



**PERMANENT MISSION OF  
THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

235 East 45<sup>th</sup> Street, 16<sup>th</sup> floor  
New York, NY 10017

tel. (212) 519-9500

fax (212) 370-1954

[www.pvnewyork.org](http://www.pvnewyork.org)

---

---

**Statement by**

**H.E. Mr. Ton Boon von Ochssée**

**Ambassador for Sustainable Development**

**of**

**the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

**on the occasion of the debate about the thematic cluster for the  
implementation cycle 2008/2009 regarding  
*“Inter-linkages and all cross-cutting issues”***

**The 16<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Sustainable Development**

**New York, 9 May 2008**

**Please check against delivery**

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to draw your attention to the impact of unsustainable lifestyles. Today's diet patterns are changing rapidly and the demand for unsustainable products is increasing. This change has a severe impact on our natural resources and health.

The promotion of sustainable consumption is one of the priorities on our national agenda. In this context, we have to especially acknowledge the worldwide increasing production and consumption of animal proteins. We therefore will hold an intensive dialogue in The Netherlands with all relevant stakeholders about this issue. The aim of our national dialogue is to find innovative and transitional ways to solve the problems related to the production and consumption of animal proteins. Consumers need to be well informed about the impact of their consumption patterns on natural resources.

However, given the global scale of the problems and the recent developments regarding food availability and the rising food prices, the change in diet patterns and the production and consumption of animal proteins should also be put on the international agenda.

Another important issue in the discussion about sustainable consumption is sustainable public procurement, which means that public purchasers take environmental and other sustainability factors into account in their decisions about the purchase of goods and services.

Since 1999, the Netherlands' government has been actively encouraging the procurement of sustainable goods and services. If procurement officers consider both social and environmental criteria during the procurement process, it creates significantly higher demand for sustainable products and services.

The Netherlands Government aims to set a good example to both citizens and industry. We therefore strive to include sustainability criteria in a number of contracts between our local and national agencies and businesses. In this way the government functions as a launching consumer and stimulates also sustainable entrepreneurship in the private sector.

Sustainable procurement programs are not only necessary in states but also needed in this "house"; the United Nations.

The Netherlands therefore proposes to make sustainable procurement, including the formulation of indicators, an essential part of the UN programme SUN. This could also include the training of staff members in sustainable procurement.

Thank you Mr Chairman.