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PRESS RELEASE

Brazil Paves Way for Better Protection of Forests in Developing Countries

Key Data on Emission Reductions from Forest Sector Handed Over to UNFCCC Secretariat

(Bonn, 6 June 2014) – The government of Brazil has taken an important step towards improved national and global forest and climate protection.

Today it formally submitted key information and data on the status of its greenhouse gas emission reductions in the forest sector to the secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The information and data constitutes the international basis to establish Brazil's "forest reference emission level" (FREL). Reference levels constitute benchmarks to assess the performance of developing countries in the implementation of REDD+ activities.

REDD+ , which is "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation", establishes a financial value for maintaining carbon stored in forests by using a performance-based approach.

Brazil's announcement is the first time that a developing country has voluntarily submitted such data for assessment by technical experts, coordinated by the UNFCCC secretariat.

At the UN Climate Change Conference in Warsaw last year, governments agreed on a set of decisions on incentives to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation – the "Warsaw Framework for REDD+". It includes eligibility requirements for accessing payments for REDD+ actions. Reference levels are one of these requirements.

The decisions were the culmination of 7 years of work, and their agreement came as a clear breakthrough for action on climate change.

At an event during the UNFCCC's June sessions in Bonn, Brazilian Head of Delegation, Minister Raphael Azeredo, said: "The adoption of a framework for REDD+ at the UN Climate Change Conference in Warsaw last year was a turning point. It successfully concluded negotiations and started a new phase for REDD+, focused on implementation under the Convention. We are pleased that Brazil's submission of a forest reference emission level in the Amazon biome symbolizes the beginning of this new phase."



“REDD+ is key to unlocking the forest mitigation potential in many developing countries. We now hope developed countries will demonstrate their engagement with REDD+ by scaling up financial support for results based actions,” he said.

Accepting the data, UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres said: “I commend the leadership of Brazil for this step forward. This is a further signal of countries’ commitments to address the drivers of climate change at the domestic level ahead of the new universal climate agreement in Paris in 2015, which must be consistent with domestic possibilities and globally responsible.”

Action on forests is crucial for climate ambition. Global deforestation accounts for more than 20 per cent of the world's CO₂ emissions.

At the ongoing UN Climate Change Conference in Bonn (4-15 June), governments will continue their work to consider immediate practical policies and actions that further incentivize efforts to reduce or limit emissions and adapt to existing climate impacts.

Technical Expert Meetings during the second week of the session will concentrate on the potential of land use, including forests and agriculture, along with the potential of cities and urban environments.

For more information, please contact:

Nick Nuttall, Coordinator, Communications and Outreach: +49 228 815 1400 (phone), +49 152 0168 4831 (mobile) [nnuttall\(at\)unfccc.int](mailto:nnuttall@unfccc.int)

John Hay, Communications Officer: +49 228 815 1404 (phone), +49 172 258 6944 (mobile) [jhay\(at\)unfccc.int](mailto:jhay@unfccc.int)

Brazilian government contact:

Felipe Ferreira

Deputy Head

Division of Climate, Ozone and Chemical Safety

Ministry of External Relations, Brazil

[felipe.ferreira\(at\)itamaraty.gov.br](mailto:felipe.ferreira@itamaraty.gov.br)

Further information is available at www.mma.gov.br/redd

About the UNFCCC

With 196 Parties, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has near universal membership and is the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol has been ratified by 192 of the UNFCCC Parties. For the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, 37 States, consisting of highly industrialized countries and countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy, have legally binding emission limitation and reduction commitments. In Doha in 2012, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol adopted an amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, which establishes the second commitment period under the Protocol. The ultimate objective of both treaties is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system.



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