

Dialogue between Heads of Delegation, the Secretary General, and Heads of Delegation of the Permanent Observer Countries to the OAS on the theme of the XLII Regular Session of the General Assembly, "Food Security with Sovereignty"

June 3, 2012

Cochabamba, Bolivia

Permanent Observer Mission of the Netherlands

Remarks delivered by:

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1. Spreekpunten inleiding:

- The Kingdom of the Netherlands is a part of both Europe and the Western Hemisphere, and as such we attach great value to our relationship with the countries of this region and with the Organization of American States.
- Our commitment to the OAS and its institutions has been underscored notably by our consistent financial support for the important work of the OAS. Our contribution of 500.000 euros to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) for the period 2011-2012 is a good example of this.

2. Spreekpunten food Security:

- The Kingdom of the Netherlands is pleased with the topic of this year's General Assembly, as this is both timely and highly relevant for the Americas. Moreover, as the world's **second largest exporter in the agro and food sector (after USA)** there is much scope for increased cooperation between the Netherlands and OAS member States. Please allow me to make a few brief remarks on the subject:
- There is a worldwide consensus that investments in food and nutrition security are not only needed to reduce hunger and poverty for millions of poor farm families in developing countries, but that such investments are also economically sound.
- Worldwide the interrelationship between purchasing power and food markets, between production and carrying capacity of the earth's resources and between political power and food security has been acknowledged. The expert opinions and political will combined have influenced international and national strategies.
- It can thus be concluded that the WHAT question has been answered for many aspects of the broad food security agenda. More work is still to be done on the HOW question.
- Taking food security as a chain of interventions from agricultural production to consumption, the significance and presence of private sector actors in this chain is striking. An important effort in the Dutch development policy is therefore to create the space for private sector in developing countries to flourish, by removing unnecessary obstacles and creating an enabling environment.
- Consequently, private sector actors are to increase food production in a sustainable manner and to increase access to food of good and nutritional quality. Emphasis is given to the inclusion of small scale farmers, including women, as part and parcel of the private sector.

- Dutch development policy also places emphasis on involving Dutch expertise and know how. The Netherlands is, after the USA, **the second biggest exporter in the Agro and Food sector**. Developing countries can benefit a lot from what Dutch knowledge institutions and business community have to offer, mainly through public-private partnerships.