

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

26 August 2009

Excellency,

In partnership with United Nations Member States with significant interest in advancing Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD), it is my great honour to invite you to speak at a special high-level side event on REDD to be held during the opening of the 64th General Assembly session on 23 September 2009 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the ECOSOC Chamber at United Nations Headquarters.

REDD is gaining momentum as a feasible and cost-effective way to contribute to the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous climate change while also providing resources for forested developing countries and communities to launch new, low carbon sustainable development pathways and make progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

The high-level side event on REDD will build on outcomes that may emerge from the 22 September 2009 Summit on Climate Change. Its objectives are to reaffirm the importance of REDD as a cornerstone of global efforts against climate change; to build additional momentum in favour of including an efficient, effective, and equitable REDD mechanism within the overall framework of a global deal on climate change to be agreed at the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December this year; and without pre-empting the discussions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to explore ways of mobilizing support for countries to get ready and implement early actions on REDD.

His Excellency
Mr. Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
Washington, D.C.

This would include finding avenues to make interim financing for REDD available to support readiness and demonstration activities for the immediate period up until financing can start flowing within an eventual UNFCCC-REDD mechanism. A strong readiness phase is essential for successful implementation of REDD actions in the future.

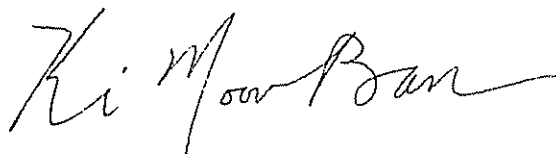
The special event will also aim to underline the importance of a strong, global partnership to make REDD work, including the importance of coordination, information sharing and innovative and collaborative efforts among tropical forest countries, the United Nations system, the World Bank, and bilateral donors, as well as civil society actors.

During this special event, a panel of Heads of State and Government from developing and developed countries committed to strong action on REDD will highlight their commitment to prepare for, implement and finance REDD in the short, medium and long-term. There will also be a discussion among Heads of State and Government and key experts focused on solutions and the way forward.

The remaining tropical forests of the world are global treasures. A genuine opportunity is now emerging to secure them for future generations, while achieving climate benefits and furthering sustainable development. I invite your engagement, commitment and leadership in this endeavour and look forward to you joining me at this special event on REDD.

I would be grateful if your office would kindly confirm your participation at un-redd@un-redd.org by no later than Monday, 7 September 2009.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



BAN/Ki-moon