

SUBMISSION BY IRELAND AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES.

This submission is supported by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia.

Dublin, 27 May 2013

Subject: Policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

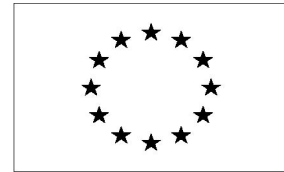
The EU submitted views in March 2013 on **support for REDD+ implementation and coordination** thereof, in accordance with §36 of Decision 1/CP.18 (FCCC/SB/2013/MISC.3). Taking stock of the outcome of the ADP workshop on opportunities for mitigation and adaptation related to land use¹ held in Bonn on May 1st, 2013, the EU wishes to outline its expectations on the range of **other REDD+ issues on the UNFCCC agenda for 2013**. As stated in our previous submission, the EU aims to contribute to the swift and successful completion of the ambitious REDD+ work programmes in 2013. The amount of work, overlap and fragmentation of land use related issues implies that Parties need to prioritise, streamline and cluster their work across the different work programmes in order to scale up ambition pre-2020 and to establish the basis for land use opportunities in fighting climate change for the post-2020 regime, including REDD+. In this regard, finalising the methodological guidance under the SBSTA is an immediate priority that would provide clear signals for the implementation and mobilisation of support for REDD+.

Item: Modalities for national forest monitoring systems + Measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions and removals (SBSTA)

The text contained in annex of SBSTA 37 conclusions (FCCC/SBSTA/2012/L.31) reflects a good compromise on many of the issues. It could be forwarded for adoption by the COP with minor modifications:

- (i) Clean up multiple references to the need for support throughout the text and address it once in the chapeau,
- (ii) Clarify that the provision of results-based support requires a qualified, independent and international verification of results referred to in decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 64:
 - a. to guarantee transparency and comparability, hence fair and efficient allocation of

¹ http://unfccc.int/files/bodies/awg/application/pdf/adp2_worskstream2_land_use_facilitator.pdf



resources, between REDD+ countries; and

- b. to provide evidence of meaningful, lasting and transparent mitigation in order to facilitate resource mobilisation for REDD+.

Consistent processes are needed under the UNFCCC for the review of forest-related emissions/removals and reference levels (see next item below). As a consequence, Parties should work on the basis of §21-22 of the text.

Item: Guidance for the technical assessment of the proposed reference levels (SBSTA)

Recognising that participation into REDD+ is voluntary and that the establishment of a reference level is a responsibility of the Party, the technical assessment should be carried out by an independent team of experts under the auspices of the UNFCCC in consultation with the Party and should result in a summary report. The team of technical experts should assess whether the information on reference levels has been provided in accordance with the guidelines for submission of information on reference levels as contained in the annex to decision 12/CP.17 and whether the information is consistent with each country's greenhouse gas inventories. The summary reports should be made publicly available on the UNFCCC REDD web platform.

Following the technical assessments, proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels should be forwarded to the COP for further consideration and possible adoption. For REDD+ to be a credible mitigation option, the aggregation of expected emission reductions due to REDD+ should amount to a trajectory of slowing, halting and reversing global forest GHG emissions before 2030.

The EU has proposed draft decision text on this matter in Appendix I of its earlier submission contained in FCCC/SBSTA/2011/MISC.7.

Item: Timing and frequency of presentations of the summary of information on safeguards + Further guidance for informing on safeguards (SBSTA)

This information on how safeguards are addressed and respected throughout the design and implementation of all REDD+ phases should be provided as part of biennial update reports. As a consequence, the frequency would be 2 years for countries voluntarily willing to participate in REDD+, with extended flexibility for Small Island Developing States and the least developed country Parties. Such frequency is required to follow up on the pace of national policy developments and implementation measures, while avoiding an excessive administrative burden on REDD+ country governments.

A core set of information requirements, common for all countries, should be agreed to ensure transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effectiveness. In that respect, the EU has proposed a draft template for providing the required summary information in the submission from Denmark on behalf of the EU and its Member States contained in FCCC/SBSTA/2012/MISC.1.



The Collaborative Partnership on Forests has carried out useful work on ways to reduce the forest-related reporting burden on countries through streamlining reporting requirements across international agreements and processes, increasing data comparability and compatibility, and facilitating the accessibility and flows of existing information. The SBSTA should consider how the outcomes of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests work could be used in relation to REDD+ reporting.

