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

### **Substantive Informal Session**

New York, 10 December 2014

Swiss Statement – *Bullet version (to be read)*

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Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Mr. Moderator

- We thank the Co-Chairs for the organization of these substantive thematic sessions this week which bring to the forefront a great many topics that will require our full attention on the route to Addis; we value the great quality of the debate both from experts and from member states representatives;

Let me make three contributions regarding the debates of this week:

- First, Switzerland recognizes that **illicit financial flows** impede domestic resource mobilization in developing countries. It will be important to adopt a coherent, **holistic approach to curbing illicit financial flows**. Existing internationally agreed standards in the fields of i) exchange of information for tax purposes, ii) anti-money laundering and corruption, combined with iii) internationally coordinated action are means to successfully curb illicit financial flows.
- In this context, I would like to highlight the aspect of **stolen assets of exposed political persons**, an issue that Switzerland is taking very seriously. In this field, **tailor-made solutions** are needed to ensure that the assets are returned and will indeed benefit the population of the country of origin. Possible approaches in such cases include i) setting up an independent **monitoring mechanism** or ii) returning assets via an **international organization** that runs projects and programs in countries of origin, or cooperating with NGOs.
- **We are of the opinion that the Addis Ababa conference should be an important milestone to discuss a conducive international environment for asset recovery!**

- Second, for the Addis conference to succeed we need a renewed commitment to partnership by all actors, including a revived and strong Global Partnership at the political level. But we also need strong and innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships on specific issues - such as health, education, or biodiversity - to finance and implement the ambitious Post-2015 agenda.
- **To generate momentum for the implementation of the Post-2015 agenda, let's start creating the partnerships that we will agree on in Addis to help implement the Post-2015 agenda!**
- Third and finally, I would like to highlight that in further discussions, we also need to take into account how financing affects different groups of people, in particular women. Investments in women, in particular girls, will benefit the society, the economy and the environment as a whole. On top of that, these investments are smart economics. It is crucial to address the issue of Gender equality across the different issues we heard this week on our way to the Addis conference.

**Thank you!**