

21 June 2023

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# Decisions of the fifth SOFF Steering Committee meeting

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Systematic Observations  
Financing Facility

**Weather  
and climate  
data for  
resilience**



## Decisions of the fifth SOFF Steering Committee meeting 21 June 2023

### Decision item 5.1: Adoption of the agenda

The Steering Committee adopts the Agenda as submitted on 16 June 2023.

### Decision item 5.2: Endorsement of the arrangements for the Government of the Netherlands contribution to the SOFF United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund

The SOFF Steering Committee

**Welcomes** the contribution of the government of the Netherlands to the SOFF United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UNMPTF).

#### Notes

- the Netherlands' decision to channel its contribution to the SOFF UNMPTF through the Netherlands Red Cross.
- that the Netherlands Red Cross has been subject to a due diligence process by UNMPTF Office with satisfactory results, and it is ready to sign the Standard Administrative Arrangement with the UNMPTF office.
- that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands will represent the Netherlands at the SOFF Steering Committee.

**Endorses** the arrangements for the Netherlands' contribution to the SOFF UNMPT through the Netherlands Red Cross, and the representation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands in the Steering Committee.

### Decision 5.3: Approval of Second batch of SOFF Readiness funding requests

The SOFF Steering Committee

**Approves** the second batch of 10 Readiness phase funding requests for a total budget of USD 1,570,262.45

**Urges** Beneficiary Countries and Peer Advisors to complete the Readiness phase within the time frames indicated in the respective funding requests.

**Encourages** the SOFF Advisory Board Members to identify country-level synergies and complementarities and inform the SOFF Secretariat accordingly.

#### Requests

- the UNMPTF Office to disburse the above stated amount to WMO.
- WMO to issue Assignment Agreements with the peer advisors that include the Terms of Reference as stated in the annex of each funding request.

## **Decision 5.4: Expanding SOFF support to all Early Warnings for All priority countries and third batch SOFF Readiness programming**

The SOFF Steering Committee

### **Adopts**

- the proposal to expand SOFF support to all UN Early Warnings for All Initiative (EW4All) initial group of countries and to further accelerate SOFF implementation as a foundational element and delivery mechanism of the initiative.
- the third batch of SOFF programming countries.

### **Welcomes**

- the nomination of the Nordic Development Fund Managing Director as a Member of the advisory panel for the UN Secretary-General's EW4All Initiative alongside the WMO Secretary-General and other global leaders

### **Notes**

- the importance of the UN EW4All Initiative and the crucial role that SOFF provides as a foundational element and delivery mechanism of the initiative.
- that three countries (Bangladesh, Barbados, and Jamaica) show GBON compliance according to the WMO Global GBON Gap Analysis as of January 2022 but have been included for Readiness support given their relevance for SOFF regional implementation and their need for a detailed GBON National Gap Analysis as well as a Country Hydromet Diagnostic in preparation for the implementation of the EW4ALL activities.

### **Requests**

- the SOFF Secretariat to conduct the necessary actions following the process stated in the SOFF Operational Manual, including coordinating the preparation of Readiness funding requests for the third batch of programming countries for consideration by the Steering Committee through an intercessional decision-making process by 19th September for the announcement at the UN Climate Ambition Summit.
- the Implementing Entities, SOFF peer advisors, SOFF Advisory Board members, and the SOFF Secretariat to ensure that the Early Warnings for All initial priority countries take full advantage of SOFF to leverage additional resources to strengthen the whole early warnings value chain.
- the SOFF Secretariat to prepare an analysis of projected available funds and funding requirements across the SOFF portfolio to inform future programming decisions and present this analysis at the sixth Steering Committee meeting

## **Decision 5.5: Endorsement of “SOFF within the Multilateral Climate Finance Architecture: Role, Actions, Vision” document**

The Steering Committee

**Endorses** the “SOFF within the Multilateral Climate Finance Architecture: Role, Actions, Vision” document.

**Requests** the SOFF Secretariat to:

- Further advance discussions with the Green Climate Fund, Climate Investment Funds, Adaptation Fund, Global Environment Facility and CREWS and based on the collaboration notes presented in the document, develop with the secretariats of these funds a framework of complementarity and joint actions, including means for harmonization and simplification of support to countries, for consideration and endorsement at the 6<sup>th</sup> SOFF Steering Committee meeting;
- Showcase the evolving collaboration with these funds in the first SOFF Annual Report;
- Prepare a proposal for how SOFF could maximize its impact – including as a foundational element and delivery vehicle of the UN Early Warnings for All initiative - within the SOFF five-year funding target of USD 400 million through a phased and prioritized expansion of SOFF investment and compliance support to Middle-Income Countries for consideration and adoption at the 6<sup>th</sup> SOFF Steering Committee meeting;
- To seek inputs from the SOFF Steering Committee Members and the Advisory Board for the development of criteria for a prioritized SOFF expansion to Middle-Income Countries, acknowledging the Advisory Board recommendations from its fourth meeting.
- Advance fundraising efforts with the objective of securing additional pledges to be announced at UNFCCC COP28.

