

UN-REDD PROGRAMME



UN-REDD 2016-2020 Governance Arrangements Draft document for Policy Board comments

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(15 June 2015)

*As per decision 4(i) of the 14th Policy Board meeting, this revised paper presents a comprehensive proposed governance arrangements of the UN-REDD, for comments and feedback by Policy Board members and observers by **14 July 2015**.*

I- Context

The UN-REDD Programme is anchored in, and financed through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF). The current UN-REDD Fund (2009-2015) ends on 31st December 2015, meaning that receipt of contributions and allocation of funds cannot be made beyond this date. In order to enable the UN-REDD Programme to implement its new framework strategy (2016-2020), a new UN-REDD Fund at the MPTF will have to be established by the end of 2015. The establishment of the new UN-REDD Fund 2016-2020 requires two agreements:

1. A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between the three participating UN agencies (FAO, UNDP and UNEP) and the MPTF Office.
2. A **Standard Administrative Agreement (SAA)** between the donors and the MPTF Office, to allow contributions to the new **strategic framework** (2016-2020).

The building of the MoU and the SAA relies on three foundational pillars:

- A **UN-REDD strategy document**, setting the Programme's theory of change, priorities, outcomes and core approaches for the period 2016-2020;
- based on the above, the Programme's **results framework**, including indicators at the outcome level to track progress and assess impacts; and
- A set of **governance arrangements**, tailored to the new strategy.

These foundational pillars were discussed during the Fourteenth Meeting of the UN-REDD Policy Board, in May 2015. The overall direction of the new UN-REDD strategy document was endorsed. The new governance arrangements were thoroughly discussed.

The current paper outlines the current thinking related to the new UN-REDD governance arrangements and draws on feedback received to date. This paper serves as the basis for the final round of consultations with current members of the UN-REDD Policy Board.

The new governance arrangements will provide for decision making regarding all UN-REDD Programme funds, including contributions earmarked for specific countries or outcomes.

II- Design background

The design of the new governance arrangements of UN-REDD has been based on the following contributions:

- recommendations from the review of the Policy Board (2013), the external evaluation of UN-REDD (2014) and the independent audit (2014);
- lessons learnt from the management and implementation of the current strategic framework (2011-2015), including regular feedback from the different UN-REDD stakeholders;
- consultations with members of the Policy Board in March-April 2015 (on the basis of a paper circulated on 13th March 2015);
- discussions during a UN-REDD governance expert meeting (held in Geneva, 24th April 2015);

- general considerations of institutional design and reform, including best practices, and guidance from the UN Development Group (UNDG) and the MPTF; and
- a set of consultations during the 14th meeting of the UN-REDD Policy Board in mid-May 2015.

The new governance arrangements seek to:

- ensure effective and efficient implementation of the Programme;
- strengthen national-level ownership, coordination and oversight;
- improve operational and overall governance by taking decisions at the most appropriate level;
- adapt to the new challenges posed by the diversity of country needs, financing opportunities and donors preferences; and
- retain the multi-stakeholder participatory nature of UN-REDD governance.

III- Structure

The proposed governance arrangements for UN-REDD are based on a 3-tier structure, with distinctive roles and responsibilities, as follows:

- a **Policy Board (PB)**, focusing on strategic functions;
- a small and lean **Executive Board (EB)**, in charge of efficiently conducting operational decisions; and
- a set of **National Steering Committees (NSCs)**, systematically created for every country programme, to guide and oversee implementation at the national level.

The guiding principles for these three governing bodies are participation and inclusiveness, transparency, accountability, and consensus decision-making. In this way, the governing bodies will allow the full and effective participation of all key UN-REDD stakeholders. Members of the governing bodies will be responsible for their actions and decisions and accountable to their constituencies, always privileging the best interests of the Programme. Members will consult with and seek feedback from their respective constituencies as required. Information will be made available and accessible in sufficient time to permit the analysis, evaluation and engagement by all key stakeholders.

IV- Functions

The proposed functions of each governing body provide for streamlined decision making regarding UN-REDD Programme funds.

The main functions of the Policy Board will be:

- Strategic direction to the Programme.
- Review of UN-REDD progress, ensuring consistency with the Strategy 2016-2020 and providing the EB with recommendations for improvement.
- Exchange lessons, identify challenges and share REDD+ practices.
- Foster coordination and collaboration with FCPF and other international initiatives, Funds and organizations related to REDD+.
- Discuss developments from the international REDD+ arena and their potential relevance to the Programme.

The main functions of the Executive Board will be as follows:

- Taking operational decisions for implementing the Programme, including approval and implementation oversight of the results framework for the Programme based on the Strategic Framework; approval of transparent eligibility criteria for prioritisation of activities (especially in case of funding limitations), and approval of funding allocations (at outcome level).
- Quality assurance and oversight for the implementation of the agreed funding allocations in the context of the UN-REDD Programme.
- Review and approval of the UN-REDD Programme's consolidated monitoring, reporting and evaluations.
- Report progress and any implementation issues to the Policy Board, as well as highlighting any other issues requiring advice from the Policy Board.

The main functions of the National Steering Committees, defined taking into account national circumstances and lessons learned from National Programmes are:

- Oversight of the implementation of country programmes.
- Approval of annual work plans and budgets, budget revisions and national-programme extensions, according to specific guidance and thresholds established by the Executive Board.
- Monitoring, reporting and evaluation of national UN-REDD programmes.
- Ensure the application of the UN-REDD technical guidance, and consider recommendation/guidance by the Policy Board and the Executive Board.
- As appropriate, the NSCs established for the UN-REDD Programme may also be adjusted to serve as coordination and management platforms for other national initiatives related to REDD+.

V- Composition and linkages

All the five constituencies of the current PB will be part of the new PB and EB, namely: REDD+ countries, donor countries, indigenous peoples, civil society organisations and the UN agencies.

The new **Policy Board** will keep the current PB composition, including the current arrangements for the selection of members.

In addition, a representative from the Green Climate Fund will be invited as observer, and the Programme shall endeavour to have one relevant private sector observer in the meetings of the Policy Board.

The **Executive Board** will be composed by the following members (selected from their respective PB constituency):

- One REDD+ country per region
- The contributing donors
- The UN agencies (speaking with one voice)
- One representative from indigenous peoples
- One representative of civil society organisations
- The MPTF Office (*ex-officio*)

The **National Steering Committees** for UN-REDD national programmes will be established and led by the respective Government, following the national context for programme management. In addition to Government officials, they will include:

- At least one representative from civil society (self-selected),
- One representative from indigenous peoples (self-selected),
- The UN agencies, including the UN-REDD lead advisor for the country.

Donors may participate if they request so. Other relevant stakeholders may be invited, particularly representatives from local communities and the private sector that have stakes in the success of REDD+.

The members of each governing structure are selected by, and report to their respective constituency. Members should have time available and communication means to prepare and participate in the meetings of the governing body they belong to, including to consult and feedback their respective constituency on activities and decisions of that governing body. The UN-REDD Programme will be able to support consultations and feedback for the cases of representatives from REDD+ countries, indigenous peoples and civil society organizations from the South.

Linkages will be established to ensure that information, recommendation and guidance will flow across the three governing bodies. The EB will periodically update the PB on progress of implementation and issues at stake, as well as seek feedback from the PB for improving the implementation of the Programme. Based on national reports from National Programmes and on reports from NSC meetings, the EB may provide recommendations to the NSCs on the implementation of the national programmes.

Existing national and UN agencies' grievance and redress mechanisms will be utilized as required.
