

Use of Technical Advice in the UN-REDD Programme

Discussion Note

UN-REDD PROGRAMME

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1. Need for Technical Advice

At its first meeting (9-10 March 2009, Panama) the Policy Board of the UN-REDD Programme emphasised the need for a technical advisory function within the programme, given the complexity of REDD issues and many technically challenging outputs the UN-REDD Programme is expected to produce. Accordingly, it requested the Secretariat to prepare Terms of Reference (TOR) for an advisory group.

2. Use of Experts from Existing Rosters of Experts for Technical Advice

On further consideration, the Secretariat proposes that, instead of establishing a new advisory group, the Policy Board might wish to consider **using experts, in their personal capacity, from the existing Rosters of Experts and networks to review certain substantive outputs of the UN-REDD programme, such as guidance and technical review papers.**

Existing rosters include the Roster of Experts of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Roster of Experts of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) (See Annex 1), as well as the members of the UN-REDD Programme Civil Society Advisory Group.

Such approach could increase the UN-REDD Programme's collaboration with UNFCCC, FCPF and civil society groups in concrete terms, while avoiding new institutional arrangements. Reference is also made to the outcome of the Panama FCPF Participants Committee that encouraged cooperation in the use of technical advice, including through development and use of a joint Roster of Experts¹.

3. Expert Reviews

When specific technical expertise is required, the Secretariat or Participating Agencies (FAO, UNEP and UNDP) will arrange a review of technical papers, guidelines and other output materials produced to achieve the outcomes identified in the Global Joint Programme.

Outcome 1: improved guidance on measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) approaches

Outcome 2: increased engagement of stakeholders in the REDD agenda

Outcome 3: improved analytical and technical framework of multiple benefits for REDD decision-makers

Outcome 4: increased knowledge management, coordination and communication

¹ The FCPF Participants Committee Meeting (11-13 March 2009, Panama) resolved that The Facility Management Team of the FCPF and the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat should continue to improve collaboration, including through "Development and use of a joint Roster of Experts to provide members of the FCPF Technical Advisory Panel and UN-REDD Programme Technical Advisory Group."

To enhance full consistency with the UNFCCC MRV process, experts who are already members of the UNFCCC Roster of Expert, will be invited to conduct reviews specifically for outcome 1 outputs (MRV).

Participation in the expert reviews is voluntary. If experts are invited by the UN-REDD Programme to attend the Policy Board or other UN-REDD Programme meetings, their travel costs can be covered by the UN-REDD Programme, in line with the UN travel rules and procedures.

4. Proposed Decision Points for the Policy Board

The Policy Board is invited to consider the following points:

1. Decide on the use experts from the existing Rosters of Experts and networks to review certain substantive outputs of the UN-REDD programme, such as guidance and technical review papers.
2. Request the Secretariat to further collaborate with the FCPF FMT in the development and use of a joint Roster of Experts to provide members of the FCPF Technical Advisory Panel, and experts to review the UN-REDD Programme guidance and technical review papers, upon the request by UN-REDD Programme Policy Board, Secretariat or the participating agencies.



Annex 1. Information on the UNFCCC and FCPF Rosters of Experts

UNFCCC Roster of Experts on LULUCF

To verify country national inventory report and national communication the UNFCCC Secretariat has established a group of reviewers among the experts nominated by Parties in the UNFCCC Roster of Experts. To become a reviewer an expert has to attend a course and to pass through an examination (there are two series of examination - one for the Convention and one for the Kyoto Protocol). Each specific sector, such as LULUCF, requires a different examination and an expert may review only the sectors where he did the examination.

In general, members of the Roster of Expert are being called upon to assist the Secretariat by fulfilling specific tasks for which they are nominated. The initial assignments could include providing advice on the scope of the reports to be prepared, contributing written material for a report, reviewing reports or carrying out specific assessments requested by the SBSTA and SBI.

FCPF Ad Hoc Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) to Review FCPF R-Plans and to Provide Technical Expertise

The FCPF TAPs provide scientific, technical and other advice by reviewing and providing technical assistance for Readiness Plans (R-Plans), and by providing technical expertise in a range of issues important to the assessment and eventual implementation of REDD activities. The TAP members are drawn from a Roster of Experts and they serve in their individual capacity and not represent any organization.

The FCPF RoE is designed to be dynamic to meet the evolving needs of this TAP for R-Plan review and other technical assistance; additional experts and areas of expertise can be nominated by FCPF Participants or others or the FCPF Management Team (FMT) and added by the FMT to meet evolving country, R-Plan, or other technical assistance needs.

The FMT selects and hires experts for review of each individual country R-Plan, and to provide technical assistance as requested by countries, the Participants Committee or the FMT. Experts are selected on an as-needed basis.

