

Madam Chair,

When making this statement I align myself with the statement made earlier on in this debate by the EC on behalf of the EU.

- The re-discovery of agriculture as a main driver for economic development and poverty alleviation is crucial. Facing our challenges in food, feed and fuel today requires a new approach in agricultural production. The Netherlands considers agriculture to be key to economic development. We need investments in agriculture and innovative and sustainable technologies to make agricultural production patterns sustainable, to stimulate local and regional markets also for both small and medium size agro-businesses.
- We also need to improve access to international markets for all stakeholders in both developing and developed countries.
- The Netherlands government is committed to improving sustainable agricultural development also in developing countries, in particular in Africa. The role of women and youth in both the production and decision making processes in the agricultural sector is vital and should be an integral part of the allocation of resources.
- We will invest an additional 50 (five zero) million Euros for the revitalisation of agriculture in increasing productivity, agricultural knowledge and training, local economies, value-adding chain development and ensuring food security in developing countries.
- Madam chair, specifically with regard to biofuels it is important that we manage the risks. The Netherlands has been actively involved in the negotiations of the EU biofuels sustainability criteria and sees this legislation as an important milestone in ensuring the sustainability of biofuels. Cooperation on a more global level is also of key importance to the Netherlands. That is why we are involved in the discussions on sustainability criteria for biofuels in the Global Bioenergy Partnership and in the Round Tables on Sustainable Palm Oil and Sustainable Soy.
- The Netherlands is also working on identifying the gaps in knowledge in the monitoring on the indirect effects of biofuels production that can cause changes in food production and biodiversity. We are ready to share and discuss the results of this research in the CSD.

- Last but not least, investments in so-called 'second generation' biofuels need to be stepped up as these biofuels generally have a higher CO2 saving potential and cause less competition for land. Governments have a role in providing the enabling environment for these investments, for example by setting targets and providing subsidies as is the current practice in the EU.

Thank you madam chair.

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