



**Systematic Observations
Financing Facility (SOFF)**

World Meteorological Congress decisions and SOFF

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Successful application of weather and climate services depend on a functioning meteorological value chain

Global meteorological infrastructure



International exchange of data is a major purpose of WMO
(WMO Convention, Art. 2 b)

What does it take to do this?

- I. Requirements and gap analysis;
- II. Outreach and advocacy – analyzing and explaining benefits of data exchange to stakeholders;
- III. **Data policy** – general commitment of national governments to exchange certain data for certain purpose(s);
 - [WMO Unified Data Policy;](#)
- IV. **Regulatory material** – agreement on specifics of data exchange (what, when, where, how, ...);
 - [Global Basic Observing Network;](#)
- V. **Financial and technical support if needed;** capacity development;
 - [Systematic Observations Financing Facility;](#)

The World Meteorological Congress approved three linked strategic infrastructure initiatives

WMO Unified Data Policy

- Increased international exchange of observations by all Members (GBON)
- Return of high-quality model output to all Members

Global Basic Observing Network

- Example of regulatory implementation of data policy
- Increased exchange of observations by all Members, facilitated by both Data Policy and SOFF

Systematic Observations Financing Facility

- Technical and financial support for GBON implementation where it is most needed
- Building on GBON regulations

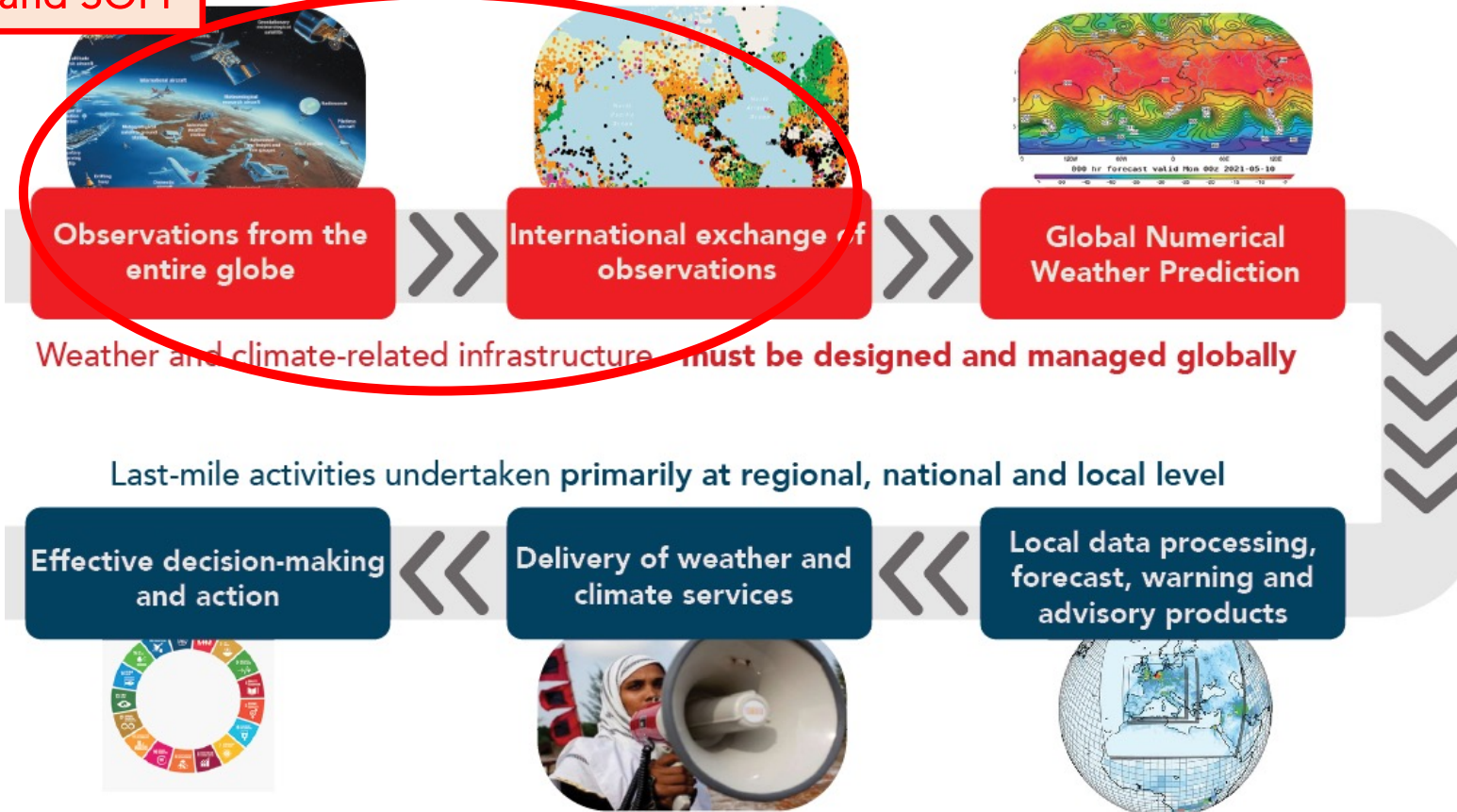
Impact of WMO Unified Data Policy for SOFF

