

MR. ROBERT ZOELLICK (World Bank): Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary-General, and let me thank all of you for joining us today.

A few weeks ago I visited a forestation project that the World Bank had sponsored in Anhui province in China a number of years ago. It was a fantastic sight to see. It had transformed bare mountains into forests. It had returned birds and wildlife. Very poor villagers, whom I had the chance to meet, had earned income from planting the trees and then managing them. The local government had learned about financial management and procurement, and they were applying those lessons to other areas of governance. There was new research being done, and there was an old part of Chinese heritage that had been returned.

I know that the global climate change negotiations are difficult. Whether in New York or Copenhagen, you can hear sounds of acrimony. There was no acrimony on those hillsides of Anhui Province. There were only cool breezes, refreshing shade and a sense of win-win opportunities. With forestation and by avoiding deforestation, one can address climate change. One can address biodiversity; one can address development in terms of resources, assistance and knowledge.

A couple of weeks before I went to China I was in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo,

and I met the head ranger of Virunga National Park. That park is half the size of Belgium. Most people know it for the mountain gorillas. It has incredible biodiversity. That head ranger told me that for three million dollars he could develop an alternative to charcoal that he thought could be a game-changer in protecting his trees, his park and his rangers who put their lives at risk. Three million dollars!

Today I met the Prime Minister of Kenya and the Environmental Minister, and they outlined forestry plans they had with schoolchildren and community groups to plant trees. Our job is to help design the right incentives and the right tools to interconnect the stewards of forests with finance and experience.

The good news is that many developing countries are developing ambitious REDD programmes. It is an exciting moment for those of us at the World Bank group. We have set up two global partnerships on REDD+, involving developed and developing countries. They draw together civil society, indigenous groups, the private sector, international organizations, and they are informed and guided by the UNFCCC.

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility is perhaps the leading multilateral initiative on REDD+, and I see many of the participants here who helped us. It is already helping 37 developing countries build on REDD Infrastructure and capacity to try to make sure they can take advantage of performance-based

incentives, and it is financed by contributions from 13 countries and organizations. The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility is doing one other very important thing. It is piloting a new inclusive governance model for climate management and finance, where the decisions are made by developed and developing countries in common. This is being done for \$160 million, and you can certainly imagine that more money could be put to good use.

We also have a Forest Investment Programme, which helps make investments inside and outside the forest sector that counter the fundamental causes of deforestation and help restore forests. And, here, donors have pledged some \$350 million.

Now these are just start-up ventures. But our aim is to learn what works on the ground. How do we develop pilots? How do we work out the kinks so that we can build REDD financing into a global climate change framework strategy to try to link global carbon trading with other ventures? We are in effect the blue collar workers of climate change. We are trying to recognize that, while there is enormously hard work on commitments, on negotiations, on treaties, on trade-offs, we are trying to learn how to be effective on the ground, in the forests, in the communities, bringing together developed and developing countries.

So, I thank the Secretary-General for his leadership, and I thank all of you for your interest, and we certainly thank the donors who, at a time of financial stress, have dug into their pockets to try to support something that can bring the world together on climate change.

Thank you.