

UN-REDD PROGRAMME



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Report of the Second Executive Board Meeting

UN-REDD PROGRAMME SECOND
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (EB-2)

18-19 October 2018

Rome, Italy

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Summary of Decisions

Decision 1:

The Executive Board members approved the agenda for the Second Executive Board meeting.

Decision 2:

The Executive Board approved the 2019 funding allocation for the Technical Assistance for REDD+ Implementation.

Decision 3:

The Executive Board approved the direct cost for Secretariat services for 2019.

Introduction

1. The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD Programme) held its Second Executive Board Meeting on 18-19 October in Rome, Italy, hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), at the headquarters of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
2. The meeting was chaired by Eva Müller, Director of Forestry Policy and Resources Division, at the FAO Forestry Department. The meeting was attended by 27 participants (see Annex I). All documents and presentations are available on the UN-REDD Programme [workspace](#).

Agenda Item 1: Introduction and welcome

3. Welcoming remarks were made by the Chair on behalf of Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General for Climate and Natural Resources, FAO.
4. The Board approved the Agenda (Decision 1).

1.1 Opening of the meeting and approval of the agenda

5. The Chair welcomed all participants to the second Executive Board meeting. She noted the progress made in supporting countries to move from REDD+ readiness to implementation and results and stressed the importance of combating deforestation and forest degradation in the broader context of sustainable development including: ensuring food security, eradicating inequality, while mitigating and adapting to climate change and ensuring national sustainable development. Climate variability and increasing weather extremes are among the leading causes of severe food insecurity in several parts of the world. She also emphasised the urgency of action to be taken in order to avoid further global and national crises, referring to the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report that described impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels.
6. On the 10-year anniversary of the UN-REDD Programme, a series of events will acknowledge and celebrate the progress made by countries, the Programme and its partner initiatives, for example the UN system side event on SDG 15 and the high-level reception during the forthcoming 24th session of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP 24). The Chair also stressed the timely opportunity for this

meeting to be an open dialogue to reflect on 10 years of UN-REDD, exchange views on progress, identify areas for improvement and, based on interest from several participants, share initial ideas for UN-REDD beyond 2020.

7. Participants indicated the key role of the UN-REDD Programme in facilitating the dialogue and exchange of information and experiences among countries, supporting engagement of communities and indigenous peoples in decision making, enhancing cross-sectoral and integrated approaches of different land-use sectors, and involvement of private sector – yet with an urgent call to continue and enhance these efforts. While recognizing the results achieved so far, a call was made by several Board members for the Programme to reflect on the niche and modus operandi to take into account the evolvement of REDD+ and needs to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement related to forests and other land uses. There is also still a need for technical expertise and support for capacity development to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and for other REDD+ activities, while increasingly demonstrating that there are results in terms of emission reductions (and co-benefits) - so that more and more countries could benefit from results-based payments. Yet, increased efforts to boost implementation of actions on the ground to halting deforestation and forest degradation, but also to boost reforestation, are needed. Participants recognized the efforts of the countries and the technical assistance provided by the Programme in progressing on REDD+ readiness which accompanied some of the UN-REDD member countries at the doorsteps of receiving results-based payments through the Green Climate Fund (for example Ecuador) or bilateral agreements (such as Colombia). New technology and innovation in all areas of the Programme – from policy advice and technical support to the management of the Programme itself – can support the implementation of REDD+ actions and reach and maintain lasting results on the ground.
8. The agenda for the Second Executive Board meeting was approved as presented, with a suggestion for an additional item on brainstorming on the future of UN-REDD post-2020 on day two, time permitting. (Decision 1)

Agenda Item 2: Progress Review

2.1 Progress since the last Executive Board meeting

9. The Chair opened the session noting the 2017 Annual Report was approved by the Board intersessionally, and that this meeting provided a chance for Board members to discuss and reflect on it. She then turned to the Secretariat to present an overview of progress.

10. The Secretariat stressed that recommendations put forward during the first meeting of the Board were taken on board, strengthening various aspects of the Programme implementation and management. First, the Results Framework was completed at intermediate outcome and output level for the Technical Assistance for REDD+ Implementation (TA) 2018-2020. Furthermore, the extensive and inclusive consultative process carried out for the development of the 2019 TA workplan and budget was highlighted.
11. An overview of the Programme's achievements was presented, noting 36 partner countries and two regions (Congo Basin and West Africa) which received customized UN-REDD support through National Programmes, targeted support, technical assistance, community-based REDD+ initiatives, and country and regional needs assessments. FAO noted the catalytic role of the Programme in Indonesia, where relatively small UN-REDD funding boosted and enabled the mobilization of additional resources and achieving higher outputs such as the enhanced agenda on peatlands monitoring and management. UN Environment highlighted the first 'Landscape bond' issued by the Tropical Landscape Finance Facility in March 2018, and a new US\$ 1 billion fund soon to be announced set up in partnership with the Rabobank. UNDP highlighted the completion and achievements of the CBR+ initiative, with results in both local empowerment and enabling community stakeholders to inform the preparation of national REDD+ strategies and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Work on connecting REDD+ and NDCs in the framework of UN-REDD has served to consolidate the major role of forests in nature-based solutions to climate, which is now a signature programme within UNDP and a key stream in global climate action.
12. The UN-REDD Gender Specialist presented an update on the final design of the new UN-REDD Gender Marker Rating System and the progress undertaken in developing and operationalizing it. To date, baseline gender marker ratings have been assigned, and validated with lead technical advisors, for each of the 55 TA outputs. The results of this baseline analysis, as well as the criteria and methodology of the system, were shared. The system is now operational and will be applied to each year of the TA programme (e.g. 2018, 2019 and 2020) to monitor gender performance on TA implementation. It will also inform the annual reports (from 2018) and the final evaluation of the TA programme 2018-2020. The presenter noted an upcoming UN-REDD knowledge product on the Gender Marker expected in January 2019.
13. Feedback from the Board

