

Comments to the Draft Concept Note for the 2015 Forum of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF)

- The Government of Mexico thanks the Standing Committee on Finance for developing the draft concept note for the 2015 Forum focused on forest finance.
- The main objective of it as stated is: “Enhancing coherence and coordination of forest financing”. We believe that the main objective of the forum can be fulfilled if an approach is taken to assess coherence considering the consistency of existing funds and initiatives financing forests in the climate context, as well as the coordination and organization of the current forest climate finance initiatives. In this regard, the specific objectives could reflect more clearly associated topics to support the discussion on coherence and coordination on forest finance.
- The concept note includes as specific objectives to share experiences and knowledge from Parties, financial institutions, the private sector, farmer groups, civil society, community groups and academia. While we believe that sharing experiences is relevant and useful, this discussion should be guided carefully to avoid conversations that had happened already or are taking place in other fora, such as the United Nations Forum on Forests, CBD, etc. The conversations should be focused on climate finance in the context of activities carried out within the forest sector.
- Regarding the scope and topics, we believe that this should be focused on what is established in decision 9/CP.19 paragraph 20 including the ways and means to transfer payments for results-based actions as referred to in decision 1/CP.18, p. 29. We agree that increasing finance is an important issue to discuss, but it is also important to have conversations about how to transfer that finance to the developing countries undertaking forest related actions in the context of climate change, considering that paragraph 5 of decision 9/CP.19 identifies the key role of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in channeling adequate and predictable results-based finance.

Comments to the Working Paper

- While we think it is useful to understand the forest finance landscape, in our view this should be done in the context of climate change. Some initiatives have conducted efforts to map different finance sources including the REDD+Partnership, Forest Trends, Transparency International, etc. It could be helpful to clarify how existing studies are being considered and what are the new elements that the SCF is bringing with this mapping.
- For the above reasons, we suggest synthesizing what is proposed to be section 4 (some parts could be in annexes) and giving a stronger focus and detail to section 5. Section 5 should clearly include information about ways and means to transfer payments for results-based actions for REDD+. It

could take into account existing experiences but also develop on how results-based payments were framed under the Convention and the role of the GCF in channeling this finance.

- Throughout the document we observe that many sources of information are from the CPF. We acknowledge the value of the work done by the CPF and its key role under the UNFF, however we suggest that the SCF takes into consideration other sources of information that are more focused on REDD+ and forests in the context of climate change, including from organizations which have built their expertise around these issues.