**Management Group (MG) of the UN-REDD Programme**

**Meeting Minutes of 2 Feb 2017 DRAFT**

**14h00 Geneva/Rome**

**Attendance:**

MG members and alternates

FAO: Tiina Vahanen, Margo BuszkoBriggs

UNDP: Josep Gari

UNEP: Tim Christophersen, Gabriel Labbate

Secretariat: Mario Boccucci

1. **No cost extension of national programs.**

Six programs are due to close at the end of 2017 of which some may require no-cost extensions. We received a formal request for an extension from Nigeria (sent to FAO), which was due to end in 2016. There are indications from Mongolia and Argentina for extensions.

*Decisions and Actions*

1. It was agreed that the program needs to take a systematic approach to dealing with no-cost extensions. The Annex contains a proposed draft resolution of the MG on no-cost extensions from 2017 onwards (prepared after the MG call). In essence, key steps are meant to be as follows:
2. The Lead Advisors will undertake early “assessments” to determine whether a no-cost extensions may be required or likely to be requested by Government, and inform the MG;
3. Countries interested in requesting an extension should first conduct an assessment exercise (whether internally or via a mid-term review supported by a consultant) to assess achievements, reasons for delay, need for adjustments, options for successful completion and new timelines.
4. The Lead Advisors shall clearly inform Government that any no-cost extension should embed technical-assistance services from the UN-REDD Team for the extension period (since resource mobilization so far cannot cover that); such TA should be included in a new budget for the remainder of the NP, to be prepared.
5. A request for no-cost extension needs to be endorsed by the NP steering committee or equivalent body, which should consider the reasons for extension (e.g. country assessment) and a new, proposed work plan and budget until the end of the NP.
6. The Government submits a letter requesting extension to the Secretariat, indicating endorsement from the NP steering committee or related body, and attaching support documentation, plus the new work plan and budget.
7. After verifying due process and MG discussion if needed, the Secretariat informs the Executive Board on a request of extension, for a 2-week non-objection.
8. The Secretariat informs the country on the EB deliberation, as well as the MPTF.
9. Mongolia: MG agreed that the end date of the program should be considered as August 2018 as per original NP document and, in this exceptional case, agencies will need to confirm that the additional 8 months of TA costs can be absorbed by each agency. As a further extension seems envisaged, the country will submit a request with TA budgeted in the NP from August 2018 to the final date the country will propose.
10. Argentina: A formal request is expected. The MG will share the Annex, once adopted with the lead advisor.
11. Nigeria: The agencies have agreed to gather further intelligence to determine if such an extension can be warranted. In any case, as Nigeria formally submitted its request, it needs to be presented to the IC for decision
12. **Finalization of Chile NP and technical assistance**

*Decisions and Actions*

1. UNDP and UNEP have confirmed that essential TA costs for 2017 are already covered. FAO to confirm.
2. The Secretariat will respond to the question from Chile Resident Coordinator once this confirmation is received
3. **Inputs to the 2018 – 2020 planning document and 2016 SNA extension**

*Decisions and Actions*

Agencies confirmed they will provide inputs into both the 2018 – 2020 planning document and the 2016 SNA extension by 9 Feb so that this can be discussed at the MG meeting in Geneva.

1. **Meeting with Norway**

Norad had requested a meeting or a call with the MG and NICFI in Oslo to present their views on the 2018-20 programming. However, MG members felt that a video conference call would be more efficient.

*Decisions and Actions*

MG members agreed to a call with Norway to be arranged by the Secretariat.

Annex

UN-REDD Management Group

Resolution MG/2017/1 regarding no-cost extensions of national programmes (NPs) [draft]

For a number of budgetary and operational reasons, the no-cost extensions of UN-REDD NPs shall adhere to the following steps and requirements:

1. Government and the UN-REDD lead advisor should anticipate if the NP will end by the approved deadline or whether a no-cost extension may be required.
2. Countries interested in requesting a no-cost extension should first conduct an assessment exercise (whether internally or via a mid-term review supported by a consultant) to assess achievements, reasons for delay, need for adjustments in terms of activities and/or implementation arrangements, options for a successful completion and suggested extension period.
3. Any no-cost extension should embed technical-assistance services from the UN-REDD Team for the extension period in the new work plan and budget to be prepared.
4. The NP steering committee or equivalent body shall examine and decide on the merit of a no-cost extension, considering the country assessment and a new work plan and budget that will cover until the new, proposed end of the NP.
5. The Government will submit a letter requesting extension to the UN-REDD Secretariat, indicating endorsement from the NP steering committee or related body (including date), and attaching the new work plan and budget, as well as support documentation (such as the minutes of the NP steering committee or the report of the country assessment).
6. The UN-REDD Secretariat will inform the UN-REDD Executive Board on a request of extension, for a 2-week non-objection. The Secretariat will report back to the country on the deliberations of the Executive Board.

[*Adopted by the UN-REDD Management Group on 14th March 2017*]