**Encourages the SOFF Steering Committee members and its co-chairs** to actively support the SOFF Secretariat on SOFF resource mobilization efforts.

**Encourages current SOFF funders** to follow the example of Norway and consider additional pledges.

## **Decision 5.6: Adoption of the International Fund for Agricultural Development serving as SOFF Implementing Entity**

The SOFF Steering Committee

### **Notes**

- That as stated in the SOFF Operational Manual, major multilateral development partners that play an important role in supporting countries’ hydromet development are eligible to serve as SOFF Implementing Entities (IEs) after a decision of the Steering Committee.
- That the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is in the process of joining the Alliance for Hydromet Development, that brings together major international development, humanitarian and climate finance institutions, collectively committed to scale up and unite efforts to close the hydromet capacity gap by 2030.
- That following IFAD’s request, the UNMPTF concurs and consents with IFAD joining SOFF as an Implementing Entity.

**Adopts** the inclusion of IFAD as a SOFF Implementing Entity.

#### **Decision 5.7: SOFF and GBON Compliance**

The SOFF Steering Committee

**Adopts** the SOFF and GBON Compliance document.

##### **Requests**

- the SOFF Secretariat and WMO as the SOFF Technical Authority to coordinate, as needed, the preparation of the complementary operational guidance notes required to ensure smooth implementation of the provisions stated in this document across all the phases of SOFF support.
- the SOFF Secretariat and WMO as the SOFF Technical Authority to develop a SOFF Compliance Phase Framework, using the provisions described in this document, and drawing on lessons learned from the execution of SOFF Readiness and Investment phase activities, for approval of the SOFF Steering Committee at a future date.

**Encourages** peer advisors, Implementing Entities, WMO Secretariat, and SOFF Secretariat to join efforts to support SOFF beneficiary countries to bring rapidly as many stations as possible into GBON compliance.

#### **Decision 5.8: SOFF Investment Phase Framework**

The SOFF Steering Committee

**Adopts** the SOFF Investment Phase Framework and SOFF Investment Phase Funding Request Template, and asks the SOFF Secretariat to add to the template a specific requirement to indicate the role of Civil Society Organizations.

**Requests** the SOFF Secretariat

- To conduct the necessary actions following the process stated in the SOFF Operational Manual including to coordinate the preparation of the first batch of Investment Phase funding requests for consideration at the 6th Steering Committee meeting.
- To develop Operational Guidance Notes for the Investment Phase and Reporting templates.

#### **Decision 5.9: Endorsement of the SOFF Communication Strategy**

The SOFF Steering Committee

**Endorses** the SOFF Communication Strategy.

**Welcomes** the launch of the dedicated SOFF website.

**Encourages** the Steering Committee members to provide feedback on the new SOFF website to the SOFF Secretariat by 16th July 2023.

##### **Requests**

- the SOFF Secretariat to regularly provide Communication Plans, which operationalize the Communication Strategy, to the SOFF Steering Committee for information and feedback.

SOFF co-founders, beneficiary countries, peer advisors, Implementing Entities and Advisory Board members to support SOFF communication activities.

#### **Decision 5.10: Endorsement of the outline of 1<sup>st</sup> SOFF Annual Report**

The SOFF Steering Committee

**Endorses** the outline of the 1<sup>st</sup> SOFF Annual Report and its dissemination plan.

**Encourages**

- Steering Committee members to provide final feedback to the SOFF Secretariat by 16<sup>th</sup> July 2023.
- All SOFF partners to support dissemination of the SOFF Annual Report including at high-level events.

**Decision 5.11: Adoption of the updates on SOFF Governance membership**

The SOFF Steering Committee

**Notes** with appreciation the role of the Nordic Development Fund as Steering Committee co-chair representing the funders and extends its appointment as SOFF Steering Committee co-chair for another 12 months.

**Notes** that the SOFF Advisory Board include relevant stakeholders across the meteorological value chain to provide recommendations to the Steering Committee; and that the Steering Committee endorses the composition of the Advisory Board and reviews it regularly.

**Acknowledges** that the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is a critical actor on climate action and an important partner to SOFF within the UN Early Warnings for All and the Water at the Heart of Climate initiatives.



**Acknowledges** the Advisory Board recommendation to include IFRC as a Member of the Advisory Board.

**Adopts** the inclusion of IFRC as a member of the SOFF Advisory Board.

**Requests**

- The IFRC to communicate to the SOFF Secretariat the principal representative and an alternate.
- The SOFF Secretariat to inform the Advisory Board accordingly.
- The SOFF Secretariat to make available the updated composition of the Advisory Board on the SOFF website.

**Signed by**

UN Steering Committee Co-Chair	Co-Chair of the Steering Committee
21.06.2023 	21.06.2023 
Anthony Rea Director, World Meteorological Organization	Aage Jørgensen Acting POM Director, Nordic Development Fund