

# Statement on behalf of Southern CSOs' Observers

## at the 9th Participants Assembly of the FCPF

(by: Kanwar Muhammad Javed Iqbal, Senior Research Fellow at ISD /CSO Observer Asia-Pacific)

*ISD – the Institute of Sustainable Development (formerly known as SDC – the Sustainable Development Centre) is an independent, non-profit and non-political civil society think-tank on sustainable development, registered in Pakistan under Societies Registration Act, XXI of 1860.*



Ladies and gentlemen, Assalam-o-Alaikum and Good morning!

On behalf of Southern CSOs, let me take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the work so far done by the FCPF. We recognize that the FMT team, respective governments of REDD+ and the donor countries, and observers from Civil Society organizations, Indigenous Peoples, Women Groups and Local Communities deserve all credit indeed, for continued efforts and commitment to put into practice the alternatives means with new trends in forestry sector to meet the global challenge of climate change.

Considering the recent developments, it is pertinent to mention that the Paris Agreement has revitalized our agenda and hoped to remove our frustration with its green-light towards the development of international carbon markets, and also satisfactions to the countries to some extent as most credits will probably be used in the countries of origin.

We would like to appreciate the continuous improvement in the overall programme and recent Self-selection process of CSOs is quite evident for the improved version of electoral method and more transparent and accountable procedure adopted – credit goes to Mr. Lloyd Gamble indeed for maintaining good norms in internal processes of CSOs being the advocate for the same in overall REDD+ regime.

We have pretty hope that the recommendations of the Second Evaluation of the FCPF would be further helpful in strengthening and capacitating the active and more influential role of all observers not only at internal FCPF level but also at individual participating country level.

In a nutshell, during the progress period under discussion, the institutional roles and capabilities have been strengthened and many countries were enabled to increase visibility of forests for important role towards climate threat.

While talking about visibility of forests importance, we cannot ignore the important roles and participations of key stakeholders i.e. local communities, indigenous people, women, youth groups and other civil society actors. During the period, healthy discussions were generated to rationalize the participation of these stakeholders especially with more focus on women and youth in rural context.

However, despite these contributions, we observed that the conditions for such an important participation has been very uneven and one of the challenges is how resources and conditions for the full and effective participation of these stakeholders

are guaranteed in REDD + initiatives at local and country levels. We consider that insufficient amount of funds is the major reason in rationalizing this aspect. Insufficient amount of funds together with timing issues put on stake this important participation and frustration of these stakeholders increase thus consider themselves in a state of helplessness.

Since the REDD+ is advancing towards implementation stage, we need to ensure a significant social participation which would be perhaps not possible without mobilizing and allocating more funds towards this aspect. We do hope that such a social investment venture would be more rationale, timely, transparent, accountable and inclusive.

In the context, we would like to propose and appreciate the allocation and opening of **10 million Dollars** by increasing the existing window towards a new stage of Capacity Building Programme (CBP), which may be put in place on top priority preferably during coming six-month period and we further suggest to avoid any intermediaries become an obstacle to transparency.

It was a matter of great pleasure for all of us when we received a letter few-months ago from Ms. Ellysar Baroudy, Coordinator of the FCPF, that shared submission of proposals of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Costa Rica in the Carbon Fund thus entered into the implementation phase of REDD+ initiative, after several years of preparation and learning.

Considering the entrance to the REDD+ implementation stage, we would like to emphasize that participating REDD+ Governments should gear up efforts for recognition of land rights like Costa Rica, Chile and Nicaragua have positive and significant advancement towards it. Efforts for recognition of rights to the ownership of emission reduction would be healthy sign and a kind of best practice in implementing the policies related to Carbon rights and benefit sharing, without which the forest governance would be undermined with conflicting scenarios.

With this, I thank you all and wish good-luck for future success of REDD+.