

UN-REDD
PROGRAMME



Final report of the Fourteenth Policy Board Meeting

UN-REDD PROGRAMME

21-22 May 2015

Washington, D.C., United States

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Summary of decisions

Session 1: Welcome and introductions

Decision #1: *The Policy Board members approved the agenda for the Fourteenth Policy Board.*

Session 2: Overview of progress and results

Decision #2: *The Policy Board approved the Sixth Consolidated Annual Progress Report of the UN-REDD Programme Fund 2014 (UNREDD/PB14/2015/II/2a) and took note of the Funding Framework of the UN-REDD Programme.*

Session 3: Programme Strategy 2016-2020

Decision #3: *2016-2020 Strategic Framework*

The Policy Board:

- i. Welcomed the outcome of the process to develop the strategic framework 2016-2020 and endorsed the overall direction of the strategy as outlined in the UN-REDD Programme Strategic Framework 2016-2020 (UNREDD/PB14/2015/III/3);*
- ii. Recognized that the strategic framework 2016-2020 will be complemented by a fully narrated results framework, further refining the arrangements for Programme delivery at global and national level, and a governance structure that ensures effective and operational governing of the Programme; and*
- iii. Requested the Secretariat to share a thorough and referenced response to how the strategy follows up to the findings and recommendations of the external evaluation.*

Decision #4: *2016-2020 Governance Arrangements*

The Policy Board acknowledged the consultative process carried out to date on the new governance structure for the 2016-2020 UN-REDD Programme and welcomed a process to finalize this as follows:

- i. A revised information paper with a complete description of the governance structure will be circulated by the Secretariat no later than 15 June 2015, on which Policy Board members and observers will have one month to provide comments;*
- ii. Comments received will be considered in the governance arrangements underpinning the Memorandum of Understanding between the UN agencies and the Standard Administrative Agreement between donors and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund.*
- iii. Furthermore, the Policy Board discussed the following features of the governance structure of the UN-REDD Programme:*
 - a) One Policy Board, one Executive Board and National Steering Committees will work under the guiding principles of inclusiveness, transparency, accountability, consensus-based decisions, and participation;*
 - b) The current Policy Board constituencies will have the right to be represented at all levels of Programme governance;*

- c) Members of the different governing bodies should ensure consultation and feedback to their respective constituencies. The UN-REDD Programme should endeavor to support these consultations;*
- d) The Executive Board will be composed of at least one representative per constituency. Partner Countries will have one representative per region;*
- e) National Steering Committees will be established according to country needs and national circumstances following a minimum composition of government, indigenous peoples, civil society organizations and the UN. Donors may be part of the National Steering Committees and other relevant stakeholders may be invited as per agreement at country level;*
- f) UN-REDD National Steering Committees may also service other platforms as appropriate and decided at country level in line with UN-REDD requirements;*
- g) The Policy Board will provide overall advice to the Programme; and*
- h) A small and lean Executive Board will take operational decisions, including allocation of funds.*

Session 4: National Programme updates

Decision #5:

- i. The Policy Board welcomed the informal presentations of Chile, Myanmar and Peru.*
- ii. In view of the thorough presentations and advanced stage of preparation and the need to close National Programmes by the end of 2017, the Policy Board recommended that the full submissions be considered for approval of fund allocation on an inter-sessional basis.*
- iii. The Policy Board requested the Secretariat to provide it with the background information for consideration, once available, and in particular, for ensuring all national level approval and consultation processes are applied. Furthermore, the secretariat is requested to enable inter-sessional discussions and endeavour to overcome any technological or language barrier that could prevent participation of all relevant stakeholders.*
- iv. These inter-sessional decisions are to be taken on exceptional basis.*

Decision #6: *The Policy Board acknowledged and congratulated Ecuador on the completion of their National Programme and their significant progress on REDD+. The Policy Board endorsed the recommendations from the final evaluation and associated responses and encourages Ecuador to sustain its efforts.*

Session 5: Country Needs Assessments (CNA)

No decisions made.

Session 6: Closure of meeting

Decision #7: *The Policy Board approved the proposal to hold its next meeting, the Fifteenth Policy Board meeting, during the week of 1 November 2015 in Guatemala, back to back with the FCPF Participants Committee.*

Introduction

The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD Programme) held its Fourteenth Policy Board (PB14) meeting on 21-22 May 2015 in Washington, D.C., United States, following the Nineteenth Participants Committee (PC19) of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) in the same location.

The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Jorge Mario Rodriguez Zuñiga, Executive Director of the National Forest Finance Fund (FONAFIFO) of Costa Rica; and Ms. Mette Løyche Wilkie, Director of the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The meeting was attended by 71 participants (see Annex I). All documents and presentations are available on the UN-REDD Programme [workspace](#) and [website](#).

Session 1: Opening and Approval of Agenda

Welcoming remarks were delivered by the Co-chairs and the Secretariat. The UN-REDD Programme Policy Board (PB) then reviewed and approved the agenda for the PB14 meeting (see **PB14 Decision 1**).

1a. Welcome and introduction by Co-chairs

Mr. Mario Boccucci, Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat, welcomed all participants and introduced Mr. Jorge Mario Rodriguez Zuñiga and Ms. Mette Løyche Wilkie as the PB14 Co-chairs. Recognizing the new Board member from Nepal, he extended deepest condolences for the tragedy that the people of Nepal are enduring.

Mr. Jorge Mario Rodriguez Zuñiga noted the opportune timing of the PB14 meeting, as the Programme is finalizing its 2016-2020 Strategic Framework, to ensure the continued effective delivery of REDD+ technical support to partner countries. He highlighted the invaluable participation of Board members in the strategy development process, resulting in the emerging of a new post-2015 UN-REDD Programme with a strengthened needs-based and county-led approach.