14. The Executive Board commended the content, quality and enhanced communications focus of the 2017 Annual Report, and suggested improving future semi-annual reporting by grouping activities per output or by thematic area for the next report.
15. The Programme's Technical Assistance was recognised as valuable by various Board members. For instance, it was mentioned that it has enabled countries to comply with the different pillars of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and to undertake discussions and national dialogues on issues such as land use and carbon rights. Board members also suggested continuing efforts to ensure that country achievements such as national strategies are submitted to the UNFCCC's Lima REDD+ Information Hub, thus rendering them publicly available and enhancing transparency.
16. The Executive Board welcomed the update on the Gender Marker Rating System and confirmed the importance of incorporating gender aspects both in the management and preparation of the work as well as in the concrete implementation.

2.2 Results and lessons from recently closed UN-REDD National Programmes

17. The Chair welcomed the three countries who recently completed their National Programmes, inviting them to share their achievements and lessons learned.

Côte d'Ivoire

18. Ms. Alloua Kadjo, Responsible for stakeholder engagement in Côte d'Ivoire's REDD+ Coordination Unit, appreciated the support of UN-REDD in leveraging high-level political support for REDD+, which led the National REDD+ Strategy to be endorsed by the country's Council of Ministers. In addition, UN-REDD helped the country to submit its forest reference emission level (FREL) to the UNFCCC, as well as developing a national forest monitoring system (NFMS), as well as an action plan to develop a system of information on safeguards. These results were achieved through an inclusive approach, a strong engagement of civil society, and support from the highest level of Government, notably supported by a Presidential decree signed in October 2012 establishing a national framework for REDD+ management. The UN-REDD assistance was catalytic to this rapid process.
19. The presentation also highlighted Côte d'Ivoire's national approach to REDD+, which is closely linked to the country's strong agriculture sector and its cocoa industry, representing an

interesting example on how to mobilize the private sector and various international partners to shift deforestation trends and restore the country's forest cover. The country is aiming towards a zero-deforestation agriculture sector, which will be implemented in part through its new cacao-forest initiative, for which it has requested UN-REDD support.

20. Mr. Youssouf Doumbia, President of Ivorian Observatory for Sustainable Natural Resources Management, highlighted the thorough involvement and high level of mobilization of the country's civil society. He stressed the need for a strong and well-funded civil society to help build robust national support for REDD+, and underlined the importance of consulting and involving national communities at decentralized level.

Feedback from the Board

21. The Chair thanked Côte d'Ivoire and the Board members showed high interest in learning more about the country's REDD+ process. Questions raised included a request for more details about the country's approach to mobilizing the private sector in its zero-deforestation cacao strategy, and concerning the country's progress towards recognizing community rights related to REDD+. The presenter mentioned that a solid multi-sectorial consultation process with actors from the private sector, communities and line ministries was necessary to mobilize the country behind a zero-deforestation cacao strategy, as well as securing political support at the highest level. She also noted that securing more participation and stronger rights for local communities, including women, was a key priority of the country.

Uganda

22. Ms. Margaret Athieno, Uganda's REDD+ National Focal Point, presented her country's REDD+ achievements, emphasizing the strong collaboration between different partners over the years, including UN-REDD, the Australian Development Cooperation, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and the Forest Investment Programme (FIP). Among the achievements to which UN-REDD played a notable role, Uganda noted the completion of its REDD+ Strategy and the submission of its FREL in 2017, as well as progress on its NFMS and System of Information on Safeguards, which will be completed in December 2019. She also highlighted the great progress made by the country to strengthen stakeholder participation and governance arrangements, stressing the key role played by the UN-REDD Programme in the process.
23. Uganda is now entering its REDD+ implementation phase, which is to be deployed around four different investment programmes modelled over water management zones. Ms. Athieno explained that two of these programmes had already received commitments from the FCPF,

while the remaining ones required new commitments by would-be partners. She stressed the importance of sourcing private sector investments, highlighting some of the country's progress with tree planting businesses. She concluded her presentation by highlighting how the coordination of support had allowed the country to use REDD+ as a conduit to inform other policy processes, including the country's green growth strategy, its NDC and its macro-economic investment plan.

