



# Report of the Eighth Executive Board Meeting

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UN-REDD PROGRAMME EIGHTH  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (EB-8)

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2-4 October 2024

Hybrid meeting (in-person and virtual)

## Table of Contents

Introduction

Opening

Agenda Item 1: Progress to date

Agenda Item 2: Strategic dialogue on Scaling up System Change for Forests and Climate

Agenda Item 3: UN-REDD Programme Formative Review

Agenda Item 4: UN-REDD 2026-30 Draft Strategy

Agenda Item 5: Way forward and next steps

Closing

Annex 1: List of Executive Board Participants

Annex 2: Agenda

Annex 3: List of Strategic Dialogue Participants

## Introduction

1. The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD Programme) held its Eighth Executive Board Meeting on 2-4 October in a hybrid format (in-person at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Headquarters in Rome Italy, and online via Zoom platform). All Board representatives attended the meeting, with the majority participating in person and others actively contributing via Zoom online platform.
2. The meeting was chaired by Tiina Vähänen, Deputy Director of FAO's Forestry Division. The meeting was attended by 31 participants (see Annex 1). In the Strategic Dialogue session, 16 invited partners joined the session virtually (see Annex 3). All documents and presentations are available on the UN-REDD Programme [microsite](#).

## Opening

3. The Chair provided welcoming remarks highlighting the importance of the UN-REDD partnership as a model of the United Nations (UN) working together with demonstrated impact. She recalled that since 2021 the programme has switched gears, moving from a phase focused on REDD+ readiness and traditional capacity development, to supporting massively scaled-up international REDD+ implementation. UN-REDD has continued to support partner countries to advance implementation of REDD+, towards achieving systemic and transformative changes in governance, policies, and incentives in the forest and land sector.
4. The Chair introduced the Board meeting noting the centrality of the forest agenda as a key pillar in the actions to address climate change, restore, protect, conserve and sustainably use the environment and turbocharge full implementation of Agenda 2030. She highlighted finance and capacity development as the two most pressing priorities to enable countries to access results-based payments, in order to deliver forest solutions at scale.
5. The Chair highlighted the aim of the Board meeting to provide guidance on how the UN-REDD Programme can be most helpful in continuing to support countries to improve their capacity and achieve access to finance at scale, through an in-depth strategic discussion on the UN-REDD 2026-2030 Strategy. The meeting was structured as follows (see also agenda in Annex 2):
  - a. Progress to date
  - b. Strategic Dialogue on Scaling up System Change for Forests and Climate
  - c. UN-REDD Programme Formative Review
  - d. UN-REDD 2026-30 Draft Strategy

e. Way forward and Next Steps

## Agenda Item 1: Progress to date

6. The Chair opened the session noting its objective to provide an update on the UN-REDD Programme, in the context of broader progress of the forest and climate agenda. Noting the 2023 Annual Report and the 2024 Semi-annual Progress Update provided an opportunity to appreciate the value and magnitude of the Programme results, she then turned to the Secretariat and the UN-REDD implementing agencies to present a snapshot of progress (see PPT [here](#)).
7. The UN-REDD progress update started with a framing summary of the current UN-REDD Results Framework 2021-2025 and its operational modalities, highlighting the planning, reporting and financial aspects.
8. Country results achieved with the support of the Programme were highlighted, showing the impact generated over the past year since the last Board meeting. In 2024, UN-REDD has actively supported 24 partner countries in the four areas of the Programme's results framework, including on:
  - meeting the requirements of Architecture for REDD+ - The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (ART-TREES) standard and accessing results-based finance (RBF) through The Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance (LEAF) Coalition, such as in the case of Ghana becoming the first African nation to sign an emissions reductions purchase agreement (ERPA);
  - improving safeguards information systems and strengthening benefit sharing arrangements;
  - consolidating sustainable forest management practices and promoting cross-sectoral actions (including sustainable - " deforestation-free" commodities and supply chains);
  - enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) mitigation actions from the forest and land use sectors ensuring equity requirements, such as through policy dialogues and field grants to indigenous peoples;
  - as well as on crosscutting elements such as social inclusion, working with indigenous (IP) peoples and local communities (LC) to enable their direct access to climate finance, and gender mainstreaming including into nesting frameworks, TREES Registration documents, as well as piloting the gender Standard W+ in Ghana.

