

Thought mission



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THE PRIME MINISTER

19 November 2009

Mr Ban Ki-moon  
Mr Robert Zoellick

Dear Secretary General and Mr Zoellick

I am writing on behalf of my fellow signatories. With COP 15 fast approaching, the scale and immediacy of the challenge we face in tackling climate change is apparent to us all. An ambitious and effective outcome needs all elements of the climate deal to come together.

We would like to highlight the particular urgency of REDD+. Without rapid and significant reductions in emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, it will be impossible to avoid global warming in excess of 2 degrees.

There are two issues where we believe we can make progress before Copenhagen, to enable an immediate scale-up in effort on REDD+ by both developed and developing countries.

The first is on finance. There is global recognition that public finance for forests is vital, and developed countries must commit significant additional resources to assisting rainforest countries develop and implement REDD+ strategies and incentivize large scale action for emissions reductions ahead of market linkage. There are a number of estimates of needs for the global forestry sector: the Informal Working Group on Forest Finance estimates the need as €15-25 billion in the period 2010-2015; the European Commission estimates that the need could be €18bn per year by 2020.



We recognise that these figures are still estimates and that new information on needs may emerge. But clearly public finance will play a role not only in capacity building and policy support, but more importantly to establish a results based mechanism to incentivize large scale emission reductions. Public finance will also play an important role in leveraging private sector resources and ensuring private sector investment in forest protection. Some developed countries would be willing to engage open private markets and would consider participating in public fund supported markets, and we need to explore further the role of public-private instruments, such as bonds and guarantees, in catalysing early finance for action on REDD+ and leveraging private sector investment to secure the sustainable management of forests, the creation of livelihoods for local people, and to support forest nations in their efforts to move towards a low carbon economy, including through carbon trading in the sector.

We are therefore calling on the World Bank Group to work urgently and in an open and consultative manner with developed and developing countries, the private sector and regional development banks on potential new financial instruments to support REDD+ financing. We ask that you report back on preliminary options for consideration before COP15 and prepare a final report for January.

The second key issue is on the institutional architecture supporting REDD+. The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and UN-REDD have generated a real community of policy and practice around REDD+. The Forest Investment Programme will be launched this month with a focus on transformational investments in activities that will help make emission reductions sustainable and support poverty reduction. We recognise the efforts that have already been made to coordinate and improve the operation of these mechanisms, but we need to do more.

We are therefore calling on the UN agencies and MDBs to work together on recommendations for reforming and streamlining their REDD+ institutions. This work should address how existing mechanisms could be made fit for the purpose of delivering finance at a much greater scale, most importantly through playing a key role in administering a payments-for-results incentive structure, and how they will coordinate to increase efficiency and reduce costs. So we can get moving on this in early 2010, we ask that you report back before

**Copenhagen, so that the Parties can take the recommendations into account when deciding institutional and financial arrangements.**

**Yours sincerely**

*Gorda*

**The Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP**

**President Oscar Arias Sanchez of the Republic of Costa Rica**

**President Bharrat Jagdeo of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana**

**Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg of the Kingdom of Norway**

**Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare of Papua New Guinea**



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20 November 2009

HE Mr Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary General  
The United Nations  
New York

*Dear Secretary-General,*

I have the honour of transmitting to you the enclosed letter from the Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP, UK Prime Minister, regarding REDD+. There will be no signed original.

I would like to take this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Mark Lyall Grant*

pp Mark Lyall Grant *smc*