

Rotation of Seats and Nomination of New Members of the Policy Board

UN-REDD PROGRAMME SIXTH POLICY
BOARD MEETING

21-22 March 2011

Da Lat, Viet Nam



Background

The Rules of Procedure and Operational Guidance of the UN-REDD Programme provide for the rotation of Policy Board member seats (See Annex 1), without specific reference to the process of nominating new members. The representatives of civil society organizations have rotated since March 2009 while within each region the countries have not. This paper proposes a process to regularize the selection of Policy Board members, their selection and rotation across all membership categories, starting in 2012.

The Policy Board has currently the following composition (See Annex 2):

- 17 Members: nine UN-REDD Programme countries (three full members and 6 alternate members)¹, three donors, one each for Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Civil Society (CSOs), and three UN agencies;
- 29 Observers: 20 other partner countries, three IPs, three CSOs, three partner agencies;
- One Ex-officio member.

Proposed Process for Selection and Rotation of the Policy Board members

Below is a proposed way forward for each membership category:

Partner Countries:

- a. *Full members:* As per the Rules of Procedure and Operational Guidance of the UN-REDD Programme (Section 2.1 sub-section 1.2.1.) and the decisions of the first Policy Board session, each region nominated a full member. It was also agreed that the full member from each region will serve as a co-chair for one year (two Policy Board meetings) starting with Panama and thereafter rotate alphabetically by region.
- b. *Alternate members:* It was also agreed that the full country member seats shall rotate so that alternate members subsequently become the full member (Section 2.1 sub-section 1.2.1.). However, the Rules of Procedure do not specify the term for each full and alternate member.

By the end of 2011, a full member from each region will have served as a co-chair for at least two meetings.

To date the Programme has 29 partner countries (see Annex 2) of which 12 receive support for initial and full REDD+ readiness through a National Programme.

The Secretariat proposes that each region will address the following issues which will form the basis for a Policy Board decision at the seventh session, to be subsequently applied starting at the eight session, in 2012:

- 1) Whether member seats (full and alternate) should be restricted only to countries that have a National Programme, or be open to all partner countries?
- 2) Within each region, should the country that has served as full member and co-chaired two sessions² step out and give an opportunity to **one new country** to become an alternate member?

¹ Co-Chairs are selected from the full members and rotate annually (after two meetings)

² Unless the country members decide otherwise on their co-chairing seat.

- 3) Whether there are other options that provide opportunities for selecting and altering members?

Donor Countries

The Rule of Procedure and Operational Guidelines (Section 2.1 Sub-section 1.2.2) provide for up to three full member seats to donors that have signed agreements with the MDTF Office. Where there are more than three donors the seats will be filled by the three largest contributors. Donors may agree to rotate the seats. Once the Co-chairs are informed of the rotation process and are satisfied all donors are in agreement, the rotation system shall supersede the previous arrangements for filling the seats.

Japan has become the fourth donor to the UN-REDD Programme after Norway, Denmark and Spain.

The Secretariat proposes that the donors discuss whether the three donor seats should be filled by the three largest donors or whether the members' seats should rotate.

CSO Representatives:

The rotation of CSO representatives was agreed by the representatives themselves to rotate at every meeting. Therefore, it is understood that each CSO representative will serve as a full member at least once, and they will take turns until each one has had a chance to serve.

CSO representatives have been identified by a global self-selection process facilitated by the Rights and Resources Initiative on behalf of the Independent Advisory Group on Forests, Rights, and Climate Change, and the current membership outlined in Annex 2 began its tenure at PB3. Thus, after PB6, each member will have served as a full member once.

The Secretariat proposes that following this full rotation, another self-selection process is carried out to identify a new set of CSO representatives to come into effect in 2012, ensuring that there is a provision to allow overlap between the new CSO membership and one representative from the previous membership to guide the incoming members.

IP Representatives:

Indigenous Peoples observers do not rotate; the permanent full member on the Policy Board is the Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The three IP observers were self-selected by the regional IP caucuses at the Alaska Global IP Summit on Climate Change (April, 2009), as recommended by the Chair of the UNPFII.

The Secretariat proposes that, similarly to the CSO members, the IP observers undergo a self-selection process after serving in four PB meetings starting in 2012.

Annex 1

Summary of Rules of Procedure and Operational Guidance on rotation:

UN-REDD Programme Countries

- *Each region shall have ONE full member and TWO alternate members, up to a total maximum of nine countries. The full member and alternate members shall be invited to Policy Board meetings.*
- *The UN-REDD Programme shall provide funding for ONE representative of each full member country and ONE representative of each alternate member country to attend Policy Board meetings.*
- *The full member of the region shall rotate so that the alternate members subsequently become the full member.*
- *Programme countries in each region select the period (at least once per year) and order of rotation.*

Donor Countries

- *Up to THREE full member seats are available for donors to the UN-REDD Programme Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF), who have signed a Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA) with the Administrative Agent (the Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office, UNDP).*
- *If there are more than three donors, the seats shall be filled by the three largest donors (as measured by the cumulative contribution of committed funds to the MDTF).*
- ***Donors may agree to rotate the seats.*** *Once the Co-chairs are informed of the rotation process and are satisfied all donors are in agreement, the rotation system shall supersede the previous arrangements for filling the seats.*

