An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

SOFF
Systematic Observations Financing Facility

Call to Action for the SOFF Financing Platform

Sustained, high-quality weather and climate observations are a foundational global public good. They underpin forecasts, early warnings and climate-informed decision-making around the world.

As extreme weather intensifies, ensuring that these vital observations are generated and shared has never been more important. Yet significant data gaps exist in developing countries. These gaps create blind spots, weaken forecasts and limit the value of public- and private-sector investments across all sectors.

The Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) is the United Nations fund dedicated to closing critical weather and climate data gaps where it matters most. It was established in 2022 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), at the request of 193 countries and territories. SOFF supports countries in achieving and sustaining mandatory compliance with the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON), the international standard for essential surface-based observations.

Ireland is proud to have supported SOFF from the outset as a founding donor and member of its Steering Committee, reflecting its longstanding commitment to multilateralism and global solidarity. Dublin's position as a leading centre for international financial services, together with Ireland's recognised expertise in sustainable and innovative finance, makes it a natural home for the new SOFF Financing Platform and the innovative financing instruments it will develop.

The Platform will bring together public, philanthropic and private finance to accelerate the closure of critical observation gaps. Catalytic grant funding will enable the issuance of Systematic Observation Impact Bonds, mobilising capital upfront so that countries can strengthen their observing systems and achieve GBON compliance sooner.

This acceleration matters. Every year of delay prolongs blind spots in the global observing system, weakens forecasts and early warnings, and leaves lives and livelihoods more exposed. Earlier investment means that essential observations can be generated and internationally exchanged sooner, delivering benefits within countries and across the world.

OUR CALL

We call on governments and philanthropic partners to provide catalytic grant support to the SOFF Financing Platform and invite mission-aligned investors to participate in the Systematic Observation Impact Bonds. Together, we can harness innovative finance to deliver a global public good – basic weather and climate data.

Antalya, 10th November 2026.

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

Prof Celeste Saulo
Co-chair, SOFF Steering Committee
Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization