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Wednesday, 6th November 2013, 14:00 – 16:00 (followed by Aperitif)
DEZA, Freiburgstrasse 130, Bern (Room A2023)

Illicit financial flows – Challenges and policy options for Swiss Development Cooperation

Every year huge sums of money are transferred out of developing countries illicitly. There is widespread agreement that poor developing countries are particularly badly affected by these flows, and *illicit financial flows* are likely to far outrange official development assistance of OECD countries. If these resources had been invested in African countries with the same efficiency as current investment, this would – according to the *African Economic Outlook 2012* - have allowed African countries as a group to reach the Millennium Development Goal of halving the 1990 level of poverty by 2015. Hence, the fight against illicit financial transfers from Africa should be considered a fight against poverty.

For many years, international organizations, the academia and non-governmental organisations try to document and understand the phenomenon, as well as quantify its financial dimensions. In the meantime, the issue has become a mainstream topic for international organizations, political bodies and governments. Illicit financial flows are at the heart of discussions at the OECD, the G8/G20, and the EU, and it is likely to become a key theme of the process leading to a Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Switzerland is considered by a number of international actors to be among the most important offshore financial centres, being also confronted by *illicit financial flows*. The Federal Council acknowledges the need for action in partner countries as well as in Switzerland. A number of issues will require particular attention to combat the inflow of illegal or unfairly acquired assets.

This TRAVERSE debate will examine challenges, concepts, and policy options for OECD countries including Switzerland, from a development policy perspective. Among others, the following questions will be addressed by four international experts:

- 1) Illicit financial flows – What do we mean and what is the concept behind this term?
- 2) The international community – What are the perspectives, what initiatives and remedies have been or could be undertaken?
- 3) Challenges and policy perspectives for International Development Cooperation - What could be a role for Swiss Development Cooperation?

The debate will be opened by **Christoph GRAF**, Assistant Director-General SDC (a.i.), Global Cooperation, and moderated by **Markus MUGGLIN**, Former Chief Editor *Echo der Zeit*.

We are looking forward to a lively debate! SDC Analysis & Policy Division.

Registration by 30th October 2013 at traverse@deza.admin.ch

(Free of charge, limited number of participants.)

For further information including an issue paper: www.deza.admin.ch/traverse