

**Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) between the Governments of the Republic of Colombia, the Kingdom of Norway, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Cooperation on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) and on promoting sustainable development in Colombia**

**I. PREAMBLE**

The Governments of the Republic of Colombia (Colombia), the Kingdom of Norway (Norway), the Federal Republic of Germany (Germany) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (United Kingdom), referred to hereinafter as the "partners", hereby:

- a) Reaffirm their commitment to the Joint Declaration of Intent on Climate Change and REDD+ signed in Paris on 30 November 2015, and the continued importance of the partnership in contributing to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation while fostering sustainable development.
- b) Acknowledge that recent science shows that natural climate solutions can contribute up to one third of the global emission reductions required by 2030 to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- c) Highlight the partners' continued commitment to the objectives of the Paris Agreement, emphasizing their determination to enhance global ambition and action through international collaboration. In this regard, recall the joint statement on "Raising Ambition on Forests" presented by Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom in New York in September 2019<sup>1</sup>, and their shared ambition to provide payments for third party verified emission reductions.
- d) Reaffirm the joint international commitment of partners to fight deforestation and promote forest landscape restoration, as endorsed mainly in the Sustainable Development Goals, the New York Declaration on Forests and the Bonn Challenge, with the purpose of halting the loss of natural forests by 2030.
- e) Recognize Colombia for having achieved significant emission reductions of 34,572,630 tnCO<sub>2</sub>eq<sup>2</sup> from reduced deforestation in the Amazon in the period 2013-2016, for which Colombia has been rewarded up to the amount of 80 Million EUR by the three partner countries.
- f) Acknowledge that the recent challenges and changing dynamics in some regions have contributed to increased pressure on forests, and the consequent delay of the entry into force of modality 2 of the Joint Declaration of Intent of 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/fea23098c89248cd976091bcede7ccc5/joint-statement.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [https://redd.unfccc.int/uploads/2\\_223\\_registro\\_interino\\_re2013-2015\\_v1.pdf](https://redd.unfccc.int/uploads/2_223_registro_interino_re2013-2015_v1.pdf)

- g) Recognize the importance of strengthening state institutions' role, as well as the implementation of strategies at the local level, in order to achieve greater results in reducing deforestation over the upcoming years. Likewise, consider that legal access to land, land titling and sustainable land use could contribute among other key solutions to halt deforestation in Colombia.
- h) Also recognize Colombia's important national efforts in stepping up action in the reduction of deforestation and promote sustainable and low carbon development, as reflected in Colombia's National Development Plan 2018-2022 (law 1955 of 2019), the National Green Growth Policy and the Integral Strategy to Control Deforestation and Promote Sustainable Forest Management (the national REDD+ strategy) and the need for partnerships to support Colombia's new plans and strategies.
- i) Recognize the significant impact of the government of Colombia's decision to address the fight against deforestation as a matter of State, and share the view that biodiversity should be recognized as a strategic national asset, thus managing to achieve concrete results in a short period of time such as a 10% reduction in deforestation in 2018 compared to 2017.
- j) Recognize the creation of the National Council to Combat Deforestation and Other Associated Environmental Crimes (CONALDEF) and the launching of awareness, prevention and control activities with the joint participation of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, the Office of the Attorney General and other authorities, which are prioritizing law enforcement against deforestation and land grabbing, particularly in protected areas in the Amazon.
- k) Celebrate that Colombia has signed four zero deforestation agreements with the beef, dairy, palm oil and cocoa supply chains, in line with its commitments under the New York Declaration on Forests with the objective of involving the private sector in the task of reducing deforestation.
- l) Acknowledge the leadership role of Colombia in regional efforts to protect tropical forests, as reflected in the Leticia Pact for the Amazon, signed in September 2019.
- m) Reaffirm their continued commitment to the Joint Declaration of Intent of 2015 (JDI 2015), the partners agree in accordance with paragraph a) in Chapter XIII of the 2015 JDI, to renew the Declaration until 2025. Likewise, the following chapters are updated / amended as set forth below.

## II. PURPOSE AND FOCUS OF THE PARTNERSHIP

The following will replace Chapter II of the 2015 JDI:

The main purpose of the Partnership is:

- a) To contribute to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Colombia.