Regional support provided by UN-REDD was presented. For the regional work, three initiatives were highlighted: Sustainable Forest Trade in the Lower Mekong Region ([LMR](#)), Climate change mitigation through social forestry in ASEAN countries, in short ASEAN Social Forestry & NDCs ([ASF](#))

[Initiative](#)), and Strengthening REDD+ implementation in Africa ([AFF](#)), with the LMR project having concluded in December 2023. These initiatives reflect UN-REDD's commitment to tailored regional solutions that promote sustainable forest management, governance and capacity building in diverse landscapes and at different levels to support the achievement of climate goals. The LMR initiative, completed in 2023, enhanced regional cooperation to promote legal and sustainable forest products trade, improved forest governance for sustainable production, and strengthened monitoring through better data management. The ASF, launched in 2022, aims at strengthening evidence base for climate mitigation contributions of social forestry that facilitates integration of related actions in NDCs and that enhances climate finance opportunities. In collaboration with partners, including The Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC), progress have been made leveraging on, collaborating and strengthening Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat and selected working groups (Social Forestry; Forest and Climate). The initiative promoted cross-fertilization between countries in the region, learning and bringing up lessons from pilot actions and analysis in Cambodia, Laos, and Indonesia, producing key results such as integrating village forestry mitigation assessments into future NDCs in Laos, mapping market intermediaries, analysing value chains, and developing land suitability maps for timber production in all pilot countries. The AFF initiative, approved by the Executive Board in 2023, leveraged UN-REDD's technical expertise and the Africa Forest Forum's network, providing capacity-building through Learning Labs in Tanzania and Côte d'Ivoire, spearheading national policy dialogues in Uganda and Ghana, and facilitating strategic discussions on climate finance during key regional events.

Global knowledge management (KM), communications, convening and advocacy highlights included the REDD+ Academy, noting it has engaged over 1,000 active users on Howspace, a platform that leverages AI insights to enhance learning experiences. The programme also hosted in-person learning labs in Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Africa, as well as webinars on climate and forest finance covering integrity, monitoring, reporting, verification (MRV), safeguards, and social inclusion. Key events included the Global REDD+ Knowledge Management Day in Oslo, co-hosted with the World Bank and Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI), focusing on actionable REDD+ initiatives. Publications addressed forest action in NDCs and breakthroughs in jurisdictional REDD+. Over 500 stakeholders participated in discussions on results-based financing and mitigation at the Oslo Tropical Forest Forum (OTFF) and New York Climate Week (NYCW). Additionally, the #SaveForestsNow campaign spotlighted Indonesia, Brazil, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), leading to increased visibility

with a 25% rise in social media engagement, a 44% increase in followers, a 48% boost in web visitors, and a 15% rise in newsletter subscriptions.

A debrief was also provided on the South-South exchange (SSE) on Green Climate Fund (GCF) REDD+ RBP that took place immediately preceding the Board meeting (30 September – 1 October at the FAO Headquarters). The SSE was organized in the context of the GCF's decision at its 39th session of the Board in July 2024, which allowed on an exceptional basis, the four REDD+ results-based concept notes already in the Pilot Programme pipeline (Lao PDR, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Uganda and Viet Nam) to proceed and submit Funding Proposals. The exchange leveraged on FAO Accredited Entity role and its preparatory work for PNG and Uganda, including the organization of a series of "clinics" to share concrete lessons learned from formulation and implementation of RBP programs; and on the FAO and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) participation to GCF REDD+ RBP technical workshops. The SSE resulted in a fluid and meaningful dialogue on development of funding proposals, including innovative use of proceeds and benefit sharing mechanisms, and sharing views and information on the status of negotiations regarding the future of the REDD+ RBP mainstreaming proposal within the GCF.

9. The Chair thanked the speakers for their presentations and invited some "longer-standing" Board members to share reflections from their vantage points on the forest and climate agenda.
10. Ghana pointed at the progress of REDD+ over the past 16 years and noted the proof of concept done by the supply side on various fronts. She called for investments from the demand side, essential also to test and validate benefit sharing mechanisms, while allowing room for incremental improvements of the supply side. Referring to UN-REDD's post-2025 phase, Ghana stressed the need for non-traditional capacity building, to support countries on their RBP journey from unpacking the needs, to providing the necessary resources to empower the supply side as an equal stakeholder in the conversation with the demand side.
11. Norway referred to the changed circumstances in which the new UN-REDD strategy is being co-created, including a new array of Technical Assistance (TA) providers from the private sector and NGOs, evolving landscape of climate finance, and encouraged UN-REDD to sharpen its focus and role for the new landscape, both with regard to TA provision, and convening and KM. He stressed the importance of UN-REDD keeping its broad approach while focusing on its unique technical capacities, providing support to countries according to their level of ambition, ensuring country ownership and promoting engagement of indigenous peoples and civil society – all special features that set UN-REDD apart from other players in the space.

