

# **Statement on behalf of Southern CSOs' Observers**

**at 11<sup>th</sup> Participants Assembly of the FCPF - 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018, Washington D.C.**  
*(By: Sergio Guzman, Obed Koringo and Kanwar Muhammad Javed Iqbal)*

Ladies and gentlemen, Assalam-o-Alaikum and Good afternoon!

On behalf of Southern CSOs, it is a matter of great honour indeed to be here at PA11 and speaking with you. Let me take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the progress so far achieved by the FCPF. We recognize the importance of all REDD+ stakeholders in the FCPF process and endorse that FCPF has always realized and encouraged time to time recommendations of CSOs, IPs and Women Groups in order to ensure a significant social participation by mobilizing and allocating more funds towards this aspect, as were emphasized particularly during PA9 in the Southern CSOs official statement and generally remained under discussion over time. We are confident that such a social investment venture of FCPF would prove to be more rationale, timely, transparent, accountable and inclusive in order to engage actively the social capital important for REDD+ endeavors.

We are pleased that, during the period PA10 and PA11, FCPF has tried to crystalize practical measures towards social capital in the process. If we take account of success since the REDD+ was introduced then we found that stakeholders are now engaged to an extent where success of our frustrating efforts would bring results indeed. For this, the FMT team, respective governments of REDD+ and the donor countries, and observers from Civil Society organizations, Indigenous Peoples, Women Groups and Local Communities deserve all credit indeed, for continued efforts and commitment to put into practice the alternatives means with new trends in forestry sector to meet the global challenge of climate change.

Gender mainstreaming is a very important factor in the REDD+ Process. We recall the achievement of the first phase in mainstreaming gender which has seen an average of 57% women directly benefitting from the REDD+ process due to direct funding to women-led organizations at the local level. We are thankful that gender is becoming more and more important in the PC and we are hopeful that the additional budget will raise the place of women and their role in the REDD+ process.

Under the previous implementation period, we have observed enhanced capacities and engagement of CSOs and LCs at national REDD+ processes, strengthened linkages, improved communication and better working relationships between National REDD+ secretariats and Civil Society Organizations, as well as stronger avenues/platform for lesson learning from national engagement among CSOs at regional exchanges.

We express our gratitude to the FCPF PA and PC for overall commitment and enhanced support, as observed during the progress period PA10 and PA11, towards Capacity Building Programme for Southern Civil Society and local communities. This would help in scaling up the results already achieved under the current phase and further improving the

capacities of Civil Society and Local Communities so as to engage robustly and meaningfully in the REDD+ processes.

Besides, we also welcome and support the allocation of some of the unallocated funds in the FCPF readiness fund to expand the capacity building support for CSOs and IPs on readiness and ER programmes and to further support the global and regional meetings/dialogues to share lessons learned and best practices on key REDD+ themes. Therefore, we request to supplement the existing window with a reasonable amount, preferably more than 2.5 million US\$, from un-allocated funds so as to ensure effective dialogues and lessons sharing across the three regions.

Taking cognizance of the transition between readiness and implementation phases, we call upon the FCPF to consider establishing a long-term Civil Society/IP capacity building and livelihoods support programme that will sustain the effort and gains achieved in the subsequent REDD+ demonstration and implementation phases. The expertise gained from the Capacity building programme are greatly relevant and required in the monitoring and tracking the ER trading programmes and mechanisms such as non-carbon benefits (NCBs) and Community Based Monitoring Information Systems (CBMIS) for Southern CSOs under the REDD+ RBP of the Carbon Fund.

With this, I thank you all and wish good-luck for future success of REDD+.