

**Achim Steiner/UNEP/NBO/UNO**

To info@vdw-ev.de

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**Subject: Message form Achim Steiner to IAASTD Meeting in Berlin**

Dear Colleagues,

I am sorry that I am not able to be with you today because of other commitments. However, I did not want to miss the opportunity to express my gratitude for having been invited to this important meeting as well as my deep appreciation in seeing that the future of food and agriculture, so important for sustainable development, is discussed here with many leading experts, stakeholders and colleagues.

We all know that we are reaching ecological limits of our land. We must rethink the way we create our own food and related food access, otherwise we risk undermining the future of the generations who will follow us. And we must succeed in doing so in a changing world, where the population is increasing and the risk of climate change becomes every day more real. What now looks a daunting and unrealistic task is not only achievable but also feasible, if only we decide to pursue and explore solutions that already exist, many of which the IAASTD report outlined at the time. UNEP strongly believes that by transforming our production and consumption pattern with the aim of respecting and enhancing the ecological base that underlies the production not only bring long-term benefits and sustainability, but also will contribute to achieve the goals of economic development.

This meeting is particularly timely as it has the opportunity to generate greater understanding and traction on sustainable agriculture especially as we prepare for Rio, where it has been recognized already as an emerging issue. As such, I hope that your deliberations will be helpful for all of us in shaping the development of a transformative outcome in Rio on the future of food and agriculture and I wish you all the best for a successful meeting.

With my best wishes

Achim Steiner

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