Recent Outcomes and Current Status of UNFCCC Negotiations

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July 30 ARB Meeting
UNFCCC Negotiations: Background

• The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):
  – Sets overall framework for intergovernmental efforts to tackle climate change
  – Adopted in 1992, ratified by 189 countries

• The Kyoto Protocol (KP):
  – Sets binding targets for reducing GHGs from 1990 levels over a 5-year period (2008-2012) in Annex I countries
  – Post-2012 KP negotiations are ongoing

• The Bali Action Plan (BAP):
  – COP 13 in Bali 2007 – Decision to launch a comprehensive process for full implementation of the convention “up to and beyond 2012”
    • view to adopt a decision at the end of 2009 (COP 15 in Copenhagen)
    • This becomes the LCA (Long-term Cooperative Action) track
Background: REDD+ from Bali to Copenhagen

LCA Track (BAP)
- Proposals over time by Parties on the role of REDD+ under the LCA
- Over 2 years, REDD+ is an important part of various versions of negotiating text

SBSTA Track (Technical Guidance)
- Technical work program
  - Workshops
  - Submissions
- Extension of work program
  - Expert meetings
    - Forest degradation
    - Reference levels
- Decision on methodological guidance

Copenhagen Outcome

Considered draft REDD+ decision

M. Sanz-Sanchez, UNFCCC
Copenhagen Accord: Relevant Highlights

• Developing countries to implement mitigation actions (NAMAs – Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions)
  – NAMAs seeking support will be recorded in a registry
  – subject to international MRV (Monitoring, Reporting and Verification)

• Recognizes the crucial role of REDD+
  – Calls for immediate establishment of a mechanism to mobilize financial resources
  – Calls for substantial REDD+ financing

• Includes a decision to pursue use of market mechanisms
REDD+ Technical Guidance: Decision in Copenhagen

- Use the most recent IPCC guidance and guidelines, as adopted or encouraged, as a basis for estimation

- Establish robust and transparent national forest monitoring systems and, if appropriate, sub-national systems, as part of national monitoring systems

- Use a combination of remote sensing and ground-based forest carbon inventory approaches

- Reference levels should be established transparently taking into account historic data and adjusting for national circumstances, in accordance with relevant COP decisions

- Results should be made available and be suitable for review
Copenhagen: Toward a Detailed REDD+ Decision under LCA

• Though not adopted, Parties generally aligned on:
  – scope of REDD+
  – core elements that need to be developed if a Party wants to participate in REDD:
    – Phased approach
  – Addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and other issues like land tenure and stakeholder participation
Copenhagen: Toward a Detailed REDD+ Decision under LCA

- Identified a need to develop rules/guidelines for:
  - setting reference emission levels
  - establishing national forest monitoring systems
  - MRV of emissions and removals, forest C stocks, changes in forest C stocks and area from REDD+ activities
  - MRV of support provided
  - Development and implementation of national/subnational strategies and action plans
Unresolved Issues

• Financing for REDD+ activities
  – non-market, market, both

• Whether REDD+ would be part of NAMAs or a stand-alone framework/mechanism

• The inclusion of subnational level REDD+
  – Most Parties supportive of subnational scale see it as an interim step towards national level
Most Recent REDD+ Developments in the UNFCCC

- REDD expert meeting held on enhancing UNFCCC coordination of capacity-building

- Brief technical conclusions at June Bonn session
  - Focused on facilitation of capacity-building

- Limited formal negotiating time given to REDD+ under LCA
  - Needs to further REDD readiness
  - the use of markets versus non-markets for “full implementation”

- REDD+ Partnership discussions were held informally on the margins of the negotiations
  - Formed at the Oslo Climate and Forest Conference
  - purpose is to improve the effectiveness of fast-start financing and actions on REDD+
Other Relevant Issues Under the UNFCCC: NAMAs

- NAMAs can be broad policy changes and/or programs that aggregate (regionally, nationally) results of specific actions
- Examples of REDD+ related NAMAs:
  - **Brazil**
    - reduced deforestation, biological N fixation, no-till agriculture
  - **Indonesia**
    - sustainable peat land management, reduction in rate of deforestation and land degradation, development of C sequestration projects in forestry and agriculture
  - **Ghana**
    - Enhance rehabilitation of degraded forest land
Other Relevant Issues Under the UNFCCC: Market mechanisms

Pro-market Parties: common principles

• Scaled-up: sectoral, policy-wide, NAMA crediting
  – Support growing but several key countries still voice opposition to such new crediting mechanisms

• Beyond mere offsetting/ensuring net mitigation benefits
  – Refers to developed countries taking on NAMAs and then crediting below (or above) that level
Next Steps Under UNFCCC

• Two more weeks of negotiating time before Cancun
  – Next week (Bonn)
  – October 2010 (China)

• Uncertainty over the timing of a comprehensive agreement
  – Cancun or South Africa (December 2010 or 2011?)

• Earlier advancement of individual issues (e.g., REDD+) a possibility?
Thank You!
Questions?