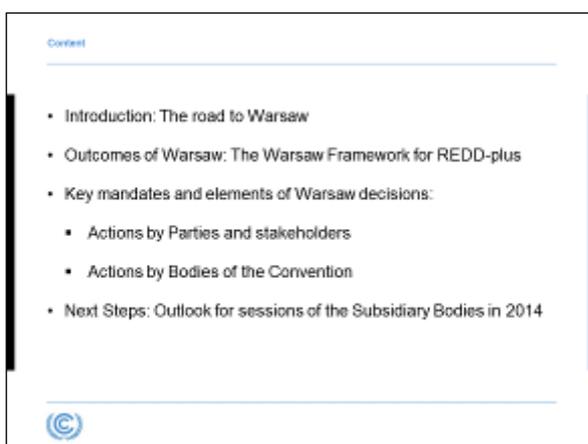


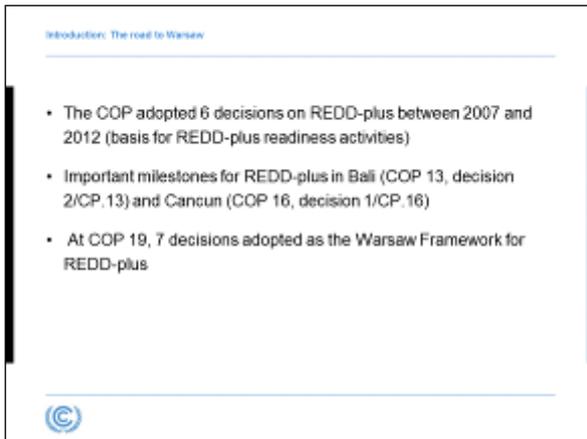
Update on the International Negotiations on REDD-plus under the UNFCCC - Key Outcomes from Warsaw
Ms. Jenny Wong (Program Officer, UNFCCC Secretariat)



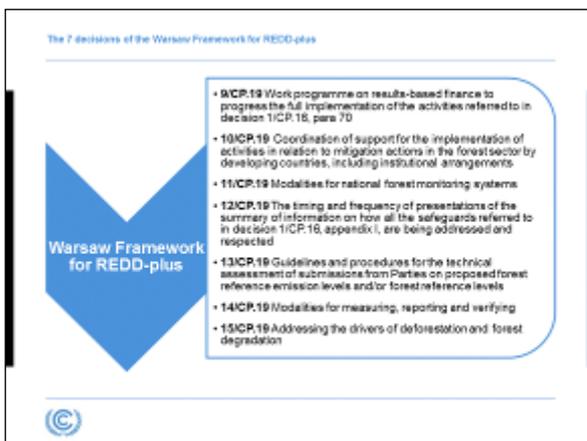
I would like to share with you in my presentation this morning the outcomes from the Warsaw Climate Change Conference. As Eduardo was mentioning, he hopes that this seminar will allow you to reflect on what has been learned and what kind of information that can be shared from the various activities and projects that have been implemented relating to REDD+ thus far. I hope that my presentation informing you about the outcomes from Warsaw will, especially for those who are not familiar with the negotiations and what took place in Warsaw, will serve as a basis for you to reflect on what you have done as part of REDD+ implementation, and how the guidance from the COP comes into play to facilitate developing countries in their implementation of REDD+.



I will present to you just some of the key aspects coming out from Warsaw. For those not too familiar with the process, let me briefly inform you on how REDD+ came about onto the agenda and where we ended up in Warsaw last year, and then to brief you on what were the actual outcomes from Warsaw, run through a few of the key mandates and elements from the seven decisions that were adopted, and then, end by letting you know what are the next steps ahead - what do we foresee for the UNFCCC negotiations this year and the years ahead.