In her welcoming remarks, Ms. Mette Løyche Wilkie further emphasized the crucial importance of this meeting and the rich and in-depth consultative process underpinning the development of the new strategy. She stressed that the UN-REDD Programme's 2016-2020 Strategic Framework represents a renewed and strengthened commitment by the Programme's participating UN agencies (FAO, UNDP and UNEP) to work together. Ms. Løyche Wilkie also acknowledged the increasing amount of REDD+ knowledge and experiences that partner countries can contribute to the Programme – and noted that the strategy for the post-2015 Programme is designed to reflect this. The Co-chair welcomed the growing scope and scale of the Programme, with now 60 partner countries and many advancing in their REDD+ efforts through targeted support – and the increasing progress in supporting countries on their pathways to realizing the valuable social, environmental and economic benefits of REDD+. She finally thanked the Programme's donors (Denmark, the European Union, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway and Spain) for their continued commitment that has enabled the Programme to grow and serve the evolving REDD+ needs of partner countries.

1b. Review and approval of the agenda

Ms. Løyche Wilkie introduced the one-time observers present. She noted Transparency International and IUCN, whose attendance was approved in advance of the meeting, and a request from the Rainforest Foundation Norway, whose participation was approved by the Board with no objections. The Co-chair then invited all participants to introduce themselves briefly.

Ms. Løyche Wilkie outlined some operational aspects of the meeting. The provisional agenda was then adopted by the PB with no objections. Finally, the Co-chair invited new PB members to sign the disclosure of interest form.

Session 2: Overview of progress and results since the 13th Policy Board

An update was provided on the status of UN-REDD Programme implementation, the key features of the annual report, as well as on the financial status of the Programme Fund. The Sixth Consolidated Annual Progress Report of the UN-REDD Programme Fund (2014 Annual Report) was approved. An overview of progress of the FCPF since the 18th Participants Committee meeting was also shared with the Board. (see PB14 Decision 2).

2a. Overview of progress, financial status and 2014 annual report of the UN-REDD Programme

Mr. Mario Boccucci, took stock of progress made since the Thirteenth PB meeting, noting that four new countries have joined the Programme (Burkina Faso, Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Vanuatu), reaching a total of 60 partner countries, as well as 23 National Programmes (NPs). In addition, 37 countries and three regions are receiving targeted support and Community Based REDD+ (CBR+) is being piloted in six countries. Mr. Boccucci also highlighted the insightful Information Day held on the day before as a clear demonstration of progress in understanding REDD+ and advancement in implementation (PB14 Information Day presentations available [here](#)).

Presenting the Sixth Consolidated Annual Progress Report of the UN-REDD Programme Fund (2014 Annual Report) (UNREDD/PB14/2015/II/2a, accessible [here](#)), he emphasized that the annual report fully responds to the results monitoring framework, as requested by the PB, by moving away from activity-level reporting, to emphasize results and impacts, both for the 11 active countries that submitted a report on their National Programmes (NPs) and the Support to National REDD+ Actions - Global Programme Framework 2011-2015 (SNA). Moreover, although the Programme was not initially designed around the Warsaw Framework, the 2014 report highlights countries' achievements against the Warsaw Framework pillars.

Another feature of the report highlighted by the Head of the Secretariat was related to how the report reflects the Programme's impacts from 2009 to 2014 and how the Programme allows harvesting the wealth of information and experience that the Programme has gathered globally and at country level, by distilling challenges, responses and lessons learned by each of the NPs and SNA work areas. Furthermore, the report is a first-time effort to provide a specific gender perspective through gender-disaggregated data, Mr. Boccucci stressed. Referring to the Targeted Support (TS), the Head of Secretariat pointed to a significant increase for demands in 2014, with 28 approved requests totaling US\$10 million, including a first request for strengthening regional capacity received from the Pacific Island countries. He also pointed to the Guidance Note circulated inter-sessionally (accessible [here](#)),

which clarifies the procedures and approach to develop joint targeted support proposals with civil society organizations (CSOs) and/or indigenous peoples (IPs). He also recalled that, responding to the importance of providing support based on thoroughly and systematically determined country needs, in 2014, the Programme launched a process for countries to conduct needs assessments, which initiated in seven countries and two regions.

Finally, noting that REDD+ is not an easy undertaking even with the best commitments and resources, he introduced a risk management approach based on standard risk categories, lessons learned and Programme responses, which will allow the PB and a future Executive Board to undertake adaptive management and provide strategic guidance to ensure the Programme's ability to respond to risks and deliver effectively on its results framework.

Feedback from the Policy Board

The Board congratulated the UN-REDD Programme and the partner countries on the report and the results reported by the countries. Several aspects of the design and content of the Annual Progress Report were commended by the Board, especially with regards to reporting at results and impacts and bringing up the context of the Warsaw Framework, moving away from activity-level reporting. The Board highlighted the different stages of progress across partner countries and the capacity of the Programme to address these different stages. The SNA higher expenditures rates as well as increased support through targeted support were also praised. Furthermore, the guidance note on targeted support was welcomed by the Board.

The Board raised clarifying questions related to the risk management approach and how this could support in identifying the causes for delay in some countries' implementation with regards to safeguards information systems (SIS), and how barriers can be addressed through country-specific solutions. The opportunity for the Board to discuss actions and corrective measures to address identified risks and challenges was also mentioned.

Update on the financial status of the UN-REDD Programme Fund

An update on the status of the UN-REDD Programme Fund was provided by Mr. Pierre Bardoux, Portfolio Manager from the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF-O). Noting that no more contributions are expected this year as the current Fund is closing and a new strategy with a new Fund is under preparation, Mr. Bardoux indicated a total deposit to date of US\$256 million. He further noted a current balance of US\$14,284,226 available for programming, to be allocated and transferred to countries by 31 December 2015. He indicated that any remaining unallocated balance will have to either be transferred to the new UN-REDD Fund or reimbursed to donors (proportionally to their contributions), as per a decision of the Board, which has to be taken in its next meeting, or the latest by 31st December 2015. The MPTF Portfolio Manager stressed that any new country programmes' operational end date should not go beyond 31 December 2017, as the Fund will reach a complete closure of its operations throughout 2016-2017.

Finally, Mr. Bardoux draw attention to the fact that by the end of 2015 the Board should have also approved fund allocations sufficient also for covering technical Secretariat operations and support for on-going country activities (backstopping) throughout the closing process.

Feedback from the Policy Board

The MPTF Portfolio Manager answered to some clarifying questions further explaining that the Board will need to make a decision this year for any refund of unspent balance, which will apply not only to the current balance, but also to any remaining balance in December 2017 when the Fund will come to a complete closure.

