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**“REALISING INCLUSIVE AND GREEN GROWTH:
Business & Industry Consultation with Government and Civil Society”
The Hague, the Netherlands, 11-12 April, 2012**

The Government of the Netherlands, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and Business Action for Sustainable Development (BASD 2012) have the honour to invite you to participate at the above mentioned High Level Consultation. The meeting, to be held at senior business executives and ministerial or equivalent level, will convene at the World Forum in The Hague, on 11-12 April 2012.

As you know, in June 2012, world leaders will gather in Rio de Janeiro for the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which marks the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which produced Agenda 21, the first comprehensive global blueprint on sustainable development. The Rio+20 Conference will provide the international community an opportunity to take stock on what has been achieved in sustainable development and to take further concrete action on what remains to be accomplished. Rio+20 will consider two themes in particular: a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and the institutional frameworks for sustainable development.

In the lead up to Rio+20, Member States, Business Representatives and other stakeholders are engaging in discussions on how best to cooperate to promote movement towards an inclusive and green economy, bearing in mind different national circumstances and priorities, the primacy of poverty eradication and the important role of the private sector in sustainable development. The Hague Consultation will be a major event in the Rio+20 preparatory process and provide a critical contribution to the public discourse.

The meeting will offer an opportunity for Business, Member States and the wider international community to discuss critical private sector issues for Rio+20 and the role of business in realising inclusive green growth. The consultation will engage major civil society groups as appropriate. The aim of the meeting is to:

- a) stimulate action and increase awareness in international public-private collaboration in realising inclusive green growth, and

- b) develop constructive global private sector key messages from business to the Rio+20 Conference

The Consultation (see attached provisional agenda) will open on 11 April with an inaugural session and keynote address by the Host Government followed by a Panel discussion on the key issues and themes. In addition roundtable discussions and breakout sessions have been included to facilitate deliberations in specific topic areas. The meeting will be conducted in English only.

The final outcomes of the High Level Consultation will be captured in an action oriented outcome document that will be shared by the Government of the Netherlands with the Preparatory Process for Rio+20, and by BASD with other major groups and stakeholders.

In a view to a tight timeframe for meeting preparation it would be greatly appreciated if your representative could confirm by 10 March 2012 completing the registration form at the following website: www.rio2012-businessconsultation.nl, using the access code listed at the top of the letter).

You may wish to initiate the visa request (see note on logistics for details) at the earliest convenience, if necessary. This invitation letter may be used to support the visa application

The draft program of the consultation is attached for your information. Further information on logistics and visa application is available at the website.

We would be delighted with your participation at the conference and look forward to welcoming you in The Hague.

Please accept the assurance of our highest consideration,

Sha Zukang
Under-Secretary-General
Secretary-General for the
Conference on
Sustainable Development
(Rio+20)

Ben Knapen
Minister for European Affairs
and International Cooperation
of the Netherlands

Kris Gopalakrishnan
Chairman
Business Action for
Sustainable Development