Feedback from the Board

24. The Board congratulated the country for ensuring strong coordination among partners and for using REDD+ to strengthen other relevant policy processes in the country. On a question related to investment in the agriculture sector, Ms. Athieno mentioned ongoing work on various initiatives to stimulate sustainable investments in agriculture, including a farm income enhancement project funded by the African Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank. She also mentioned the support provided by the European Union and FAO to the country's tree planting programme, highlighting the key contribution of the private sector.

Colombia

25. Ms. Adriana Lagos, Colombia's REDD+ Strategy Coordinator, concluded the country progress session with a presentation on Colombia's REDD+ progress. She stressed that REDD+ changed the way Colombians perceived forests in the country, highlighting their importance as living environments. Ms. Lagos stressed that Colombia had come a long way since it started its REDD+ process, having made significant progress both on REDD+ readiness and implementation. One of the country's key achievements was to link forest management to the country's peace process, stressing that civil society and communities had been instrumental in ensuring that territorial development would not be made at the detriment of forests.

26. Ms. Lagos also highlighted how REDD+ has helped strengthen the country's capacities to understand the drivers of, and monitor, land use and forest change, and enabled the organization of 69 initiatives of community-based monitoring. The REDD+ programme has also been pivotal in the organization and strengthening of Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities, as well as farmers' organizations.

27. Implementing REDD+ while completing the readiness process has brought about some challenges, Colombia explained. The country was notably one of the first to embark on an emission reduction purchase agreement covering the Amazon region with the German development agency's (GIZ) REDD+ Early Movers programme. Operationalizing the country's

detailed REDD+ strategy posed many challenges, particularly in the context of the peace process, where deforestation in the Amazon region had doubled since the signature of the agreement. She stressed the challenge of ensuring the financial sustainability of all the instruments and structures established to support REDD+ and how to mobilize all sectors of the economy to ensure a successful implementation.

Feedback from the Board

28. Board members congratulated Colombia for its impressive progress. The ensuing discussion touched upon how the country used REDD+ to strengthen consultations with indigenous people. Ms. Lagos highlighted the strong connotation that public consultations hold in the Colombian context, and that REDD+ allowed further strengthening of the concept by organizing broader consultations with marginalized groups to inform new legislative processes. She cited how indigenous peoples associations progressively started to participate in the REDD+ process in 2010, which led to a notable role in informing national policy.
29. The Chair concluded the country session by thanking country representatives for the excellent debriefs on their achievements and sharing of lessons in relation to the national programmes funded by UN-REDD in previous years in their countries.

Agenda Item 3. Workplan and Budget

3.1 Approval of the 2019 Funding allocations for the Technical Assistance for REDD+ Implementation & Direct cost for Secretariat services

30. The Chair opened the session by acknowledging the work done by the Board at its first meeting in 2017 where it adopted the multiyear workplan and budget for Technical Assistance for REDD+ Implementations (TA) 2018-2020, and recalled the request from the Board to ensure inclusive consultations, which the Programme has thoroughly undertaken.
31. The Secretariat provided an overview on the preparation of the 2019 workplan and budget, noting it was developed within the framework of the two guiding elements of the Programme: (1) the multiyear workplan and budget 2018-2020, of which the 2019 budget is an integral part; and (2) the Results and Monitoring Framework 2018-2020, which provided the outputs for each country and thematic area of the 2019 workplan. The Secretariat stressed the importance of the consultation process as a fundamental element in the development of the 2019 workplan and budget. Consultations were carried out with relevant stakeholders in each of the nine TA

countries throughout 2018. As requested by the Board in 2017, the Secretariat circulated the draft 2019 workplan and budget two months in advance of the Executive Board meeting.

32. On the 2019 output-based budget, the Secretariat noted it provided indicative activities for each of the 55 outputs. The 2019 Secretariat budget was then presented, noting it is equivalent to 6.4% of the UN-REDD Programme's estimated capitalisation in 2019, commensurate with the nature and specific features of the Programme.