12. The Indigenous Peoples representative recognised UN-REDD's role in promoting community and indigenous rights, and noted key elements for the new UN-REDD strategy to include, such as:
- on gender, the promotion of participation of indigenous women and youth;
  - on KM, the recognition of indigenous knowledge and practices;
  - on MRV systems, the identification of indigenous indicators;
  - on benefit sharing, guaranteeing direct access to indigenous peoples; and
  - on finance, developing mechanisms that are suitable to indigenous needs and realities to enable their access to finance.
13. The Chair thanked the distinguished speakers for their insights and invited questions and general feedback.

#### Feedback and guidance from the Board

14. Emphasizing the importance of working with IP & LC from the beginning to ensure sustainability, Chile cautioned about managing expectations. The UN-REDD Strategy needs to be realistic in terms of what can be achieved with current funding.
15. Noting the important moment for REDD+ now, Switzerland pointed to breakthrough signals including GCF mainstreaming of REDD+ RBP, issues with voluntary carbon markets for REDD+, and COP30, towards potentially an evolving role of REDD+.
16. The civil society representative to the UN-REDD Board also stressed the importance of taking into account the absorptive capacity of communities to take on climate finance, such as through intermediaries that help them bridge the finance, ensuring their ability to spend and report effectively. He welcomed the use of the W+ Standard, and underlined the importance of local communities when talking about Indigenous Peoples. He noted the new UN-REDD strategy has similarities to the previous one, and encouraged UN-REDD to look at what other partners are doing, what gaps need filling and how best that can be done.
17. Pointing to the complexity of the landscape and the capacity work still needed, the United Kingdom (UK) noted UN-REDD's role as a convener, ensuring cohesion in the technical assistance that is being provided.
18. Among breakthrough signals, Ghana referred to: the LEAF Coalition, noting however the importance of it making payments; the FCLP, particularly through its country packages bringing new finance; and new TA providers such as Jurisdictional REDD+ Technical Assistance Partnership (JTAP), supporting some countries getting into catalysing what it means to move from supply into

demand – a point for UN-REDD to consider in its new strategy on how to partner with these new initiatives to support countries.

19. The Chair thanked the Board for their insightful contributions assuring their guidance will be captured and put to good use by the Programme.

## **Agenda Item 2: Strategic dialogue on Scaling up System Change for Forests and Climate**

20. The Chair opened the session noting its objective to engage Board members and invited partners, all connected virtually, in a strategic dialogue sharing perspectives and inputs on system level changes needed to realise the full mitigation potential of forests to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030.
21. The Strategic Dialogue, conducted under Chatham House rules, engaged diverse participants from Governments, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, private sector and international organisations within and beyond the forest sector. Participants included: UN-REDD Executive Board representatives, World Bank, CIFOR ICRAF, Global Alliance of Territorial Communities, Tenure Facility, International Trade Centre, the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Markets, the Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative (VCMI), Bezos Earth Fund, UNFCCC, CBD and CITES (see list of participants in Annex 3).
22. The session was structured as an interactive dialogue to support sharing and emergence of strategic insights. The dialogue began with 3 “Firestarters” (Costa Rica, UK, CIFOR ICRAF) sharing perspectives on REDD+ related system level challenges and opportunities, based on their direct experience and any relevant evaluations. This was followed by a round of “Business Unusual” interventions, including those beyond the forest sector, and an open dialogue with all Executive Board representatives.
23. Themes raised during the dialogue included:
  - a. Unlocking finance: The need for scaling up finance urgently, increasing blended finance, as well as enabling conditions for implementation.
  - b. Voluntary carbon markets: The VCM agenda is complex with high potential, is advancing quickly and involves many actors. Ongoing dialogue, capacity development and technical support will be essential to scaling up and addressing integrity concerns.
  - c. Capacity Development: Enhancing capacities remains an ongoing need. Areas of support identified included on Article 6 requirements and bridging supply and demand.



- d. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Recognition of the critical role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, was a key theme and showcasing lessons learned at all levels is important. The importance of ensuring inclusive benefit sharing arrangements was also raised.
  - e. Cross-sectoral engagement and actions: Engagement across sectors, particularly to identify and scale up synergies between agriculture and forestry and to promote concerted efforts and innovative practices towards sustainable commodities production, is key including beyond Ministries of Forestry / Environment.
24. The Chair thanked the Board and invited partners for the valuable dialogue, that was enhanced by the strong cross-sectoral participation. The Chair reflected that REDD+ has moved from being carbon centric to people centric, recognising biodiversity and other non-carbon benefits, as well as the need to promote joint efforts with the agriculture sector to reach climate, livelihoods and food security goals. The dialogue raised many important issues which will enrich the Executive Board discussions on the future of the UN-REDD Programme, including on access to finance, capacity development, the role of UN-REDD and how to link to other actors for the benefit of countries. Ongoing discussion with all actors is critical, and UN-REDD will draw on themes raised in its plans for future deeper solution-oriented dialogues.

