
FIELD

Foundation for International
Environmental Law and Development

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Guide for REDD-plus negotiators

Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to assist developing country negotiators and others who are working on REDD-plus*.

FIELD provides this information on a neutral, non partisan basis. The guide is available in English, French and Spanish. Electronic versions can be found at www.field.org.uk.

This is an updated version (May 2011) of the guide that was released in February 2011, including additional information about the negotiations on land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF)

REDD-plus is a very complicated issue. It is complicated technically. It is complicated politically. Although many countries are interested in reaching agreement on REDD-plus they also have different priorities and different views on key issues in the negotiations.

The negotiations on REDD-plus have complicated links with several other issues that are also under negotiation, which can make it difficult to maintain an overview and keep up with the implications of different proposals.

Structure of the guide

The guide is divided into three parts:

- Part I considers REDD-plus and LULUCF in the negotiations
- Part II contains general negotiating tips for new REDD-plus negotiators and others
- Part III contains UNFCCC documents that are often referred to in REDD-plus negotiations

More information about REDD-plus

FIELD briefing papers prepared for the Cancun Climate Conference in December 2010 and other meetings are available at www.field.org.uk. FIELD provides this information on a neutral non partisan basis. The briefing papers are available in English, French and Spanish.

'The REDD Desk', a collaborative resource for REDD Readiness, can be found at <http://www.theredddesk.org/>. It includes a broad range of information, for example a list of upcoming events.

The UNFCCC REDD Web Platform, which includes links to many other resources, can be accessed at http://unfccc.int/methods_science/redd/items/4531.php.

** reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.*

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I REDD-plus in the negotiations

1 Background

REDD-plus ('reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries') originates from a proposal by Papua New Guinea and Costa Rica in 2005. With the support of a group of other countries they proposed a new agenda item on reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries at the Eleventh Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Montreal, Canada.

Many countries were very interested in the proposal, which offered an opportunity to reduce emissions while protecting forests and generating financial resources for developing countries. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) was asked to consider the issue and several in-depth workshops also took place over the next couple of years. In 2007 COP 13 adopted the 'Bali Action Plan', which provides the basis for the negotiations on REDD-plus, together with the 'Cancun Agreements' adopted in December 2010 (see below).

Financing of REDD-plus activities is one of the key issues in the negotiations. While for example Brazil has promoted a fund-based approach, countries such as Australia and New Zealand have argued for reliance on carbon markets. Countries recognise that public funding will be needed initially to build capacity to implement REDD-plus activities in developing countries.

There has been broad support for a phased approach to REDD-plus, as reflected in the outcome of the Cancun Conference (see below and Part III of this guide). This would start with readiness activities, followed by implementation of policies and measures, finally moving on to performance-based REDD-plus. Norway for example has proposed that REDD-plus could be funded from voluntary sources (for example through the World Bank) in the first phase, moving on to a mix of public funding sources and carbon markets in the final phase.

Other issues in the negotiations have included the scale of REDD-plus and whether sub-national activities should be allowed. Colombia for example has argued in favour of allowing sub-national REDD-plus activities.

The scope of REDD-plus - what range of activities it should cover - has also been a subject of negotiations (for example, should REDD-plus be expanded in the long term to cover other land use?). Determination of reference emission levels and reference levels (what REDD-plus activities will be measured against) is a key issue. Some countries with low past deforestation rates, such as countries of the Congo Basin, have pointed out that relying on historical deforestation rates when setting reference emission levels would place them at a disadvantage.

The involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities has been a major issue in the negotiations on 'safeguards', ie provisions to for example protect native forests from being converted into plantations and to protect the rights of indigenous peoples. Parties have also raised the importance of strengthening forest governance and the importance of co-benefits from REDD-plus activities, such as biodiversity protection.

'MRV' refers to 'measurable, reportable and verifiable' as mentioned in paragraphs 1(b)(i) and (ii) of decision 1/CP.13 (Bali Action Plan, see Part III of this guide). MRV will be very important for confidence in REDD-plus activities.

One reason why the negotiations on REDD-plus are complicated is that they have links with several other issues under negotiation, such as financing and the negotiations on Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) (see Bali Action Plan paragraph 1(b)(ii)).

REDD-plus is a complex concept, which is not yet clearly defined. Parties may need to consider what

implications the different natures of different REDD-plus components may have, including how they relate to each other (for example, conservation can be seen as a means of reducing deforestation and forest degradation) and how this might be reflected in future decisions.

2 The roles of the AWG-LCA and the AWG-KP

The main body for the REDD-plus negotiations is the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA). The basis for the negotiations in the AWG-LCA is COP decision 1/CP.13, known as the 'Bali Action Plan' and COP decision 1/CP.16, part of the 'Cancun Agreements' adopted in December 2010. The AWG-LCA is mandated to reach 'an agreed outcome' on strengthened implementation of the UNFCCC. 'An agreed outcome' could be legally binding in nature or not. In decision 1/CP.16 the COP requested the AWG-LCA to continue discussing legal options (paragraph 145).

The AWG-LCA deals with issues related to the UNFCCC, not with issues related to the Kyoto Protocol. The AWG-LCA will deliver the results of its work to the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC. The COP is legally the decision making body of the UNFCCC (see UNFCCC Article 7).

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) is considering new emission reduction targets for developed countries, in accordance with Kyoto Protocol Article 3.9. The AWG-KP will deliver the results of its work to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties (CMP or COP/MOP). The CMP is the decision making body for the Kyoto Protocol (see Kyoto Protocol Article 13).

One difference between the AWG-LCA and the AWG-KP is that the US is a Party to the UNFCCC, but not to the Kyoto Protocol, so is not part of the CMP.

3 Links between the negotiations in the AWG-LCA and the AWG-KP

There are many links between the negotiations in the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP. Several developed countries have proposed bringing the two processes closer together. However, developing countries have argued for keeping the two processes clearly separate. The concerns include proposals by developed countries, for example Japan, that major developing countries should take on new emission limitation commitments. Developing countries strongly support the continuation of the Kyoto Protocol and want negotiations in the AWG-KP to result in new emission reduction targets for Annex I (developed) countries.

The REDD-plus negotiations in the AWG-LCA have several links to negotiations in the AWG-KP. A major question will be to what extent Annex I countries might be able to rely on REDD-plus activities to meet their future emission reduction targets. Some countries have also proposed that REDD-plus related activities could be included in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). Another link is the AWG-KP's consideration of new rules for LULUCF in Annex I Parties.

4 Land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) under the Kyoto Protocol

Land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) is addressed in the UNFCCC (see Article 4, in particular Article 4.1(d)), but is covered in greater detail in the Kyoto Protocol.

The rules for LULUCF in Annex I Parties are set out in Kyoto Protocol Articles 3.3 and 3.4 and in decision 16/CMP.1 on 'Land use, land-use change and forestry' (available at <http://unfccc.int/documentation/decisions/items/3597.php?dec=j&such=j&volltext=+%2FCMP&anf=40&sorted=&dirc=&anf=40&seite=2#b>

eg or see Part III of this guide). Annex I Parties must count afforestation, reforestation and deforestation since 1990 towards their emission reduction targets (Article 3.3). Annex I Parties can choose to include revegetation, forest management, cropland management and/or grazing land management (Article 3.4).

New LULUCF rules for the period after 2012, when the current commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol ends, are under negotiation in the AWG-KP. The new rules may have a great impact on the actions individual Annex I countries will need to take to reach their future emission reduction targets. Depending on how the new LULUCF rules are formulated, LULUCF could contribute significantly towards achievement of the targets. Some developing country Parties have argued that the LULUCF rules for the first commitment period lack environmental integrity, for example because Annex I Parties can choose which activities they account for under Article 3.4.

Some developing country Parties have also emphasised that a level of consistency is needed between the rules on REDD-plus and the LULUCF rules.

The LULUCF negotiations are becoming increasingly relevant to REDD-plus. As described below, since the Cancun conference in December 2010 Annex I Parties have been submitting information on their forest management reference levels to the UNFCCC secretariat. This information will undergo technical assessments and be considered at the Durban climate conference (28 November – 9 December 2011).

The process for constructing forest management reference levels and the review process applies to Annex I Parties, but it may well come to provide models or lessons for development of REDD-plus reference levels and for future REDD-plus review processes.

There is also potential for overlap between REDD-plus activities and afforestation and reforestation projects under the CDM. For example, there have been proposals in recent negotiations to consider inclusion of additional LULUCF activities under the CDM, such as forest management.

5 REDD-plus in the AWG-LCA

The Bali Action Plan, adopted in 2007 by COP13, addresses REDD-plus in paragraph 1(b)(iii): '[p]olicy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries'.

COP 13 in Bali also adopted decision 2/CP.13 on 'reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action'. In this decision the COP encouraged Parties in a position to do so to support capacity-building, provide technical assistance and facilitate technology transfer. It encouraged Parties to explore actions, including demonstration activities, and provided indicative guidance for demonstration activities, without prejudice to future COP decisions. Decision 2/CP.13 also requested SBSTA to undertake a programme of work on methodological issues.

At the UN Poznan Climate Change Conference in December 2008 SBSTA recommended further methodological guidance on REDD-plus, without prejudice to any future COP decision. In its report SBSTA referred to 'reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries' (see paragraph 38 of the report, available at <http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/items/3595.php#beg> or see Part III of this guide). In doing so it changed the semi-colon between the words '...developing countries' and '...and the role of conservation ...' to a comma. This change was made in response to pressure from countries such as India, which wished to see 'conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks' given the same level of priority in the negotiations as deforestation and forest degradation. Since then the issue that started as 'RED' (reducing emissions from deforestation) and went on to become 'REDD' (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation) has been 'REDD-plus'.

In 2009 negotiations on REDD-plus progressed very well in the preparations for the UN Copenhagen Climate Change Conference. Many countries hoped that agreement would be reached in Copenhagen on several issues related to REDD-plus and that this would be a basis for starting to implement REDD-plus activities under the UNFCCC. As a result of the deadlock in the negotiations in Copenhagen this was not possible.

Despite not reaching a conclusion the REDD-plus negotiations made progress in Copenhagen. Parties focused on a draft text that clarified issues such as: scope; guiding principles; safeguards; and a phased approach to REDD-plus (see Work undertaken by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session on the basis of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention, Annex V, FCCC/CP/2010/2, or Part III of this guide).

COP 15 in Copenhagen did adopt one decision on REDD-plus. Decision 4/CP.15 provided methodological guidance for REDD-plus, based on work undertaken by SBSTA in follow-up of decision 2/CP.13.

In decision 4/CP.15 the COP requested developing countries to identify drivers of deforestation and forest degradation; identify activities that result in reduced emissions and increased removals, and stabilisation of forest carbon stocks; use the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidance as a basis for estimating emissions; and establish robust and transparent forest monitoring systems. In the decision the COP encouraged, as appropriate, the development of guidance for effective engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in monitoring and reporting. The decision also encouraged capacity building. The COP recognised that in establishing forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels developing country Parties should do so transparently taking into account historic data, and adjusting for national circumstances.

(COP decision 4/CP.15 is available at <http://unfccc.int/documentation/decisions/items/3597.php?dec=j&such=j&cp=/CP#beg> or see Part III of this guide.)

After Copenhagen some Parties were of the view that the agreement reflected in the draft text on REDD-plus in Copenhagen should be consolidated as a COP decision in Cancun. In the meanwhile there should not be attempts to progress beyond what had been agreed in Copenhagen as that might raise issues that could cause disagreements.

At the AWG-LCA meeting in August 2010 differences in view regarding REDD-plus emerged. Countries such as Bolivia and Saudi Arabia made several proposals for changes. Proposed changes included: not allowing developed countries to use REDD-plus activities as offset mechanisms to fulfil their emission reduction commitments; proposed new eligibility criteria for funding forest related activities; and removing the words 'emissions from' so that for example reducing emissions from deforestation would become 'reducing deforestation'.

Following negotiations in Cancun in December 2010 the COP was able to agree on a text similar to the draft text from Copenhagen. It is reflected in decision 1/CP.16 'The Cancun Agreements: Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention' (available at <http://unfccc.int/documentation/decisions/items/3597.php?dec=j&such=j&cp=/CP#beg> , or see Part III of this guide). REDD-plus is addressed under:

- 'Policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries' in Chapter III C .

