.

Ladies and gentlemen

As well as scientific knowledge and new technologies, the challenge that climate change presents us with requires a strong political will in order to push ahead with effective measures. Without the acceptance and support of the population, this will not be possible.

I am convinced that today you have made a very important contribution towards this with your courageous initiative. The Jungfrau region, with its scenic, historic and cultural wealth, is an appropriate place for making the correlation between science and politics with regard to climate evident to a wide public.

On behalf of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs I wish you every success in doing so.