



# Ninth Steering Committee 22 October 2024

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## Decisions of the SOFF ninth Steering Committee meeting

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Systematic Observations  
Financing Facility

**Weather  
and climate  
data for  
resilience**



# Decisions of the SOFF ninth Steering Committee meeting 22 October 2024

## Decision 9.1: Adoption of the Agenda

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

## Decision 9.2: SOFF impact report: Literature review and proposed SOFF-targeted studies

The SOFF Steering Committee

Welcomes the first SOFF impact report that reviews the finding of existing impact studies from systematic observations based on this review proposes additional tailored experiments to assess the impacts of SOFF current and proposed investments.

Thanks the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) for conducting the review of existing studies and undertaking the proposed additional studies in collaboration with WMO.

### Notes

- that investing in closing the surface-based observations gap is highly beneficial and a key element necessary to improve forecast accuracy.
- that stations in data sparse regions have a much larger individual contribution to the forecast accuracy than any one station in a well observed region, underlying the importance of global coverage by the Global Observing System.
- that existing research and studies provide general evidence for the importance of investments in surface-based observations, but it is recommended to undertake additional SOFF-tailored scientific studies to effectively guide SOFF investment priority decisions.

Adopts the first SOFF impact report and the proposed scenarios for SOFF-tailored further research and experiments to further develop understanding of different impact scenarios to strengthen the evidence base of SOFF investment decisions.

### Requests

- ECMWF in collaboration with WMO to conduct these SOFF-tailored experiments to present the results to the 11<sup>th</sup> SOFF Steering Committee.
- The SOFF Secretariat to share the SOFF impact report with the WMO Commission for Observation, Infrastructure, and Information Systems

### Decision 9.3: Adoption of Update on the role of the World Meteorological Organization in SOFF

#### The SOFF Steering Committee

Appreciates the foundational roles of WMO Members, WMO constituent bodies, and the WMO Secretariat that are essential for the success of SOFF and sustained international exchange of Global Basic Observing Network data.

#### Welcomes

- the further stepped-up SOFF leadership of WMO Executive Management.
- WMO Secretariat efforts to maximize leverage between WMO Secretariat core support functions provided to WMO Members and its SOFF support function.
- the proposed updated WMO role as SOFF Technical Authority as outlined in this document.

#### Notes

- that the administrative reporting of the SOFF Secretariat is changing from the WMO Infrastructure Department, as outlined in the Operational Manual, to report directly to the WMO Assistant Secretary-General, levelling-up and aligning reporting lines of the CREWS and SOFF Secretariats and the WMO development partnerships office.
- that the further expanded role of WMO as SOFF Technical Authority contributes to the sound development of GBON, in line with the decision of the World Meteorological Congress of 2021 that requested the WMO Secretary General to ensure WMO participation in SOFF as the Technical Authority.
- that According to the SOFF Operational Manual, WMO covers the costs associated with its Technical Authority role through its own resources, and any changes to this would require a Steering Committee decision and corresponding update of the SOFF Operational Manual.

Requests the SOFF Secretariat to reflect WMO's stepped-up role in the Operational Manual and present the updated Operational Manual and any associated resource implications to the Steering Committee for its consideration and adoption.

## Decision 9.4: SOFF regional collaboration and partnerships

The SOFF Steering Committee

Recalls intersessional decision 2.1 on SOFF regional workshops and engagement to be carried out under the leadership of the SOFF Secretariat and in collaboration with SOFF partners until June 2025.

Welcomes the SOFF regional workshops held so far for Africa, South Asia and the Pacific to foster regionally coordinated SOFF implementation, share knowledge and lessons learned, leverage investments and climate finance opportunities beyond SOFF, and consult with countries and partners and stakeholders on important SOFF operational topics.

Further welcomes that all regional workshops were co-organized with partners for increased impact and reduced costs.

Appreciates the efforts of linking SOFF support for countries in achieving GBON compliance with financing opportunities from international development and climate finance partners for comprehensive packages of support that span the whole meteorological value chain.

Notes the call from beneficiary countries for SOFF to continue providing opportunities for regional collaboration and leverage.

Requests the SOFF Secretariat

- to continue identifying regional opportunities through regional workshops and engagement, including holding a workshop for the Caribbean in the first half of 2025.
- to develop a collaboration agreement on complementarity and collaboration with the Weather Ready Pacific Programme, guided by the Steering Committee co-chairs, for envisioned signing at COP29.
- to develop a collaboration agreement on complementarity and collaboration with the African Development Bank on its Climate Action Window, guided by the Steering Committee co-chairs, for envisioned signing at COP29.

