

Draft Statement by Thomas Lingard, Global Advocacy Director, Unilever to the UNFCCC, ADP Technical Experts Meeting on Land Use Change

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- Thank you very much for the opportunity to participate in this meeting.
- I would like to offer a perspective from private sector. It relates to a partnership approach to reducing emissions by ending deforestation in tropical commodity supply chains.
- The company I represent – Unilever - has an ambitious target to source 100% of its agricultural raw materials sustainably by 2020.
- But our sustainability ambitions extend beyond our own supply chain, because no one organisation can address the complex causes of deforestation alone.
- Instead this has to be done at a system level.
- Our goal is therefore to transform the entire industry.
- And we are doing this through our global industry body the Consumer Goods Forum.
- CGF made up of the world's biggest brands and retailers with combined revenues of three trillion dollars.
- The board of the CGF issued a statement in 2010 committing to mobilise the resources of its 400 members to help achieve zero net deforestation by 2020.
- This was a clear signal to the suppliers of these companies. It remains a powerful lever for change, but it is not the only one.
- Without collaboration from governments, growers, producers and civil society, progress will be slow, if not impossible.
- This realisation led to the formation of the Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA).
- Launched at Rio+20 in 2012, the alliance has brought CGF members together with the governments of the US, the United Kingdom, Norway, the Netherlands, Indonesia and Liberia; as well as NGOs such as WWF, WRI and Rainforest Alliance.
- TFA provides a space to broker public-private action and facilitate knowledge exchange.
- Geographically it focuses on deforestation in South East Asia, Central and West Africa and regions of South America;

- It also focuses on 4 priority commodities:
- Palm oil, soy, beef, paper & pulp.
- It targets priority actions with most potential to deliver at scale.
- We believe that TFA has the potential to be game-changer because of its scale and reach, and because of a time bound focus on delivering action by 2020.
- It has a combination of country specific and cross-cutting work programmes, which address issues of specific crops in specific countries.
- It also promotes the sharing of best practices on common issues such as land use, land tenure, working with smallholders and promoting use of degraded lands.
- Central to the TFA work is the understanding that each actor plays a different role.
- The CGF members can create the market for zero deforestation products.
- Governments can ensure their own agricultural and industrial sectors are well placed to take advantage of these new markets by creating the right frameworks and incentives for these commodities to be produced sustainably within their jurisdictions.
- Unilever and the other members of the Consumer Goods Forum stand ready to work with interested governments to further accelerate their work on ending deforestation linked to commodity supply chains, and reducing a significant source of emissions in the pre-2020 period.
- Thank you