

**PSM statement on water (Nico van Belzen, IDF)
*On behalf of the Private Sector Mechanism***

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. My name is Nico van Belzen and I am the Director General of the International Dairy Federation, a multi-stakeholder organization which since 1903 aims to help nourish the world with safe and sustainable dairy. Thank you for the opportunity to make these comments on behalf of the Private Sector Mechanism.

The Private Sector Mechanism is very concerned about the improvement of water management that will be required to make the necessary increase of food production possible. We believe that the international community should pay more attention to the essential contribution of water to food production throughout its value chain. To this end and in the context of the publication of the report of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Water for Food Security and Nutrition, we would like to highlight key areas where policy recommendations could greatly improve water stewardship:

- 1. Improving water productivity and efficiency:** The only option to feed a growing global population sustainably is to increase the ‘water productivity’ of agricultural production, that is, ‘more crop per drop’ and more liters of milk per liter of water.
- 2. The opportunities provided by water re-use:** We believe that recommendations need to be made to increase wastewater reuse in agriculture to contribute to the achievement of the SDG Target 6.3 that aims at ‘increasing recycling and safe reuse globally’.
- 3.** I would like to share an example of how the dairy sector is working on improving its impact on water resources. Our member countries have requested the federation to provide transparency about the water profile of dairy products in order to enable quantitative monitoring and help identify hotspots for improvement. This water footprinting will be for dairy farms and processors. It will use a life cycle assessment approach, be based on based on ISO and UNEP/SETAC standards and will collaborate with the Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP) partnership hosted here at FAO in which IDF is involved. This guidance is needed because different methodologies exist which deliver inconsistent results. Policy makers will be able to use this guidance at national and regional level for decision making related to water use in livestock production. We plan to publish the guidance later this year.
- 4.** As shown in the example, the private sector is important in providing solutions to improve water management and to invest in research and development. We look forward to continue to contributing to the work of the CFS.