

Statement on behalf of Southern CSOs' Observers

at the 10th Participants Assembly of the FCPF

(By: Kanwar Muhammad Javed Iqbal and Mithika Mwenda)

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

It is a matter of great honour indeed to be here and speaking on behalf of Southern CSOs. First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the progress so far achieved by the FCPF. We reaffirm the recognition 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.

During PA9 and PA10 progress period, and this PC should not conclude without a mention of this unfortunate development, we were confronted the threat by US President Donald Trump to dismantle the Paris Agreement, apparently, putting at stake the current global outlook of climate response policies and actions, including the very REDD+ Programme which has made such strides in facilitating forest conservation and protection.

As the people at the frontline of climate change impacts, we find President Trump's action as an opportunity to galvanize like-minded people, governments, US Governors, Private Sector and masses worldwide, and it is our duty to thank the developed countries here which have conveyed their determination to remain tied to the bond that is the Paris Agreement.

In the global conversations on the imperatives of the climate change crisis in the lead-up, during and beyond Paris, the voice of the people - of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities and Women - has been clear – that we have a collective responsibility to preserve the health of the planet for future generations.

Having said that, allow us to appreciate FMT for maintaining continuity and consistency in FCPF processes, despite many risk factors involved towards turbulent carbon market occasioned by frequent bubbling in global policies and processes. The recent mobilization of Togo in FCPF programme, for instance, and the overall progress so far achieved is a positive sign to establish a narrative that the REDD+ would be a success story in almost all parts of the globe. More need to be done, however, in simplifying and demystifying REDD so as to expand its appeal, support, and ownership by communities and countries.

We are delighted that, during the period PA9 and PA10, FCPF has realized concrete measures to ensure a significant social participation by mobilizing and allocating more funds towards this aspect, as were emphasized particularly during PA9 in CSO Southern official statement and generally remained under discussion over time. We do hope that such a social investment venture would be more rationale, timely, transparent, accountable and inclusive.

In the context, it is time to take notice of ensuring strong adherence of social capital at national and sub-national level for which we would like to propose and appreciate FCPF to ensure participation of all stakeholders. We have realized the need that the active participation can only be possible with an active liaison of FCPF FMT at individual country level focal points and producing periodic reports as well as disseminating them at large as a public knowledge. Secondly, there is a need to expedite the outstanding work for disbursement of allocations from the existing window towards Capacity Building Programme (CBP), which may be put into action place on top priority preferably in Asia-Pacific region. We do hope that news regarding recent operationalization of such funds would be instrumental in this regard.

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