

Abstract of Statement Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN organisations in Rome, Dr Hans Hoogeveen

The challenge

The world's peatlands are essential to realizing our shared vision for people and our planet. They are essential for our prosperity and stability of the global climate. That's why the United Nations committed to the implementation of Agenda 2030, especially the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These Sustainable Development Goals are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. They call for transformative action to save them. Nevertheless they are under severe threats because of food insecurity and climate change

There is more than enough food produced in the world to feed everyone, yet 815 million people go hungry. To feed another two billion people in 2050, food production will need to increase by 50 percent globally. Food security (SDG 2: No Hunger) is requiring a holistic approach to all forms of malnutrition, the productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, resilience of food production systems and the sustainable use of biodiversity and genetic resources.

Today the contrast in the world couldn't be bigger. Today we are wasting more than one third of our produced food

World hunger on the rise

After steadily declining for over a decade, global hunger appears to be on the rise, affecting 11 percent of the global population. World hunger is on the rise: the estimated number of undernourished people increased from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016.

Climate change impacts bigger than ever

And let's not forget climate change. Every day we see the aspects of climate change. More than two-thirds of the coral in Australia's Great Barrier Reef is experiencing "shocking" amounts of bleaching, new aerial surveys have revealed. Cause rising temperatures due to climate change which led to increased famines.

Drought and conflict are taking its unbelievable toll. Of course drought has always been there, still is and will be in Europe, in the US, in Asia, but especially in Africa. But because of climate change drought is getting worse than ever. Although the rate of deforestation is slowing down over 6 million hectare of natural forests are lost every year with serious consequences for peatlands.

Promoting and supporting partnerships to harness the knowledge and experience of stakeholders and enabling targeted actions for drought response, agricultural production and sustainable use of water in agriculture is the way forward, thereby addressing the challenges for agricultural production and livelihoods posed by climate change.

Way forward

The crises are manmade, so we can solve these as well. Fortunately, the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs give the global community a strong framework for action. Investing in rural development and building stable and resilient food systems are an indispensable aspect of such a framework. We need to build robust, resilient and just food systems and landscape approaches, if not recovery is undermined before it has begun.

What's needed is transformative *diplomacy and actions*. *The call for action is more than urgent*. We have to recognize the importance of the existing international intergovernmental processes, but the translation into action is lagging behind, partly due to the limited involvement of relevant stakeholders. We need a paradigm shift towards:

- Breaking down the silos in an inclusive land use and landscape approach combining

climate smart agriculture, sustainable forest management, biodiversity and climate change;
- More and inclusive action on the ground, involving not only governments but the relevant stakeholders using collaborative dialogue and co-management of natural resources;
- Stronger involvement of the private sector, civil society networks, private financial institutions and international foundations. Experience is that the private sector and many companies stand ready to cooperate. But often it are the UN organizations and governments who hesitate and are stumbling over procedural and bureaucratic issues. |
We have to break down the silos, otherwise even more millions of people will be left behind.
- Use much more market based approaches.

Innovation/Dutch approach

Dutch agriculture and nature management rapidly changed more than 50 years ago by investing in ... triple helix. Investing in innovation, sustainability and partnerships. Now, smallholder farmers are largely a thing of the past in the Netherlands

Scaling up access to innovations

And yes we can. We have the technologies, we have the experience, we have funding. Major investments in rural development and agriculture should be made an integral part of rebuilding efforts. We have no shortage of knowledge, technologies, resources and good practices for addressing the drought and improving agricultural rural development.

Technology is on our side. The challenge is how we ensure that the knowledge, technologies and best practices are available in Africa and other regions.

We invite you to find these answers and join in action along the 4 themes of today:

1. Integrating and aligning water and soil management strategies to maximize response
2. Connecting to innovations and technologies: changing threats to opportunities
3. Moving from reactive to proactive landscape management via public-private approaches, breaking down the silos and managing competing claims
4. Mainstreaming in the context of Agenda 2030.