
Fifth Funders' Forum

Virtual Meeting

7 April 2022

Summary of the Chairperson

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

**Weather
and climate
data for
resilience**



Fifth Funders' Forum for the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF)

7 April 2022

Summary of the Chairperson

I. Introduction

1. The fifth meeting of the Forum of potential funders for the SOFF was convened virtually by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) on 7 April 2022, 13:00-15:00h CEST.
2. Delegations from 24 potential funders attended the meeting. In addition, 24 delegations from SOFF stakeholders participated, including beneficiary countries, members of the Alliance for Hydromet Development, civil society organizations and scientific and technical partners. WMO, UNDP, UNEP and UNMPTF leadership and staff joined the meeting. Johannes Linn, SOFF Global Facilitator, chaired the event. (See the list of participants in Annex I).

II. Welcome

3. WMO Secretary-General, Prof. Taalas, opened the Forum and shared with the participants that the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced on 23 March 2022 a new United Nations target to ensure every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within five years. He informed that the UN Secretary-General asked WMO to spearhead this effort and to present an action plan at COP27 in November. He emphasized that SOFF is a foundational element of this action plan. Prof. Taalas also reported on the strong support for SOFF expressed by participants at the "Lahti Adaptation Finance Ministerial" in Lahti, Finland, on 3-4 April 2022.
4. UNDP Associate Administrator Ms. Usha Rao-Monari thanked Austria and the Nordic Development Fund for their early contributions to the SOFF United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UNMPTF). She pointed out that gaps in weather and climate data, especially in SIDS and LDCs, limit their ability to monitor local climate and restrict countries' ability to understand risks and implement meaningful adaptation measures. She encouraged donors to join SOFF by June 2022. Dr. Jian Liu, Director of the Science Division of UNEP, stressed the importance of information and science to address climate change. Ms. Inger Andersen, UNEP Executive Director, reminded the participants via pre-recorded video of the importance of science and data underpinning mitigation and adaptation action and thanked participants for the progress made. Ms. Jennifer Topping, Executive Coordinator of the UNMPTF Office, thanked all the participating organizations for their engagement with SOFF and welcomed the support from funders for SOFF as a foundational initiative in support of resilient development and climate action. She indicated that many of the participants are already contributors to other UNMPTFs, and that the UNMPTF Office is ready to assist the SOFF potential funders and accompany them throughout the pledging process.
5. The Chair noted that the purpose of the meeting was to share information on the activities since COP26 and on the preparatory activities for the next few months for opening SOFF doors for business in June; and to provide an opportunity for funder delegates to brief participants on the status of their preparations to pledge their financial support for SOFF. (See the Forum Agenda in Annex II).

III. Progress on SOFF

6. The SOFF Secretariat reported on the progress of SOFF, including the role of the Facility in supporting weather and climate data for resilience (COP26 and looking ahead to COP27), SOFF milestones in 2022, SOFF governance, SOFF operations, resource mobilization, and 2022 targets. The team informed the participants that SOFF will host its first Steering Committee meeting on 29-30 June 2022 and plans to start operations as of 1 July 2022. All funders with firm pledges by June will be able to join the Steering Committee as founding donors, adopt the SOFF governance and approve the first-year work plan and budget. A firm pledge consists of a publicly announced political

commitment to contribute a specific amount to the SOFF UNMPTF. If needed, financial commitments can be carried out later in the year or in 2023. Two additional Steering Committee meetings are planned for 2022, one in late September and another in November, at COP27. Two Advisory Board meetings are envisaged, one in early September and another in mid-October. The WMO Secretariat reported on the progress of the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) implementation guidance and preparatory tasks. The SOFF Secretariat concluded the presentation by summarizing SOFF 2022 ambitious targets: (a) opening doors for business in July, (b) funding allocations for up to 20 beneficiary countries by November and (c) COP27 outcomes reflecting the importance of systematic observation and SOFF for climate action.

