



# Preparatory Process for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development

## Second Drafting Session

General Discussion – Statement by Switzerland

New York, 13 April 2015

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Distinguished Co-Facilitators,

On behalf of Switzerland, I would like to thank you for the Zero Draft of the Addis Ababa outcome document. We believe that the Zero Draft strikes a fine balance between committing to continue and complete the work started in Monterrey and new elements which reflect today's realities and the ambition of the universal sustainable development agenda post-2015.

My delegation appreciates the opportunity to make **five** general remarks on the Zero Draft today and provide detailed comments on the various chapters later in the week.

**First, let me congratulate the co-facilitators for proposing a policy framework that mirrors the ambition of the SDGs.** We welcome that the Zero Draft recognizes the fundamental importance of the environmental dimension and fosters the necessary integration of all three dimensions of sustainable development. Simultaneously, the Zero Draft avoids duplications with any existing process or agreement in the realm of environmental and climate finance. The Zero Draft also stresses the importance of gender equality as a means to implement the SDGs and as a smart policy measure for countries who want to achieve their full development potential.

**Second, there are some areas where the Zero Draft could be more concrete.** While the section on private finance highlights the importance of aligning all financing flows with sustainable development objectives, the draft falls short in promoting concrete ideas that could make this happen. One example where this should be done is linking migrant remittances with financial inclusion strategies. Another one is providing more clarity on the concept and use of blended finance for sustainable development. Finally, we also believe that the text could do more to promote the use of impact investment.

**Third, there are a number of missed opportunities.** As the country which restituted more stolen assets than any other country, Switzerland knows from its own experience that significant progress in this regard is imperative and we believe that the Addis Ababa accord should highlight the importance of preventive measures for corruption as well as a transparent and accountable return process for stolen assets that ensures that they are returned to the people they have originally been stolen from.

**Fourth, we welcome that the Zero Draft highlights the critical role Multilateral Development Banks will play in promoting knowledge sharing, leveraging financial resources, and capacity building.** We also welcome the creation of new development banks. They can become strong partners in the international development architecture if they work together with and complement existing development actors and apply international best practices including with regards to social and environmental safeguards.

**Finally, on structure, we believe that the Zero Draft is too long.** In our view, we should keep the document as concise as possible and strive to further concretize the substance of the Addis Ababa agenda.

Thank you!