UN-REDD Programme - Fifth Executive Board Meeting (EB5)

Session 1: Update on UN-REDD progress and plans
2nd September 2021 14:00-15:30 CET

Agenda and Background

1. OBJECTIVE OF THE SESSION

This is the first of a series of three EB sessions to be held over three consecutive weeks, to spread the late night/early morning burden for Asia and LAC, as discussed during the Chair's preparatory calls with EB members over July and August. The subsequent two sessions will be held as strategic dialogues on (i) forests in the context of the Food System Summit –on 6 September; and on (ii) emerging climate finance –on 16 September.

This 90-minute session will provide an overall update on progress since the Executive Board meeting last year, and an overview of UN-REDD plans ahead. Specifically, this session will present and discuss the following elements: (1) progress to date, including the completion of a decade-long country-support modality of National Programmes, with sharing lessons from the National Programme of Chile; (2) looking forward at UN-REDD's plans ahead, including the ongoing support to countries with emerging carbon markets, and the 2022-2025 work plan and budget according to the donor funding mobilised so far. The session will seek discussion and guidance from the Executive Board around these topics – the questions presented in the sections below will help the process.

2. AGENDA

30 mins	Logging in (starts at 13:30 CET). Official start of the meeting is 14:00 CET.
10 mins	Welcome and introduction from the Chair of the Board (M. Wilkie)
Part 1	Progress to date
10 mins	Presentation by Secretariat on UN-REDD progress since last Board meeting, and snapshot on NPs history
10 mins	Presentation by Chile on experience and lessons learned with their NP
20 mins	Discussion – *Anything else the Board wants to highlight as progress since the last EB meeting? Any further comment on the 2020 Annual Report and the 2021 semi-annual update, and feedback on how to make these more useful to Board members? Any general feedback on the UN-REDD NP modality (2009-2021)? Comments on Chile's achievements and lessons?*
Part 2	Looking forward
10 mins	Presentation by Secretariat on UN-REDD operational modalities and 2022-2025 work plan and budget
20 mins	Discussion – *Any comments or questions for clarification on the work plan and budget 2022-2025? Any feedback on next steps? Any strategic demand to UN-REDD for 2022-2025?*
10 mins	Summary and concluding thoughts (M. Wilkie)

3. BACKGROUND ON TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Progress to date

In the first part of this session, we will present an update on the overall progress of the Programme since the last Board meeting, including the 2020-2021 transition period, and the completion of a decade-long country-support modality of National Programmes, with sharing lessons from the National Programme of Chile. We are presenting below some highlights of progress, and more details can be found in the UN-REDD 2020 Annual Report, and the 2021 semi-annual update.

Throughout the year since the last Board meeting, 10 partner countries and one region received customized UN-REDD support through national programmes and technical assistance for REDD+ implementation. In addition to supporting three national programmes in Chile, Myanmar and Peru, UN-REDD continued to deliver its multiannual 2018-2020 technical assistance to REDD+ implementation projects in nine countries, the Lower Mekong region, and six knowledge management areas. Despite the disruption and delivery challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, UN-REDD continued to be active in raising the profile of key issues, and we are highlighting here few of those:

- **Results-based payments** - many REDD+ countries made significant progress over 2020 and 2021 with UN-REDD Programme support. Notably, Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Indonesia achieved the milestone of accessing RBPs from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), securing $286.1 million for emissions reductions from the forest sector.
- **Indigenous rights and social inclusion** - in REDD+ policy and actions continued to benefit from the collaboration with the UNFCCC Local Communities & Indigenous Peoples Platform, as well as a joint initiative with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact on the interface between indigenous rights, environmental affairs and climate action.
- **Monitoring and reporting** - the UN-REDD Programme supported countries preparing or updating reference levels, preparing emission reports, as well as improving the capabilities of their monitoring systems, e.g. with application of tools such as SEPAL and OpenForis, and their further development, including the launch of ARENA.
- **Land tenure** - global knowledge work was carried out on the importance of securing forest tenure rights through the Dgroup on REDD+ and Forest Governance ("Development through dialogue") which has members across more than 100 countries.
- **Private sector** - work focused on building business cases necessary to transition to sustainable land use, such as sustainable coffee production in Viet Nam. Moreover, proof-of-concept transactions to unlock private finance were facilitated, including the signing a $30 million and 10-year loan facility with PT Dharma Satya Nusantara Tbk (DSN) in Indonesia.
- **Gender** - UN-REDD supported 10 countries in integrating gender equality and women's empowerment principles within REDD+ action. This support has helped many partner countries, such as Cote d'Ivoire, Myanmar and Peru, to take large strides in incorporating gender into their safeguards-related work.
- **Nature-based solutions** - UN-REDD supported the inclusion and enhancement of forest and land-use action as part of nature-based solutions in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the broader 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a theme that has achieved notable traction following the Climate Action Summit of 2019.

