

UN-REDD PROGRAMME



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Report of the First Executive Board Meeting

UN-REDD PROGRAMME

15 - 16 June 2017
Rome, Italy

Table of Contents

Summary of Decisions	3
Introduction	4
Agenda Item 1: Opening	4
1.1 Introduction by the Chair; Welcome by UN Environment and FAO as Host	4
1.2 Approval of the Agenda and Organisational Matters	6
Agenda Item 2: Progress Review	7
2.2 Results of the Global UN-REDD Survey	8
Agenda Item 3. Workplan and Budget	9
3.1. Technical Assistance for REDD+ Implementation 2018-2020	9
3.2. Allocation of Direct costs for Secretariat 2018	11
Agenda Item 4. Future Strategic Opportunities	11
4.1. Social Inclusion Approaches	11
4.2. UN-REDD Programme and the Green Climate Fund	13
4.3. Resource Mobilisation	14
4.4. Results Framework and Monitoring Approach	15
Next Meeting and AOB	16
Annex 1: Final List of Participants	17

Summary of Decisions

Decision 1:

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

Decision 2:

The Executive Board approved the Eighth Consolidated Annual Progress Report of the UN-REDD Programme Fund 2016.

Decision 3:

The Executive Board endorsed the Work Plan 2018 - 2020 for Technical Assistance for REDD+ Implementation on the basis of funds currently available and approved the funding allocation for 2018, taking into account the comments received at its first meeting.

The Executive Board requested the Secretariat circulate annual plans and budgets for 2019 and 2020 in advance of Executive Board meetings so that due consultations and reviews can take place.

The Executive Board will review the work plan and budget annually and adjust priorities and components as necessary.

The Executive Board also requested the Secretariat submit the complete results framework at output level and strengthen linkages to the outcome level.

The Executive Board encouraged the countries to promote the participation of all relevant stakeholders and ensure that consultations on the technical assistance at the national level have been inclusive. The Board requested the Secretariat provide evidence of the consultations.

Decision 4:

The Executive Board approved the direct cost for Secretariat services for 2018.

Introduction

1. The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD Programme) held its First Executive Board Meeting on 15 - 16 June in Rome, Italy at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).
2. The meeting was chaired by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), represented by Nik Sekhran, Director for Sustainable Development in the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support. The meeting was attended by 34 participants (see Annex I). All documents and presentations are available on the UN-REDD Programme [workspace](#).
3. The Executive Board meeting was preceded by preparatory briefings on 14 June, which covered organisational matters, the results framework and monitoring approach, workplan and budget 2018 - 2020, information sharing on REDD+ financing, and internal consultations by Board constituencies.

Agenda Item 1: Opening

4. Welcoming remarks were made by the Chair, the Executive Director of UN Environment, and the FAO Deputy Director-General for Climate and Natural Resources. The Board then approved the Agenda (Decision 1).

1.1 Introduction by the Chair; Welcome by UN Environment and FAO as Host

5. The Chair welcomed colleagues to the UN-REDD Programme's first Executive Board meeting, underscoring the importance of stakeholder engagement in REDD+. He further highlighted the importance of forging authentic partnerships, consensus, and inclusive and gender-sensitive policies to ensure that the Programme generates the transformational change needed to reduce deforestation and forest degradation while generating other development dividends. The Chair then recognised and welcomed governments, indigenous peoples, civil society organisations, and donors to the first Executive Board meeting.
6. In reviewing the achievements of the UN-REDD Programme across 64 partner countries, the Chair noted the added value of the United Nations as an honest broker and convenor, seeking policy solutions that work for all, as well as the importance of ensuring countries remain in the driver's seat. He stressed the continued role for the UN-REDD Programme as countries move towards incorporating REDD+ into nationally determined contributions and the role of REDD+ actions in achieving the sustainable development goals. However, he underscored the continued challenges facing the Programme, principally the under capitalisation of the fund compared to the demand from partner countries. The Chair concluded by thanking the board members for bringing their knowledge and expertise to the strategic discussions and their role in helping the Programme face the challenges ahead.

