



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

26 April 2010

Dear Mr. Zoellick,

I know you share my commitment to furthering action on climate change. To that end, I would like to suggest we undertake a number of urgent follow-up steps ahead of the 27 May 2010 high-level meeting on REDD+ to be held in Oslo.

As you recall in our joint communication of 5 December 2009 to Prime Ministers Gordon Brown, Jens Stoltenberg and Michael T. Somare, and Presidents Oscar Arias Sanchez and Bharrat Jagdeo, we expressed our commitment to support the design of a unified and coherent institutional architecture for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+).

The “REDD+ Partnership Process” led by Norway and France with support from Australia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Papua New Guinea, is likely to result in an Interim REDD+ Partnership Arrangement. This Arrangement is intended to fast track implementation of efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in keeping with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the spirit of the political commitments contained in the Copenhagen Accord.

Participants in this process, both the developing countries and donors alike, are calling for enhanced coordination and collaboration between the United Nations and World Bank initiatives on REDD, notably the UN-REDD Programme, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and the Forest Investment Program (FIP).

The REDD+ Partnership Process is expected to generate proposals for a new institutional arrangement involving the United Nations and the World Bank. My strong preference, however, would be for us to proactively inform the process by the latest thinking of our REDD initiatives on how best to collaborate to provide REDD+ services at the scale required and address country needs in a timely, effective and coordinated manner.

Mr. Robert B. Zoellick
President
The World Bank
Washington, D.C.

To this end, I propose that we take the following steps to demonstrate that the World Bank and UN agencies are committed to working together to support a viable and successful REDD+ mechanism.

First, I suggest we both issue a call to our respective staff to prioritize working together in the next few weeks to identify and propose concrete collaboration among our existing initiatives to optimize the implementation of an interim REDD+ mechanism. Specifically, I would suggest that FCPF and UN-REDD respond to decisions taken by the governance boards of each programme at their most recent meetings. A similar engagement with the FIP is also important to ensure a cohesive collaborative framework. Our two institutions will also need to explore the most appropriate modalities for cooperation with the Global Environment Facility.

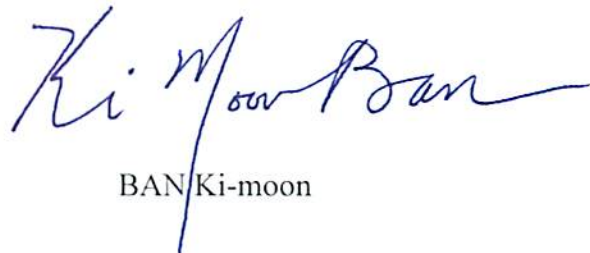
Second, it is essential that the outcomes of these discussions are endorsed by the senior management of the World Bank and the UN agencies.

Third, I propose that this collaborative framework be formally submitted to the REDD+ Partnership Process by 17 May 2010 or earlier. If you agree with this approach, we could inform the organizers of our initiative immediately through a joint letter, ahead of a formal submission.

As highlighted in our joint letter of 5 December 2009, the World Bank and UN agencies offer comparative advantages in the range of services required to implement an effective REDD+ mechanism. Taken individually, none of the existing initiatives is sufficient. Together, however, we have the opportunity to leverage our respective strengths and capacities to meet the REDD+ challenge.

I believe this is the right time for us to introduce our views into the REDD+ process. I look forward to your favourable reply to this proposal so that we can proceed with the steps outlined above.

Yours sincerely,



BAN Ki-moon