

Submission by Nepal on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group on issues of adequate and predictable support for the implementation of REDD+ activities, including financial resources, technological support, and institutional arrangements to improve the coordination of this support

The Least Developed Countries Group (LDC Group) welcomes the invitation to submit views on policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (SBSTA/SBI).

LDCs have urgent funding needs to enable them to prepare for and undertake REDD+ actions and despite various international REDD+ initiatives, large gaps remain. Based on UNFCCC Article 4.9, Parties shall take full account of the specific needs and special situations of LDCs in their actions with regard to funding and transfer of technology. This must be reflected in all decisions related to REDD+. The LDC Group calls upon developed countries to take the lead to meet their obligations for financial and technology transfers to the LDCs. While addressing REDD+ activities, national circumstances should be acknowledged and where possible the work of existing institutions and systems of LDCs should be built on.

The LDC Group believes that there is a need for systematic valuation of forests to understand other co-benefits associated with the implementation of REDD+ activities in reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; conservation of carbon stocks; sustainable management of forests; and enhancement of carbon stocks.

To build on the work of LCA, REDD+ should be included in the ADP framework and a time-bound plan should be developed within ADP for the implementation of REDD+ as identified in paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16 including:

- Provision of long-term adequate, predictable, and transparent financial resources for REDD+ phases 1, 2 and 3;
- Provision of technology, and capacity-building to support implementation;
- Institutional arrangements governing REDD+; and
- Adaptation co-benefits of REDD+ actions in improving resilience capacity of communities and forests to climate change as well as other non-carbon benefits should be addressed with provisions of technical and financial support; and
- Provision for LDCs to execute REDD+ actions on the ground as an early mitigation measure and long-term adaptation strategy.

The LDC Group urges for the completion of the proposed REDD+ work programmes in time and consider development of REDD+ methodological guidance for addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation under SBSTA as an urgent priority for the implementation of REDD+ activities.

The LDC Group calls for the establishment of a REDD+ coordination body and REDD+ Advisory Committee that work under the guidance and authority of the COP as the best mechanism to coordinate the support to be provided for the implementation of REDD+ activities. This should, however, be expedited so that the interventions and implementation of result based phase 3 activities are not delayed.

The ongoing SBSTA/SBI work should result in concrete recommendations on provision of long-term adequate, predictable, transparent and equitably distributed financial resources for the REDD+ result-based actions including non-carbon benefits and establishment of new institutional arrangements to improve coordination in REDD+ actions under the guidance of COP to improve the coordination of support provided for REDD+.