Input on the Governance Arrangements for the new UN-REDD Programme Strategic Period 2016-2020

In 2014, as part of a larger project looking at 8 multilateral funds and programmes, TI launched the report “Protecting Climate Finance – An Anti-Corruption Assessment of the UN-REDD Programme”. This report assessed the individual programmes across 12 indicators of Transparency, Accountability and Integrity as well as making recommendations for improvements. A presentation of findings was made at PB 13 in Arusha Tanzania. In the summer of 2015, an update is planned which will take stock of what progress has been made over the past year.

TI recognises that the current programme is coming to an end and as such some of the recommendations cannot be taken up within the current structures. However, the development of the new programme strategy and governance arrangements currently underway provides an important opportunity to build in relevant safeguards from the outset. Indeed the draft Programme Strategic Framework already reflects some of these recommendations such as a streamlined organisation of UN Agencies in-country.

As part of this process, TI urges that the UN-REDD Secretariat and UN Agencies refer in particular to the following findings and recommendations from the 2014 report.

- **Ensure effective and accessible channels to raise and resolve grievances at all levels**

  We recognise recent advances in facilitating grievances associated with the Programme. These include the finalisation this month of joint FCPF UN-REDD guidance for GRM in country as well as the ongoing work within the UN system to streamline complaints and investigation mechanisms across Agencies. However, given past experiences for example with Panama in previous years, it is essential that the UNREDD Programme itself include a function for the Executive Board in terms of taking up and mediating complaints or grievances that have not been adequately addressed at the national level or through UN Agencies. As the Programme moves to support REDD+ implementation, this will become even more crucial. Complaints and concerns raised must be dealt with effectively and efficiently and the Board should retain overall responsibility for ensuring this.

- **Ensure the functions of the Policy Board reflect the need to address concerns regarding the ethical behaviour of Board members**

  Currently Board Members are required to make a conflict of interest declaration. However, it is not clear to whom they are accountable in cases where they fail to make a relevant disclosure or act on the basis of a conflict of interest. In addition, their accountability for any other corruption, fraudulent or unethical behaviour or activity beyond conflicts of interest is not defined or explained at the overarching Programme level. This information is critical for stakeholders to hold Board Members to account when necessary. The new governance structure should reflect upon this challenge and relevant functions included to address it.

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Continue to demonstrate best practices in terms of participation

The 2014 report praised the UN-REDD Programme as displaying best practice in terms of the full and active participation of Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples in the Policy Board. We are satisfied to see that this best practice appears to be maintained under the new governance structure.

To the highest extent possible, we recommend that the MoU between participating UN Agencies, the Standard Administrative Agreement between donors and MDTF as well as the final governance arrangements of the 2nd UN-REDD Programme be adapted to take into account these considerations.