### **Agenda Item 3: UN-REDD Programme Formative Review**

25. The Chair opened the session, noting that its purpose was to present the initial findings and conclusions of the formative review of the UN-REDD Programme. She informed the meeting that the review was based on extensive evidence, including previous evaluations, consultations with the three agencies, the Secretariat and a selection of key external stakeholders - donors, country participants, civil society and others. She also emphasized that the lessons learned from the review will help inform our discussions on the future direction of the program and guide us in making the necessary adjustments for greater impact and relevance.
26. The session was structured with a presentation by an independent expert on the formative review, followed by discussion and feedback from the Board. The Chair then turned to the independent expert to present the initial findings of the formative review (see PPT [here](#)).
27. The presentation started with the objective of the review and provided an update on the process to date and key next steps. The expert also shared the key aspects of the review such as relevance, coherence with other processes, effectiveness and efficiency. The analysis was presented based on strengths, weaknesses, niche and added value, and governance of UN-REDD Programme.

28. One of the main findings is that UN-REDD Programme remains highly relevant, particularly in helping forest countries build the foundational support needed to access results-based finance and other forms of international aid. However, as the external environment has become more complex, with new actors and financial mechanisms, UN-REDD needs to address risks such as duplication and fragmentation of efforts. The expert also pointed out that moving away from national programmes has particularly affected engagement with civil society and indigenous peoples, who were more involved during the readiness phase. He also emphasized the low level of engagement with the private sector, which remains a challenge for UN-REDD and similar programmes. Additionally, he pointed out the perceived “invisibility” of the programme. He suggested that UN-REDD could better communicate its added value while maintaining its supportive, neutral role that enables countries to have clear ownership of results.
29. The Chair thanked the expert for their presentations and invited questions and general feedback.

Feedback and guidance from the Board

30. The UK highlighted the need to consider the full spectrum of financing options available for REDD+. They emphasized the role of non-state actors in achieving the program's objectives and underscored the necessity of collaboration among all stakeholders. The UK also emphasized the importance of ensuring that civil society and indigenous peoples remain engaged throughout the process, particularly as the programme shifts toward results-based payments and carbon markets. They advocated for an inclusive approach that caters to the varying capacities of countries as we pursue these new financial avenues.
31. Regarding the engagement of civil society and indigenous peoples, Norway commented that the review suggests that there was strong engagement during the readiness phase, but this has declined as we have moved towards market-based mechanisms. UN-REDD Programme could play a critical role in helping these groups access results-based finance and other financial mechanisms, both internationally and nationally. Indigenous peoples and civil society organizations should be integrated into the national implementation structures for REDD+ and NDCs.
32. Ghana highlighted the issue of neutrality versus political engagement. UN-REDD Programme's neutrality is one of its strengths, but there are also calls for more engagement in political processes. It further inquired about UN-REDD Programme's efforts to strike a balance between being a neutral actor and engaging in discussions that are inherently political, especially given the different levels of readiness among countries. Ghana asserted that the UN could maintain its neutrality by working with partners such as the Forest and Climate Leaders Partnerships (FCLP),

which already have a focus on policy engagement. In this way, UN-REDD Programme can remain neutral while working with organisations that can address policy challenges. Another issue raised by Ghana was institutional arrangements. In many countries, particularly where landscape management is concerned, strong institutional arrangements are essential. It is not enough to work only with forestry agencies when the main drivers of deforestation are often in agriculture. There needs to be a coordinated approach across sectors to address the wider drivers of deforestation. The expert clarified that while UN-REDD Programme's neutrality is valued, countries often need support in navigating the political aspects of REDD+, particularly when it comes to land use and governance. While UN-REDD should not become overly political, it can facilitate policy dialogues in collaboration with other organizations better suited to do so. Engaging ministries beyond forestry, such as finance and agriculture, is critical to achieving REDD+ goals.

33. Costa Rica interventions emphasized the importance of integrating biodiversity, rural development, and gender issues into REDD+ strategies. These elements are interlinked, and any approach needs to consider their impacts to effectively promote sustainable development. A holistic approach that addresses the broader socio-economic context in which forests and communities operate needs to be considered in the programme.
34. The Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) representative asserted the importance of a comprehensive assessment of country needs to tailor UN-REDD Programme support effectively. A focus on learning will enhance the ability to address the specific challenges faced by different countries in implementing REDD+ initiatives. In addition, engagement with local stakeholders is key to ensuring that the support we provide is relevant and impactful.
35. Switzerland noted that there is an increasing focus on carbon markets, particularly through initiatives such as LEAF Coalition, but it's important not to lose sight of broader goals such as governance, biodiversity and community engagement. Switzerland has a strong focus on social forestry and the bottom-up approach to REDD+. UN-REDD Programme should continue to work with all countries, not just those that are market-ready, and support different levels of engagement based on national capacities and priorities. He also emphasized that Switzerland has advocated for a regional approach, in particular through platforms such as ASF and the AFF. These platforms are crucial for knowledge sharing and capacity building. Switzerland also suggested UN-REDD Programme do more to support regional networks.
36. On the topic of impact, Ghana emphasized the importance of measuring success beyond carbon emission reductions. In Ghana, for example, there has been support for safeguards, but it is often

unclear what the financial contribution of UN-REDD Programme has been. Greater transparency on funding would help countries better understand impacts beyond emission reductions.

