

## UNFCCC/COP 15

### **Date and location:**

7th to 19th of December 2009 , Copenhagen, Denmark

### **Plenary:**

#### **Summary of COP 15 Plenary**

The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark took place from 7-19 December 2009. It included the fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the fifth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 5).

Parties elected Connie Hedegaard, Minister for the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen 2009, Denmark, as COP 15 President. In her speech she urged parties to make this meeting success and included in history. At the beginning of the high-level segment on 16 December, the Executive Secretary announced that a letter of resignation from COP President had been received. The letter stated that Ms. Hedegaard appointed Mr. Rasmussen to continue conducting informal consultations on the Copenhagen outcome.

The meeting was attended by 119 world leaders, the largest gathering of heads of state and government in the history of the UN, and more than 40,000 people, representing governments, nongovernmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, faith-based organizations, media and UN agencies. Hopes for this year meeting outcomes is that the delegations would be able to “seal the deal” and result in a fair, equitable and legally binding agreement that could set the world toward better condition and would be a turning point in combating the climate change impacts.

The negotiation ran in intense, emotional and acrimonious. It was a culmination of two years intensive negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Bali Roadmap, which was agreed by the thirteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 13) in December 2007. All countries worked hard in delivering their report and progress of their works in each country, expressed their feeling when they delivered the information about the impact of climate change in their home country to remind other parties about the danger of climate change and put serious concern in creating the agreement that have to be transparent, fair, ambitious and legally binding.

The Heads of State, Heads of Government, Ministers, and other heads of delegation present at

the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2009 in Copenhagen, emphasises their strong political will to urgently combat climate change in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. To realize it the meeting came up with the

“Copenhagen Accord” which was supported by majority countries. The Copenhagen Accord is essential beginning of new effort against climate change, it recognizes the scientific view that a decrease in global temperature below 2 degrees is required to stave off the worst effects of climate change. In order to achieve this goal, the accord specifies that industrialised countries will commit to implement, individually or jointly, quantified economy-wide emissions targets from 2020, to be listed in the accord before 31 January 2010. Developing countries to the convention will implement mitigation actions, including those to be submitted to the secretariat by 31 January 2010.

In the end, although there were no deals made in this convention, documents on climate change has been successfully updated and attention from world leader worldwide has been captured on the climate challenge. Countries are willing to reduce their carbon emission, bidden or unbidden. Closing plenary convened on Saturday, 19 December 2009. The next annual UN Climate Change Conference will take place from 29 November to 10 December 2010 in Mexico City, preceded by a major two week negotiating session in Bonn, Germany, scheduled 31 May to 11 June 2010.

### **Side events**

There was lots of side events connected on the climate change during the UNFCCC/COP15, talking about policies, energy, forest, etc. These events were held paralleled in different rooms. Some that we attended were:

#### 1. Kiribati Side Event (Wednesday, 9 December 2009)

Kiribati: Our Road to Copenhagen

#### 2. Madagascar Side Event (9 December 2009)

Madagascar’s Progress Towards a National REDD System

#### 3. Young and Future Generation Side Event (Including IFSA side event), 10 December 2009

Youth, Forest and Survival: Why Forest Protection and Education Is Essential

#### 4. Indonesia Side Event (11 December 2009)

How to Make Joint National – International Actions On REDD Works: Experiences from

Indonesia In this side event we were called by coordinator of Indonesia to help prepare the event and get acquainted with other Indonesian participants from governments, non-governmental organizations, etc.

#### 5. REDD Realities: The gap between REDD Dreams and the real-life forest policies taking into account – December, 8th 2009

This side event brought result of an independent monitoring project on REDD policy development in 9 different countries. Elaborated on the potential impacts of REDD-projects like genetically modified tree plantations-on Indigenous Peoples, local communities and biodiversity.

#### 6. Indigenous peoples' assessment of the current negotiations – December, 9th 2009

This side event brought issues and ways forward in Copenhagen and Indigenous peoples shared their assessment of the climate change negotiations and discussed strategies beyond Copenhagen. The Indigenous people ask for their rights for forest since they have been living with forest as their main economy source for years.