The chapter encourages all Parties to find ways to reduce pressure on forests, including actions to address drivers of deforestation (paragraph 68). It requests developing countries to develop: a national strategy or action plan; a national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (or as an interim measure subnational ones); a robust and transparent national forest monitoring system (possibly with subnational monitoring and reporting as an interim measure); and a system for providing information on how safeguards that are described in appendix I of the decision are being addressed and respected (paragraph 71). It requests developing countries to address drivers of deforestation and degradation and issues such as land tenure and forest governance, ensuring the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, inter alia indigenous peoples and local communities (paragraph 72). The decision confirms that REDD-plus is to be implemented in phases, starting with readiness activities and evolving into results-based REDD-plus actions that are to be fully measured, reported and verified (paragraph 73).

- Appendix I contains 'Guidance and safeguards for policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries'.

- Appendix II sets out a 'Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice work programme on policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries'.

The SBSTA work programme includes identifying LULUCF activities in developing countries, in particular those linked to drivers, identifying methodological issues related to estimating emissions and removals, assessing the potential contribution to mitigation, and reporting to COP 18.

SBSTA is also asked to develop modalities for the development of national forest reference emission levels and reference levels and for forest monitoring systems, and to develop guidance for providing information on safeguards. This will be considered by COP 17 in Durban.

In addition SBSTA is asked to develop modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying forest-related emissions and removals, forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest areas changes. This is to be consistent with any COP guidance for MRV of NAMAs by developing country Parties. This will be considered at COP 17 and SBSTA is to take into account methodological guidance contained in COP decision 4/CP.15 adopted in Copenhagen.

Other chapters also include references relevant to REDD-plus. Chapter III section A on developed country NAMAs includes a request to the secretariat to organise workshops to clarify assumptions and conditions related to attainment of targets for developed countries, including the use of carbon credits from the market-based mechanisms and LULUCF activities (paragraph 38). This may become relevant for REDD-plus. In Chapter IV (finance, technology and capacity-building) section A includes a reference to a collective commitment by developed countries to provide new and additional resources, including forestry and investments through international institutions, approaching USD 30 billion for the period 2010-2012 (paragraph 95).

Issues that will require further attention include financing of results-based REDD-plus activities. The AWG-LCA is requested to explore options and to report to COP 17. How REDD-plus might be taken into account in the design of the new Green Climate Fund will also require consideration. The Green Climate Fund will be designed by a Transitional Committee, not by the AWG-LCA (more information about the Transitional Committee is available at http://unfccc.int/cancun_agreements/green_climate_fund/items/5869.php). In decision 1/CP.16 the COP in Cancun also decided to establish a Standing Committee to assist the COP with the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC in terms of: improving coherence and coordination in delivery of climate change financing; rationalisation of the financial mechanism; mobilisation of financial resources and MRV of support to developing countries (paragraph 112). The Standing Committee may become relevant for financing of REDD-plus. Negotiations on market-based mechanisms (Chapter III D) have touched on REDD-plus related issues, which may arise again.

The most recent AWG-LCA session, which took place in Bangkok in April 2011, focused on reaching agreement on the agenda for continuing negotiations and did not address REDD-plus specifically. Discussions at pre-session workshops held in Bangkok touched on some related issues, including LULUCF (information about the workshops, including presentations, is available at <http://unfccc.int/meetings/awg/items/5928.php>).

6 REDD-plus related issues in the AWG-KP

As noted earlier there are links between the REDD-plus negotiations in the AWG-LCA and the negotiations on issues such as LULUCF and the CDM in the AWG-KP.

At the Cancun conference CMP 6 adopted decision 2/CMP.6 'The Cancun Agreements: Land use, land-use change and forestry', which may have important implications for REDD-plus (the decision is available at <http://unfccc.int/documentation/decisions/items/3597.php?dec=j&such=j&cmp=/CMP#beg> or see Part III of this guide).

Decision 2/CMP.6 confirms that the definitions of terms such as 'forest', 'deforestation' and 'forest management' will remain the same as in the first commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol (paragraph 2).

It requests the AWG-KP to consider: if a cap (limit) should be applied to forest management; and how force majeure, extraordinary events that are outside the control of a Party (for example large forest fires), can be addressed (paragraph 3).

The decision requests each Annex I Party to submit information on their forest management reference level to the secretariat in accordance with guidelines contained in appendix II of the decision (paragraph 4). The forest management reference levels are inscribed in appendix I of the decision. The deadline for Annex I Parties to submit this information was 28 February 2011.

The information on forest management reference levels submitted by Annex I Parties can be viewed at http://unfccc.int/meetings/ad_hoc_working_groups/kp/items/5896.php

According to decision 2/CMP.6 each Annex I Party submission shall be subject to a technical assessment by a review team. This will be considered by CMP 7 in Durban (paragraph 5).

Appendix II of the decision sets out guidelines for the submission and review of information on forest management reference levels. Each Annex I Party shall include 'transparent, complete, consistent, comparable and accurate information' (paragraph 1 of appendix II).

The first part of appendix II sets out guidelines for submissions of information. For example, a list of elements to be included in the description of how reference levels have been constructed (paragraph 9(a) – (g)).

Part II of appendix II sets out guidelines for review of the submissions. The reviews will result in technical assessments, which will be considered by CMP 7. Part II outlines the scope of the review and lists issues that the review team will assess. For example, whether the forest management reference level value is consistent with the information and descriptions provided by the Annex I Party and whether the Annex I Party provided the information in a transparent manner (see paragraph 15(a) – (e)). Review teams shall refrain from making any judgment on domestic policies taken into account in construction of the reference level (paragraph 17).

Part II of appendix II also sets out the review procedures. For example, review teams will meet in a single location to perform a centralised review of all submissions (paragraph 18). Review teams will be composed of LULUCF experts from the roster of experts (paragraph 21). One co-lead reviewer shall be from an Annex I Party and one from a non-Annex I Party (paragraph 23).

The AWG-KP is currently focusing on a 'Revised proposal by the Chair' (document FCCC/KP/AWG/2010/18/Add.1), which is an updated version of the AWG-KP Chair's draft proposal to facilitate preparations for negotiation in Cancun. The updated revised proposal by the Chair (FCCC/KP/AWG/2010/18/Add.1) is available at http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/3594.php?rec=j&preref=600006162#beg). It includes proposed paragraphs that are potentially relevant to REDD-plus.

For example, it includes a request to SBSTA to initiate a work programme to consider and, as appropriate, develop and recommend modalities and procedures for possible additional LULUCF activities under the CDM (Chapter II, paragraph 8). Another proposed request to SBSTA involves initiating a work programme to develop and recommend modalities and procedures for applying the concept of additionality, which could also be relevant to REDD-plus (Chapter II, paragraph 19).

As noted above LULUCF related issues were discussed in pre-sessional workshops held under the AWG-LCA in connection with the recent AWG-LCA and AWG-KP sessions in Bangkok in April.

7 REDD-plus in the Copenhagen Accord

The Copenhagen Accord is a political agreement, concluded outside the UNFCCC framework. Some language from the Copenhagen Accord has now been included in UNFCCC negotiating texts and decisions.

The Copenhagen Accord contains several references to REDD-plus, listed below.

- Non-Annex I Parties (developing countries) are to implement mitigation actions, including ones submitted to the secretariat in a format set out in an appendix to the Copenhagen Accord. Some non-Annex I Parties have provided information on REDD-plus related activities to the secretariat (paragraph 5).
- Recognition of the crucial role of REDD and the need to enhance removals by forests. Agreement on the need to provide positive incentives through the immediate establishment of a mechanism including REDD-plus (paragraph 6).
- Mention of substantial finance for REDD-plus in connection with reference to a collective commitment by developed countries to provide new and additional resources, including forestry and investments through international institutions, approaching USD 30 billion for the period 2010-12 with balanced allocation between adaptation and mitigation. This paragraph also includes a reference to mobilising USD 100 billion a year by 2020 (paragraph 8).
- Establishment of a Copenhagen Green Climate Fund to support mitigation activities in developing countries, including REDD-plus (paragraph 10).

More information about the Copenhagen Accord is available at <http://unfccc.int/home/items/5262.php>

II

Tips for negotiators

This part provides some information and suggestions, in particular for new REDD-plus negotiators.

1 Arriving at the meeting

Even for a highly qualified expert it can be challenging to join the international climate change negotiations for the first time. For a new negotiator with limited experience it can feel intimidating.

The issues are complicated. Delegates speak in 'code' to each other using terminology and acronyms that are only heard in the climate negotiations. Many UNFCCC negotiators have been involved in the negotiations for a long time and know each other well.

It can be helpful to keep in mind that every Party has an equal right to have a voice in the negotiations.

2 Finding out what is happening

Delegates can find out what is happening by:

- Picking up the Daily Programme at the documents counter or reading it at unfccc.int. The Daily Programme lists the day's events and provides useful information about the status of documents and contact persons in the UNFCCC secretariat.
- Keeping an eye on the electronic screens, usually located in several places at the meeting venue. Times and meeting rooms often change during the day.
- Reading the Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB) daily updates, distributed at the meeting venue and available via www.iisd.ca.
- Reading Third World Network (TWN) updates, usually distributed at the meeting venue and available via www.twinside.org.sg.
- Reading ECO, produced by the Climate Action Network (CAN), available at the meeting venue or via www.climateactionnetwork.org.

3 Country groups

Countries negotiate in groups, which meet every day, often several times. Times and locations are listed in the Daily Programme and on the electronic screens. Countries can be members of several groups at the same time. Group memberships sometimes change.

Groups include:

- The G77 and China. Developing countries.
- The Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group.
- The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).
- The European Union (EU).
- The Umbrella Group. Includes: Australia; Canada; Iceland; Japan; Kazakhstan; New Zealand; Norway; Russia; Ukraine; and the US.

- The Environmental Integrity Group. Lichtenstein; Mexico; Monaco; Republic of Korea; and Switzerland.
- The Coalition for Rainforest Nations (see <http://www.rainforestcoalition.org/eng/>).
- ALBA (the Bolivarian Alliance for Latin America and the Caribbean). Includes: Cuba; Venezuela; Bolivia; Ecuador; Nicaragua; Dominica; St Vincent and the Grenadines; and Antigua and Barbuda.

The five 'UN groups' listed below are mainly used when electing officers, such as Chairs and Vice Chairs of UNFCCC bodies:

- African countries.
- Asian countries.
- Eastern European countries.
- Latin American and the Caribbean countries.
- Western European and Other countries.

4 The formal rules for the negotiations

The draft Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties and its Subsidiary Bodies have not been adopted. This is because the Parties have not been able to agree on draft rule 42, which concerns voting. In the meanwhile the COP usually decides that the draft Rules of Procedure will continue to be applied, with the exception of draft rule 42.

The Rules of Procedure can be found in Adoption of the Rules of Procedure, Note by the Secretariat, FCCC/CP/1996/2, available via unfccc.int.

5 Meeting documents

Different kinds of documents have differing status in the negotiations. For example:

- Misc (miscellaneous) documents. These usually contain submissions received from Parties.
- Conference Room Papers (CRPs). These documents are produced during negotiating sessions and tend to be of temporary nature.
- L documents. These are draft reports and outcome texts at a fairly advanced stage. Usually L documents are adopted at the end of a session. Even though these are usually advanced drafts, changes are sometimes made just before adoption.

A helpful introductory guide to UNFCCC documents is available in English at http://unfccc.int/documentation/introductory_guide_to_documents/items/2644.php.

6 General tips for making statements

- If the G77 and China or another group that your country belongs to agrees on a position it is not appropriate to make a statement in for example a plenary meeting that disagrees with the group's position. You should make your views known in the group meeting.
- When making statements on behalf of a country you should speak after your group or groups. For example, if your country belongs to the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group you should speak after the representative of the G77 and China and the representative of the LDC Group have made their statements. You should start by mentioning that you support the group statements.