Feedback from the Board

33. Board members appreciated the work undertaken by the Programme to present a timely and detailed workplan and budget.
34. Norway thanked UN-REDD for the documentation provided and the level of detail of the budget. In response to a question of clarification regarding delivery approaches, the Secretariat elaborated on the inter-agency work and coordination mechanisms across the UN-REDD agencies at global and country levels, aimed at ensuring integration at every level and step of the programming process, including the guidance provided by the Strategy Group, the systematic, hands-on portfolio management work by the Management Group, the country-level technical advice and coordination by the Programme Lead Advisors for each of the nine countries receiving technical assistance, and the operational interactions between country teams. Norway commended the added value of the UN-REDD Programme at the national level, noting the contribution of UN-REDD technical assistance in support of their Joint Declaration of Intent for Green Growth in Peru.
35. The civil society organizations (CSOs) provided positive remarks on a well-balanced workplan between country and global knowledge management components, and an improved consultation process, including in crafting the Programme going forward. CSOs also expressed appreciation for the knowledge management work on mainstreaming REDD+ in NDCs and encouraged the Programme to continue and further enhance this stream of work. CSOs also called for further increasing efforts to ensure consultations take place in a more continuous, iterative fashion, including through participatory inception meetings as well as seeking other opportunities during the TA implementation. The Secretariat welcomed the recommendation to maintain an open and inclusive dialogue at various steps of the programming cycle. While noting the efforts undertaken to enhance communications on the work of the Programme, the CSOs stressed the need to focus knowledge and communications products and activities on countries that are solidly committed to REDD+ and can thus offer innovations and best practices. UNDP welcomed the comments and

recommendations and reiterated the aim to focus its technical assistance efforts where it can be more catalytic, and that the global knowledge management component aims to yield knowledge and innovation in selected countries that are at the vanguard and disseminate them globally.

36. Mexico thanked the UN-REDD Programme for its support, recognizing the quality of the technical assistance received. The country noted, however, the additional needs beyond technical assistance, considering the challenges the government is facing due to budget cuts. Mexico also called for increased support from UN-REDD global experts in the implementation of the workplan, on issues such as REDD+ financing, monitoring and gender.
37. The European Commission (EC) noted some different level of detail in the work plans for some of the countries and called for additional information on how the proposed activities in Indonesia and Côte d'Ivoire will serve the intended outputs and outcomes of the TA in the 2020 horizon, which the Secretariat took note of. UNDP added that the UN-REDD technical assistance in Côte d'Ivoire aims to ensure the mainstreaming at the policy level of the work being done to support partnerships with the private sector and the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The European Commission praised the way the Programme seized the budget for knowledge management components such as Forest tenure and the rights of indigenous peoples. In response to her question on the level of cross-fertilisation between work streams on Financing and Private sector on the one hand, and REDD+ Funding Mechanisms on the other, UNDP clarified their complementarity, whereby the UNDP-led component focuses on knowledge and best practices from the public sector, while UN Environment concentrates on the private sector finance and banking, extracting lessons made available to Programme countries. The EC also suggested seeking opportunities to engage with national public actors to build their capacity to work with the private sector and investment entities.
38. The indigenous peoples (IPs) suggested expanding work in the area of supporting traditional knowledge systems, particularly related to forests and landscape management, so it informs national REDD+ processes and NDCs. UNDP welcomed the comments and mentioned that while most participatory platforms initially focused on political participation, knowledge and practice-oriented platforms are increasingly needed, not only globally but also at the national level, and hence UN-REDD will explore together with indigenous peoples leaders options for advancing this agenda, especially in a few countries that can serve as model.
39. After a rich and comprehensive discussion, the Executive Board approved the 2019 funding allocations for the Technical Assistance for REDD+ Implementation (Decision 2) and 2019 Direct cost for Secretariat services (Decision 3).

Agenda Item 4. Dialogue on knowledge management and upcoming opportunities

40. The Chair introduced the dialogue session noting it provided the opportunity for the Board to exchange views on a number of selected strategic issues related to knowledge management and emerging opportunities that will potentially play an important role in deepening the Programme's impact in the coming years.

4.1 REDD+ and Cooperative Approaches in Support of NDCs

41. The Chair opened the session before turning to UNDP to provide an overview of forests and REDD+ in NDCs, with a focus on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

42. UNDP provided an ongoing analysis on potential opportunities to enhance the role of REDD+ and contribute to increased ambition in NDCs in the context of Article 6. An overview of current NDCs was presented, showing that the land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF) sector represents 25% of planned emission reductions, second only to the energy sector. A number of REDD+ countries, in particular, highlight the key contribution to be made by forest-related activities to meet their NDC goals. Approaches range from inclusion of LULUCF in a multi-sectoral or economy-wide target, specific LULUCF targets, and/or specific indication of activities to be implemented (e.g. zero-deforestation agriculture, agroforestry, improved cook stoves). However, while most NDCs reflect some sort of forest and land-based actions, only 31% of those NDCs include quantifiable targets corresponding to the forest sector and only 8% of current NDCs explicitly refer to REDD+ implementation. Given that it is estimated that "natural climate solutions", including forests, can deliver approximately one-third of global, cost-effective CO₂ mitigation needed through 2030 to keep warming well below 2°C, there are clear opportunities to enhance ambition.

43. UNDP then elaborated on the new opportunities that the Article 6 of the Paris Agreement presents for voluntary cooperation between Parties in the implementation of their NDCs, to allow for higher ambition in their mitigation and adaptation actions and to promote sustainable development and environmental integrity. The Board was provided with an overview of the different provisions of Article 6, as well as associated developments in recent negotiations and potential considerations and implications for REDD+ countries.

