



Eleventh Steering Committee **19-21 May 2025**

SOFF Road to COP30 and beyond

INF 11.5

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

**Weather
and climate
data for
resilience**



Purpose of this Document

This document outlines SOFF objectives for 30th session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30) and beyond and how these objectives could be achieved. This includes SOFF recognition in Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) conclusions, consideration of systematic observation and SOFF in the adaptation and finance negotiation strands, announcement of the envisioned SOFF Impact Bond at COP30, SOFF becoming an element in addressing loss and damage, and SOFF joining the Santiago Network as member.

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SOFF Road to COP30 and beyond

1. Looking back – SOFF at COP29

The Paris Agreement calls on strengthening systematic observation. The legally binding international treaty on climate change was adopted by 196 Parties at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP21) in 2015. Action under the agreement should be carried out in accordance with the best available science. To enhance understanding, action and support, the Agreement identifies the need to enhance and strengthen systematic observation.

SOFF was featured in SBSTA61 conclusions ([FCCC/SBSTA/2024/10](https://fccc.org/sbsta/2024/10)). The conclusions of the 61st session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) highlight the essential role of Earth observation systems in supporting climate adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage efforts. SBSTA noted with appreciation the support being provided for addressing gaps in systematic observation in developing countries and SOFF's continued efforts, inviting SOFF to consider extending its support to more countries. It encouraged Parties and relevant organizations to further strengthen their provision of support to the systematic observation community.

At COP29 Earth Information Day, SOFF called for a new systematic observation partnership with developing countries. A new partnership for systematic observation is critical, a partnership that SOFF is contributing to. Firstly, investments in systematic observation are needed where it matters the most, in developing countries and regions with the largest data gaps. Secondly, basic weather and climate data need to be valued as a global public good. Thirdly, this requires a new partnership with developing countries, one not built on “aid” but on equal footing, a partnership that recognizes and values the important contributions of developing countries to the global observing system, which will significantly enhance the accuracy of global forecasting, delivering substantial economic benefits to developed countries as well.

The SOFF high-level event on “Sustained Climate Finance for Systematic Observation” at COP29 welcomed senior leadership from SOFF partners as well as from SOFF countries and funders. The event created a space to highlight the importance of basic weather and climate data, announce donor pledges and present the [SOFF Action Report 2024](#).

2. Objectives

Building on previous work and SOFF Steering Committee documents and decisions ([Decision 6.10](#), [INF 8.6](#) and [INF 9.2](#)), SOFF is pursuing five objectives for COP30 and beyond.

SOFF objectives for COP30

- SOFF is recognized in the SBSTA conclusion and showcased at the Earth Information Day plenary.
- Systematic observation and SOFF are included as foundational elements in adaptation and finance negotiation strands.
- Brazil COP30 Presidency is engaged on SOFF Impact Bond as innovative climate finance vehicle and the bond is announced at COP.

SOFF objectives beyond COP30

- Systematic observation and SOFF become an element in addressing loss and damage within the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD).
- SOFF becomes a member of the Santiago Network.

3. COP30

3.1. SOFF recognized in SBSTA conclusion and showcased at Earth Information Day plenary

The Research and Systematic Observation (RSO) negotiation track under SBSTA is essential for SOFF to ensure that language related to the importance of systematic observation for mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage and SOFF as specialized UN fund on systematic observation get reflected in SBSTA conclusions in the COP outcomes.

The Earth Information Day (EID) provides the platform for dialogue, enabling the exchange of information on the state of the global climate system and advancements in systematic observation. Outcomes of the EID are feeding into SBSTA conclusions. SOFF was requested to present updates to the EID Plenary at COP28 and COP29 which provided important opportunities to showcase progress.

For SOFF to be requested again for COP30, parties and observers would need to include this request in their submissions to the UNFCCC. Therefore, it would be critical for Steering Committee members and partners to include SOFF in their submissions. A SOFF COP30 EID plenary presentation would create momentum for negotiators to include SOFF in SBSTA conclusions, as it was the case in the past.

The SOFF Secretariat will continue to track RSO developments, engage with negotiators for highlighting systematic observations as foundation for the meteorological value chain, engage with WMO, its permanent representatives and its Climate Policy Advisors, and

closely coordinate with the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), which is also a SOFF Advisory Board member.

3.2. Systematic observation and SOFF included as foundational elements in adaptation and finance negotiation strands

3.2.1 Standing Committee on Finance

The [Standing Committee on Finance](#) (SCF) was established at COP16 to assist the COP in exercising its functions related to the Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC. Its primary roles include improving coherence and coordination in climate finance delivery, rationalizing the Financial Mechanism, mobilizing financial resources, and measuring, reporting, and verifying support to developing countries.

Possible engagement points for SOFF include contributing to submissions and consultations to highlight the envisioned Impact Bond (Decision 11.5) as innovative financing mechanism and the [Framework for Collaboration for enhancing Systematic Observation](#) as example for effective cooperation and enhanced action.

3.2.2 Paris Agreement Article 2.1.c – Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development

Follow up discussions on the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG) decided at COP29 are expected to spill over into the Article 2.1.c discussions, including touching upon adaptation financing from Multilateral Development Banks. Related to SOFF, it would be important that systematic observation is mentioned as a priority for finance for developing countries. The first workshop on 2.1.c will be held during 62nd Sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SB62).

