

PRIME MINISTER KEVIN RUDD (Australia):
Thank you very much, Madam Under-Secretary-General. This is the first time I've addressed you as Madam Under-Secretary-General, Helen.

I will make just three points. The first is this: that it is our view that forest carbon market mechanisms must be included in our post-2012 arrangements. In fact, in March of this year Australia made such a submission to the UNFCCC. We believe this is necessary for the future and can no longer be postponed.

The second point I would make is that in terms of overall finance for REDD activities, it must come, of course, from a combination of public and private sources. Public of the type of the contribution that we have seen from the Government of Norway and of the type I will outline in a minute from the Government of Australia. But private, also, in terms of that which can be raised through forest carbon markets. Hence, my earlier point about its being necessary for inclusion into our post-2012 arrangements.

But for REDD to be credible, with both public and private finance, through forest carbon markets, we are going to need effective measuring instruments. That is critical. Australia currently, with our friends in Indonesia, is investing 30 million dollars in the Kalimantan Forests and Climate Partnership, which, among other things, will establish baselines and the

systems for monitoring emissions reduction within the forests of Kalimantan.

In doing so, we are, of course, examining the deployment of satellite-based technology to establish the appropriate measurement. This, in turn, is based on our own national carbon accounting system, long used within Australia within our own land sector to monitor carbon-related activity.

There is some debate about measurement systems. I understand various organizations, including the FAO, have particular views as to what is effective. I believe this needs to be an open debate, based on facts. We should be looking at cost, and we should be looking at accuracy – and in terms of the accuracy of the measurement. These should be the things that determine which technologies and which methodologies we deploy.

Because if we develop a system for measurement which is flawed, then the possibility, therefore, of the credibility of the entire REDD scheme being undermined over time is a risk we cannot bear.

Therefore, I strongly recommend an open, frank and public debate about the accuracy, the effectiveness and the cost of the proposed verification and measurement systems to be deployed.

Finally, Madam Under-Secretary-General, Australia has initiated a fund of \$200 million dollars, our international carbon action partnership. We are investing through the World Bank. Bob Zoellick noted his activities before. We are also investing in Papua New Guinea. We are also, as I have indicated, investing in Indonesia. In terms of other projects, we will make those clear once we are through the Copenhagen framework.

Finally, Madam Under-Secretary-General, I take what Bob Zoellick said before about forest carbon partnerships also being the “blue collar workers of climate change”. We need to elevate the status of this. In significant climate change terms, 20 per cent is a number we cannot ignore. But, also, the economic and financial incentives for development in often-remote communities is equally beneficial, together with the third policy objective, which is biodiversity.

I, therefore, commend this initiative and commend the United Nations for bringing focus on this to bear, but the real task will lie in Copenhagen to make sure this is taken from the margins to the centre of what we do for the future.

I thank you.