Stéphane Rey

Ambassador-designate of Switzerland to Pakistan; Chargé d'affaires of Switzerland to Afghanistan

Ambassador Stéphane Rey arrived in Islamabad on 3 September 2026. Prior to this appointment, he served as Ambassador of Switzerland to Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi from 2022 to 2026. His tenure was marked by several significant achievements: as Co-Chair of the High-Level Structured Dialogue process, under the auspices of former African Development Bank President A. Adesina and former Mozambican President J. Chissano, he played an instrumental role in designing the criteria for the effective financial compensation of former commercial farmers. He also contributed significantly to efforts supporting the abolition of the death penalty in Zimbabwe, a contribution that was publicly acknowledged by the authorities.

Before his posting to Zimbabwe, Ambassador Rey served as Head of Peace Policy and Programmes at the State Secretariat for Foreign Affairs, where he oversaw Switzerland's peacebuilding and mediation initiatives worldwide. Earlier positions within the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs included Deputy Head of Mission & Head of the Economic and Trade Division at the Embassy of Switzerland in Tehran, Iran; Head of the Political Affairs Team at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York; and Deputy Head of the UN Security Council and Political Affairs Unit at headquarters. Prior to joining the Swiss diplomatic service, he worked as a delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Afghanistan and Sierra Leone. He later served as a Humanitarian Policy Officer at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in New York.

Beyond his diplomatic responsibilities, Ambassador Rey was a member of the United Nations Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund Advisory Group from 2020 to 2024, having been reappointed by Secretary-General António Guterres for a second mandate in 2022. He also maintains a strong interest in teaching and research on conflict mediation and peacebuilding. He was a Fellow at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) from 2021 to 2022 and has been invited on several occasions to contribute to teaching activities at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan.

A native of Fribourg, Switzerland, Ambassador Rey holds an MA in History and Literature from the University of Fribourg and an MSc in Social Policy from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). He speaks French, English, German, Spanish and Persian, and is struggling to learn Urdu.

Islamabad, 10 September 2026