A HOTTER WORLD IS FLYING BLIND

FINANCING THE DATA THAT PROTECT PEOPLE AND INFORM INVESTMENT

10th November | 17:30h – 18:15h | UNFCCC Pavilion

EVENT OVERVIEW

Extreme heat is breaking records, disrupting economies and putting lives and livelihoods at risk. El Niño is intensifying these pressures, yet many vulnerable countries still lack the observations — the data needed to anticipate and prepare for increasingly frequent and severe extreme weather.

Drawing on the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) Action Report and country voices, the event will demonstrate why observations are a global public good and observing networks are critical climate adaptation infrastructure, underpinning forecasts that help protect people and enable governments, investors and companies to manage risk.

The agenda will connect country achievements and priorities for further support with partner commitments, followed by the introduction of the SOFF Financing Platform for Systematic Observation Impact Bonds, with Ireland as host country, and an invitation to partners to help shape and capitalise an innovative model combining public, philanthropic and private capital.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Countries take the floor to bring the SOFF Action Report 2026 to life, sharing progress, priorities and what more countries could achieve with SOFF financing.

2. Partners take the stage to demonstrate support, raise the visibility of SOFF's mission and mobilise financing to sustain results and reach more countries.

3. Introduce the SOFF Financing Platform, the vehicle for issuing Systematic Observation Impact Bonds and unlocking new capital for global observations.

AGENDA

17:30 - 17:32

Welcome & Moderation

Barbara Buchner, CEO of Climate Policy Initiative (CPI)

Setting the scene and guiding the conversation from country leadership to financing and collective action.

17:32 - 17:35

Opening Remarks

Cecilia Kinuthia-Njenga, Director of Intergovernmental Support and Collective Progress, UN Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Setting the political context for investment in observations as a foundation for climate adaptation.

17:35 - 17:40

Keynote: A Hotter World Needs Better Data

Professor Celeste Saulo, Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

The role of observations in understanding a changing climate, anticipating risks and informing action.

17:40 - 17:50

Countries Bring the SOFF Action Report 2026 to Life

H.E. Swarnim Waglé, Minister of Finance, Government of Nepal

H.E. Carlos Alberto Ramos Varela, Minister of Environment, Climate Action and Energy, Government of Cabo Verde

H.E. Bernadette Arakwiye, Minister of Environment, Government of Rwanda

Introducing the SOFF Action Report 2026, countries bring its findings to life, sharing achievements and what further support could make possible.

17:50 - 17:53

National Action, Global Value

Alain Noudéhou, Executive Director, UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office

Why country investments in observations benefit the world — and why financing them is a shared responsibility.

17:53 - 18:03

Partnering for Greater Impact

Maxime Prévot, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Development Cooperation, Government of Belgium

Government of Spain

Government of Germany

Government perspectives on sustaining country progress, strengthening international cooperation and mobilising support for global observations.

18:03 - 18:12

Joining the Next Chapter

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

Nuala O'Brien, Climate Director, Department of Foreign Affairs, Government of Ireland

Satu Santala, Managing Director, Nordic Development Fund (NDF)

Introducing the SOFF Financing Platform as the vehicle for issuing Systematic Observation Impact Bonds, with SOFF and Ireland, as host country, inviting partners to help shape and capitalise the platform.

18:12 - 18:15

Closing Remarks

Selwin Hart, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action and Just Transition, United Nations

Turning shared responsibility into collective action to close the global observation gap.