37. The expert explained that one of the challenges of the review has been assessing the impact of UN-REDD Programme's support, especially since much of its role is facilitative and supportive. The findings highlight the needs to look beyond carbon metrics and consider the broader development impacts, such as improved governance and capacity building.
38. Agencies shared their views on the importance of integrating environmental considerations within the broader framework of sustainable development. The neutrality of UN-REDD Programme allows for effective dialogue, but we must navigate the challenges posed by political realities in different countries. We need to ensure that the governance structures supporting REDD+ are robust to promote inclusivity and facilitate collaboration across sectors. Furthermore, on the critical role that agriculture plays in the REDD+ context a multi-sectoral approach is necessary, recognising that there is a need to support and promote a transformation of agrifood systems towards a higher sustainability, shifting the dichotomy of the narrative between agriculture and forestry towards practices that deliver food security and sustain livelihoods while reducing impacts on forests (deforestation and forest degradation) and on climate. Effective strategies should involve collaboration with agricultural ministries to ensure coherent land-use policies that support REDD+ objectives. By addressing these broader issues, we can create more comprehensive solutions manage, conserve and restore forests, to achieve climate, biodiversity, livelihood and food security goals.
39. The expert provided a concluding reflection on the rich feedback received during the discussion, highlighting the historic role of the UN in amplifying voices in national forums and facilitating discussions on REDD+ and readiness. He also acknowledged the many unanswered questions about REDD+, including issues of inter-sectorality, the future of carbon markets, and power dynamics between different stakeholders. He stressed that while the UN should not directly answer these policy questions, it can create spaces for discussion, debate and dialogue at the national level. He cautioned against losing the balance between being demand-driven and stimulating demand, and warned that stimulating demand in one direction could compromise the neutrality and independence of the UN. He pointed to opportunities for regional dialogues to build trust and break down barriers, while noting the importance of capturing diverse viewpoints and evidence behind recommendations in future reports. He concluded by welcoming further dialogue during the breaks and expressing openness to informal discussions.

40. The Chair thanked the Board for their insightful contributions assuring their guidance will be captured and put to good use by the Programme

## Agenda Item 4: UN-REDD 2026-30 Draft Strategy

41. The Chair opened the session noting its objective to provide an overview of the What, the draft UN-REDD 2026-2030 Strategy; in-depth summaries of the cross-cutting elements and four anticipated outcomes; and introduce the How, the implementation modalities.
42. The session took place across a full day, structured with presentations on the key features of the Strategy by the UN-REDD Secretariat and implementing agencies, followed by discussion and feedback from the Board (all PPT [here](#)).
- A framing presentation on the Overview of the UN-REDD Strategy (PPT [here](#)) covered strategy development, the Vision and Goal, results and implementation. The cogeneration process to develop the Strategy started in 2024, with appreciation for the feedback received during the first phase of consultations which took place with over 30 stakeholders ahead of the Executive Board. The 2026-2030 Strategy builds on the current Strategy, initial consultation and Formative Review feedback, to strengthen and make it fit for the future. The Strategy is intended as an integrated package, with indicative results maintaining a similar structure and approach, with some fine-tuning including stand-alone outcomes on integrity and systems change, and introduction of three standalone cross cutting areas to reinforce and strengthen the outcomes. Presentations on the three cross cutting elements and four indicative outcomes followed, including highlights on: Social Inclusion and Gender Equality (PPT [here](#)); cross-cutting elements on Knowledge Generation and Management, and Convening, Advocacy, and Communication (PPT [here](#)); outcome 1 on Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ Results (PPT [here](#)); outcome 2 on Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results (PPT [here](#)); outcome 3 on Enhancing Climate Ambition (PPT [here](#)); and outcome 4 on Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation (PPT [here](#)). The proposed implementation modalities were also presented (PPT [here](#)). On the process to develop the How, this touched on the programming, modalities, geographies, partners and resources to enable implementation of the Strategy. The programming phase is the critical next step, and will be undertaken in 2025 to provide specificity of depth, breadth and UN-REDD Programme niche. Three delivery modalities are foreseen to enable full scalability from Technical Assistance through to Targeted Support and National Programmes; with plans to continue operating across the country, regional and global scales, and interconnected approaches and synergies

between these three levels. UN-REDD Programme operates on country demand, and intends to cover as many countries as demand exists, subject to resources. Strengthening strategic partnerships to support delivery at the global, outcome and UN-system levels will be a focus.

