



**Aichi-Nagoya Ministerial Meeting of the REDD-plus Partnership
Nagoya, Japan, 26 October 2010**

**Statement by Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to briefly address you at this Ministerial Meeting.

Let me start by thanking the co-chairs and partners for the work done over so many years. Your work is urgent, because we all know that forest destruction and degradation continues at an alarming rate, to the detriment of the climate, to the detriment of biodiversity, to the detriment of the people who depend on forests for their livelihoods, and ultimately to the detriment of humankind.

While recognizing the importance of addressing the potential role of forests in the context of climate change mitigation, we have to acknowledge the complexity of the related issues, given, on the one hand, the multiple drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and on the other, the potential multiple benefits that can result from well-designed actions.

It is evident that resources are urgently needed for capacity-building, technology transfer, strengthening governance, and enforcement and demonstration activities to prepare developing countries to take effective actions to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

I am glad to see that decisions already taken by Parties under the Climate Convention in Bali and Copenhagen to support developing countries in this challenge are starting to be implemented by Parties through different forms of cooperation, including south-south initiatives.

In that regard, the REDD+ Partnership constitutes a promising step on the road to a comprehensive, long-term response to how forests in developing countries can contribute to a global climate change solution, as well as to biodiversity conservation.

But in order to do so effectively, a number of key issues need to be taken into account:

Developing countries' capacities need to be strengthened, both in terms of strategy planning, as well as in terms of institutions, while promoting the ownership and long-term plans and policies.

Under the Partnership, a “Fast-track” funding up to 2012 has been pledged to support the work of the developing countries. This is very encouraging, but needs to be inclusive and transparent.

As Parties reiteratively highlighted, the actions and support need to be well coordinated at all levels. To this end, there needs to be full transparency of both support and actions by all actors. And work needs to be fully inclusive.

It is critical that these ongoing and planned efforts are carefully documented to ensure that they will assist in developing solid long-term approaches to REDD+. In that regard, I am glad to see that one of the goals of the Partnership is the development of a database.

Finally, but most importantly, critical insight is needed on how to best include indigenous people and people who depend directly on forests for their livelihoods.

Let me conclude by expressing my confidence that this global partnership could represent a major opportunity to drive real action on REDD+ and to lay a solid foundation for enhanced action going forward.

I encourage you to keep the negotiations under the UNFCCC informed of progress under this important initiative, in order to maximize your impact on those negotiations.

Thank you.