And in furtherance of this purpose;

- b) To contribute to the achievement of the following Colombian objectives:
  - Reduce the loss of natural forests to 155,000 hectares or less by 2022 and 100,000 hectares or less by 2025 as an aspirational goal that adequately reflects the unprecedented circumstances currently experienced by the country.
  - By 2020, the National Council to Combat Deforestation and other Associated Environmental Crimes (CONALDEF) will effectively implement activities for prevention and control in the areas most affected by deforestation.
  - By 2020, develop and implement Integrated Strategic Plans in the context of the Future Zones Strategy in at least three areas of high deforestation.
  - By 2025, create and update a land registry for at least 1 million hectares in high deforestation areas.
  - By 2022, include 195,000 additional hectares under Payments for Environmental Services and conservation incentives schemes in areas of high deforestation, including lands located in collective territories of ethnic groups.
  - By 2022, have initiated restoration processes for 200,000 hectares in areas of high deforestation, including lands located in collective territories of ethnic groups.
  - By 2025, 500,000 hectares will be under sustainable forest management as part of the national Community-based Forestry program.
  - By 2022, an additional 147,000 hectares will be under sustainable cattle ranching systems with zero deforestation.
  - By 2025, Departmental Agricultural Extension Plans will implement environmental sustainability and zero deforestation criteria at the municipal level in six Departments with high deforestation rates.
  - By 2022, an additional 750,000 hectares will be incorporated into the National System of Protected Areas.
  - By 2022, a proposal for Payment for Environmental Services and other conservation incentives, aimed at indigenous peoples and Afro-Colombian communities will be developed with the communities and will be in its implementation phase.
  - By 2020 update the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and by 2021 translate it into national sector-specific policies and implementation plans for the forest and land use sector.
- c) Work to advance the goals of the Leticia Pact for the Amazon, and to support progress on global efforts regarding climate change and sustainable development in general, and REDD+ in particular.

### III. GENERAL APPROACH AND PRINCIPLES

The following will replace Chapter III of the JDI 2015:

The general approach of this partnership is based on the understanding that:

- (a) Colombia defines policy commitments underpinned by ambitious targets, with outcomes relevant to REDD+;
- (b) Partners define funding commitments based on those outcomes;
- (c) Funding flows according to delivery of outcomes (pay-for-performance).

In their cooperation, the partners intend to:

- a) Ensure that this Partnership is based on relevant decisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change UNFCCC, and that nothing in the Partnership conflicts with these decisions.
- b) Give all relevant stakeholders, including local communities, indigenous peoples, civil society and women, the opportunity of full and effective participation in REDD+ planning and implementation.
- c) Respect the rights and proposals of indigenous, forest dependent and local communities in accordance with Colombian legislation and international law, noting that Colombia has ratified ILO Convention 169 on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- d) Take a jurisdictional approach as and when appropriate;
- e) Seek the engagement of the private sector, promoting ambitious commitments aimed at fulfilling Colombia's goals to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and to restore degraded lands and promote reforestation.
- f) Be fully transparent with regard to financing, actions and results.
- g) Encourage the inclusion of other partners in the partnership.
- h) Ensure the economic, social and environmental sustainability and integrity of all REDD+ efforts.
- i) Promote the development of robust carbon accounting, reference levels and a transparent, comprehensive national Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system and methodology related to REDD+
- j) Put emphasis on implementing actions in areas particularly affected by deforestation, in the pursuit of achieving effective results in terms of reducing deforestation in the short and medium term.
- k) Achieve results by implementing strategies, which will increase the cooperation and coordination between the different sectors and ministries related to reducing deforestation.

#### **IV. MODALITIES FOR THE OPERATION OF THE PARTNERSHIP**

The following will replace Chapter IV of the JDI 2015:

The Partnership will be structured on the basis of two modalities of cooperation which may in some cases operate simultaneously:

- Modality 1: Contributions for policy objectives and implementation.
- Modality 2: Contributions for verified emission reductions at the national level.

#### **V. MODALITY 1: CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS POLICY OBJECTIVES AND IMPLEMENTATION**

The following will replace Chapter V of the JDI 2015:

Contributions for policy objectives and implementation (Modality 1) will be delivered with a view to the achievement of the Colombian objectives as presented under chapter II. Purpose and focus of the Partnership.

Contributions under modality 1 to the JDI will be structured around an annual report that presents the progress in achieving the objectives of the JDI and the corresponding milestones. These milestones will be explained in detail in a document on which the partners intend to come to an understanding by first quarter of 2020, and annexed to this Joint Declaration of Intent [Annex 2]. The report will be presented and made publicly available.