- It is important to check that you are asking to speak at the right time. Check which agenda item is under discussion and what the Chair is expecting from Parties. For example, in a discussion about financing the Chair may want to resolve a point about process, for example if a contact group should be established or not. In that situation the Chair usually wants to hear only statements about whether a contact group should be established or not until that question has been decided (not statements about financing).
- It is helpful to keep your statements short. The Chairs appreciate delegates who make short statements.
- It is important to speak slowly so that the interpreters can follow you.

7 Agreeing to text changes

The negotiations are conducted mainly in English. It is important to be cautious with wording, especially if English is not your native language. For example, there is a big difference between 'shall' (have to) and 'should' (weaker).

8 Words like 'bis' and 'ter' in paragraph numbering in text

These are Latin numbers used to avoid confusion with numbering when dealing with text proposals. For example, 'bis' means twice and 'ter' means three times.

The numbers from two to nine are:

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| ■ bis (2) | ■ ter (3) |
| ■ quater (4) | ■ quinquies (5) |
| ■ sexies (6) | ■ septies (7) |
| ■ octies (8) | ■ novies (9) |

9 Legal options

Many of the current discussions in the negotiations relate to 'legal options' and whether a future agreement or agreements should be legally binding or not. Parties have differing views. Legal options could include, for example:

- A new protocol that brings together the outcomes of the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP negotiations.
- Amendments to the Kyoto Protocol and another protocol resulting from the AWG-LCA negotiations.
- Amendments to the Kyoto Protocol and non-legally binding decisions resulting from the AWG-LCA negotiations.
- Only non-legally binding decisions.

International treaties (which can also be referred to by other names, such as convention or agreement) are legally binding agreements between states. Protocols such as the Kyoto Protocol are sub-agreements to existing treaties. They are also legally binding.

Parties that do not comply with their obligations could be subjected to compliance procedures set up under a treaty (eg under the Kyoto Protocol's Compliance Committee) or in some situations could be taken to the International Court of Justice or to another court (see for example UNFCCC Article 14).

As a general rule, COP and CMP decisions are not legally binding – they are political decisions. COP and CMP decisions can be changed by subsequent COP and CMP decisions. Changing a treaty or protocol usually requires amendment, which is a much more complicated process, both at international and national levels.

10 Written submissions

Parties may be invited to make submissions on certain issues before the COPs and other meetings. This can be a good opportunity to make a country's views known. Submissions do not need to be long and they can be made in any UN language.

11 English REDD-plus mini glossary

| | |
|--------|---|
| AFOLU | Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use |
| ARD | Afforestation, Reforestation, Deforestation |
| BAP | Bali Action Plan (COP decision 1/CP.13) |
| BAU | Business-as-usual |
| CERs | Certified Emission Reductions from Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects |
| ICA | 'International consultations and analysis' as referred to in paragraph 5 of the Copenhagen Accord and subsequent UNFCCC decisions |
| LULUCF | Land use, Land-use Change and Forestry |
| MRV | Measurable, reportable and verifiable |
| NAMAs | Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions |

12 UNFCCC glossary

A helpful UNFCCC glossary which explains many terms is available in English at http://unfccc.int/essential_background/glossary/items/3666.php

III

Selected REDD-plus related UNFCCC documents

1 COP 16. The Cancun Agreements: Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention

The Sixteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 16) in Cancun adopted a decision on the outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention. The chapter on REDD-plus and two related appendices are reproduced below.

C. Policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries

Affirming that, in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support to developing country Parties, Parties should collectively aim to slow, halt and reverse forest cover and carbon loss, in accordance with national circumstances, consistent with the ultimate objective of the Convention, as stated in Article 2,

Also affirming the need to promote broad country participation in all phases described in paragraph 73 below, including through the provision of support that takes into account existing capacities,

68. *Encourages* all Parties to find effective ways to reduce the human pressure on forests that results in greenhouse gas emissions, including actions to address drivers of deforestation;

69. *Affirms* that the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 below should be carried out in accordance with appendix I to this decision, and that the safeguards referred to in paragraph 2 of appendix I to this decision should be promoted and supported;

70. *Encourages* developing country Parties to contribute to mitigation actions in the forest sector by undertaking the following activities, as deemed appropriate by each Party and in accordance with their respective capabilities and national circumstances:

- (a) Reducing emissions from deforestation;
- (b) Reducing emissions from forest degradation;
- (c) Conservation of forest carbon stocks;
- (d) Sustainable management of forests;
- (e) Enhancement of forest carbon stocks;

71. *Requests* developing country Parties aiming to undertake the activities referred to in paragraph 70 above, in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support, including financial resources and technical and technological support to developing country Parties, in accordance with national circumstances and respective capabilities, to develop the following elements:

- (a) A national strategy or action plan;
- (b) A national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level⁶ or, if appropriate, as an interim measure, subnational forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels, in accordance with national circumstances, and with provisions contained in decision 4/CP.15, and with any further elaboration of those provisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties;

⁶ In accordance with national circumstances, national forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels could be a combination of subnational forest reference emissions levels and/or forest reference levels.

(c) A robust and transparent national forest monitoring system for the monitoring and reporting of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 above, with, if appropriate, subnational monitoring and reporting as an interim measure,⁷ in accordance with national circumstances, and with the provisions contained in decision 4/CP.15, and with any further elaboration of those provisions agreed by the Conference of the Parties;

(d) A system for providing information on how the safeguards referred to in appendix I to this decision are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 above, while respecting sovereignty;

72. *Also requests* developing country Parties, when developing and implementing their national strategies or action plans, to address, inter alia, the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, land tenure issues, forest governance issues, gender considerations and the safeguards identified in paragraph 2 of appendix I to this decision, ensuring the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, inter alia indigenous peoples and local communities;

73. *Decides* that the activities undertaken by Parties referred to in paragraph 70 above should be implemented in phases, beginning with the development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures, and capacity-building, followed by the implementation of national policies and measures and national strategies or action plans that could involve further capacity-building, technology development and transfer and results-based demonstration activities, and evolving into results-based actions that should be fully measured, reported and verified;

74. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 above, including the choice of a starting phase as referred to in paragraph 73 above, depends on the specific national circumstances, capacities and capabilities of each developing country Party and the level of support received;

75. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to develop a work programme on the matters referred to in appendix II to this decision;

76. *Urges* Parties, in particular developed country Parties, to support, through multilateral and bilateral channels, the development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures and capacity-building, followed by the implementation of national policies and measures and national strategies or action plans that could involve further capacity-building, technology development and transfer and results-based demonstration activities, including consideration of the safeguards referred to in paragraph 2 of appendix I to this decision, taking into account the relevant provisions on finance including those relating to reporting on support;

77. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention to explore financing options for the full implementation of the results-based actions⁸ referred to in paragraph 73 above and to report on progress made, including any recommendations for draft decisions on this matter, to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth session;

78. *Also requests* Parties to ensure coordination of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 above, including of the related support, particularly at the national level;

79. *Invites* relevant international organizations and stakeholders to contribute to the activities referred to in paragraphs 70 and 78 above;

⁷ Including monitoring and reporting of emissions displacement at the national level, if appropriate, and reporting on how displacement of emissions is being addressed, and on the means to integrate subnational monitoring systems into a national monitoring system.

⁸ These actions require national monitoring systems.

Appendix I

Guidance and safeguards for policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries

1. The activities referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision should:
 - (a) Contribute to the achievement of the objective set out in Article 2 of the Convention;
 - (b) Contribute to the fulfilment of the commitments set out in Article 4, paragraph 3, of the Convention;
 - (c) Be country-driven and be considered options available to Parties;
 - (d) Be consistent with the objective of environmental integrity and take into account the multiple functions of forests and other ecosystems;
 - (e) Be undertaken in accordance with national development priorities, objectives and circumstances and capabilities and should respect sovereignty;
 - (f) Be consistent with Parties' national sustainable development needs and goals;
 - (g) Be implemented in the context of sustainable development and reducing poverty, while responding to climate change;
 - (h) Be consistent with the adaptation needs of the country;
 - (i) Be supported by adequate and predictable financial and technology support, including support for capacity-building;
 - (j) Be results-based;
 - (k) Promote sustainable management of forests;
2. When undertaking the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision, the following safeguards should be promoted and supported:
 - (a) That actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements;
 - (b) Transparent and effective national forest governance structures, taking into account national legislation and sovereignty;
 - (c) Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
 - (d) The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in the actions referred to in paragraphs 70 and 72 of this decision;
 - (e) That actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that the actions referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision are not used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead used to incentivize the

protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and to enhance other social and environmental benefits;¹

- (f) Actions to address the risks of reversals;
- (g) Actions to reduce displacement of emissions.

¹ Taking into account the need for sustainable livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities and their interdependence on forests in most countries, reflected in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as the International Mother Earth Day.

Appendix II

Work programme of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries

In the development of its work programme, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice is requested to:

(a) Identify land use, land-use change and forestry activities in developing countries, in particular those that are linked to the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, identify the associated methodological issues to estimate emissions and removals resulting from these activities, and assess the potential contribution of these activities to the mitigation of climate change, and report on the findings and outcomes of this work to the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its eighteenth session on the outcomes of the work referred to in this paragraph;

(b) Develop modalities relating to paragraphs 71 (b) and (c) and guidance relating to paragraph 71 (d) of this decision, for consideration by the COP at its seventeenth session;

(c) Develop, as necessary, modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision, consistent with any guidance on measuring, reporting and verifying nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties agreed by the COP, taking into account methodological guidance in accordance with decision 4/CP.15, for consideration by the COP at its seventeenth session.

2 CMP 6. The Cancun Agreements: Land use, Land-use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)

The Sixth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 6) adopted a decision on LULUCF in Cancun that is relevant to REDD-plus.

Decision 2/CMP.6

The Cancun Agreements: Land use, land-use change and forestry

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol,

Affirming that the implementation of land use, land-use change and forestry activities included under the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol shall be consistent with the objectives and principles of, and any decisions taken under, the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol,

1. *Affirms* that the principles contained in paragraph 1 of decision 16/CMP.1 continue to govern the treatment of land use, land-use change and forestry activities;
2. *Agrees* that the definitions of forest, afforestation, reforestation, deforestation, revegetation, forest management, cropland management and grazing land management shall be the same as in the first commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol;
3. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol to consider, in time for possible inclusion in the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, if appropriate, whether a cap should be applied to emissions and removals from forest management and how extraordinary occurrences (called force majeure) whose severity is beyond the control of, and not materially influenced by, a Party can be addressed;
4. *Also requests* each Annex I Party to submit to the secretariat, by 28 February 2011, information on the forest management reference level¹ inscribed in appendix I to this decision, including any update to replace the value, in accordance with the guidelines outlined in part I of appendix II to this decision;
5. *Decides* that each submission referred to in paragraph 4 above shall be subject to a technical assessment by a review team in accordance with the guidelines outlined in part II of appendix II to this decision, and that outcomes of the technical assessment will be considered by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol at its next session;
6. *Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of funds, to organize the technical assessments referred to in paragraph 5 above;
7. *Also requests* the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol to continue its consideration of definitions, modalities, rules and guidelines relating to land use, land-use change and forestry activities under the Kyoto Protocol for application in the second commitment period.

¹ The forest management reference levels inscribed in appendix I to this decision were set transparently, taking into account the following: (a) removals or emissions from forest management as shown in greenhouse gas inventories and relevant historical data; (b) age-class structure; (c) forest management activities already undertaken; (d) projected forest management activities under a 'business as usual' scenario; (e) continuity with the treatment of forest management in the first commitment period; (f) the need to exclude removals from accounting in accordance with decision 16/CMP.1, paragraph 1. Points (c), (d) and (e) above were applied where relevant. The forest management reference levels also took into account the need for consistency with the inclusion of carbon pools. Reference levels including and excluding 'force majeure' should be provided.

