**Submission by the Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations Development Programme
and the United Nations Environment Programme
to support the REDD+ Activities
through the UN-REDD Programme**

1.   In response to the invitation of the eight meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance of the UNFCCC to request information and case studies to inform the design of the third SCF Forum on coherence and coordination for financing forests, the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD Programme) and its three Agencies, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission on their six-year experience in providing support to nationally-led REDD+ processes.

2.   The UN-REDD Programme has supported countries in their readiness efforts building on the convening role and technical expertise of FAO, UNDP and UNEP, working guided by the "Delivering as One" approach. The Programme supports nationally led REDD+ processes addressing all elements of UNFCCC decisions on REDD+, in particular decision 1/CP.16 and decisions 9-15/CP.19, together called the Warsaw Framework. In doing this, the UN-REDD Programme has promoted effective stakeholder engagement and national participatory processes, contributing for transparent and inclusive REDD+.

3.   Currently, the Programme supports REDD+ readiness efforts in 58 partner countries, spanning Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America, through two delivery modalities (i) direct support to the national design and implementation of comprehensive REDD+ readiness REDD+ through National Programmes; and (ii) development of guidelines, approaches and methodologies, as well as country specific support, south-south cooperation and knowledge management through the Support to National REDD+ Action (SNA.) By November 2014, the total UN-REDD Programme had mobilized about USD 250 million. Out of the 56 partner countries at the time, the Programme had approved support to 21 countries through national programmes, to 38 countries through targeted support and supported additional countries through backstopping. Guidance was developed and published on technical approaches to MRV and monitoring, forest reference levels/forest emission levels, governance, stakeholder engagement, multiple benefits for REDD+, green economy and knowledge management.

4.   Lessons learned in six years supporting countries in their readiness efforts has demonstrated that a tailored approach is required to respond to the different needs of each country, especially for those countries that have advanced readiness through different sources of support, in some cases multiple sources. Experience shows that to make critical progress on REDD+, it needs to

be more strongly embedded into other forest-related national processes and have substantial engagement with other related sectors.

5.   As the Programme advances its collaboration with countries for readiness on REDD+, it has also learned that timely and predictable funding alongside with technical support and capacity building seems critical to unlock the structural transformation required for effective REDD+. In addition funding for regional cooperation, building networks capable of increasing resilience of capacities and knowledge built seems to contribute towards a more efficient and sustainable REDD+.

6.   The evolving REDD+ landscape has brought up increasing needs for coordination. Coordination of multiple sources   of finance, as well as, good understanding of the diversity of approaches to REDD+ to allow for well informed decisions, seems fundamental at a country level. The UNFCCC decisions and definition of requirements to access REDD+ finance, especially through decision 9/CP.19, seems to have opened an opportunity for countries to align received support towards national objectives leading to successful implementation of actions and possibilities of results-based bilateral or multilateral agreements. Predictable finance, accompanied by technical support, respecting countries absorptive capacities and the learning opportunities within the UNFCCC process, seems to be needed for solid and consistent REDD+ progress.

7.   It is acknowledged results based payments are fundamental to make REDD+ concrete. However, funding of readiness and of policies and measures that underpin REDD+ implementation seems to be equally necessary and important to deliver sustainable results.

8.   Building on the lessons learned, the UN-REDD Programme is currently in the process of developing its 2016-2020 Strategic Framework for providing continued support to countries. The Programme's development goal aims at *reducing emissions and enhance carbon stocks from forests while contributing to national sustainable development*. Three programme impacts are expected: (i) Increased effective participation and recognition in the UNFCCC process [Readiness and beyond]; (ii) Increased results-based payments (RBPs); and (iii) Enhanced capacities to support achievement of additional benefits of REDD+, including joint adaptation and mitigation benefits.

9.   The Programme's work under expected impact *increased results-based payments*, will seek greater coordination and coherence with the decisions of the Green Climate Fund Board as it, develops operating modalities and procedures to provide results based payments, as requested by the Parties to the COP, through decision 9/CP.19. Additionally, the most recent decision -/COP.20 *Report of the Green Climate Fund to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Green Climate Fund* requested the GCF to consider all the relevant decisions to REDD+ including decisions 1/CP.16, 2/CP.17, 12/CP.17 and decisions 9/CP.19, 10/CP.19, 11/CP.19, 12/CP.19, 13/CP.19, 14/CP.19 and 15/CP.19. The Programme's support to countries will promote continued coherence and coordination with not only the GCF, but also other mechanisms and entities that are providing support and assistance to countries to enable them to implement their results based actions in order for them to access results-based payments.