

CPR Subcommittee meeting dd 21 January 2021

NL Statements

Agenda Item 2. Briefing on the preparations for the Food System Summit 2021.

- The UN Secretary General's initiative to organize a UN Food Systems Summit in 2021 reinforces the sense of urgency to feed a growing population in a time of growing scarcity and promotes international cooperation and coordination of efforts.
- Today, over 820 million people are hungry, even as one-third of all food is either lost or wasted. Malnutrition in all its forms is now the number one factor contributing to the global burden of disease and reduced life expectancy. Food systems contribute up to 29 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions and agriculture is responsible for up to 80 per cent of biodiversity loss.
- The food systems approach acknowledges that food and agriculture are closely linked to environment related issues like climate change, natural resource management, water and sanitation, but also with private sector development, infrastructure and public health. A food systems approach therefor reinforces the interconnection with all SDGs. In fact, transforming food systems will provide a huge opportunity to contribute to achieving our Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.
- We hope that this Summit will mark the start of an action agenda to improve the outcomes of food systems globally.
- And in particular:
 1. A better organized science – policy interface: FSS Scientific Group will be instrumental to lay the foundations to ensure this interface between science and policy
 2. A multi-stakeholder approach, actively involving the private sector: we need a broad range of stakeholders with their boots on the ground to help redesign models of food production and consumption, to ensure the summit is truly action- and results-oriented
 3. We also need national ownership and action: Food systems are complex and multi-dimensional in nature. There is no one-size-fits-all approach: interventions need to be tailored to local contexts. The sharing of practices, combined with national dialogues, will inform us about which interventions are most promising in impact and scalability, so national governments can take the lead in developing concrete policies based on these food systems analyses and dialogues.
- The Netherlands will step up its own domestic efforts on food system transformations considerably, works within the EU to ensure a substantially more ambitious EU-effort and invests around 300 million Euro per year to support developing countries in developing their food system actions and approaches.
- We stand ready to facilitate partnerships and support the work of the Special Envoy's team politically, technically and through preparatory events in the Netherlands. We will be involved in 3 of the 5 Action Tracks: 1. Ensure safe and nutritious food for all 3. Boost nature positive production and 5. Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress.
- We collaborate with other EU member states to provide relevant input to the Advisory Committee and we have made a financial contribution of EUR 1 million to the WFP Trust Fund.
- In short, the Netherlands is fully committed to making the 2021 Food Systems Summit a success.

Agenda Item 3. Annual report for UNEP's Private Sector Engagement.

- NL concurs with the views expressed by the EU We also liaise with the points made by SWI with regards to Due Diligence and recognize points made by NO with regards to focusing reporting on private sector engagement more on results and outcomes.
- Additionally and to underline some of these points, we would like to share some observations on this report in light of UNEPs private sector engagement strategy, the MTS and the overview of activities presented in this report:
 - NL strongly believes that to achieve the environmental dimension of sustainable development, the private sector has an important role to play
 - Dialogue and partnerships between public and private actors, NGOs, knowledge institutions, national and local authorities will be instrumental to address the challenges we face in achieving the SDGs, taking into account the COVID pandemic situation, but also recognizing the 3 environmental crises we face on climate, biodiversity and pollution

- We therefore welcome that the role of private sector engagement has been recognized through various decisions and resolutions at UNEA, as highlighted in the report, but also by the ED in various interventions as well as the Medium Term Strategy
- And as our EU colleague mentioned, we also support the strategy for private sector engagement as discussed in 2019, and we certainly look forward to its' implementation and update in the context of the MTS, once it is approved.
- We believe that to achieve the objectives of UNEPs work, and to bring environmental action to scale, strategic cooperation with the private sector is indispensable: to take advantage of their knowledge and innovations, to promote rapid uptake and sharing best practices and to greening investments and we believe that to accelerate the transitions that are required to achieve the 2030 Agenda, UNEPs engagement with the private sector and in multistakeholder partnerships should be targeted, focused and results oriented, to contribute to scaling innovative solutions.
- Against that background we appreciate the summing up of activities that is provided and we certainly support the intention to provide such an overview on an annual basis, in particular through the table that provides information on the status, timelines and lessons learned/contributions of the partnerships.
- However, we would appreciate if the narrative part would be more concise and better placed in the context of the private sector engagement strategy and focus much more on the results that have been achieved and their contribution to the objectives of the specific action areas following from the program of work.
- It is only then, that the CPR – and possibly also the secretariat themselves - will be in a position to evaluate the added value of the partnerships, identify potential synergies, including for MSs actions, and make useful contributions to guide the implementation of the POW including the Private Sector Strategy.
- In that regard, the presentation just made provides a first step to structure better the information provided.
- We are happy to engage with the secretariat at a bilateral basis to provide further detail on how we think this can be achieved.