It was already mentioned this morning by our earlier distinguished speakers that REDD+ was put on to the agenda way back in 2005 at the Montreal COP¹. Between 2007 and 2012, six decisions were adopted that set the basis for how countries could implement REDD+ at the readiness phase and how they could get started and get ready for the full implementation of REDD+. At COP 13² and COP 16, two important milestones were achieved because in Bali, countries agreed that we do not only just discuss the scientific and technical, methodological aspects of REDD+, but we would also be considering the policy and financing aspects of REDD+ and at that time to be taken over by the LCA³ ad hoc working group⁴. Then in Cancun, we agreed on a decision where the framework for REDD+ was agreed upon, where we had the scope of REDD+, that is, the five activities, and also the decision identified the various important elements for REDD+. Finally, in Warsaw last year, seven very important decisions to complete this work program, the methodological aspects as well as the financing aspects, were agreed on in Warsaw.



The decisions include a very important decision on financing which is very important for developing countries to implement REDD+. We had two decisions that were related to finance, how countries would obtain results-based finance, how to receive such finance, and what would be needed in terms of coordination of support. The other five decisions relate more to methodological guidance in which

¹ https://unfccc.int/meetings/montreal_nov_2005/meeting/6329.php

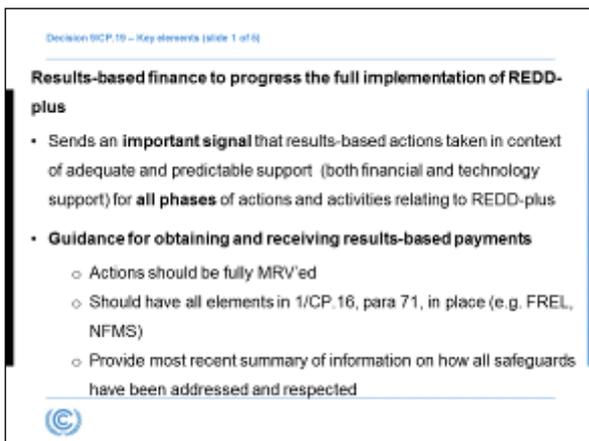
² https://unfccc.int/meetings/bali_dec_2007/session/6265.php

³ Long-term Cooperative Action

⁴ <https://unfccc.int/bodies/body/6431.php>

the COP provided guidance on how countries should develop their national forest monitoring systems, how results will be MRV⁵-ed, and also provide guidance on what countries need to do in order to address their safeguards, as well as the drivers of deforestation. Roughly, those seven decisions formed the Warsaw Framework for REDD+.

What I will do now is actually go through some of the key elements of each of these decisions. You can read the more detailed decisions on the secretariat website,⁶ so I will just highlight to you some of the key elements of these decisions and why they are important.



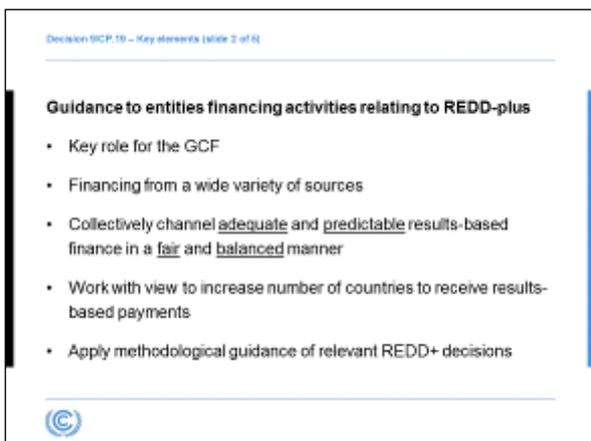
I will start with one of the most important decision for REDD+, which relates to results-based finance and how countries would receive results-based finance. This decision is important because it provided a very important signal that results-based actions can only be taken based on adequate and predictable support. All phases of REDD+ need to be adequately supported before countries are able to fully implement REDD+. As part of this important signal, the COP provided guidance for several areas. I clustered them as how countries would obtain results-based finance, and I will run through the rest, as the COP also provided guidance to those entities that provide finance to countries for implementing REDD+.

Let me just start with what countries need to do in order to obtain and receive results-based payments. All the actions need to be fully MRV-ed. That is a very important criterion for obtaining results-based payments. They also need to have in place all the core elements that are identified in decision 1/CP.16⁷ paragraph 71, which includes the forest monitoring system, having an assessed forest reference emission level, and they have to provide information how the safeguards were addressed, and of course, to have a national strategy or action plan in place. On top of that, they need to provide a recent summary of information that shows how all the safeguards that were identified, in decision 1/CP.16 in Cancun have been addressed and respected.

