



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SIMON O'CONNELL NAMED SNV CEO

THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS, 30 October 2020 - The Supervisory Board of SNV Netherlands Development Organisation is delighted to announce the appointment of Mr Simon O'Connell as Chief Executive Officer effective 1 December 2020.

"At this time of great global challenge, we are very pleased to have such an experienced and widely-respected development professional to lead the organisation," says Koos Richelle, Chair of the SNV Supervisory Board.



Strong track record

Throughout his 20+ years career working in international development, Simon O'Connell brings a strong track record of effectively managing and building large, geographically-dispersed teams together and delivering results under pressure, with a clear passion and commitment to making a meaningful and lasting difference to addressing poverty and inequality.

"A decade ago, I worked in partnership with SNV in Ethiopia, and I have long admired the organisation's focused technical expertise and commitment to catalysing positive, sustainable impact," says Simon.

For the past 12 years, Simon has worked with the global NGO, Mercy Corps, most recently holding the position of Executive Director with Mercy Corps Europe. During his tenure, he oversaw significant expansion in the scale of operations and impact while developing a multitude of new

partnerships with civil society organisations, the private sector and governments across the globe. Simon's approach is strongly informed by his early career years spent working with communities in remote parts of Africa, and having completed social, rural and international development postgraduate studies at Imperial College London.

He has successfully led country, regional and global teams alongside large-scale humanitarian and development programmes centred around some of the world's toughest challenges and contexts.

"Simon's expertise leading resilience-building interventions that tackle systems-wide change, coupled with his clear belief in local know-how, and a proven commitment to pursuing innovations and partnerships that enable greater impact at scale, make him an outstanding fit with SNV's values and approach," says Koos Richelle.

Strong and diverse network

Simon has a strong and diverse network across governments, civil society organisations and private actors and is seen as a trusted thought leader identifying ways for organisations across sectors to operate more effectively together.

The post-pandemic world will require development organisations such as SNV to find new ways of collaborating, partnering and implementing programmes to increase the scale of its impact. With SNV's long-term presence in more than 25 countries, trusted reputation, robust financial health, and commitment to systems-based approaches, we are strongly placed to do this.

"With 2020 marking the first year in over two decades where the global rate of poverty has increased, and progress towards delivering the Sustainable Development Goals threatened, it is now more critical than ever that we adapt global know-how to local contexts. To have the opportunity to support, enable and lead SNV's 1,300+ global team members to rise to this challenge across the Agriculture, Energy and WASH sectors is both humbling and uplifting," says Simon.

Simon O'Connell succeeds Meike van Ginneken as CEO, who left SNV on 1 October to take up the position of Associate Vice-President for Strategy and Knowledge at the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) in Rome.

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About SNV

SNV is a not-for-profit international development organisation with more than 50 years' experience across Asia, Africa and Central America. With annual revenue in excess of €140 million, it is one of the largest Dutch-based organisations of its kind. SNV works across three sectors; Agriculture, Energy and WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), and seeks to make a lasting difference in the lives of people living in poverty by helping them raise incomes and increase access to basic services.

In 2019, SNV contributed to the improvement in the quality of life of 6.3 million people. It employs more than 1,300 staff globally, with the vast majority of employees being nationals in their home countries. SNV works in partnership with a wide range of bilateral and multilateral donors including the Netherlands government, the European Union, the World Bank, European governments and many others.

[For more information, please contact:](#)

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