

UN-REDD

PROGRAMME

The United Nations Collaborative Programme
on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and
Forest Degradation in Developing Countries



FCPF, FIP and UN-REDD Programme Joint meeting

6 November 2010

Opening Remarks by the UN-REDD Programme Collaborative Partnership, presented by Alexander Müller, FAO, on behalf of FAO, UNDP and UNEP

Welcome.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are here to discuss how to strengthen assistance to countries in their delivery of REDD+. More specifically, we will discuss how to combine the various streams of multilateral funding to best meet countries' needs. I am pleased to note that we can build on the significant progress made in the UN and World Bank initiatives and their collaboration on REDD+.

When addressing REDD+, we must keep in mind the bigger picture and the need for a coordinated approach to meet the big challenges of our time: poverty, food security, the degradation of ecosystems and dangerous climate change.

Earlier in the week, I was in the Hague, just like Mr. Steer, and we elaborated on the relationships between agriculture, food security and climate change with Ministers of Agriculture. It is clear that actions taken in REDD+ must relate to these issues.

Let us make the most of the role that the UN can play and the mandates of the UN agencies in addressing these critical development matters, both in delivering at country level, and also at the international level to convene, to build capacity and to facilitate exchange of knowledge. We are One UN.

I would now like to move from the bigger development picture into the subject of today's meeting.

This bigger picture resonates well with the UN-REDD Programme Strategy that was endorsed by the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board earlier this week. The strategy highlights the substantive work needed to make REDD+ a reality. This means looking beyond the forests and the Carbon to consider the wider sustainable development agenda as well. The UN-REDD Programme Strategy identifies key work areas, including monitoring safeguards, engaging stakeholders, incorporating multiple social and environmental benefits, ensuring equitable benefit sharing and the need to transform economies towards low-carbon, climate-resilient pathways.

Let us at the same time recall that REDD+ is about mitigating climate change and that we must not lose sight of the main objective and opportunity which is to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and also to enhance the carbon stock in forests worldwide. Herein lies the key challenge – REDD+ has a well defined objective, but how do we make REDD+ work in a complex reality?

Our answer is straightforward and consistent with discussions and agreements under UNFCCC: Development must go hand in hand with efforts to gear up mitigation actions. Without development benefits it is questionable whether REDD+ results can be offered in a sustainable manner.

In all this, the key guideline for us is to respond to the needs and expectations of our member countries. In this regard, we need to ask ourselves: How can we as multilateral institutions jointly and most effectively serve our partner countries on REDD+?

Before coming to the joint delivery mechanism, I would like to highlight the REDD+ Partnership. This is a very important initiative in which the partners have committed to enable effective, transparent and coordinated action towards REDD+. The World Bank and the UN-REDD agencies are jointly providing services to the partnership, including a database on finance, actions and results, and analyses of REDD+ funding gaps. This is a good example where our institutions are committed to serve and where we are providing joint delivery.

We are pleased to already work closely with our World Bank colleagues on many fronts on REDD+. We are finding real value and effectiveness in undertaking joint missions, adopting common frameworks and methodologies, sharing approaches to stakeholder engagement and safeguards, and coordinating meetings of our governance bodies. On behalf of all three UN-REDD Programme agencies, we are very encouraged with this special relationship with the World Bank on REDD+.

Moving to the joint delivery platform of the FCPF, we the UN-REDD Programme agencies are prepared to be delivery partners. We believe that in this way we bring the comparative advantages of the World Bank and the UN together to serve country needs.

As a final example of coordinated delivery, let me highlight that the UN-REDD Programme agencies and the World Bank are Implementing Agencies of the GEF, so we are well prepared to also bring the GEF financing streams into a coordinated delivery at the national level. I am therefore happy that Monique is here and can further elaborate on the potential of GEF to contribute to the REDD+ mission.

Thank you.