

## NGO Observer Remarks to PA4

Thank you Co-chairs,

My name is Josh Lichtenstein, I work for the Bank Information Center, an NGO based in Washington. We have been following the FCPF since the design phase and participating in the meetings since PC3, and give credit to the FMT for supporting the presence of civil society at these meetings, and to the many country representatives for taking our concerns and proposals into account. Stakeholder engagement at all levels, both national and international, consistently leads to more effective and lasting results.

- The FMT will make a proposal to expand support for Southern civil society and indigenous peoples, this is something we strongly support and hope the PA & PC will consider favorably, as we think that having strong participation by Southern CSOs and IP will help make national REDD strategies more effective and sustainable.
- Another issue that the PA/PC will consider at this and following meetings are the standards and criteria for assessing midterm progress reports and the Readiness-Package. This is an issue of utmost importance to civil society—how we will measure the progress that countries are making in getting ready for REDD.
  - We strongly believe that there need to be verifiable indicators that are deemed legitimate with stake and right-holders at the national level, especially civil society and indigenous peoples, and a rigorous assessment process that looks at national readiness efforts on a country-wide basis and not just those activities financed by the FCPF.
  - We understand that all of the problems that exist in the forest sector at the national level, including long standing issues of recognizing rights, of land tenure security, and improving governance, will not be resolved in a 2-3 year period, but we are looking for tangible progress, and clear criteria and indicators that there is sustained political will and financing to solve these problems.
  - We urge the PA to create a contact group coming out of this meeting to prepare a resolution which will clearly define the process, timetable and outputs for the working group on R-package, so that we can move forward in a coordinated and inclusive way.
- Lastly, many in civil society feel that international efforts to coordinate REDD financing and harmonize standards among multilateral and bi-lateral donors, and with national systems, need to be improved with urgency. We urge the PC and FMT to promote a high common standard of safeguards be adopted by other REDD financing entities as an international norm, starting with the FIP and UN-REDD.
  - Resolve sequencing issues with the Carbon Fund, FIP, and other bi-lateral and multilateral investments
  - MDPs/common approach add that potential new Delivery partners need to be thoroughly assessed against the common approach, but before taking on new DPs in the first place, the pilot needs to be evaluated and lessons identified
  - We call on the PC and FMT to make good on the promise to rigorously evaluate the multiple delivery partners' pilot projects.