Feedback from the Board

44. Board members engaged in a fruitful discussion, confirming this knowledge work stream as particularly useful for countries, as it can help underpin bilateral and multi-stakeholder partnerships towards enhancing, recognising and financing REDD+ actions. Members called for more of this type of knowledge work and technical assistance related both to REDD+ in the context of NDCs as well as Article 6, and requested this be made available at country level. Board members also provided some specific recommendations on the types of knowledge and technical assistance that would be useful in this area, such as the forthcoming information brief being prepared by UN-REDD on REDD+ and cooperation approaches in support of NDCs.
45. The value of piloting cooperative approaches was also discussed, with the CSOs recommending that conclusions from the pilots be brought to the Secretary-General's Climate Summit in September 2019.

4.2 Update on potential European regional workshop on international climate partnerships on forests

46. The Chair noted the objective of this session was to hear an update on an emerging opportunity to facilitate discussion of how countries could scale-up their support for REDD+ in the context of the cooperative approaches described in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.
47. The CSOs introduced the topic explaining that the proposed workshop would bring governments from Europe to inform market negotiators on REDD+ process and gather insights on how the demand side works. It was noted that this discussion could inform on the options to apply Article 6 of the Paris agreement, and suggested it could be organised by UN-REDD and take place after UNFCCC's COP 24.
48. Switzerland summarized the proposal in three main steps: (i) informing market negotiators about the REDD+ process; (ii) informing forest negotiators on how carbon markets work; and (iii) developing concrete ideas for cooperative approaches and piloting some options.

Feedback from the Board

49. The idea of a potential European regional workshop on international climate partnerships on forests was well received by the Board. The importance of pilots to consolidate models of access to market and build trust was repeatedly reinforced.

4.3 Finance facilities and international transactions on REDD+

50. The Chair opened the session noting it aimed to share with Board members the latest developments on public-private partnerships in protecting forest and sustainable land use.
51. UN Environment provided several insights on scaling up finance for REDD+ as an emerging process that requires connecting global and country work, and considering the application of innovative models of public and private partnerships, finance facilities, partnering with the banking and financial sector and considering large-scale market opportunities. The UN Agency underlined that public funding – while essential – is unlikely to be enough to cover all the needs. Blended finance is an important, though intermediate, step towards gaining scale.
52. UN-REDD is working on several innovative financing models, such as the Tropical Landscape Finance Facility (TLFF) and the Partnership for Forest Protection and Sustainable Agriculture (FPSA), with private and public participation. Through the TLFF – a partnership programme between BNP Paribas, ADM Capital, UN Environment and the Indonesian government – the first “green landscape bond” tied to conservation of tropical forests was issued in March 2018. The experience is raising interest of several countries for replicating the model. The FPSA is a partnership involving the banking sector to set up a US\$1 billion credit facility, with Rabobank providing senior and junior debt and UN Environment and partners aiming to facilitate access to de-risking instruments. UN-REDD through UN Environment also provides technical support to ensure environmental and social benefits in investment operations. UN Environment noted the main challenge is not the finance but finding economically viable projects/programme able to generate significant social and environmental benefits.
53. The case of the aviation carbon market was stressed as a potential opportunity, noting that forests could, if included within the eligible scope, be part of the “Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation” (CORSIA) adopted by ICAO in 2016. UN Environment stressed the need expressed by airlines and other markets to ensure high quality offsets, and indicated UN-REDD could play a role in ensuring that high quality and the social and environmental integrity. UN Environment concluded that UN-REDD is fully engaged in learning about these new developments and channelling knowledge gained to countries.

Feedback from the Board

54. Several Board members praised the Programme for the innovative work being undertaken in this area. Noting the pressing need to finance REDD+ implementation, the CSOs expressed appreciation for UN-REDD’s knowledge management work providing countries with information and lessons learned towards a better understanding of existing options in particular in the

financing of their NDCs. Mexico informed they are about to organize a workshop on new financing options and working with the private sector with the UN-REDD Programme, and appreciated the knowledge and technical advice UN-REDD has been providing in this domain. Switzerland indicated many possibilities that could be investigated with private sector using existing financial instruments, including block chain technology.

55. Inspired by work done so far, FAO has initiated exploring options to facilitate improved practices throughout the value chain and access to markets of small- and medium-scale producers through blended financing options, with a view to increasing economic benefits for such producers and their capacity to provide environmental services (reduced deforestation and forest degradation).
56. The European Commission provided a few highlights on European Union future developments on blending finance, noting the importance of themes related to poverty eradication, SDGs and livelihoods. The EC recommended linking efforts to perform jurisdictional scale programmes, and mentioned the challenge of turning pilots into bankable projects, and the interest in gathering and disseminating successful stories. Noting the importance of private investments and the need for co-financing, Madagascar called for the UN-REDD Programme to mobilise funding to encourage private sector investment in emission reductions.
57. The Chair closed the session by noting the appreciation and interest by the Board on this subject matter and accordingly encouraging the Programme to continue working on this knowledge stream.