7. Ms. Maria Helena Semedo, FAO Deputy-Director General for Climate and Natural Resources thanked the Chair for the encouraging message in opening the REDD+ meeting. Ms. Semedo reflected the importance of the meeting as the UN-REDD Programme enters its second phase. She then welcomed country representatives, donors, indigenous peoples, and civil society, as well as UN agency colleagues. Ms. Semedo noted that the UN-REDD Programme is an example of best practice in UN collaboration, with agencies working together to achieve a common goal, in partnership with countries, stakeholders, and the private sector. She advocated that it is possible to increase agricultural productivity and food security while halting or even reversing deforestation and that REDD+ should be recognized as a way to transform forest-compatible development. She further highlighted the importance of the Programme not only in supporting countries to move towards REDD+ implementation but also contributing to a global sustainable development vision.
8. Ms. Semedo noted that while the first phase worked to establish institutions, this second phase will work on action to address deforestation and forest degradation. She observed that the Paris Agreement only mentions forests and REDD+ (rather than agriculture and oceans), putting UN-REDD at the forefront of climate action. FAO also has the Marrakech agreement. In the 145 countries presenting nationally determined contributions (NDCs), the vast majority mention forests under mitigation and most include forests in their adaptation strategy. REDD+ can catalyse long lasting, meaningful change. The UN-REDD Programme can also provide an important contribution to the sustainable development agenda. We cannot eradicate poverty without forests. It is also critical to food security under sustainable development goals (SDG) 14 and 15. In December 2016, FAO approved its climate change strategy, which emphasises the importance of integrating agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. FAO does not view forests in isolation but as integrated, she added.
9. Ms. Semedo then highlighted Costa Rica, Chile, Gambia, and Ghana as examples of the potential to increase agricultural production and food security while also decreasing deforestation through an integrated approach. She then highlighted examples from the UN-REDD Programme's support: several partner countries are producing forest data for the first time; countries are adopting national strategies and action plans thanks to the support of UN-REDD; while over 70% of forest reference emission level/forest reference level (FREL/FRL) submissions to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have received UN-REDD support.
10. Ms. Semedo concluded by noting that success is demonstrated by how we work on the ground and how we interact with the countries and non-state actors. The Programme needs to build on that and do even better in the second phase. The UN-REDD Programme, she noted, does not stand alone and disconnected. Instead, strategies, policies, and actions should be integrated across development processes. Ms. Semedo stressed the importance of UN-REDD Programme's second phase in achieving this goal.
11. Mr. Erik Solheim, UN Environment Executive Director, then welcomed the Executive Board members, connecting via videoconference from Gabon. Mr. Solheim opened by stating that one of his proudest achievements was being with the UN-REDD Programme from the beginning. It has changed the discussion about forests, leading to a sea change on how to protect and manage them. He then congratulated all countries and actors involved in REDD+ for the progress — in particular the 70%

reduction in deforestation in Brazil and success at the policy level in Indonesia — as well as political and institutional challenges going forward. From the Amazon to the Congo to South East Asia, he noted, there have been many results but a lot more needs to be done.

12. According to Mr. Solheim, a major mistake in the early days of UN-REDD was not involving the private sector from the beginning. UN-REDD was established as a donor programme but not enough focus was placed on business and the private sector. This must be rectified. Nestle and Unilever for example have had pressure from customers. The palm oil industry in Asia has been helpful. The Banking Association in Brazil is well informed. A lot more needs to be done with banks, insurance companies, pension funds, the palm oil sector, and pulp and paper. In the end, Mr. Solheim noted, in order to protect the forests we must use the same method as other sectors, for example the Montreal Protocol on the ozone layer. We need citizens' action to put pressure on governments and business, we need a framework for action, and we need business to come up with novel solutions.
13. Mr. Solheim concluded by wishing the board meeting well and noting that after the success over the last ten years, he welcomed more action to protect forests over the coming ten years. Finally, he noted that support for the Paris Agreement remains strong despite recent political setbacks. China, Indonesia, and others are becoming major implementers. The private sector is coming together and saying that they will continue to move ahead with the Paris Agreement for the environment, for their business, and for their customers.