IV. Discussion

7. Participants welcomed the progress of SOFF in terms of both the growing financial contributions and the preparation of the operational and governance arrangements. The discussion revolved around the following areas: (i) requests for more details on progress on cooperation between SOFF implementing entities and the SOFF Secretariat; (ii) a question on public access to GBON data; (iii) whether and how funders can join the Steering Committee after June 2022; (iv) how funders might terminate their engagement with SOFF during the 10-year plan period if needed; (v) whether the scope of SOFF also covers marine-based observation and (vi) whether it would be appropriate to have the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) initiative join the SOFF Advisory Board.
8. SOFF Secretariat and WMO staff responded that (i) intensive consultations with SOFF implementing entities are currently proceeding to identify hydromet and climate programmatic opportunities in which SOFF support can be integrated; (ii) weather observation data will be freely accessible in line with WMO data policy and GBON regulations; (iii) funders will join the Steering Committee as soon they have entered a firm pledge; (iv) SOFF will operate in a phased approach, with the first three-year period beginning in July 2022; funders who joined this period may consider joining subsequent periods; (v) in terms of marine observations, GBON regulations include particular requirements for SIDS that take into account the Exclusive Economic Zone; however, other marine observations are yet to be dealt with as GBON advances; and (vii) the SOFF Secretariat will explore with CREWS whether it would prefer to stick with its membership of the Steering Committee, as presently proposed, or whether it would be more appropriate to join the Advisory Board instead.

V. Funders and Beneficiary countries' statements

9. Several funder representatives expressed their strong support and intentions to contribute financially to the SOFF UNMPTF and noted their appreciation of the hard work of the SOFF team and partner organizations. Austria and the Nordic Development Fund delegates confirmed their firm pledges for EUR 4 M and EUR 10 M, respectively. They noted that financial contributions will be made available in time for the startup of SOFF operations on 1 July 2022. The Nordic Development Fund indicated its readiness to co-host the first Steering Committee with one of the Nordic countries in line with the strong Nordic leadership to establish SOFF. Other funder delegates reported on progress with the preparation of pledges by June 2022 and their intention to join the first Steering Committee meeting as founding donors. This group includes Denmark, who announced an intended contribution of EUR 3.4 M, pending final ministerial approval; Iceland, who announced their intention to join the group of SOFF founding donors; Norway, who indicated the intention to finalize a firm pledge by June, subject of final governmental approval; Spain, that indicated the intention to make a contribution to the SOFF UNMPTF; and Ireland, who confirmed the intention to become a SOFF founding member and is finalizing the preparations for their contribution. Other funders reiterated their political support for SOFF and commitment to continuing to explore ways to contribute to the SOFF UNMPTF, including Finland, Sweden and Belgium.
10. Representatives of AOSIS and the LDC Group expressed their strong support for SOFF and welcomed their organizations' participation in the SOFF Steering Committee. They thanked those funders who had already pledged and urged others to join SOFF with their financial support. They congratulated the founding UN agencies and the SOFF team for their effective work. Country delegates also reiterated the importance of systematic observation for climate action and their strong interest in supporting the positioning of this topic and SOFF at COP27. Representatives from Belize

and Tanzania encouraged the Forum participant countries to support a COP decision at COP27 that reflects the importance of systematic observation and SOFF.

VI. Closing

11. In his closing statement, the WMO Secretary-General thanked all participants for their interest and support, and for their helpful engagement throughout the SOFF preparation process. He thanked especially those funders who had already announced a firm pledge. He expressed his appreciation for the UN partners and other stakeholders actively engaged with SOFF. He reiterated that SOFF will be a key component of the action plan to ensure early warning coverage of all citizens within five years, to be presented at COP27. He expressed his willingness to engage further with principal organizations supporting climate action in order to ensure the success of this initiative.
12. The Chairperson delivered a provisional summary of the event. He noted that statements during the meeting confirmed the expectation that SOFF can count on at least 10 firm pledges by the end of June 2022 and can open its doors for operations on 1 July 2022. The Chairperson closed the meeting by thanking all participants for their engagement in the SOFF process and for the encouraging statements of support by funders. He thanked the SOFF Secretariat, WMO, UNDP, UNEP and UNMPTF, and all those who made this event possible working behind the scenes.