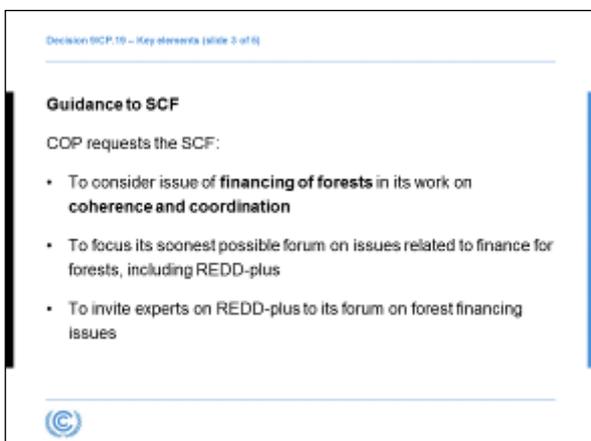
⁵ Measured, Reported, and Verified

⁶ http://unfccc.int/meetings/warsaw_nov_2013/session/7767/php/view/decisions.php

⁷ <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/cop16/eng/07a01.pdf#page=2>

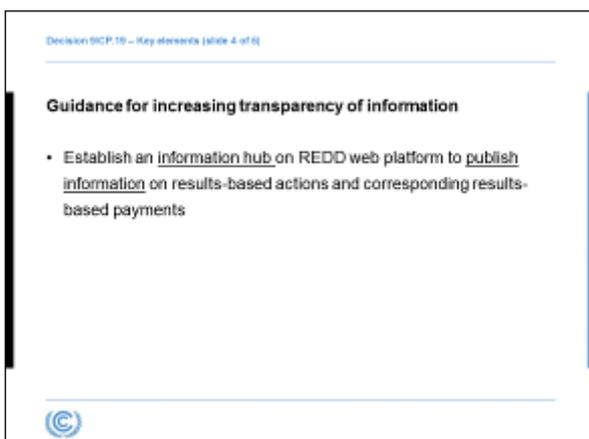


The other guidance is to the entities financing REDD+. Here in this decision it identified a key role for the Green Climate Fund (GCF). It was also recognized by the COP that financing needs to come from a variety of resources. All of them need to collectively channel adequate and predictable results-based finance in a fair and balanced manner. That is a very important aspect of financing REDD+ that financing entities need to take into consideration when providing finance for REDD+. And they have also been encouraged to try and increase the number of countries that could receive these results-based payments. At the same time, in their assessment of whether countries qualify for these payments, they need to apply the guidance that has been provided in all the relevant COP decisions that have been taken thus far; providing countries methodological guidance on implementing REDD+.

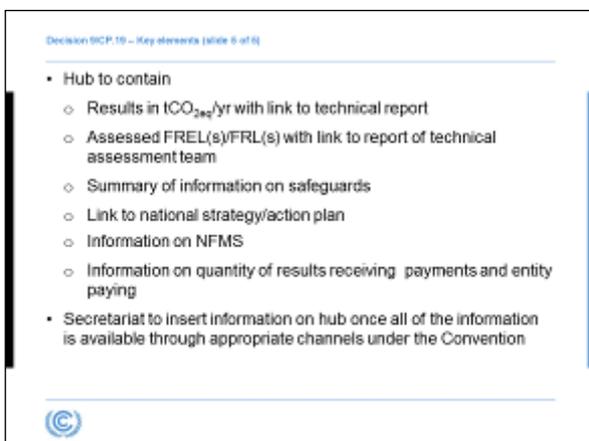


On other guidance, the COP also requested the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) to take into consideration a few aspects as part of their work, particularly to consider the issue of financing for forests, on coherence and coordination, because a lot of developing countries feel that there needs to be some form of coordination of support due to the fragmentation of financing that has been happening. Since some countries are not being able to access finance, coordination of support is the key to a broad range of countries implementing REDD+. The COP also requested that the SCF⁸ focus its next forum on issues related to forest finance, and to include REDD+ financing issues as part of this forum discussion; and to invite experts to be a part of the discussions in this forum.

