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Introduction by **Pio WENNUBST**, SDC Assistant Director-General

Moderation by **Nathalie Ducommun**, RTS - Radio Télévision Suisse

Wednesday, 12th February 2014, 14:00 – 16:00 (followed by Aperitif)
SDC, Freiburgstrasse 130, Berne (Room A2023)

Achieving Social Inclusion – A Global Challenge



Significant progress has been achieved in terms of poverty reduction and human development worldwide over the last decades. However, many groups remain excluded from these positive trends. Exclusion – based on location, gender, race, caste, ethnicity, religion, or disability status – remains a critical development challenge. It is often interrelated with poverty, when certain groups are denied economic opportunities, access to services or political participation. Exclusion impacts the society as a whole, has high economic costs, and may also jeopardize political stability. Social inclusion has multiple dimensions and is relevant to every country – low, middle and high income – albeit in different way, as highlighted in the recent report of the World Bank “*Inclusion Matters: The Foundation for Shared Prosperity*”.

Defining a framework that promotes equal opportunities and inclusion is widely acknowledged as a priority in discussions on sustainable development goals post-2015. Social inclusion is also relevant in the context of the “new geography of global poverty”, with the majority of poor people not living in poor countries: Targeting social inclusion is particularly important for countries that, despite rising income levels, face significant challenges in terms of inequalities and social exclusion.

This TRAVERSE debate will discuss, in light of international discussions and experiences from different regions, the concept of social inclusion, the challenges it implies and possible ways to address them.

Among others, the following questions will be addressed by the panel of experts:

- 1) What is social inclusion? How does it relate to poverty and inequalities?
- 2) How can social inclusion be enhanced?
- 3) What are the implications for international cooperation and for SDC in particular? Are new approaches, new tools, needed?

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

Registration by 5th February 2014 at traverse@deza.admin.ch

(Free of charge, limited number of participants.)

For further information: www.deza.admin.ch/traverse