

Submission by Government of India on Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular Article 2, Article 3, paragraphs 1, 3 and 4, and Article 4, paragraphs 1(a)–(d), 3, 5 and 7,

Recalling the decision 2/CP.13, and draft conclusions proposed by the SBSTA 28 Chair as contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2008/L.12 and SBSTA 29 contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2008/L.23

Acknowledging the contribution of the emissions from deforestation to global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions,

Acknowledging that forest degradation also leads to emissions, and needs to be addressed when reducing emissions from deforestation,

Acknowledging, inter alia, the contribution of forest conservation, maintenance, and enhancement of carbon stocks by sustainable management of forests in reducing anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions,

Recognizing the need of a comprehensive REDD mechanism, encompassing all policy approaches that enhance or save forest carbon, including approach of forest conservation, and increase in forest cover due to sustainable management of forests, and that of reducing deforestation and degradation,

Recognizing that efforts and actions to reduce deforestation, and to maintain and conserve forest carbon stocks **including their enhancement due to sustainable management of forests** in developing countries are already being taken,

Recognizing the complexities, efforts of communities, and high opportunity cost involved in stabilization, maintenance, and conservation of forest cover in diverse national circumstances,

Recognizing* the need of encouraging all activities including reduction in deforestation, and stabilization, maintenance, and conservation of forest carbon stocks including their enhancement due to **increase in forest cover and/or sustainable management of forests in order to reduce emissions and thereby helping to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention,*

Affirming the urgent need to take further meaningful action encompassing all relevant activities to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation in developing countries,

Noting that **all activities resulting in** sustainable reduction in emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, **including conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks** in developing countries require stable and predictable availability of resources,

Recognizing that reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation **through activities resulting in reduction in deforestation, maintenance and conservation of forest carbon stocks including their enhancement due to **increase in forest cover and/or sustainable management of forests**** in developing countries can promote co-benefits and may complement the aims and objectives of other relevant international conventions and agreements,

Recognizing also that the needs of local and indigenous communities should be addressed when action is taken to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation,

1. *Invites* Parties to further strengthen and support ongoing efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, **by reducing deforestation, and maintenance and conservation of forest carbon stocks including their enhancement due to **increase in forest cover and/or sustainable management of forests**** on a voluntary basis;

2. *Encourages* all Parties, in a position to do so, to support capacity-building, provide technical assistance, facilitate the transfer of technology to improve, inter alia, data collection, estimation, **monitoring and reporting** of emissions from deforestation,

forest degradation, and maintenance and conservation of forest carbon stocks including their enhancement due to **increase in forest cover and/or** sustainable management of forests, and address the institutional needs of developing countries to undertake the above tasks;

3. *Encourages* developing countries to undertake a programme of work using remote-sensing techniques with minimum ground verification to develop national monitoring systems in order to produce demonstrable, transparent, verifiable, and result oriented estimations in context of paragraphs 5 and 6 below;

4. *Further encourages* developing countries to ascertain reference emission **and removal** levels and bench mark year in the context of national circumstances taking into account reliable historical data;

5. *Decides* that all activities leading to following objectives shall qualify to be acceptable for positive incentives under Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) mechanism:

- (a) Stabilization of forest cover, and thereby forest carbon stocks
- (b) Conservation and maintenance of forest carbon stocks due to sustainable management of forests
- (c) Reduction in deforestation rates
- (d) Enhancement of forest carbon stocks due to sustainable management of forests, and increase in forest cover due to afforestation and reforestation
- (e)

6. *Decides* that methods agreed by the Parties to estimate, measure, monitor and report **status of stabilized forest carbon stocks and/or** changes in forest carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions in respect of activities mentioned in paragraph 5 above shall be applied by developing countries to claim positive incentives,

7. *Decides* that separate financial approaches shall be adopted for providing positive incentives for the two types of carbon stocks under REDD regime as under

- (a) Change in carbon stocks

i) Incremental carbon stocks

ii) Reduced deforestation

(b) Baseline carbon stocks

8. *Decides* that the financial mechanism for providing positive incentives for i) change in carbon stocks, and ii) baseline stocks shall be as under

(a) A market based approach for fluxes with reference to paragraph 7(a) and for actions mentioned in paragraphs 5 (c) and (d) above

(b) A non-market based approach for stocks with reference to paragraph 7(b) and for actions mentioned in paragraphs 5 (a) and (b) above

9. *Invites* Parties, in particular Parties included in Annex II to the Convention, to mobilize resources to operationalize the non-market mechanism

10. *Invites* Parties to establish market-based and non-market based mechanisms for disbursement of positive incentives with reference to paragraph 8 above; and

11. *Decides* that definitions, modalities, rules and guidelines relating to REDD mechanism including establishment of the market and non-market financial mechanisms for disbursement of positive incentives shall be finalized, and placed before the COP in itsth Session.
