

**UK's Speech to the UNSG's High Level Event on REDD  
New York, 23 September 2009**

(delivered by Michael Jacobs in the Prime Minister's absence)

I AM GRATEFUL TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL STOLTENBERG FOR ORGANISING THIS EVENT.

IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT OUR EFFORTS TO PRESERVE THE WORLD'S FORESTS MUST BE JUST AS FORCEFUL AND DETERMINED AS OUR ENDEAVOURS TO DEVELOP CLEANER, GREENER TECHNOLOGY OR TO DEPLOY LOW-CARBON FORMS OF ENERGY. BUT WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THESE FORESTS ARE THE SOVEREIGN TERRITORY OF THE COUNTRIES IN WHICH THEY STAND, AND THAT THEY ARE HOME TO MANY MILLIONS OF PEOPLE SEEKING TO IMPROVE THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING AND PRESERVE THEIR WAY OF LIFE.

SO IN OUR EFFORTS TO FIND INCENTIVES TO MAKE THE WORLD'S FORESTS WORTH MORE STANDING THAN CUT DOWN WE MUST RESPECT THESE REALITIES AND ENSURE THAT WHAT WE ARE SUPPORTING IS TRULY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

TO DO THAT, IT IS VITAL THAT WE COMMIT TO FINANCING NOT JUST FOR THE PERIOD AFTER 2012 BUT ALSO BEFORE IT.

SO I APPLAUD THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON INTERIM FINANCE, SET UP IN LONDON SIX MONTHS AGO, AND THE CONCLUSIONS OF ITS REPORT -- THAT WE SHOULD FUND CAPACITY BUILDING, SEEK TO CATALYSE PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT AND PROVIDE PAYMENTS FOR RESULTS.

I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES MAKE CLEAR THAT WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS -- WHILST SEEKING AMBITIOUS NATIONAL EFFORTS BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE UK HAS ALREADY COMMITTED APPROXIMATELY \$160M IN THE THREE YEARS TO 2011.

AND I TAKE TWO KEY LESSONS FROM THE WORK THAT HAS BEEN DONE.

FIRST, THERE NEEDS TO BE INCREASED CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE VARIOUS FUNDS AND INSTITUTIONS NOW WORKING IN THIS FIELD -- THE FOREST CARBON PARTNERSHIP FACILITY, THE UN REDD PROGRAMME AND THE FOREST INVESTMENT PROGRAMME. THEY NEED TO WORK MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND REDUCE COSTS.

SECOND, PUBLIC FINANCE FOR FORESTS IS VITAL - BUT THERE IS AN URGENT NEED TOO TO ACCESS THE CONSIDERABLE PRIVATE SECTOR INTEREST IN INVESTING IN FOREST PROTECTION.

I AM KEEN THAT WE EXPLORE FURTHER THE ROLE OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE INSTRUMENTS, SUCH AS BONDS AND GUARANTEES, AS A WAY OF LEVERAGING PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS AND THE CREATION OF LIVELIHOODS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE.

SO I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE THAT WE ASK THE WORLD BANK TO WORK URGENTLY, IN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS, WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR ON NEW INSTRUMENTS TO LEVERAGE PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT, AND TO REPORT BACK TO US.

THE NEED IS URGENT. WE NEED TO WORK SWIFTLY, AND WITH COMMITMENT.

