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

**Meeting Minutes of 15 May 2018 DRAFT**

**15h30 Geneva/Rome**

**Attendance:**

MG members and alternates

FAO: Margo BuszkoBriggs, Tiina Vahanen

UNDP: Elspeth Halverson, Josep Garí

UNEP: Dianna Kopansky, Gabriel Labbate

Secretariat: Mario Boccucci, Mihaela Secrieru

1. **Update on Lower Mekong project opportunity**

*Decisions and Actions:*

1. The project proposal will continue being developed under the UN-REDD umbrella and *modus operandi*, involving all three agencies and under FAO’s leadership
2. MG to send comments to FAO on the draft concept note by 22 May
3. FAO to continue leading on refining and finalising the proposal and submitting it to Norway by the Oslo Tropical Forest Forum (27-28 June 2018)

*Additional elements of the discussion*

FAO explained there is no clarity from Norway on the possible budget ambition level so far.

There was agreement on the need for a “political check” as early as possible both with Norway – to ensure their direct and active involvement, and with beneficiary countries – to integrate their inputs from initial stages.

UN Environment noted related work being carried out by the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Illicit Trade in Wildlife and Forest Products (of which UN Environment and UNDP are members), and suggested building on and connecting to it to avoid duplication of efforts.

Discussions will continue on how the proposal would concretely fit under the current Programme configuration.

1. **TA/2019 programming**

*Decisions and Actions:*

1. The process to finalise the TA/2019 budget will include the following steps:
   * Agencies to submit output-based budget and summary of consultations to Secretariat by 7 June
   * Secretariat to re-send output based budget Excel template(same as one circulated on 8 January 2018) , and to follow-up with Lead Advisors and MG members as needed
   * MG to review draft budget and narrative during next MG face-to-face meeting in mid-June
   * Pre-EB discussion with Norway in Oslo on the margins of the Tropical Forest Forum
   * Finalised documents shared with Norway in early August (original deadline was 18 June, now delayed due to postponed EB-2 meeting on 9-10 October tbc)
   * Documents sent to EB two months before EB-2 meeting (thus on 8 August)
2. On potential small adjustments to TA/2019 workplan and budget, agencies reported they need more time to assess country demand. The overall feeling is that the budget structure for the global KM component remains unchanged, while some readjustments might be needed at country level (e.g. more TA demand possibly to arise from countries like Cote d’Ivoire, Myanmar, Peru).

*Additional elements of the discussion*

Agencies noted challenges faced by the inter-agency teams in some countries (e.g. Colombia, Mexico) to advance on the 2019 work planning due to upcoming political elections and potential changes in the government counterparts. Agencies called for accommodating the timeline for submission of the 2019 budget to Norway, to occur in early August instead of original 18 June deadline, also considering the postponement of the second EB meeting to October 9-10 (tbc).

UNDP expressed the intention to submit additional narrative information for each country and KM components, providing context, rationale, detailed tentative activities/deliverables, stakeholder engagement process and next steps. The Secretariat cautioned against extensive revisions to the multi-year work plan endorsed by the EB and concluded that succinct updates of the work plan (max. 1 page) may be provided if agencies find it necessary.

1. **AOB: Next MG meeting**

*Decisions and Actions:*

1. The next MG face-to-meeting is planned on 12-13 June in Geneva
2. Secretariat to inform on the date of the next MG call