2b. Update and progress of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) since the 18th Participants Committee meeting

Mrs. Ellysar Baroudy, FCPF Coordinator, provided an overview of main points coming out of two meetings since the last PB meeting. Discussions during the FCPF's Carbon Fund meeting were dominated by ideas relating to the pipeline development process brought forward by Argentina, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Guyana, Lao PDR, Mozambique and Nicaragua. Moreover, the extension of the Carbon Fund's term until 2025 was discussed and agreed by Fund participants, pending approval by the World Bank's Board.

Referring to the Readiness Fund meeting, Mrs. Baroudy reported eight readiness preparation grants signed, giving the following countries access to US\$3.8 million: Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Fiji, Nigeria, Sudan, Togo and Vanuatu. Moreover, the Fund agreed to grant an additional financing of up to US\$5 million to Mexico, Republic of Congo and Vietnam towards the continuation of their readiness work. Finally, Ms. Baroudy was proud to announce that the Facility reached a milestone in its REDD+ readiness process, with the first country ever to come forward with a readiness package, the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Feedback from the Policy Board

The Board encouraged the two initiatives to continue their collaboration, and a suggestion was also made for UN-REDD and FCPF to identifying opportunities for sharing a single National Steering Committee for guiding their respective activities at country level.

Session 3: Strategic and Policy Issues

UN-REDD Programme 2016-2020 Strategic Framework and its governance arrangements

Congratulating the Programme for the results achieved over the past six years, Co-chair Løyche Wilkie highlighted that the generation of knowledge by the UN-REDD countries through the implementation of the first phase of Programme and the advanced understanding of REDD+ have allowed the Programme to propose a draft strategy for 2016-2020 that will accompany countries from readiness to implementation towards results-based payments]. Demonstrating the commitment at the highest level in three UN-REDD agencies, the Heads of FAO, Jose Graziano da Silva, UNDP, Helen Clark, and UNEP, Achim Steiner, addressed the Policy Board through a video message praising the UN-REDD collaborative initiative and its support to countries to move forward on REDD+ issues and advance towards sustainable development, and reconvening the agencies' commitments to the partnership.

Programme 2016-2020 Strategic Framework

The Secretariat, as well as members of the Management Group of the three participating agencies presented on the development of the new Programme strategy as outlined in the draft strategic framework document (UN-REDD/PB14/2015/3/3).

Mr. Mike Speirs, Senior Adviser to the UN-REDD Programme, briefly described the process undertaken to design the new strategy according to key recommendations from external evaluations of the Programme and consultations with all the Policy Board constituencies. He emphasized one central recommendation of the external evaluation which was followed up in the design of the 2016-2020 strategy: the need to re-examine the overall purpose and strategic objectives of the UN-REDD Programme, to address both the significant challenges that REDD+ faces and the dynamic context within which it operates. The broad consultation process undertaken from August 2014 to May 2015 included: interviews with Policy Board members; online consultation open to all stakeholders; donor consultations; regional consultations with stakeholders and REDD+ experts; and guidance from the Policy Board on further developing the draft strategic framework. Mr. Speirs further provided some highlights of feedback received on the revised draft document presented to the Board in end of February. This included requests for the Programme to: undertake a more thorough assessment of the lessons learned as well as achievements since 2008; explore its strengths with respect to other REDD+ initiatives; further develop the theory of change as the basis for an agreed results framework; clarify the Programme's delivery arrangements; further define collaboration with other partners, particularly with the FCPF and the Green Climate Fund (GCF); and make it clear that the Programme will not provide results-based payments.

Mrs. Maria Jose Sanz-Sanchez, Programme Coordinator of the UN-REDD Programme at the FAO, provided an introduction to the Programme's theory of change (ToC), its outcomes, outputs and the cross-cutting themes. She started off by pointing to the overall development goal for the next 10-15 years of reducing forest emissions and enhancing carbon stocks in forests while contributing to national sustainable development, to then explain the two tracks of Programme impacts set for the next five years, where on the one hand countries meet UNFCCC requirements for REDD+ readiness, and on the other hand, countries start implementing policies and measures with which to deliver REDD+ results-based actions (RBAs). Mrs. Sanz-Sanchez then explained how the three Programme outcomes were defined, stressing the need for flexibility to accommodate the different sequence of interventions in countries that are at distinctive stages and have different needs. The important role of cross-cutting themes such as stakeholder engagement, governance, tenure and gender equality was also emphasized as critical for success of REDD+.

An introduction to partnerships as outlined in the new UN-REDD strategy was delivered by Mr. Tim Clairs, Principal Policy and Technical Advisor for the UN-REDD Programme at UNDP. Referring to current avenues for countries to receive RBPs, which include the GCF, the FCPF's Carbon Fund, bilateral deals and voluntary markets, Mr. Clairs elaborated on how the Programme will continue to play a constructive role in supporting countries coordinate REDD+ related initiatives with the vision to ensure they are (1) aligned with a national vision, (2) consistent with UNFCCC decisions and requirements, and (3) conducive to progress under the UNFCCC, by building on its comparative advantages to provide support in a concerted and cohesive manner that will maximize complementarities. Mr. Clairs mentioned that the Programme may support countries' Carbon Fund efforts, particularly in helping to demonstrate how

policies and measures can achieve measurable results in terms of emission reductions or forest carbon stock enhancement. With regards to the GCF, the Programme could – through its participating agencies – contribute by building countries' REDD+ readiness and providing technical advice in applying the methodological guidance of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+. This mutually beneficial relationship can provide synergies between the UN-REDD and the GCF, especially by allowing UN-REDD lessons and experiences to inform any updates to the GCF's initial logic model and Performance Measurement Framework. He went on to signal the potential for further alignment of country support with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), particularly in terms of national REDD+ strategies informing GEF project development and also in terms of funding for the implementation of REDD+ policies and measures to achieve results-based actions. Mr. Clairs concluded stressing that the UN-REDD Programme can be a catalyst and help to ensure the various pieces are better coordinated and contribute to one harmonized approach to REDD+ in the countries.