4.4 Technology and innovation for the advancement of MRV and transparency frameworks

58. The Chair opened the session noting it would focus on how technologies can boost the advancement of MRV in the countries.
59. FAO explained how strong national forest monitoring (NFM) capacities are a functional precondition for countries to access REDD+ results-based payments, noting that better information leads to better decisions for better actions. FAO stressed how the progress in technology and capacity development achieved in the past years transformed directly into action, with 38 Forest Reference Emission Levels / Forest Reference Levels (FREL/FRLs) submitted to UNFCCC, a majority of which have been supported by the UN-REDD Programme. Support of UN-REDD has also been key to help countries enhance the transparency and accuracy of forest

and land sector data for reporting, including reporting on uncertainties in their emissions estimates.

60. Concrete country examples were provided on the application of tools and platforms such as Open Foris and SEPAL towards strengthening of NFM, often also as a foundation for the construction of FREL, including in Ecuador and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). UN-REDD's knowledge management work will support the maintenance, and further development of these tools and platforms. It was also noted that various other donors are joining forces with UN-REDD for the maintenance and application of technologies and innovations on MRV, including the World Bank and the German Development Bank (KfW).
61. Finally, it was stressed that, despite notable progress, countries continue to indicate a need for capacity strengthening on NFM, operational MRV for accurate and transparent data, and their institutionalization. Continued efforts are required to ensure strong institutional arrangements for sustainable NFMS at the country level.

Feedback from the Board

62. Members of the Board welcomed the progress presented. The ensuing discussion touched upon technical aspects and technology of SEPAL. Specific interest was shown on the potential use of SEPAL to provide cloud-free data and on possibilities for the tools and platforms (Open Foris and SEPAL) to automatically connect to each other. FAO clarified that SEPAL is a powerful platform for countries to access (without need of downloading) both original as well as cloud-free images. FAO noted the usability of the platform with limited capacity and poor internet connectivity, as demonstrated in DRC. With regards to compatibility between tools, FAO confirmed that – while the tools allow for data exchange – for the time being data collected through Open Foris need to be manually imported in SEPAL. The long-term plan is however to have a fully compatible and interoperable tools for data movement, with support from UN-REDD knowledge management. The importance of collaboration with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre was also noted and welcomed.
63. Questions were also put forward with regards to the potential use of SEPAL to estimate degradation and restoration/enhancement of forests, to which FAO replied by mentioning the BFAST module within SEPAL and confirming that there was other ongoing technical work on the topic. Mexico commended the work and noted MRV as one of the areas of work which the country has largely benefited from. The country strongly encouraged the extensive use of these tools, indicating that the institutionalization of the NFMS as key to reach success in REDD+, and

highlighted the need for different stakeholders beyond the government to be trained, including civil society. Mexico encouraged UN-REDD's collaboration with the Virtual Centre of Excellence on NFMS, and FAO confirmed its commitment to continue joint actions.

64. The IPs, echoed by Nepal, called on the importance of considering the role of traditional knowledge in actions that can contribute to halting deforestation and forest degradation, as well as in measuring and monitoring related carbon emissions. FAO agreed and provided some examples of previous work on this in Latin America, and some ideas on what could be accomplished thanks to UN-REDD in the future.

4.5 Land-use planning tools and approaches for REDD+

65. The Chair opened the session noting its objective to present work on multipurpose land-use planning and synergies between REDD+ and land degradation neutrality for maximizing transformational change in productive landscapes.

66. FAO explained the ongoing work on conceptualizing, searching for evidence and measuring transformational change in forest and land use sectors. Climate action is expected to generate high impacts through transformation towards low carbon development pathways and resilient future. Most multilateral development agencies aim for a change that is "transformational" or that shifts "the paradigm". In many ways transformation becomes a key concept in development assistance, with most agencies aspiring to deliver "transformational change". Despite this, the definitions and measurement of "transformational change" remain elusive and difficult to measure. It is particularly important for our work on REDD+ where all REDD+ related investments require being transformational in nature.

67. In order to better understand how transformational change could be triggered, how to measure it and which criteria to use to select actions, among other things, FAO has been collaborating with CIFOR to develop such framework. The work is looking into methodologies and evidence (case studies) where transformation was triggered, barriers and other characteristics, such as scaling up.

68. Noting this is work in progress, FAO pointed to draft guiding principles highlighting that transformational change must be equitable, rights-based and implemented in the context of sustainable development; that it should put REDD+ in the context of other land uses and at different scales, and that large scale investments must produce win-win impacts (such as ways to increase agricultural productivity alongside forest conservation); it requires strong leadership to

enable cooperation and participation and it must unlock unconstructive behaviours at all levels (both on production and consumption). In addition, it must also be able to offset current power structures.

69. FAO concluded that further work will be done jointly with CIFOR and in collaboration with the GCF Secretariat, and will provide input for country level work as well as to the knowledge generation on the above issues on measuring transformational change and the impact of investments.

