

Submission by

Ghana

Views on how to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation as referred to in paragraph 71c of decision 1/CP.16

29 February 2012

1. The SBSTA at its 35th session invited Parties to submit their views on issues identified in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 72 and appendix II, in particular on how to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and on robust and transparent national forest monitoring systems as referred to in paragraph 71c of that decision¹.

2. For this purpose the Coalition for Rainforest Nations and a number of like-minded developing countries met in London, England to consider issues related to paragraph 1 above. This submission has been prepared to reflect those discussions and views from many other developing country Parties on the same issues.

3. The submission of views to SBSTA35 made on 19 September 2011 by Belize, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Gabon, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, Kenya, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Congo, Solomon Islands, Togo and Uganda on modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16 included in document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/MISC.7 should be recalled.

4. **Addressing the drivers of deforestation in the context of sustainable development:** In accordance with Article 3, paragraph 4 of the Convention, Parties have a right to, and should, promote sustainable development. The Parties have requested developing country Parties to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, in accordance with national circumstances and capabilities, when developing and implementing their national strategies or action plans². Within this context, the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation should be addressed by developing country Parties at the national level.

5. **National REDD+ Plans:** Subject to the provision of adequate financial support, developing country Parties are encouraged to develop national plans covering all relevant sectors of the economy. Domestically and internationally, the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation should be identified within the national REDD+ plans as appropriate. Developing country Parties should also identify the impacts of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation on forested lands, while considering the contribution to national incomes and economic development, and develop the policies, incentives and funding needed to address each of them.

6. **Paper on the International Drivers:** The SBSTA may request the UNFCCC Secretariat to prepare a technical paper identifying the key international drivers impacting land use change, including, inter-alia, agriculture, mining, construction, transportation, etc., and further estimating the scale of their respective impacts on forested lands and their contribution to sustainable development in developing country Parties.

7. **International Forums:** The Parties should identify existing forums outside the UNFCCC, such as industry forums, and advocate new industry forums where none exist, to exchange views with the relevant stakeholders associated with each international driver of

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2011/L.25, paragraph 5.

² Decisions 4/CP.15 and 1/CP.16.

deforestation and forest degradation with the view to identifying policies to reduce the associated deforestation and forest degradation.