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Indonesia - Joint Press Statement of F-11 Ministerial Meeting in Bali,23 February 2010

Ministers and head of delegations from the F-11 countries met on the eve of the Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Environmental Ministers Forum on the 23rd of February 2010, in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia.

The member countries of F-11 are Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, and Peru.

The Ministerial meeting was marked by the inauguration of the F-11 website, www.forest-eleven.or.id. The website aims to enable all stakeholders to interact and better understand the work being undertaken by F-11 countries on forest related issues and forest management, including on protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and to reverse the loss of forest cover. Ministers encouraged all stakeholders and interested parties to visit the website.

Another vital milestone in the cooperation was the launch of the program of work and strategic plan that will serve as the implementation mechanism for F-11 projects to be completed in the period of 2010-2011. Projects to be undertaken by F-11 countries in the immediate future includes remote sensing for monitoring deforestation and forest degradation; and enhancing the role of community-based forest management on climate resilience for adaptation and mitigation.

The projects being undertaken underscore the commitment of F-11 countries to work closely together in the framework of South-South Cooperation. At the same time Ministers also shared common understanding on the complementary role of triangular cooperation in advancing the implementation of the F-11 cooperation.

F-11 Ministers also discussed a wide range of topics relating to forest-related issues including biodiversity, climate change, and sustainable forest management. Discussions also touched upon issues related to the UNEP Governing Council/Environmental Ministers Forum. This is inline with the Group's goal which is to strengthen dialogue, consultations and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management to support the achievement of sustained economic growth, sustainable development, and the eradication of poverty as elaborated in the Millennium Development Goals, while contributing to global efforts at alleviating the adverse impacts of climate change and stabilizing the global climate.

Ministers noted the revival of forestry issues being raised in international forums in recent years. They stressed that the fight against environmental degradation and climate change cannot be won unless our forests are managed in a sustainable manner.

They noted the importance placed on reducing emission from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) and the need to enhance removals of greenhouse gas emission by forests as stated in the Copenhagen Accord. Ministers stressed that agreement to provide positive incentives to such actions through the immediate establishment of a mechanism including REDD-plus, to enable the mobilization of financial resources from developed countries, must be urgently realized. Also important is to ensure the technology development and transfer and capacity-building to developing countries.


Ministers highlighted enhancing International Environmental Governance (IEG) that supports sustainable development and sustainable forest management in developing countries is important. They welcomed in this regard efforts that would lead to an agreement on IEG in the context of an International Framework of Sustainable Development when we meet at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Brazil in 2012.

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Looking forward to 2010, Ministers emphasized that the forthcoming global climate deal must include the issue of forest as an integral component. Ministers also stressed the importance to ensure that the protection and enhancement of forests are part of the 2010 biodiversity targets under the Convention on Biodiversity. In this connection Ministers also emphasize the importance of finalizing the international regime on Access and Benefit-sharing by 2010.

Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to ensure that tropical rainforests, which serve as sources of livelihood and repository of the cultural heritage of vast numbers of people, as well as serving as habitat for diverse biological species and storehouses of genetic resources, can help sustain present and future generations.

Ministers welcome the admission of Guatemala, Guyana, and Suriname into the Forest Eleven.

Ministers look forward to participating in the UNEP Governing Council/ Environmental Ministers Forum.

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