1.2 Approval of the Agenda and Organisational Matters

14. The Chair outlined the objectives of the meeting. He noted that the provisions for the Executive Board contained in the Fund Terms of Reference remain valid for this meeting and therefore as noted during the briefing session the previous day, there is no need for additional rules of procedure. The Executive Board is considered established as of today for the duration of one year, during which time it will have the opportunity to put in place rotation arrangements. The Interim Committee that was established to provide a bridge between the last Policy Board in Costa Rica and the first meeting of the new Executive Board has therefore now ended its term.
15. The agenda for the First Executive Board meeting was then approved (Decision 1).
16. The Representative from Norway reflected on the achievements of the UN-REDD Programme for developing forest countries as well as the role of civil society organisations and indigenous peoples working together with governments and the UN. Over 100 countries have now included forests and land use in their NDCs as a central part of their mitigation agenda. If successful, this will make an important contribution to the quick reduction of greenhouse gases, critical to achieving the 2°C target under the Paris Accord. The Norwegian government recognises the value of the work by FAO, UN Environment, and UNDP, as well as the work of the agencies with civil society and indigenous peoples in protecting forests, reducing poverty and creating livelihood opportunities. The Norwegian representative then confirmed the Government of Norway's commitment to provide up to \$240M NOK to the UN-REDD Programme from 2018 - 2020. This contribution should be interpreted as a reflection of the past achievements of the Programme as well as identified needs and the promising role ahead of

us with the current draft work plan and the crucial role of forests in mitigating climate change and creating local development and livelihood opportunities. The representative then encouraged other donors to contribute to the UN-REDD Programme.

17. The Board applauded Norway's announcement and the Chair thanked Norway for its leadership on REDD+.

Agenda Item 2: Progress Review

18. The Chair opened the session by acknowledging that it has been 18 months since the last Policy Board meeting, before turning to the Secretariat to present an overview of progress.
19. The Secretariat highlighted the Programme's achievements across the 64 partner countries, including through technical assistance, National Programmes, and targeted support. The Secretariat then thanked the partners around the table for all their work to produce these results.
20. With regards to the 2016 Annual Report, the Secretariat noted that it reflects a year of transition during which the Programme's results framework was realigned with the Warsaw Framework for REDD+. They then focused on progress against the four Warsaw Framework pillars: national strategies/action plans; national forest monitoring systems; forest reference emissions levels/forest reference levels; and the development of safeguards and safeguard information systems. The Secretariat also highlighted progress towards REDD+ implementation, in particular the UN-REDD support for countries to develop national REDD+ investment frameworks in order to operationalize national strategies. Additionally, the Programme has continued to making progress in cross-cutting areas, including gender, community based REDD+ action, private sector engagement, and knowledge management. Advances of the UN-REDD Programme in terms of social inclusion were given further consideration under agenda item 4.1.
21. In late 2016, a new National Programme commenced in Myanmar, with two National Programmes due to commence in Peru and Chile in 2017. Additionally, 14 countries are receiving technical assistance for REDD+ implementation, while funding from Switzerland has facilitated exchanges on financing strategies for REDD+ actions in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

Feedback from the Board

22. Board members expressed their thanks for the comprehensive report. The application of previous advice regarding reporting was acknowledged and appreciated, while some further suggestions to increase the accessibility and utility of future reporting were also made. Considerations included to further highlight how individual countries have advanced towards the Warsaw Framework or achievement of NDCs while articulating the specific role of UN-REDD support. Some Board members suggested additional information be reported on the Programme's work with the private sector — including lessons learned — and synergies with other multilateral mechanisms such as the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF).

