



**PERMANENT MISSION OF
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Statement by

H.E. Mr. Ton Boon von Ochssée

Ambassador for Sustainable Development

of

the Kingdom of the Netherlands

dos
CSD 16

**on the occasion of the thematic cluster for the implementation cycle
2008/2009 regarding
"Agriculture"**

The 16th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

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Madam Chair,

- 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 one of the key instruments for poverty alleviation and economic development. We need investments in agriculture and innovative and sustainable technologies to make agricultural production and consumption patterns sustainable, to stimulate local and regional markets and to improve access to international markets for all stakeholders in developing and developed countries.
- The necessity for a new and sustainable approach in agricultural production is becoming ever more urgent in light of the growing food crisis. It is becoming more and more clear that agricultural policies are interlinked with other crucial sectors and policies, and there is a need to understand these interlinkages. Madame Chair, this is what sustainable development is all about.
- There are short term and long term solutions. Safety nets and food aid in emergencies are an important short term solution. In the long term more investments in agricultural productivity and liberalisation of trade are needed.
- Biofuels feature prominently in the discussions on the current food crises. The Netherlands believes that bio fuels offer opportunities for CO2 reduction as well as economic and rural development, but only if they are produced sustainably. Otherwise there is a good chance that the cure will be worse than the disease. At the request of the government, the Dutch Commission on Sustainable Biomass Production developed six sustainability criteria, one of which is avoidance of competition with food and other local resources. The report of the Dutch Commission on Sustainable Biomass Production is available in hard copy in this room. The Dutch government has adopted the six criteria as the basis for it's policies and is now putting them into practise, together with producing countries and other stakeholders. In this CSD cycle, the Netherlands is ready to participate in the debate on how to ensure the sustainability of bio fuels.
- Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the memory stick on your desk. It contains the national report of The Netherlands to CSD16. I hope you will enjoy reading the report. The report of the Dutch Commission on Sustainable Biomass Production is available in hard copy in this room.

Thank you Madam Chair.