

Northern Civil Society Organizations Observer's Remarks

Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Participants Assembly Thirteenth Meeting (PA13)/Participants Committee Twenty-Ninth (PC29) Meeting

October 20 – 22, 2020

Thank you co-chairs, Assembly participants, and the FMT for the opportunity to provide these remarks on behalf of Northern Civil Society Organizations. I would first like to commend all of the progress that has been made by FCPF participants on advancing REDD+ implementation at scale. I would also like to congratulate Vanuatu, Thailand, the Central Africa Republic, and Paraguay for their outstanding presentations and the notable progress they have made on their pathways to REDD+ readiness.

Now, more than ever, we are all acutely aware of the importance of forests to climate change mitigation and resilience. The science clearly demonstrates that as a leading natural climate solution, forests have the potential to provide two-thirds of natural climate solution mitigation — and about half of all low-cost mitigation opportunities — through their protection, restoration and reforestation. The FCPF not only recognizes this, but has focused on providing the support and finance needed to advance at-scale actions to protect forests.

It is, therefore, critical that we continue making progress toward providing proofs of concept for how to implement large-scale REDD+ programs. The progress being made within the FCPF can send the key signals needed to mobilize greater recognition, ambition, and action around forests. The now 5 ERPAs that have been signed thus far have been critical to generating momentum for REDD+, and the remaining ERPAs expected to be signed by the November 2020 deadline will be key to continuing that momentum.

We are at an inflection point where we need to ramp up forest action at scale in order to stay on a Paris Agreement consistent pathway. To do so, however, we need to unlock finance flows that are commensurate to the contribution that forests can make, are making, and will continue to make to climate change mitigation. We should, therefore, explore opportunities to utilize any and all potential channels of finance, including public and private sector sources. As such, we welcome the pivotal work that the FCPF is doing to identify innovative entry points for the private sector to engage in and scale up REDD+ programs.

I would also like to re-acknowledge the importance of the decision to extend, and allocate additional funding to, the Capacity Building Program for Forest-Dependent Indigenous Peoples and Southern Civil Society Organizations. Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and Southern CSOs play a critical role in the protection of forests and, in turn, the provision of all of the co-benefits associated with forest protection. Therefore, we should continue providing the support necessary to sustain the activities and efforts of these key stakeholders, and consider additional ways in which we might expand this support. As the work in the Carbon Fund progresses, it is especially important to prioritize the effective consultation and participation of civil society, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at the country and regional level—which are elements fundamental to successful REDD+ program design and implementation.

It is an exciting time for the FCPF, and Northern CSOs look forward to continuing to support further progress in a robust, inclusive, and participatory manner. Thank you again for both your time and consideration.