23. Several members commented on the social inclusion reporting. Norway thanked the Secretariat for its reporting on gender results and, in the same vein, noted that they would welcome increased reporting on progress and efficiency in working with indigenous peoples and civil society. Indigenous peoples representatives recognised the achievements in social inclusion but echoed the call for more reporting on results in relation to community level engagement.
24. Board members had differing perspectives on how to improve the attractiveness and readability of the report, with Norway and Switzerland advocating for greater use of social media platforms as a complementary means of communicating results, and emphasising the benefits of including more graphics, success stories, and “voices from the field”. Civil society organisation representatives felt that the current style of reporting already met the Programme’s needs and emphasised the comparative advantage of the UN-REDD Programme on the ground rather than in global communications.
25. Several members called for increased reporting on lessons learned and knowledge exchange. Mexico highlighted the success of south-south exchanges in the region, while Malaysia noted that the Annual Report could serve as a guide for other countries wishing to replicate the Programme’s success and learn from challenges. Madagascar echoed these comments, stressing the critical role of south-south knowledge sharing in advancing national REDD+ processes.
26. With regards to reporting, Norway made a number of requests:
- for the MPTF to prepare a report on the financial balances and uncertified commitments;
 - for a short information note on the UN-REDD Programme auditing arrangements; and
 - whether there would be a final report next year for the total period of the SNA.
27. The presenter thanked the Board for their comments and the UN-REDD agencies contributed in responding to the points raised. The agencies noted that one issue that could be reported on better is the impressive leverage of the Programme, both in terms of finance from other sources, and policy synergies through collaboration with other agency initiatives. The Executive Board then approved the Eighth Consolidated Annual Progress Report of the UN-REDD Programme Fund 2016 (Decision 2).

2.2 Results of the Global UN-REDD Survey

28. The Chair welcomed UN Environment to present the preliminary results of the global survey, conducted with the national focal points of the 64 partner countries, as well as with a number of representatives from indigenous peoples and civil society organisations that were involved in the global governance of the UN-REDD Programme in the past years. The survey results will help the UN-REDD Programme gauge demand and evolving needs for support, as well as to better align knowledge services.
29. Overall, UN Environment noted, 80 percent of focal points indicated that they would be requesting a regular or high level of UN-REDD support over the next three years. Across the four Warsaw Framework pillars, demand was fairly evenly split. Within each pillar, there were some areas that stood out, for example the integration of REDD+ into NDCs/SDGs. Also highlighted was the need for further

support on investment and sourcing financing for REDD+ actions. Later, at the social inclusion session (agenda item 4.1), a preliminary debriefing of the survey results for civic representatives was shared.

Feedback from the Board

30. Board members noted that responses indicated a high level of demand for targeted support and asked how the Programme would be providing this modality in the future. The EC suggested that better targeted knowledge management may help fill this gap. Japan emphasised that the survey demonstrated an ongoing demand for REDD+ readiness support. Members echoed the need for more discussion and support on financing for REDD+, and recognised the ongoing support to develop national strategies into investment frameworks.
31. Malaysia raised concerns that the lower demand for support on forest reference emission levels/forest reference levels (FREL/FRLs) did not reflect the significant gap in technical capacity to complete submissions of carbon pools and emissions activities. The representative highlighted this area as an opportunity for the UN-REDD Programme going forward.
32. It was emphasised that these preliminary results were intended to launch a conversation and that the analysis will be enriched as the survey continues to run and is completed. Results will be shared with UN-REDD stakeholders once finished.

Agenda Item 3. Workplan and Budget

3.1. Technical Assistance for REDD+ Implementation 2018-2020

33. The Chair opened the session by highlighting the organic nature of the workplan and budget before turning to the Secretariat to provide an overview of the 2018 - 2020 programme.
34. The Secretariat noted that the Technical Assistance for REDD+ Implementation 2018 - 2020 programme adopts a dual approach with a multi-year budget to allow the programme to work at two levels — country level and global knowledge management.
35. FAO then introduced the country support, noting that the programme in 2018 - 2020 will build on each agency's comparative advantage with the goal of supporting advanced countries in moving from readiness to REDD+ implementation and results based payments. FAO outlined the design and consultation process carried out in each of the nine countries identified, including identification of technical assistance needs and degree of engagement of civil society and indigenous peoples. The programme takes a multi-year approach with annual adaptive management, however, the UN-REDD Programme will work continuously with partner countries to determine their priorities and work to meet their needs.