Mr. Tim Christophersen, Programme Coordinator of the UN-REDD Programme at UNEP, focused on the delivery of the programme, highlighting key aspects of the new strategy. At the management level, he highlighted the following elements: a smaller Management Group (MG) of 4 members (3 UN agencies + Secretariat), with weekly calls and quarterly face-to-face meetings; a joint work and budget planning by the agencies, as well as a strategic staffing plan for the entire Programme. In terms of country delivery, Mr. Christophersen emphasized some concrete measures: the commitment to a harmonized administrative interface in each country; one Lead Agency per country; one Lead Advisor per country, who is accountable to the MG, and who facilitates technical support to countries through the interagency country support teams; and a single e-mail address for all staff (@un-redd.org).

Feedback from the Policy Board

The Board members widely congratulated the Programme *inter alia* on the open and participative process carried out that fed into the document, as well as on the focus given to national-level delivery and on strengthening partnerships. The Board expressed general comfort with the strategic direction presented in the strategic framework document. Countries praised the Programme's commitment to support readiness and implementation towards payments for results, emphasizing the importance of ensuring country ownership and development of capacities at national level, as well as country leadership in the relationship with the Green Climate Fund.

With regards to the Theory of Change (ToC), **it was recognized that the outcomes are balanced and this balance should also be reflected on the funding estimations and the results framework to be developed.** Some concerns were expressed on how drivers of deforestation are going to be addressed, as well as on the idea of the private sector and the *drivers* being considered as intrinsically captured under the cross-cutting theme of stakeholder engagement. A request was made to include language on the contribution of indigenous peoples' knowledge to the achievement of results, while a country observer suggested that enhancement of regional exchanges be highlighted.

At the strategic level there was general consensus that the ToC is broad and flexible enough to cover the various conditions and stages that countries are at, and that it captures the main elements needed in terms of where the Programme aims to go and how to get there. It was also noted that the ToC needs to be complemented with a more detailed results framework to be delivered in the upcoming months, which is also linked to the level of funds associated to the implementation of the Programme.

Partnerships were seen as an area of significant progress since the previous version of the document. Building the capacity of countries to enable them to lead in coordinating the initiatives and various finance streams was noted as fundamental. **A country noted that one of the Programme's comparative advantages is the United Nations convening power and called the Programme to work more actively at country and global level with other UN agencies and cooperate with other initiatives.** A civil society representative called for the Programme to support establishing bridges between national and subnational initiatives. In response to a question on the Programme's ability to support countries in accessing RBPs, the UN-REDD agencies assured the Board that the Programme's support included access to investments ahead of RBPs. A suggestion was made for the Programme to better explain its added value to new donors – maybe through an accompanying brochure to the strategy – showcasing more in detail how the different partners will work together, with the FCPF looking more at the subnational level, and UN-REDD focusing on the national level and ensuring consistency of subnational approaches. Co-chair Løyche Wilkie also suggested that the next PB to include a session on opportunities for results-based payments (RBPs) and how countries can access them, while also looking at other sources of funding such as national support to REDD+.

Relating to Programme delivery arrangements, and questions about the functions of the lead agency and lead advisor, clarification was provided underlining that the two will work in close coordination, as well as that one lead agency still implies that all three agencies are present and support the country, as required. It was also clarified that the new arrangements would affect NPs approved from 2016 onwards. On some calls to enhance South-South exchanges, as well as on the importance of knowledge management, it was noted that once the Programme overall strategy will be endorsed, a knowledge management strategy would also be fine-tuned.

Co-chair Mrs. Løyche Wilkie summarized all comments provided by the Board and proposed a draft decision which was agreed by the Board (**See PB14 Decision 3**).

Governance arrangements

Co-chair Mr. Rodríguez opened the second part of the session on strategic and policy issues explaining that the governance arrangements are not part of the UN-REDD Programme strategy document, but of the legal arrangements between the UN participating agencies, the donors and the MPTF to support the operationalization of the strategy 2016-2020. He also clarified that an information note containing revised proposed governance arrangements was made available to the PB (UNREDD/PB14/2015/III/INF.1, accessible [here](#)) and an information session was held on the PB14 Information Day on 20 May.

The Head of the Secretariat delivered a presentation focused on the process followed to develop the proposal for governance arrangements for 2016-2020 and their main features, based on previous evaluations of the Programme and recommendations from different stakeholders and experts. He shared with the Board the feedback received on the paper circulated on 13th March 2015 to all PB members, noting that strong support was expressed to the proposal of splitting strategic and operational functions of the Programme and the establishment of one single Executive Board (EB). Moreover, he reported clarification requests on the distinction between readiness and implementation support by the Programme, the roles of National Steering Committees (NSCs), and the composition of the different governance bodies. Moreover, a demand to keep representatives from CSOs and IPs

involved in the allocation decisions was also part of the feedback received on the paper circulated on 13th March 2015 to all PB members.

Mr. Boccucci went on to present the revised proposal previously shared with the Board on the Policy Board Information Day 20th May, that included (i) a broad Policy Board, focused on strategic functions, also with roles in international coordination, dialogue and knowledge-management; (ii) one small Executive Board, to focus on, and improve efficiency of operational decisions; and (iii) multi-stakeholder NSCs, systematically created or arranged for every national programme, to guide and oversee implementation at the national level. He stressed that participation of each of the core stakeholders of the UN-REDD Programme is envisaged in all three levels of governance.

Outlining next steps, Mr. Boccucci explained that a revised information paper taking into account also the feedback received during the PB meeting will be circulated by the Secretariat no later than 15 June 2015, on which Board members will have one month to provide comments, which will be taken into account in the governance arrangements underpinning the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the UN agencies and the Standard Administrative Agreement between donors and the MPTF.

