

Strategy Group of the UN-REDD Programme
Decisions of meeting 6 June 2014

Participants:

SG members: Eduardo Rojas, Xiangjun Yao, FAO; Magdy Martinez-Soliman, UNDP (Chair); Mette Loyche Wilkie, UNEP.

Others: Charles McNeill (UNDP), Eduardo Mansur (FAO)

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 outcome of the Abu Dhabi Ascent (4-5 May) and preparations related to the forests action area of the SG's Climate Summit. Given the limited time that will be dedicated to each action area during the Climate Summit, there was agreement to further explore organizing a forest pavilion, a dedicated space for discussion related to the forest action area, in the margins of the Summit.
- b. The SG also suggested making use of opportunities to liaise with countries and donors regarding possible pledges, for instance convening a meeting at COFO and collating list of current pledges (reducing deforestation, increasing forest area, restoration of forests).
- c. Additional opportunities for referring to REDD within other action areas were also noted (UNEP FI working on inserting language on REDD finance within the climate financing deliverable)
- d. *Actions: Secretariat and Agencies to explore opportunities to liaise with countries ahead of the Climate Summit.*

2. Update on Policy Board preparations

- a. The general update on PB12 preparations was noted, with the SG focusing discussion on the issues related to the rotation of PB countries in Asia-Pacific and the ensuing allegations raised in correspondence from PNG.
- b. The SG endorsed the course of action taken by the Co-chairs related to confirmation of the Policy Board members and sponsored observers, agreeing on the importance of upholding the governance of the Programme.
- c. The SG agreed on the need to respond to the allegations from PNG against the UN and the UN-REDD Programme that have gone beyond reasonable behavior. Considering the short time before PB12 and the need to prioritize the execution of the rotation agreed by PB11, it was agreed that a formal response to the unacceptable behavior would be delayed for the time being, with the SG to revisit the issue at an appropriate time, likely after PB12. It was agreed that informal discussions with the PNG Mission in NY could take place in the meantime. Depending on the response of the mission and any further action taken by PNG, formal action could include future steps expressing the level of profound distress and alarm regarding the behavior witnessed, and if appropriate, declaring the representative persona non grata at UN-REDD Programme meetings.
- d. *Secretariat to coordinate follow up to PNG correspondence and share draft letter with SG in due course.*

3. Programme Evaluation

- a. The SG agreed to the process outlined for inputting and approving the internal Programme Management Response that will deal with the majority of the recommendations, aside from those aimed directly at the PB (to be sent to SG by email around 20 June, subject to delivery of the final report on 12 June). Proposed handling for PB12 was also supported: i. introduction of the report and MR on day 1 as an information (not decision) session; ii. WG established to prepare response to the three recommendations aimed directly at the PB during day 1 and 2, and report back to the PB on day 2 for PB decision.
- b. SG initial feedback on the draft evaluation report included disappointment regarding the lack of recommendations related to the future Programme Strategy.
- c. *Actions: n/a*

4. Programme Strategy

- a. The SG supported proposed handling for PB12: to start a process to develop the Strategy, undertake a robust consultation intersessionally, and bring it for discussion at PB13, with a view to presenting the final Strategy at PB14 if extra time is needed. The main SG consultation on the substantive issues would take place after PB12, in advance of the consultation of PB members.
- b. Regarding the authority of the Policy Board with regards to approval (or not) of the Strategy, initial feedback from SG members reiterated the need for thorough PB involvement in the development of the Strategy, and indicated a preference for broad Policy Board approval of the Strategy.
- c. *Actions: MG/SG meeting on 10 July to further discuss emerging Strategy; SG members to confirm attendance asap.*

5. AOB/wrap-up

- a. Xiangjun announced her departure from the SG in order to take up a new role in FAO; the SG congratulated Xiangjun on her new post and thanked her for her contribution and engagement in the group.