⁸ [Standing Committee on Finance : http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/financial_mechanism/standing_committee/items/6877.php](http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/financial_mechanism/standing_committee/items/6877.php)



The last aspect of guidance from this decision on results-based finance from the COP dealt with how we could increase the transparency of information. This is where the COP had requested that an information hub be established on the REDD+ web platform. I am not sure how many of you are aware that way back at COP 13, the secretariat was asked to establish a web platform where countries, stakeholders, and organizations can share information and experiences on REDD+ implementation. If you go to the secretariat website, you will find the platform where organizations have shared a lot of their results of their work on this platform. In this decision on finance, the COP had requested that an information hub be developed so that information on results-based actions and results-based payments can be shared with all.



There was a list on what sort of information that the hub should contain, such as results need to be expressed in terms of tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year. Of course, the other information include the elements of implementation. The secretariat will insert this information into the hub once countries have provided all of this information through the various appropriate channels under the Convention.

Decision 10/CP.19 – Key elements (slide 1 of 2)

Coordination of support, including institutional arrangements

- Decision identified needs and functions to address issues related to coordination of support for implementation of REDD-plus
- The COP
 - Invites interested Parties to **designate national entity or focal point** to serve as liaison with secretariat and bodies under the Convention, on coordination of support
 - Encourages national entities /focal points, Parties and relevant entities financing REDD-plus to meet, on a voluntary basis, to discuss needs and functions



Decision 10/CP.19 – Key elements (slide 2 of 2)

- Input from bodies under the Convention, international/regional organizations, private sector and civil society
- To meet in conjunction with first sessional period meetings of SBs (on annual basis)
- First meeting in conjunction with SB 41 (Dec 2014)
- SBI 47 to review outcomes of these meetings



The next decision that is linked to finance is about coordination. The 10/CP.19⁹ decision identified some needs and functions that need to be addressed in order to do the coordination of support. The COP invited Parties to designate national entities or focal points that could serve as a liaison to help address this issue of coordination of support. The COP had encouraged these national entities to meet on a voluntary basis to discuss these needs and functions that were identified. The first meeting of the national entities will start in Lima at the end of this year, and at the 47th session of the SBI, (Subsidiary Body for Implementation), the outcomes of these meetings will be reviewed¹⁰.

Decision 11/CP.19 – Key elements

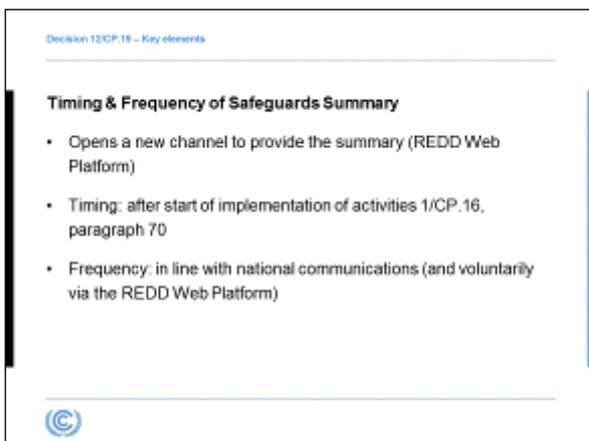
National forest monitoring systems (NFMS)

- NFMS in line with IPCC guidance and guidelines, and in the context of adequate and predictable support
- Provide data and information that are transparent, consistent over time, and suitable for MRV
- Building upon existing systems while being flexible and allowing for improvement, reflecting the phased approach



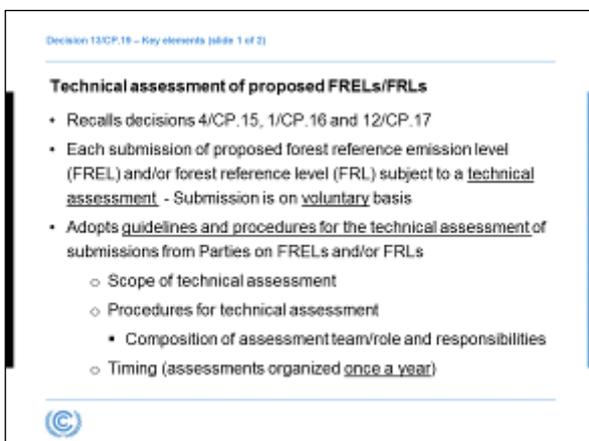
⁹ <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/cop19/eng/10a01.pdf#page=28>