- A key objective for the funding framework is to secure predictable, multi-year commitments with a budget envelope commensurate to the transformative potential of UN-REDD Programme and deliver the planned outcomes with high impact on the ground. The programme has currently a budget in the range of USD 20 million per year and in the previous phase it reached annual spending in the range of USD 40 million. As such, aiming for a range of USD 50-60 million per year for the 2026-2030 period, would be in line with previous UN-REDD annual spend, and conducive to fulfill expectations with regard to cost efficiency, programme ability to service a critical portfolio of actions, geographies and delivery capacity. A number of opportunities for immediate action were also identified related to convening, communications, technical assistance, partnerships, and Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

#### Feedback and guidance from the Board

43. Feedback from the Board related to the overall Strategy and cross-cutting elements included:

- Positive feedback and support for the emerging 2026-2030 Strategy, for UN-REDD's strong relationships, convening, technical assistance, and role as a REDD+ 'keystone';
- Further define UN-REDD niche, identify gaps, partners and conditions to operate and coordinate at global and outcome level, to avoid duplication. Explore strategic partnerships with other platforms e.g. FCLP, FCFP, UNFCCC, World Bank; Ensure alignment with biodiversity agenda and other non-carbon benefits. Emphasized key role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities; consider direct access and intermediaries;
- Strong opportunity / niche for increased convening at global, regional, and country level including on breakthrough issues. Further enhance knowledge management and strategic communications and increase UN-REDD visibility.

44. Overall, the Board welcomed the Draft Strategy and provided positive and constructive feedback, as highlighted below:

- Outcome 1 Demonstrating High-Integrity REDD+ Results: The Board considered whether benefit sharing (1.3) should feature under outcome 2 (finance), and whether social inclusion should feature under outcome 1 (integrity).

- Outcome 2 Unlocking Finance for REDD+ Results: The Board recognised the need to service a spectrum of supply and demand opportunities ; to map opportunities for sources of forest financing; channels for private sector engagement; and provision of practical information on how to deliver outcome 2 (e.g. ERPA template, support interaction between IC-VCM and countries). Feedback also considered whether outcome 1 and 2 should be separate outcomes, or access to results-based financing be an end outcome; whether investments (4.4) should feature under outcome 2 and whether benefit sharing (1.3) under outcome 2; and whether to include registries under outcome 2.
- Outcome 3 Enhancing Climate Ambition: The Board noted the need to identify UN-REDD and partners roles in relation to NDC support; to clarify output 3.3 (analytical capacity); and to explore support beyond NDCs e.g. for NBSAPs.
- Outcome 4 Enhancing Actions to Address Drivers of Deforestation (Results): The Board recognised the importance of system change work covered by UN-REDD, noting the need to further define UN-REDD's niche, partners and leveraging role;. Board members emphasised the value of UN-REDD in outcome 4 should be also in terms of technically and strategically convening actors and expertise across the different sectors and how forest carbon overlaps with other initiatives.

45. Feedback related to implementation included:

- Programming: Understanding how the future portfolio will be balanced across the outcomes and geographies is important; Recognition that the programming phase will provide greater details of plans; Request for scenarios to provide clarification of needs and plans as soon as possible, in order to review these scenarios by mid-2025 in line with donor timelines for planning future support;
- Modalities: Request for funding scenarios that consider both Technical Assistance and National Programmes and building on previous lessons learned; Support for proactive collaboration with Technical Assistance providers and exploring TA coordination role supporting governments.
- Partners: UN-REDD as a UN programme is very well placed and has strong comparative advantages. Important to continue to define what UN-REDD does best and where other partners complement.
- Resources: Strong support for UN-REDD and positive signals to support REDD+; commitment to work together on resource mobilisation; provision of high/low scenarios will be useful.
- Governance: Called for review and update of future governance arrangements taking into account the new strategy.

46. The Chair reflected on the extremely rich and constructive dialogue, noting that the draft 2026-2030 Strategy was well received and resonated closely with Board members. All feedback was noted, and will be reflected in the 2026-2030 Strategy as well as the subsequent programming processes. Attention can therefore move to next steps related to programming, resource mobilization, and operationalization.