Feedback from the Policy Board

During the rich ensuing discussions, participants provided input and raised questions on several elements of the proposed governance arrangements. There was general support to the governance structure presented, including the adoption of a three-tier structure with a Policy Board, an Executive Board and National Steering Committees. A wide range of suggestions were made on the role of the Policy Board, spanning from an assembly with all Partner Countries and more focused on knowledge exchange that would meet every two or three years, to a Policy Board that provides full strategic advice, including approval of the Programme's results framework and the eligibility criteria for allocation of support. Some interventions called for a lean and more efficient governance structure. Different views were expressed regarding specific functions of the Policy Board and the Executive, with some advocating that functions such as approval or endorsement of the results framework and eligibility criteria should be held by the Policy board rather than by the Executive Board. Several countries commented on the NSCs, notably calling for a composition that reflects country needs and national circumstances, with enough flexibility to build on countries' specific experiences and customs. A suggestion was made to include the possibility of regionally clustering NSCs to create efficiency and minimize transaction costs for representatives participating in many different NSCs, including donors.

Regarding composition, the overall view was that the Policy Board would continue as it is and the Executive Board should have members from each of the Policy Board constituencies. A suggestion was made for the Executive Board to have only one representative per constituency while other suggested that countries are represented on the basis of one per region. Civil society suggested that one CSO from the North and one from the South should be present in the Executive Board. Indigenous Peoples and civil society emphasized the importance of ensuring that views of local communities and other relevant minority groups are represented at all levels of the Programme, especially in NSCs. Some donors highlighted that balance of representation among the different constituencies should be kept at all levels, but balance should be pursued to ensure donors will feel comfortable with the level of oversight they will be able to provide to the use of funds.

The need to clarify and enhance the relationship between the three governance levels was also highlighted and some suggestions to clarify accountability and reporting lines among the three governance bodies were made. A donor called for a fully accountable Executive Board, noting that approval of the results framework and the definition of the eligibility criteria are closely linked to operational decisions and therefore should dwell under the EB. Finally, several participants emphasized the need of the Policy Board and Executive Board members to effectively consult and report back their respective constituencies and for the Programme to support these consultations when required.

After further rounds of questions and answers, the Board agreed to the Co-chairs' suggestion to suspend the discussion on this sub-item to allow the Secretariat to provide a revised document reflecting the wide range of exchanges held so far, and the convergence points identified, to be considered by the Board the following morning. The summary of discussions was sent out by the Secretariat in the evening of 21 May (*Annex*), outlining identified areas of consensus plus and elements requesting further discussion regarding the structure, functions and composition of the proposed arrangements.

Co-chair Mrs. Løyche Wilkie reiterated that no decision on governance arrangements was expected to be taken during by the PB, but that rather a revised information paper would be circulated by the Secretariat no later than 15 June 2015, on which also PB members not attending the current session would have the opportunity to provide further comments.

Discussions continued on Friday, 22 May leading to agreement on the general features of the governance arrangements intended to underpin the foundation documents of the UN-REDD 2016-20 (Memorandum of Understanding between the UN agencies and the Standard Administrative Agreement between donors and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund), and a roadmap to conclude such arrangements. **(PB14 decision 4).**

2015-2016 Transition Roadmap

The third part of the agenda item on UN-REDD Programme strategic and policy issues concerned the roadmap for the transition from 2015 to 2016.

Ms. Mirey Atallah, Senior Officer for National Programmes in the UN-REDD Secretariat, described main steps involved in the process of the closure of the existing Fund and the opening of the new one. Referring to the current fund, she indicated that the Board will need to take two critical decisions before December 2015 (i) the last allocations of funds, and (ii) the fate of any remaining funds. On the use of remaining funds, the decision could entail refunding to the donors on a pro-rata basis or transferring to the new fund if it is established. All programmes (Global and National Programmes) under the current fund will have to reach operational closure by December 2017, followed by 6 months of financial closure. Once all the programmes are closed, the fund itself will operationally close in June 2018, followed by the complete financial closure of the Fund in December 2019.

In order for the new UN-REDD Fund to become effective, three legal documents are needed, as Ms. Atallah indicated: (i) Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Fund, which will build substantially on the new strategy and will include detailed information on the rationale, the theory of change, governance arrangements, programming cycle and results framework; (ii) MoU between UN participating agencies to agree on establishing a new MPTF to implement the Programme; and (iii) Standard Administrative

Agreement (SAA) between donors and the MPTF, formalizing donor support to implement the Programme. She added that the ToRs will be annexed to both the MoU and the SAA and will form the basis for these two legal instruments. In terms of timeline, Ms. Atallah explained that, in order for the new Fund to be operational as of January 2016, the ToRs will need to be completed by summer for appraisal by donors and agencies to enable the signature of the MoU and the first pledges to start coming in. Finally, the SAA would then be signed in December, followed by the establishment of the governance bodies and the inauguration of the new Fund.

Feedback from the Policy Board

In response to a question from a civil society representative inquiring about situations where there might be problems with NPs implementation, Ms. Atallah provided clarification on two scenarios. In the case where the Programme will have a new Fund, for any new NPs that might go beyond 2017, a decision could be included in the ToRs of the next Fund stating that selected existing NPs are grandfathered into the new Fund. In the case that a new Fund does not exist, the existing Board would have to take a decision on who makes decisions on NPs that would continue implementation beyond 2015. From a procedural point of view, she added, the responsibility primarily lies with agencies, which have accountability and fiduciary and programmatic responsibility for the NPs, so this represents a solid base for the transition as the UN agencies exist irrespectively of a new Fund.

Session 4: National Programme Updates

This session, focusing on the country level, included presentations by the Secretariat on the process followed to establish the new pipeline for NPs, informal presentations from Chile, Myanmar and Peru towards the development of new NPs, and from Ecuador on the completion of their NP.

4a. Country presentations for new National Programmes

Ms. Mirey Atallah, set the scene by recalling the [PB12 Decision 4 \(UNREDD/PB12/2014/4a/pipeline\)](#) establishing a new NP pipeline for 2015 based on a call for Expressions of Interest (EOI). She recalled that the Board reactivated the PB Working Group for the selection of new NPs, with a mandate to review EOI and to select new countries to receive support for NPs.

Ms. Atallah presented the outcome of the review of the [14 EOI received](#), conducted against three criteria: (i) emission reduction potential, which was based on FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment and rankings by forest cover, forest loss and CO₂ storage, (ii) political will and engagement as expressed by membership in current performance-based payments schemes, and (iii) Fund allocation by 2015. Completeness and quality of submissions, as well as the level of cooperation between UN-REDD and the countries were also considered. Ms. Atallah reported that the Working Group concluded to invite Chile, Peru and Myanmar for submission informally at PB14, for the Board to further consider inviting them for a formal submission.

