



Twelfth Steering Committee

29 October 2025

Decisions of the SOFF Twelfth Steering Committee meeting

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

**Weather
and climate
data for
resilience**



Decisions of the SOFF twelfth Steering Committee meeting 29 October 2025

Decision 12.1: Adoption of the Agenda

The **SOFF Steering Committee** adopts the Agenda for the SOFF twelfth Steering Committee meeting.

Decision 12.2: Investment Funding Requests

The SOFF Steering Committee

Recalls Decision 8.4.1 which conditionally approved five Investment funding requests, subject to availability of financial resources, in the following order: Madagascar, Timor-Leste, Samoa, Nauru and Malawi.

Notes that through Decision 10.2.1 Madagascar and Timor Leste moved from conditionally approved to approved status and that the current financial situation of the fund as presented in INF 12.1 allows for the Investment funding request for Samoa, Nauru and Malawi to proceed from conditionally approved to approved.

Requests

- the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office to disburse the first tranche of funding to the recipient organizations,
 - World Bank: USD 3,000,000 for Samoa
 - United Nations Environment Programme: USD 5,322,288.18 for Nauru
 - United Nations Development Programme: USD 2,336,880 for Malawi
- World Meteorological Organization: USD 391'496.32 for Peer Advisory services provided by the Bureau of Meteorology (Australia) for Samoa and Nauru; and by the Norwegian Meteorological Institute for Malawi, through its pass-through mechanism. This includes a 7% fee for WMO for administering the pass-through mechanism.
- WMO to issue Assignment Agreements with Bureau of Meteorology (Australia), as the peer advisor for Samoa and Nauru, and with the Norwegian Meteorological Institute as peer advisor for Malawi as per the terms of reference annexed in the respective funding requests, and to disburse the first tranches accordingly.

Recalls Decision 11.6 which adopts an approach to managing SOFF country funding requests including the establishment of a pipeline for Investment funding requests.

Notes the six countries in the SOFF Investment Phase pipeline, namely Zambia, Cuba, Bangladesh, Guyana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sao Tome and Principe (in this order) as publicly available on the SOFF website.

Acknowledges the three submitted and reviewed new Investment funding requests from Dominican Republic, Suriname, and Antigua and Barbuda for consideration by the 12th Steering Committee.

Decides to include the new Investment funding requests in the Investment funding pipeline, to follow after the six already in the pipeline, in the following order: Dominican Republic, Suriname, and Antigua and Barbuda. The Steering Committee will further consider the funding requests when resources are available.

Decision 12.3 Operational Manual Update

The SOFF Steering Committee

Recalls the adoption of the SOFF Operational Manual through decision 2.2 following the consultation process requested by Steering Committee in their decision 1.5

Notes that specific operational updates are required which have been identified through the first three years of SOFF operations

Adopts the Update SOFF Operational Manual with the following refinements:

- Updated reporting lines of SOFF Secretariat within WMO
- Update of SOFF Implementing Entities
- Updated language in the section 8 on 'Complaints management and conflict resolution mechanism' for better clarity

Requests the SOFF Secretariat to make the updated SOFF Operational Manual public and available on the SOFF website

Decision 12.4 SOFF Impact experiments Phase III

The SOFF Steering Committee

Recalls Decision 11.2: ECMWF SOFF Impact Experiments: A scientific case for scaled-up SOFF investments; undertaken by European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) in collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to quantify how new Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) observations reduce uncertainty in short-range weather forecasts.

Acknowledges that in Decision 11.2, the Steering Committee requested the SOFF Secretariat to:

- Reach out to potential public and private partners and philanthropies, in collaboration with ECMWF and WMO, and jointly prepare a proposal for a potential third phase of SOFF Impact Experiments with a focus on the importance of SOFF-supported data for Artificial Intelligence forecasting.
- Present this proposal for consideration at the 12th Steering Committee meeting.

Endorses to advance SOFF impact work in 3 areas:

- Extend results of Phase II into the medium-range (1-5 day forecasts, if feasible and at no additional costs up to 10 day forecasts) and assess impact of observation gaps on tropical cyclone forecasts.
- Explore SOFF and AI forecasting
- Assess socioeconomic benefits of SOFF investments using results from ECMWF Phase II to quantify avoided asset and well-being losses resulting from additional observations and improved early warning systems.

Approves 100,000 USD funding for the first area of work to extend results of Phase II into the medium-range.

Requests

- The UNMPTF Office to disburse the above stated amount to WMO.
- WMO to partner with ECMWF, to contract ECMWF to undertake the work, and to coordinate the production of extending results of Phase II.

The SOFF Secretariat

- To engage with GFDRR for the finalization of the socio-economic benefits working paper, in collaboration with WMO and ECMWF,
- To finalize and prepare a proposal for SOFF and AI forecasting for consideration at the 14 Steering Committee meeting

Decision 12.5: SOFF joining the Alliance for Hydromet Development

The SOFF Steering Committee

Notes the invitation from WMO Secretary-General dated on the 20th of May 2025, inviting SOFF to join the Alliance for Hydromet Development.

Acknowledges the close intertwining of SOFF and the Alliance for Hydromet Development and the opportunities that arise from SOFF becoming part of the Alliance for Hydromet Development, including ensuring that foundational observations are linked to downstream actions like risk reduction and climate resilience.

Endorses SOFF joining the Alliance for Hydromet Development

Decision 12.6: Dates and format for 13th and 14th Steering Committee meetings

The SOFF Steering Committee Adopts

The dates and format of the 13th and 14th SOFF Steering Committee meetings.

- The 13th Steering Committee to be held in virtual format on the first week of February.
- The 14th Steering Committee meeting will be hosted by Belgium in Brussels from 20 to 22 May 2026

Decision 12.7: SOFF consultations

The SOFF Steering Committee

Acknowledges the timeline presented in Decision 11.3 proposes the SOFF Compliance Framework and the SOFF Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation (MEL) Framework, including the SOFF Results Framework, for decision at the 13th Steering Committee meeting in February 2026.

Notes with appreciation the consultation process carried out by the SOFF Secretariat in preparation for a Steering Committee decision on the SOFF Compliance Framework and the SOFF MEL Framework.

Further notes, after discussions at the 12th Steering Committee, the need for additional time for Steering Committee members to reflect and provide additional written feedback to the SOFF Compliance Framework and the SOFF MEL Framework.

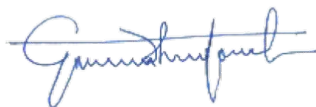
Decides to postpone the decision on the SOFF Compliance Framework and the MEL Framework to the 14th Steering Committee meeting in May 2026.

Encourages Steering Committee members to provide written feedback to the SOFF Secretariat until the end of 2025.

Requests the SOFF Secretariat to provide an update to the Steering Committee about the feedback received at the 13th Steering Committee meeting in February 2026 and incorporate additional feedback from Steering Committee members to the SOFF Compliance Framework document.

Signed by**UN Steering Committee Co-Chair**

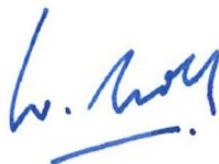
30 October 2025



Thomas Asare
Assistant Secretary-General,
World Meteorological Organization

Co-Chair of the Steering Committee

30 October 2025



Willem Van de Voorde
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