

CSD 16 - High Level Roundtable on Inter-linkages, May 14 2008
Statement by Mr. Gerard PAYEN, President of AquaFed,
on behalf of the Business and Industry Major Group

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am the president of AquaFed, speaking on behalf of Business and Industry groups represented here. At CSD, we are very honoured to be able to speak in this forum.

Agriculture and water are two key cross-cutting issues for sustainable development. As business and industry, we believe we can help bring solutions to some of the problems currently faced in these areas.

Throughout the discussions this week, the need to create enabling conditions for investment in infrastructure, research, extension and education have been highlighted, alongside actual increased investment in these areas. Sustainable solutions exist but they must be scaled up.

Good **water supply and sanitation** services are key for economic development. The whole business community needs the water and sanitation MDGs to be met. However, we would like to stress the need for acceleration of progress, for more ambitious objectives and for Integrated Sanitation Management. Private operators are increasingly used by governments as implementing tools for their water and sanitation policies. Their experience is being used for solving technical, managerial, financial or even societal challenges. The implementation of successful partnership programmes largely depends on the existence of a stable environment in which to operate.

We also want to stress the need for long term as well as short term solutions to deal with the current **food** situation. The policies which will best help solve the current difficulties are those that tackle the root causes in an integrated and co-operative manner. Food and productivity policies should be designed to encourage and support local entrepreneurs such as agro-dealers and farmers in developing markets, rather than undermining them by flooding markets with cheaper products or by-passing them altogether.

Training and stewardship programmes should also be considered as cornerstones for sustainable resources management and agricultural production. Business and Industry is committed to continue its investment in this area but expansion of these programmes is needed to ensure sustainability goals are met.

The conclusion of the Doha round of negotiations should also be a priority for all countries in order to remove existing barriers to trade.

Finally, business and industry recognises that the challenges ahead need to be met in the framework of **climate change mitigation and adaptation**. Increasing water scarcity in many countries makes it necessary to ensure that available water resources are allocated equitably between the various categories of users: population, industries, agriculture, and power generation. The capacity to sustainably manage this scarce resource is ever more pressing. Water is also a very critical resource for agriculture and there is a need for linking up efforts in both fields to ensure sustainability. Business and industry can provide some solutions but to ensure these solutions are adapted to the varied need of different communities, coordination with public sector research and technology co-operation are essential.

Thank you very much