Most notably, the Programme advanced flexibly in recognition of new opportunities to mobilize carbon finance. In particular, dialogue with countries was undertaken to explore the relevance of the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions' (ART) The REDD+ Environmental Excellency Standard (TREES) as a means to access additional sources of carbon finance through validated and verified emissions

reductions, fungible with carbon markets. As a result, most countries in the current portfolio are exploring their level of conformity, and current gaps, with ART/TREES. Similarly, in response to the launch of the Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance (LEAF) Coalition and its call for proposals, the Programme reallocated efforts to be able to support and provide advice to countries interested in preparing proposals. Seven countries that applied to LEAF received some form of technical support by the UN-REDD Programme. In addition to the support to countries, the Programme has engaged with the ART and LEAF secretariats, as well as sovereign members of LEAF, to share technical insights and perspectives on the benefits and challenges of the LEAF opportunity.

Country example: Chile's National Programme

As a concrete example of progress made by UN-REDD partner countries, Chile will share experiences and lessons learned from its UN-REDD National Programme (NP). Chile's NP was approved at the 14th UN-REDD Policy Board meeting in November 2015 and the signed NP document was submitted in August 2017 for a duration of 38 months ending 31 December 2020, with a budget of USD 4,280,000. The NP was extended at no cost for an additional nine months, until 30 September 2021.

As enshrined in the NP document, UN-REDD's support through the NP aims to respond to Chile's gaps related to the four elements of the Warsaw framework: i) support to Chile's National Strategy for Climate Change and Vegetation Resources (ENCCRV), ii) technical support on Chile's Forest Reference Emissions Level/Forest Reference Level (FREL/FRL) to ensure consistency with the UNFCCC requirements, and to strengthen CONAF's capacity to respond to technical reviews and future recalculations, iii) National Forest Monitoring System (SNMF): to support the integration of existing monitoring instruments and the consistency between the forest inventory and the wood energy inventory, and iv) Safeguards Information System (SIS): to set up a system to collect and provide a detailed vision of how the different environmental and social safeguards will be promoted and respected.

Questions for feedback and discussion by the Board:
- *Anything else the Board might want to highlight as progress since the last EB meeting?*
- *Any further comment on the UN-REDD 2020 Annual Report and the 2021 Semi-annual update, how progress is presented, and ways to improve and make these useful to Board members?*
- *Any general feedback on the UN-REDD NP modality (2009-2021)?*
- *Comments on Chile's achievements and lessons?*

Looking forward

The latest IPCC report has established that climate change is widespread, rapid and intensifying, and imply that only rapid and drastic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in this decade can still make it possible to prevent climate breakdown (IPCC 2021).

Looking to the 2030 horizon, the goal of the UN-REDD Programme is to help fully realize forests' mitigation potential for at least 5 $GtCO_2e$ per year, with a mid-decade milestone to help unlock and reward a 'Green Gigaton' of forest-based greenhouse gas emission reductions, and enhanced removals. Quantity of mitigation results is not the sole dimension of UN-REDD's post-2020 ambition. The 2025 target of 1 $GtCO_2e$ will also need to demonstrate a trajectory of increasing quality, including greater accuracy, certainty, with mitigated non-permanence or displacement risks and adhering to social and environmental safeguards. This section of the meeting will cover an overview of UN-REDD operational modalities, and an introduction of the 2022-2025 work plan and budget.

Operational modalities

This decade will require new ideas and approaches to delivering REDD+. In the coming phase of operations, the Programme will adhere to the following principles of intervention: scale, speed and flexibility. UN-REDD will work in a way that encourages new ways of doing things and take calculated risks. While previous UN-REDD work plans tended to be anchored on a sub-set of countries, the new operational modality will focus on attaining the indicators of success with added flexibility, to enable it to provide more timely support to emerging opportunities.

