

MR. JENS STOLTENBERG (Norway): Thank you, Madam, Under-Secretary-General, Excellencies,

First of all, I would like to remind you all that in a few weeks we will meet in Copenhagen, and there our main obligation is to seal an agreement where we are able to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases. Such an agreement should, of course, contain many different elements, but one of the most important elements is that we have to agree on how to save our forests, how to reduce deforestation.

The reason why that is so important is that deforestation and forest degradation cause close to 20 per cent of total global emissions of greenhouse gases. So, without our being able to reduce deforestation we will not be able to reduce the emissions sufficiently.

Therefore, it is important to achieve an agreement in Copenhagen where we create the framework on how to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. I remember that we actually tried to do the same thing in Kyoto in 1997, but there we did not manage – or at least in a very limited way – to include forests. This time we really have to include forests in a new agreement.

And to be able to do so I think we have to at least be able to achieve three actions, three agreements, regarding forests. First, we need international

standards and support mechanisms for measuring, reporting and verifying emissions from deforestation. That is actually a technical issue, but it is very important, because we have to agree on how to measure, how to count, how many tonnes of CO2 equal one square or one hectare of forests and different kinds of forests. We have achieved a lot of agreement regarding these technical issues, but that is key to be able to create the framework to be able to reduce deforestation.

The UN-REDD Programme is aimed exactly at developing the framework, the mechanisms, the measurements, the standards, on how to be able to cope with deforestation in an agreement. I would like also to underline that one of the reasons we are able to agree on these issues is that we have actually been working on these issues since 1997, since the Kyoto agreement.

Secondly, we need to establish transparent and results-based economic incentives. We have already started with some pilot projects. That is what we have established in the Amazon Fund, together with Brazil. That is actually a success story. Deforestation in the Amazon is going down. We are paying on a results-based financing system. Norway, for instance, has committed one billion US dollars. We pay only when we see the results. So when Brazil can provide us with documentation that deforestation is going down, they receive the financial support from Norway. It is

an excellent system, it works, and deforestation in the Amazon has been reduced. We also work together with Congo and other countries in the Congo Basin. The Congo Basin initiative is an important initiative to try also to reduce deforestation in the Congo Basin.

Thirdly, the developed countries must provide large-scale predictable funding, because if we are really going to reduce deforestation it is the developed world that has the main responsibility to provide the necessary funding for reducing deforestation. That is also the main purpose of the Amazon Fund and of the Congo Basin initiative.

I would also like to underline that we believe that deforestation is going to be an important part of the agreement in Copenhagen. Norway has announced that we will allocate up to \$500 million yearly to prevent deforestation and reduce forest degradation. This is key to be able to reach an ambitious agreement in Copenhagen, and, therefore, I am glad to be here to work together with you on UN-REDD, which is key to achieving those results.

Thank you for your attention.