#### **VI. MODALITY 2: CONTRIBUTIONS FOR VERIFIED EMISSION REDUCTIONS AT A NATIONAL LEVEL.**

The following will replace the Chapter VI of the JDI 2015:

Contributions under modality 2 will be delivered based on third-party verified emission reductions from gross deforestation at the national level once Colombia delivers results. The partners will apply the highest environmental and social standards in order to assess the environmental and social integrity of the results of the program:

- In 2020, Colombia will clarify how its deforestation reduction goal (as specified in chapter II of this Declaration) is reflected in its Nationally Determined Contribution, following the principle of increased ambition over time for NDCs under the Paris Agreement.
- Contributions under modality 2 will pay for a portion of the third-party verified emission reductions and thus provide additional incentive for Colombia to achieve its goal of ending natural forest loss by 2030.
- Emission reductions will be measured at the national level relative to a moving 10-year average of historic emissions, which will be adjusted downwards periodically, based on agreed rules, to reflect Colombia's results and ambitions.
- The partners welcome the development of third-party verification standards that can help to increase transparency and raise ambition with respect to the criteria required for emission reductions with high social and environmental integrity.

Norway's contribution under modality 2 will be based on the principles agreed in the Leticia Declaration of 2018<sup>3</sup>. Colombia and Norway will intend to apply the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions and its TREES standard to Norway's modality 2 payments, pending assessment of the final TREES standard to be released in early 2020. Norway will guarantee payment of USD 10 per ton for certified emission reductions for a total of up to NOK 400 million<sup>4</sup> per year until 2025.

## **VII. INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS' CONTRIBUTIONS**

The following chapter VIII will replace Chapters VII, VIII, IX, X, XI and XII of the JDI 2015

## **VIII. JOINT PLEDGE**

The partners stand ready to support Colombia's results in terms of reducing deforestation and promote sustainable development with payment of a total amount of up to USD 366 million<sup>5</sup> until 2025, based on the contributions as laid out in Annex 1. Of this amount, up to USD 51 million will be payments against achievement of milestones, USD 55 million will be support to aligned projects towards the achievement of the Colombian objectives (modality 1), and up to USD 260 million will be payments for achieved emission reductions (modality 2).

Based on progress under this JDI, the international partners intend to continue to cooperate with the Government of Colombia with a view to further increase support over the period.

In support of modality 2, Germany and UK will consider rewarding verified emission reductions applying high climate integrity, environmental and social standards, should sufficient verified emission reductions from avoided deforestation be available in the future.

Each international partner intends to support Colombia's efforts through complementary measures, using various mechanisms, finance sources and implementation vehicles as specified in bilateral agreements or arrangements. Annex 1 to this Declaration contains information on the specific contributions.

## **IX. TIME PERIOD AND ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The following will replace chapter XIII section a) – c) of the JDI 2015.

- a) Unless otherwise specified, the provisions of JDI 2015 will remain in effect. As foreseen in the JDI 2015, the JDI may be renewed for a further five-year period. The renewed JDI will take effect upon the signing of all partners and will remain in effect until 2025.
- b) In case the partners wish to further extend the time period of this Declaration, the established understandings reflected in this Declaration will remain in effect and may only be replaced by more ambitious objectives, policies and strategies.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/ab91f85b5a2e4b15ada7480e2f744a0f/joint-statement-colombia-norway.pdf>

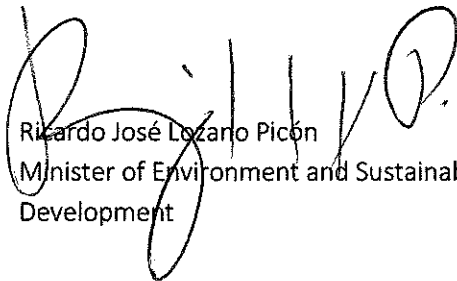
<sup>4</sup> As of Dec 1 2019 this constituted USD 43.6 million

<sup>5</sup> All USD figures are subject to the following exchange rates as of Dec 1 2019: 9.15 for NOK/USD; 0.91 for EUR/USD; 0.77 for GBP/USD.

- c) The partners will hold regular meetings at least once a year, in order to promote and review the effective implementation of this Declaration. The meetings will be attended by the representatives of the Governments of Colombia, Norway, Germany and the United Kingdom, as well as any new partner that will join in the partnership by signing this JDI.
- d) An independent review of the progress of the partnership and its deliverables will be conducted at regular intervals, as appropriate and as agreed by the partners.
- e) This renewal of the JDI will include two annexes. Annex 1 will outline the specific contributions to Colombia from Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom. Annex 2 will define (a) the milestones and the framework to measure the achievement of the agreed objectives of this cooperation, (b) the content and methodology to develop and present a periodic report and (c) the governance structure for the implementation of the JDI.


