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IPM/CSD-17 on [Agriculture](#), [Rural development](#), [Land](#), [Drought](#), [Desertification](#), and [Africa](#).

**New-York, February 23-27, 2009**

**Subject:** **Comments on chair's negotiating text**

**Date** 27.02.09

**Responsible Person:** Head of Delegation Hanspeter Wyss

Madam Chair,

We would like to thank you and the Secretariat for providing us with the draft negotiation text in a timely manner.

Obviously, we only had the chance to have a quick first look at it in the time at our disposal.

We had the impression that the does not reflect all the important messages which were raised by different delegations during this week. Examples are the recognition of payments for ecosystem services, the recognition of the economic value of land, the recognition of the need of sustainability standards and harmonized certification schemes, that the production of biofuels needs to be regulated through an international framework and finally the need of international guidelines for promoting more secure tenure arrangements.

Nevertheless, it serves as a basis for our negotiations in May.

Switzerland is of the opinion that we should strive for a shorter outcome document, which focuses on new and forward-looking recommendations without repeating recommendations which have already been made in the past. These forward-looking recommendations should attribute clear responsibilities.

Madam Chair, there is a lot of work ahead of us and Switzerland is looking forward to working constructively with you and other delegations to achieve a relevant outcome at CSD-17.