#### 7. Making REDD work – December, 10th 2009

This side event was presented by NGOs, bringing up vocals such as : experiences in building preparedness for an international REDD mechanism, including case studies ranging from exploration of potential REDD activities to implementation of pilot projects and national scale mechanisms and discussion of the international policy framework required for REDD.

### **Forest Day 3**

Forest Day 3 convened in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 13 December 2009. It was held paralleled with the UNFCCC/COP15, which convened from 7-18 December 2009. This event was attended more than 1300 registered participants from various backgrounds such as government negotiators, researchers, and representatives from non-governmental and indigenous people's organizations, policy maker, and researcher, private sector and IFSA delegates. Forest Day 3 aimed as a platform for participants to have discussion and incorporate them to shape the global agenda for forest and climate change.

### **Opening Plenary of Forest Day 3**

Forest Day 3 was started by opening remark from Frances Seymour, Director General, CIFOR. She welcomed Forest Day 3 participants on behalf of CIFOR, the Government of Denmark, and the other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). She said that Forest Day

3 would focus on implementation and indicated that the co-hosts of the event would listen to participants' insights and incorporate them into their research, development and policy agendas. The official opening plenary opened by Troels Lund Poulsen, the Minister for the Environment, Denmark. He said that global attention on the UNFCCC/COP 15 provides great opportunities to introduce new mechanisms that will provide finance for forests, thus making today possibly the most important day in history for the world's forests.

In this opening plenary there were 3 keynote speakers and a video from Former President of United States, Bill Clinton. The first speaker was Elinor Ostrom from Indiana University. She said that REDD policy has to be designed carefully and adaptive so that can be adjusted to diverse local ecological and social condition, and that assigns clear rights. The second speaker was Rajendra Kumar Pachauri, IPCC Chair. He talked about REDD. In his opinion, REDD is the most cost effective mitigation method where it highlighted the disruptions that would occur if the functions of the forest for environment and people were to be lost. He noted that forest could be the tool to keep global warming under 1.5 degrees Celsius as the secure earth condition by removing the carbon dioxide emission from the atmosphere. The next speaker was Gro Harlem Brundtland, UN Special

Envoy on Climate Change. She emphasized about the forest's multiple contribution for humankind and the need the wise for the design and implementation of REDD+ as the next mitigation tool to solve the climate change problems. The last speaker was Jan Heino, Chair, CPF. He recalled that the

World Forestry Congress' message to COP 15 identified as prerequisites for "Sustainable Forest Management": improving governance, increasing financing, empowering marginalized groups and providing better access to technology He also stated that the CPF Strategic Framework for Forest and Climate Change underscores SFM as an effective framework for forest-based adaptation and mitigation. Video from Bill Clinton spoke about his thought about the roles of Forest Day in showcasing researches on forest and climate change. He stressed the need of us to act quickly and wisely to conserve the forest to achieve global and local objectives. He also urged that the new policies should consider the lives of forest dependent people and support them in adaptation.

### **Sub Plenary**

There are three sub-plenary sessions held during the morning. They were considered mitigation, adaptation and degradation.

## MITIGATION:

This sub plenary was moderated by Natasha Loder, The Economist. The sub plenary talked about Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) which has been promoted as an effective and efficient climate change mitigation option. The current debates talk much focused on REDD+. The debate was about the issues that have been raised during the designing of REDD+, seek for the answers for the questions regarding the REDD+ and problems occurred during the designing of REDD+, and about on how REDD+ can be included in a post 2012 climate change agreement.

There are four panelists in this session. First panelist was Arild Angelsen, from the Norwegian University of Life sciences. She talked about how to identify challenges for REDD, including mobilizing sufficient funding and creating an effective, efficient and equitable mechanism. The second speaker was Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Executive Director and Chair, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. She reported that ongoing negotiations on REDD have reached agreement on safeguards to ensure respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. The third speaker was Agus Purnomo, Head of Secretariat, National Council on Climate Change, Indonesia; He told that President of Republic of Indonesia has agreed with the 2020 CO<sub>2</sub> reduction, where 70% reduction would be based on peat land forestry. He emphasized that the international support need to come help the implementation of the scheme on the ground and to the society. The role of governments in realizing REDD, as costs associated with REDD are significant for small farmers and local and regional governments. The last speaker was Sara S. Kendall, Vice President of Environment, Health and Safety, Weyerhaeuser Company. She stressed the climate-related benefits of expanding the global forest area and the use of harvested wood products.