## Decision 9.5: Adoption of the Dates and format of the 10th and 11th Steering Committee meetings

The SOFF Steering Committee

Adopts

- The dates and format of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> SOFF Steering Committee meetings.
- The 10th Steering Committee meeting to take place 6 February 2025 in virtual format.
- The 11<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting to be hosted by Ireland in Dublin 20-21 May 2025 in physical/hybrid format.

#### Decision 9.6: Green Climate Fund – SOFF Fragile and Conflict Affected States Accelerator Programme

##### The SOFF Steering Committee

Notes with concern the significant weather and climate data gaps in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States, home to about two billion people, with a GBON compliance rate for surface land stations of less than one percent, and that these data gaps hamper effective climate action in these countries and across the globe.

Recalls decision 6.4 to develop a framework for collaboration with multilateral climate funds, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for enhancing systematic observation and improving the use of basic weather and climate data for effective climate action; decision 7.3 to develop a proposal for a potential GCF contribution to the SOFF UNMPTF; and decision 8.2 to seek GCF funding for SOFF as a short-term resource mobilization action.

##### Welcomes

- The discussions that took place between the GCF Secretariat, the SOFF co-founders WMO, UNDP and UNEP, the UNMPTF Office and the SOFF Secretariat. Further welcomes the meeting between the GCF Executive Director and the SOFF Steering Committee co-chairs that took place 26 September 2024 on seeking an impactful partnership in support of Fragile and Conflict-Affected States.
- The initial programme idea on “Enhancing systematic observation and improving the use of basic weather and climate data for effective action: GCF – SOFF Fragile and Conflict-Affected States Accelerator Programme” that builds on these discussions and meetings, as outlined in this document.

Appreciates the interest of the GCF Secretariat to forge an ambitious programmatic GCF-SOFF partnership as to create impact at scale in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States, deliver on a joint priority of GCF and the SOFF co-founders, and make a significant contribution to the UN Early Warnings for All initiative.

Decides to further develop with urgency the programme with the proposed design.

##### Requests

- the SOFF Secretariat to continue engaging the Steering Committee members and as possible their respective GCF Board Members for further guidance in developing the programme with the proposed design and based on further engagement with the GCF Secretariat and countries that express interest with putting a particular emphasis on Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and Lower Middle-Income Countries.
- The SOFF co-founders WMO, UNDP and UNEP to engage with the GCF Secretariat to identify the implementation modalities that will allow for using the existing SOFF UNMPTF governance and operational arrangements for the implementation of the programme.
- The SOFF Secretariat to continue to engage with UNEP as they consider serving as the Accredited Entity for this programme.
- The SOFF Secretariat, guided by Steering Committee co-chairs, to support the preparation of the programme under leadership of the Accredited Entity
- The SOFF Secretariat to report to the 10<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting on progress in developing the programme.

#### Decision 9.7: Further update on Multilateral Development Banks serving as SOFF Implementing Entities

##### The SOFF Steering Committee

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 following the 7<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank have signed their legal agreements with the UNMPTF Office, joining the Islamic Development Bank as Multilateral Development Banks as SOFF Implementing Entities with signed legal agreements.

Recalls [Decision 6.3](#) that approved the Investment funding request for South Sudan and [Decision 8.4.1](#) that conditionally approved the Investment funding request for Madagascar, and that both decisions were subject to the African Development Bank signing the Framework Agreement with UNMPTF Office.

Notes with concern the delays of the African Development Bank in signing its legal agreement with the UNMPTF Office, causing delays in SOFF implementation.

**Notes** with appreciation the ongoing negotiations and progress made of the African Development Bank concluding its legal agreement with the UNMPTF to serve as SOFF Implementing Entities.

### **Decides**

- To offer South Sudan and Madagascar the option to change their Implementing Entities and to resubmit their Investment Funding requests for consideration at the 10<sup>th</sup> SOFF Steering Committee meeting.
- To not consider Investment funding requests from the African Development Bank until the Bank has signed their legal agreement with the UNMPTF and to offer those countries that have initially selected the African Development Bank the option to change their Implementing Entity.
- To encourage the Asian Development to advance its discussions with the UNMPTF.
- Consider AfDB Investment funding requests as soon as the legal agreement is signed

### **Signed by**

**UN Steering Committee Co-Chair**

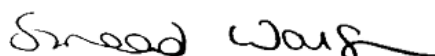
28 October 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Saulo', is positioned above the name of the UN Steering Committee Co-Chair.

Prof. Celeste Saulo  
Secretary-General,  
World Meteorological Organization

**Co-Chair of the Steering Committee**

28 October 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sinead Walsh', is positioned above the name of the Co-Chair of the Steering Committee.

Dr. Sinead Walsh  
Climate Director  
Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs