

**UNFCCC Remarks**  
**FCPF Participants Assembly (PA13) and Committee (PC29) meetings**  
October 2020

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**Introduction**

On behalf of the UNFCCC secretariat as an observer in this process, it is a pleasure for me to address colleagues and friends at this participants assembly and committee meeting of the FCPF. Our cooperation with the FCPF goes back to the early days of REDD+, now more than ten years ago, and we'd like to use this opportunity to highlight what has been achieved. In total, we see four important milestones.

**Milestone 1: Creation**

REDD+ was first introduced into the agenda of UNFCCC negotiations in 2005. The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility was created in 2007. While both processes had to deal with multiple challenges and a very steep learning curve, the success that we're seeing today was only possible based on the fruitful interaction of policy and implementation on the ground, in combination with a firm commitment by all Parties to cooperate on the matter of reducing deforestation and to find innovative ways going forward.

The readiness support from the FCPF to countries and the experience gained through this process enabled the discussions to come to a fruitful consensus of all Parties, and a consensus that is still guiding REDD+ implementation today.

**Milestone 2: The Warsaw Framework for REDD+**

This consensus has widely become known as the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, adopted at COP 19 in Warsaw in 2013. It lays out all the agreed details that are required for countries to successfully implement REDD+, be it in the area of measuring and reporting emissions and removals from REDD+ activities, the related verification and transparency processes under the UNFCCC, or in what would be necessary in terms of a national REDD+ strategy and information about how the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected.

Achieving a universal global consensus on such complex technical matters was not an easy undertaking, and in our view, it was only possible because the Readiness Fund provided

practical capacity-building and supported countries on the ground in gaining the necessary experience on these matters.

### **Milestone 3: The Paris Agreement**

The Warsaw Framework for REDD+ is a framework for cooperation between countries to preserve forests. It is the only international agreement of this kind. As such, it was re-ensuring when REDD+ got especially recognized in Article 5 of the Paris Agreement, giving it a secure place in the future climate regime, and reassuring countries engaged in this matter that REDD+ will be supporting their efforts in the forest sector into the future.

We have also seen REDD+ being included in many Nationally Determined Contributions. We can only encourage this development from all sides, as this will help to bring the diverse efforts to address deforestation in countries together in a coordinated national effort, which can truly lead to a transformation of emissions from land use change, in particular reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

### **Milestone 4: Full implementation**

Where are we standing today? 2020 has been a very difficult year for many reasons. However, it has also been a record year for REDD+. Never before did we receive so many submissions of REDD+ reference levels as in 2020, and never before did we receive so many submissions of REDD+ results as in 2020. We have seen a total of 20 new submissions this year, bringing it to a total of 50 REDD+ countries with submitted reference levels, and nine countries which have reached full implementation and are included in the Lima Information Hub for REDD+. Understanding the effort behind each submission and each national process, this is a really noteworthy achievement, which could only be reached with support of initiatives such as the FCPF Readiness Fund.

As the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land points out, forests are important at many levels. They provide habitats for biodiversity and livelihoods for humans. They also provide ecosystem services, often way beyond the communities close to them, including for mitigating climate change. It is on us to continue to collaborate so that forests are preserved against unsustainable exploitation and are resilient to the impacts of climate change – only then forests can continue to provide these benefits to humankind. At the UNFCCC secretariat, we look forward continuing to engage on this matter with Parties and with the FCPF.