

Strategy Group of the UN-REDD Programme
Decisions of meeting 17 March 2014

Participants:

SG members: Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Xiangjun Yao, FAO; Magdy Martinez-Soliman, UNDP (Chair); Elizabeth Mrema, UNEP.

Others: Charles McNeil (UNDP).

Secretariat: Mario Boccucci, Thais Linhares Juvenal, Sharon McAuslan, Mike Speirs, Mirey Atallah.

1. Secretary General's Climate Summit

- a. The SG welcomed the update on the preparations for the 'Land-use / Forests' action area of the SG's Climate Summit and requested the MG to continue to pursue and guide the Programme's involvement in the coming months.
- b. FAO reported on work of the 'Land-use / Agriculture' action area and highlighted the opportunity to consider links between the forest and the agriculture areas, including the importance of addressing these interrelated issues during the forthcoming discussions on the development of the post 2015 Programme Strategy.
- c. *Actions: Secretariat to provide to the SG i. regular updates on the Secretary General's Climate Summit, ii. an update on the development of the +2015 Strategy following the MG retreat (1-2 April), including emerging options for linking to the agricultural agenda.*

2. Review and discussion of SG priorities 2014

- a. There was general convergence regarding the draft SG priorities and workplan prepared by the Secretariat, including the balance of oversight, corporate management and external outreach activities.
- b. Proposed arrangements for meetings in 2014 (quarterly calls, regular written updates, attendance at Policy Board including half day side meetings, 1 day retreat with MG) were agreed in principle, with the full day retreat with the MG proposed to take place in the margins of the UNFCCC COP in Lima at the end of 2014.
- c. The SG requested items be presented in order of priority, agreed as: i. Post 2015 Strategy, ii. Resource Mobilisation, iii. Engagement on strategic partnerships and issues, iv. Programme Evaluation, v. Programme Audit, vi. Policy Board meetings, vii. Head of Secretariat work plan.
- d. *Actions: Secretariat to revise workplan for final SG approval, including indication of meeting dates, where known.*

3. Alerts:

Viet Nam: Harmonisation of fund transfer

- a. The SG agreed on the need to reform and harmonise the fund transfer arrangements to address the issues raised in Viet Nam as soon as possible, as well as to aim to apply this solution to other country programmes for the Programme as a whole.
- b. UNEP confirmed that whilst they do not have capacity to be the one agency to channel the funds to the government at the national level, they have no objection to finding the most efficient solution in the spirit of One UN. There was agreement that it need not always be the same agency to 'channel' the

funds in-country, but that in each country there would be one designated agency, the principle being to provide a 'government facing' solution, which will require the Programme to deal with the internal process appropriately. The SG requested a written proposal from the MG/MPTF-O, drawing on experience from comparable joint programming arrangements where possible.

- c. *Actions: MG to prepare options paper in collaboration with MPTF-O, for SG consideration.*

Policy Board rotation: Issues related to PB11 report and disagreement of PNG

- a. The SG agreed that the PB11 decision on rotation should not be renegotiated, and endorsed the course of action proposed – to initiate the regional self-selection rotation process, begin capacity building, and establish informal consultations with PNG and others to address and mitigate political implications. The SG requested a briefing note summarizing the issues and proposed course of action, for use in briefing Agency principals and others.
- b. *Action: Secretariat to prepare note and submit to SG during coming days.*

4. UN Office for REDD+ Coordination in Indonesia (UN ORCID)

- a. In view of the resources allocation to UN ORCID by the Programme, the SG acknowledged the importance of the office and requested the Secretariat to explore what opportunities exist for enhanced SG support/engagement and leveraging the office's capacity through the Programme.
- b. *Action: Secretariat to provide options for support/engagement and report to SG.*

5. AOB/wrap-up

n/a