Annex I. Participant list

1	Petteri Taalas	WMO	Secretary General
2	Usha Rao-Monari	UNDP	Associate Administrator – recorded statement
3	Inger Andersen	UNEP	Executive Director – recorded statement
4	Jian Liu	UNEP	Director Science Division
5	Jennifer Topping	UNMPTF	Executive Coordinator
6	Johannes Linn	SOFF Global Facilitator	Chairperson
7	Markus Repnik	SOFF Secretariat	Presenter
8	Lars Peter Riishojgaard	WMO	Presenter
9	Lorena Santamaría	SOFF Secretariat	Presenter
10	Mario Peiró	SOFF Secretariat	Presenter
11	Serena Odianose	SOFF Secretariat	Presenter
12	Enrico Dal Farra	Austria	Funder
13	Heinz Habertheuer	Austria	Funder
14	Michael Staudinger	Austria	Funder
15	Siegrun Gansch	Austria	Funder
16	Pieter Rottiers	Belgium	Potential Funder
17	Werner Verschueren	Belgium	Potential Funder
18	Jen Collette	Canada	Potential Funder
19	Shannon deGraaf	Canada	Potential Funder
20	XiaoPing Hu	China	Potential Funder
21	Wanzhi Xu	China	Potential Funder
22	Xin Qian	China	Potential Funder
23	Anders Malle Hjortshøj	Denmark	Potential Funder
24	Simon Svith	Denmark	Potential Funder
25	Anne Andersen	European Union	Potential Funder
26	Cecilia Donati	European Union	Potential Funder
27	Doriana Leo	European Union	Potential Funder
28	Jerome Cassiers	European Union	Potential Funder
29	Jochen Luther	European Union	Potential Funder
30	Miguel Rocha de Gouveia	European Union	Potential Funder
31	Stefano La Terra Bella	European Union	Potential Funder
32	Wedad Kabi	European Union	Potential Funder
33	Outi Myatt-Hirvonen	Finland	Potential Funder
34	Catherine Borretti	France	Potential Funder
35	Laurence Frachon	France	Potential Funder
36	Marie-Pierre Meganck	France	Potential Funder
37	Paul Schilling	France	Potential Funder
38	Britta Horstmann	Germany	Potential Funder
39	Claudia Rubart	Germany	Potential Funder
40	Karolin Eichler	Germany	Potential Funder

41	Malte Uphoff	Germany	Potential Funder
42	Philipp von Carnap	Germany	Potential Funder
43	Geir Oddsson	Iceland	Potential Funder
44	Magnus Agnesar Sigurdsson	Iceland	Potential Funder
45	Josephine Prendergast	Ireland	Potential Funder
46	Chiara Formentin	Italy	Potential Funder
47	Andrew Ferrone	Luxembourg	Potential Funder
48	Henrik Franklin	NDF	Funder
49	Kristine Gjesdal	Norway	Potential Funder
50	Øystein Rune Størkersen	Norway	Potential Funder
51	Iulia Munteanu	Romania	Potential Funder
52	Andrea Grande	Spain	Potential Funder
53	Fernando Belda	Spain	Potential Funder
54	Javier Soria Quintana	Spain	Potential Funder
55	Cristina Aliante Eklund	Sweden	Potential Funder
56	Ilmar Karro	Sweden	Potential Funder
57	Fabio Fontana	Switzerland	Potential Funder
58	Rubert Konijn	The Netherlands	Potential Funder
59	Murat Altinyollar	Turkey	Potential Funder
60	Ozan ÇAKIR	Turkey	Potential Funder
61	Mohamed Alebri	UAE	Potential Funder
62	Monikumar Ramakrishnan	UAE	Potential Funder
63	Helen Bye	UK	Potential Funder
64	Nyree Pinder	UK	Potential Funder
65	Fred Branski	USA	Potential Funder
66	Ambassador Conrod Hunte	AOSIS	Beneficiary Country
67	Ambassador Carlos Fuller	Belize	Beneficiary Country
68	Ronald Gordon	Belize	Beneficiary Country
69	Madeleine Diouf	LDC Group Chair	Beneficiary Country
70	Tenzin Wangmo	LDC Group	Beneficiary Country
71	Ousmane Ndiaye	Senegal	Beneficiary Country
72	Ladislau Chang'a	Tanzania	Beneficiary Country
73	Anne Orquiza	ADB*	Stakeholder
74	Steven Goldfinch	ADB*	Stakeholder
75	Arona Soumare	AfDB*	Stakeholder
76	James Kinyangi	AfDB*	Stakeholder
77	Lorie Rufo	CIF*	Stakeholder
78	Xianfu Lu	CIF*	Stakeholder
79	John Harding	CREWS	Stakeholder
80	Fabio Venuti	ECMWF	Stakeholder
81	Umberto Modigliani	ECMWF	Stakeholder
82	Kevin Horsburgh	GCF*	Stakeholder
83	Sara Venturini	GEO	Stakeholder

