



## **Record of Discussion IDN-EU FLEGT VPA Joint Expert Meeting Jakarta, 22 September 2015**

### **Introduction**

The meeting was co-chaired by Dr. Agus Justianto for Indonesia and Mr. Franck Viault for the EU. More than 30 participants from government, private sector, civil society, the EU Delegation, the Multi-stakeholder Forest Programme-3 and EFI's EU FLEGT Facility joined the meeting.

### **Agenda 1: Data collection on implementation progress**

The meeting noted that Indonesia has achieved significant progress on data collection of SVLK roll-out. However, some data related to timber harvesting on conversion areas (IPKs), use of Suppliers Declaration of Conformity (SDoC), timber industries and traders still needs to be improved. The EU acknowledged the challenges in data collection but hoped that in particular the data on IPKs and total and certified industries can be completed soon as it is crucial for the next steps in the process towards FLEGT licensing. Both parties agreed to exchange comments on data compilation and to organize a follow-up meeting in early October.

### **Agenda 2: Issuance of new Indonesian legislation**

Indonesia is revising the Minister for Forestry Regulation No. 43/2014 and Minister for Environment and Forestry (MoEF) Regulation No. 95/2014 on SVLK for the second time. Changes include:

- Extended definition of the government to include national and provincial/district authorities
- Definition on auctioned timber
- A new temporary measure to ease participation of small-scale non-exporting industries
- A detailed description of the independent monitoring function by civil society.

This revision will be further detailed in a MoEF DG Regulation by mid-November. The EU delegation took note of the positive progress. The EFI technical team noted that the changes are generally in line with the VPA.

### **Agenda 3: Action Plan implementation**

Indonesia reported on the roll out of SVLK nationwide. Procedures regarding control of imported timber and the due diligence requirement for importers are expected to enter into force on 1 January 2016 as scheduled. The MoEF has successfully assessed all licensing authorities. MoEF instructed district governments to increase oversight on all operators. MoEF's upcoming Minister Regulation will contain articles on funding and security of independent monitors. Further discussions on public disclosure between MoEF and independent monitors took place. An upcoming regulation will mandate the declaration of the status of timber in relevant supply chain documentation. The government is also developing an online system to support supply chain control and data reconciliation. Finally, a tender committee will choose candidates for VPA Periodic Evaluation on 28 Sept 2015. The consultants working on impact monitoring started developing the design of the VPA impact monitoring system.

The meeting took note of the Action Plan implementation progress. EFI highlighted the need for proof that Independent Monitors can fully play their role in the SVLK. The Indonesian side highlighted that some activities to strengthen the independent monitoring function are currently developed to support its effective implementation.

The meeting agreed that it would be beneficial to define the Self Export Declaration (SED) better in the coming minister regulation to avoid confusion by EU operators. The EU will inform EU Member States of the differences between SVLK and SED. The meeting also agreed to conduct a short assessment to check and document the completion of the Action Plan by the end of this year.

#### **Agenda 4: Publications, translations, and websites**

The JIC Secretariat reported on the publications made available on the SILK and EU Delegation websites. These include the Records of Discussion and press release of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Implementation Committee, and the Summary of the most recent Action Plan on the Advancement of VPA Implementation. The JIC Secretariat also translated several SVLK regulations and uploaded those on the SILK website. The English version of the Annual Report on the FLEGT VPA is finalized and will soon be distributed. The Indonesian version is in the process of being finalized. The Annual Report will be distributed to relevant stakeholders including ministries, offices, NGOs, and in international meetings such as the upcoming UNFCCC (COP21) in Paris. EFI presented progress on the development of a media room for journalists on the VPA with Indonesia as part of its actions to prepare the market for FLEGT licensed timber.

#### **Agenda 5: Independent Market Monitoring and Progress on Implementation of EUTR and FLEGT Regulations**

The International Tropical Timber Organization will launch the Independent Market Monitoring (IMM) baseline report during the 51st session of the International Tropical Timber Council. The IMM will also prepare an EU Market Survey to explore the perception of the EU Market on timber from FLEGT VPA countries, and for other systems that indicate legality or sustainability. The IMM will recruit a country correspondence for Indonesia.

The EU reported that the EUTR is being implemented seriously and law enforcement is being promoted. The EU also informed about progress on the implementation of the FLEGT Regulation and the readiness of EU competent authorities to receive FLEGT licensed timber. Indonesia asked for further details on the EUTR implementation. The meeting agreed that Indonesia will send a list of questions to the EC to facilitate related understanding.

#### **Agenda 6: Next Meetings**

The next JEM meeting is tentatively scheduled on 13 November 2015, with an Indonesian-EU Joint Working Group meeting on 10 November 2015 to prepare for the JEM.

#### **Agenda 7: Any Other Business**

Indonesia is considering to inform about SVLK and the VPA in its pavilion at the UNFCCC COP21.