

Ninth Steering Committee  
22 October 2024

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## Further update on Multilateral Development Banks serving as SOFF Implementing Entities

Decision 9.7

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Systematic Observations  
Financing Facility

**Weather  
and climate  
data for  
resilience**



## Decision 9.7: Further update on Multilateral Development Banks serving as SOFF Implementing Entities

The SOFF Steering Committee

Acknowledges the importance of African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank and World Bank 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.

Welcomes that following the 7<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank have signed their legal agreements with the UNMPTF Office, joining the Islamic Development Bank as Multilateral Development Banks as SOFF Implementing Entities with signed legal agreements.

Recalls [Decision 6.3](#) that approved the Investment funding request for South Sudan and [Decision 8.4.1](#) that conditionally approved the Investment funding request for Madagascar, and that both decisions were subject to the African Development Bank signing the Framework Agreement with UNMPTF Office.

Notes

- with concern the delays of the African Development Bank in signing its legal agreement with the UNMPTF Office, causing delays in SOFF implementation.
- with appreciation the ongoing negotiations and progress made of the African Development Bank concluding its legal agreement with the UNMPTF to serve as SOFF Implementing Entities.

Decides

- To offer South Sudan and Madagascar the option to change their Implementing Entities and to resubmit their Investment Funding requests for consideration at the 10<sup>th</sup> SOFF Steering Committee meeting.
- To not consider Investment funding requests from the African Development Bank until the Bank has signed their legal agreement with the UNMPTF and to offer those countries that have initially selected the African Development Bank the option to change their Implementing Entity.
- To encourage the Asian Development Bank to advance its discussions with the UNMPTF.
- Consider AfDB Investment funding requests as soon as the legal agreement is signed.

### Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this document is to provide a further update on the status of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) serving as SOFF Implementing Entities. It notes that with the Inter-American Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, and World Bank three MDBs have signed their legal agreements with the UNMPTF Office.

It further notes the delays of the African Development Bank (AfDB) in signing its legal agreement, offers South Sudan and Madagascar that have approved AfDB Investment Funding requests the option to change their Implementing Entities, decides to not approve Investment funding requests submitted by AfDB until the signing of the agreement with the UNMPTF Office, and encourages the Asian Development Bank to advance its discussion on signing the legal agreement.

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## Further update on Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) serving as SOFF Implementing Entities

### 1. Importance of MDBs serving 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, InterAmerican 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 19.5 billion. SOFF is the first fund in 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.

### 2. Beneficiary countries requests to work with MDBs

Out of the so far 66 programmed SOFF countries MDBs are expected to serve as Implementing Entity in 29 countries. To date, 3 funding requests with MDBs have been approved or conditionally approved through [Decision 6.3](#) (Belize with Inter-American Development Bank as Implementing Entity and South Sudan with African Development Bank as Implementing Entity) and [Decision 8.4.1](#) (Madagascar conditionally approved with African Development Bank as Implementing Entity).

Table 1 provides an overview about the countries that requested to work with MDBs as SOFF Implementing Entities (Sudan on hold).

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 still pending.

	EW4All initial focus countries
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### 3. Status of UNMPTF legal agreements with MDBs

As of October 2024, the Inter-American Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, and World Bank have signed their legal agreements with the UNMPTF. Negotiations with the African Development Bank are delayed, albeit at an advanced stage. The UNMPTF agreement with Asian Development Bank is pending.

Table 2 below outlines the status of legal agreements for the five MDBs.

MDB	Status of UNMPTF Framework Agreement
Islamic Development Bank	Completed, signed June 2023
World Bank	Completed, signed letter of intention in September 2024, based on the SOFF ToRs and the Administrative Agreement previously agreed.
Inter-American Development Bank	Completed, signed September 2024
African Development Bank	Delayed, final negotiations ongoing
Asian Development Bank	Pending agreement