

Inbreng Deltacommissaris Wim Kuijken bij conferentie *Adaptation Futures* 11 mei 2016

As highlighted by her Royal Highness Queen Maxima it is about the **combination** of adequate policies, concrete measures and financial services to deal with the effects of Climate Change.

In my position as Government Commissioner for the Dutch Delta my contribution to our low lying country is to ensure a coherent long term strategy and support that this really leads to action to keep our country safe and livable now and for future generations

The success of an adaptation strategy is based on the awareness of urgency, on connecting local communities (through awareness and commitment) to a nationally and sometimes international directed strategy (achieved through committed government actions).

The Netherlands support to vulnerable populations through:

- Government to government cooperation, like Bangladesh, Vietnam and Myanmar supporting in coherent strategies in Deltaplans and leading to real action at ground level involving local populations.
- Multi-lateral, via UN-organizations and International Financial Institutes (like World Bank) ensuring a coherent approach and access to financial means leading to larger adaptation projects;
- And, in concrete bilateral projects that support local vulnerable populations in small scale activities (e.g. disaster risk reduction activities and early warning systems)

My advice: Let COP22 include frameworks for adaptation policies

Reflection regarding the 3 pitches 'Enabling Environment for adaptation'

My personal experience is to ensure 5 principles for a successful approach. These five principles ensure long term commitment that translate to immediate action based on a coherent and prioritized strategy. The five principles to incorporate and plan for adaptation are:

- A coherent adaptation plan that ensures *multi governmental* commitment (connecting long term goals with short term projects, yearly update, presented to Parliament), we call it here "the Deltaprogram".
- Strategic decisions or in other words the (strategic) political choices to be taken and prioritizing the required actions,

- Coordinating direction, supervising coherence on the content and adequate multi-governmental commitment and implementation, year after year.
- Funding. There must be financial means to realise the considered projects. The way this is organised can vary per country. It's an insurance premium.
- Legislation, to ensure the long term commitment and legal "anchoring" of the institutional framework

In NL the 5 Dutch D's: Delta program, Delta decisions, Delta commissioner, Delta fund and Delta-act. Realized and active since 2010.

Furthermore, I would recommend an adaptive approach where, if possible, flexible measure contribute to resilience. In other words, measures you can still modify or accelerate in case the impact of climate change is worse than expected.

Pitch Delta Commissioner on how to 'Engage the private sector'

Flood risk management and fresh water supply require a **joint** effort of government authorities, knowledge institutes, private sector and the public.

First I would like to state that investment in resilience pays back in avoiding societal- and economical disruption as well as avoiding casualties. The UN has calculated that the costs of reconstruction after a disaster has struck is 7 times higher than the costs of preventive measures. Here, clearly, lies the responsibility with governments to initiate such action and to invest in flood resilience. In my opinion we should engage and **challenge the private sector** much more in affordable and innovative solutions to climate adaptation, stimulating the private sector to develop bankable projects. Projects with a double-objective: investments that contribute to climate resilience as well as create commercial opportunities supporting in return of investment.

For example creating multifunctional objectives like generating energy from flood defense infrastructure, parking lots in sea dyke's, multifunctional boulevards or stimulating recreational opportunities while strengthening the coastline. Create value!

In the Netherlands private parties are encouraged to develop innovative solutions to maintain our coastline, enforce our dykes, improve fresh water supply or increase climate resilience of the urban environment. The Dutch Delta Program stimulates the community of people working on the program, public and private.

Trust and long term commitment leads to the implementation of innovations in concrete pilot projects and public-private-partnerships.