## **Agenda Item 5: Way forward and next steps**

47. The Chair invited the Secretariat to provide a summary of the actions and the process going forward.
48. The Secretariat outlined the next steps along the five building blocks from the Board discussion, ahead of the next board meeting.
- On the Formative Review, the independent expert will finalise the consultations with any additional interviews, and prepare the draft report, which will be shared with the Board for review in November. Moreover, the Review's findings will continue to feed into the Strategy.
  - On the draft 2026-2030 Strategy, consultations with remaining partners will continue during Q4/2024, and a revised Strategy, incorporating all feedback, will be finalised in Q1/2025.
  - A resource mobilization strategy will be developed, building on any intelligence from the Board in the coming months, and shared in Q1/2025.
  - The programming will be a key next step. Multi-year programme scenarios will be developed for different funding options, as well as a new results and monitoring framework, and shared with the Board for discussion in the first half of next year.
  - The governance arrangements will be reviewed in 2025, with a view to updating them based on the one hand on the programming and functions of the new programme, and on the other hand depending on the level of resources envisaged, so to ensure that form follows function and that new arrangements will be commensurate with the objectives of the next phase of the Programme.
  - The next meeting of the Board will be tentatively scheduled in June 2025.
49. Ghana, Costa Rica, Chile, and the Indigenous Peoples representative put forward a proposal for a platform on women in REDD+, noting its importance to engage and promote social inclusion, strengthening capacity and linkages. UN-REDD welcomed the proposal, noting its close alignment with ongoing scaling up and convening efforts on gender and equality, and will follow up to further explore this initiative.



## Closing

50. The Chair closed the Board meeting, thanking the Board for the substantive comments, which are testimony to the value of the Programme and contribute to the co-design of the future UN-REDD partnership. The inputs provided by the Board will be captured in the meeting report and used to guide the future of the Programme.

## Annex 1: List of Executive Board Participants

		Name / Title	Country, Agency or Constituency	EB Designation
1	Ms.	Gabriela Soto Nilo Head, Climate Change Department National Forestry Corporation (CONAF)	Chile	Member LAC
2	Ms.	María Elena Herrera Ugalde Director, Directorate of Development and Marketing of Environmental Services Director of the National REDD+ Strategy National Forestry Financing Fund, FONAFIFO	Costa Rica	Alternate LAC
3	Ms.	Roselyn Fosuah Adjei Director, Climate Change, National REDD+ Coordinator, Forestry Commission	Ghana	Member Africa
4	Mr.	Bob Kazungu (online) Acting Assistant Commissioner for Forestry, Assessment and Monitoring, Forest Sector Support Department, Directorate of Environmental Affairs Ministry of Water and Environment	Uganda	Alternate Africa
5	Mr.	Trần Hiếu Minh Head of Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation (DOSTIC) Department of Forestry (DOF) Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Viet Nam	Member Asia-Pacific
6	Mr.	Franky Zamzani (online) Deputy Director for Monitoring of Mitigation Action Ministry of Environment and Forestry	Indonesia	Alternate Asia-Pacific
7	Ms.	Dinik Indrihastuti (online) Junior Policy Analyst Ministry of Environment and Forestry	Indonesia	Alternate Asia-Pacific
8	Mr.	Leif John Fosse Senior Adviser, Norwegian International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI)	Norway	Member
9	Ms.	Vania Dietrichson Adviser, Section for Forest Department for Climate and Environment Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)	Norway	Member
10	Ms.	Laurence von Schulthess Programme Officer Sustainable Forest and Land Use Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) Thematic Cooperation Division - Section Climate, DRR and Environment (CDE)	Switzerland	Member
11	Mr.	Keith Anderson Forest and Climate Policy Advisor, Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, Forest Division	Switzerland	Member
12	Ms.	Sultana Bashir Head, International Forestry & Climate (REDD+) Policy	United Kingdom	Member

