

Speech by the Dr. Jacqui Badcock, UN Resident

Coordinator

At the

REDD MISSION RECEPTION

PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Norway/Australia/UN REDD/WB REDD mission to Papua New Guinea

Port Moresby 24th October 2008

Address Participants

Sir Michael Somare, the Honorable Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea and Minister for Climate Change and Carbon Trading, Dr Theo Yasause Executive Director Office of Climate Change and Carbon Trading, representatives of diplomatic corp, private sectors, non-government organization and our REDD mission team comprising of the representatives from PNG, Norway and Australian governments, UN and World Bank colleagues, distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you all for being here. I am honoured to be invited to speak at this welcome reception particularly as today is UN Day. As we celebrate 63 years of the UN's existence, I congratulate the government for demonstrating your commitment to mitigate the impacts of climate change and your strong international leadership on the issue of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation following on from the outcomes of 2007 Bali Conference, where PNG made a key intervention as well as contributed to the Bali roadmap and solidarity in tackling climate change.

What has transpired out of this leadership is increasing international interest to support PNG such as the recent Papua New Guinea –Australia Forest Carbon Partnership – signed by the two Honorable Prime Ministers, the recent launch of the UN REDD Programme (a collaboration between FAO, UNDP and UNEP) supported by the Government of Norway and the on-going World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (in fact this week PNG has also been accepted in this Facility along other countries World Bank is supporting). Allow me to

highlight the nature of the UN missions as an excellent example of the global mission for the UN to work more coherently and Deliver as One – an initiative in which PNG and the UN is already a leader.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me say that all these initiatives are underpinned by the strong commitment of the PNG Government. By taking the lead you are taking ownership and paving the way for PNG's REDD development partners to strengthen existing plans and support mechanisms of cooperation. All such cooperation aims towards the development of national REDD strategies, systems for monitoring, assessments, reporting and verification of forest cover, carbon stocks and developing the necessary capacities and readiness. Our partnership in these REDD readiness efforts is yet one more avenue towards working closely with the government to address national priority issues.

What is at the heart of this is the people of this country benefiting from the protection of their forests and being appreciative of their contribution to the world for

reducing the carbon dioxide emissions from deforestation and degradation

We are aware that the initial phase of establishing REDD is going to be a huge challenge given the diversity of the country. We are also aware that land and natural resources discussions are highly sensitive in PNG as the majority of the population's livelihood depends on land forest utilization. We acknowledge the sensitiveness of landowner issues among other issues. That is precisely why we plan to take this on as a challenge, and approach it with great care and sensitivity. This adds even greater value to the fact that this mission while is being led and owned by the PNG government, we the international development partners will seek to align our work priorities with those of the government; and we aim to do this in a harmonized way.

In conclusion, may I once again take this opportunity to thank the Government of Norway for financing the initial phase of the UN REDD programme. To other development partners in the mission - the Australian

Government and World Bank – working together is an advantage and privilege enabling PNG to draw on the necessary assistance in your pools of experience and expertise. We look forward to maintaining this exceptional partnership with the Government of Papua New Guinea and we hope many more good things come out of this for the benefit of the people of this great country.