SOFF's innovative finance model is fully aligned with the "Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T," based on Decision 1/CMA.6 calling on "all actors to work together to enable the scaling up of financing to developing country Parties for climate action from all public and private sources to at least USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035". COP30 in Belém will advance these strategies, building on the progress at COP29 in Baku. WMO contributed, jointly with the SOFF Secretariat, a [submission](#) to the UNFCCC following a call for input by parties and observers. The envisioned SOFF Impact Bond would be an element of this Roadmap.

3.2.3 Global Goal on Adaptation

The Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), established under Article 7 of the Paris Agreement, aims to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience, and reduce vulnerability to climate change. At COP28, parties adopted the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience, which operationalizes the GGA. This framework sets out targets, however, still lacks quantified, measurable indicators and robust mechanisms for mobilizing finance, technology, and capacity building. GGA needs to be concluded at COP30. Systematic observation is considered a critical indicator for tracking progress toward the GGA, providing the data foundation for adaptation related indicators.

In March 2025, WMO submitted suggestions on which indicators to prioritize to the UNFCCC, including basic systematic observation and the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON). Technical experts are required to produce a list of indicator options and a progress report, to be published at least four weeks before SB62 (June 2025), allowing Parties time to review and discuss them at the upcoming workshop. SOFF will continue to contribute, in close collaboration with WMO as its Technical Authority.

3.3. Engage Brazil COP30 Presidency on SOFF Impact Bond as innovative climate finance vehicle and announce the bond at COP

COP30 marks a critical milestone on climate action at a time of significant constraints related to the provision of public climate finance. In this context, SOFF aims at maximising its visibility on how SOFF is contributing to innovative finance – how it provides finance (grant only, long-term, results-based) and how it mobilizes finance (SOFF Impact Bond).

The main SOFF objective for COP30 beyond the negotiation strands is to announce the creation of the SOFF Impact Bond. For this, SOFF has started engaging with the Brazilian authorities and the COP30 Presidency for potential Impact Bond advocacy and leadership. It is envisioned to announce the bond at a high-visibility event, ideally in the presidential space of COP30. This would provide the platform for bond contributors as well as “traditional” bilateral donors to the SOFF UN fund to announce their support and contributions.

4. Beyond COP30

4.1. Make systematic observation and SOFF an element in addressing loss and damage within the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD)

SOFF is already welcomed, alongside the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) initiative and the Global Shield against Climate Risks, to “increase their support for activities that enhance response to loss and damage” in a FRLD-related COP decision ([FCCC/CP/2023/11/Add.1](#)).

SOFF's objective is to potentially become a delivery vehicle in addressing loss and damage within the FRLD structure through an innovative financial arrangement that would allow to crowd in additional resources and speedily make these resources available to countries. At the level of the Secretariats, it is key to build on the meeting between the FRLD Secretariat, the SOFF Secretariat and the WMO Assistant Secretary-General in January 2025 to develop a structured partnership and potentially channel a small part of FRLD resources through SOFF.

The “fund may deploy a range of additional financial instruments to augment and complement national resources for addressing loss and damage,” ([FCCC/PA/CMA/2023/16/Add.1](#)), which opens the possibility for FRLD to potentially contribute to the SOFF Impact Bond. At its 5th meeting in April 2025, the FRLD Board discussed operationalisation of its start-up phase, and it is understood that the Board

agreed to decide on the funding criteria at its next meeting and on how partnerships with other organizations including UN entities shall be formed¹.

4.2. SOFF becomes a member of the Santiago Network

The Santiago Network (SN), established at COP25, is a mechanism for addressing climate change impacts in developing countries through catalysing technical assistance from various organizations, bodies, networks, and experts to support developing countries in averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage caused by climate change. WMO already became member, and CREWS has applied for membership.

Merits of SOFF membership in the SN are

- **Collaboration and complementarity:** Both SOFF and SN aim to support vulnerable countries in addressing loss and damage by providing technical assistance. The partnership between SOFF and SN can leverage SOFF's Readiness and Investment phase outputs and the large SOFF network of partners, avoiding duplication on technical assistance related to basic systematic observation in a country.
- **Systematic approach to technical assistance:** SOFF's unique community of practice between countries, peer advisors, Implementing Entities and WMO provides an example on how technical assistance can be set up sustainably. Becoming a member paves the way for sharing lessons learned from this community and a fruitful partnership with the SN.
- **Increased visibility:** Becoming a member further positions SOFF and its contribution to loss and damage and the importance of addressing the entire value chain.

Informal meetings between the SOFF and SN Secretariats discussed the value of SOFF becoming a SN member. While SOFF facilitates technical assistance through its peer advisors – advanced National Meteorological and Hydrological Services –, the SN sees the value of SOFF's network and would welcome a structured partnership with SOFF becoming a member of the SN. Therefore, SOFF joining the SN would be the first step for a technical assistance partnership on systematic observation in the loss and damage environment. Guided by the Steering Committee co-chairs, the SOFF Secretariat will continue its engagement with the SN with the objective to secure membership.

¹ Decisions of the fifth Meeting of the Board of the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage have not been published yet at time of submission of this document to the SOFF Steering Committee ahead of its 11th meeting.