

## **Informal Meeting of the UN-REDD Programme Executive Board**

**9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – Madrid, Spain**

**Meliá Avenida América Hotel & Convention Center**

### **Summary of discussion**

#### **Introduction**

The UN-REDD Programme Executive Board held a 1,5 hour informal meeting on the sidelines of the UN Climate Change Conference in Madrid, taking advantage of those EB members attending COP 25, with the objective of sharing updates since the last Executive Board meeting and continuing the discussion on options for a future UN-REDD Programme post-2020.

The meeting was attended by representatives from Chile, Ghana, Japan, Nepal, Norway, Indigenous Peoples, FAO, UNDP, UN Environment, as well as observers from Youth for Nature and the UK (see Annex 1). The discussion was facilitated by the Head of the UN-REDD Secretariat and covered the following agenda items:

#### **Agenda item 1: Updates on progress in the international forests and climate arena**

This session provided an opportunity for sharing highlights of progress in the international forests and climate arena since the last meeting of the Executive Board in June 2019.

A major signal in the second half of 2019 came from the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit held in September, where Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) received unprecedented political attention from heads of state and industry, and the Secretary General himself. In this context, forests are recognised as a fundamental solution – the only sector with methodologies fully agreed under the UNFCCC process, and which has been working and delivering emission reductions over the past 10 years (with 8.8 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e, delivered by nine countries, already registered of the Convention's Lima Hub). UN-REDD expressed its satisfaction for having played a catalytic role in building the policy, stakeholder engagement and institutional foundations of various countries for such achievement. The UN-REDD Secretariat supported the facilitation of the NBS process leading up to the Climate Action Summit.

2020 will be a very important year, providing the opportunity to amplify the actions and results that are already taking place on the ground at the country level, and to further establish forests as a solution that is ready to implement at scale and with the necessary speed. Key milestones of the "2020 Nature Super Year" include the World Economic Forum in Davos in January, the IUCN Congress in June, the Nature Summit at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in September, the CBD COP15 in China in October and the UNFCCC COP26 in December – all representing opportunities of amplification to then launch into a decade of unprecedented NBS delivery, much of which will be framed in the context of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, 2021-2030.

Board members shared their updates and reflections on progress at country level. Several noted the value of the UN-REDD Programme in supporting countries going through the REDD+ process and mobilising financial resources, for instance from the FCPF and the GCF. The representative from indigenous peoples (IPs) recognised the valuable role of UN-REDD in fostering dialogues between governments and indigenous peoples at the country level, and called for continued enhancement of the capacities and rights of IPs, local communities and women's engagement along the NBS movement.

During the discussion there was an overall recognition of the NBS momentum and a consensus that forests are a key component of NBS. In this vein, UN-REDD seems well positioned to be a key international partnership for this agenda, and thus should structure its work for the decade along the NBS agenda and the specific role and potential of forests as a climate solution.

## **Agenda item 2: Update on the Future of the Programme post-2020**

This session allowed for a continued dialogue on how UN-REDD, as the flagship UN partnership for forests and climate, can be equipped to catalyse NBS, with forests and REDD+ at the heart of the movement, and do so at scale from 2021 onwards.

To foster a more focused conversation on what the Partnership can do and how it can deliver its support, the UN-REDD Secretariat introduced a two-pager synopsis of the proposed focus of the UN-REDD Programme post-2020 (see Annex 2). This proposal stems from the discussions at the past Board meeting and the outcomes and insights from the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019.

As a starting point for discussion, it was proposed that the overall goal of UN-REDD Programme in the next decade could be to catalyse and connect supply and demand of REDD+ results to get forests to deliver 5.3 Gt/yr of emission reductions and removals as quickly as possible within the next decade, and all the associated social, economic, biodiversity and adaptation benefits. To do that, the Programme identified four main areas of work:

1. Delivering results (forest-based emission reductions achieved through avoiding emissions and removals at a level of 1 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e/year by 2025);
2. Ensuring that those results are rewarded (USD 5 bn/year by 2025 mobilized for REDD+ from Result Based Payments, private sector investment in forest landscape restoration, carbon markets and Article 6 transactions);
3. Enhancing ambition (by ensuring that at least 15 partner countries enhance the forest component of their Nationally Determined Contributions); and
4. Connecting all the actors (the Programme to act as a convener, as a steward of Article 5 of the Paris agreement, working with everyone so that all efforts are better connected).

