

**The Balikpapan Statement**  
Balikpapan, Indonesia | 25-28 September 2017

**Building a Global Framework and Partnerships for Low-Emissions  
Development  
in Tropical Forest Regions**

We, the members of the Governors' Climate & Forests Task Force (GCF Task Force), a collaboration of 37 sub-national authorities (states and provinces) from Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Spain, and the United States, call upon international institutions, national governments, and all relevant stakeholders including the private sector, civil society, and indigenous people<sup>1</sup>, where applicable, as well as *adat* and local communities to join with us in building a network and stronger partnerships on low emission development in tropical forest regions around the world.

In pursuit of the objectives of the global commitment on climate change, protection of biodiversity, and being guided by their principles.

Recognizing that realizing the ambitious goals of the Paris Agreement will require that actors from all sectors and all levels of government work together to reduce emissions, conserve and enhance sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases, including forests.

Further recognizing that sustainable forest management should balance the economic, environmental, and social values of forest for the benefit of current and future generations. We believe that subnational actors in particular have a critical role to play in realizing these goals and we applaud the United Nations for its ongoing efforts to better integrate the voices of states, provinces, regions, cities, and municipalities.

Underlining the need for subnational actors to align their policies and strategies with those of their national Governments, hence ensuring policy coherence.

Reaffirming, in this regard, that local governments will work hand in hand and in support of their respective national governments, and taking into full account of national priorities and objectives.

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<sup>1</sup> Recognizing that the concept of indigenous peoples is not applicable to all countries due to different demographic and historical context of each country, the use of this concept in this statement is based on the positions of each national government as delivered during the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Taking note of the ambitious commitments of the Rio Branco Declaration, the New York Declaration on Forests, the Under 2 MOU, and participation of the private sector to move toward zero net deforestation as important contribution from public and private actors to support the formal national commitments made under the auspices of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

Acknowledging that it is now time to move from pledges and commitments to action and we therefore urge our partners and prospective partners from all relevant stakeholders to work with us to bring together the many processes that are underway around the world to build effective and durable implementation partnerships.

Affirming that sustainable, low-emission development in tropical forest regions must be built upon an integrated approach that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, improves the livelihoods of peoples, and conserves natural ecosystems and the manifold goods and services they provide. Numerous pledges, commitments and processes are striving to foster low-emission rural development in tropical forest regions. In order to progress there is a need to increase *partnerships* and *incentive systems* to drive large-scale transformations in land uses. Furthermore, efforts for low-emission development should also be encouraged by increasing *participation of commodity producers* in these initiatives. In particular, the regional governments, farmers, local communities and businesses that collectively manage the tropical forest regions of the world, where greater and greater volumes of commodities are being produced, should be involved and actively engaged in designing strategies for solving tropical deforestation and other dimensions of low-emission rural development.

Further affirming that when taking actions to address climate change, the rights of indigenous people, where applicable, as well as *adat* and local communities should be respected and acknowledged.

Acknowledging the need for improved access to technology, capital, capacity building and information exchanges for small-scale farmers and fishers in order to implement sustainable agricultural and aquaculture activities.

Underlining that a truly sustainable solution is one that recognizes and addresses the human rights implications of conservation and restoration, while reducing rural poverty and ensuring that rural people have adequate access to food, energy, health, education, water and sanitation.

Therefore, through the Balikpapan Statement and in consultation with our respective national governments, we agree to:

- Identify programs to strengthen collaboration to reduce deforestation and forest degradation from agricultural and forest commodity supply chains promote and protect human rights as well as to improve the livelihoods of indigenous peoples, where applicable, as well as adat and local communities.
- Develop a consultation process for identifying the mechanisms for financing and in other ways building the incentives for low emission development in GCF members.
- Advance partnerships between individual GCF members, major supply chain actors, donors and markets .