



Weather  
and climate  
data for  
resilience



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

# LETTER OF INTENT

BETWEEN

THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (AfDB)

AND

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION  
on behalf of  
THE SYSTEMATIC OBSERVATIONS FINANCING  
FACILITY (SOFF)

## Introduction

- (A) WHEREAS the Systematic Observations Financing Facility ("SOFF") is a United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UNMPTF) that was co-created in 2021 by the WMO, UNDP and UNEP at the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26).
- (B) WHEREAS SOFF contributes to strengthening climate adaptation and resilient development by improving weather and climate observations that in turn support better weather forecasts, early warning systems and climate information services to save lives and livelihoods and protect property by providing grant financing and technical assistance for the sustained collection and international exchange of surface-based weather and climate observations according to the Global Basic Observing Network regulation for the benefit of especially countries with the most severe shortfalls in observations, prioritising the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.
- (C) WHEREAS the African Development Bank (AfDB) is a multilateral development institution whose mission is to foster sustainable economic development and social progress in its regional Member Countries, both individually and collectively. Its core focus is addressing the specific needs of its members to stimulate long-term growth, reduce poverty, and improve living standards. Through financing, policy advice, and technical assistance, the Bank supports infrastructure projects, strengthens institutional capacities, promotes regional integration, and enhances resilience to climate change. By prioritizing inclusive growth, the African Development Bank aims to create a more prosperous and equitable future for the African continent.
- (D) WHEREAS Following discussions between the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) on complementarity and synergies to maximize and leverage SOFF and AfDB's Climate Action Window, we indicate here the broad areas of collaboration to effectively support Africa's low-income countries achieve effective multi-hazard early warning systems and make a substantial contribution to the United Nations Early Warnings for All initiative
- (E) WHEREAS the parties note that climate change threatens sustainable development in Africa, particularly among highly vulnerable low-income countries which have contributed least to greenhouse gas emissions. While these countries need to adapt to climate change, adaptation investments are time sensitive – the longer the delay, the great the costs.
- (F) WHEREAS the parties acknowledge the important role of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) for the provision of weather and climate observations and forecasts and warnings that are essential to the safety and well-being of African people and communities and the protection of



property.

(G). WHEREAS the Parties note the decision of the World Meteorological Congress to establish the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) that defines the basic surface-based observational data that each country is mandated to generate and internationally exchange.

(H) WHEREAS the Parties note with urgency that today significant GBON data gaps exist in Africa, that according to the World Meteorological Organization Global GBON baseline of 2023 Africa's Low-Income Countries have a GBON compliance rate of 4% for surface observations and 3% for upper air observations. SOFF already supports 23 countries in Africa with \$ 62 million to bridge the gap in observational data which significantly limits the ability to produce timely and accurate forecasts, early warnings, and climate prediction across the Africa.

(I) WHEREAS the Parties act on the request from representatives of Africa's Low-Income Countries made at the joint SOFF – African Development Bank regional workshop held in September 2024 and on the decision of the 9<sup>th</sup> SOFF Steering Committee to develop a collaboration on complementarity and collaboration between SOFF and the African Development Bank on its Climate Action Window (CAW). The Climate Action Window has already made available \$ 321.8 million in funding for investments that strengthen early warning systems in 37 regional member countries of the African Development Bank.

(J) WHEREAS the parties acknowledge that each of the organizations is working within its own mandate, capacities, and resources, guided by our respective governing bodies and established strategies and policies.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Parties hereby intend to record their common intention in this Letter of Intent, as follows:

### 1. Areas of collaboration

The Parties identified the areas in which collaboration between the SOFF and CAW would be most meaningful and effective. These areas are:

- **Convening joint AfDB-SOFF events on advocacy and resource mobilization for investments in Early Warning for All**
  - The parties will jointly advocate the importance of investments in NMHS capacity. Strengthened capacity of Africa's low-income countries' NMHSs is essential also from a global perspective as closing today's significant GBON weather and climate data gap in the region is required for improved forecast products across the globe.
  - The parties will tap opportunities of regional and global events, including



UNFCCC COPs to showcase our partnership and advocate for additional investments in the region.

