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Innovative and Ethical Public Finance Management in Challenging Times



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**SPEAKER
BIOGRAPHY**

Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Switzerland to South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mauritius and Namibia. Marino Cuenat has been the Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Switzerland to South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mauritius and Namibia since June 2023. From 2003 to 2004, he worked for the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) in the Trade Policy Department in Berne. He then spent a year working for the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS). From 2007 to 2010 he worked as a diplomatic officer in the Directorate of Public International Law of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) in Bern.

Mr Cuenat started his diplomatic career in Colombia as an Attaché, and then moved to Bulgaria as First Secretary (in charge of the enlargement contribution to Eastern Europe). In 2012 he was appointed Deputy Consul General at the Consulate General in Milan, and in 2015 was promoted to Deputy Head of Mission in Abidjan. In 2018, he took over the position of Head of the West and Central Africa in the Africa Division of the FDFA.

Mr Cuenat studied political economy (1994-1999) and law (1996-2000) at the University of Neuchâtel. He then obtained a DES in European law at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (2001-2002) and a master's degree in international relations at the same institution (2002-2003). He is married with two children, he speaks French (mother tongue), Italian, German, English and Spanish.