

CLOSING THE DATA GAP

INNOVATING FINANCE FOR SYSTEMATIC OBSERVATION

Date: Friday, 14 November 2025

Time: 15:30 – 16:30

Location: Axis 6 Thematic Room

Organized by: COP30 Presidency & Systematic Observations Financing Facility

Surface weather and climate data are the invisible ingredient of every forecast, early warning, and climate action — yet in many countries, these systems are broken. This session launches a *mutirão* for weather and climate data and announces SOFF's new Systematic Observation Impact Bond, leveraging innovative finance to close the global data gap for all.

EVENT OVERVIEW

Nearly 90 per cent of the most critical weather and climate observations needed from the 76 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are still missing. These countries operate only one in ten of the stations required under the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) standard — mandatory for all countries. Germany alone has more reporting weather stations than the entire African continent.

Closing the GBON data gap will improve global forecasts and unlock major social and economic benefits. The World Bank estimates that closing this global data gap could generate USD 5 billion in direct annual gains and up to USD 160 billion across sectors such as agriculture, water, energy, and transport.

Better data will strengthen the world's ability to predict and respond to extreme heat, wildfires, floods, and other disasters; reduce losses in agriculture; support food and water security; and help manage the growing risks of climate-induced migration.

The Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) — a United Nations fund created in 2022 by WMO, UNDP, and UNEP at the request of 193 countries — is dedicated to closing this critical gap, focusing on the most resource-constrained LDCs and SIDS.

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EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Recognition of Systematic Observations as a Global Public Good
Collective Action through the *Mutirão* for Weather and Climate Data
Announcement of the Systematic Observation Impact Bond

AGENDA

15:30 - 15:35	Welcome & Moderation Satu Santala , Managing Director, Nordic Development Fund Opening Remarks by Thomas Asare , Assistant Secretary-General, WMO
15:35 - 15:38	Keynote Speech Ambassador André Corrêa do Lago , COP30 President (tbc)
15:38 - 15:40	Visual Reveal: Earth's Blind Spots Aïda Diongue-Niang , Director, National Agency for Civil Aviation and Meteorology, Senegal
15:40 - 15:55	Fireside Chat: Why Closing the Weather and Climate Data Gap Matters Moderated dialogue led by Hans Olav Ibrekk , Climate and Security Special Envoy, Norway Thelma Krug , Chair, COP30 Science Committee Mads Dalum Libergren , Deputy to the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action, Denmark Jaime de Bourbon de Parme , Climate Envoy, Netherlands (tbc) Dan Ioshpe , Climate High-Level Champion (tbc)
15:55 - 16:00	Solution: SOFF & the Systematic Observation Impact Bond Markus Repnik , Director, SOFF
16:00 - 16:20	Fishbowl Discussion: A Mutirão for Weather and Climate Data Moderated dialogue Mattias Frumerie , Climate Ambassador, Sweden Martin Krause , Climate Change Division Director, UNEP Senior Representative, ClimateWorks Foundation (tbc) Juan Pablo Bonilla , Climate Change and Sustainable Development Manager, IDB (tbc)
16:20 - 16:25	Visual Reveal: Lighting Up Earth's Blind Spots Willem van de Voorde , Climate and Environment Special Envoy, Belgium
16:25 - 16:30	Closing Segment Florence Rabier , Director-General, ECMWF Concluding Remarks by Satu Santala , Managing Director, Nordic Development Fund