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Appendix I

Reference levels submitted by Annex I Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

| <i>Party</i> | <i>Reference level (Mt CO₂eq/year)</i> |
|---------------------|---|
| Australia | -9.16 |
| Austria | -2.12 |
| Belarus | -24.93 |
| Belgium | -3.40 |
| Bulgaria | -10.08 |
| Canada | -105.40 |
| Croatia | - |
| Cyprus ^a | -0.16 |
| Czech Republic | -3.86 |
| Denmark | 0.18 |
| Estonia | -1.97 |
| European Union (27) | -283.20 ^a |
| Finland | -13.70 |
| France | -66.98 |
| Germany | -2.07 |
| Greece | -1.38 |
| Hungary | -0.50 |
| Iceland | - |
| Ireland | -0.07 |
| Italy | -15.61 |
| Japan | 0.00 |
| Latvia | -12.93 |
| Liechtenstein | - |
| Lithuania | -11.48 |
| Luxembourg | -0.26 |
| Malta ^a | -0.05 |
| Monaco | - |
| Netherlands | -1.69 |
| New Zealand | 17.05 |
| Norway | -14.20 |
| Poland | -34.67 |

| <i>Party</i> | <i>Reference level (Mt CO₂eq/year)</i> |
|--|---|
| Portugal | -0.92 |
| Romania | -29.43 |
| Russian Federation | -89.10 |
| Slovakia | -0.51 |
| Slovenia | -2.73 |
| Spain | -41.53 |
| Sweden | -21.84 |
| Switzerland | 0.48 |
| Ukraine | -28.5 ^b |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | -3.44 |

^a The European Union total includes Cyprus and Malta. Cyprus and Malta are member States of the European Union but are not Parties to the Convention that are also Parties to the Kyoto Protocol with a commitment inscribed in Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol.

^b As per the submission from Ukraine received by the secretariat on 10 December 2010, this number is based on the assumption of a 50/50 per cent split between managed and unmanaged forests and will be updated as soon as possible on the basis of the most recent information.

Note: Parties have made different assumptions in the construction of the reference levels proposed in the table above. These assumptions can be found in Parties' submissions at <http://unfccc.int/meetings/ad_hoc_working_groups/kp/items/4907.php>.

Appendix II

Guidelines for the submission and review of information on forest management reference levels/baselines

1. Each Party included in Annex I shall include in its submission transparent, complete, consistent, comparable and accurate information required under part I of these guidelines, for the purpose of allowing a technical assessment, as specified in part II, of the data, methodologies and procedures used in the construction of reference levels as specified in appendix I above to facilitate consideration of the forest management reference level.

Part I: Guidelines for submissions of information on forest management reference levels

Objectives

2. The objectives of the submission are:

(a) To provide information consistent with the general reporting principles set out by the Convention and elaborated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)¹ on how the elements contained in footnote 1 in paragraph 4 of this decision were taken into account by Parties in the construction of forest management reference levels, and to provide any additional relevant information;

(b) To document the information that was used by Parties in constructing forest management reference levels in a comprehensive and transparent way;

(c) To provide transparent, complete, consistent, comparable and accurate methodological information used at the time of the construction of forest management reference levels.

3. Parties shall provide submissions in accordance with the following guidelines:

General description

4. Provide a general description of the construction of the forest management reference levels consistent with footnote 1 in paragraph 4 of this decision.

5. Provide a description on how each element contained in footnote 1 in paragraph 4 of this decision was taken into account in the construction of the forest management reference level.

Pools and gases

6. Identify pools and gases which have been included in the reference level and explain the reasons for omitting a pool from the reference level construction.

7. Explain consistency between the pools included in the reference level.

Approaches, methods and models used

8. Provide a description of approaches, methods and models, including assumptions, used in the construction of the forest management reference level, referring, where relevant, to the most recently submitted national inventory report.

¹ UNFCCC Annex I Reporting Guidelines, IPCC *Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry*.

Description of construction of reference levels

9. Provide a description of how each of the following elements were considered or treated in the construction of the forest management reference level, taking into account the principles in decision 16/CMP.1:

- (a) Area under forest management;
- (b) Emissions and removals from forest management and the relationship between forest management and forest land remaining forest land as shown in greenhouse gas inventories and relevant historical data, including information provided under Article 3, paragraph 3, and, if applicable, Article 3, paragraph 4, on forest management of the Kyoto Protocol and under forest land remaining forest land under the Convention;
- (c) Forest characteristics, including age-class structure, increments, rotation length and other relevant information, including information on forest management activities under 'business as usual';
- (d) Historical and assumed harvesting rates;
- (e) Harvested wood products;
- (f) Disturbances in the context of force majeure;
- (g) Factoring out in accordance with paragraph 1 (h) (i) and (ii) of decision 16/CMP.1.

10. Provide a description of any other relevant elements considered or treated in the construction of the forest management reference level, including any additional information related to footnote 1 in paragraph 4 of this decision.

Policies included

11. Provide a description of the domestic policies adopted and implemented no later than December 2009 and considered in the construction of the forest management reference level and explain how these policies have been considered in the construction of the reference level.

12. Provide confirmation that the construction of the forest management reference level neither includes assumptions about changes to domestic policies adopted and implemented after December 2009 nor includes new domestic policies.

Part II: Guidelines for review of submissions of information on forest management reference levelsObjectives of review

13. The objectives of the review are:

- (a) To assess whether Parties have provided transparent, complete, consistent, comparable and accurate information on how the elements contained in footnote 1 in paragraph 4 of this decision were taken into account in the construction of forest management reference levels;
- (b) To ascertain whether the construction of the forest management reference level is consistent with the information and descriptions used by the Party;
- (c) To provide, as appropriate, technical recommendations to the Annex I Party;
- (d) To provide a technical assessment to support consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol at its seventh session of the forest management reference levels to be used during the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol;

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(e) To assess whether Parties have provided transparent, complete, consistent, comparable and accurate methodological information to facilitate reviews of methodological consistency.

Scope of the review

14. A technical assessment of the data, methodologies, assumptions and procedures used in the construction of the forest management reference levels of Annex I Parties to determine whether they are consistent with the guidelines in part I of this appendix.

15. The review team will assess the following issues:

(a) Whether the Party has identified pools and gases included in the forest management reference level and explained the reasons for omitting a pool or a gas from the forest management reference level and whether the coverage of pools in the forest management reference level is consistent;

(b) The description of approaches, methods and models used in the construction of reference levels;

(c) How each element in paragraphs 9 and 10 above is considered, including justification for why any particular element was not considered;

(d) Whether the forest management reference level value is consistent with the information and descriptions provided by the Party;

(e) Whether the information was provided by the Party in a transparent manner;

(f) Whether a description is provided of domestic policies included in accordance with the provisions contained in paragraph 11 above that were used in the construction of the reference level and how these policies were used in the construction of the reference level;

(g) Whether confirmation has been provided that the construction of the forest management reference level does not include assumptions about changes to domestic policies in accordance with paragraph 12 above.

16. As part of the technical assessment, the review process may provide technical recommendations to the Annex I Party on the construction of its forest management reference level. This may include a recommendation to make a technical revision to elements used in its construction.

17. Review teams shall refrain from making any judgment on domestic policies taken into account in the construction of the reference level.

Review procedures

General procedures

18. Review teams will meet in a single location to perform a centralized review of all forest management reference level submissions.

19. Each submission will be assigned to a review team responsible for performing the technical assessment in accordance with procedures and time frames established in these guidelines.

20. Each review team will provide a thorough and comprehensive assessment of the forest management reference level submission and will under its collective responsibility prepare a report.

21. The review process will be coordinated by the secretariat. Review teams will be composed of land use, land-use change and forestry review experts selected from the roster of experts. Participating experts will serve in their personal capacity and will be neither nationals of the Party under review nor funded by that Party.

22. Review teams will work under the same rules as those set out in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the annex to decision 22/CMP.1.

Composition of the review teams

23. Review teams should be made up of at least three land use, land-use change and forestry experts. The secretariat shall ensure that in any review team one co-lead reviewer shall be from an Annex I Party and one co-lead reviewer shall be from a non-Annex I Party. The secretariat will select the members of the review team with a view to achieving a balance between experts from Annex I Parties and non-Annex I Parties.

Timing

24. In order to facilitate the secretariat's work, each Party should confirm to the secretariat, by the end of February 2011, its active experts on the land use, land-use change and forestry roster of experts who will be able to participate in the review of forest management reference levels in 2011.

25. The secretariat should forward all relevant information to the review teams in good time before the start of the review.

26. Prior to the review, the review team should identify any preliminary questions requiring clarification by the Party, as appropriate.

27. The review should take place no later than by the end of May 2011 and be conducted according to the indicative timings set out in paragraphs 28 to 32 below. The Party being reviewed may interact with the review team during the review of its submission in order to respond to questions and to provide additional information as requested by the review team.

28. The review team may seek any additional clarification from the Party no later than one week following the review. This may include technical recommendations to the Party on the construction of its reference level. The Party is to provide any required clarifications to the review team no later than five weeks following the request and may also submit a revised reference level in response to the technical recommendations of the review team.

29. The review team will prepare a draft report and make it available to the Party no later than eight weeks following the review. The report should include a short summary.

30. The Party will have three weeks to respond to the draft report of the review team.

31. If the Party does not agree with the findings in the draft report, in responding to the Party's comments the review team will seek advice from a small group of experienced reviewers to be convened by the secretariat, which will consider comparability across Parties.

32. The review team will prepare a final report within three weeks following the Party's response and the report will be sent to the secretariat for publication on the UNFCCC website. The final report will contain the technical assessment, technical recommendations, if appropriate, the responses by the Party and, where provided, the advice of the small group of experienced reviewers convened by the secretariat.

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33. The secretariat will prepare a synthesis report of key conclusions of the forest management reference level review process, including comments by Parties, for consideration at the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol at its seventh session. The synthesis report will be made publicly available and will be published on the UNFCCC website.

*10th plenary meeting
10–11 December 2010*

3 The Copenhagen Accord

COP 15 took note of the Copenhagen Accord in Decision 2/CP.15.

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Decision 2/CP.15 Copenhagen Accord

The Conference of the Parties,

Takes note of the Copenhagen Accord of 18 December 2009.

Copenhagen Accord

The Heads of State, Heads of Government, Ministers, and other heads of the following delegations present at the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2009 in Copenhagen:¹

Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, European Union, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay and Zambia,

In pursuit of the ultimate objective of the Convention as stated in its Article 2,

Being guided by the principles and provisions of the Convention,

Noting the results of work done by the two Ad hoc Working Groups,

Endorsing decision 1/CP.15 on the Ad hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action and decision 1/CMP.5 that requests the Ad hoc Working Group on Further Commitments of Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol to continue its work,

Have agreed on this Copenhagen Accord which is operational immediately.

1. We underline that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. We emphasise our strong political will to urgently combat climate change in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. To achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention to stabilize greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, we shall, recognizing the scientific view that the increase in global temperature should be below 2 degrees Celsius, on the basis of equity and in the context of sustainable development, enhance our long-term cooperative action to combat climate change. We recognize the critical impacts of climate change and the potential impacts of response measures on countries particularly vulnerable to its adverse effects and stress the need to establish a comprehensive adaptation programme including international support.

2. We agree that deep cuts in global emissions are required according to science, and as documented by the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report with a view to reduce global emissions so as to hold the increase in global temperature below 2 degrees Celsius, and take action to meet this objective consistent with science and on the basis of equity. We should cooperate in achieving the peaking of global and national emissions as soon as possible, recognizing that the time frame for peaking will be longer in developing countries and bearing in mind that social and economic development and poverty

¹ Some Parties listed above stated in their communications to the secretariat specific understandings on the nature of the Accord and related matters, based on which they have agreed to be listed here. The full text of the letters received from Parties in relation to the Copenhagen Accord, including the specific understandings, can be found at <<http://unfccc.int/meetings/items/5276.php>>.

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eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries and that a low-emission development strategy is indispensable to sustainable development.

3. Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change and the potential impacts of response measures is a challenge faced by all countries. Enhanced action and international cooperation on adaptation is urgently required to ensure the implementation of the Convention by enabling and supporting the implementation of adaptation actions aimed at reducing vulnerability and building resilience in developing countries, especially in those that are particularly vulnerable, especially least developed countries, small island developing States and Africa. We agree that developed countries shall provide adequate, predictable and sustainable financial resources, technology and capacity-building to support the implementation of adaptation action in developing countries.