To ensure delivery, the principles on which the new programme would be operating are speed, flexibility and scale, with a view to move beyond additive and transitional, and into truly transformative, implementation of forest-based solutions.

Board members valued the ambitious goals of the post-2020 UN-REDD, commensurate with the challenge posed by the climate emergency. The Indigenous Peoples' representative stressed the need for continued attention to indigenous peoples' rights and a gender-responsive programme, while calling for support to community activities through a new phase and funding for the Community-Based REDD+ initiative (CBR+). The Youth representative proposed the new Programme to strive to involving the youth and providing capacities and means in that regard. The Board expressed appreciation for the engaging process carried out so far and reaffirmed their support and interest to continue to contribute to the design of the future UN-REDD programme.

The Secretariat concluded thanking participants for their positive comments and suggestions and reiterated the value that the Programme attaches to engaging all stakeholders in the co-creation of the next phase, which will continue in the next few months, to ensure UN-REDD maintains its feature of being tailored to country and all stakeholders' needs and demand. In 2020, UN-REDD will finalise its post-2020 design and carry out an inception phase so that it is ready for implementation at the start of 2021. This design and inception process will involve a stocktake of lessons learnt from previous phases of the Programme, a quantitative mapping of REDD+ results potential, and a resource diversification and mobilisation strategy. Board members will be informed and consulted throughout the process.

### Annex 1: List of Participants

		Name	Country/Agency/ Constituency		Attendance
1	Mr.	Buddi Poudel	Nepal	Member	In-person
2	Mr.	Mads-Halvdan Lie	Norway	Member	Remotely
3	Ms.	Roselyn Fosuah Adjei	Ghana	Alternate	In-person
4	Mr.	Jose Antonio Prado Donoso	Chile	Alternate	In-person
5	Ms.	Akiko Nakano	Japan	Alternate	In-person
6	Ms.	Lola Cabnal	Indigenous Peoples Organization	Permanent Observer	In-person
7	Ms.	Grace Balawag	Indigenous Peoples Organization		In-person
8	Ms.	Marina Melanidis	Youth4Nature	Observer (youth)	In-person
9	Ms.	Tiina Vahanen	FAO		In-person
10	Ms.	Astrid Agostini	FAO		Remotely
11	Mr.	Tim Clairs	UNDP		In-person
12	Mr.	Josep Garí	UNDP		Remotely
13	Ms.	Musonda Mumba	UNEP		In-person
14	Mr.	Florian Eisele	UNEP		In-person
15	Mr.	Steve Swan	UNEP		Remotely
16	Mr.	Mario Boccucci	UN-REDD Secretariat		In-person
17	Ms.	Mihaela Secrieru	UN-REDD Secretariat		Remotely
18	Mr.	Lars Andreas Lunde	Norway		Remotely
19	Ms.	Vania Dietrichson	Norway		Remotely
20	Mr.	Alexander White	UK	Observer	In-person
21	Ms.	Sarah Nelson	UK	Observer	In-person

### Annex 2: UN-REDD 2021-2030 at-a-glance illustration

The UN-REDD Programme is the UN knowledge and advisory platform on forests and climate, with a focus on advancing Articles 5 and 6 of the Paris Agreement.

### LONG TERM GOAL

REDD+ activities will reduce and/or sequester a total of up to **5.3 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e** year on year by 2030.

## WHAT WILL UN-REDD DO ?

### OUTCOME 1- RESULTS DEMONSTRATED

Forest-based GHG emission reductions achieved through avoiding emissions and removals at a level of 1 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e/year by 2025.

#### Establishment of effective institutional, policy and regulatory frameworks

- Law enforcement capacities;
- Policy and fiscal coherence;
- Forest tenure and indigenous rights;
- Aligning taxes and subsidies;
- Carbon rights;
- Transparent and inclusive benefit sharing plans;
- Addressing risks of emission displacement.

#### Accelerated forest restoration and carbon stock enhancement

- Scale up restoration and SFM;
- Forest concessions;
- Integrated fire management practices;
- Regenerative agriculture and actions in carbon-rich ecosystems, such as mangroves and peatlands.

#### Deforestation-free commodity supply chains

- Redirect capital to deforestation-free commodities;
- Protocols for sourcing and procurement;
- Certifications.

#### Enabling environment for REDD+ nested approaches

- Establishment of national transactions and REDD+ project registries.

#### Measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems

- Improved reliability and accuracy of systems;
- Use of high-resolution imagery; spatial disaggregation of results.

### OUTCOME 2 - RESULTS REWARDED

USD 5 bn/year by 2025 mobilized for REDD+ from RBPs, carbon markets and Article 6 transactions.

#### RBPs secured for countries with MRV'ed results

- Support countries in meeting entry level conditions for RBPs to access GCF, FCPF;
- Reinvest proceeds from RBPs;
- Support existing bilateral agreements;
- Support indigenous & community actions.

#### Market transactions facilitated

- Support REDD+ Programmes to meet requirements to access ART, California Tropical Forest Standard, CORSIA;
- Assist countries in meeting conditions for transactions under Article 6.

#### Private sector large-scale offsetting investments

- Support the use of forest-based offsets as part of transitional corporate mitigation strategies;
- Ensure social and environmental integrity in the use of forest-based offsets.

### OUTCOME 3- AMBITION ENHANCED

At least 15 partner countries enhance the forest component of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

#### NDC ambition enhanced and REDD+ implementation accelerated

- Identify opportunities for enhancing NDC action;
- Assist national-level accounting options, including managing issues of permanence.

#### Enabling conditions to support integration of enhanced forest action into the NDCs

- Set the policy agenda for enhanced forest ambition;
- Low-carbon strategies, spatial planning and business plans reflected in NDCs.

### OUTCOME 4 - ACTORS CONNECTED

The transformative global forest-based solutions movement catalysed through advocacy and convening stakeholders.

#### Collective political traction on nature-based solutions

- Inform and convene global and regional dialogues;
- Promote advocacy partnerships;
- Defragment the current landscape of global actors and initiatives;
- Mainstream gender on forest-based solutions;
- Promote indigenous-peoples and community rights.

#### Share knowledge on how to accelerate REDD+ implementation

- Promote the replication of proven REDD+ actions;
- Disseminate experiences to inform future action including their efficacy and cost effectiveness;
- Communication campaigns.

# UN-REDD PROGRAMME 2021-2030

## Forest Solutions for the Climate Emergency

### HOW WILL UN-REDD WORK ?

UN-REDD will focus its efforts in the next decade through three inter-related approaches:

**INNOVATION:** Advance global thinking around climate financing for forests by operating as a "spark hub", fostering innovative policies, partnerships, and approaches to REDD+ mechanisms.

**CONNECTION:** Bring together political leaders, private sector and civil society around forest mitigation, resilience and adaptation solutions.

**ACTION:** Provide technical assistance and policy advice through a mix of tools, technologies, long-term commitments and targeted interventions.

### NEW PRINCIPLES FOR INTERVENTION

#### SPEED

Greater speed in delivery will be based on mainstreaming a step-wise approach to delivery, a greater standardization of products that can be deployed more rapidly and a more fungible budget allocation model, whereby funds can be deployed based on emerging opportunities.

#### FLEXIBILITY

The Programme will regularly scan horizons for new opportunities for intervention in additional geographies and maintain the flexibility to shift staff and resources to those new areas without compromising results and impacts from existing commitments.

#### SCALE

UN-REDD will focus on forest-based solutions that are commensurate to the climate emergency. This means that technical assistance, innovation, policy advice and knowledge management will be planned and delivered in ways that are catalytic and yield impacts of scale.

### GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

- The Programme will build on the current decision-making structure, with possible adjustments to gain speed and flexibility in operations.
- Work plans will place greater emphasis on attaining target outcomes (GtCO<sub>2</sub>e results, REDD+ payments, for example) rather than specific activities.

### OPERATIONAL MODALITIES

- The new operational modality will focus on attaining the indicators of success with added flexibility, making work plans, country support and stakeholder engagement much more result-oriented.
- UN-REDD will continue to engage in situations that require a committed presence for an extended period, but will also retain enough flexibility to be a catalyst for short-term opportunities.
- UN-REDD will continue to prioritize support or in-country presence in specific countries/regions but may choose to re-position resources to seize opportunities elsewhere.

### RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- UN-REDD would have a "core budget" to maintain the Programme's institutional capacity and technical expertise, and a separate "operational budget" to finance activities and operations.
- UN-REDD will establish inter-agency teams to deliver support services and respond to emerging opportunities. Different products or opportunities will require different compositions of teams.