

Seventh Steering Committee

21 March 2024

Adoption of actions on Multilateral Development Banks serving as SOFF Implementing Entities

Decision 7.4

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

**Weather
and climate
data for
resilience**



Decision 7.4: Adoption of actions on Multilateral Development Banks serving as SOFF Implementing Entities

The SOFF Steering Committee

Welcomes that five Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) are expected to serve as SOFF Implementing Entity, namely African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank and World Bank.

Recognizes

- the importance of MDBs serving as SOFF Implementing Entities and their ability to link and leverage SOFF investments with their country or regional programs for larger country support packages.
- the commitment of the MDBs to support implementation of the UN Early Warnings for All Initiative with SOFF as a means to operationalize this commitment.

Notes that at the 6th SOFF Steering Committee two Investment funding decisions for Belize and South Sudan were approved subject to African Development Bank and Inter-American Development Bank signing the Framework Agreement with UNMPTF Office by 15 February 2024 ([Decision 6.3](#))

Notes the request from the African Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the UNMPTF Office to seek an extension of the deadline for signing the Framework Agreement

Approves the extension of the deadline for signature of the UNMPTF Framework Agreement for the African Development Bank and Inter-American Development Bank until 30 April 2024.

Encourages the Asian Development Bank to finalize the legal agreement with the UNMPTF.

The purpose of this document is to provide an update on the status of the five Multilateral Development Banks expected to serve as SOFF Implementing Entities and to approve an extension of the deadline for signature of the Framework Agreement between UNMPTF and African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank.

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Multilateral Development Banks serving as SOFF Implementing Entities

1. The Role of Multilateral Development Banks as SOFF Implementing Entities

In line with the [SOFF Terms of Reference](#) (section 7.6), [SOFF Operational Manual](#) (section 4.4.2) and [Steering Committee decision 5.6](#) major multilateral development partners are expected to serve as SOFF Implementing Entities for the SOFF Investment Phase. Of the nine SOFF Implementing Entities, five are Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and four of them are currently actively engaged in SOFF (African Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, World Bank).

The role of MDBs in SOFF implementation is essential for co-financing and leveraging MDB investments as well as resources from other funds to which the MDBs serve as accredited entities. The blending of SOFF resources with larger investments is crucial to ensure beneficiary countries can benefit from a comprehensive, integrated and coherent package of support, beyond SOFF support.

SOFF serves as an innovator among UN Multi-Partner Trust Funds (UNMPTF) with a cumulative portfolio of USD 18.9 billion. SOFF is the first fund its portfolio that has several MDBs expected to serve as Implementing Entities. While SOFF is paving the way for a potential future broader engagement between MDBs and the UNMPTF, it is also affected by complicated legal negotiations between the MDBs and the UNMPTF Office that are taking more time than initially envisioned.

MDBs are committed to the implementation of the Early Warnings for All Initiative. At the UN Secretary Generals Climate Ambition Summit in September 2023, MDBs committed to supporting implementation of EW4All. The [declaration of support for Early Warnings For All](#) was endorsed by the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, Caribbean Development Bank, European Investment Bank, the Council of European Development Bank and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. SOFF is a means to operationalize this commitment.

Out of the so far 62 programmed SOFF countries MDBs are expected to serve as Implementing Entity in 29 countries. To date, two funding requests with MDBs have been approved through [Decision 6.3](#). (Belize with Inter-American Development Bank as Implementing Entity and South Sudan with African Development Bank as Implementing Entity) but are pending signature of the Framework Agreement between these MDBs and the UNMPTF.

Table 1 outlines the status of all five MDBs expected to serve as SOFF Implementing Entities for the 62 programmed SOFF countries (Sudan on hold).

Table 1: SOFF beneficiary countries that opted to work with MDBs as Implementing Entity

Implementing Entity	Country	Peer Advisor
African Development Bank	Burkina Faso	Spain - Nigeria
	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Switzerland
	Liberia	Nigeria
	Madagascar	Germany
	South Sudan	Austria
	Comoros	Morocco
	Mauritius	South Africa - India
	Niger	Nigeria
	Seychelles	South Africa
Inter-American Development Bank	Belize	United Kingdom
	Ecuador	Switzerland - Argentina
	Guyana	Austria
	Bahamas	Finland
	Barbados	Finland
	Guatemala*	Spain
	Haiti	Switzerland
	Jamaica	Finland
	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Finland
	Trinidad and Tobago	Finland
Islamic Development Bank	Senegal	Netherlands
	Uganda	Netherlands
	Bangladesh	Norway
World Bank	Fiji	Australia
	Samoa	Australia
	Cambodia	United Kingdom
	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Austria - China
	Tonga	New Zealand
	Vanuatu	New Zealand
	Tajikistan	Finland

*Guatemala was programmed with the third batch of SOFF beneficiary countries for Readiness support, but the funding request is expected to be submitted only in June 2024.

	EW4All initial focus countries
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2. Status of UNMPTF Framework Agreements with MDBs

As of February 2024, the Islamic Development Bank has signed the Framework Agreement with the UNMPTF. The World Bank and African Development Bank have both agreed upon the conditions for signing and the final administrative processes are ongoing. The Interamerican Development Bank signing is pending upon reaching agreement of two outstanding legal considerations. Progress with the UNMPTF agreement with Asian Development Bank is pending. Table 2 below outlines the status of legal agreements for the five MDBs.

Table 2: Status of UNMPTF Framework Agreement for MDBs

MDB	Status of UNMPTF Framework Agreement
Islamic Development Bank	Completed
African Development Bank	Pending signature
World Bank	Pending signature
Interamerican Development Bank	Pending final agreement
Asian Development Bank	Pending agreement

At the 6th SOFF Steering Committee, the funding decisions for Belize and South Sudan were approved subject to African Development Bank and Inter-American Development Bank signing the Framework Agreement with UNMPTF Office by 15 February 2024. The deadline indicated has elapsed, however significant progress has been made toward the finalization of the legal documents and therefore the respective MDBs and the UNMPTF Office request an extension of this deadline to 30 April 2024.