4. Annex I Parties commit to implement individually or jointly the quantified economy-wide emissions targets for 2020, to be submitted in the format given in Appendix I by Annex I Parties to the secretariat by 31 January 2010 for compilation in an INF document. Annex I Parties that are Party to the Kyoto Protocol will thereby further strengthen the emissions reductions initiated by the Kyoto Protocol. Delivery of reductions and financing by developed countries will be measured, reported and verified in accordance with existing and any further guidelines adopted by the Conference of the Parties, and will ensure that accounting of such targets and finance is rigorous, robust and transparent.

5. Non-Annex I Parties to the Convention will implement mitigation actions, including those to be submitted to the secretariat by non-Annex I Parties in the format given in Appendix II by 31 January 2010, for compilation in an INF document, consistent with Article 4.1 and Article 4.7 and in the context of sustainable development. Least developed countries and small island developing States may undertake actions voluntarily and on the basis of support. Mitigation actions subsequently taken and envisaged by Non-Annex I Parties, including national inventory reports, shall be communicated through national communications consistent with Article 12.1(b) every two years on the basis of guidelines to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties. Those mitigation actions in national communications or otherwise communicated to the Secretariat will be added to the list in appendix II. Mitigation actions taken by Non-Annex I Parties will be subject to their domestic measurement, reporting and verification the result of which will be reported through their national communications every two years. Non-Annex I Parties will communicate information on the implementation of their actions through National Communications, with provisions for international consultations and analysis under clearly defined guidelines that will ensure that national sovereignty is respected. Nationally appropriate mitigation actions seeking international support will be recorded in a registry along with relevant technology, finance and capacity building support. Those actions supported will be added to the list in appendix II. These supported nationally appropriate mitigation actions will be subject to international measurement, reporting and verification in accordance with guidelines adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

6. We recognize the crucial role of reducing emission from deforestation and forest degradation and the need to enhance removals of greenhouse gas emission by forests and agree on the need to provide positive incentives to such actions through the immediate establishment of a mechanism including REDD-plus, to enable the mobilization of financial resources from developed countries.

7. We decide to pursue various approaches, including opportunities to use markets, to enhance the cost-effectiveness of, and to promote mitigation actions. Developing countries, especially those with low emitting economies should be provided incentives to continue to develop on a low emission pathway.

8. Scaled up, new and additional, predictable and adequate funding as well as improved access shall be provided to developing countries, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, to enable and support enhanced action on mitigation, including substantial finance to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD-plus), adaptation, technology development

and transfer and capacity-building, for enhanced implementation of the Convention. The collective commitment by developed countries is to provide new and additional resources, including forestry and investments through international institutions, approaching USD 30 billion for the period 2010–2012 with balanced allocation between adaptation and mitigation. Funding for adaptation will be prioritized for the most vulnerable developing countries, such as the least developed countries, small island developing States and Africa. In the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation, developed countries commit to a goal of mobilizing jointly USD 100 billion dollars a year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries. This funding will come from a wide variety of sources, public and private, bilateral and multilateral, including alternative sources of finance. New multilateral funding for adaptation will be delivered through effective and efficient fund arrangements, with a governance structure providing for equal representation of developed and developing countries. A significant portion of such funding should flow through the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund.

9. To this end, a High Level Panel will be established under the guidance of and accountable to the Conference of the Parties to study the contribution of the potential sources of revenue, including alternative sources of finance, towards meeting this goal.

10. We decide that the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund shall be established as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention to support projects, programme, policies and other activities in developing countries related to mitigation including REDD-plus, adaptation, capacity-building, technology development and transfer.

11. In order to enhance action on development and transfer of technology we decide to establish a Technology Mechanism to accelerate technology development and transfer in support of action on adaptation and mitigation that will be guided by a country-driven approach and be based on national circumstances and priorities.

12. We call for an assessment of the implementation of this Accord to be completed by 2015, including in light of the Convention's ultimate objective. This would include consideration of strengthening the long-term goal referencing various matters presented by the science, including in relation to temperature rises of 1.5 degrees Celsius.

APPENDIX I

Quantified economy-wide emissions targets for 2020

| Annex I Parties | <i>Quantified economy-wide emissions targets for 2020</i> | |
|-----------------|---|-----------|
| | Emissions reduction in 2020 | Base year |
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4 Report on work undertaken by COP 15 in Copenhagen (FCCC/CP/2010/2)

Although it was not possible to conclude the negotiations on REDD-plus at the UN Copenhagen Climate Change Conference in December 2009 the negotiations did make progress. This was reflected in *Work undertaken by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session on the basis of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (FCCC/CP/2010/2)*.

Annex V addresses REDD-plus.

Annex V**Policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries¹**

The contact group on long-term cooperative action established a drafting group to undertake work on the text contained in annex I G to document FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/17. The text below reflects the input and comments made by Parties at the meeting of the drafting group on 17 December 2009.

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 1/CP.13, 2/CP.13, x/CP.15² (AWG-LCA core) and x/CP.15 (SBSTA decision),

[Affirming (... for any quantitative goal to be inserted or moved elsewhere)]

Encourages all Parties to find effective ways to reduce the pressure on forests that results in greenhouse gas emissions,

1. *Affirms* that the implementation of activities referred to in paragraph 3 below:
 - (a) Contribute to the objective set out in Article 2 of the Convention;
 - (b) [Contribute to the commitments set out in Article 4, paragraph 3, of the Convention;]
 - (c) Be country-driven and [voluntary][proposed voluntarily];
 - (d) Be undertaken in accordance with national circumstances and capabilities of the country and respect sovereignty;
 - (e) Be consistent with national sustainable development needs and goals;
 - (f) Facilitate sustainable development, reduce poverty and respond to climate change in developing country Parties;
 - (g) Promote broad country participation;
 - (h) Be consistent with the adaptation needs of the country;
 - (i) Be [integrated into nationally appropriate mitigation actions] [developed within the context of a low greenhouse gas emission strategy];
 - (j) Be subject to [equitable, adequate, predictable and sustainable] financing and technology support, including support for capacity-building;
 - (k) Be results-based;
 - (l) Promote sustainable management of forests;

¹ Work undertaken by the Conference of the Parties on the text contained in annex I G to document FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/17.

² This reference was made in relation to the text contained in annex I C to document FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/17.

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2. *Further affirms* that when undertaking activities referred to in paragraph 3 below, the following safeguards should be promoted and supported:

- (a) Actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements;
- (b) Transparent and effective national forest governance structures, taking into account national legislation and sovereignty;
- (c) Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- (d) Full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, including, in particular, indigenous peoples and local communities in actions referred to in paragraphs 3 and 5 below;
- (e) Actions that are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that actions referred to in paragraph 3 below are not used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead used to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and to enhance other social and environmental benefits;^[3]
- (f) Actions to address the risks of reversals;
- (g) Actions to reduce displacement of emissions;

3. *Decides* that developing country Parties should contribute to mitigation actions in the forest sector by undertaking the following activities:

- (a) Reducing emissions from deforestation;
- (b) Reducing emissions from forest degradation;
- (c) Conservation of forest carbon stocks;
- (d) Sustainable management of forest;
- (e) Enhancement of forest carbon stocks;

4. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to undertake a work programme to identify land use, land-use change and forestry activities in developing countries, in particular those that are linked to the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, to identify the associated methodological issues to estimate emissions and removals resulting from these activities, and to assess their potential contribution to the mitigation of climate change and report on the findings to the Conference of the Parties at its [xx] session;

5. *Also requests* that a developing country Party aiming to undertake activities referred to in paragraph 3 above, [provided that support is made available,] in accordance with national circumstances and respective capabilities, develop:

³ [Taking into account the need for sustainable livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities and their interdependence on forests in most countries, reflected in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the International Mother Earth Day.]

- (a) A national strategy or action plan [and, if appropriate, a subnational strategy][,as part of their low-carbon emission strategies and in accordance with decision x/CP.15⁴ (Mitigation)];
 - (b) [A national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level, or if appropriate, subnational forest reference emission level[s] and/or forest reference level[s], taking into account decision x/CP.15 (SBSTA decision) and any further elaboration of those provisions agreed by the Conference of the Parties;]
 - (c) [A robust and transparent national forest monitoring system for the monitoring and reporting of the activities referred to in paragraph 3 above[, and the safeguards referred to in paragraph 2 above], with, as appropriate, subnational monitoring and reporting as an optional interim measure,⁵ in accordance with the provisions contained in decision x/CP.15 (SBSTA decision) and any further elaboration of those provisions agreed by the Conference of the Parties;]
6. *Further requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, at its [xx] session, to develop modalities relating to paragraph 5 (b) and (c) above, for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its [xx] session.
7. *Requests* developing country Parties, when developing and implementing their national strategies or action plan, [or subnational strategies] to address, inter alia, drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, land tenure issues, forest governance issues, gender considerations and the safeguards identified in paragraph 2 above, ensuring the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, inter alia, indigenous peoples and local communities;
8. *Decides* that the activities undertaken by Parties referred to in paragraph 3 above be implemented in phases, beginning with the development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures and capacity-building, followed by the implementation of national policies and measures, and national strategies or action plans and, as appropriate, subnational strategies, that could involve further capacity-building, technology development and transfer and results-based demonstration activities, and evolving into results-based actions [that shall be fully measured, reported and verified];
9. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 8 above, including the choice of a starting phase, depends on the specific national circumstances, capacities and capabilities of each developing country Party and the level of support received;
10. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, at its [xx] session, to develop, as necessary, modalities for [measuring, reporting and verifying] anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes resulting from the implementation of activities referred to in paragraph 3 above[, and consistent with any guidance for measuring, reporting and verification of nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties agreed by the Conference of the Parties], taking into account methodological guidance in accordance with decision x/CP.15 (SBSTA decision), for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its [xx] session;
11. [*Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to develop, at its [xx] session, modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying the support provided by developed country Parties to support the implementation of safeguards and actions referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 above;]

⁴ This reference was made in relation to the text contained in annex I A to document FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/17.

⁵ Including monitoring and reporting of emissions displacement at the national level.

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12. *Requests* that the promotion and implementation of all activities referred to in paragraphs 3, 5, 7 and 8 above, including consideration of the safeguards referred to in paragraph 2 above, and early action, be supported in accordance with [paragraph 1 (b) above and] relevant provisions agreed by the Conference of the Parties including:

- (a) [Decision x/CP.15⁶ (finance);]
- (b) [Decision x/CP.15⁷ (1 (b) (v)),] [for result-based actions a flexible combination of funds and market-based sources subject to modalities to be agreed by the Conference of the Parties at its [xx] session];
- (c) [through existing bilateral and multilateral channels;]

13. *Requests* Parties, [relevant international organizations and stakeholders] to ensure coordination of the activities referred to in paragraph 12 above, including of the related support, particularly at the country level;

14. *Requests* the [Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice] to develop modalities for the promotion and implementation of the development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures and capacity-building, the implementation of national policies and measures, and national strategies or action plans and, as appropriate, subnational strategies, that could involve further capacity-building, technology transfer and results-based demonstration activities, by its [xx] session, for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its [xx] session.

⁶ This reference was made in relation to the text contained in annex I C to document FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/17.

⁷ This reference was made in relation to the text contained in annex I I to document FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/17.

5 Decision 4/CP.15 on methodological guidance

COP 15 in Copenhagen adopted one decision on REDD-plus. This was decision 4/CP.15, which followed up decision 2/CP.13.