¹⁰ Subsidiary Body for Implementation



Now I will run through the other methodological-related decisions. Of course, one of them is about National Forest Monitoring System¹¹. This system needs to be in line with IPCC guidance and data and information provided should be transparent, consistent over time; countries should build these forest monitoring systems based upon existing systems, and it needs to allow for improvement over time.

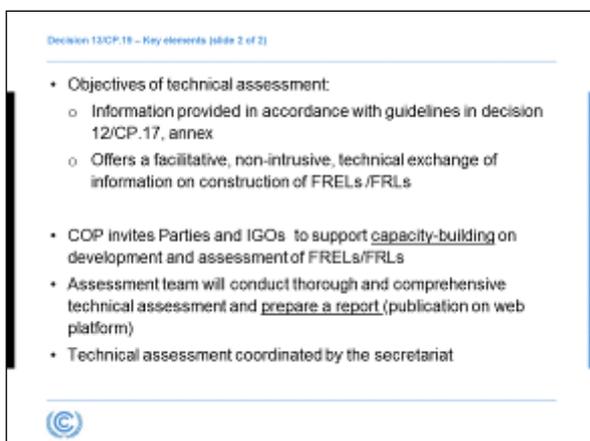
The other decision is about safeguards. In Warsaw, countries managed to agree on how they could provide this information to show that they have addressed and respected the safeguards identified in the Cancun agreements. They could provide this summary either through national communications or through the web platform. They need to start providing this information after the start of the implementation of REDD+ activities.



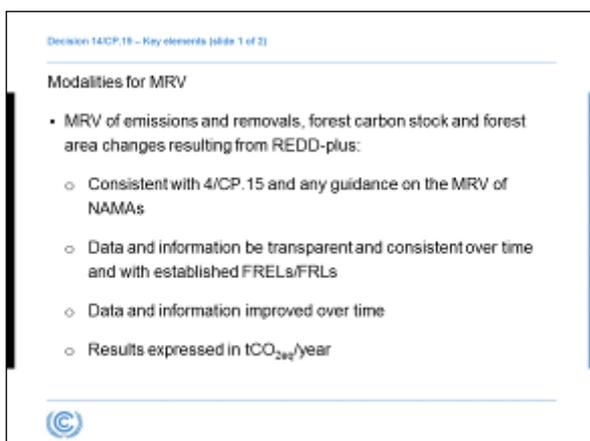
This decision on the technical assessment of forest reference emission levels is a very important decision because countries need to establish their forest reference emission levels or forest reference levels as part of their REDD+ implementation, and before they can go into receiving results-based payments for their full implementation of REDD+. The submission of a reference level is on a voluntary basis, but whatever reference level is submitted, it is subjected to a technical assessment. This decision provides guidelines and procedures for this technical assessment, such as the scope, it tells about what the composition of the assessment team should be, what are their responsibilities, when they do the technical assessments, and the timing of these assessments which will be done once a year. Right now, the secretariat is still trying to work

¹¹ http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=8369&Itemid=53

out a timeline as to when countries could voluntarily submit their reference level and when it would be subjected to this technical assessment. The demand for LULUCF¹² experts is very high. We need to adjust it together with all the other review processes under the Convention that goes on which involves the LULUCF sector.



