Systematic Observations Financing Facility

Fifteenth Steering Committee
21 October 2026

Global State of Systematic Weather and Climate Observation Initiative Inception Workshop Outcomes

INF 15.2

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility



Weather and climate data for resilience

Purpose of this Document

This information document provides the 15th SOFF Steering Committee with an interim update on the outcomes of the 10–11 September 2026 inception workshop, including the shift in direction from a report towards a broad, multi-stakeholder coalition and engagement strategy. It also outlines the next steps until December 2026, ahead of a report-back to the 16th Steering Committee on the outcomes of the kick-off phase.

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Global State of Systematic Weather and Climate Observation Initiative
Inception Workshop Outcomes

1. Context

Systematic observation is fundamental to implementation of the Paris Agreement, providing essential information for adaptation, loss and damage, the Global Stocktake and the Global Goal on Adaptation. Recognizing the complementary efforts of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) to strengthen systematic observations, the two Secretariats stepped up their collaboration through SOFF Steering Committee Decision 14.4 in May 2026. The decision allocated USD 50,000 in initial funding for a June–December 2026 kick-off phase to develop a multi-stakeholder partnership around a Global State of Systematic Observation Report. A partners' inception workshop was held on 10–11 September 2026 in a hybrid format, virtually and at WMO Headquarters in Geneva.

2. Inception Workshop Outcomes

The workshop brought together 65 institutions and around 100 participants to examine the state, value and financing needs of the global observing system and to explore the development of a multi-stakeholder coalition.

A key outcome was a shift from developing a standalone report towards an engagement strategy by a global partnership. The partnership would aim to mobilize sustained financing to safeguard and strengthen the global observing system. Partners would work towards this by building a common narrative around the value of systematic observations, including agreeing on a coalition purpose statement; connecting existing evidence; reaching new audiences, mainly through tailored "products"; and championing the value and importance of systematic observations with decisionmakers.

3. Next Steps

The Inception Workshop established an initial pathway for taking the envisioned partnership and engagement strategy forward. The next steps will focus on refining the partnership vision statement, developing the engagement strategy, engaging partners through COP31, consolidating partner contributions and agreeing on a 2027 roadmap.

Please find the private weblink to the more detailed workshop outcomes package and supporting materials here: [Link].