- The parties will co-organize at least every two years a joint workshop to track progress that brings together beneficiary countries, our operational partners as well as our bilateral and multilateral development and climate finance partners.
- **Capacity building and technical assistance to close the Early Warning Gap in Africa, including monitoring of CAW and SOFF investments**
  - The parties commit to enhance collaboration and promote regional efficiencies. At corporate level, the SOFF Secretariat and the African Development Bank Climate Change and Green Growth department will meet at least twice a year to discuss and identify opportunities to enhance complementarity and collaboration. At national levels, SOFF is providing support to achieve sustained GBON compliance whereas AfDB through its CAW is providing support for other activities in the meteorological value chain. In this regard, the SOFF Implementing Entities and peer advisors are encouraged to identify opportunities for enhanced coordination and to liaise with the African Development Bank country offices.
  - The parties commit to monitor and report on the collaboration, including by reporting progress in the respective annual reports.
- **Collaborating to inform the implementation of the Early Warning for All Initiative**
  - The parties commit to make a sizeable contribution to the United Nations Secretary General's Early Warnings for All initiative, including in particular through this partnership on complementarity and collaboration to effectively strengthen Africa's low-income countries' capacity to effectively provide timely and accurate early warnings.
  - The full scope of discussion in the areas of collaboration were agreed at a joint workshop in Abidjan in September, 2024 Strengthening Climate Resilience: Abidjan Workshop Addresses Africa's Weather Data Gaps | African Development Bank Group.

## 2. Cooperation

The earlier sections of this Letter of Intent set out our initial views on areas for collaboration between the AfDB and SOFF and the parties sign this Letter of Intent as a basis for our teams' ongoing cooperation.

The AfDB and SOFF will form a coordination group comprised of representatives of their organisations to operationalise the activities described in the Letter of Intent. The AfDB and SOFF will each designate a primary contact person responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Letter of Intent and all related matters. Both organisations are committed to providing resources to support the activities outlined in the Letter of Intent.

### **3. Points of contact**

Until further notice, the AfDB and SOFF designate the following persons to serve as liaisons for matters concerning this Letter of Intent:

For the AfDB:

Name: James Mukidza Kinyangi  
Job title: Coordinator, the Climate Action Window  
Email: [J.Kinyangi@afdb.org](mailto:J.Kinyangi@afdb.org)  
Telephone: +225 2720264284  
Address: Avenue Joseph Anoma 01, BP 1387 Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

For the SOFF:

Name: Markus Repnik  
Job title: Director, Systematic Observations Financing Facility Secretariat  
Email: [mrepnik@wmo.int](mailto:mrepnik@wmo.int)  
Telephone: +41 797901882  
Address: 7bis Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland

### **4. Provision of information**

To enable the AfDB to undertake the actions envisaged in this Letter of Intent, SOFF shall provide all reasonable and relevant information and assistance required by the AfDB, its staff and its consultants.

### **5. Disclosure of information**

All information disclosed by the AfDB and SOFF under this Letter of Intent shall be public, that is, non-confidential. In the event that either the AfDB or SOFF requests during their cooperation that their organisation's documents be treated as confidential, the requesting organisation shall disclose its rationale for that request.

### **6. Immunities**

Nothing in this Letter of Intent shall be considered to be a waiver of any exemptions, privileges and immunities of WMO or AfDB.

## 7. Dispute resolution

Any disagreement or dispute relating to this Letter of Intent shall be settled amicably by negotiation and direct dealings between the AfDB and WMO on behalf of SOFF.

## 8. The non-binding nature of the Letter of Intent

This Letter of Intent shall not create any enforceable right or any binding obligations on the part of either the AfDB or WMO under domestic or international laws.

## 9. No agency

Nothing contained in this Letter of Intent shall constitute any partnership, joint venture or other formal business relationship between the AfDB and WMO on behalf of SOFF. Nothing contained in this Letter of Intent shall be deemed to authorise or empower either organisation to act as agent for the other.


Any use by either Party of the other Party's name, emblem or logo will only be made with the prior written approval of that other Party.

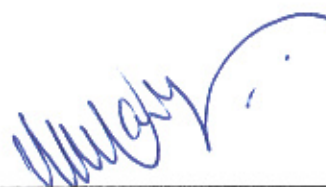
## 10. Duration

This Letter of Intent shall remain in effect for an initial period of five (5) years and may be renewed with the mutual consent of both Parties, provided that such consent is confirmed at least six (6) months before the renewal date. Alternatively, the Parties may agree to terminate this agreement at any time. Each party may also terminate this Letter of Intent by giving three (3) months advance notice to the other party.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties, each acting through its representative, have caused this Letter of Intent to be signed as of the date written below.

Baku, 15 November 2024

  
**Prof. Celeste Saulo**  
Secretary-General  
World Meteorological Organization  
Co-Chair SOFF Steering  
Committee

  
**Dr. Kevin Kariuki**  
Vice President for Power,  
Energy, Climate and Green  
Growth