

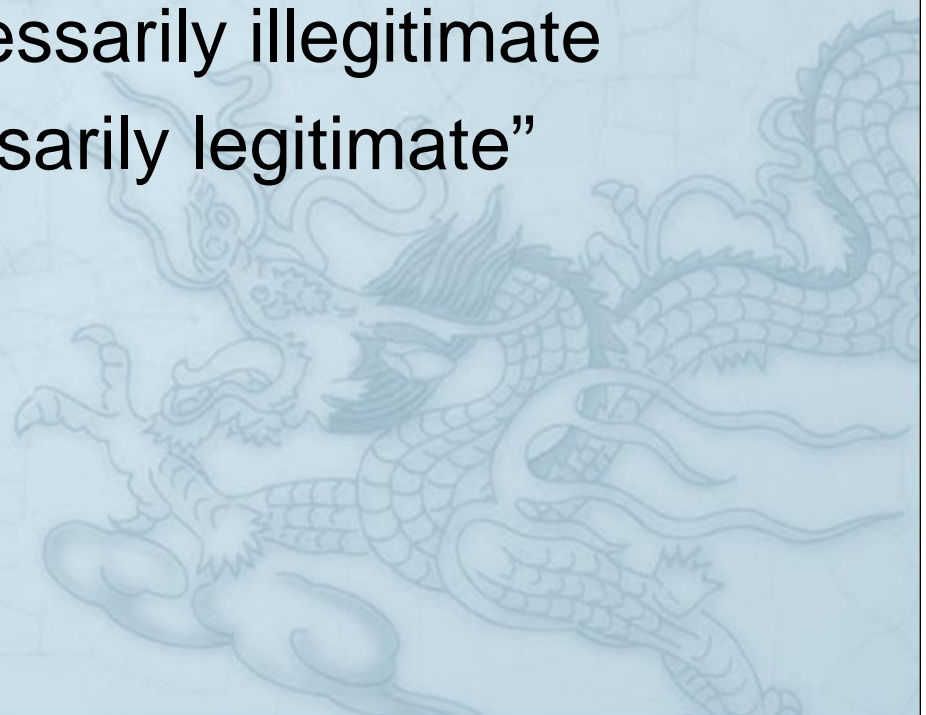
# **SUMMARY, OMISSIONS AND FOLLOW-UP**



# SUMMARY, OMISSIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

An important theme running through the conference (whose primary theme was the legality of traded timber)

“What is illegal is not necessarily illegitimate  
What is legal is not necessarily legitimate”



# SUMMARY, OMISSIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

## Multi-Stakeholder Processes

- Variety of shapes, origins, originators, purposes and participants
- One size does not fit all; design needs to fit purpose
- May aim only to consult; decide; or manage
- May be fully democratic; may operate based on consensus or by fiat
- If managed well, any of these circumstances can work, depending on expectations, and what is at stake

# SUMMARY, OMISSIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

## Multi-Stakeholder Processes

- Participants must see value in the process
- Ownership is key, but not all owners will have the same stake
- Trust building is important, parties get to this in different ways, over time
- Time may be the key factor in development of a multi-stakeholder process

# SUMMARY, OMISSIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

Who Will Pay: The Social Pricing of Legality

- In our discussions, the economic perspective was largely financial and business-related
- A broader analysis, including a social pricing perspective is essential



# SUMMARY, OMISSIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

MSD: Who should pay for the participation of communities and civil society, especially in Africa?

Who should pay for the technology in tracking systems?

# SUMMARY, OMISSIONS AND FOLLOW-UP


## INDEPENDENT OBSERVERS

- The role and mandate of the Independent Observer in the FLEGT Process and the VPA needs clarification and must be site-specific
- There is not enough clarity about the roles of the states in the verification process: the process must be independent, professional and objective, regardless of participation

# SUMMARY, OMISSIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

## ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY

Technology can be a powerful tool in timber tracking, and there is no excuse for not using it. But for it to be useful, the information it reveals must be made publicly available (transparency), and government agencies must be willing to act on findings



# SUMMARY, OMISSIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

## ON POLITICAL WILL

“Lack of political will” is a term usually applied to governments that fail to act against what they perceive to be their own best interests. To expect that all promises and all agreements will be fully honoured is unrealistic. That is why we have advocacy organizations, pressure groups, independent monitors, the media and the judiciary.

# SUMMARY, OMISSIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

## SOME QUESTIONS

- Are we spending more time discussing laws than on the crimes they aim to prevent?
- Are we spending more time on trying to make the logging business legal than in making it ethical?
- Are we spending more time on who should pay for better enforcement than on who can pay?
- Are we talking more about the political economy of logs than the political economy of poverty?

# SUMMARY, OMISSIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

## SOME QUESTIONS

- Are we talking more about “community” than about the politics and the power relationships within communities?
- Are we talking more about “good governance” than about weak or bad government?
- Are we talking too much about producers and too little about consumers?
- How do we motivate smaller producers if the costs of legality rise?

# SUMMARY, OMISSIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

## SOME QUESTIONS

- Are we talking more about disincentives to illegal actions than about incentives to legal activities?
- Are we talking about verification and monitoring solely to improve legality of traded timber or to serve other purposes e.g., compliance to multilateral agreements?

# SUMMARY, OMISSIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

## DISSEMINATION

The VERIFOR Project has produced good findings and results, but there remains a problem in disseminating these at different levels

