

Quick tips for new REDD-plus negotiators from developing countries and others September 2009

This note was prepared by FIELD to assist REDD-plus negotiators who are new to the UNFCCC negotiating process. This note is available in English, French and Spanish at <http://www.field.org.uk/work-areas/climate-change-and-energy/climate-change/redd>. This project is funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

- When you arrive at the meeting venue you can find out what is happening by looking for:
 - The Daily Programme at the documents counter or via www.unfccc.int;
 - ✓ Keep an eye on the electronic screens, usually located in several places at the meeting venue - times and meeting rooms often change during the day;
 - The Earth Negotiations Bulletin daily updates, distributed at the meeting venue and available via www.iisd.ca;
 - Third World Network updates, distributed at the meeting venue and available via www.twinside.org.sg;
 - ECO, which NGOs distribute to share their views, at the meeting venue or via www.climatenetwork.org.
- Countries negotiate in groups, which meet every day. Groups include:
 - G77 and China
 - Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group
 - Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)
 - European Union (EU)
 - Umbrella Group: non-EU developed countries
 - Environmental Integrity Group: Mexico, Republic of Korea, Switzerland
 - Coalition for Rainforest Nations
- The five 'UN groups' listed below are mainly used when electing officers, such as Chairs and Vice Chairs of UNFCCC bodies:
 - African countries;
 - Asian countries;
 - Eastern European countries,
 - Latin American and the Caribbean countries; and
 - Western European and Other countries.
- If the G77 and China or another group that your country belongs to agrees on a position, it is not appropriate to make a statement in the negotiations that disagrees with the group's position. You need to make your views known in the group meeting.
- The main body for REDD-plus negotiations, the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) is mandated to reach an 'agreed outcome' (which could be legally binding or not) on strengthened implementation of the UNFCCC by December 2009. The AWG-LCA deals with issues related to the UNFCCC, not the Kyoto Protocol.
- The basis for the AWG-LCA negotiations is the 'Bali Action Plan', adopted in December 2007 as decision 1/CP.13 of the Conference of the Parties (COP). Paragraph 1(b)(iii) addresses REDD-plus:
 - '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;

- Decision 2/CP.13, also adopted in December 2007, specifically addresses REDD-plus, including requesting the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) to undertake work on methodological issues. SBSTA is considering a draft decision for adoption by COP15 in December.
- Issues under consideration in the AWG-LCA have implications for the Kyoto Protocol-related negotiations (see below) and vice versa, but many developing countries have emphasised keeping the two negotiating processes, which have different mandates, separate. This relates to concerns about proposals by developed countries that developing countries should take on new emissions limitation commitments.
- The Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) is concerned with new emissions reduction targets for developed countries, but the negotiations have links to the REDD-plus negotiations. For example, will developed countries be able to rely on REDD-plus to help reach their emissions reduction targets? The AWG-KP is also considering new rules for Land use, Land-use Change and Forestry (LULUCF), which may have implications for REDD-plus (for example, concerning definitions of terms).
- There is strong interest in reaching an agreement on REDD-plus, but many questions remain to be resolved. For example: the scope (should REDD-plus be limited to forests only?) and scale (national or sub-national?); whether REDD-plus actions should form part of NAMAs (see below); if financing for REDD-plus should rely on markets or on public funds; how to involve indigenous peoples and local communities; and questions related to reference emission levels and reference levels, permanence and leakage.

Note: A helpful UNFCCC glossary is available in English at http://unfccc.int/essential_background/glossary/items/3666.php

English REDD-plus Mini Glossary	
AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
ARD	Afforestation, Reforestation, Deforestation
BAP	Bali Action Plan (COP decision 1/CP.13)
BAU	Business-as-usual
CERs	Certified Emission Reductions from Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects
LULUCF	Land use, Land-use Change and Forestry
MRV	Measurable, reportable and verifiable
NAMAs	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (see Bali Action Plan, paragraph 1(b)(ii))
NAPAs	National Adaptation Programmes of Action
SDPAMs	Sustainable Development Policies and Measures

If you note any errors in translation or have any comments on this note please let us know at field@field.org.uk.