



Twelfth Steering Committee **29 October 2025**

SOFF joining the Alliance for Hydromet Development

Decision 12.5

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

**Weather
and climate
data for
resilience**



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 of 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.

Purpose of this Document This document provides an overview of the relationship between SOFF and the Alliance for Hydromet Development, including their origins and shared priorities. It highlights how SOFF was conceived as a priority of the Alliance, how the Country Hydromet Diagnostics as well as the Hydromet Gap Report have been integrated into Alliance work, and the benefits of SOFF joining the Alliance for Hydromet Development.

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SOFF joining the Alliance for Hydromet Development

1. Background

Spearheaded by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the World Bank, the Alliance for Hydromet Development was launched on 10 December 2019 at COP25 by 12 major development and climate finance organizations and WMO. As of today, the Alliance is comprised of 15 members as since its launch the Climate Investment Funds, the InterAmerican Development Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development have also joined

Alliance members commit to uniting efforts to close the capacity gap in high-quality weather forecasts, early warning systems and climate information as the foundation for resilient and sustainable development.

The Alliance [Declaration](#) sets out four priority actions:

1. **Improving systematic observations for better data** – including a commitment to seek innovative ways to finance surface-based observations in developing countries and the creation of SOFF as a mechanism recognizing the economic value of observations as a global public good.
2. **Enhancing support for adaptation, mitigation and resilience** – by strengthening the capacity of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and other institutions to provide science-based information for adaptation planning.
3. **Strengthening early warning systems for disaster risk management** – by promoting coherent, science-based, multi-hazard national early warning systems.
4. **Boosting investments for effectiveness and sustainability** – by fostering programmatic approaches that go beyond individual projects, including systematic strengthening of the Integrated Global Observing System as the backbone of forecasts, early warnings and climate information.

The Declaration also committed the Alliance to track progress by 2030 through regular Hydromet Gap Flagship Reports, which benchmarks NMHS capacity and supports knowledge generation, learning and innovation.

WMO provides the Secretariat function for the Alliance, facilitating communication and knowledge sharing among members.

2. Strategic links between SOFF and the Alliance

The creation of SOFF was identified as the first priority action of the Alliance. All Alliance members were closely engaged in SOFF development, including by attending the SOFF concept development workshop hosted by the WMO President in February 2020 and

actively contributing to shaping SOFF design in working groups that followed this event. This culminated in the legal creation of SOFF and its launch at COP26 in 2021 as a UN specialized fund co-created by WMO, UNDP and UNEP to close the climate and weather observations data gaps.

Between 2020 and 2021, the Country Hydromet Diagnostics (CHD) prototype was developed as the Alliance' NMHS capacity assessment tool and road-tested with 16 countries. This fed into the first [Hydromet Gap Report](#), published in July 2021, which set out where the weakest links in the hydrometeorological value chain are. The CHD has since become a standardized tool, operationalized and financially supported through the SOFF Readiness Phase in 61 countries, informing the Alliance Hydromet Gap Reports, including the one in [2024](#), which draws on CHDs conducted in 20 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Alliance members play important roles in SOFF. Nine members serve as SOFF Implementing Entity¹, while six members are part of the Advisory Board². At COP28, the Secretariats of four Alliance members² plus the CREWS Secretariat signed a collaboration framework with the SOFF Secretariat to enhance Systematic Observation.

3. Invitation to join the Alliance

In May 2025, SOFF received a formal invitation from the WMO Secretary-General, representing the Alliance for Hydromet Development, to join as a member, reflecting its importance in closing the global weather and climate data gap.

This invitation reflects the evolution of a partnership that began with the Alliance's call for innovative financing under Article 1 of its Declaration and culminated in the establishment of SOFF as a dedicated UN fund.

The invitation acknowledged SOFF not only as a financing facility but as a unique operational mechanism that delivers sustained, country-owned solutions to close the most critical observational gaps.

CREWS, a SOFF Steering Committee member, has also been invited to join the Alliance. While no decision has been made so far by the CREWS Steering Committee, it is expected that CREWS will be also joining the Alliance in the near term.

4. Benefits of membership in the Alliance

By joining the Alliance, SOFF would:

- Contribute directly to shaping collective strategies;

¹ The signing of the legal agreement with AfDB is pending, after which it can begin actively serving as a SOFF Implementing Entity. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has recently joined SOFF as an Implementing Entity and is in the process of joining the Alliance. ² AF, CIF, GCF, GEF, UNDP and UNEP

² AF, CIF, GCF, GEF

- Amplify advocacy for investment in hydrometeorological services;
- Ensure that foundational observations are systematically linked to downstream benefits in forecasting, risk reduction and climate resilience;
- Gain a strategic platform to engage with governments, development banks and climate funds as part of a coordinated global effort.

This institutional integration would strengthen the Alliance's ability to achieve its 2030 goal of closing the hydromet capacity gap, while positioning SOFF as a key partner in global coordination.

As the Alliance has also invited CREWS to join, SOFF's membership would further enhance CREWS-SOFF-Alliance collaboration, improving operational coordination and complementarity across their portfolios.

5. Annex: Draft SOFF Request Letter to join the Alliance

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
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Our ref.: 07184/2025/DPO

Mr Markus Repnik
Director
Systematic Observations
Financing Facility Secretariat
c/o WMO Secretariat

20 May 2025

Subject: Invitation to Join the Alliance for Hydromet Development

Dear Mr Repnik,

The Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) has been instrumental in addressing the long-standing challenge of missing foundational weather and climate observations, particularly in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). By providing sustained financing and technical support to strengthen the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON), SOFF is improving the availability of critical data needed for accurate forecasts, disaster risk reduction, and climate adaptation.

The Alliance for Hydromet Development played a foundational role in developing the SOFF concept and advocating for a systematic approach to solving this persistent challenge. Recognizing the economic value of surface-based observations as a global public good, the Alliance committed to establishing SOFF as an innovative financing mechanism to support developing countries in meeting their GBON commitments. Since SOFF's launch in 2022, the Alliance has consistently supported its growth, development, and fundraising efforts. Looking ahead, sustaining and expanding SOFF remains a priority action for the Alliance, ensuring that all countries have access to high-quality, reliable hydrometeorological data to support climate resilience and sustainable development.

Following consultation and agreement from Alliance members, and in recognition of this deep and ongoing partnership, on behalf of the members of the Alliance for Hydromet Development, I am pleased to formally invite SOFF to join the Alliance.

SOFF's work aligns directly with the Alliance's commitments to:

- Strengthening Foundational Hydromet Infrastructure by closing critical observational gaps that underpin effective weather and climate services;
- Enhancing Data Sharing and Global Forecasting by ensuring that essential observations are freely and openly available to improve forecasting at all levels;
- Mobilizing Sustainable Financing by leveraging innovative funding mechanisms to strengthen long-term hydromet service delivery; and
- Promoting Country-Led Action by supporting nations in fulfilling their GBON commitments and enhancing their meteorological and hydrological capabilities.

As a member of the Alliance, SOFF would have a strategic platform to engage in joint advocacy, strengthen coordination with key development partners, and further advance

Ref.: 07184/2025-14 MS/DP

resource mobilization efforts. We hope that SOFF will consider this opportunity to enhance our collective impact and contribute to strengthening global hydromet services.

Should you wish to discuss this further or require additional information, please feel free to contact Daniel Kull, Director of the Development Partnership Office and Moyenda Chaponda, Development Partnership Officer, who serve as the Alliance Secretariat.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Celeste Saulo
Secretary-General

Ref: 07184/2025-14 MSOP