

**Submission by the Gambia on behalf of the Least Developed Countries on issues identified in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 72 and appendix II, in particular on how to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and on robust and transparent national forest monitoring systems as referred to in its paragraph**

1. Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice in its thirty-fifth session invited Parties and accredited observers to submit to the Secretariat their views by 28 February 2012 on issues identified in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 72 and appendix II, in particular on how to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and on robust and transparent national forest monitoring systems as referred to in its paragraph 71(c).

The SBSTA also requested the secretariat to compile the submissions from Parties into a Miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA at its thirty-sixth session.

2. The LDCs herewith submit its views as follows:

**Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation**

3. LDCs refer to the Decision 4/CP.15, paragraph 1 and to the Decision 1/CP.16 paragraph 72 as the basis for the submission.
4. LDCs are of the view that there are several aspects that should be considered in addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.
  - (i) Definitions for forest and forest degradation should not be only as tree cover but also as complex ecosystem interact with livelihood of people.
  - (ii) Given the importance of identifying the drivers of deforestation and degradation and the associated methodological issues for estimating emissions, the recognition of the LDC communities' high dependency on forests for their daily livelihoods, food, shelter, energy and medicines must be considered fully in the REDD+.
  - (iii) LDCs have their own national priorities and challenges. Therefore, in addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, national circumstances, such as capabilities, projected trends of population growth, GDP growth, energy requirement, and all other relevant parameters should be considered.

- (iv). Developing, as necessary, modalities and guidelines for identifying and addressing drivers of deforestation and degradation and the associated methodological issues for estimating emissions.
- (v). Provide guidance on how Parties can take action to integrate REDD+ across different related sectors, such as agriculture, energy, mining etc.
- (vi). Ensure that the IPCC guidelines and its supplements are available for use for REDD+.

5. LDCs consider that forest governance issues, land tenure, gender considerations and participation of relevant stakeholders should be considered as essential part of the REDD+ safeguards

#### **Development of a robust and transparent national forest monitoring systems**

6. LDCs refer to the Decision 4/CP. 15 and decision 1/CP.17

- (i) Should be practical, simple and implementable system for estimating anthropogenic forest-related GHG fluxes, carbon stocks and area changes.
- (ii) Combination of remote sensing and ground-based inventory approach (Decision 4/CP.15) for estimating forest-related emissions and use of methodology and equipment that is cost efficient.
- (iii). A robust and transparent national forest monitoring system should be process should be country-driven, build on LDCs existing institutions and systems where possible.
- (iii) The LDCs group should ask for modalities that is general and should also allow for flexibility so countries with different socio-economic systems can be accommodated.
- (iv) All the above within the context of and first dependent on the provision of financial and technological support REDD+ activities are dependent on the provision of financial incentives and resources and technology from the developed countries.

- (v) LDCs must be given priority support in areas such as: general readiness; policy development and implementation; technology development and transfer (as set out in Article 4.9); demonstration activities; development of reference emission levels/reference levels.
  
- (vi) Establishment of national forest monitoring systems; and systems for providing information on safeguards.
  
- (vii) LDCs have urgent funding needs to enable them to prepare for and undertake REDD+ actions. Despite various international REDD+ initiatives, large gaps remain. UNFCCC Article 4.9 is clear that 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.