



# Eighth Steering Committee 18-19 June 2024

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## Decisions of the SOFF eighth Steering Committee meeting

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Systematic Observations  
Financing Facility

**Weather  
and climate  
data for  
resilience**



## Decisions of the SOFF eighth Steering Committee meeting 18 - 19 June 2024

### Decision 8.1: Adoption of the Agenda

The Steering Committee adopts the Agenda for the SOFF eighth Steering Committee meeting.

### Decision 8.2: Endorsement of the Updated Resource Mobilization and Outreach Strategy and adoption of the Action Programme until June 2025

The SOFF Steering Committee

#### Notes

- that the Updated Resource Mobilization and Outreach Strategy replaces the previously endorsed strategy (Decision 2.3).
- with concern the challenging financial situation and the urgency of stepped-up resource mobilization efforts.

Endorses the Updated Resource Mobilization and Outreach Strategy.

Adopts the Resource Mobilization Action Programme until June 2025.

Decides to focus resource mobilization efforts on high priority short-term actions and to regularly review these actions.

### Decision 8.3: Approval of additional financing request for Australia Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) Peer Advisory Services for Kiribati and Solomon Islands

The Steering Committee

Notes the request from BoM for a revision of the peer advisory services and corresponding fee to accommodate increased support for the implementation of the SOFF Investment phase in Kiribati and Solomon Islands as stated in the revised Terms of Reference.

Approves the additional financing request in the amount of USD 583,150.

#### Requests

- BoM and respective Implementing Entities to prepare the required documentation in the SOFF UNMPTF Gateway Platform.
- WMO to issue revised Assignment Agreements with BoM that includes the updated Terms of Reference as included in the Annex II.

- the UNMPTF Office to disburse the first tranche in the amount USD 194,363.89 of additional financing to WMO for the peer advisory services pass-through mechanism according to the Assignment Agreement between BoM and WMO.
- the UNMPTF to disburse the second and third tranches upon request and according to the payment schedule in the Assignment Agreement and contingent upon availability of funds in the SOFF UNMPTF.

#### Decision 8.4.1: Approval of SOFF Investment Phase Funding Request

The SOFF Steering Committee

Notes with concern the challenging financial situation of the SOFF UN Fund limiting its ability to approve country funding requests.

Approves, given SOFF financial resource constrains,

- the Investment phase funding request for Chad with a total budget of USD 6,980,084 and the Investment funding request for Uganda with a total budget of USD 6,316,536.
- the Investment phase funding requests of five additional countries subject to availability of financial resources and Implementing Entities' signature of African Development Bank and World Bank with the UNMPTF Office in the following order: Madagascar (USD 4,434,771), Timor Leste (USD 5,756,742), Samoa (USD 6,005,375), Nauru (USD 6,194,529) and Malawi (USD 3,876,356).

Decides to consider further funding requests as soon as additional resources have been mobilized.

Encourages the SOFF Advisory Board members to use their respective programmes to maximize country-level synergies and complementarities.

Requests

- the Implementing Entity to prepare the required documentation in the SOFF UNMPTF Gateway Platform.
- the UNMPTF Office to disburse the first tranche of the approved funding requests of Chad and Uganda to the recipient organizations, provided liquidity.
  - World Food Programme: USD 4,511,559
  - Islamic Development Bank: USD 4,032,095
  - World Meteorological Organization: USD 363,764

- the UNMPTF to disburse the second and third tranches for Chad and Uganda upon request, according to the schedule stipulated in the legal agreements and contingent upon availability of funds in the SOFF UNMPTF.
- WMO to issue Assignment Agreements with the peer advisor that include the Terms of Reference as stated in the annex of the funding request.

Subject to availability of financial resources, the UNMPTF Office to disburse the first tranche of the funding request for Madagascar, Timor Leste, Samoa, Nauru, and Malawi upon request of the Steering Committee co-chairs.

#### Decision 8.4.2: Endorsement of the Approach to Respond to future Investment Phase Funding

The SOFF Steering Committee

Endorses the approach to respond to future Investment phase funding requests in the context of limited financial resources, comprised of three elements:

- i. prioritization of Investment funding requests applying the SOFF programming criteria as adopted by decision 1.4, putting particular emphasis on closing the most significant data gaps and creating leverage.
- ii. Investment funding requests submitted for Steering Committee consideration but not approved due to funding constraints, will be retained in the SOFF Investment phase pipeline, and resubmitted for consideration of future Steering Committee meetings.
- iii. Implementing Entities and countries can revise their Investment funding requests in the pipeline before resubmission.

#### Decision 8.5: Update on Multilateral Development Banks serving as SOFF Implementing Entities

The SOFF Steering Committee

Recalls [Decision 7.4](#) "Adoption of actions on Multilateral Development Banks serving as SOFF Implementing Entities."