Feedback from the Board

70. Several Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation, stressing that transformational change – while it can happen, takes time and often represents a major challenge for countries. Mexico, Malaysia and Switzerland shared their country level experience in transformational change in the land use sector.
71. The IPs requested more information on the type of knowledge being referred to in the analysis of transformational change, adding that the vision of the various indigenous peoples groups need to be considered during implementation. FAO later clarified that the same importance is given to local solutions under the five principles developed during first phase of the project
72. Noting the centrality of landscapes to REDD+, Switzerland shared their experience noting that, despite initial concern that emphasis on landscapes could over-dilute the concept of REDD+, it is now considered that the link to supply chains and its connection to landscape management is a central angle of REDD+ work. Switzerland added that favouring small and medium enterprises, and going back to traditional systems is also central for the required changes, as is recognizing the role of communities.
73. Another Board member stressed the importance that work on transformational change leads to practical results and that it should help countries develop investment frameworks. FAO stressed this is precisely the intended result of work: support to better integration and coordination of interventions to trigger relevant change

4.6 Update on the UN Secretary-General Climate Summit 2019

74. The Chair noted that the objective of this session was to share an update on the Climate Summit which the UN Secretary-General will convene in September 2019, and the opportunity it presents to raise forest ambition and scale up forest and REDD+ action to maximise the potential of

forests to help close the emissions gap by 2020, and embark on a transformational pathway to 2030.

75. The Secretariat introduced the update, noting that the UN Secretary-General has identified climate change as a defining issue of our time and is focusing its efforts to increase the ambition of countries. The idea of the Summit is to convene heads of State and leaders in New York to discuss six thematic areas, one of which is focused on “nature-based solutions”, which covers forests, agriculture, food and oceans. The Secretariat stressed that this is a unique opportunity to position forests to world leaders and to get outside our community of practice. Integration and cooperation will be a cross cutting theme at the summit, fitting well with the spirit of the UN-REDD Programme. Finally, it was mentioned that David Nabarro had been appointed as an advisor for the land use discussions.

Feedback from the Board

76. The Board thanked the Secretariat for the informative update. Noting the UN-REDD Programme’s 10-year anniversary, the CSOs suggested working together with the Programme towards making an announcement at the SG’s Climate Summit to strengthen the role of civil society and indigenous peoples.

Agenda item 5. Brainstorming on UN-REDD post-2020

77. Following on suggestions made on the first day of the meeting, the Chair introduced this new agenda item to begin reflecting on the future of UN-REDD. She invited the Secretariat to introduce the session by presenting some relevant highlights of the Board’s discussions during the meeting.

78. Recalling that in order to keep temperature increase within the 1.5 degrees Celsius, it is becoming increasingly evident that dedicated efforts to reforestation and forest rehabilitation (i.e. enhancement of carbon stock) will also be required. In view of this, the Board stressed the need to work in a cross-sectoral manner, going beyond the forest and environment sector. Food, access to water, stability and security need all be connected. The lessons learnt from Côte d’Ivoire, Uganda and Colombia are all important reminders of this.

79. The Board further recognised the fundamental value of working with an inclusive approach and fostering multi-stakeholder platforms to build and allow the engagement and participation of all

stakeholders. There is a clear need for transformation, to change gear and reach the pace and the scale commensurate to the challenge we have in front of us. And for this goal, partnerships between the public and the private sector must be enabled, including at different scales and with blended finance, to boost emissions reductions from the forest and land use sector. The domains of supply and demand for emission reductions must be commensurate, and forests are a key sector that deserves more attention, as well as support to connect these domains of demand and supply.

80. The Secretariat highlighted the Board's appreciation of what the UN-REDD has achieved so far, through its technical assistance and other tailored support, as well as by offering a neutral space for parties to meet and undertake meaningful conversations. Partner countries' call for additional and enhanced capacity development and technical assistance were also noted. Now that partner countries' national strategies have been prepared or are advancing in their preparation and political momentum is good, it is urgent to unlock the finance needed for the implementation of REDD+ actions – a role UN-REDD could potentially play.
81. Innovation was highlighted by the Board as the essential element to tackle the unprecedented challenge we have in front of us: stopping deforestation in 20-30 years – a process that historically takes place over many decades. There is a need for innovative thinking, tools, and innovation in the way we enable cross-sectorial cooperation and across the United Nations.

Feedback from the Board

82. The Board welcomed the opportunity to start the reflection on the future of the Programme and commented on connected issues, such as the challenges and bottlenecks for enhanced climate ambition through REDD+ in 2020 and beyond, how a future UN-REDD could catalyse action in support of forests as a key climate solution, thus complementing what other actors are doing while also identifying a niche for the Programme.
83. Norway highlighted that, notwithstanding the commitment by REDD+ countries and donors, the main challenge remains the limited finance assigned to REDD+, compared to industries such as cattle, palm, soy, etc. Norway called for catalyzing private capital, noting that tapping into Article 6 could support reducing the finance gap. Colombia, Mexico, Madagascar and CSOs echoed this important challenge, suggesting that a potential key focus of the Programme for a post-2020 phase could be unlocking private finance and establishing a continued and institutionalized coordination among the entities that manage territories and landscapes. Switzerland stressed

that UN-REDD is already filling many niches by tailoring its assistance to countries' needs – an institutional niche UN-REDD can continue to fill.

