

UN-REDD
PROGRAMME



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United Nations



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Report of the Fourth Executive Board Meeting

UN-REDD PROGRAMME FOURTH
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (EB-4)

25 June 2020

Virtual meeting

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Introduction

1. The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD Programme) held its Fourth Executive Board Meeting on 25 June through virtual means (Interprefy platform).
2. The meeting was chaired by Pradeep Kurukulasuriya, Director for Nature, Climate and Energy at UNDP. The meeting was attended by 30 participants (see Annex I). All documents and presentations are available on the UN-REDD Programme [workspace](#).

Opening

3. The Chair provided welcoming remarks noting this meeting is taking place at an unprecedented time due to the planetary Covid-19 health crisis we are all facing. As a partnership of agents of change on forest for climate, development and environmental objectives, the opportunity to connect at this point in time is of critical importance. Noting the massive socio-economic recovery, required at a scale and magnitude that has never been seen before, he stressed the value of Board members' strategic guidance on how best the UN-REDD can be useful for the critical decade of implementation of forest solutions that is starting, and to ensure forests and climate are appreciated and supported as a key solution for the Covid-19 socio-economic recovery.

Agenda Item 1: UN-REDD post-2020 ambition and vision: update and discussion

4. The Chair opened the session and highlighted the importance of this discussion in guiding the UN-REDD Programme in its new phase, for the 2020 decade. He then invited the Secretariat to present an update of the strategic thinking on the future of the UN-REDD Programme after 2020.
5. The Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat, briefly recalled the progress and results of the UN-REDD Programme in its first phase from its launch in 2008. He then presented the new UN-REDD strategic framework 2021-2025, which has been informed by a consultation process started in 2018, including input from UN-REDD Board members at different stages. He also noted that 2021 will be a transition year due to the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. In this vein, the UN-REDD team is assessing the full impact on the delivery of the 2020 workplan and the adjustments needed to deploy the new phase. He shared the highlights of the post-2020 strategic framework and the associated resource mobilisation efforts with current and prospective donors.

6. In terms of next steps, he noted an advanced version of the strategic framework 2021-2025 and the 2019 annual report will be shared with the Board for approval by the end of July. The 2021 workplan and budget will also be shared for approval as soon as funds are confirmed. Moreover, he indicated that resource mobilisation efforts will continue while an inception process for the 2021 workplan will be launched within the next six months.

Feedback from the Board

7. The Executive Board welcomed the UN-REDD Programme's post-2020 strategic framework, noting its robustness and pertinence, with a 'spot-on' scope, that resonates with members' expectations and needs. Recognising the value of the partnership, different members of the Board noted the importance of ensuring that the transition to 2021 responds to the emerging priorities of REDD+ countries as they recover and emerge from the pandemic crisis, and particularly the role that forests, at the centre of nature-based solutions, can play as part of that recovery.
8. Stressing the importance of coherent policy processes - such as those related to climate, forests, biodiversity and development - and how these are addressed by nature-based solutions, Switzerland appreciated the leading role played by UN-REDD at the Climate Summit last year. Pointing to UN-REDD's 10 years of experience with the three major UN agencies working together to support countries to implement their development strategies, not reinventing the wheel through new structures, but rather reinforcing the existing ones that have the most political traction – like UN-REDD. Recalling the ongoing restructuring process of the United Nations, he encouraged resource efficiency, in addition to mobilisation, through the coordination of the three UN-REDD agencies.
9. Several members voiced similar messages, including Ghana, Chile and Japan, reiterating the importance of forests as the most immediately 'ready' solution to the climate crisis and urging real action to build on the knowledge and progress achieved over more than a decade of work and move into urgent implementation at scale. Chile called for the UN-REDD post-2020 strategy to be oriented towards solutions to pandemic-related problems, noting UN-REDD's key role in the post-Covid-19 recovery. Colombia underlined the importance of moving towards a green recovery, with the inclusion of sustainable packages to avoid pressure on biodiversity.
10. Recognising the role of the UN-REDD platform and the record it has established in promoting community and indigenous rights, the representatives from indigenous peoples and civil society encouraged the post-2020 UN-REDD to strengthen this support, particularly with regards to issues

such as forest and land tenure and indigenous rights. The new intervention principles of speed and flexibility were recognised as key and welcoming more interaction with the Board.

11. Norway recognised the role of UN-REDD, stating that the Programme has never been more important. Suggesting that Covid-19 presents both a threat and an opportunity, he encouraged UN-REDD by indicating the very important role that UN-REDD can play going forward.
12. The Chair, the Secretariat, and the UN-REDD agencies thanked the Board for their commitment and appreciation of the value of the UN-REDD platform, and their insightful contributions. The Chair invited Board members to continue providing feedback on the post-2020 strategic framework throughout the month of July, and encouraged those who were unable to take the floor due to technical challenges, such as Madagascar and Indonesia, to provide their comments in writing, for integration in the advanced version of the UN-REDD post-2020 strategic framework.

