**UN-REDD Programme**

**UN-REDD/EB2/14**

**Second Executive Board meeting**

**Rome, Italy**

**18-19 October 2018**

**Information Note**

**Update on the UN Secretary-General Climate Summit 2019**

**Introduction**

* The UN Secretary General will convene a Climate Summit in September 2019, to raise international ambition to address Climate Change. Speaking about his vision for the Summit, he noted: *“Climate change is the defining issue of our time – and we are at a defining moment. We face a direct existential threat. Climate change is moving faster than we are – and its speed has provoked a sonic boom SOS across our world. If we do not change course by 2020, we risk missing the point where we can avoid runaway climate change, with disastrous consequences for people and all the natural systems that sustain us (*[*SG, 10 September 2018*](https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2018-09-10/secretary-generals-remarks-climate-change-delivered)*).*
* The purpose of the 2019 Climate Summit is to increase climate action by States, regions, cities, companies, investors and citizens in six areas : Energy Transition; (ii) Climate Finance and carbon pricing; (iii) Industry Transition; (iv) Nature-based Solution; (v) Cities and local action, and; (vi) Resilience.
* As the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the foundations of global efforts to address Climate Change, the aim over the next year is to raise ambition and set in motion urgent response measures to deliver more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions NDCs, placing the SDGs at the center of such efforts.

**The opportunity for Forests**

* The Nature-based Solutions (NBS) impact area comprises forests, along with agriculture and land use, food, and oceans.
* This reflects the critical solution that nature provides for addressing climate change, alongside expanding current action in other sectors, including energy, industry and transport, to enable society to meet its climate goals.
* In particular, halting and reversing tropical deforestation can deliver a third of the emission reductions required by 2030, as well as providing multiple co-benefits including reduced flooding; improved air and water quality; soil health; biodiversity; and increased adaptation and resilience to natural disasters associated with a changing climate.
* The 2019 Climate Summit is therefore an immediate opportunity 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.

**The roadmap to the 2019 Climate Summit**

* Preparations for the 2019 Climate Summit are coordinated by the Climate Action Team within the Executive Office of the Secretary General, who are mobilising a broad range of partners.
* Luis Alfonso de Alba (Mexico, lead negotiator in the Cancun COP) has been appointed as a Special Envoy to lead the preparations, complementing the Special Envoy for Climate Action, Michael Bloomberg, and Special Advisor Bob Orr, who will help to mobilize private finance and catalyze bottom-up action.
* Immediate steps involve developing strong messaging on forests and nature as a key solution to climate change, and exploring potential transformative Summit outcomes.
* The Summit is seen as part of a longer-term process rather than as a one-off event, linking and building on other processes and outcomes to amplify action, including the recent California Global Action Summit, COP24, World Economic Forum events etc.
* Ensuring accountability and follow-up from the Summit will also be key.

\*\*\*\*\*