84. The Board also debated on the key challenge of securing clear and legitimate tenure rights for local communities and indigenous peoples in the countries. The CSOs encouraged the Programme to continue and enhance this line of work and stressed the importance of developing tools and methodologies to monitor and report forest governance and how rights – including carbon rights – are being respected and secured. The IPs called for a potential post-2020 phase of the UN-REDD Programme to focus on the implementation of REDD+ actions, with clear and secure rights for local communities and indigenous peoples and in respect of natural resources and of the local culture. IPs recalled there are still severe cases of criminalization and violence against land defenders, and appealed on how the Programme can interlink REDD+ initiatives with the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of sustainable development of people working on the ground, supporting indigenous peoples in continuing their lives while defending their forests and territories and halting criminalization.
85. Colombia supported the voices from local communities and indigenous peoples by stressing that – while finance is a key point for REDD+ success – spaces for dialogue on these issues should also be ensured in countries for local communities to be able to have voice in the decision making, including on the distribution of benefits. These platforms, as well as REDD+ readiness and implementation phase, could also be catalytic to boost inter-sectorial and participatory land-use plans and management.
86. As potential way forward and reflection on the first years of implementation, Malaysia stressed the important role sustainable forest management plays to unlock successful REDD+ actions and poverty alleviation, and suggested that the Programme should dedicate efforts on this line of work. The country also recommended for the Programme to continue ensuring capacity development, considering the high turnover of experts in the countries, as well as enhancing communication in local languages to better reach national stakeholders. Another Board member recommended reaching out and linking REDD+ to other international environmental agendas such as those on biodiversity and desertification.
87. The Chair brought this additional session to a close by thanking Board members for their inputs and ideas, which will help shape the thinking process on the potential future of UN-REDD post 2020.

Next Meeting, Rotation of Board representatives and AOB

88. The Chair invited the Secretariat to present a calendar with next steps in the following months after the Board meeting, and to provide further information on how the rotation of the Board representatives will be operationalized for 2019.
89. The Secretariat noted the draft report of the Second Executive Board Meeting will be circulated for review by 9 November; the UN-REDD 10-year anniversary reception on 11 December during the forthcoming COP 24 in Katowice, and the third meeting of the Board possibly to be held in June 2019.
90. On the rotation of Board representatives, beginning 1 January 2019 the current alternate will serve as a member. A new alternate is to be nominated by each constituency by the end of 2018. Each constituency will undertake the self-selection process in the coming two months and inform the Secretariat on the nominations of the new alternates by the end of the year.
91. The Chair invited any clarification questions on the rotation process and, hearing no question, passed the chairpersonship to UN Environment and closed the meeting, thanking the Board members and the Secretariat.

Annex 1: Final List of Participants

		Name	Country/Agency/Constituency	
1	Ms.	Elizabeth Philip	Malaysia	Member
2	Mr.	Jose Armando Alanis de la Rosa	Mexico	Member
3	Ms.	Vania Dietrichson	Norway	Member
4	Mr.	Lars Andreas Lunde		
5	Ms.	Michela Tagliaferri	European Commission	Member
6	Mr.	Keith Anderson	Switzerland	Member
7	Mr.	Chris Meyer	Civil Society Organization	Permanent Observer
8	Ms.	Grace Balawag	Indigenous Peoples Organization	Permanent Observer
9	Ms.	Eva Muller	FAO (Chair)	Member
10	Ms.	Tiina Vahanen	FAO	
11	Ms.	Malgorzata Buszko Briggs		
12	Ms.	Andrianina Lydia Rakotosoa	Madagascar	Alternate
13	Ms.	Bishnu Adhikari	Nepal	Alternate
14	Ms.	Adriana Maria Lagos Zapata	Colombia	Alternate
15	Mr.	Gustavo Sanchez Valle	Civil Society Organization	Alternate Observer
16	Ms.	Dolores Cabnal-Coc	Indigenous Peoples Organization	Alternate Observer
17	Mr.	Tim Clairs	UNDP	Alternate
18	Mr.	Josep Gari		
19	Ms.	Elspeth Halverson		
20	Ms.	Musonda Mumba	UN Environment	Alternate
21	Mr.	Gabriel Labbate		
22	Mr.	Mario Boccucci	UN-REDD Secretariat	Secretariat
23	Ms.	Mihaela Secrieru		
24	Ms.	Frances Lim		
25	Ms.	Elizabeth Eggerts	UNDP Expert	Presenters
26	Ms.	Kimberly Todd	UNDP Expert	
27	Mr.	Julian Fox	FAO Expert	