

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **POSITION OF THE DRC CIVIL SOCIETY WORKING GROUP ON CLIMATE AND REDD ON THE UN-REDD AND FCPF MISSIONS IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO OCTOBER 2009**

The DRC CIVIL SOCIETY WORKING GROUP ON CLIMATE AND REDD, in its commitment to guide and follow the REDD and climate processes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the welfare of local communities and indigenous peoples, welcomes the joint UN-REDD and FCPF mission which was held from 12-16 October 2009 and during which a range of activities were organized, in particular a workshop on MRV, working sessions and meetings with the involved parties.

The WORKING GROUP was pleased to have been included and participated in the workshops, working sessions and meetings.

The WORKING GROUP participated actively during the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) workshop itself as well as during the debate.

The WORKING GROUP agrees to develop mechanisms aimed to strengthen its participation and to work in synergy with the REDD National Coordination in general – especially with the person responsible for Information, Education and Communications (IEC), with whom an introductory meeting has recently been programmed. The WORKING GROUP intends to reassert the need of becoming involved in planning and implementation of all the projects concerning capacity building; it also expresses the importance of taking part in the supervision of forest areas (both by remote detection and through participatory methods), in studies on the drivers of deforestation, the development of benefit-sharing mechanisms, the inventory of greenhouse gas emissions, as well as in verification systems that ensure reliability, credibility and transparency in measuring soil carbon.

The Civil Society work plan will continue to be executed taking into account the participation of local actors in provinces and will always consider the recommendations of all parties with the purpose of becoming harmonized with the REDD National Coordination Plan as to achieve a synergistic work – always reaffirming its autonomy to carry out certain activities as well as its role as an independent supervisor. To accomplish this, awareness and advocacy activities will be proactively encouraged as of now and until December 2009, so that the position of the DRC is heard in Copenhagen and a strategic document is drafted to achieve this goal.

The WORKING GROUP congratulates itself for the participation of its two members in the negotiator's TASK FORCE meetings of which they are members. This shows positive progress since the discussions held during the UNFCCC meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, in September 2009, and reaffirms the will to consider the civil society's input in the highly-strategic UNFCCC debate both during the meeting in Barcelona, in November 2009, and in Copenhagen, in December 2009.

Nevertheless, the WORKING GROUP is concerned by the delay in the promulgation of the decree instituting REDD, as such decree would be crucial to implement a REDD NATIONAL COMMITTEE. Such a committee, in turn, would become a key organ for REDD processes in our country.

Once again, the WORKING GROUP encourages parallel missions in spite of the existence of a REDD National Coordination, provided that this is a favorable framework for the exchange and assessment of processes.

All in all and considering the implications at the international level, the WORKING GROUP deems the inclusion of the Foreign Ministry and the Presidency of the Republic necessary for an efficient diplomatic accompaniment of this process, so that the whole country can benefit from the dividends deriving from the expansion of its own forests at a global scale.

Kinshasa. 26 October 2009

WORKING GROUP ON CLIMATE AND REDD