- I. **It creates an incentive for GBON compliance:** It makes all model data (both monitoring and prediction) available to all WMO Members in return for their GBON observations

- II. **It gives GBON room to grow, both in terms of coverage,** e.g. marine observations and into areas beyond global Numerical Weather Prediction, e.g. carbon monitoring, hydrology;

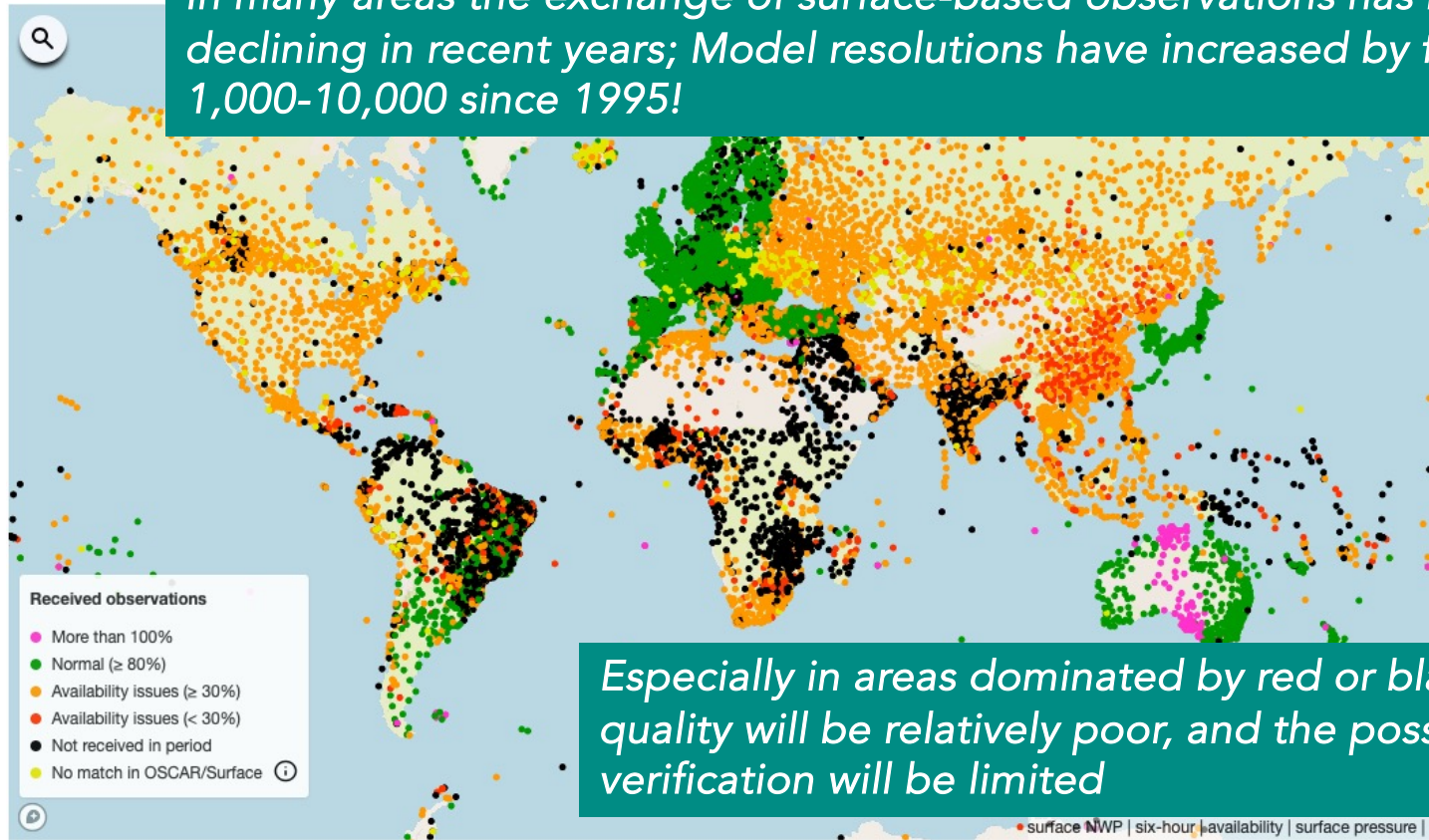
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GBON and SOFF



