

BORRADOR DE MENSAJE PARA JEFE DE SECRETARÍA TÉCNICA DE UN-REDD

Dear Mr. Katerere,

Congratulating you on your recent appointment as Head of the UN-REDD Secretariat, I am writing to you in response to your communication dated 17 June 2009. I would like to reiterate my commitment to support the success of the national component of UN-REDD in my capacity as Resident Coordinator. As such, I have been in contact with UN Participating Agencies and the national counterpart (the National Environmental Authority - ANAM) regarding this process which has proved to be complex at the country level due to a variety of reasons.

To my knowledge, the draft National Joint Programme (NJP) that ANAM is requiring the UN Country Team and myself to legitimize does not yet fulfill all necessary requirements included in the (i) UN-REDD Rules of Procedure and Operational Guidelines and/or (ii) the Programme Operational Guidance for the Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and other forest dependent communities. In particular, the NJP formulation process did not include consultations with indigenous peoples or relevant civil society organizations, and the required validation meeting of the draft proposal is still pending. In order to facilitate the occurrence of these processes and in accordance with established operational frameworks and rules of procedure in Panama, I am encouraging the Minister of Economy and Finance - the leading authority in charge of coordination of international cooperation—to organize the pending consultation and validation processes as soon as possible (please refer to the correspondence to the Ministry of Economy and Finance, attached).

Notwithstanding this effort, it must be borne in mind that a new government will assume power on 1 July 2009. In addition to the organizational and logistical complications that this may imply for the consultation and validation meetings to take place in the next few days, I foresee the need to revise the draft NJP with the new national authorities in order to ensure its alignment with national priorities and thus guarantee national ownership and proper leadership of the UN-REDD process at the country level. In this sense I would like to suggest that the revised NJP is submitted to the Technical Secretariat in September 2009.

I would like to take the opportunity to encourage the UN-REDD Secretariat to review the progress, best practices and lessons learnt of the MDG Fund. I consider that the Fund operational guidelines, the notes sent by the Fund Director to Resident Coordinators, and the clarification of all governance structures and the roles of the different actors involved in MDG Fund JPs -including that of the Resident Coordinator-- are valuable assets that have contributed to clarity of vision and alignment of results at the country level. In relation to this issue, I would also like to recommend that the UN-REDD Technical Secretariat requests the establishment of the National Steering Committee once the new authorities are in place. I believe that this coordination mechanism is essential to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of the UN-REDD process, including the enactment of a proper communications protocol which would facilitate the most appropriate coordination of the process. In relation to the role of the Resident Coordinator in this process (as envisaged in Annex 2 of the UN-REDD Framework Document as well as in the Rules of Procedure and Programme Operational Guidelines), it may be convenient to analyze the resources and capacities needed by the Resident Coordinator and his/her Coordination Unit in order to properly fulfill these important roles.

I thank you in advance for the consideration you give to this message. Should you or your team have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Coordination Analyst Ms. Madelka McCalla (madelka.mccalla@un.org.pa).

Sincerely,

José Eguren