Agenda Item 2. Covid-19 recovery, forests, and climate change - the role of the UN-REDD Programme: presentation and discussion

13. The Chair opened the session and invited the Secretariat to reflect on the linkages between the Programme's post-2020 ambition and vision and the Covid-19 recovery phase.
14. The Secretariat provided a quick overview of the discussion paper on REDD+ and COVID-19 recovery developed together with Board members, highlighting challenges, opportunities and the potential role of UN-REDD. He stressed the importance of REDD+ as the "ready-to-go" solution for green recovery, suggesting among next steps the development of a strategy to make the business case for REDD+ in domestic and international recovery responses, as outlined in the discussion paper.

Feedback from the Board

15. The Board commended the UN-REDD Programme for its timely, forward-looking work and its proactiveness in response to the Covid-19 emergency.
16. Several members stressed the important role that the Programme can play in the context of Covid-19 recovery, noting the tremendous socio-economic shock experienced by their countries. Chile stressed the importance of making the business case for REDD+ in this context, noting the opportunity to convert REDD+ activities into an effective instrument for the post-Covid-19 economic recovery. Ghana appreciated UN-REDD agencies' role at the country level and called for

their support to promote forests in national Covid-19 recovery plans, including by facilitating strategic meetings with national decision-makers to access both financial and political capital, including to bring attention to forest-based enterprises which are not usually the focus of national attention.

17. The representatives from indigenous peoples and civil society highlighted the need for the Programme to find ways to help local and indigenous communities, and also contribute to the broader building back better conversation to ensure that the prioritisation of finances is just and equitable.
18. The Chair thanked the Board for their insightful reflections and valuable inputs which will help further shape the thinking process of a post-2020 programme. He encouraged Board members to continue providing their comments and feedback throughout the month of July, which will be incorporated in the advanced version of the Covid-19 discussion paper.

Closing

19. Summing up key feedback and guidance from the Board, the Chair noted the support to the post-2020 strategic framework of UN-REDD, adding that the Programme will continue working to ensure it is comprehensive and relevant to the global challenges of addressing the deforestation and climate crises, and responsive to country needs. On suggested improvements, he noted the need to build on country approaches and to ensure UN-REDD efforts are articulated within the context of the new Covid-19 reality.
20. The Chair also noted that the discussion paper on Covid-19 will be finalised to offer specific guidance, connecting UN-REDD to the broader UN work on the Covid-19 and sustainable development agenda.
21. He moreover acknowledged the comments from indigenous peoples and civil society representatives, who commended the UN-REDD Programme for its track record in promoting community and indigenous rights, and their desire to ensure that this work and approach continues, particularly with regards to forest tenure and indigenous rights.
22. The Secretariat reiterated his thanks to the Board for their comments, which are testimony to the value of the Programme and contribute to the co-design of the future UN-REDD partnership.
23. The Chair invited any further feedback or clarification questions and, hearing no question, closed the first virtual EB meeting, thanking the Board members and all colleagues.

Annex 1: Final List of Participants

		Name	Country/Agency/Constituency	Designation
1	Mr.	José Antonio Prado Donoso	Chile	Alternate
2	Mr.	David Felipe Olarte	Colombia	Member
3	Ms.	Laura Bermudez	Colombia	Member
4	Ms.	Roselyn Fosuah Adjei	Ghana	Alternate
5	Mr.	Ruandha Agung Sugardiman	Indonesia	Alternate
6	Mr.	Wahyu Marjaka	Indonesia	Alternate
7	Ms.	Akiko Nakano	Japan	Alternate
8	Mr.	George Gehl	Luxembourg	Alternate
9	Ms.	Lovakanto Ravelomanana	Madagascar	Member
10	Mr.	Buddi Sagar Poudel	Nepal	Member
11	Mr.	Lars Andreas Lunde	Norway	Member
12	Mr.	Mads Hafdan Lie	Norway	Member
13	Ms.	Marte Sendstad	Norway	Member
14	Mr.	Keith Anderson	Switzerland	Member
15	Mr.	Pierre-André Cordey	Switzerland	Member
16	Mr.	Gustavo Sanchez Valle	Civil Society Organization (LAC)	Permanent Observer
17	Mr.	David Ganz	Civil Society Organization (Asia)	Permanent Observer
18	Ms.	Dolores 'Lola' Cabnal	Indigenous Peoples Organization	Permanent Observer
19	Mr.	Joseph Itongwa	Indigenous Peoples Organization	Permanent Observer
20	Ms.	Malgorzata Buszko Briggs	FAO	Alternate
21	Ms.	Astrid Agostini	FAO	Alternate
22	Mr.	Pradeep Kurukulasuriya	UNDP (Chair)	Member
23	Mr.	Tim Clairs	UNDP	Member
24	Mr.	Josep Garí	UNDP	Member
25	Mr.	Gabriel Labbate	UNEP	Alternate
26	Mr.	Steven Swan	UNEP	Alternate
27	Mr.	Pierre Bardoux Chesney	MPTF office	Ex-officio member
28	Mr.	Mario Boccucci	UN-REDD Secretariat	Secretariat
29	Ms.	Mihaela Secrieru	UN-REDD Secretariat	Secretariat
30	Ms.	Frances Lim	UN-REDD Secretariat	Secretariat