**Talking points – UNDP**

**High level media launch of the Kenya task force on Anti-Corruption for REDD+**

**27 November 2014**

* Mr Chairman, Principal Environmental Secretary and Director of Ministry of Environment, Water, and Natural Resources, Executive Director of Transparency International, Your excellency, ladies and gentlemen,
* On behalf of UNDP Kenya, it gives pleasure and honor to assist today in the official launch of the National Task Force on Anti-Corruption for REDD+.
* This Task Force won’t solely be a “talk shop”, but instead a real collaboration between 10 institutions who have committed to not only advance the dialogue but also **implement joint actions**.
* The UN-REDD Programme, a collaborative partnership of FAO, UNDP and UNEP, has been supporting the government of Kenya through its MEWNR and REDD+ Coordination office since Kenya became a UN-REDD partner country in 2010 – on green economy, legal preparedness and governance. This support to the implementation framework complements the efforts of the World Bank in supporting the country’s strategic framework for REDD+.
* Within this partnership, the United Nations Development Programme has first focused its support on analytical work governance issues – transparency, accountability, engagement of stakeholder, sharing benefits.
* This support on REDD+ enhances and complements the ongoing support of the UNDP in Kenya, on issues of public sector reform, civic education, the electoral process, support to the Commission for Implementation of the Constitution, realizing human rights and access to justice.
* One of the recommendations of this analytic work was the creation of a body to tackle the most urgent, the most damaging corruption risksin REDD+ (I emphasize risks as REDD+ is only starting in Kenya). The Task Force is such body.
* So now is the time for this Task Force to go from **assessment** to **action.** Two days ago the Task Force discussed and decided on its priority actions :
	1. Acting as an advisory body for work related to free prior and informed consent, engagement of stakeholders, a registry, and a regional initiative on Illegal trade of timber and charcoal
	2. Providing guidance to an awareness campaign targeting various stakeholders
	3. Undertake joint capacity building activities and strengthening existing transparency, accountability and codes of conducts mechanisms.”

The **diverse composition** of this new Task Force -- with representatives from government and civil society -- reflects not only their commitment but also the many perspectives needed to approach and address **complex** and sometimes **sensitive governance issues**

* **Adding to this rich composition is the role of the media** – Indeed, on issues of transparency and accountability, which will be key for REDD+ to achieve its climate and development objectives, the media has a crucial role to play.
* The media should keep informing themselves and the public, reporting on successes and concerns, investigating when needed. The role of the media in educating, providing oversight and acting as watchdog cannot be overstated.
* Kenya has a history of vibrant media and civil society; and an **informed** and **engaged** civil society and media that are **informed about REDD+** and that **value and demand accountability** will determine the success of REDD+.
* I wish the task Force godspeed in their courageous and necessary endeavor.