

## The Kingdom of the Netherlands

### Positions for the World Food Programme – Executive Board

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#### **I. Strengthening Partnerships to Improve the World Food Programme’s Emergency Response in Times of Global Crises**

The Kingdom of the Netherlands recognizes the current state of financial despair internationally as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and we understand that it has led to a greater need for funding to reach goals set by the WFP. With this in mind, the Kingdom of the Netherlands is determined to work with our fellow Member States and international actors to identify solutions to this scarcity in funding in order to stay on track to meet those goals. In 2020, the World Food Programme saw the largest donation from Member States, over \$7 billion USD, in its history. The Netherlands contributed more than \$66 million USD, making us the 17<sup>th</sup> largest donor. According to the WFP, donations in 2021 are likely to fall short of those received in 2020 as a result of the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. While we have remained steadfast in our commitment to donate to the WFP, our contribution has dropped to just over \$50 million USD, and we fear the impacts as other Member States’ donations also decline. Therefore, securing financial support from governments, corporations, and individuals is even more imperative to ensure that the WFP can accomplish the objectives set forth in the WFP’s Strategic Plan for 2017-2021 that is guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the 2030 Agenda – particularly SDG 2 on ending hunger and SDG 17 on revitalizing global partnerships for implementation of the SDGs.

The Netherlands believes that SDG 17 is crucial element for creating relationships at both the national and international levels for WFP funding. The Netherlands has a rich history of public-private partnerships through a variety of relationships with Dutch multi-stakeholders. Domestically, we are dedicated to agri-food innovation. Through agri-food innovation, we work with 15 of the largest agri-food companies in the world, including Nestlé and Coca-Cola. Collaboration with these companies encourages the development of new technologies and techniques. Partnerships are not limited to companies, as the Netherlands also works with Dutch research institutes such as Wageningen University & Research. Other projects, such as the Geodata for Agriculture and Water program, uses satellite data to improve food security in developing countries and provides smallholders with geodata, mobile connectivity, and satellites to share agricultural advice. We have participated in private sector partnership and fundraising efforts including the *Safe Access to Firewood and alternative Energy* “SAFE” project, which created in the Netherlands and aimed to inspire people to be part of a sustainable life-changing solution to cooking with stoves and different forms of energy. Today, the National Postcode Loterij and the WFP were able to provide innovative sustainable solutions by using the SAFE project to respond to problems of Darfur households that included environmental issues and energy efficiency. The SAFE project aligned with the WFP’s strategic plans to support food security, reduce risk and enable people, and reduce undernutrition. This project also responded to the WFP’s Sudan-specific goals to building resilience in local communities, to withstand shocks and seasonal vulnerability, and tackle the underlying causes of food insecurity.

Accomplishing food security and improving nutrition remain top goals for the WFP, and it is important that Member States retain focus on achieving these goals even as Member States continue combat the novel Coronavirus and global conflicts. Currently, there is severe food insecurity in Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. According to the WFP, the vast majority of those facing serious hunger live in conflict areas. In 2018, the Netherlands introduced an initiative to ban starvation as a weapon of war, and it passed unanimously. Keeping in mind these particular areas as well as the deteriorating food conditions around the globe, we encourage Member States to help in devising agreements and partnerships with corporations and private actors that will contribute funding to the WFP and help the Programme stay on track with the international community’s goals and prevent rising levels of hunger. The Netherlands has successfully provided economic and resource incentives in private partnerships. This public-private partnership model could be a strong model for developed states to mimic. The Kingdom of the Netherlands also encourages past contributing Member States and private entities to honor their commitments to the WFP to ensure that funds are available to combat growing levels of food insecurity and hunger as global

health, security, and economic crises continue to plague the international system through the **Continue In Times of Adversity (CITA) Initiative**. By ramping up the social media platforms of individual Member States and the WFP, individuals could be reached as well as Member States, organizations, and business. The Netherlands looks forward to continued collaboration with other Member States as we work to devise a strategy to overcome the financial restraint caused by COVID-19 and other ongoing crises.

## **II. Expanding Food Security for Socially Excluded and Marginalized Groups**

The Netherlands recognizes that marginalized groups will continue to bear the brunt of food insecurity in a world unprepared to handle our changing climate. As a long-time member of the FAO and WFP, the Netherlands has long understood the harms of hunger, and we have worked diligently to help achieve SDG 2, zero hunger, by 2030. In the Netherlands, we see poverty as the most significant contributing factor to marginalization. In 1995, poor single-parent families and single persons on or below the minimum income were over-represented in the group having difficulty making ends meet (64% and 43%, respectively). In total, around 70,000 households were unable to afford a full hot meal every other day. We also see migrants and refugees as being especially vulnerable to social exclusion and food insecurity. They must build entirely new social networks, often without much prior knowledge of their new State's language or laws. The Netherlands believes that poverty is cyclical, and in line with many of our local municipalities, we aim to nationally reduce poverty by targeting our nation's youth. Broad schools offer significantly more resources than other schools, including increased access to children with special needs and food for children opting to stay at school longer. Neighborhood networks for youth welfare are aimed at detecting potential threats such as maltreatment, learning disabilities, or lack of resources at an early age to ensure that these issues can be addressed as soon as possible. Step-by-step programmes, which work with parents to increase communication with their children, are especially helpful to migrant families because one of the services provided is assistance with learning the Dutch language and information as to how to navigate their new government and its resources.

The programmes mentioned above have become especially important as we continue to provide for socially marginalized groups both at home and internationally. Human rights are a cornerstone of the Netherlands' foreign aid. We are committed to increasing protection for marginalized communities across the globe. The Netherlands welcomed 94,430 refugees and asylum seekers in 2019 and over 100,000 in each of the preceding three years. The Dutch government has also taken steps to support refugees, allocating \$453 million, or 9% of the Official Development Assistance budget, to assist with refugee housing costs in 2021. Additionally, the Netherlands has given additional funding to fight the root causes of poverty, migration, terrorism, and environmental challenges in Africa and the Middle East. The Netherlands hopes to address the root causes of these problems in their places of origin to reduce the number of refugees in an effort to prevent the chance of individuals falling into poverty.

Using the definitions for marginalized groups as determined by GENEVA in 2014 of "refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers" and those living below their respective States' poverty lines, we urge our fellow Member States to work towards implementing similar policies to our local youth protection programmes. By providing children and their parents with access to step-by-step programmes that assist all parents in communicating effectively with their children as well as assisting refugees and migrants in adapting to their new home, we can ensure a more connected society, we have a greater chance at lowering the number of individuals feeling socially excluded by helping them bond with their families as well as understand the culture of those around them. Other programmes such as broad schools are also a crucial step to take towards mitigating poverty and hunger. Broad schools offer increased support for children with special needs, dedicated time to learning foreign languages and workforce skillsets, and food for children during traditional school sessions and in after-school programmes. These programmes encourage children to learn as a means to accumulating resources and have proven beneficial for reducing the rates of children dropping out of school. Social programmes such as neighborhood networks for youth welfare will also encourage communities to work together because, as the adage goes, it takes a village to raise a child. The encouragement of teachers, community leaders, and even neighbors to be more involved in the lives of children increases the likelihood that potential problems will be identified early on, and it also has the added benefit of bonding communities together and creating social networks that parents of these children can rely – networks that they may not have had otherwise.