

**Statement Hans Hoogeveen, Vice-Minister for Agriculture,  
Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Netherlands**

**Oceans Day at CoP21 in Paris**

*Paris, Friday 4 December 2015*

*'Perspectives on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation  
and the Blue Economy'*

Your Excellencies, Jr. President Tommy Remengesau, Minister  
Manuel Pulgar – Vidal, Minister Laurent Fabius, Commissioner Vella,  
*Ocean Leaders, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

On behalf of the Netherlands I would like to congratulate Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain and her team at the Global Ocean Forum for taking a leadership role in this agenda and organizing this timely event during a milestone meeting, connecting Oceans to the UN climate change negotiations in the beautiful city of Paris. This meeting is offering the perfect environment to navigate our joint action addressing the global challenge we face today, and in the coming years.

*Your Excellencies,*

Healthy seas and oceans are key to rising to our challenge today. We need to build a more sustainable relationship with our oceans, as they are vital for food production, economic growth, livelihoods and

food security.

Oceans cover 71 percent of Earth, yet provide less than 2 percent of our food – for now. Huge potential to be unlocked.

Threats to ocean health – including climate change, overfishing, habitat change, acidification and pollution – affect our ability to use the oceans to drive sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, strong economies and healthy communities.

People have never consumed so much fish or depended so greatly on the sector for their well-being as today, according to FAO's *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture*. Fish remains an ever-important source of energy, protein and a range of essential nutrients, accounting for almost 17% of the global population's intake of animal protein, directly contributing to human health.

On the positive side the importance of restoring ocean health has been broadly recognized. A Sustainable Development Goal to Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development, has been adopted last September in New York, making Oceans integral part of Agenda 2030. We also see the results in the climate change agenda, as we are all proudly part of this dedicated Oceans Day at CoP21 in Paris.

But this will not be enough, if we don't scale up our efforts for restoring ocean health there will be no fish left by 2030.

This is why the Government of the Netherlands hosted the Global Oceans Action Summit for Blue Growth and Food Security in The Hague, April last year. Organized in close collaboration with key partners Grenada, Indonesia, Mauritius, Norway, United States of America, FAO and World Bank.

Under the slogan – *A new wave for the world* – the Summit brought together a diverse range of over 600 ocean stakeholders, including 80 Ministers, to identify solutions and success stories that reconcile competing interests and show how governance, partnerships and finance can help scale up activities that result in shared prosperity today and for future generations.

*Your Excellencies,*

How do we turn the tide? And solve the world's food puzzle?

Small-scale fisheries play a foundational role in **balancing growth and conservation**. The small scale sector needs strong recognition, particularly in the context of blue growth for food security, livelihoods and alleviation of poverty. Here I want to highlight the leading role of women.

Also I want to highlight the need to booster **marine protected areas**. Their multifunctional role for food, coastal protection, biodiversity is crucial for supporting livelihoods and jobs in many

countries. And I compliment WWF with the work they are doing in this field, and welcome their report on marine protected areas and their latest 'Living Blue Planet' report.

**Private sector and social equity** - Private sector and local communities should be put in the forefront of the development and implementation of international instruments to guide work on mid and small-scale fisheries. And cooperation between business and governments is needed to implement projects and programmes.

**Investment** - The uptake and execution of innovative financing mechanisms, like blue bonds, will need to be strengthened, to mobilize domestic and international and private resources for enhancing ocean health.

The outcomes of the Summit contributed to and linked with a variety of national, regional and international processes, including the Samoa Pathway that paved the way for the SDG on Oceans, the climate change agenda and Agenda 2030.

Participants also called for championing new, concrete and innovative actions and partnerships, specifically in the field of Blue Growth and Food Security.

As a concrete follow-up the inclusive and voluntary **Global Network for Action on Blue Growth and Food Security** was launched in Grenada in March this year.

Early 2016 Grenada will serve as a breeding ground to boost innovative ways of collaboration and financing, and inspire for a **Global Partnership and Investment Conference – for Blue Growth and Food Security**, facilitating public – private partnerships and moving more investment into blue growth.

**The Blue Growth Partnership and Investment Conference** will help move towards these targets by putting potential partners together from the public and private sector. Success with this event will help us move the needle on Ocean Health and Ocean Wealth, serving as a market place for action, partnerships and investment. I invite you all to come to Grenada next year!

*Ladies and gentlemen*

Lastly I would like to draw your attention to a closely related challenge the Netherlands has committed itself to – the reduction of **Food Losses and Waste**, contributing directly to increasing global food security. To meet the global food demand of a projected 9 billion people in 2050, it is estimated that 60 percent more food is needed.

On the other side an estimated 32 percent - basically one third - of all food produced in the world is lost or wasted from farm to fork. This huge level of inefficiency has economic, social, and environmental impacts. Food loss and waste causes about 750

billion US dollars in economic losses per year. In brief, food loss aggravates food insecurity and malnutrition.

By reducing food losses and waste along the fishery and aquaculture chain the potential for fish proteins intake can be increased by 10%.

Besides SDG 14 focused on Oceans, SDG target 12.3 shows the importance of reducing food losses and waste. To help convert Target 12.3 into reality, the global conference on No More Food to Waste (held in The Hague in June 2015) proposed the formation of “Champions 12.3”. Champions 12.3 will form a high-profile, voluntary, and inclusive partnership of governments, private sector, international organizations, research institutions, and civil society dedicated to inspiring ambition, mobilizing action, and accelerating progress toward achieving SDG Target 12.3 by 2030.

The Government of the Netherlands and the World Resources Institute will jointly serve as “mobilizer” for Champions 12.3, coordinating convening’s, providing analytical support, helping Champions to engage the media, policymakers, and financial institutions.

Wasting less means feeding more.

I invite you all to join the Champions!

Thank you