

Thank you Chair and dear Colleagues,

And thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide some insights in this exchange of views and we want to thank the previous speakers for sharing their experiences.

In the context of the promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums, more specifically on the issue of balanced and equitable participation and different modalities for engaging stakeholders in international decision-making, the Netherlands would like to take the opportunity to note the following.

The Netherlands highly values the inclusion and participation of different perspectives in its participation to different international fora. For example, with regard to the COP on the Convention on Biodiversity and the COP to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, but also in the negotiations on a new legally binding instrument so as to combat plastic pollution, the Netherlands involves many different actors in preparing such meetings and negotiations. For example, the Netherlands has set up different advisory or consultative groups with experts from the Governmental sector, to which NGOs, businesses or other actors can participate. For the COP to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, for example, several NGOs are requested to join the meetings of the delegations. Furthermore, often there is an NGO representative that joins the delegation to the COP to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

In addition, the Netherlands often invited youth representatives to its delegations to international meetings or negotiations, such as to the COP on the Convention on Biodiversity and the COP to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as the plastics negotiations, so as to safeguard that the perspectives of youngsters and future generations will be taken into account.

However, we look forward to exchanging views with others so we can learn from each other and perhaps get inspired as well as to set up in involving other, non-governmental, actors.

Furthermore, we think it important that there is enough time for interventions from NGOs and for reactions from UN countries on such interventions during these negotiations.

Once more, thank you very much for allowing us time to exchange views on the issue of balanced and equitable participation and different modalities for engaging stakeholders in international decision-making.