Feedback from the Policy Board

Several Board members asked for more clarifications about those countries not selected and inquired about the fate of the pipeline. The Secretariat clarified that the process was focused only on identifying countries that could receive funds before the end of 2015, and no further ranking was done in case

additional resources would become available. The selection process took into account the two major considerations of budget availability and time. However, should a new fund be established, the new governance body of that fund could decide to consider this EoI process for pipelining purposes of the new fund.

Presentation of Chile

Mr. Osvaldo Quintanilla, from the Climate Change and Environmental Services Unit of Chile, introduced his country's institutional context and the National Strategy on Climate Change and Natural Resources ([link to presentation](#)). Outlining potential areas of support from the UN-REDD Programme to help the country throughout the transition stage between readiness and implementation phases, he referred to: testing actions in the field towards emission reductions and removals to inform their national process; obtaining information and results on the implementation through analyzing field impacts, real costs, performance, and technical needs; adjusting the management protocol for field action and support systems at different levels and scenarios; observing the dynamics, relationships and role of communities in the context of safeguards. The importance of South-South cooperation was highlighted as a central tool for improving the design of plans moving forward and involving political and technical authorities.

Feedback from the Policy Board

The Board congratulated Chile for the excellent progress presented, noting it can be considered a model for others in the region to learn from their experience, especially on forest degradation. The board welcomed the clarity of the presentation in particular in articulating the coordination and niche of the Programme, both financially and programmatically. A recommendation was made that going forward, the NP proposal should demonstrate coordination with the different, existing REDD+ initiatives, and also to explore using the NSC as a joint platform for other REDD+ initiatives. Another recommendation to include a broad participation of different institutions on REDD+ in Chile was highlighted as important towards the development of a more thorough benefit distribution mechanism. Observers inquired about the scope of the envisaged NP, as it is a departure from regular readiness support, and inquired about the purpose and outcomes expected from the pilots.

Civil society Board members welcomed Chile's presentation and a special appreciation was expressed to the fact that consultations will be based on the ILO-169 Convention. The focus of Chile's proposal on small landowners and native forests was also welcomed by civil society Board members, who sought clarification on: the interface between native forests and IPs; carbon rights and benefit distribution; the impact of mining in forests on IPs and local communities; and whether the REDD+ process will include FPIC protocols. IPs Board members called for clarifications on how local communities, IPs and women will be engaged, whether they were consulted and if the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) guidelines were applied.

Chile reiterated that the NP will require further elaboration on a number of areas and thanked PB members for their observations and questions. Chile also reassured the Board of the country's commitment to consultations and engaging IPs, pointing to ongoing work on a protocol that defines consultative processes for all sectors that have impacts on Indigenous Peoples. He explained that the Government plans to consult at the national and regional level on the national strategy to involve all relevant stakeholders, including IPs and local communities. On the mining sector related question, Chile

clarified that mining occurs in the desert zone desert, thus not affecting the forestry sector, unlike many other countries.

Presentation of Myanmar

Mr. Bo Ni, Director and Leader of REDD+ Core Unit, Forest Department of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Myanmar, introduced the current status of REDD+ readiness in Myanmar, focusing on funding needs to support this process, progress so far, and detailing how the NP support would be put to use ([link to presentation](#)). In this regard, a niche was identified for the Programme to focus its support on the Management of REDD+ Readiness component, as well as on Stakeholder Consultation and Participation. Mr. Bo Ni stressed that the UN-REDD support would help address two of the most significant challenges for REDD+ in Myanmar, namely (i) building a truly national vision that moves REDD+ beyond the forest sector, to be seen as an integral component of national sustainable development; and (ii) establishing links between REDD+ and the peace process in current conflict zones. Moreover, the Programme would also support most of National Forest Monitoring System component. Regarding other components of the country's REDD+ readiness roadmap, UN-REDD would complement support received from other partners, such as FAO-GEF, ITTO, KFS and RECOFTC.

Feedback from the Policy Board

The Board congratulated Myanmar for a comprehensive and clear presentation on progress so far and proposed support by the UN-REDD Programme. Overall the board is very supportive of Myanmar's selection and proposal and offered a few recommendations and observations. Flagging other donors and international partners than those listed in the presentation, a recommendation was made for better coordination both on the country and the donors' sides. Considering the two-year implementation timeframe limited by the fund closure, the need to set realistic objectives was flagged. Another call came for the country's NP to reflect how deforestation in non-government controlled areas could be addressed. Noting that Myanmar's forests harbor more than half of the world's remaining tiger population, an inquiry was made on the country's expanding agriculture and incentives to promote it. Mr. Bo Ni responded that the Myanmar Ministry of Agriculture is involved and a policy on addressing agriculture as a main driver of deforestation is currently being developed by the Ministry of Forestry.

Several civil society and IPs Board members congratulated the Government for the open, consultative and inclusive process undertaken in the development of the REDD+ readiness roadmap and encouraged the Government to continue this participatory approach conducted so far at both national, regional and local levels. Highlighting the challenge of integrating the ethnic minorities of Myanmar, a suggestion was made to increase the resources for stakeholder engagement to ensure the continued inclusion of all groups throughout the REDD+ readiness process. Thanking the board for its encouragement and feedback, the presenter added that the Government is revising the forest laws to reinforce community forestry efforts, and has granted 30 land-use rights to local communities to participate in forest conservation and restoration activities.

Presentation of Peru

Mr. Gustavo Suarez de Freitas, Coordinator of Peru's Forest Conservation and Climate Change Mitigation Programme, provided an overview of Peru's Expression of Interest for a UN-REDD NP ([link to presentation](#)). Outlining the REDD+ approach undertaken in his country, Mr. Suarez de Freitas referred

to a landscape approach which entails strategic actions in the whole rural landscape, both in the forests and in their margins. Referring to the added value of the UN-REDD support to the country's REDD+ efforts, Peru reported having conducted a gap analysis, also considering complementarities with other initiatives, which highlighted aspects that are not covered by current technical cooperation efforts and which are critical requirements for achieving results-based payments.