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Decision 4/CP.15

Methodological guidance for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 1/CP.13 and 2/CP.13,

Acknowledging the importance of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries,

Noting the progress made by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice in its programme of work on methodological issues related to a range of policy approaches and positive incentives,

Also noting the range of ongoing activities and cooperative efforts being undertaken by Parties and international organizations, in accordance with decision 2/CP.13, paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 5,

Recognizing the need for full and effective engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in, and the potential contribution of their knowledge to, monitoring and reporting of activities relating to decision 1/CP.13, paragraph 1 (b) (iii),

Recognizing the importance of promoting sustainable management of forests and co-benefits, including biodiversity, that may complement the aims and objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements,

Noting experiences and lessons learned from ongoing activities and efforts in capacity-building, testing methodologies and monitoring approaches, and a range of policy approaches and positive incentives, including those guided by the indicative guidance contained in the annex to decision 2/CP.13,

1. *Requests* developing country Parties, on the basis of work conducted on the methodological issues set out in decision 2/CP.13, paragraphs 7 and 11, to take the following guidance into account for activities relating to decision 2/CP.13, and without prejudging any further relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, in particular those relating to measurement and reporting:

- (a) To identify drivers of deforestation and forest degradation resulting in emissions and also the means to address these;
- (b) To identify activities within the country that result in reduced emissions and increased removals, and stabilization of forest carbon stocks;
- (c) To use the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change guidance and guidelines, as adopted or encouraged by the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate, as a basis for estimating anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes;

- (d) To establish, according to national circumstances and capabilities, robust and transparent national forest¹ monitoring systems and, if appropriate, sub-national systems as part of national monitoring systems that:
- (i) Use a combination of remote sensing and ground-based forest carbon inventory approaches for estimating, as appropriate, anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes;
 - (ii) Provide estimates that are transparent, consistent, as far as possible accurate, and that reduce uncertainties, taking into account national capabilities and capacities;
 - (iii) Are transparent and their results are available and suitable for review as agreed by the Conference of the Parties;

2. *Recognizes* that further work may need to be undertaken by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in accordance with any relevant decisions by the Conference of the Parties;

3. *Encourages*, as appropriate, the development of guidance for effective engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in monitoring and reporting;

4. *Encourages* all Parties in a position to do so to support and strengthen the capacities of developing countries to collect and access, analyse and interpret data, in order to develop estimates;

5. *Invites* Parties in a position to do so and relevant international organizations to enhance capacity-building in relation to using the guidance and guidelines referred in to paragraph 1 (c) above, taking into account the work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention;

6. *Requests* the secretariat, subject to availability of supplementary funding, to enhance coordination of the activities referred to in paragraph 5 above, in the context of existing initiatives;

7. *Recognizes* that developing country Parties in establishing forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels should do so transparently taking into account historic data, and adjust for national circumstances, in accordance with relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

8. *Invites* Parties to share lessons learned and experiences gained in the application of the guidance referred to in paragraph 1 above and the annex to decision 2/CP.13 through the web platform on the UNFCCC website;

9. *Urges* relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and stakeholders to integrate and coordinate their efforts in order to avoid duplication and enhance synergy with regard to activities relating to decision 2/CP.13.

*9th plenary meeting
18–19 December 2009*

¹ Taking note of, if appropriate, the guidance on consistent representation of land in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change *Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry*.

6 SBSTA December 2008 report, with recommended methodological guidance

In its report SBSTA in December 2008 recommended methodological guidance, without prejudice to future COP decisions.

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Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean and encouraged participants to disseminate the lessons learned.

30. The SBSTA noted with appreciation the financial support provided by the Governments of Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Norway, the Netherlands, Romania and Slovakia for the implementation of the work programme of the EGTT for 2008–2009.

V. Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action

(Agenda item 5)

1. Proceedings

31. The SBSTA considered this item at its 2nd and 4th meetings, on 2 and 10 December, respectively. It had before it document FCCC/SBSTA/2008/11. Statements were made by representatives of 24 Parties, including one speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States,²⁰ one on behalf of AOSIS and one on behalf of five Parties of the Congo Basin countries.²¹

32. In addition, statements were made by representatives of the United Nations Forum on Forests, SCBD, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, CAN on behalf of ENGOs, IIPFCC on behalf of IPOs and the international youth delegation.²²

33. At its 2nd meeting, the SBSTA agreed to consider this item in a contact group co-chaired by Ms. Lilian Portillo (Paraguay) and Mr. Audun Rosland (Norway). At the 4th meeting, Mr. Rosland reported on the contact group's consultations.

34. At its 4th meeting, the SBSTA considered and adopted conclusions²³ proposed by the Chair.

2. Conclusions

35. The SBSTA took note of the report on the workshop on methodological issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries,²⁴ which was held in Tokyo, Japan, from 25 to 27 June 2008.

36. The SBSTA expressed its appreciation to the Government of Japan for hosting the workshop. It also expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Canada, France, Japan and Spain for providing financial support for the workshop.

37. The SBSTA also took note of the oral report by the Chair on the outcomes of the informal meeting of experts on methodological issues relating to reducing emissions from forest degradation in developing countries, held in Bonn, Germany, from 20 to 21 October 2008.²⁵

38. The SBSTA recommended the methodological guidance provided in annex II, without prejudice to any future decision of the COP, on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest

²⁰ This position was supported by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and Turkey.

²¹ Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Congo.

²² Owing to time constraints, related NGO statements were heard at the end of the 2nd and 4th meetings of the SBSTA.

²³ Adopted as document FCCC/SBSTA/2008/L.23.

²⁴ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/11.

²⁵ <http://unfccc.int/methods_science/redd/items/4579.php>.

degradation in developing countries, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries, as reflected in decision 2/CP.13, paragraph 11, which takes into account the methodological issues identified at its twenty-eighth session.²⁶

39. The SBSTA decided to continue its programme of work on methodological issues, as contained in decision 2/CP.13, paragraphs 7 (a) and 11, at its thirtieth session, with the aim of completing this work by its thirty-first session and reporting to the COP at its fifteenth session on progress made, including any recommendations on the remaining outstanding methodological issues as contained in annex III to the report on its twenty-eighth session.²⁷

40. The SBSTA, recalling its conclusions at its twenty-eighth session,²⁸ requested its Chair, with the support of the secretariat, to organize an expert meeting,²⁹ subject to the availability of supplementary funding, before its thirtieth session and to prepare a report on this meeting for consideration at that session. This meeting should focus on methodological issues relating:

- (a) To reference emission levels for deforestation;
- (b) To reference emission levels for forest degradation;
- (c) To the role and contribution of conservation, sustainable management of forests, changes in forest cover and associated carbon stocks and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks to enhance action on mitigation of climate change and to the consideration of reference levels;
- (d) To the relationship among the reference emission levels and relevant reference levels.

41. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to prepare and make available, subject to the availability of supplementary funding, a technical paper on the cost of implementing methodologies and monitoring systems related to estimates of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, the assessment of carbon stocks and GHG emissions from changes in forest cover, and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks, for consideration at its thirtieth session.

42. The SBSTA, recalling decision 2/CP.13, paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9 and 11, recognized the importance of coordination among Parties, relevant multilateral and bilateral organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations (NGOs) when supporting the implementation of activities relating to decision 2/CP.13.

43. The SBSTA requested its Chair to explore ways of facilitating the coordination of the activities referred to in paragraph 42 above, in line with the framework for capacity-building in developing countries as contained in decisions 2/CP.7 and 2/CP.10, and recognizing the existence and importance of activities carried out by developing countries with their own resources.

44. The SBSTA invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 15 February 2009, information on their experiences and views, and to provide country-specific information where possible, on needs for technical and institutional capacity-building and cooperation in, inter alia, the implementation of methodologies for estimating and monitoring changes in forest cover and associated carbon stocks and GHG emissions, incremental changes due to sustainable management of forests, reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, national and subnational monitoring and reporting systems, and methodologies for

²⁶ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, annex III.

²⁷ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6.

²⁸ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 96.

²⁹ Arrangements for inviting accredited observers in general should be used to invite representatives from IPOs and local communities.

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forest inventories, ground-based and remote-sensing approaches.

It requested the secretariat to compile these submissions for consideration at its thirtieth session.

45. The SBSTA invited Parties and accredited observers to submit, if appropriate, to the secretariat, by 15 February 2009, their views on issues relating to indigenous people and local communities for the development and application of methodologies.

46. The SBSTA noted the launch by the secretariat of the Web Platform on the UNFCCC website,³⁰ in accordance with decision 2/CP.13, paragraph 10. It encouraged Parties, relevant organizations and stakeholders to share information relating to decision 2/CP.13, paragraphs 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11, through the Web Platform.³¹

47. The SBSTA concluded that in addition to work identified in these conclusions, guidance from the AWG-LCA in relation to decision 1/CP.13, paragraph 1 (b) (iii), would facilitate further progress on methodological issues relating to decision 2/CP.13, paragraph 11.

48. The SBSTA requested its Chair to inform the AWG-LCA, at its sixth session, of the results of consultations and progress made during its thirtieth session and at the expert meeting referred to in paragraph 40 above.

VI. Research and systematic observation

(Agenda item 6)

1. Proceedings

49. The SBSTA considered this item at its 2nd and 4th meetings, on 2 and 10 December, respectively. It had before it documents FCCC/SBSTA/2008/MISC.11 and FCCC/SBSTA/2008/MISC.12. Statements were made by representatives of six Parties, including one speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States.³² In addition, statements were made by the Director of the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS) secretariat, by a representative of Thailand³³ speaking on behalf of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) and by the Chair of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) Steering Committee.

50. At its 2nd meeting, the SBSTA agreed that the Chair would draft conclusions and present them to the SBSTA at its 4th meeting.

51. At its 4th meeting, the SBSTA considered and adopted conclusions³⁴ proposed by the Chair.

³⁰ <http://unfccc.int/methods_science/redd/items/4531.php>.

³¹ Parties, relevant organizations and stakeholders are invited to submit relevant information to the following e-mail address: <[redd_webplatform@unfccc.int](mailto:redwebplatform@unfccc.int)>.

³² This position was supported by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and Turkey.

³³ A representative of the United States of America delivered the statement on behalf of Thailand, the incoming Chair of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites.

³⁴ Adopted as document FCCC/SBSTA/2008/L.18.

Annex II

**Methodological guidance by the Subsidiary Body for
Scientific and Technological Advice**

1. The SBSTA noted the importance of the following elements in relation to its programme of work initiated under decision 2/CP.13:

- (a) Promoting the readiness of developing countries in relation to decision 2/CP.13, taking into account paragraph 42 of this document;
- (b) Further mobilization of resources in relation to decision 2/CP.13, paragraphs 4 and 5, to expand related actions;
- (c) Recognizing the need to promote the full and effective participation of indigenous people and local communities, taking into account national circumstances and noting relevant international agreements;
- (d) Exploring co-benefits in the context of methodological development related to decision 2/CP.13;
- (e) Sharing lessons learned and experiences when applying the guidance referred to in paragraph 2 below and the indicative guidance in the annex to decision 2/CP.13.

2. The SBSTA, on the basis of work conducted on the methodological issues set out in decision 2/CP.13, recommends the following guidance to be taken into account:

- (a) The use of the *Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* and encouraging the use of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change *Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry*,¹ as appropriate, as a basis for estimating anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks;
- (b) The need to establish robust and transparent national forest² monitoring systems, following consideration of their requirements;
- (c) If appropriate, the need to establish robust and transparent sub-national forest³ monitoring systems, following consideration of their requirements;
- (d) The encouragement of national forest monitoring systems that allow transparent and independent review of their results;
- (e) The consideration of national circumstances and respective capabilities and capacities.

¹ Taking note of the work of the Intergovernmental Panel (IPCC) on Climate Change, if appropriate.

² Taking note of, if appropriate, the guidance on consistent representation of land in the IPCC *Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry* (IPCC good practice guidance for LULUCF).

³ Taking note of, if appropriate, the guidance on consistent representation of land in the IPCC good practice guidance for LULUCF.

7 Decision 2/CP.13, with indicative methodological guidance for demonstration activities and a request to SBSTA to undertake a programme of work on methodological issues

In Bali in 2007 COP 13 adopted this decision, in addition to the Bali Action Plan below.

