

# **COALITION FOR RAINFOREST NATIONS**

## **Opening Statement COP18**

**Doha, 26 November 2012**

Thank you Mr. President,

PNG has the honour to speak on behalf of the 52 countries of the Coalition for Rainforest Nations, of which the following have endorsed this statement: *Belize, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Kenya, Laos PDR, Liberia, Nigeria, Panama, Republic of Congo, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Togo, Uganda and Vietnam.*

Mr. President, we support the statement made by the distinguished delegate from Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President, our Coalition fully believes that we can and we must achieve a comprehensive and balanced package here in Doha. In order to conclude our work under AWG-LCA, this package must include the appropriate finalization of all elements of the Bali Action Plan.

Mr. President, as the forest sector has the potential for significant and cost effective climate change mitigation, this package should include a clear and robust agreement on the institutional arrangements for financing REDD+ activities. A REDD+ Committee should be launched in Doha. Similar to the Adaptation and Technology Committee, the REDD+ Committee should assist developing country Parties in receiving financial and technical support and coordinate all existing REDD+ finance related initiatives under the Convention.

Furthermore Mr. President, a decision is urgently needed on the new market based mechanism covering the forest sector within a national accounting system to preserve environmental integrity. On the framework for various approaches, we call for a decision ensuring that various approaches meet common standards by delivering real, permanent and additional emissions reductions subject to an agreed approval procedure.

We are also determined to finalize all methodological elements that will allow for the prompt start of the implementation of REDD+

activities in rainforest nations. Considering present atmospheric carbon pushing over 390ppm, we cannot continue to delay implementation of REDD+ actions by revisiting already agreed issue over-and-over. It reminds many of us of the Hollywood movie 'Groundhog Day' – each day we seem to be again talking about the exact same things as the day before.

Mr. President, concerning the ADP we call for the adoption of a clear and ambitious action plan and work programme for activity up to 2015 here in Doha. The work programme should include REDD+ implementation as a primary element. REDD+ offers a great potential to reduce the emissions ambition gap.

Mr. President, after several years of negotiations, REDD+ is now mature and ready to provide the necessary contribution to combating climate change and bridge the ambition gap now and beyond 2020. Maybe the sage words of Voltaire are appropriate here. When it comes to REDD+, 'perfect is the enemy of the good.'

Finally Mr. President, as usual, let me remind you of our readiness and willingness to follow your guidance and work with all Parties with the view to close an ambitious deal here in Doha.

I thank you Mr. President.