



Ninth Steering Committee

22 October 2024

SOFF at COP29

INF 9.2

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

**Weather
and climate
data for
resilience**



Purpose of this Document

This document represents an update to INF 8.6 on SOFF at COP29, following the learning and sharing session at the 8th SOFF Steering Committee, on positioning SOFF at COP29. It includes a positioning proposal, suggested SOFF events at COP29 and proposed actions for SOFF Partners.

SOFF at COP29

1. Featured in COP29 cover decision

COP29's main goal is reaching an agreement on the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG), paving the way for stronger ambition on updating the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and National Adaptation Plans (NAP) in 2025 and ensuring that the information that goes into the next cycle of the Global Stocktake (GST) is more accurate.

Data collected and shared by countries through SOFF support and the global forecast products built on this data provide the basis for national meteorological and hydrological services, which further inform national climate mitigation and adaptation plans, therefore NDCs and NAPs, and strengthens the data going into the GST. Therefore, SOFF aims to be featured in the COP29 decision text and SBSTA conclusions, to highlight that foundational link.

2. Strong recognition in SBSTA

SOFF would benefit from language that

- recognizes the global public good nature of GBON systematic observations for all Parties;
- emphasizes SOFF essential role in supporting Parties in meeting their GBON obligations to better inform NDCs and NAPs;
- acknowledges SOFF rapid implementation progress and high country demand;
- stresses the need to mobilize additional contributions to the SOFF UN fund; and
- welcomes the decision of the Third Session of the WMO Infrastructure Commission (15-19 April 2024) to develop a roadmap for GBON expansion by 2025.

3. Loss and Damage

The establishment, operationalization, and initial capitalization of the new Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) were key milestones. The FRLD is expected to play a key role in coordinating the 'mosaic' of funding arrangements that address losses and damages, including slow onset events, extreme events and addressing non-economic losses and damages.

SOFF was referred to as an example of an entity in the funding arrangements in the COP28 decision on the FRLD, therefore falls under the funding arrangements of FRLD.

Additionally, EW4All being high priority of both UNSG and WMO, there is potential for SOFF to leverage its position as a strategic partner.

As early warning systems are essential to the adaptation and loss and damage strategies of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), SOFF has a unique opportunity to work with the UNFCCC and act as a partner to the funds established under the UNFCCC. SOFF aims at text that

- recognizes systematic observations and SOFF's role as foundational element to minimize losses and damages;
- invites SOFF to operate as one of funding arrangements for the FRLD.

Additionally, SOFF aims at exploring becoming a member of the Santiago Network, providing technical assistance through the SOFF Readiness phase to countries.

4. Earth Information Day

Submissions by [Samoa on behalf of the Alliance of Small Islands States \(AOSIS\)](#), by [Hungary and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union](#), by [the Republic of Maldives](#), and by the [Republic of Indonesia](#), suggested "Finance for observations" or enhancing support for Systematic Observations in Developing Countries, specifically mentioning an update by SOFF, as a topic for the Earth Information Day 2024.

5. Suggested actions

SOFF Steering Committee

- SOFF Steering Committee members representatives linking their countries' COP finance negotiators with the SOFF Secretariat and together advocating for SOFF being strongly featured in COP decisions.
- Steering Committee members that are Parties to the UNFCCC demonstrate in their submissions to UNFCCC that systematic observations and the data that they produce are essential for among others, national climate planning and early warning infrastructure.
- Steering Committee members that are Parties to the UNFCCC support SOFF to be invited, and then accredited by the FRLD by its board, to operate as one of the funding arrangements, as a fund that can funnel and speedily deliver finance for loss and damage.

SOFF co-founders

- WMO, UNDP and UNEP principals to champion SOFF in their engagements and at high-level events.

SOFF countries

- Advocate about the importance of systematic observations and their benefits through SOFF to be features in the COP29 cover decision.

- Highlight SOFF at regional opportunities.

6. Planned activities for COP29

- SOFF High-Level event showcasing SOFF support from countries, including being the main platform in which funders pledge new contributions, and the presentation of the SOFF Action Report 2024, at Spanish Pavilion, 14 November (see Annex),
- Envisioned signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between AfDB and SOFF about the AfDB Climate Action Window leveraging SOFF investments, at AfDB Pavilion, first week of COP29,
- UNFCCC high-level side event on “Scaling-up climate finance for ambitious action on early warning systems for adaptation with a focus on the most vulnerable,”
- Earth Observations in support of Climate mitigation and adaptation, WMO-IPCC-MERI Pavilion, 16 November,
- Earth Information Day 2024, 11 November,
- Other events by SOFF partners.

Annex: SOFF COP29 High-Level Event Initial Concept Note

<i>Working Title</i>	SOFF: Sustained climate finance for systematic observation
<i>Proposed Date</i>	14 November 2024 (Thursday – COP29 Finance Day)
<i>Proposed Time</i>	15:30 to 16:30 (local time GMT+4), 12:30-13.30 (Geneva time, CET)
<i>Host and venue:</i>	Spain, Spanish pavilion
<i>Duration</i>	60 minutes

Content

Basic weather and climate data are foundational for all weather and climate services which underpin decision-making, policy and early warning systems. To save lives and livelihoods as well as protect property across the whole globe, we must improve systematic observations from the most data sparse areas. The lack of such observations limits countries' capacity to effectively adapt to climate change and build resilience.

Initial Programme

Welcome and Setting the Scene

Our esteemed host will kick off the event, setting the stage for better data for better early warning systems and climate action. The Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Climate Action and Just Transition will highlight SOFF importance and progress for the UN EW4All initiative.

SOFF Value

The co-founders of SOFF, namely WMO, UNDP and UNEP will lay out the benefits of systematic observations, how sustainability in developing countries and in particular in LDCs and SIDS is ensured and how this contributes to saving lives and livelihoods.

ECMWF will present their findings on the SOFF impact study, explaining how closing the basic weather and climate data gap will leverage high impact and contribute to a global public good.

SOFF Progress

The SOFF Action Report 2024 will present the rapid progress of SOFF as the new specialized UN climate fund. High-level representatives will highlight their success stories from SOFF operations in their countries.

SOFF Support

Welcome donor countries' financial pledges that will shape the course of finance for systematic observations. Collaboration with major climate funds will be showcased through a GCF intervention.

Speakers

Welcome by the host: High-level official from the Spanish government (TBC)

Opening: *Selwin Hart*, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Climate Action and Just Transition

Moderation: *Hajja Nasseem*, SOFF Global Facilitator

SOFF Value

- *Celeste Saulo*
Secretary-General,
WMO
- *Inger Andersen*
Executive Director,
UNEP
- *Achim Steiner*
Administrator, UNDP
- *Carlo Buontempo*
Director of Copernicus
Climate Change Service
(C3S), ECMWF
- *Michael Kremer*
Development
economist and Nobel
Memorial Prize for
Economic Scientist
Laureate

SOFF Progress

- *Markus Repnik*
SOFF Secretariat
- Minister Palau (TBC)
- Minister Tanzania (TBC)

SOFF Support

- *Mafalda Duarte*
Executive Director,
Green Climate Fund
- Ministers of
governments
announcing a pledge

Logistics

This will be a high-paced, high-energy event, where each speaker gets 3 minutes speaking time, except for the SOFF Action Report presentation.

- Technology: Screen, hybrid option, handheld microphones;
- Furniture: high tables for speakers, standing event (no chairs for audience);