

**Democratic Republic of Congo on Behalf of the Coalition for
Rainforest Nations**

Joint SBSTA and SBI opening plenary

STATEMENT

Bonn, 17 June 2019

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

The Democratic Republic of Congo has the honour to speak on behalf of the 52 countries of the Coalition for Rainforest Nations.

Mr. President, we support the statement made by the distinguished delegate from the State of Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Last December, the World received a wake-up call: *the IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C*. The IPCC Special Report highlights some significant differences between 1.5°C and 2°C. For example:

- **Extreme Heat:** Those experiencing extreme heat every five years almost triples from 14% to 37%
- **Rainfall Extremes:** Those experiencing dramatic rainfall extremes doubles from 17% to 36%
- **Droughts:** At the same time, extreme drought length averages double from 2 to 4 months.
- **Global GDP:** These extremes are expected to deepen the losses by the global economy from 8% to -13% by 2100.

The IPCC Special Report highlights that 1.5 degrees implies that 82% of today's known coal, 49% of gas and 33% of oil reserves will have to stay in the ground.

At the same time, there is around 1.3 times the carbon in our global forests than in all of today's known fossil fuel reserves.

It is also important to add that the report also provided some profound insights on how the global community can increase ambition in tackling climate change. The

Coalition would, therefore, like to see further internalisation of relevant recommendations from the report.

Further, a recent study argues that reforesting all possible degraded land areas, meaning 1 billion hectares, may have the potential to remove almost a decade of atmospheric GHG emissions.

Thus, the importance of scaling up REDD+ implementation while transitioning to renewable energy cannot be understated in both 1.5°C and 2°C scenarios..

Half a degree seems so small. But the impacts are strongly significant!

Reviewing NDCs, we are currently on track for 3-degree plus!

Imagine what perils humanity will face!

In this context, however, we can only wonder if our Climate Convention is fit to purpose in its current form? Nonetheless, here in Bonn, we are challenged to advance our processes in order to effectively implement the Paris Agreement as the world expects.

Therefore, Mr. Chair, the implementation of the Paris Agreement should now begin with existing success stories such as the REDD+ Mechanism under Article 5.

For this reason, we are looking forward to a fruitful exchange of views and experiences with all Parties at the *“Annual Meeting of National REDD+ Focal Points”* as mandated by the Warsaw Framework.

Decision 10/CP.19 and the precedent set by the COP Presidency are clear. The COP has decided that meetings of the National REDD+ focal point must be held annually at each intersessional. The review recently completed under Decision 10/CP.19 Paragraph 9 did not recommend any modification to the annual meetings or the existing institutional arrangements of the REDD+ Mechanism.

Therefore, we highlight our serious concerns that the Secretariat, after numerous inquiries over 4 months, has only just now agreed to facilitate the organization of the Annual Meeting of REDD+ National Focal Points. Our sincere hope is now that the Secretariat will recognize its role of ‘facilitating the organization of the meetings’, as agreed by the COP, includes more than just booking a room. We expect their organizational facilitation to organize annual and timely notice, meeting agendas, meeting chairs, meeting reports, etc.

We are confident all Parties are ready to engage ensuring another successful step forward for REDD+!

Additionally, we are determined to ensure that the rules under Article 6 maximize environmental integrity while speeding global efforts to slow, stop and reverse atmospheric GHG concentrations.

Thus, all Parties must ensure that the level of accuracy and robustness of the transparency rules in Katowice is maintained.

This means that:

- Article 6.2 rules must be based on a robust accounting system ensuring the highest environmental integrity using the national GHG inventories and reference levels applied for REDD+ as precedent for all other sectors
- Article 6.4 is very concerning in its present draft form and must be redesigned to meet the highest environmental integrity standards and be focused on CO² equivalency. Parties should use any and all time necessary to achieve that necessary result.

Finally, Mr Chair, our Coalition is ready to support you and your work in good faith with all Parties.

As the IPCC Special Report highlights, we have only a precious few years to scale up ambition and strengthen the new climate regime if we are to have any chance to responsibly address the impacts of man-made global heating.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.