Feedback from the Policy Board

The Board welcomed the solid presentation and how it clearly outlined the added value of the Programme. Peru was seen as an example for reflection, especially on how to work on the three phases of REDD+, and several calls were made for knowledge sharing and South-South dialogue to learn from their experience. The Board suggested the country to consider a joint NSC for the diverse REDD+ initiatives in order to foster coordination. Clarifications were requested on Peru's plans to use domestic financial resources for REDD+, as well as on agriculture as a driver for deforestation. Civil society Board members appreciated the social orientation of the country's envisaged support, in particular the inclusion of community based MRV, and inquired whether consultations will follow the guidance from ILO-169.

In its final deliberation, the Board agreed on an inter-sessional decision on the three new NP proposals, on an exceptional basis due to budget and time constraints and the advanced status of the three suggested EOIs. **(See PB14 Decision 5)**

4b. Final Evaluation of Ecuador's National Programme

Ecuador's REDD+ Focal Point, María Del Carmen García Espinoza, provided an overview of the REDD+ readiness process in her country, main outcomes, challenges and lessons learned. Presenting a summary of the results of the final independent evaluation carried out in the last quarter of 2014 ([link](#)), she highlighted lessons learned around the need to: consider REDD+'s complexity and changing national circumstances and capabilities from the design phase; promote country leadership; have a clear national approach for REDD+ since the beginning to ensure effective implementation and sustainability; engage relevant stakeholders and institutions beyond the forestry sector; and promote agencies' "delivery as one" towards a more efficient implementation. Main recommendations included the need to anticipate an adequate transition regarding outcomes towards NP's closure, and articulating administrative and financial arrangements regarding operational issues with agencies to improve efficiency and reduce costs. Noting that the evaluation focused on certain specific aspects of the NP, she also presented a country's perspective on both the National Programme and REDD+ readiness more broadly. As such, she highlighted (i) the need to be more conservative about timing and scope, while recognizing national and institutional capabilities and changing circumstances; (ii) that as an innovative endeavor, REDD+ requires building trust and capacities of all institutions involved – forestry, government and others; (iii) that a clear national vision and approach for REDD+, lead by the country from the onset, are necessary to ensure effective implementation and sustainability; (iv) that it is essential for all partners to promote "delivery as one" towards more efficiency and streamlined support. Next steps on continuing the country's REDD+ efforts include undertaking a political and strategic dialogue to validate the REDD+ National Action Plan and articulate it with broader policies, and maintaining the operational elements designed.

Feedback from the Policy Board

The Board congratulated Ecuador on their successful NP and their significant progress on REDD+. A senior agency representative, speaking on behalf of the three UN agencies, praised Ecuador for the creativity they have shown throughout the years in finding solutions and adapting to new challenges, and reaffirmed the Programme's continued support (through TS) to ensure that Ecuador sustains the gains and proceeds on its REDD+ readiness path. Interventions by Board members highlighted knowledge sharing as of utmost importance, so that others may learn from Ecuador's lessons and mistakes. Responding to a question of an IP's Board member, Ms. Garcia Espinoza explained that collective rights such as land ownership, traditional knowledge and governance systems are recognized by Ecuador's constitution, thus they were considered in the development not only of the national REDD+ strategy, but also in the national approach for safeguards.

Session 5: Country Needs Assessments (CNAs)

The funding opportunity through the Programme for CNAs was made available in 2014 for a total value of US\$ 1.2 million. Mr. Jose Carlos Fernandez, consultant supporting the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat on the country needs assessments, introduced the progress made, followed by insights from three of the countries undertaking their assessments. A total of seven countries (Guatemala, Madagascar, Malawi, Peru, South Sudan, Tunisia and Zimbabwe) and two regions; 1) Mesoamerica (Mexico, Honduras, Colombia, El Salvador and Dominican Republic), and 2) West Africa (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo) are being supported to develop needs assessments in priority areas ([link to presentation](#)). Mr. Fernandez highlighted that CNAs will inform future areas for Targeted Support as well as National Programmes and the sequencing of overall REDD+ activities taking place at national level. To date, Madagascar has come furthest with tentative results being analyzed, followed by Mesoamerica, while others are in the preparation phase of the methodology and hiring consultants. The final results will be delivered at the fifteenth Policy Board meeting.

Mr. Yoel Kirschner presented the initial steps of Malawi's needs assessment, which complements its current targeted support request. The rationale of the CNA is to look into the gaps of policy and legal frameworks as foundation to REDD+ and to compile REDD+ knowledge into a road map to a National Strategy that better sequences and coordinates the REDD+ efforts by the country.

Mr. Andriamanjato Mamitiana, Madagascar's UN-REDD Focal Point, presented some of the results from their needs assessment, which focused in three areas: land tenure, REDD+ vision and intersectoral dialogue, and NFMS/MRV. He started by emphasizing the rationale for such support followed by a broad description of the main findings, including the need to work with both land and forest administrations on land reform in the forest sector, developing land tenure maps, establishing an institutional framework for high-level exchanges and cross-sectoral dialogue, and capacity building of REDD+ stakeholders.

Ms. Ana Karla Perea Blazquez, representative of the Mesoamerican region, delivered a presentation on the regional needs assessment undertaken to evaluate forest monitoring needs of countries part of the Mesoamerican Strategy for Environmental Sustainability (EMSA). She noted the importance of the

regional cooperation in the development of national forest monitoring systems (NFMS) and forest reference emission levels in accordance with the UNFCCC requirements. Ms. Perea also showed some of the methodological frameworks that have been developed to accommodate distinct national circumstances in the region and systematize needs assessments process.

Feedback from the Policy Board

The Board welcomed the three country and region presentations. The importance of exchanging experiences among countries on MRV, forest RELs and degradation issues, including through regional assessments, was highlighted by a Board member. The FAO representative indicated that this is already being done through different means, and that sharing experiences and learning among countries will be further conducted through the regional needs assessments.