### **Global View on Forest and Climate Change**

This session aimed as a platform for the negotiators in the UNFCCC and forest stakeholders to share perspectives and priorities. Troels Lund Poulsen, Minister for the Environment, Denmark, welcomed the opportunity for the participants to share views and ideas. He suggested countries to share its common vision also vary preconditions for action to save the earth.

Nicholas Stern, Chair of the Grantham Institute for Climate Change and the Environment, London School of Economics, said the lowest way to reduce climate change risks is by stopping deforestation. The implementation of forest mitigation for climate change need to be done, he emphasized that the policies have to be designed by individual countries based on their forests, but the costs should be shared globally. Market structures have to be designed and build by

considering the economic development and poverty reduction.

Hilary Benn, UK Minister for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, advocated to include REDD+ in the Copenhagen agreement, as well as recognizing the importance of protecting biodiversity and fast-start financing. She also stressed on the importance of developed countries' initiatives to stop purchasing unsustainably harvested or illegally traded timber.

Pham Khoi Nguyen, Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment, Vietnam, argued for a combination of land management, poverty reduction and integrated implementation of the Rio Conventions.

Eduardo Braga, Governor of Amazonas State, Brazil, reported on his states' programme to reward forest communities for protecting forests. Concerning that forest-dependent people are often the victims of climate change impacts he stressed that poverty and lack of education need to be addressed to fight climate change. He also noted about how local community could achieve the global challenges from all over the world and the right policy for rain forest country as the currently main issues have to be struggled.

Representatives from the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, Colombia, and a group of rainforest nations organized as "Forestry 11," reported on knowledge and capacity building processes related to REDD, stressing the importance of conserving rainforest and REDD+ was welcomed as the most viable option for achieving this, women participation to reach the gender equality and urged disseminating more information on full costs and benefits of REDD in all languages and to all stakeholders.

There were also parallel learning events with the summary as below:

#### SCOPE OF THE GLOBAL CLIMATE AGREEMENT: EMERGING LESSONS FROM CURRENT REDD

This event was organized by the World Bank, Environmental Defense Fund and UN-REDD Programme. This session talked about REDD+ and REDD+ readiness in some countries, such as Democratic Republic of Congo and Brazil. Vincent Kasulu, Ministry of Forestry, Democratic Republic of Congo reported on REDD+ preparation in Congo. He stated that in D.R Congo REDD+ was transparent, scientifically robust and regionally integrated process. Paolo Mauntinho, from Amazon Environmental Research Institute, Brazil discussed about the benefit sharing in the Brazilian Amazon, he stressing the importance of recognizing rights over lands and resources owned or traditional occupied by indigenous people and local communities. Benoit Bosquet, from World Bank and CPF, noted that readiness varies from one country to another. He said that those countries are slow in identifying funding needs for readiness. Tim Clairs, from UN-REDD

Programme delivered the highlighted issued in 2010 about the benefit distribution, MRV (Measurement, Reporting and Verification), and environmental and social principles to be designed specifically for REDD+. The last panelist was Ruben Lubowski, Environmental Defense Fund, described the estimation, policy consideration and demand for REDD credits in the US.

### **Closing Plenary**

Frances Seymour read a summary statement produced during the votes in the sub-plenary sessions and reviewed key points raised during the statements and events at Forest day3. The summary drafted by committee representing members of the CFP. Yvo de Boer, UNFCCC Executive

Secretary said if this year we can't give a good answer to climate challenge, political view could be turned into different issue next year. He suggested that relevant constituencies should ensure that they keep focus on four building blocks (mitigation, adaptation, technology and finance), capacity building and REDD+ while politicians put their focus on targets, finance and MRV. He also called Forest Day 3 participants to contribute to ensuring the social and environmental integrity of the architecture of the Copenhagen outcome. Minister Poulsen closed the meeting, he thanked participants for the engaging exchange of ideas during the Forest Day 3.