



2016 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up

General Debate

Ministerial Segment – Statement by Switzerland

New York, 20 April 2016

Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

It seems like yesterday when we gathered in Addis Ababa, agreeing on a roadmap to finance sustainable development after months of difficult negotiations. In our concluding remarks in Addis, Switzerland reminded our counterparts that it was the beginning, not the end of the road, and that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda marks the step from talk to action. In that spirit we are delighted to participate in this forum, to report on what Switzerland has done both at the national and the international level to implement the Addis Agenda – and to discuss together what more needs to happen.

We heard on Monday – and we read in the excellent report of the IATF attentively – that much has happened on the international stage since Addis: the adoption of the Agenda 2030 or the momentous climate agreement of Paris, to name only two. From a Swiss perspective, I would like to share four highlights:

First, only last week, the OECD DAC published the latest data on ODA which is at the highest level ever globally, showing that the international community is well aware of the many challenges our world is facing at the moment and that it is willing to react on it. In Switzerland, ODA increased to 0.52 percent of GNI in 2015, a significant increase despite budgetary headwinds at the domestic level. This reflects our strong commitment to provide ODA to countries most in need, especially LDCs and countries in fragile situations, as well as our important contribution to the multilateral and humanitarian system.

Secondly, a survey on private investments for development published last week shows that in Switzerland alone, 10 billion US dollars of private investments are being managed, targeting social next to financial returns in emerging and developing countries. This is a significant share of the global market for investments for sustainable development and is a part of the financial industry that is poised to grow more in the future,

creating jobs as well as social and environmental benefits in developing countries.

Thirdly, underscoring the importance given to the topic of asset recovery in the Addis Agenda, later this year the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) will organize an international event aimed at identifying good practices and practical steps for countries to improve the return of stolen assets as well as their disposal in support of sustainable development. This event will be hosted by the Government of Ethiopia in Addis Ababa and is financially supported by Switzerland to further this important discussion.

Fourthly and lastly, Switzerland has stated throughout the Addis process that Gender Equality and the equal participation of women and girls in the economic sphere is a fundamental prerequisite for sustainable development. Global evidence leaves no doubt about that. In this regard, we were excited to participate in various events on financing during the Commission on the Status of Women last month here in New York. But we were particularly happy to see that many countries and more than 200 participants joined us in our own Side Event promoting the Addis Ababa Action Plan on Transformative Financing for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. This Action Plan was launched during the

Addis Conference last July and intends to push women's economic empowerment throughout the world.

While I could go on, let me stop here. We have had ample opportunities to discuss FfD follow-up at the national and international level in the last interesting three days, and we will have more time during the High Level Political Forum this summer, where we will review the first steps towards the implementation of the Agenda 2030. An evidence-based follow-up to the commitments made in Addis and New York is fundamental to the success of our common agenda. My country takes this task seriously and is committed to engage in meaningful and constructive discussions that will hopefully lead to a race to the top among countries.

Thank you for your attention.