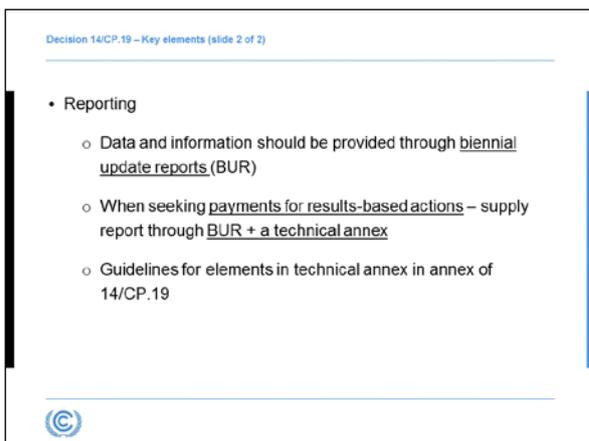
One of the things that we need to note here since we are in the company of a lot of forest experts, is that the COP invited Parties and international organizations to support capacity building, and to help countries develop this reference level. The assessment team is expected to prepare a report on their findings during this assessment. The whole assessment process will be coordinated by the secretariat. This assessment is part of a facilitative, non-intrusive, technical exchange of information on the construction of reference levels for the developing countries that submit them.



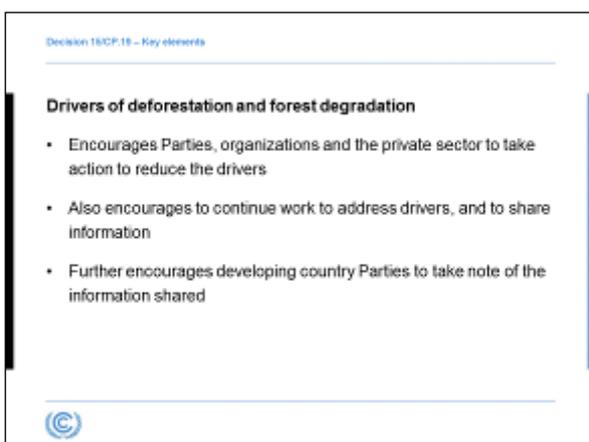
What were the modalities that were agreed for MRV of REDD+? It needs to be consistent with previous decisions. For any guidance on MRV of NAMAs¹³, data information needs to be transparent and countries should try to improve the data that they have over time. Results have to be expressed in terms of tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per year.

¹² Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry

¹³ Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions



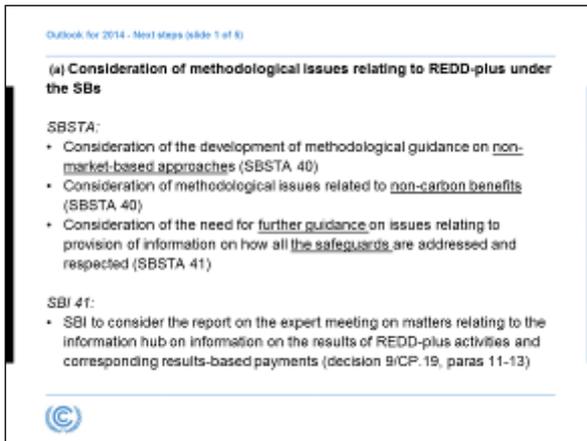
How would countries report this information? Reporting will be through the biennial update reports (BUR). When a country seeks payments for results-based action, then they need to provide not just a report of their results through the BUR¹⁴, but also to complete a technical annex that will contain information on various elements. You can read the details of these elements which need to be included in the annex of this decision on MRV, which is decision 14/CP.19¹⁵.



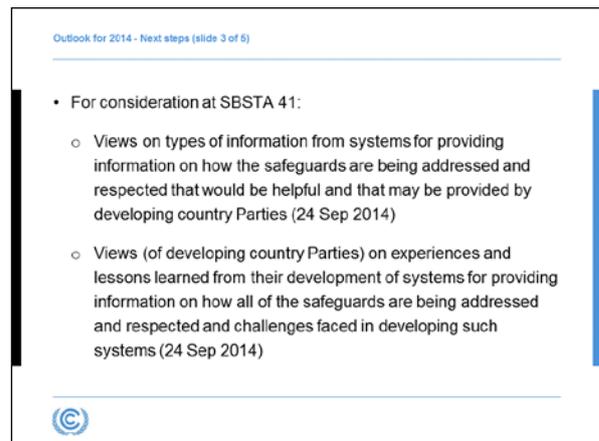
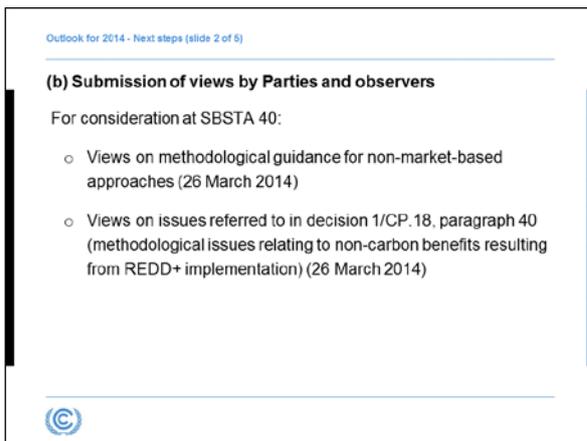
The last decision that was adopted in Warsaw related to the drivers of deforestation, and how countries and organizations are encouraged to continue to take such actions and to share the information on the actions and the results of the actions in terms of addressing drivers. For countries to take note, and to have this information sharing, I think this would be a very appropriate forum for sharing such information relating to the various successful cases of addressing drivers of deforestation..