## Report of the Eighth Executive Board Meeting, 2-4 October 2024

		Name / Title	Country, Agency or Constituency	EB Designation
		Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ)		
13	Ms.	Victoria Situ Senior Policy Advisor and Programme Manager – Forest Carbon Finance, LEAF Coalition, International Forests Unit (DESNZ and FCDO)	United Kingdom	Member
14	Ms.	Ga-yeong Kim REDD+ Coordinator, Global Forest Resources Division Korea Forest Service (KFS)	Korea	Alternate
15	Mr.	Kim Raehyun Director, Forest Center on Climate Change (FCCC) National Institute of Forest Science	Korea	Alternate
16	Mr.	Nobuaki Ideno (online) Chief, International Forestry Cooperation Office, Forestry Agency	Japan	Alternate
17	Ms.	Yun Yamanaka Assistant Director, Natural Environment Team 1 Forestry and Nature Conservation Group, Global Environment Department Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	Japan	Alternate
18	Ms.	Dolores 'Lola' Cabnal Red de mujeres indígenas sobre Biodiversidad de América Latina y El Caribe (RMIB-LAC) Área de Incidencia, Asociación Ak'Tenamit	Indigenous Peoples Organization	Permanent Observer
19	Mr.	David Ganz Executive Director The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC)	Civil Society Organization (CSO)	Alternate Observer
20	Ms.	Tiina Vähänen Deputy Director, Forestry Division	FAO (Chair)	Member
21	Ms.	Serena Fortuna Senior Forestry Officer, REDD+ Team Leader	FAO	Alternate
22	Mr.	José Carlos Fernández International Consultant on REDD+ Policy and Economics	FAO	Alternate
23	Mr.	Josep Garí Global Lead, Climate & Forests, UNDP Climate	UNDP	Alternate
24	Ms.	Elspeth Halverson Programmes and Partnerships Advisor	UNDP	Alternate
25	Ms.	Kimberly Todd Senior Global Advisor, Climate & Forests	UNDP	Alternate
26	Mr.	Steven Swan Programme Management Officer	UNEP	Alternate
27	Ms.	Bertha Ormeno (online) Portfolio Manager, Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office	MPTF	Ex-Officio
28	Mr.	Mario Boccucci Head of UN-REDD Secretariat	UN-REDD Secretariat	Secretariat
29	Ms.	Mihaela Secieru Programme Management Officer	UN-REDD Secretariat	Secretariat
30	Mr.	Chandra Manalu Programme Management Officer	UN-REDD Secretariat	Secretariat

## Report of the Eighth Executive Board Meeting, 2-4 October 2024

		Name / Title	Country, Agency or Constituency	EB Designation
31	Ms.	Sharon McAuslan, UN-REDD Secretariat	UN-REDD Secretariat	Secretariat
32	Mr.	Tom Blomley, independent consultant for the UN-REDD Formative Review	external	

## Annex 2: Agenda

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2024	
13:30 – 14:00	Opening
14:00 – 15:00	Progress to date
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Break (and logging in of invited partners joining online)</i>
15:30 – 18:00	Strategic Dialogue Session: Scaling up System Change for Forests and Climate
<i>From 18:00</i>	<i>Cocktail party (FAO Terrace)</i>
DAY 2: THURSDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2024	
08:30 – 09:00	<i>Coffee</i>
09:00 – 10:00	UN-REDD Programme Formative Review
10:00 – 11:15	UN-REDD 2026-30 Draft Strategy – Overview
11:15 – 11:45	<i>Break</i>
11:45 – 13:00	UN-REDD 2026-30 Draft Strategy – Outcomes
13:00 – 14:15	<i>Lunch</i>
14:15 – 15:45	UN-REDD 2026-30 Draft Strategy – Outcomes (continued)
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Break</i>
16:00 – 17:00	UN-REDD 2026-30 Draft Strategy – Outcomes (continued)
<i>From 17:00</i>	<i>Guided tour of Terme di Caracalla and Dinner at Casa del Jazz</i>
DAY 3: FRIDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2024	
09:00 – 10:30	UN-REDD 2026-30 Draft Strategy - Implementation
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Break</i>
11:00 – 12:00	Reflections and way forward
12:00 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Reflections and way forward (continued)
14:30 – 15:30	Next steps
15:30 – 16:00	Closing

**Annex 3: List of Strategic Dialogue Participants (in addition to Executive Board representatives listed in Annex 1)**

	<b>Name / Title</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
1	Alexa Kleysteuber Associate Director, Corporate Action and Markets	Bezos Earth Fund
2	Jamal Annagylyjova Forest Biodiversity and Ecosystem Restoration Officer	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
3	Eliane Ubalijoro Chief Executive Officer CIFOR-ICRAF, and Director General ICRAF	Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF)
4	Kiptoo Chemoiwo Project Officer	Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF)
5	Siiri Makela Programme Management Officer	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
6	Jorge Mario Rodriguez Vice Minister of Environment Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAIE)	Costa Rica
7	Juan Carlos Jintiach Executive Director	Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC)
8	Amy Merrill Chief Executive Officer	Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (ICVCM)
9	David Kaimowitz Chief Programme Officer	International Land and Forest Tenure Facility
10	Mathieu Lamolle Senior Advisor	International Trade Centre
11	Michaela Summerer Associate, Green and Inclusive Value Chains Section	International Trade Centre
12	Jenny Wong Programme Officer, Mitigation, Data and Analysis Programme	UNFCCC
13	Joanna Macrae Head of Strategy and LEAF, International Forest Unit, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)	United Kingdom
14	Mark Kenber Executive Director	Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative (VCMI)
15	Andrés Espejo FCPF Fund Manager and Senior Climate Change Specialist	World Bank
16	Shaanti Kapila Senior Operations Officer, Climate Change Group	World Bank