Item: Modalities and procedures for financing results-based actions / Ways and means to transfer payments for results-based actions (COP work programme)

The following issues should be addressed under this item:

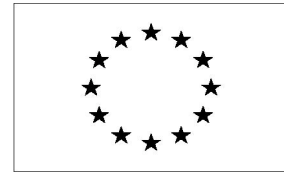
- A summary of participation requirements and enabling conditions based on earlier decisions;
- The relationship between reference levels used to assess emission reductions and incentive levels used for results-based finance (see non-paper circulated by the EU in November 2012);
- The need to record and track REDD+ finance and actions as well as the issuance, transfer, buffering or cancellation of results from the implementation of REDD+ activities by Parties, in order to avoid double counting and to maintain environmental integrity;
- Clarify that results-based finance will be provided but only in the context of a qualified, independent and international verification of results.
- An invitation to operating entities of the financial mechanism of the Convention to take into account relevant COP decisions when supporting REDD+ results-based actions.

Item: Ways to improve the coordination of results-based finance / Improve the coordination of support and consider existing institutional arrangements or potential governance alternatives (COP work programme + Joint SBSTA/SBI work programme)

See submission from Ireland on behalf of the EU and its Member States contained in FCCC/SB/2013/MISC.3.

Item: How non-market-based approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests, could be developed (SBSTA)

Governments, civil societies, the private sector and the donor community should be encouraged to bring together mitigation and adaptation considerations in the context of developing national REDD+ strategies or action plans, together with other relevant sustainable development considerations such as the complex and interconnected challenges of economic and social development, poverty alleviation, environmental integrity and sustainability, food/water/energy security and agriculture, combating



desertification and land degradation, conservation of biodiversity, watershed protection and disaster risk reduction.

REDD+ country governments can improve the mobilisation of finance by integrating a combination of different and innovative financing approaches, including the creation of national forest funds, national investment portfolios, and/or development of national forest financing strategies or equivalent strategies, and identify suitable opportunities for financing at the national level. Consulting with possible investors in land planning and in the design of national reference levels could also increase the credibility of the latter. In this context REDD+ countries could draw upon the work on innovative financing mechanisms carried out under the CBD.

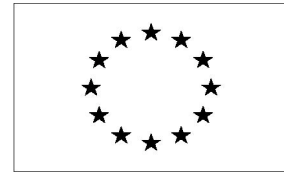
With respect to mobilising international public funding, REDD+ countries whose focus is on integrating mitigation and adaptation actions into their REDD+ strategies could mobilise and blend a combination of adaptation-related and mitigation-related support for the implementation of such comprehensive strategies.

Item: Addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation (SBSTA)

According to the FAO, meeting the needs of a growing population requires a 60% increase in agricultural production by 2050, but this has to happen in "a more sustainable way". Increasing the resilience of ecosystems, improving resource efficiency and working towards a sustainable intensification in agriculture are critical to, amongst others, food security and REDD+.

Causes of deforestation and forest degradation operate at various levels, from local to domestic and global markets. The extent to which domestic and foreign demand drive deforestation and forest degradation can be primarily influenced by national circumstances, including insufficient law enforcement and institutional capacities (notably as regards governance and tenure). In this regard, drivers of deforestation and forest degradation should first be identified and prioritised at national level in a transparent and participatory manner.

At the same time, ways to reduce the pressure on forests should also be identified and addressed in consumer countries. The EU is committed to develop specific initiatives to address the impact of the EU consumption and production patterns on natural resources. For example we have policies in place to address its responsibility as a consumer towards illegal logging in third countries. The EU Action Plan on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT), Voluntary Partnership Agreements with timber trade partners and the EU Timber Regulation provide a number of measures to prevent illegal timber products to access the EU market, to improve the supply of legal timber and to promote the demand for responsible wood and wood products. The development of policies to control the impacts of the overall demand for products which may drive deforestation and degradation must be seen as an integral and key component of international efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation.



Item: Methodological issues related to non-carbon benefits + Ways to incentivise non-carbon benefits (SBSTA / COP work programme)

Under this item, the EU believes that Parties should be encouraged to engage in a valuable exchange of information and views on:

- the meaning of non-carbon benefits and what they include;
- the role of proper national REDD+ strategies/action plans and safeguard information systems to promote non-carbon benefits;
- the role of other policy measures in delivering non-carbon benefits;
- the latest developments and research findings on the assessment of non-carbon benefits, current challenges and long term potential and the opportunity to encourage further work on consolidating the knowledge basis on the matter;
- the mobilisation and tracking of other sources of finance for the promotion non-carbon benefits;
- lessons learned on payments for ecosystem services and on experiences with voluntary market standards;
- possibilities to incentivise non-carbon benefits by other means than direct payments; and,
- how non-carbon benefits may be in the interest of individual Parties and/or of other multilateral agreements and processes, taking into account that direct payments for non-carbon benefits are not directly related to the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC.