



Fourteenth Steering Committee 27-29 May 2026

Decisions of the SOFF Fourteenth Steering Committee Meeting

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

**Weather
and climate
data for
resilience**



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Decision 14.1: Adoption of the Agenda

The SOFF Steering Committee adopts the Agenda for the SOFF Fourteenth Steering Committee meeting.

Decision 14.2: Expanded role of the World Meteorological Organization as SOFF Technical Authority

The SOFF Steering Committee

Recalls [Decision 9.3](#) *Update of the role of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in SOFF*, which welcomed the stepped-up role of WMO as SOFF Technical Authority, noted that according to the SOFF Operational Manual, WMO covers the costs associated with its Technical Authority role through its own resources, and stated that changes to this would require a Steering Committee decision and corresponding update of the SOFF Operational Manual,

Recognizes

- that SOFF has reached a critical juncture, with a growing portfolio of countries moving from Readiness to Investment phase, where technical decisions on procurement, data systems, calibration approaches, and operational sustainability will determine the likelihood of long-term GBON compliance,
- that WMO's role as Technical Authority for SOFF has already evolved in practice beyond the role described in the SOFF Operational Manual,
- that the current SOFF Operational Manual foresees only a limited role for WMO in the Investment phase, while consultations with SOFF beneficiary countries and operational partners have identified a clear need for a more structured, timely, and consistent WMO Technical Authority support during this phase; reinforced by the expectation that the SOFF Secretariat (see Draft Decision 14.9) focuses on operations programme management, portfolio oversight, and operational coordination, in a complementary role to the expanded Technical Authority,
- that WMO will continue to provide its core Technical Authority functions for SOFF, including advice on GBON technical regulations and independent compliance

verification, as part of its baseline contribution to SOFF funded from WMO resources,

- that additional, SOFF-specific support to Peer Advisors, Implementing Entities, countries and the SOFF Secretariat constitutes a direct service to SOFF implementation and requires dedicated resourcing,

Decides

- (i) to expand the role of the World Meteorological Organization Secretariat as Technical Authority to SOFF, focused on the Investment phase, as described in this document, for an initial period from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027, aligned with the end of SOFF's First Implementation period,
- (ii) to approve the amount of USD 450,000 for the expanded role of WMO as described in this document,

Requests

- (i) the UNMPTF Office to disburse the amount of USD 450,000 to WMO,
- (ii) the SOFF Secretariat to reflect the expanded role of the WMO as Technical Authority to SOFF in an updated SOFF Operational Manual, for consideration by the 15th SOFF Steering Committee meeting,
- (iii) the WMO Technical Authority to closely coordinate with WMO Secretariat supporting project activities related to SOFF, including those funded by CREWS, to ensure integrated and effective support to beneficiary countries,
- (iv) the WMO Technical Authority to report to the Steering Committee on the implementation of the expanded role, to inform decisions on the future Technical Authority role in the SOFF Expansion and Sustaining period,
- (v) the SOFF Independent External Evaluation to include examine the roles and responsibilities in the Readiness and Investment phases of the operational partners (Implementing Entities and Peer Advisors) including its coordination, in relation to the Technical Authority, SOFF Secretariat, and countries, and be tasked to provide recommendations on future arrangements, including the potential of identifying the Technical Authority function as a cost associated with each SOFF project rather than an ongoing separate operational cost.

Decision 14.3: SOFF Compliance Phase Framework

The SOFF Steering Committee

Notes the importance of the SOFF Compliance Phase and the unique feature of SOFF to provide long-term, results-based financial and peer-to-peer technical assistance to

beneficiary countries to operate and maintain their basic observing system in a sustained manner.

Welcomes the participatory approach and extensive consultation process including SOFF beneficiary countries, Peer Advisors, Implementing Entities, SOFF co-founders, WMO, UNDP and UNEP, UNMPTF Office as well as Advisory Board and Steering Committee.

Decides to

- (i) adopt the SOFF Compliance Phase Framework with an initial lifespan until 2032, and reviewed in 2033, with country eligibility defined at the date of approval of its Readiness Funding Request; and
- (ii) review early experience with its implementation once the first five countries have completed the first year of the Compliance Phase.

Requests the SOFF Secretariat to

- (i) communicate the Compliance Phase Framework with all beneficiary countries, SOFF operational partners, and the SOFF Advisory Board;
- (ii) Include in the Compliance Phase funding agreements with beneficiary countries that future compliance payments are subject to fund availability and their ability to pay;
- (iii) In order to facilitate a potential effective regional compliance support, step up Resource Mobilization, with the aim of closing regional investment gaps with urgency, including in the Pacific;
- (iv) Engage with the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action to i) communicate the critical importance of countries' systematic observation infrastructure and international exchange of weather and climate data, ii) communicate the opportunity SOFF provides with the compliance framework, and iii) explore mechanisms for fund transfers to the National Meteorological Services under the Compliance Framework;
- (v) make the framework public on the SOFF website; and
- (vi) adjust the SOFF Operational Manual accordingly and present the updated version of the Manual to the 15th Steering Committee for its consideration.

Decision 14.4 SOFF collaboration with the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)

The SOFF Steering Committee

Notes the importance of systematic observation for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, calling for sustained and enhanced observations, essential to improve scientific knowledge of climate systems, inform mitigation and adaptation, and support climate services under Articles 7 and 8 of the Agreement.

Further notes the role of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) in promoting and coordinating systematic observation and acknowledges its sustained contributions in

providing guidance and informing Parties' efforts to maintain and strengthen observing systems and data exchange, ultimately serving end-users.

Acknowledges

- the combined efforts of GCOS and SOFF in their UNFCCC and COP engagement in strengthening systematic observation, reflected in SBSTA conclusions that highlight the importance of both partners.
- the existing collaboration between GCOS and SOFF, including GCOS's inclusion in the SOFF Advisory Board ([Decision 8.8](#)) as a key partner to strengthen SOFF's positioning within the UNFCCC process.
- the forthcoming Seventh Assessment Reports of the IPCC, and the periodic Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement, noting that systematic observations provide critical inputs, improve understanding of the climate system, inform countries' National Determined Contribution assessments, and support adaptation, mitigation, and loss-and-damage planning.

Welcomes further operationalizing the GCOS and SOFF collaboration through creating and leading a multi-stakeholder partnership to conceptualize and deliver a Global State of Systematic Observation Report, envisioned to serve as catalyst for SOFF resource mobilization and a springboard for a potential future Global Goal on Observation.

Approves the allocation of USD 50,000 to initiate a kick-off phase, aimed at creating the partnership for the development of the Global State of Systematic Observation Report, conceptualize the report, secure partners' contributions, and agree on a timeline towards the envisioned launch at COP32.

Requests

- (i) the UNMPTF Office to disburse the amount of USD 50.000 to WMO and manage a Trust Fund that will financially sustain this joint effort.
- (ii) GCOS and SOFF Secretariats to seek resources from additional partners for the production of the report.
- (iii) the GCOS and SOFF Secretariats to report back at the 16th Steering Committee meeting on the outcomes of the kick-off phase and provide a timeline and next steps for the development of the first Global State of Systematic Observation Report.

Decision 14.5: Establishment of a Complementary SOFF Resource Mobilisation Vehicle

The SOFF Steering Committee

Recalls:

- [Decision 11.5](#), which requested the SOFF Secretariat to pursue development of a Systematic Observation Impact Bond with utmost importance and urgency, with a view to announcing the Bond at COP30 as an innovative contribution to the new collective quantified goal on climate finance (NCQG) established at UNFCCC COP29.
- [Decision 13.2](#), which requested the SOFF Secretariat to progress work towards the establishment of the SOFF Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) as a complementary and innovative SOFF resource mobilization vehicle, that would enable the issuance of multiple bonds over time, to support scaling up SOFF operations and responding to high country demand.

Notes the growing importance of innovative mechanisms to complement public development finance, particularly in a context of increasing fiscal constraints and competing global priorities, and the opportunity to mobilize additional resources at an accelerated pace through a multi-stakeholder financing vehicle.

Welcomes:

- The support of ClimateWorks Foundation through an indicated contribution of USD 200,000 to cover the costs associated with the establishment of the SPV and the development of a first Systematic Observation Impact Bond;
- the continued leadership and support of the SOFF co-founders — WMO, UNDP and UNEP — whose close collaboration with the SOFF Secretariat has enabled the advancement of the design of the SPV and a Systematic Observation Impact Bond.

Decides:

- (i) To proceed with the establishment of an SPV in Ireland to serve as the resource mobilization vehicle for issuing Systematic Observation Impact Bonds. Subject to a future SOFF Steering Committee decision, the SPV could potentially support other UN-administered climate initiatives. Any such future decision would be considered only following the submission of a detailed proposal setting out the operational arrangements and implications that ensure clear financial separation and no liabilities for the SOFF UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund, SOFF co-founders and Steering Committee members.
- (ii) To develop a first Systematic Observation Impact Bond aimed at mobilizing complementary resources for scaled-up implementation of the SOFF work programme, with a view to announcing the forthcoming bond at COP31.

- (iii) To maintain the SOFF Steering Committee as the sole body responsible for strategic oversight and approval of SOFF bond issuances and allocation of net bond proceeds to the SOFF work programme, while the SPV Board of Directors remains responsible for the SPV's legal and operational decisions.

Requests:

That WMO, in its capacity as host of the SOFF Secretariat, with Secretariat support and in coordination with UNEP and UNDP, undertake the following steps to operationalize the SPV and advance the development of a first Systematic Observation Impact Bond:

- (i) engage with Ireland regarding the establishment of a Host Country Agreement recognizing the SPV's public purpose;
- (ii) contract a corporate services provider to establish and administer the trust hosting the SPV and to nominate the initial two directors, subject to WMO approval.
- (iii) engage a reputable law firm to support the legal incorporation and structuring of the SPV in Ireland; and
- (iv) identify and engage a treasury manager to provide the financial services required for the SPV's operations.

That the SOFF Secretariat, in coordination with WMO, UNEP, and UNDP, take the following steps to operationalize the SPV and advance development of a first Systematic Observation Impact Bond:

- (i) coordinate the establishment of the SPV and engagement with the required stakeholders;
- (ii) lead engagement with potential public and private impact funders and facilitate engagement with investors;
- (iii) submit, for consideration at the 15th Steering Committee meeting, a proposal for a Steering Committee-nominated SPV Director, to complement the two directors nominated by the corporate services provider and approved by WMO;
- (iv) submit, for consideration at the 15th Steering Committee meeting, a proposal for the first bond issuance, with a view to announcing the forthcoming bond at COP31.

Decision 14.6: Updated SOFF Results Framework for the Extended First Implementation Period 2022-2027

The SOFF Steering Committee

Acknowledges:

- that the SOFF Results Framework is anchored in the [SOFF Theory of Change](#) and strengthens the operational level clarity and measurability of results for the three SOFF phases (Readiness, Investment, and Compliance)
- the need to update targets under the SOFF Results Framework to reflect the extension of the First Implementation Period to 2022–2027, in line with [Decision 11.3](#).

Notes the inputs received from Steering Committee members on the draft Updated Results Framework ([INF 13.4](#)).

Welcomes the revised targets and the introduction of Annex I that further clarifies outcomes, outputs and indicators as set out in the Result Framework

Decides to adopt the updated SOFF Results Framework for the Extended First Implementation Period (2022-2027).

Decision 14.7 SOFF Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework

The SOFF Steering Committee

Recalls [Decision 12.7](#) which deferred the adoption of SOFF Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework to the 14 Steering Committee meeting.

Notes with appreciation the consultation process undertaken by the SOFF Secretariat in preparation for a Steering Committee decision on the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework.

Decides to adopt the SOFF Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework and to review it in 2027, in light of the findings from the SOFF Independent External Evaluation.

Decision 14.8 SOFF Investment funding requests

The SOFF Steering Committee

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 Sao Tome and Principe, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Antigua and Barbuda, Cambodia and Haiti (in this order) as publicly available on the [SOFF website](#),
- That the current financial situation of the fund as presented in INF 14.1 allows for the approval of three Investment funding requests in the pipeline.

Approves the Investment funding requests for a total amount of USD 6,854,916.30:

- Sao Tome and Principe with a total budget of USD 2,907,084.07
- Dominican Republic with a total budget of USD 1,281,021.62
- Suriname with a total budget of USD 2,666,810.61

Requests

- (i) The UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office to disburse the funding to the recipient organization in tranches according to the schedule stipulated in the Investment funding request ProDocs and as outlined in the table below:

Country	Implementing Entity (IE)	IE Amount (USD)	Peer Advisor	WMO Amount (USD) <i>(Peer Advisor fee and WMO 7% fee)</i>
Sao Tome and Principe	United Nations Development Programme	2,642,803.70	Netherlands	264,280.37
Dominican Republic	World Food Programme	1,196,848.87	Spain	84,172.75
Suriname	United Nations Development Programme	2,424,178.73	Netherlands	242,631.87

The SOFF Steering Committee

Acknowledges the three newly submitted and reviewed Investment Funding Requests from Jamaica, Nepal, and Senegal for consideration by the 14th Steering Committee.

