Frances Closing Remarks

Excellencies
Distinguished guests
Bapak-bapak dan ibu-ibu sekalian

It has been an incredible day. The passion and positive energy flowing from today's presentations and discussions have renewed my optimism for the future of Indonesia's forests.

As the President of my country might have said, "Yes we can".

In one of the sub-plenaries, I heard Pak Wahjudi Wardoyo paraphrase the US Ambassador along the lines of the various "P"'s that are needed for REDD, and I'll also adopt that approach, starting with the first P's -- for the President and his passion.

The President's Speech

President Yudhoyono set the tone for the conference by stressing the importance of forests to *Indonesia's* economy, environment and society. While forests are important for protecting the global climate, they are also critical to the welfare of local citizens.

As the President said, "If it weren't for the benefits that our forests provide, then our way of life, our people, our economy, our environment and our society would be so much poorer".

The President said that implementing the right set of policies and actions to sustainably manage forests is an important priority for *him*, and he urged all of us to support those efforts.

I think we all appreciate the significance of the President's commitment to dedicate the last three years of his term to this

agenda, and his exhortation to business leaders, particularly those in the oil palm, pulp and paper, and mining sectors, to partner with government and enhance the environmental sustainability of their operations.

The President reiterated his pledge to cut Indonesia's greenhouse gas emissions.

He said that steps such as the Letter of Intent with the Government of Norway and the two-year moratorium on new forestry concessions are not goals in themselves, but measures that provide time and resources to review and revise land-use policy and practice, and improve forest governance.

As the President said: "A long journey still awaits us. We know we must do more, to address the primary sources of our greenhouse emissions, such as illegal logging, forest encroachment, forest and land fires, and peatland drainage. And indeed we are working hard and comprehensively to overcome these challenges."

Key challenges

Following the President's speech this morning, our speakers, panelists, and members of the audience expressed your views about the key challenges, and what needs to be done to address them.

Two "P's" coming out of what I heard, were patience -- to deal with very complex issues that will take time -- and the need for practical solutions.

In one of the discussion forums this afternoon, Agus Purnomo made a plea on behalf of the REDD Task Force for a practical to-do list of what he called "winnable fights".

And I think that during the day, we've generated a pretty good list of things that can be done by government, business, and civil society, and how the international community can help.

The business community

It's clear that elements of the private sector are eager to respond to the President's call for companies to adjust their business models to support sustainable management of Indonesia's forests.

Shinta Kamdani of the Indonesia Chamber of Commerce said, "KADIN wants to take an active role in finding a REDD+ framework that's more workable for business…Government and civil society cannot handle this on their own."

And KADIN proposes forming a joint working group to develop a framework that all stakeholders can engage in.

Voters participating in Sub-plenary #2 on REDD+ cited as the most urgent and important challenge the lack of a clear national-level strategy and regulatory framework to support REDD+.

The private sector needs certainty – *kepastian*.

And it wouldn't hurt if there were more disincentives faced by those whose illegal or unsustainable business models provide unfair competition.

Voters in Sub-plenary #2 also said that the most urgent and important action that could be taken domestically to support REDD+ was to enhance law enforcement efforts to reduce illegal forest land conversion and degradation; and that the most urgent and import action the international community

could take would be to cooperate to close markets and limit finance for illegally and unsustainably-produced commodities that compete with REDD+ for forest land.

Civil society

But it's not just the business community that wants more clarity and certainty and *kepastian*: local and indigenous communities also need resolution of land tenure conflicts.

Participants in Sub-plenary #1 on trade and investment almost rebelled when "tenure" wasn't one of the choices for the most important and urgent challenge, so instead pressures from the pulp and paper and mining industries got the most votes.

Voters in Sub-plenary #2 identified conflicts over tenure as the second most urgent and important challenge, and resolving such conflicts as the second most urgent and important priority for domestic action.

In one of the discussion forums, I heard Sandra Moniaga complain that "The effort to solve the problem of land tenure is too piecemeal. The government's Master Plan does not take into account land use conflicts", pointing that that "Spatial planning is about land use not tenure." And she wanted to know, "Which sectoral department is going to take responsibility for solving fundamental problems that were created by colonial policies?"

Civil society is also eager to participate in the process of review and revise land use policy and practice. Many participants stated that one of the most pressing needs is to urgently update the Indicative Map that was issued as part of the moratorium.

In fact voters in Sub-plenary #1 said that the single most urgent and important opportunity for domestic action was to use the current moratorium on new concessions to review and rationalize forest landuse.

Government

Another P is for policy. Today's discussions revealed consensus around a number of policy initiatives that the government can take that would lead to "win-win" solutions.

One of them is to adjust regulations and align incentives to direct plantation expansion to degraded lands. The second-biggest vote-getter in Sub-plenary #1 for domestic action was to improve landuse regulations to remove barriers to the development of new plantations on degraded lands.

Another win-win initiative would be to increase the efficiency of agricultural land use as a contribution to the President's goal of providing food security for all Indonesians without putting additional pressure on forests.

The international community

But as I said this morning, it's not fair to ask Indonesia to do all of this alone, both because the world benefits from Indonesia's forests, and many of the pressures on Indonesia's forest originate from beyond its borders.

The good news is that we've heard of a strong desire to help on the part of donor governments, multilateral institutions, international business, and even other countries engaged in REDD such as Brazil.

Eric Solheim, the Minister for the Environment of Norway, pledged that his country would do its best to make certain that President Yudhoyono will be able to deliver on his promise to spend his last three years as President making sure that the rainforest is at the top of his agenda.

Andrew Steer, the Special Envoy for Climate Change at the World Bank said, "The world is watching Indonesia with extraordinary admiration and viewing Indonesia as a great beacon of hope. We are sitting on the edge of our seats. If Indonesia succeeds, it will be a massive gift to the world as well as to Indonesia itself."

The last P is for PR -- not public relations, but *pekerjaan rumah*, or homework -- which we all have leaving this conference.

Those of us at CIFOR are certainly standing by to do our part, and eager to provide whatever information and analysis is needed to support forward movement in the right direction.

Working together, we can do this.

Let me close with some expressions of appreciation.

This conference would not have been possible without the generous support in funding, time and expertise of many organizations and individuals.

A special thanks goes our donors: the Norwegian Embassy, the UK Climate Change Unit, the Australian Government's AusAID program, the Climate and Land Use Alliance, the Program on Forests at the World Bank, and the European Union.

Thank you also to our media partners who have raised awareness of many of the key issues addressed here today,

including the newspapers Kompas and Jakarta Post, and the radio stations KBR68H and Green Radio.

We are very grateful to all those talented individuals who kindly served on two advisory councils to the conference – one key stakeholders from civil society community, the other made up of business leaders.

The strong turnout of Indonesia's business community was a result of the generous contributions from the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and the Indonesia Business Council for Sustainable Development.

And of course I would like to thank our partners within the Government of Indonesia, including the Ministry of Forestry, the Office of the Special Advisor to the President on Climate Change, the Presidential Delivery Unit for Development Oversight and the Office of the Special Advisor to the President on International Relations.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to the many speakers who have traveled from across Indonesia and around the world to be with us today and share their views, experiences and expertise.

And finally, please join me in thanking the small army CIFOR staff who helped plan and implement this event.

And with that it is my honor to introduce the Minister of Forestry Mr. Zulkifli Hasan, who will close the conference.

Mr. Minister.