

Intervention from the Netherlands at agenda item 3.a.5
Machtelijn Brummel (LNV) and Indy van de Sande (IenW)
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From the Netherlands, we would like to share the following points and developments with the UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development:

Part 1 (explained by Indy van de Sande)

1. National Circular Economy Programme (NPCE) 2023-2030

- In February 2023, the Government presented the National Circular Economy Programme 2023-2030.
- By 2050, the Netherlands aspires to have a fully circular economy. This means that the environmental effects of the use of raw materials for Dutch production and consumption need to fall within 'planetary boundaries'.
- The new policy programme elaborates the ambitious circular economy and climate goals and represents new steps towards a fully circular economy.
- To accelerate this transition, there is an urgent need for (young) professionals who maintain the right sustainable and circular competences. Education is key. Therefore, in this new policy program, education is presented a crucial theme to accelerate the transition.

2. NPCE Chapter 4.7 on Education

- Chapter 4.7 in the new National Circular Economy Programme primarily focuses on education for the circular and sustainable transition. We seek to increase relevant knowledge, skills, competences on the circular economy and on sustainability to the attention within education.
- This chapter contains a government wide ambition: in close collaboration with schools, education councils, and other stakeholders promoting sustainability, the government will explore how to enhance and integrate knowledge and skills for sustainability and the circular economy into education, responding to specific needs.
- Regarding to the needs, the education sector (primary and secondary education and vocational education) has expressed a clear need for concrete and local support, best practices, sharing knowledge and assistance in integrating sustainability into education. There is also a need for an overarching strategy from the government to facilitate the sector in their needs. The government aims to facilitate these needs.
- The interdepartmental working group on Sustainable School, launched in 2021, consisting of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science; the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality; the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations; and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, will translate the government wide ambition into next concrete steps.
- The working group collaborates at the intersection of sustainability, youth and education and the Whole School Approach is one of the approaches that are used.
- To gain a more concrete understanding of the needs of education, the working group conducted six school visits last year to hear about the challenges schools face when they aim to integrate sustainability and circularity comprehensively into their education. These insights have been taken into account in the subsequent steps of the working group.
- The next step is that the interdepartmental working group will develop a strategy aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, extending until 2030. The strategy analyze how we can work towards a tailored support structure for education to facilitate in their needs. The

working group is therefore in consultation with education professionals to explore the most suitable support structure that aligns with their needs. The expectation is to launch this strategy at the end of this year.

Part 2 (explained by Machtelijn Brummel)