Decides to include the new Investment Funding Requests in the Investment Phase Pipeline, to follow after the remaining Investment funding requests in the [pipeline](#), in the following order: Jamaica, Nepal, and Senegal. The Steering Committee will further consider the funding requests when resources are available.

Decision 14.9: SOFF Secretariat Budget July 2026 – June 2027

The SOFF Steering Committee

Appreciates

- the efficiency and effectiveness of the SOFF Secretariat and the comparatively low overhead costs of SOFF.
- the efforts of the SOFF Secretariat to keep staffing levels stable despite an expanding portfolio and increasing workload.

Acknowledges

- that the UNMPTF SOFF account is administered in USD in accordance with the Administrative Agent's policies, that all contributions are received, managed, and reported in United States dollars (USD), and that all financial accounts and statements are expressed in USD,
- that most SOFF Secretariat expenditures are in Swiss francs,
- that the SOFF Secretariat budget for July 2025– June 2026 has been affected by major exchange rate fluctuations due to the global political and financial situation.

Approves the SOFF Secretariat budget for July 2026–June 2027 in the amount of USD 3,132,561 (the equivalent of CHF 2,474,723 as per the UN Operational Rate of Exchange on 1 May 2026), including an allocation to cover losses resulting from exchange rate fluctuations during the previous budget period.

Requests

- (i) the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office to disburse the amount of USD 3,132,561 to the World Meteorological Organization,
- (ii) the SOFF Secretariat to henceforth operationally manage and track its budget in CHF, to closely monitor the impact of the exchange rate between the US Dollar and the Swiss franc and its impact on the SOFF Secretariat budget, and request the Steering Committee to approve additional funding to compensate for the identified exchange rate loss, if any,
- (iii) The SOFF Secretariat to continue managing its budget in a prudent manner.

Decision 14.10: Appointment of SOFF Steering Committee Co-Chair

The SOFF Steering Committee

Recalls that according to the SOFF Operational Manual, the Steering Committee's decision-making Members nominate the funder Co-Chair by consensus on a rotating basis.

Notes with appreciation the leadership of Belgium in having served as Co-Chair of the SOFF Steering Committee since 1 July 2025.

Decides to extend the appointment of Belgium as SOFF Steering Committee Co-Chair for another 12 months.

Decision 14.11: Date and Format of the 15th Steering Committee Meeting

The SOFF Steering Committee adopts that the 15th Steering Committee meeting will be held virtually on 21 October 2026, from 2:00pm to 5:00pm CEST.

Decision 14.12: SOFF Readiness Funding Requests

The SOFF Steering Committee

Recalls

- Decisions [7.5](#) and [8.6](#) designating Niue and Cook Islands as eligible for all SOFF phases of support.
- That Niue, Cook Islands, and Guinea submitted Readiness Funding request for consideration at the 11th Steering Committee meeting included in [INF 11.3](#).
- Decision [11.6](#) recognizing the current financial constraints to meet country demand, and consequently putting approval of new Readiness funding requests on hold until further decision by the SOFF Steering Committee.

Notes the availability of resources to support the three Readiness Funding requests, and the fact that SOFF support to these countries would complement existing climate financing from other sources.

Decides to reconsider these three Readiness Funding Requests for approval, through the Steering Committee Intersessional decision-making process.

Requests the SOFF Secretariat to prepare the intersessional decision in consultation with the Steering Committee co-chairs, to be submitted for Steering Committee consideration.

Signed by

UN Steering Committee Co-Chair

29 May 2026



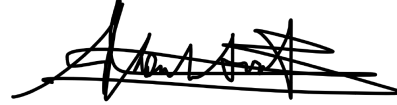
Celeste Saulo

Secretary-General,

World Meteorological Organization

Co-Chair of the Steering Committee

29 May 2026



Annemarie Van der Avort

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