36. UN Environment then presented the knowledge management component of the workplan, which draws on the UN-REDD Programme's lessons learned to garner and disseminate knowledge that is relevant for countries' and stakeholders' progress across the readiness-implementation-results transition. The three main objectives are to: provide partner countries with a set of innovative solutions that are easily applicable; advocate for the role of forests in climate action and sustainable development; and enable countries to fully embed REDD+ into SDGs and NDCs. The proposal has been designed based on the principle that the necessary knowledge exists in UN-REDD partner countries and the agencies; the key is to make it available where, when, and how it is needed.

Feedback from the Board

37. Norway thanked the UN-REDD Programme for the workplan and budget, noting that it showcases the unique role for the UN in the REDD+ space and sets the tone to invite other donors. Norway also pointed out the need to complete the result framework at output level and link to the outcome level.

38. Mexico thanked the UN-REDD Programme for its technical assistance, which has built the capacity of the country in critical areas of REDD+ and without which the country would not have been able to make the same level of progress against the Warsaw framework. Mexico also highlighted the importance of regional approaches to REDD+ actions, including knowledge sharing and south-south cooperation. Mexico with Colombia appreciated having been selected as priority countries for the TA 2018-2020 and committed to sharing their experiences with the countries of the Latin America region. Switzerland echoed this sentiment on regional approaches, noting that regional processes are efficient and can help link the global knowledge management with the country level work. The Chair responded to these comments by stressing the importance of the global knowledge management component as a capacity building tool at regional and country levels.

39. During the discussion, some board members highlighted the importance of consultations for REDD+ workplans and budgets, including governmental focal points, civil society representatives, and indigenous peoples, as is typical UN-REDD practice. While noting some consultations have not been completed, board members requested that the country workplans and budgets be duly informed by consultations with country stakeholders before their finalisation. Moreover, that the Secretariat will inform the Executive Board of such consultations for the 2019 and 2020 workplans for technical assistance. The representatives of indigenous peoples also asked for UN-REDD to continue exploring specific financing for indigenous peoples engaged in REDD+ action.

40. Some board members noted that while the highlighting of partnerships and other initiatives was helpful, and the breadth of knowledge management thematic areas admirable, the UN-REDD Programme should ensure its focus remains on the Programme's mandate and expertise. Finally, several board members requested that annual workplans and budgets be shared with the Executive Board in advance of meetings for approval (Decision 3).

41. After the rich and comprehensive discussion, the Executive Board approved the Work Plan 2018 - 2020 for Technical Assistance for REDD+ Implementation with a number of recommendations (Decision 3).

3.2. Allocation of Direct costs for Secretariat 2018

42. The Chair opened the session by noting that the size and budget of the Secretariat has been significantly reduced.
43. The Secretariat presented the 2018 costs in line with its five core functions to: service the UN-REDD governing bodies; manage external relations; carry out resource mobilisation for the corpus of the UN-REDD Programme; manage monitoring, reporting, and evaluation; and coordinate programming. The 2018 Secretariat costs will be covered from Secretariat unspent funds in 2016 and the budget reflects minimum staff and travel. It is equivalent to 4.9% of the UN-REDD Programme's estimated disbursement in 2018, commensurate with the nature and specific features of the Programme.
44. The Secretariat costs were approved (Decision 4).