GBON – a historic WMO initiative to address a persistent problem: Lack of adequate observational data coverage over many parts of the globe

In many areas the exchange of surface-based observations has been declining in recent years; Model resolutions have increased by factors of 1,000-10,000 since 1995!



Especially in areas dominated by red or black, data quality will be relatively poor, and the possibility of verification will be limited

Surface pressure observations received by global NWP Centers on October 25 2021, 12Z)
(source: [WIGOS Data Quality Monitoring System](https://www.wigos.org/))

Extraordinary Session of World Meteorological Congress, Oct 2021, Resolution 5.2/1 (GBON)

GBON establishes a commitment of all 193 WMO Member states and territories to acquire and exchange internationally a minimal set of observations, specified in precise, technical regulations. Adoption of GBON regulation is a first step toward “greening the data coverage



GBON sets a specific implementation and operating targets for Members (supported by SOFF where applicable, and compliance will be monitored on 24/7)

Implications of GBON for SOFF

- Approval of the GBON regulatory material is a historic step for WMO, on par with the establishment of the World Weather Watch (1962) and the adoption of Resolution 40 (1995);
- GBON commitment reflects the recognition of the foundational role of global modeling as underpinning all weather and climate services, and the need to ensure adequate observational input from all nations, for the benefit of all nations;
- GBON sets well-defined targets (and very high expectations) for SOFF activities!
- Immediate benefits of GBON implementation expected to exceed USD 5B/year, based on improved weather prediction alone;
- However, implementing GBON in SIDS and LDCs will remain elusive without SOFF

Extraordinary Session of World Meteorological Congress October 2021 - SOFF Resolution

- Endorses the establishment of SOFF;
- Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with UNDP, UNEP and UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office to pursue the **creation of SOFF as a UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund as a matter of urgency**;
- Requests the Secretary-General and WMO Members in collaboration with representatives of other partners to **mobilize the financial resources** required to allow SOFF to commence its operations in 2022;
- Urges Members who have the capacity to **financially contribute** to the SOFF UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund; provide **expert readiness technical advisories**; provide any **other form of support**;
- Urges Members who qualify as beneficiaries to **take advantage of SOFF to achieve sustained compliance with GBON**.



