



Koninkrijk
der Nederlanden



To: **All CSD delegations / Representatives Permanent Missions**

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands cordially invites you to an interactive panel discussion, organized by the Netherlands' Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Housing, Spatial Planning & Environment, the Netherlands Women's Council and ANPED (Northern Alliance for Sustainability), entitled

**Biomass production for Biofuels?
Only if sustainable: how to achieve social, economic and ecological sustainability**

Date Wednesday, 7 May 2008
Time 1.15 PM to 2.45 PM
Venue Conference Room 6, UN Headquarters

The panel hopes to contribute to this year's deliberations of the Commission on Sustainable development (CSD) with an interactive discussion on how to achieve social, economic and ecological sustainability in biomass production for biofuels.

'Never mind about biofuels' and 'We don't need them'. It seems biofuels have quickly lost their cachet. The logging of rainforests and the displacement of food crops by biofuel crops, resulting in higher food and fodder prices, have cast biofuels in a bad light. In short, the cure is worse than the disease? We acknowledge these problems. A key first step in this regard was the development of sustainability criteria. The Dutch Committee on Sustainable Biomass, the Cramer Committee, presented six such criteria last year, including the stipulation that CO₂ gains yielded through the use of biofuels must exceed those of fossil fuels by many factors, must not be produced at the expense of biodiversity (i.e. rainforest deforestation must be halted), not compete with food production and biomass / biofuel production and must be socially responsible (i.e. contribute to the prosperity and well-being of local populations). Within the European Union a set of sustainability criteria for biofuels and bioliquids developed by the European Commission is currently under discussion.

The question now is how we will apply those criteria jointly with other countries and NGOs / CSOs – going from drawing board to practical reality. We will have to demonstrate that our ideas can actually work. The Netherlands and NGOs want to discuss and demonstrate how things should and can be done: a chance in the challenge.

The panellists/speakers in the event will be **Ms. Nienke Smeets**, policy advisor of the Netherlands' Ministry of Environment, a speaker of the Drylands Coordination Group, **Neth Dano** of Third World Network, **Nnimmo Bassey** of Friends of the Earth Africa and a speaker from the NVR.

The panel will be moderated by **Ms. Lesha Witmer**, chair of the Commission on Sustainable Development of the Netherlands women's Council (NVR).

We would be grateful for your participation in this event. Please RSVP to diana.khilawan@minbuza.nl.
Netherlands Permanent Mission to the UN
ANPED
NVR

New York, April 30, 2008