Agenda Item 4. Future Strategic Opportunities

4.1. Social Inclusion Approaches

45. The Chair opened the session before turning to the agency presenters to discuss the UN-REDD Programme's progress on social inclusion approaches.
46. First, UN Environment provided a brief review of results from indigenous peoples/civil society organisations survey. This highlighted the limited number of responses received, given the small but important sample size. Overall, the most important result is that building national capacities on land tenure issues as well as engaging stakeholders and participatory approaches remain critical priorities. Of the support modalities offered by the Programme, targeted support was ranked highest, reflecting the same results as the country survey.
47. UNDP then presented the UN-REDD Programme's approach and progress on social inclusion in REDD+, focusing on three major streams: gender mainstreaming, participatory policy processes, and the Community Based REDD+ Initiative.
48. UN-REDD has undertaken a key change with regards to gender mainstreaming, transitioning from guidance and advocacy to taking action and carrying out monitoring as countries begin to implement REDD+ policies and measures. UNDP highlighted the 2017 knowledge publication on gender mainstreaming in REDD+ processes in Latin America, which covers four country cases: Chile, Ecuador, Panama, and Peru. In line with this shift in approach, and building on the country-level experiences, the UN-REDD Programme recently released a UN-REDD Methodological Brief on Gender.
49. UNDP highlighted the cases of Panama and Peru as exemplars of the Programme's achievements in this area. In Panama, UN-REDD helped establish a specific women's consultation mechanism to feed into the development of the national REDD+ strategy — it also served to identify policy options and define a gender baseline on forest affairs. In Peru, women's perspectives were integrated in the development of

the indigenous peoples' REDD+ capacity building plan. The results included the establishment of a gender quota of 30% for every capacity building event in the Amazon, while male leaders came to recognise and value women's perspectives in managing forests. Gender quotas also became part of the broader development process as women were viewed as agents of change.

50. The launch of the UN-REDD Methodological Brief on Gender in 2017 represents one of the most important achievements in terms of gender mainstreaming over the last year and a half. This brief will be used by UN-REDD teams, governments, and other stakeholders to ensure REDD+ policies are designed and implemented in a gender-responsive way. The brief guides users through five streams of gender mainstreaming in alignment with the REDD+ policy cycle. The process also resulted in the development of a UN-REDD Gender Marker, which will allow agencies and the Executive Board to monitor progress on gender mainstreaming in the UN-REDD Programme.
51. UNDP also outlined the diversity of participatory policy approaches that have been established, tested, and consolidated over the past years, leading overall to a positive outcome. They range from stakeholder mapping to participatory programme management, and from community projects (CBR+) to participatory policy dialogues, as well as protocols for free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).
52. Regarding the Community Based REDD+ (CBR+) Initiative, a detailed debriefing of status, progress and early lessons was provided. The purpose of this initiative is to bring a grassroots approach to the national level; and as such one of the requirements was to have an active national REDD+ process. All the UN-REDD funding has been disbursed or committed in community projects. Additional countries have requested to participate (e.g. Colombia and Kenya). Early lessons demonstrate that CBR+ is an ideal mechanism for REDD+ implementation in countries.

Feedback from the Board

53. Board members thanked UNDP for the comprehensive presentation, and several invited the UN-REDD Programme to share more of its social inclusion work through knowledge products, as there are valuable results and innovative approaches that will benefit REDD+ partners and stakeholders worldwide.
54. The rich discussions covered the numerous ways in which REDD+ has a genuine development impact at the grassroots level. A number of questions for clarification were proposed, and an interesting debate on how to bridge the national-community interface in REDD+ ensued. With regards to a question on project selection criteria, UNDP noted that it is critical for local REDD+ schemes to be well connected to national policies, and vice versa — that national policies incorporate community financing. This duality is a key approach to effectively reducing deforestation.
55. In response to a question on time allocated for participatory processes — which had been identified as a challenge by some countries in the 2016 Annual Report — UNDP underscored the efforts made by agencies to start stakeholder-engagement and public participation processes as early as possible. However, while these processes take time they ensure high quality and sustainability of REDD+ results.

56. Board members also discussed options for a phase-2 of the CBR+ initiative, in view of its good delivery and engaging results.

57. After this comprehensive discussion, the Chair brought the session to a close.

4.2. UN-REDD Programme and the Green Climate Fund

58. The Chair noted that the objective of this session is to explore options for the UN-REDD Programme to assist interested partner countries to access the Green Climate Fund's (GCF) "Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme", a GCF funding window that could support REDD+ readiness.