Decision 2/CP.13

Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular Article 2, Article 3, paragraphs 1, 3 and 4, and Article 4, paragraphs 1(a)–(d), 3, 5 and 7,

Acknowledging the contribution of the emissions from deforestation to global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions,

Acknowledging that forest degradation also leads to emissions, and needs to be addressed when reducing emissions from deforestation,

Recognizing that efforts and actions to reduce deforestation and to maintain and conserve forest carbon stocks in developing countries are already being taken,

Recognizing the complexity of the problem, different national circumstances and the multiple drivers of deforestation and forest degradation,

Recognizing the potential role of further actions to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries in helping to meet the ultimate objective of the Convention,

Affirming the urgent need to take further meaningful action to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries,

Noting that sustainable reduction in emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries requires stable and predictable availability of resources,

Recognizing that reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries can promote co-benefits and may complement the aims and objectives of other relevant international conventions and agreements,

Recognizing also that the needs of local and indigenous communities should be addressed when action is taken to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries,

1. *Invites* Parties to further strengthen and support ongoing efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation on a voluntary basis;

2. *Encourages* all Parties, in a position to do so, to support capacity-building, provide technical assistance, facilitate the transfer of technology to improve, inter alia, data collection, estimation of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, monitoring and reporting, and address the institutional needs of developing countries to estimate and reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation;

3. *Further encourages* Parties to explore a range of actions, identify options and undertake efforts, including demonstration activities, to address the drivers of deforestation relevant to their national circumstances, with a view to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and thus enhancing forest carbon stocks due to sustainable management of forests;

4. *Encourages*, without prejudice to future decisions of the Conference of the Parties, the use of the indicative guidance provided in the annex to this decision as an aid in undertaking and evaluating the range of demonstration activities;

5. *Invites* Parties, in particular Parties included in Annex II to the Convention, to mobilize resources to support efforts in relation to the actions referred to in paragraphs 1–3 above;

6. *Encourages* the use of the most recent reporting guidelines¹ as a basis for reporting greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation, noting also that Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention are encouraged to apply the *Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry*;²

7. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to undertake a programme of work on methodological issues related to a range of policy approaches and positive incentives that aim to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries noting relevant documents;³ the work should include:

- (a) Inviting Parties to submit, by 21 March 2008, their views on how to address outstanding methodological issues including, inter alia, assessments of changes in forest cover and associated carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions, incremental changes due to sustainable management of the forest, demonstration of reductions in emissions from deforestation, including reference emissions levels, estimation and demonstration of reduction in emissions from forest degradation, implications of national and subnational approaches including displacement of emissions, options for assessing the effectiveness of actions in relation to paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 5 above, and criteria for evaluating actions, to be compiled into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice at its twenty-eighth session;
- (b) Requesting the secretariat, subject to availability of supplementary funding, to organize a workshop on methodological issues identified in paragraph 7 (a) above, before its twenty-ninth session, and to prepare a report on the workshop for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice at that session;
- (c) Advancing the development of methodological approaches, taking into account the outcome of the workshop referred to in paragraph 7 (b) above at its twenty-ninth session;

8. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to report to the Conference of the Parties, at its fourteenth session, on the outcomes of the work referred to in paragraph 7 (a)–(c) above, including any recommendations on possible methodological approaches;

¹ At the time of this decision, the most recent reporting guidelines for national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention are found in decision 17/CP.8.

² Decision 13/CP.9.

³ FCCC/SBSTA/2006/10, FCCC/SBSTA/2007/3, FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.2 and Add.1, FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.14 and Add. 1–3; and the background paper prepared for the workshop on reducing emissions from deforestation held in Rome, Italy, from 30 August to 1 September 2006, available at <http://unfccc.int/methods_and_science/lulucf/items/3757.php>.

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9. *Invites* relevant organizations and stakeholders, without prejudice to any future decision of the Conference of the Parties on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, to support efforts in relation to paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 5 above and to share outcomes of these efforts with the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice by providing corresponding information to the secretariat;

10. *Requests* the secretariat to support, subject to the availability of supplementary funding, the activities of all Parties, in particular developing countries, in relation to paragraphs 3, 5, 7 and 9 above, by developing a Web platform where information submitted by Parties, relevant organizations and stakeholders will be made available;

11. *Notes* the further consideration, under decision 1/CP.13, of policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries;

12. *Notes further* that when addressing policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, the efforts described in paragraph 3 above should be considered.

ANNEX

Indicative guidance

1. Demonstration activities should be undertaken with the approval of the host Party.
2. Estimates of reductions or increases of emissions should be results based, demonstrable, transparent and verifiable, and estimated consistently over time.
3. The use of the methodologies described in paragraph 6 of this decision is encouraged as a basis for estimating and monitoring emissions.
4. Emission reductions from national demonstration activities should be assessed on the basis of national emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.
5. Subnational demonstration activities should be assessed within the boundary used for the demonstration, and assessed for associated displacement of emissions.
6. Reductions in emissions or increases resulting from the demonstration activity should be based on historical emissions, taking into account national circumstances.
7. Subnational¹ approaches, where applied, should constitute a step towards the development of national approaches, reference levels and estimates.
8. Demonstration activities should be consistent with sustainable forest management, noting, inter alia, the relevant provisions of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity.
9. Experiences in implementing activities should be reported and made available via the Web platform.²
10. Reporting on demonstration activities should include a description of the activities and their effectiveness, and may include other information.
11. Independent expert review is encouraged.

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¹ Activities carried out within the national boundary.

² To be developed by the secretariat as referred to in paragraph 10 of this decision.

8 Bali Action Plan (decision 1/CP.13)

The Bali Action Plan, decision 1/CP.13, was adopted by COP 13 in 2007. It provides the basis for the current negotiations in the AWG-LCA.

Decision 1/CP.13

Bali Action Plan

The Conference of the Parties,

Resolving to urgently enhance implementation of the Convention in order to achieve its ultimate objective in full accordance with its principles and commitments,

Reaffirming that economic and social development and poverty eradication are global priorities,

Responding to the findings of the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that warming of the climate system is unequivocal, and that delay in reducing emissions significantly constrains opportunities to achieve lower stabilization levels and increases the risk of more severe climate change impacts,

Recognizing that deep cuts in global emissions will be required to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention and emphasizing the urgency¹ to address climate change as indicated in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

1. *Decides* to launch a comprehensive process to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012, in order to reach an agreed outcome and adopt a decision at its fifteenth session, by addressing, inter alia:

- (a) A shared vision for long-term cooperative action, including a long-term global goal for emission reductions, to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention, in accordance with the provisions and principles of the Convention, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and taking into account social and economic conditions and other relevant factors;
- (b) Enhanced national/international action on mitigation of climate change, including, inter alia, consideration of:
 - (i) Measurable, reportable and verifiable nationally appropriate mitigation commitments or actions, including quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives, by all developed country Parties, while ensuring the comparability of efforts among them, taking into account differences in their national circumstances;
 - (ii) Nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity-building, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner;
 - (iii) Policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries;

¹ Contribution of Working Group III to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Technical Summary, pages 39 and 90, and Chapter 13, page 776.

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- (iv) Cooperative sectoral approaches and sector-specific actions, in order to enhance implementation of Article 4, paragraph 1(c), of the Convention;
 - (v) Various approaches, including opportunities for using markets, to enhance the cost-effectiveness of, and to promote, mitigation actions, bearing in mind different circumstances of developed and developing countries;
 - (vi) Economic and social consequences of response measures;
 - (vii) Ways to strengthen the catalytic role of the Convention in encouraging multilateral bodies, the public and private sectors and civil society, building on synergies among activities and processes, as a means to support mitigation in a coherent and integrated manner;
- (c) Enhanced action on adaptation, including, inter alia, consideration of:
- (i) International cooperation to support urgent implementation of adaptation actions, including through vulnerability assessments, prioritization of actions, financial needs assessments, capacity-building and response strategies, integration of adaptation actions into sectoral and national planning, specific projects and programmes, means to incentivize the implementation of adaptation actions, and other ways to enable climate-resilient development and reduce vulnerability of all Parties, taking into account the urgent and immediate needs of developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, especially the least developed countries and small island developing States, and further taking into account the needs of countries in Africa affected by drought, desertification and floods;
 - (ii) Risk management and risk reduction strategies, including risk sharing and transfer mechanisms such as insurance;
 - (iii) Disaster reduction strategies and means to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change;
 - (iv) Economic diversification to build resilience;
 - (v) Ways to strengthen the catalytic role of the Convention in encouraging multilateral bodies, the public and private sectors and civil society, building on synergies among activities and processes, as a means to support adaptation in a coherent and integrated manner;
- (d) Enhanced action on technology development and transfer to support action on mitigation and adaptation, including, inter alia, consideration of:
- (i) Effective mechanisms and enhanced means for the removal of obstacles to, and provision of financial and other incentives for, scaling up of the development and transfer of technology to developing country Parties in order to promote access to affordable environmentally sound technologies;
 - (ii) Ways to accelerate deployment, diffusion and transfer of affordable environmentally sound technologies;

- (iii) Cooperation on research and development of current, new and innovative technology, including win-win solutions;
- (iv) The effectiveness of mechanisms and tools for technology cooperation in specific sectors;
- (e) Enhanced action on the provision of financial resources and investment to support action on mitigation and adaptation and technology cooperation, including, inter alia, consideration of:
 - (i) Improved access to adequate, predictable and sustainable financial resources and financial and technical support, and the provision of new and additional resources, including official and concessional funding for developing country Parties;
 - (ii) Positive incentives for developing country Parties for the enhanced implementation of national mitigation strategies and adaptation action;
 - (iii) Innovative means of funding to assist developing country Parties that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change in meeting the cost of adaptation;
 - (iv) Means to incentivize the implementation of adaptation actions on the basis of sustainable development policies;
 - (v) Mobilization of public- and private-sector funding and investment, including facilitation of climate-friendly investment choices;
 - (vi) Financial and technical support for capacity-building in the assessment of the costs of adaptation in developing countries, in particular the most vulnerable ones, to aid in determining their financial needs;

2. *Decides* that the process shall be conducted under a subsidiary body under the Convention, hereby established and known as the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention, that shall complete its work in 2009 and present the outcome of its work to the Conference of the Parties for adoption at its fifteenth session;

3. *Agrees* that the process shall begin without delay, that the sessions of the group will be scheduled as often as is feasible and necessary to complete the work of the group, where possible in conjunction with sessions of other bodies established under the Convention, and that its sessions may be complemented by workshops and other activities, as required;

4. *Decides* that the first session of the group shall be held as soon as is feasible and not later than April 2008;

5. *Decides* that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the group, with one being from a Party included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Party) and the other being from a Party not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Party), shall alternate annually between an Annex I Party and a non-Annex I Party;

6. *Takes note* of the proposed schedule of meetings contained in the annex to this decision;

7. *Instructs* the group to develop its work programme at its first session in a coherent and integrated manner;

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8. *Invites* Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 22 February 2008, their views regarding the work programme, taking into account the elements referred to in paragraph 1 above, to be compiled by the secretariat for consideration by the group at its first meeting;

9. *Requests* the group to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth session on progress made;

10. *Agrees* to take stock of the progress made, at its fourteenth session, on the basis of the report by the group;

11. *Agrees* that the process shall be informed by, inter alia, the best available scientific information, experience in implementation of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, and processes thereunder, outputs from other relevant intergovernmental processes and insights from the business and research communities and civil society;

12. *Notes* that the organization of work of the group will require a significant amount of additional resources to provide for the participation of delegates from Parties eligible to be funded and to provide conference services and substantive support;

13. *Strongly urges* Parties in a position to do so, in order to facilitate the work of the group, to provide contributions to the Trust Fund for Participation in the UNFCCC Process and the Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities for the purposes referred to in paragraph 12 above and to provide other forms of in kind support such as hosting a session of the group.

ANNEX

**Indicative timetable for meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group on
Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention in 2008**

| Session | Dates |
|----------------|--|
| Session 1 | March/April 2008 |
| Session 2 | June 2008, in conjunction with the twenty-eighth sessions of the subsidiary bodies |
| Session 3 | August/September 2008 |
| Session 4 | December 2008, in conjunction with the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties |

*8th plenary meeting
14–15 December 2007*

9 Decision 16/CMP.1 on Land use, land-use change and forestry

Decision 16/CMP.1 contains rules for LULUCF in Annex I countries. New rules are currently under negotiation.

