

Report of Social Group

24 June 2008

Social Group

- Roberto
- Minnie
- Juan Carlos
- Carlos
- Kanyinke
- Bob
- Anita (Chair)
- Marcus (Rapporteur)
- Interpreters

3,2,1 > Bottom up approach to the questions.

Preamble

- Reducing emissions must be stressed before we applaud focus on forests by UNFCCC
- Multiple value of forests needs highlighting not just of economic and carbon value
(otherwise will reinforce exclusionary models that 'disbenefit' forest peoples)
- AD needs valuing above REDD
- Human rights based approach (end of penultimate sentence of Preamble)
- (Workers rights need more attention see later)

National Sovereignty

- Is a hot potato
- Must be addressed but in a positive way
- Stress that best way of securing national sovereignty is protecting indigenous peoples' rights and stressing the value of broad ownership of issues and principle of stewardship by citizens (sovereignty and rights are mutually reinforcing not in contradiction)

Deforestation

- Not just the fault of developing countries
- Underlying causes need addressing such as extractives, mining etc. energy development, export oriented trade and global consumption
- Shared challenge

Protection valued

- Highlight importance of transboundary and binational protection of natural resources
- Protection must go beyond protected areas as a mechanism to include recognition of indigenous peoples' rights and community management of natural resources

Textual changes of big five

- 5) Are we a bit late with this message?
- READINESS process already running
- Can we ask agencies (which we choose not to name) to slow down to ensure effective social participation in policy development and implementation
- 5 e) Need for participatory monitoring and evaluation including IPs and LCs, stressing transparency, accountability and information disclosure
- Pass back to plenary possible challenge for private sector in terms of commercial confidentiality vs disclosure...?

Para 6

- 6 aa) Need for actual recognition of forest dependent communities, value of traditional knowledge systems and importance of traditional systems of forest management (understood broadly)
- 6 a) mapping, recognising and securing use and tenure rights of indigenous peoples and other forest dependent people (mapping not enough by itself)
- 6 b) Ensuring the right to give or withhold their free, prior and informed consent....

7

- 7 c) Providing forest dependent communities and workers with the capacity and means of alternative livelihoods and income. (Problem of unemployed workers in illegal and 'unsustainable' forest industries who are laid off in name of AD/ REDD when industrial plant is closed down)

8

- Prioritise forest policies in national development plans (avoid the marginalisation of forestry ministries)

9

- Need to close with a more upbeat, effective concluding note
- Mention the importance of inclusive, participatory approaches to implementation.
- Key issue is to make this workable at the local level and not just at abstract level of principles
- Challenge for social group to take this message back down to our communities and constituencies: think about this in communication strategy

Other concerns for plenary:

- Definitions: Are we sure we agree what forests are? What SFM is? IPs and LCs also 'manage' their forests even if they don't have 'management plans'.
- Can we really avoid discussing the funding mechanisms. We know this has been contentious in TFD, as identified in Washington DC, but we can't dodge it, can we, just 'cos its uncomfortable?