

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ESTABLISHING A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON FORESTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES</b> <b>CONCEPT NOTE ON THE PARIS FORESTS MEETING – 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2010</b></p>
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## **Why meetings on tropical forests?**

### **Context**

Under the UNFCCC negotiations, considerable progress has been made on the issue of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD-plus). This includes the Bali Action Plan's call for early action and the COP15 decision from Copenhagen on methodological guidance for activities relating to REDD-plus. The negotiations on a REDD-plus mechanism, meanwhile, came close to completion.

The Copenhagen Accord recognizes "the need to provide positive incentives to such actions through the **immediate establishment of a mechanism including REDD-plus**, to enable the mobilization of financial resources from developed countries."

The Accord also provides that developed countries will commit early financing to fighting climate change in developing countries up to USD 30Bn over 2010-2012. In this context, Australia, France, Japan, Norway, the USA, and the UK have announced that they would allocate around **USD 3.5Bn** to fighting deforestation in developing countries over 2010-2012.

On the road **from Copenhagen to COP16 in Mexico and beyond, a global partnership could be established to support developing countries in reducing deforestation and forest degradation**. A political impulse should be given to start implementation of commitments and to guide technical discussions. In this context, and in consultation with a broad segment of developing and developed countries, **France and Norway** will host two meetings to facilitate an open and inclusive process towards this common goal. **The first meeting will take place in Paris on March 11<sup>th</sup>, the second will be in Oslo a few months later.**

### **Objectives**

The objective is to **facilitate the establishment of an Interim REDD-plus Partnership Arrangement**. The partnership would coordinate the implementation of actions and early funding for forestry and climate, as announced in Copenhagen, in an efficient and effective way. It could be integrated into the global climate action architecture under the UNFCCC when and if deemed appropriate by the Parties.

**A key element of the Interim REDD-plus Partnership Arrangement could be support for readiness and capacity building, in particular for monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of mitigation actions in developing countries, while promoting result-based demonstration activities following existing guidance under the UNFCCC.** The experiences gained by the partnership could significantly advance negotiations leading up to the future climate regime.

Ministerial discussions are also needed to **further talks on the future REDD-plus mechanism under the UNFCCC**, to consolidate those elements that have already been achieved by the negotiations and, on that basis, facilitate convergence of the ministers' views around the broad lines of this mechanism.

### **The Paris meeting's objectives**

**The Paris meeting is a political meeting which should facilitate the operationalization and implementation of the Copenhagen Accord on forestry, on a shared and collaborative basis.**

The Paris meeting shall seek to advance global efforts to fight deforestation by:

- 1) Strengthening and, where possible, enhancing early financing pledges made in Copenhagen,
- 2) Considering the best way forward to establish an Interim REDD-plus Partnership Arrangement which ensures the effective coordination of early financing actions and funding across the various countries,
- 3) Consolidating elements already achieved by the negotiation and, on that basis, contributing to the convergence of the ministers' views around the broad lines of the REDD-plus mechanism.