

21 March 2024

Decisions of the SOFF seventh Steering Committee meeting

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

**Weather
and climate
data for
resilience**



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Decision 7.1: Adoption of the Agenda

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

Decision 7.2: Endorsement of the SOFF Independent External Review and Management Response

The Steering Committee

Welcomes the findings of the SOFF Independent External Review with SOFF being considered as highly relevant, highly transparent, and highly effective; as the best viable option for countries to upgrade, maintain and operate their observation systems in a sustainable fashion; and as foundational for additional investments of other partners.

Endorses the SOFF Independent External Review and Management Response

Requests the SOFF Secretariat to act on the Management response and report back to the Steering Committee on actions taken at its 9th meeting in October 2024.

Decision 7.3: SOFF financial situation, country demand and resource mobilization actions

The Steering Committee

Acknowledges the financial challenges and urgency of stepping up resource mobilization actions to meet country demand and deliver on the Updated Work Programme 2022 - 2025 targets.

Adopts the short-term actions outlined in the chapter 4 of this document.

Request the SOFF Secretariat, in collaboration with the SOFF Global Facilitators, and the UNMPTF Office to

- keep the Steering Committee informed about fundraising efforts including with potential new funders.
- step-up engagement with the European Commission DG INTPA to secure a sizeable potential contribution to the SOFF UN Fund as part of the EU's commitment under the UN Early Warnings for All initiative.
- develop a proposal on operationalizing SOFF as a conduit for Loss and Damage funding for consideration at the 8th Steering Committee meeting.
- develop a proposal in collaboration with the GCF Secretariat for a potential GCF contribution to the SOFF UNMPTF for consideration at the 8th Steering Committee meeting.

Encourages the Steering Committee members to proactively support stepped-up SOFF resource mobilization efforts and provide a leadership role on the short-term actions.

Decision 7.4: Adoption of actions on Multilateral Development Banks serving as SOFF Implementing Entities

The Steering Committee

Welcomes that five Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) are expected to serve as SOFF Implementing Entity, namely African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank and World Bank.

Recognizes

- the importance of MDBs 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.
- the commitment of the MDBs to support implementation of the UN Early Warnings for All Initiative with SOFF as a means to operationalize this commitment.

Notes that at the 6th 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](#))

Notes the request from the African Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the UNMPTF Office to seek an extension of the deadline for signing the Framework Agreement

Approves the extension of the deadline for signature of the UNMPTF Framework Agreement for the African Development Bank and Inter-American Development Bank until 30 April 2024.

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

Decision 7.5: Adoption of inclusion of Cook Islands and Niue as SOFF beneficiaries with SIDS status

The Steering Committee

Acknowledges the status of Cook Islands and Niue as SIDS according to the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Notes that in the initial SOFF beneficiary list, Cook Islands and Niue were not included as SIDS eligible for SOFF support as they are not United Nations Member States.

Notes the request from the Steering Committee of UN Environment Programme (UNEP) *“Enhancing Climate Information and Knowledge Services for resilience in 5 island countries of the Pacific Ocean”* programme, funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), to consider the eligibility of Cook Islands and Niue for SOFF support to ensure the sustainability of GBON investments funded through this programme.

Notes that the GCF-funded programme was designed with the expectation that SOFF would

support operations and maintenance of GBON stations after the lifespan of the programme, as reflected in the funding approved by the GCF Board.

Decides to update the SOFF beneficiary countries list to include Niue as SIDS eligible for Readiness, Investment and Compliance support and subject to confirmation of ODA eligibility also to include Cook Islands

Requests

- the SOFF Secretariat to update the list of SOFF beneficiary countries to reflect this decision and make the updated beneficiary country list publicly available on the SOFF website.
- respond positively to letter from the UNEP Programme Steering Committee, communicating this decision.
- include Niue and subject to ODA eligibility Cook Islands in the next round of SOFF country programming for consideration at the 8th SOFF Steering Committee meeting.

Decision 7.6: Approval of SOFF Investment funding requests

The Steering Committee

Approves the Investment Phase funding requests for Bhutan, Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Solomon Islands and Tanzania with a total budget of USD 35,724,397.

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

Requests

Implementing Entities to prepare the required documentation in the SOFF UNMPTF Gateway Platform.

The UNMPTF Office to disburse the first tranche of the funding requests to the recipient organizations

- United Nations Development Programme: USD 17,061,470
- United Nations Environment Programme: USD 6,109,154
- World Meteorological Organization: USD 1,254,546

The UNMPTF to disburse the second tranche upon Implementing Entity and peer advisor request and according to implementation progress as reported to the Steering Committee through the regular SOFF Implementation progress information documents and contingent upon additional contributions to the SOFF UNMPTF

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 7.7: Adoption of the 8th Steering Committee meeting tentative program and date of 9th Steering Committee



The Steering Committee

Adopts

- The tentative program of the 8th Steering Committee meeting hosted by Iceland and taking place in physical/hybrid format 18-19 June in Reykjavik.

- The 9th Steering Committee to be held 22 October 2024 in virtual format.

Signed by

UN Steering Committee Co-Chair	Co-Chair of the Steering Committee
25.03.2024 	25.03.2024 

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Director of Cabinet
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