FROM CLIMATE FINANCE TO SUSTAINABLE METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

SPAIN, AEMET & SOFF IN ACTION

11th November | 10:00h – 11:00h | Spain Pavilion

EVENT OVERVIEW

Reliable weather forecasts and early warnings protect lives, livelihoods and economies. They start with observations from across the globe. Yet critical gaps leave many vulnerable countries without the data needed to anticipate extreme weather and growing climate risks. Closing these gaps is a shared investment in resilience — with benefits that reach well beyond national borders.

At COP29, Spain brought partners together to champion sustained financing for global observations. At COP31, the focus turns to results: what that investment delivers, and how broader support can extend its impact. Spain's longstanding financial support for the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF), alongside the technical expertise of AEMET, Spain's State Meteorological Agency, shows how finance and knowledge can work together to build lasting national capabilities.

Through country experiences, the roundtable will bring these benefits to life — showing how sustained investment and long-term cooperation strengthen weather services, develop local expertise and turn reliable data into better-informed decisions. It will make the case for wider support to SOFF to close observation gaps and help more countries prepare, protect and prosper.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. **Demonstrate the value of investment in global observations**, showcasing how SOFF supports countries build the foundations for better forecasts and early warnings.

2. **Show what makes progress last**, highlighting how sustained financing, technical expertise and country leadership build lasting national capabilities.

3. **Build support to close observation gaps**, engaging existing and new partners in opportunities to contribute through SOFF.

AGENDA

10:00 - 10:05

Welcome & Moderation

Fernando Belda, Adviser to the Director, Spain's State Meteorological Agency (AEMET)

Introducing the conversation: what investment delivers, what makes progress last and how partners can contribute.

10:05 - 10:10

Opening: Spain's Commitment to Global Observations

Fernando Belda, Adviser to the Director, Spain's State Meteorological Agency (AEMET)

Reaffirming Spain's longstanding commitment to SOFF and international cooperation to close global observation gaps.

10:10 - 10:15

Better Data, Earlier Warnings

Albert Fischer, Director for Observing Systems for Weather, Climate, and Water, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Making the case for sustained observations to protect lives, livelihoods and economies, and highlighting SOFF's unique contribution to this shared effort.

10:15 - 10:20

Local Observations, Global Impact

Vincent-Henri Peuch, Director for Engagement with the European Union, European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF)

Showing how observations from data-sparse countries strengthen weather prediction far beyond their borders.

10:20 - 10:30

Turning Investment into Lasting Capability

Mariam Tidiga, Director General, Burkina Faso's National Meteorological Agency (ANAM)

Charles Anosike, Director General, Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet)

Country experiences bring the investment story to life: how sustained financing, AEMET's expertise and cooperation among weather services build lasting capabilities — and what these mean for their countries.

10:30 - 10:40

Weather Data, Real-World Decisions

Ángel Giménez Palazón, Head of Sustainability, Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria (BBVA)

Adaiana Lima, Innovative Finance Officer, Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF)

Why reliable weather and climate data matters for investment and operations — and what is at stake when it is missing.

10:40 - 10:57

Open Discussion and Q&A

An opportunity for participants to ask questions, share perspectives and explore ways to support sustained observations.

10:57 - 11:00

Closing: Closing the Gap Together

Markus Repnik, Director, Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF)

Closing reflections and an invitation to contribute through financing, technical expertise and partnerships that sustain country and global progress.