Session 6: Closure of meeting

6a. Next Policy Board meeting

The Secretariat recommended holding the next Policy Board meeting the first week of November 2015, considering the busy end of the year calendar in view of COP-21. Moreover, Guatemala formally offered to host the 15th Policy Board meeting, as well as the 20th Participants Committee meeting of the FCPF during the preceding week. The Board approved the proposal.

6b. Decisions and conclusions

Draft decisions from sessions 1 to 6 were presented by the Co-chairs and confirmed by the Policy Board.

Annex I: Summary of governance session, UN-REDD PB14, 21.05.2015

Areas of consensus

Structure

- One Policy Board (PB), one Executive Board (EB) and National Steering Committees (NSC)
- NSCs serving for UN-REDD can also serve other platforms as appropriate and decided at country level as long as UN-REDD requirements are maintained
- Split of strategic and operational functions
- Guiding Principles for all governing bodies
 - Inclusiveness
 - Transparency
 - Accountability
 - Consensus-based decisions
 - Participation
- Guiding principles for Executive Board
 - Small, lean and efficient
- Representativeness
 - Members should represent the constituency and ensure consultation and feedback to their respective constituencies
 - Programme should support members to conduct consultations and provide feedback

Functions

- PB will provide strategic guidance and oversight of the programme
- EB makes funding allocation decisions
- EB will operate by face-to-face meetings and by e-mails and tele/videoconferences and members have to have availability to perform their functions

Composition

- All current constituencies of the PB should be part of the new PB and of the EB
- NSCs:
 - should have a minimum composition (Government, IP, CSO, UN country rep, UN lead advisor)
 - Donors can be part of NSC
 - Other relevant stakeholders can be invited as per agreement at country level
- PB constituencies will nominate their respective members to the EB

Elements for further discussion

Functions

- Approval of results framework under PB or EB
- Approval of country eligibility criteria under PB or EB

Structure

- Hierarchy/relationship between EB and PB

Composition

- The following individual proposals for the composition of EB were made:
 1. EB should include 3 countries (one per region)

2. EB should have 5 members in total (one per constituency)
3. EB should have 2 CSO representatives, one from the north and one from the south
4. EB should have one IP representative, not necessarily the PB member but one with capacity to follow all the duties associated to the EB
5. Membership should be decided within the respective constituency only

Suggestions

Composition

- GCF Secretariat should be invited as permanent observer to the PB
- Local communities should be represented in governing bodies
- Regional clustering of NSCs should be made possible
- Increase the number of seats of the PB
- Increase the number of days of PB
- Create a UN-REDD Assembly to convene all partner countries

Annex II: List of participants

	First Name	Last Name	
1	Leandro	Fernandez	Argentina
2	Md. Mozaharul	Islam	Bangladesh
3	Saret	Khorn	Cambodia
4	Oswaldo	Quintanilla	Chile
5	Ivan	Valencia	Colombia
6	Georges Claver	Boundzanga	Congo, The Republic of
7	Henriette	Tsoh-Ikouna	Congo, The Republic of
8	Jorge Mario	Rodriguez Zuñiga	Costa Rica
9	Alexandra	Saenz Faerron	Costa Rica
10	Ricardo	Ulate	Costa Rica
11	Manan Lucien	Dja	Cote d'Ivoire
12	Maria del Carmen	Garcia	Ecuador
13	Maria Victoria	Balcarcel Palencia	Guatemala
14	Carlos	Bonilla	Guatemala
15	Sergio Adrian	Palacios Carcamo	Honduras
16	Mamitiana	Andriamanjato	Madagascar
17	Clement	Chilima	Malawi
18	Yoel	Kirschner	Malawi
19	Ana Karla	Perea Blazquez	Mexico
20	Bo	Ni	Myanmar
21	Ngwe	Thee	Myanmar
22	Rajendra	Kafle	Nepal
23	Carlos	Gomez	Panama
24	Maria Jose	Mendoza Ayala	Paraguay
25	Gustavo	Suarez de Freitas	Peru
26	Anura	Sathurusinghe	Sri Lanka
27	Evarist	Nashanda	Tanzania
28	Xavier Nyindo	Mugumya	Uganda
29	Margaret	Athieno Mwebesa	Uganda
30	Binh	Bui My	Viet Nam
31	Thuy	Nguyen Thi Thu	Viet Nam
32	Deuteronomy	Kasaro	Zambia
33	Memory	Zirobwa	Zimbabwe
34	Robert	Chimambo	CSO - Africa
35	Tek	Vannara	CSO – Asia/Pacific
36	Gustavo	Sanchez Valle	CSO - LAC
37	Chris	Meyer	CSO - Northern countries
38	Joseph	Itongwa	IPO - Africa
39	Grace	Balawag	IPO - Asia
40	Lola	Cabnal	IPO - LAC
41	Joseph	Mutangah	UNPFII
42	Michael	Bucki	European Commission

	First Name	Last Name	
43	Masahiko	Hori	Japan
44	Tore	Langhelle	Norway
45	Lisetta	Trebbi	Norway
46	Monica	Corrales	Spain
47	Laura	López-Ortun Collado	Spain
48	Pierre	Bardoux-Chesneau	MPTF Office
49	Ellysar	Baroudy	FCPF
50	Stephanie	Tam	FCPF
51	Leonel	Iglesias-Gutiérrez	FCPF
52	Patrick	Wylie	IUCN
53	Adriana	Vidal	IUCN
54	Claire	Martin	Transparency International
55	Maria Jose	Sanz Sanchez	FAO
56	Tiina	Vahanen	FAO
57	Tim	Clairs	UNDP
58	Josep	Gari	UNDP
59	Gabriel	Labbate	UNEP
60	Tim	Christophersen	UNEP
61	Mette	Loyche Wilkie	UNEP
62	Edoardo	Zandri	UNEP
63	Mirey	Atallah	Secretariat
64	Mario	Boccucci	Secretariat
65	Jennifer	Ferguson-Mitchell	Secretariat
66	Reem	Ismail Saadeh	Secretariat
67	Frances	Lim	Secretariat
68	Thais	Linhares-Juvenal	Secretariat
69	Michael	Speirs	Secretariat
70	Jose Carlos	Fernandez	Secretariat
71	Mihaela	Secieru	Secretariat