Recognizing the importance of country ownership, UN-REDD will continue to be demand-driven, and socially inclusive. Interventions will be tailored to national circumstances and the Programme will work to ensure countries lead processes by adapting the support to the national and local contexts, supporting sufficient local capacity to undertake the necessary actions, and ensuring effective engagement of stakeholders at different levels.

UN-REDD will strive to deploy the most appropriate and effective support modality, including situations that require a committed presence for an extended period, and expects to be able to shift resources with greater agility in response to new opportunities. The Programme's ability to respond to new opportunities for countries, such as enable access to the Green Climate Fund's RBP pilot program, or TREES and LEAF, are examples of this.

UN-REDD will redouble efforts to bring the best of the UN together for a common purpose at global, regional and national levels. Within the framework of the UN Reforms, UN-REDD constitutes a unique case of inter-agency collaboration towards the SDGs. By capitalizing on the respective strengths of the partner agencies, the Programme's joint vision represents a step forward to strengthening collaboration, in support of Member States, in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

The Programme will focus particular attention on advising and supporting countries in scaling up implementation and access to related implementation and results-based finance. For both upfront (*ex-ante*) finance and results-based (*ex-post*) finance, the Programme will assist countries through multi-stakeholder dialogues, in making key choices on their effective finance options, ensuring policy and technical coherence, as well as high social and environmental standards. Session 3 of this Executive Board meeting will explore latest thinking and discuss potential options on how to scale up financing for REDD+ commensurate with the 2030 mitigation goals as stated in IPCC models.

Work Plan and Budget for the Norwegian contribution to UN-REDD, 2022-2025

The 2022-2025 work plan and budget for the Norwegian contribution outlines country, knowledge management and communications support to be provided by the UN-REDD Programme over the coming four years, for a total budget of USD 40 million. In line with UN-REDD's new results framework 2021-2025, the Programme will continue to support countries with REDD+ implementation and increasing ambition and delivery of forest solutions in their NDCs. UN-REDD will also continue to assist countries to enhance the environmental integrity, and social equity, of their REDD+ results and access emerging opportunities to implement Article 6 of the *Paris Agreement*, especially with regards to international cooperative arrangements and carbon market platforms for forests.

Knowledge creation, management and communications continue to be pillars of UN-REDD, and the Programme will provide a suite of global knowledge management and communications tools and activities to further deliver on its outcomes, allowing the Programme to serve its many partner countries in order to turn the tide on deforestation. Knowledge on good practices of innovative and scalable REDD+ solutions, drawing on lessons learned from activities undertaken, will be facilitated, captured and disseminated to scale up delivery of REDD+ and forest solutions across the world.

A particular focus of the Norwegian contribution will be on ensuring a meaningful role of new results-based financing opportunities, more specifically ART/TREES and the LEAF Coalition. The draft work plan

and budget introduced to the Board will be subsequently presented for approval by the Board on a no-objection basis via email, as per standard practice, once finalised.

Questions for feedback and discussion by the Board:
- *Any comments or question for clarification on the work plan and budget 2022-2025?*
- *Any feedback on next steps? Any strategic demand to UN-REDD for 2022-2025?*

4. Participants

Region/ Constituency	EB Member	EB Alternate
Africa	Madagascar: Ms. Lovakanto Ravelomanana	Ghana: Ms. Roselyn Fosuah Adjei
Asia-Pacific	Nepal: Mr. Buddi Sagar Poudel	Indonesia: Ms. Laksmi Dhewanthi
LAC	Colombia: Mr. David Felipe Olarte	Chile: Mr. Luis Gianelli
Programme Donors	European Commission: Mr. Patrice Moussy, Ms. Lucile Broussolle	Denmark: Mr. Flemming Poul Winther Olsen
	Norway: Mr. Leif-John Fosse	Luxembourg: Ms Virginie Gilbert
	Switzerland: Mr. Keith Anderson, Mr. Pierre-André Cordey	Japan: Mr. Takayuki Ishikawa
		Spain: Ms. Maite Martín-Crespo
	Permanent Observer	**Alternate**
IPs	IP-LAC: Ms. Dolores (Lola) Cabnal, RMIB-LAC	IP Africa: Mr. Joseph Itongwa, REPALEF
CSOs	LAC: Mr. Gustavo Sánchez Valle, Red MOCAF	Asia-Pacific: Mr. David Ganz, RECOFTC
External observers – TO BE CONFIRMED (if any)		