84	Steven Ramage	GEO	Stakeholder
85	Yana Gevorgyan	GEO	Stakeholder
86	Shivangi Chavda	GNDR	Stakeholder
87	Foeke Kuik	HMEI	Stakeholder
88	Gerard Alleng	IDB*	Stakeholder
89	Daouda Ndiaye	IsDB*	Stakeholder
90	Habib Abubakar	IsDB*	Stakeholder
91	Olatunji Yusuf	IsDB*	Stakeholder
92	Ben Webster	REAP	Stakeholder
93	Stefanie Dannenmann-Di Palma	UNDRR	Stakeholder
94	Montserrat Barroso	WFP*	Stakeholder
95	Vladimir Tsirkunov	World Bank*	Stakeholder
96	Benjamin Laroquette	UNDP*	SOFF Founder
97	Brennan VanDyke	UNEP*	SOFF Founder
98	Jochem Zoetelief	UNEP*	SOFF Founder
99	Ganesh Ramachandran	UNMPTF	SOFF Founder
100	Lula Sherif	UNMPTF	SOFF Founder
101	Wenjian Zhang	WMO Assistant Secretary-General*	SOFF Founder
102	Anthony Rea	WMO*	SOFF Founder
103	Bing Liu	WMO*	SOFF Founder
104	Christophe Jacob	WMO*	SOFF Founder
105	Ettienne Charpentier	WMO*	SOFF Founder
106	Georgina Kahama	WMO*	SOFF Founder
107	Hesham Abdelghany	WMO*	SOFF Founder
108	Karim Mellit	WMO*	SOFF Founder
109	Laura Paterson	WMO*	SOFF Founder
110	Minna Huuskonen	WMO*	SOFF Founder
111	Rose Devillier	WMO*	SOFF Founder
112	Sohyun Na	WMO*	SOFF Founder
113	Yu Zou	WMO*	SOFF Founder
114	Laura Tuck	SOFF Global Facilitator	
115	Jungjae Lee	SOFF Secretariat	
116	Andrew Tupper	SOFF Secretariat - Consultant	
117	Ede Ijjasz	SOFF Secretariat - Consultant	
118	Zoe Scott	SOFF Secretariat - Consultant	

* Members of the Alliance for Hydromet Development

Annex II. Agenda of Fifth Funders' Forum

Time	Agenda item	Description
13:00	1. Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks • Agenda: Discussion and approval
13:20	2. SOFF Update and Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation • Discussion
14:10	3. Update from funding partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements
14:50	5. Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing remarks • Summation by the Chair

Annex III – Background information for Fifth Funders' Forum

- [Fifth Funders' Forum update note](#)
- [Fifth Funders' Forum presentation](#)
- [Press release on UNSG Early Warning Systems target](#)

More information on SOFF can be found at: alliancehydromet.org