This JDI was signed in Madrid on 11 December 2019 in four original copies in English and Spanish. The English version of this JDI represents the understanding among the partners. Any other version is provided as a translation. In the event of conflict between the two versions, the English version will prevail.

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**ANNEX 1**  
**SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS BY PARTNER**

**GERMANY**

In support of modality 1, Germany is willing to continue contributing funding to the Government of Colombia in achieving the objectives of this Declaration. This includes agreed upcoming funding that constitutes USD 55<sup>6</sup> million to aligned projects towards the achievement of the Colombian objectives, specifically:

- A second assignment to the Amazon Vision programme through the REDD Early Movers programme, for an amount of USD 22 million (payments for emission reduction results for avoided deforestation or, in addition, for institutional results with positive impacts in combating deforestation and for sustainable development in the Amazon).
- Support for the consolidation and expansion of the National System of Protected Areas through Natural National Parks through additional funds of USD 7.7 million.
- Technical Cooperation Programme on Deforestation-free Land Use (PROBOSQUE) with a total volume of USD 6.6 million.
- The International Climate Initiative (IKI) in Colombia supports a newly selected bilateral project to support the management of strategic ecosystems with a total volume of USD 19.3 million. Additional support for JDI objectives under the IKI is contingent on their mutual prioritization of Minambiente and BMU in the course of the next years.

In support of modality 1, Germany is providing contributions through existing funding that is not calculated as contribution under section VIII of the JDI.

- Support for the consolidation and expansion of the National System of Protected Areas through Natural National Parks through an existing amount of USD 38.5 million.
- The International Climate Initiative (IKI) in Colombia supports ongoing bilateral projects to strengthen forest conservation with a total volume of USD 19.8 million.

In support of modality 2, Germany will consider rewarding verified emission reductions applying high climate integrity, environmental and social standards, should sufficient verified emission reductions from avoided deforestation be available in the future.

Additionally, and not included under modality 1 & 2 contributions, Germany will support the objectives of the JDI through programmatic loans to promote the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to the environment, specifically SDGs 13, 14 and 15, with a total amount of 200 Mio. EUR in two phases.

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<sup>6</sup> All USD figures are subject to the following exchange rates as of Dec 1 2019: 0.91 for EUR/USD

## NORWAY

In support of modality 1, Norway stands ready to contribute up to USD 51 million<sup>7</sup> until 2022 based on the fulfilment of Colombia's national objectives as specified in chapter II of this Joint Declaration. The size of each annual disbursements will depend on the achievement of the annual milestones to be jointly agreed under Annex 2 to this Joint Declaration.

In addition to payments for achieving milestones, Norway will continue to provide significant support to other strategic initiatives and programmes implemented by national and regional authorities, civil society partners, indigenous and Afro-Colombian organisations and private sector actors that can contribute to reduce deforestation and to achieve the objectives set out in this Joint Declaration.

Norway's contribution under modality 2 will be based on the principles agreed in the Leticia Declaration of 2018<sup>8</sup>. Colombia and Norway will intend to apply the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions and its TREES standard to Norway's modality 2 payments, pending assessment of the final TREES standard to be released in early 2020. Norway will guarantee payment of USD 10 per ton for certified emission reductions for a total of up to NOK 400 million<sup>9</sup> per year until 2025.

All Norwegian contributions are subject to annual parliamentary approval.

## UNITED KINGDOM

- In support of modality 1, UK is investing through programmes such as the BioCarbon Fund and Partnerships for Forests, of up to 25 million USD to be invested in Colombia. This contains existing funding and is thus not calculated as contribution under section IX of the JDI.
- UK are in the final stages of approval for a new investment that will support Colombia in their fight against deforestation through a comprehensive, conflict sensitive and transformational approach.
- Under the recently signed UK-COL Partnership for Sustainable Growth, UK remain committed to collaborate with Colombia in the implementation of ambitious commitments and reiterate the interest in exploring new investment opportunities under this modality in the forest and land use agenda.

In support of modality 2, UK will consider rewarding verified emission reductions applying high climate integrity, environmental and social standards, should sufficient verified emission reductions from avoided deforestation be available in the future.

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<sup>7</sup> Norway's payments for milestones under modality 1 is limited upwards to a maximum of NOK 470 million up until 2022. As of Dec 1 2019 this constituted USD 51.1 million.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/ab91f85b5a2e4b15ada7480e2f744a0f/joint-statement-colombia-norway.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> As of Dec 1 2019 this constituted USD 43.6 million. For the period 2020-2025 this equals approximately USD 260 million.