¹⁴ Biennial Update Reports

¹⁵ <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/cop19/eng/10a01.pdf#page=39>



What do we foresee happening this year, under the UNFCCC? There are various areas of work. The first one relates to the consideration of methodological issues, SBSTA¹⁶ will continue to consider methodological issues. Starting this June, we will look at non-market-based approaches. Then the SBSTA will also look at methodological issues relating to non-carbon benefits. The issue on safeguards will be considered by the SBSTA during the Lima COP at the end of the year. In between, there will be an expert meeting relating to the information hub, and the report on the meeting will be considered at SBI in Lima.



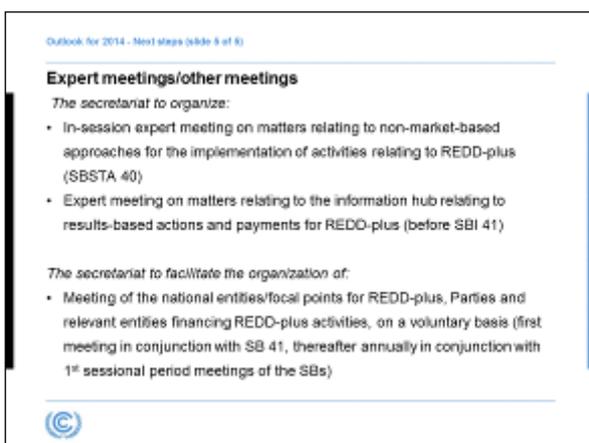
Before SBSTA in June, Parties and observers have been requested to submit their views on the issues that will be discussed, non-market based approaches, as well as methodological issues that are related to non-carbon benefits coming out from REDD+ implementation. The due date to be submitted to the secretariat is 26th of March. I would encourage international organizations that are working on these issues to submit their views to facilitate the consideration of these issues in June.

Parties have also been requested to submit views for consideration of the SBSTA41 in Lima. I told you earlier that SBSTA 41 will look at issues relating to safeguards. Parties and observers have been requested by the COP to submit their views on the types of information that may be provided.

¹⁶ Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice



Developing countries, as part of developing the systems for providing information on safeguards, have been requested to share their experiences, lessons learned, and challenges that they face in developing these systems for providing information on how the safeguards have been addressed and respected. Both the subsidiary bodies and COP have encouraged the ongoing sharing of experiences. I mentioned earlier about the web platform, so countries can share experiences on how they develop the systems for providing information on safeguards. Then recalling the decision on drivers, for Parties and organizations to share information on how they had actually successfully addressed drivers as part of their REDD+ implementation, and how it is being identified in the national strategies.



This is about the meetings that have been requested by both the COP and the subsidiary bodies for the secretariat to organize. There will be an in-session expert meeting relating to non-market-based approaches this June at the SBSTA. In between, there will be an expert meeting on the information hub that I spoke about. As for the decision on results-based finance, the COP calls for the establishment of an information hub. There will be an expert meeting on the information hub later this year. Of course, on the decision relating to the coordination of support, the secretariat has been asked to facilitate the organization of these meetings of national entities and focal points. The first one is starting in Lima.