Decision 16/CMP.1

Land use, land-use change and forestry

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol,

Affirming that the implementation of land use, land-use change and forestry activities included under the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol shall be consistent with the objectives and principles of, and any decisions taken under, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol,

Having considered decision 11/CP.7 adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session,

1. *Affirms* that the following principles govern the treatment of land use, land-use change and forestry activities:

- (a) That the treatment of these activities be based on sound science
- (b) That consistent methodologies be used over time for the estimation and reporting of these activities
- (c) That the aim stated in Article 3, paragraph 1, of the Kyoto Protocol not be changed by accounting for land use, land-use change and forestry activities
- (d) That the mere presence of carbon stocks be excluded from accounting
- (e) That the implementation of land use, land-use change and forestry activities contributes to the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources
- (f) That accounting for land use, land-use change and forestry does not imply a transfer of commitments to a future commitment period
- (g) That reversal of any removal due to land use, land-use change and forestry activities be accounted for at the appropriate point in time
- (h) That accounting excludes removals resulting from: (i) elevated carbon dioxide concentrations above their pre-industrial level; (ii) indirect nitrogen deposition; and (iii) the dynamic effects of age structure resulting from activities and practices before the reference year;

2. *Decides* that good practice guidance, and methods to estimate, measure, monitor and report changes in carbon stocks and anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks resulting from land use, land-use change and forestry activities, as developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, shall be applied by Parties, if decided in accordance with relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol;

3. *Decides* that anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks shall be accounted for in accordance with the annex to the present decision and reported in annual inventories and reviewed in accordance with relevant decisions relating to Articles 5, 7 and 8 of the Kyoto Protocol, and in accordance with the *Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*, any future elaboration of these guidelines, or parts of them, and any good practice guidance

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on land-use change and forestry in accordance with relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol;

4. *Adopts* the definitions, modalities, rules and guidelines relating to land use, land-use change and forestry activities under Articles 3, 6 and 12 of the Kyoto Protocol contained in the attached annex for application in the first commitment period.

ANNEX

Definitions, modalities, rules and guidelines relating to land use, land-use change and forestry activities under the Kyoto Protocol**A. Definitions**

1. For land use, land-use change and forestry activities under Article 3,¹ paragraphs 3 and 4, the following definitions shall apply:
 - (a) “Forest” is a minimum area of land of 0.05–1.0 hectare with tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10–30 per cent with trees with the potential to reach a minimum height of 2–5 metres at maturity in situ. A forest may consist either of closed forest formations where trees of various storeys and undergrowth cover a high proportion of the ground or open forest. Young natural stands and all plantations which have yet to reach a crown density of 10–30 per cent or tree height of 2–5 metres are included under forest, as are areas normally forming part of the forest area which are temporarily unstocked as a result of human intervention such as harvesting or natural causes but which are expected to revert to forest
 - (b) “Afforestation” is the direct human-induced conversion of land that has not been forested for a period of at least 50 years to forested land through planting, seeding and/or the human-induced promotion of natural seed sources
 - (c) “Reforestation” is the direct human-induced conversion of non-forested land to forested land through planting, seeding and/or the human-induced promotion of natural seed sources, on land that was forested but that has been converted to non-forested land. For the first commitment period, reforestation activities will be limited to reforestation occurring on those lands that did not contain forest on 31 December 1989
 - (d) “Deforestation” is the direct human-induced conversion of forested land to non-forested land
 - (e) “Revegetation” is a direct human-induced activity to increase carbon stocks on sites through the establishment of vegetation that covers a minimum area of 0.05 hectares and does not meet the definitions of afforestation and reforestation contained here
 - (f) “Forest management” is a system of practices for stewardship and use of forest land aimed at fulfilling relevant ecological (including biological diversity), economic and social functions of the forest in a sustainable manner
 - (g) “Cropland management” is the system of practices on land on which agricultural crops are grown and on land that is set aside or temporarily not being used for crop production
 - (h) “Grazing land management” is the system of practices on land used for livestock production aimed at manipulating the amount and type of vegetation and livestock produced.

¹ “Article” in this annex refers to an Article of the Kyoto Protocol, unless otherwise specified.

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B. Article 3, paragraph 3

2. For the purposes of Article 3, paragraph 3, eligible activities are those direct human-induced afforestation, reforestation and/or deforestation activities that meet the requirements set forth in this annex and that started on or after 1 January 1990 and before 31 December of the last year of the commitment period.

3. For the purposes of determining the area of deforestation to come into the accounting system under Article 3, paragraph 3, each Party shall determine the forest area using the same spatial assessment unit as is used for the determination of afforestation and reforestation, but not larger than 1 hectare.

4. For the first commitment period, debits² resulting from harvesting during the first commitment period following afforestation and reforestation since 1990 shall not be greater than credits³ accounted for on that unit of land.

5. Each Party included in Annex I shall report, in accordance with Article 7, on how harvesting or forest disturbance that is followed by the re-establishment of a forest is distinguished from deforestation. This information will be subject to review in accordance with Article 8.

C. Article 3, paragraph 4

6. A Party included in Annex I may choose to account for anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks resulting from any or all of the following human-induced activities, other than afforestation, reforestation and deforestation, under Article 3, paragraph 4, in the first commitment period: revegetation, forest management, cropland management and grazing land management.

7. A Party included in Annex I wishing to account for activities under Article 3, paragraph 4, shall identify, in its report to enable the establishment of its assigned amount pursuant to Article 3, paragraphs 7 and 8, the activities under Article 3, paragraph 4, which it elects to include in its accounting for the first commitment period. Upon election, a decision by a Party will be fixed for the first commitment period.

8. During the first commitment period, a Party included in Annex I that selects any or all of the activities mentioned in paragraph 6 above shall demonstrate that such activities have occurred since 1990 and are human-induced. A Party included in Annex I shall not account for emissions by sources and removals by sinks resulting from activities under Article 3, paragraph 4, if these are already accounted for under Article 3, paragraph 3.

9. For the first commitment period, accountable anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks resulting from cropland management, grazing land management and revegetation under Article 3, paragraph 4, shall be equal to anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks in the commitment period, less five times the anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks resulting from these eligible activities in the base year of that Party, while avoiding double accounting.

10. For the first commitment period, a Party included in Annex I that incurs a net source of emissions under the provisions of Article 3, paragraph 3, may account for anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks in areas under forest management under Article 3, paragraph 4, up to a level that is equal to the net source of emissions under the provisions of Article 3, paragraph 3, but not greater than 9.0 megatonnes of carbon times five, if the total anthropogenic

² "Debits": where emissions are larger than removals on a unit of land.

³ "Credits": where removals are larger than emissions on a unit of land.

greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks in the managed forest since 1990 is equal to, or larger than, the net source of emissions incurred under Article 3, paragraph 3.

11. For the first commitment period only, additions to and subtractions from the assigned amount of a Party⁴ resulting from forest management under Article 3, paragraph 4, after the application of paragraph 10 above and resulting from forest management project activities undertaken under Article 6, shall not exceed the value inscribed in the appendix⁵ below, times five.

12. A Party may request the Conference of the Parties to reconsider its numerical values as contained in paragraph 10 and in the appendix as mentioned in paragraph 11, with a view to the Conference of the Parties recommending a decision for adoption by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, no later than two years prior to the beginning of the first commitment period. Such a reconsideration shall be based upon country-specific data and the elements of guidance and consideration in footnote 5 to paragraph 11. These shall be submitted and reviewed in accordance with relevant decisions relating to Articles 5, 7 and 8 of the Kyoto Protocol, and in accordance with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) *Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*, any future elaboration of these guidelines, or parts of them, and any good practice guidance on land use, land-use change and forestry in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

D. Article 12

13. The eligibility of land use, land-use change and forestry project activities under Article 12 is limited to afforestation and reforestation.

14. For the first commitment period, the total of additions to a Party's assigned amount resulting from eligible land use, land-use change and forestry project activities under Article 12 shall not exceed one per cent of base year emissions of that Party, times five.

15. The treatment of land use, land-use change and forestry project activities under Article 12 in future commitment periods shall be decided as part of the negotiations on the second commitment period.

E. General

16. Each Party included in Annex I shall, for the purposes of applying the definition of "forest" as contained in paragraph 1 (a) above, select a single minimum tree crown cover value between 10 and 30 per cent, a single minimum land area value between 0.05 and 1 hectare and a single minimum tree height value between 2 and 5 metres. The selection of a Party shall be fixed for the duration of the first commitment period. The selection shall be included as an integral part of its report to enable the calculation of its assigned amount pursuant to Article 3, paragraphs 7 and 8, in accordance with decision 19/CP.7, and shall include the values for tree crown cover, tree height and the minimum land area. Each Party shall justify in its reporting that such values are consistent with the information that has historically been reported to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations or other international bodies, and if they differ, explain why and how such values were chosen.

⁴ In accordance with decision 13/CMP.1.

⁵ In arriving at the values in the appendix below, the Conference of the Parties was guided by the application of an 85 per cent discount factor to account for the removals identified in paragraph 1 (h) of decision 16/CMP.1 and a 3 per cent cap on forest management, using a combination of data provided by Parties and by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Consideration was also given to national circumstances (including the degree of effort needed to meet Kyoto Protocol commitments and the forest management measures implemented). The accounting framework established in this paragraph shall not be construed as establishing any precedent for the second and subsequent commitment periods.

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17. For the first commitment period, and subject to other provisions in this annex, the additions to and subtractions from the assigned amount of a Party pursuant to Article 3, paragraphs 7 and 8, shall be equal to anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks measured as verifiable changes in carbon stocks, and non-carbon dioxide greenhouse gas emissions during the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2012 resulting from afforestation, reforestation and deforestation under Article 3, paragraph 3, and forest management under Article 3, paragraph 4, that have taken place since 1 January 1990. Where the result of this calculation is a net sink of greenhouse gases, this value shall be added to the assigned amount of that Party. Where the result of this calculation is a net source of greenhouse gas emissions, this value shall be subtracted from the assigned amount of that Party.

18. Accounting of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks resulting from land use, land-use change and forestry activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, shall begin with the onset of the activity or the beginning of the commitment period, whichever comes later.

19. Once land is accounted for under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, all anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources from, and removals by sinks on this land must be accounted for throughout subsequent and contiguous commitment periods.

20. National inventory systems under Article 5, paragraph 1, shall ensure that areas of land subject to land use, land-use change and forestry activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, are identifiable, and information about these areas should be provided by each Party included in Annex I in their national inventories in accordance with Article 7. Such information will be reviewed in accordance with Article 8.

21. Each Party included in Annex I shall account for all changes in the following carbon pools: above-ground biomass, below-ground biomass, litter, dead wood, and soil organic carbon. A Party may choose not to account for a given pool in a commitment period if transparent and verifiable information is provided that the pool is not a source.

APPENDIX

| Party^a | Mt C/yr |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Australia | 0.00 |
| Austria | 0.63 |
| Belarus | |
| Belgium | 0.03 |
| Bulgaria | 0.37 |
| Canada | 12.00 |
| Croatia | 0.265 ^b |
| Czech Republic | 0.32 |
| Denmark | 0.05 |
| Estonia | 0.10 |
| Finland | 0.16 |
| France | 0.88 |
| Germany | 1.24 |
| Greece | 0.09 |
| Hungary | 0.29 |
| Iceland | 0.00 |
| Ireland | 0.05 |
| Italy | 0.18 |
| Japan | 13.00 |
| Latvia | 0.34 |
| Liechtenstein | 0.01 |
| Lithuania | 0.28 |
| Luxembourg | 0.01 |
| Monaco | 0.00 |
| Netherlands | 0.01 |
| New Zealand | 0.20 |
| Norway | 0.40 |
| Poland | 0.82 |
| Portugal | 0.22 |
| Romania | 1.10 |
| Russian Federation | 33.00 ^c |
| Slovakia | 0.50 |
| Slovenia | 0.36 |
| Spain | 0.67 |
| Sweden | 0.58 |
| Switzerland | 0.50 |
| Ukraine | 1.11 |
| United Kingdom | 0.37 |

^a The list of countries in this table differs from that found in decision 5/CP.6 as a result of consultations undertaken during the session.

^b This figure has been added by decision 22/CP.9.

^c This figure is changed from 17.63 to 33.00 by decision 12/CP.7.

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