First Presentation: GCF

59. Mr. Juan Chang of the Green Climate Fund outlined how the fund is evolving, and areas for synergy and collaboration. There are a small but significant number of initiatives and agencies providing support for readiness on REDD+. The GCF is the youngest player in this area, the goal is not to reinvent the wheel but to collaborate and build on work carried out over several years. The GCF is in a position to provide finance across all three phases of REDD+. When one looks at the needs for financing REDD+ it requires a complete architecture, looking beyond emissions requirements to consider broader development objectives. This necessitates a greater, more strategic level of engagement and coordination to design the financial architecture that countries will need in order to move through this process. The GCF is developing a guide to explain what is required for the various phases of REDD+

60. The GCF then presented the modalities for support: readiness preparation, project preparation facility, regular project cycle, and request for proposals (these are more targeted). Through the REDD+ preparatory support, the GCF can assist countries in developing a REDD+ financing strategy, for example. The representative noted one area for improvement is the coordination and communication with REDD+ focal points. This coordination and communication is not always robust enough to ensure that the REDD+ proposals the GCF receives have been developed with the focal point. The representative noted a high demand for consultations and stakeholder across all phases of REDD+.

Feedback from the Board

61. The Board asked several points of clarification, including the GCF's coordination with other multilateral mechanisms (such as FIP and the FCPF); the Fund's experience on different phases of REDD+ funding and current status of proposals; the capacity for monitoring and evaluation across the three phases; and the role of the national designated authority.

62. Mr. Chang responded to these points noting that the GCF is still a relatively new organisation and that not all coordination mechanisms have been finalised. With regards to country level coordination, the national designated authority remains the primary counterpart, with a role to play in submitting an endorsement for a request for funds and also in conceiving and designing projects. The GCF has a monitoring system that looks at progress and achievements against REDD+ milestones, Mr. Chang

responded, adding that each project provides a log frame for ongoing monitoring and there will be an impact evaluation at the end of each project.

Second presentation: UNDP

63. UNDP presented the UN-REDD Programme's information note (UN-REDD/EB1/Inf.5). The UN-REDD agencies are well placed to help countries access the GCF's Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme. US\$1M is available per country per year to access readiness funds and a one-time US\$3M is available for national adaptation plans. In October 2016 the GCF Board made a decision that countries could access the GCF programme for developing national strategies/action plans or investment plans. This approach as proposed would have financial implications as the UN-REDD Programme would be required to raise additional funds to cover this technical assistance.

Feedback from the Board

64. The Chair welcomed the opportunity for UN-REDD to explore ways to collaborate with GCF on REDD+ readiness.

65. Board members welcomed the proposal as outlined in the information note, observing that it represented an important opportunity for the Programme to keep supporting countries with readiness actions and investment plans. Board members acknowledged that there are several actors already working in this space but highlighted the added value of the UN-REDD Programme. Several board members requested clarification on the arrangements. The agencies responded with examples of existing GCF collaboration, while highlighting the importance of responding to national circumstances, including a consideration of GCF accreditation coverage.

66. The agencies stressed that this represented a first round of consultation with the Executive Board. The information note has been developed in response to requests from countries as well as requests to the GCF Secretariat. The agencies highlighted the potential of this GCF readiness window to bring the UN-REDD strategic, country-level approach to the GCF to help countries move through the Warsaw Framework in line with UNFCCC requirements. Further analysis will be carried out by the UN-REDD Programme to determine gaps and opportunities.

67. The Chair closed the session by requesting that the UN-REDD partnership continue to explore ways to work with the GCF and elaborate this approach further, as well as consider what it will take to mobilise resources available.

4.3. Resource Mobilisation

68. The Chair introduced the agenda item by recalling the Secretariat is now held accountable for resource mobilisation.

69. The Secretariat opened by noting that overall the Programme has a higher demand than what it can service with current funds. The Secretariat then gave a brief summary of issues related to resource

mobilisation raised in previous sessions: needs and demand are shaped by the countries, technical assistance is essential to catalyse long-term progress; and there is increased demand for a number of specific issues, including scaling up community based REDD+, work on gender, and technical assistance to help countries tap into GCF readiness opportunities.

