The growing influence of transnational market intermediaries, including financial actors, has profoundly changed the global commodities trade, “de-linking” markets in commodities from the material conditions of production and use and “re-linking” them to offshore marketplaces and trading hubs, such as Switzerland. How do these processes affect local lives along the copper value chain, from the mining pits and the surrounding communities in Zambia, through towns and harbours on African transport corridors, through Swiss trading firms and banks to sites of industrial production and recycling? What needs to be done in order to move towards more ethical trading and production systems conducive to sustainable development and the vision of the 2030 Agenda?

This moderated roundtable will bring together researchers and civil society activists from “Valueworks: Effects of Financialization along the Copper Value Chain”, a research project funded by SNIS, as well as representatives from business and policy makers, to discuss the Swiss commodity trading hub and its impact on the Global South.

The research symposium Valueworks: Effects of Financialization along the Copper Value Chain at the Palais des Nations on 11 December, may also be of interest to you.

Opening Remarks
Filipe Calvao
Assistant Professor, The Graduate Institute
Paul Ladd
Director, UNRISD

Valueworks: What Have We Learned?
Rita Kesselring
Principal Investigator, Valueworks Project, University of Basel
Marja Hinfelaar
Director of Research and Programmes, Southern African Institute for Policy and Research (SAIPAR)

Speakers
Stefan Leins
University of Zurich
Dale Mudenda
University of Zambia and Southern African Institute for Policy and Research (SAIPAR)
Barbara Müller
Swiss Apartheid, Debt, Reparation Campaign (ADR)
James Nicholson
Head of Corporate Responsibility, Trafigura
Jean Rossiaud
Member of Parliament, Canton of Geneva; Co-director, World Democratic Forum

Moderator
Isolda Agazzi
Journalist

Discussion with the Audience
Introductory input by CETIM (Centre Europe – Tiers Monde)