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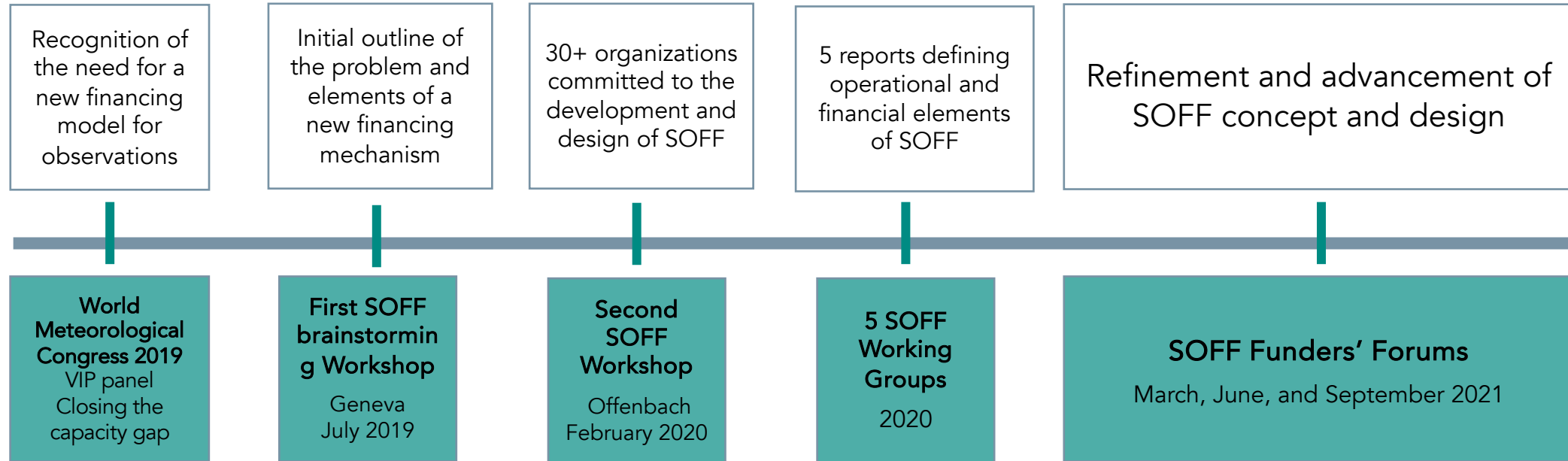


Systematic Observations Financing Facility Fourth Potential Funders' Forum

SOFF Terms of Reference

Lorena Santamaria-Rojas
WMO Development Partnerships

SOFF ToR development milestones



Since July 2019: Multiple stakeholder consultations in multiple venues:
Beneficiary countries, Alliance Members, WMO Constituent Bodies, CSOs, Private sector

SOFF ToR purpose

- **World Meteorological Congress decision** was informed by the ToR
- **SOFF creation MoU** – ToR are the basis
- **Inform countries, potential funders and stakeholders** about the core elements of the Facility

Detailed Operational and Governance arrangements to be **decided by the Steering Committee** based on SOFF ToR

SOFF ToR – final refinements

- Governance and complementarities
- Gender, CSOs and private sector
- SOFF First Implementation Period

SOFF ToR final refinements - Governance and Complementarities

- **LDC Group and AOSIS included** in the Steering Committee as non-decision making Members with voice
- **More detailed information on SOFF links** to anticipatory action, forecast-based finance, climate risk finance and humanitarian aid
- **Finalized proposed composition of the SOFF Advisory Board**, which brings together main stakeholders to ensure synergies

SOFF ToR refinement - Gender, CSOs, and public-private partnerships

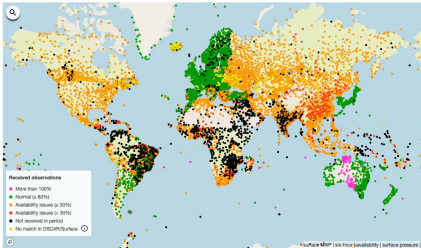
- **Gender** – Gender Action Plan added as key activity of SOFF Start-up period
- **CSOs** – CSOs role in SOFF governance and support to implementation outlined, additional information about ongoing and future consultations provided
- **Public-private partnerships.** Additional information provided on how SOFF supports “last mile” partnerships between NMHSs and private sector businesses

SOFF ToR updates - SOFF initial implementation period

- **SOFF readiness phase.** To increase speed and flexibility in the SOFF readiness phase, the application of Country Hydromet Diagnostics will be offered on an on-demand basis
- **SOFF funding and budget requirements.** Additional details have been added on the information and assumptions used for the calculation of the SOFF First Implementation Period funding needs

Thank you

2019
SOFF idea



2021
SOFF ToR