70. The Secretariat noted that the UN-REDD Programme has been in discussions with donors but asked the Board for their feedback on how to make the Programme more attractive to funders and to identify potential challenges.

Feedback from the Board

71. Switzerland opened the discussion by highlighting the need for the UN-REDD Programme to raise awareness of the ongoing importance of REDD+ readiness activities beyond the 2020 horizon and the continued role of the UN-REDD Programme. Forest countries called for more information regarding what is happening on the ground and potential to channel resources to communities. They also highlighted the importance of implementation - galvanising policy change is important but these policies must be operationalised to achieve sustainable results. The European Commission outlined their current strategic review and highlighted two policy spaces where the UN-REDD Programme could participate (FLEGT policy and work on deforestation, largely linked to trade and commodities, in the European Union). The Commission recognised UN Environment's emissions gap reports as an important contributor and suggested that these types of initiatives would further strengthen the Programme's position with donors. Norway called on the Programme to better attribute country-based results to UN-REDD interventions and emphasised the value added of the UN and the UN-REDD partnership for donors.

72. The Chair requested that the Secretariat report back to the Board on resource mobilisation, taking these comments into account.

4.4. Results Framework and Monitoring Approach

73. The Secretariat presented this session as a space to discuss and explore the opportunity to develop an over-arching "meta" results framework that encompasses and captures other REDD+ relevant initiatives. In order to achieve deeper, systemic, long-term transformation, the UN-REDD Programme must continue to leverage and complement other initiatives. What is missing in the current monitoring framework is the measurement of the outcome-level social and policy changes. The Secretariat argued for a country-level and global level framework that would reduce costs, provide clarity for countries with multiple strategic interventions, and generate political support for REDD+, noting that its viability depends on avoiding transaction costs.

Feedback from the Board

74. The Chair noted the importance of this issue and its potential to increase impact of the Programme. Board members thanked the Secretariat for its efforts. Switzerland noted that the framework could certainly become a tool for liaising with the private sector and could be used in leveraging funding for

countries where UN-REDD is already working on the development of investment plans. Norway, acknowledging the value of the proposed work, recalled their earlier recommendation requesting that the UN-REDD Programme report on its work at the outcome level in the context of the results framework for the Programme. The potential to use intermediate outcomes was also considered.

75. The Chair requested the Secretariat take note of the comments received and provide an update in three months.

Agenda item 5. Next Meeting and AOB

76. The Board agreed to keep the date for the next Executive Board flexible depending on actual needs, while continuing to explore options for an Assembly during 2018 (including on the sidelines of the Oslo REDD+ Exchange, which will take place 27/28 June 2018) .
77. The Programme will be sending a survey via email to share feedback on the Executive Board meeting and would welcome board members' suggestions for the next meeting, what they would like to discuss, how, and where.
78. The Chair passed the chairpersonship to FAO and closed the meeting, thanking the board members, FAO for hosting, and the Secretariat.

Annex 1: Final List of Participants

		Name	Country/Agency/Constituency	
1	Mr.	Andriamanjato Mamitiana	Madagascar	Member
2	Ms.	Elizabeth Philip	Malaysia	Member
3	Ms.	Fabiola Navarrete Monge	Mexico	Member
4	Ms.	Lauren Gisnas	Norway	Member
5	Mr.	Morten Nordskog		
6	Ms.	Michela Tagliaferri	European Commission	Member
7	Mr.	Keith Anderson	Switzerland	Member
8	Mr.	Chris Meyer	Civil Society Organization	Permanent Observer
9	Ms.	Grace Balawag	Indigenous Peoples Organization	Permanent Observer
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11	Mr.	Tim Clairs	UNDP	
12	Mr.	Josep Garí		
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14	Mr.	Sindhu Dhungana	Nepal	Alternate
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22	Ms.	Dolores Cabnal-Coc	Indigenous Peoples Organization	Alternate IP
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31	Mr.	Mario Boccucci	UN-REDD Secretariat	
32	Ms.	Onyemowo Ikwu		
33	Ms.	Frances Lim		
34	Ms.	Alexis Arthur		
