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PLANAT
c/o Bundesamt für Umwelt BAFU
3063 Ittigen

Schweizerischer Nationalfonds (SNF)
Wildhainweg 3
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Bern, 21. Januar 2025

Letter of support for the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) National Center of Competence in Research (NCCR) proposal “Climate Extremes & Society” (CLIM+)

Dear Evaluation Committee

We are writing to express our interest in and support for the research proposed by Sonia Seneviratne (ETH Zurich), Karin Ingold (University of Bern), Olivia Romppainen-Martius (University of Bern), David N. Bresch (ETH Zurich) and more than 30 fellow Principal Investigators (PIs).

The proposed NCCR-CLIM+ focuses on understanding and addressing the risks and impacts and developing solutions related to climate extremes. Given Switzerland's high exposure to natural hazards and the increasing severity of natural hazards under climate change, understanding both direct and indirect climate impacts is essential for effective adaptation and mitigation. Effective adaptation and mitigation are key to increased resilience. Our current strategy “Dealing with risks from natural hazards” reflects the urgency and importance of successful climate change adaptation.

NCCR-CLIM+ integrates advanced research in climate modeling, artificial intelligence, and societal transformation to provide physically constrained projections of climate extremes and their social dimensions. The results will be expressed and made actionable through customized storylines. We support this innovative approach, which describes a plausible sequence of events starting from a combination of natural hazards and socio-economic conditions, unfolding over time and space through various documented causal links to illustrate how social actors are affected and respond,

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with a particular focus on the positive effects of adaptation. By fostering an interdisciplinary, nationwide research network and establishing a dedicated center (CERESS), NCCR-CLIM+ will collaborate with policymakers and public and private actors to jointly develop knowledge, insights, and tools to navigate the challenges of climate change, ensuring a more resilient and sustainable future for Switzerland.

As an extra parliamentary commission who works in a highly interdisciplinary way, we see the proposed interdisciplinary approach as crucial for successfully developing solutions to climate risks across all sectors.

Considering the relevance and timeliness of the proposed research, we strongly endorse the proposal and would greatly appreciate its full support. We are eager to participate in the upcoming workshops.

Yours sincerely,
National Platform for Natural Hazards PLANAT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Gosteli'.

Helen Gosteli
Managing Director PLANAT