Civil Society

- *ONE civil society representative shall be selected as a full member of the Policy Board and THREE observers.*
- *ONE representative shall be from an organization from a developed country and the other THREE shall be ONE from each of the three UN-REDD Programme regions: Africa; Asia-Pacific; and Latin America-Caribbean.*
- *The Secretariat and the Participating UN Organizations shall facilitate the self-selection of the civil society representatives.*
- ***The full member shall rotate amongst the FOUR representatives*** *so that the observers subsequently become the full member. The civil society representatives shall select the period (at least once per year) and order of rotation.*
- *The UN-REDD Programme shall provide funding for the THREE regional civil society representatives to attend Policy Board meetings. The representative from the developed country shall be self-funded.*

Indigenous Peoples

- *Indigenous Peoples are represented by the Chair of UNPFII as a full member and THREE observers, ONE for each of the three UN-REDD Programme regions: Africa; Asia-Pacific; and Latin America-Caribbean.*
- *The Secretariat and the Participating UN Organizations shall facilitate the self-selection of the regional Indigenous Peoples observers for each of the three regions.*

- *The UN-REDD Programme shall provide funding for the full member and the three observers to attend Policy Board meetings.*

Co-chairs

- *The two Co-chairs will be selected from one of the participating countries and from one of the participating UN agencies. The Co-chairs shall rotate among the full members at least once per year (from the time of the first Policy Board meeting). The country Co-chair will rotate among the full members of the three regions (starting with Latin America).*

Recalling decisions of the Policy Board at the first Policy Board meeting in March 2009:

- *Each region shall have one full member and two alternate members, up to a maximum total of 9 country representatives. The full members and alternate members shall be invited to participate in Policy Board meetings and inter-sessional decisions.*
- *The Policy Board agreed on co-chairs for each Policy Board meetings - one participating country and one participating UN agency. The country co-chairs will be selected from the 3 full members and will rotate among the 3 regional groupings, starting with Latin America. Subsequently, the Policy Board elected Panama, represented by Mr. Eduardo Reyes, as Co-chair.*
- *The countries selected as full members for their regional groupings: Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Indonesia, and Panama. Full members of each regional grouping shall rotate on the basis of alphabetical order.*
- *Civil society will be represented by one full member and three observers (ensuring a full member or observer from each of the three regions the UN-REDD Programme operates in: Africa, Asia & the Pacific, Latin American & the Caribbean – and also one civil society representative from a northern country). The Civil Society observer from the north will participate at their own expense and is not covered by the UN-REDD Programme.*
- *Indigenous peoples will be represented by the chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNFPII) and supported by three observers (one from each region).*
- *Civil society representatives will follow a self-selection process to be facilitated by the Secretariat to identify the full member and the three observers.*

Annex 2**Table 1.** Composition of the Policy Board as of March 2011³.

Countries	Membership status
UN-REDD Programme Countries (original nine Pilot Partner Countries)	
Latin America and the Caribbean	
Bolivia	Alternate Member
Panama	Full Member
Paraguay	Alternate Member
Africa	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Full Member
Tanzania	Alternate Member
Zambia	Alternate Member
Asia-Pacific	
Indonesia	Full Member
Papua New Guinea	Alternate Member
Viet Nam	Alternate Member
New Partner Countries (that have all been granted an Observer status by the Board)	
Latin America and the Caribbean	
Argentina	Observer
Colombia	Observer
Costa Rica	Observer
Ecuador	Observer
Guatemala	Observer
Mexico	Observer
Africa	
Gabon	Observer
Guyana	Observer
Kenya	Observer
Central African Republic	Observer
Nigeria	Observer
Republic of Congo	Observer
Sudan	
Asia-Pacific	
Bhutan	Observer
Cambodia	Observer
Nepal	Observer
Bangladesh	Observer
Solomon Islands	Observer
Sri Lanka	Observer
The Philippines	Observer
Donor Countries	
Norway	Full Member
Denmark	Full Member
Spain	Full Member

³ Please note the table refers to Policy Board status, not overall UN-REDD Programme status. Partner Countries enjoy benefits of the UN-REDD Programme beyond observing Policy Board meetings. The Policy Board considers requests from new Partner Countries to observe Policy Board meetings.

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Civil Society	
Latin America and the Caribbean: Amazon Environmental Research Institute (IPAM)	Full Member at sixth Policy Board
Africa: Support Center for Indigenous Pygmys and Vulnerable Minorities (CAMV)	Observer
Asia-Pacific: Papua New Guinea Ecoforestry Forum (PNGEFF)	Observer
North: Global Witness	Observer
Indigenous Peoples	
UNPFII	Full member
Africa: Community Research and Development Services (CORDS)	Observer
Asia-Pacific: Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (AMAN)	Observer
Latin America and the Caribbean: Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica (COICA)	Observer
UN Agencies	
FAO	Full Member
UNDP	Full Member
UNEP	Full Member
Other Observers and Ex-officio Members	
UNFCCC Secretariat	Observer
FCPF FMT	Observer
GEF	Observer
MDTF Office	Ex-Officio Observer
Advisory Organization	
Independent Advisory Group on Rights, Forests, and Climate Change	Observer