Acknowledges the importance of African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank and World Bank serving as SOFF Implementing Entities and their ability to link and leverage SOFF investments with their country or regional programs for larger country support packages.

Welcomes that the Islamic Development Bank has already signed the legal agreement with the UNMPTF Office, that World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank have reached an agreement on the terms and conditions of the engagement and are concluding the signature of the Framework Agreement with the UNMPTF Office, and that

negotiations between the African Development Bank and the UNMPTF Office have further advanced.

Notes that at the 6<sup>th</sup> SOFF Steering Committee two Investment funding decisions for Belize and South Sudan were approved subject to African Development Bank and Inter-American Development Bank signing the Framework Agreement with UNMPTF Office by 15 February 2024 ([Decision 6.3](#)), that through [Decision 7.4](#) the deadline for signing the UNMPTF Framework agreement was extended until 30 April 2024.

Further notes that both, the Inter-American Development Bank and the African Development Bank have not yet formally signed the legal agreements, despite the negotiation progress stated above.

Approves the final extension of the deadline for signature of the UNMPTF Framework Agreement for the African Development Bank and Inter-American Development Bank until 31 August 2024.

Requests the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and African Development Bank to sign the UNMPTF Framework agreement.

Encourages the Asian Development Bank to finalize the legal agreement negotiations with the UNMPTF.

#### [Decision 8.6: Adoption of "Update on Inclusion of Cook Islands as SOFF Beneficiary with SIDS Status."](#)

The SOFF Steering Committee

Recalls [Decision 7.5](#) "Inclusion of Cook Islands and Niue as SOFF beneficiaries with SIDS status" that made inclusion of Cook Islands as SOFF beneficiary country eligible for Readiness, Investment and Compliance support subject to ODA eligibility of the country.

Acknowledges

- that according to the SOFF Terms of Reference and the SOFF Operational Manual, SIDS per the UN classification are SOFF beneficiary countries eligible for Readiness, Investment and Compliance support.
- that the SOFF beneficiary countries list includes seven high-income SIDS eligible for SOFF Readiness, Investment and Compliance support.
- that according to the OECD DAC, eight SIDS are not included in the list of ODA eligible countries as they are classified as high-income countries and territories.
- the importance of all SIDS closing the GBON gap for local, regional, and global benefits.

## Notes

- that according to the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States, SIDS are a distinct group of 39 States that face unique social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities.
- the renewed request from Cook Islands to be included in the list of SOFF eligible countries for Readiness, Investment, and Compliance support.
- that a SOFF funder may request an exclusion for its contribution for high-income SIDS.

Decides to include Cook Islands in the list of SOFF beneficiary countries, eligible for SOFF Readiness, Investment and Compliance support.

### Decision 8.7: Adoption of SOFF Readiness programming of 4 additional countries

The SOFF Steering Committee

Adopts the additional 4 countries, Niue, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Cook Islands for programming of SOFF Readiness funding.

Requests the SOFF Secretariat to conduct the necessary actions following the process stated in the SOFF Operational Manual and to coordinate the preparation of Readiness funding requests for consideration by the Steering Committee.

Encourages SOFF Advisory Board members and Implementing Entities to reach out to their respective new SOFF programming countries to alert about opportunities and synergies between their activities and SOFF.

### Decision 8.8: Endorsement of GCOS joining the SOFF Advisory Board

The SOFF Steering Committee

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 Global Climate Observing system (GCOS) is a critical actor on international climate observation development and an important partner to SOFF that can strengthen SOFF positioning with the UNFCCC and ensure SOFF results are fully leveraged by climate information users.
- the Advisory Board Decision 7.1 that recommends the inclusion GCOS as a Member of the Advisory Board.

Endorses the inclusion of GCOS as a member of the SOFF Advisory Board.

Requests

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

#### Decision 8.9: Appointment of SOFF Steering Committee Co-Chair representing the funders

The Steering Committee

Appoints Dr Sinead Walsh, Climate Director at Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs, as Co-Chair of the SOFF Steering Committee representing the funders, for a period of 12 months, renewable subject to Steering Committee agreement.

#### Decision 8.10: Adoption of Dates and format of next Steering Committee meetings

The Steering Committee

Adopts

- The 9<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee to be held 22 October 2024 in virtual format.
- The 10<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee to be held 6 February 2025 in virtual format.
- The 11<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee to be held June 2025 in hybrid format.

Signed by

UN Steering Committee Co-Chair

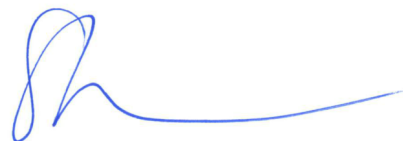
26 June 2024



Prof. Celeste Saulo  
Secretary-General,  
World Meteorological Organization

Co-Chair of the Steering Committee

26 June 2024



Satu Santala  
Managing Director,  
Nordic Development Fund