



Closing critical weather and climate data gaps **Call to invest in the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF)**

Belem, 11 November 2025

As extreme weather events intensify, timely and reliable early warnings are more vital than ever. Forecasts — and the warnings they enable — are only as good as the observations that feed them. Yet around 90% of essential surface observations are missing in Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, creating blind spots that hamper better forecasts and limit the validation of satellite data, including from Europe’s EUMETSAT and Copernicus missions. Addressing this data gap through the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) is crucial to deliver on the United Nations “Early Warnings for All” initiative and maximise the value of European and international investments in weather and climate infrastructure, modelling and services.

The role of SOFF

The Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) is a United Nations fund established at the request of the 193 Member states and territories of the World Meteorological Congress to close critical weather and climate data gaps where it matters most - in the most resource-constrained countries. It enables countries to comply with the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON), the international standard for essential surface observations, by providing grants and peer-to-peer technical assistance through advanced national meteorological services. SOFF strengthens the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and improves forecasting and climate services worldwide through its long-term and results-based support model that ensures vital data continue to flow.

Our shared vision

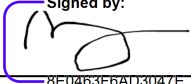
We, the organizations of the European meteorological infrastructure (ECMWF, EUMETNET, EUMETSAT) and the World Meteorological Organization, envision a world where every nation can generate and share the essential weather and climate observations that make forecasts locally and globally more accurate and warnings more reliable. Together, we are committed to building an integrated, connected, and truly global observing system that strengthens resilience, delivers shared benefits for all and ultimately saves lives.

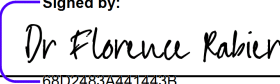
Call to action

Scale up support for SOFF – We call on governments and development partners to consider investments in SOFF to close the global weather and climate data gap. We also urge EU Member States to support the European Commission’s proposal for its future Competitiveness Fund to include ‘contributions to international in-situ (surface-based) networks’ as an integral part of the Copernicus programme in the next EU budget 2028-2034 and invest in surface-based observations outside Europe through SOFF.

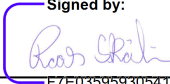
Join the Systematic Observation Impact Bond – We invite sovereign donors, philanthropies, and private sector to join the coalition of partners that creates a new innovative climate finance mechanism to fast-track action and increase shared weather and climate data five-fold.

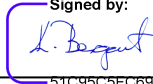
European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecast (ECMWF)

Signed by:

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Prof Penny Endersby (President Council)

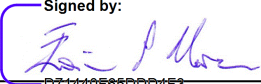
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Dr Florence Rabier (Director-General)

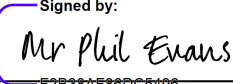
European Network of National Meteorological Services (EUMETNET)

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Dr Roar Skalin (Chair of Assembly)

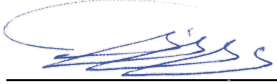
Signed by:

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Dr Klemen Bergant (Executive Director)

European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT)

Signed by:

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Mr Eoin Moran
(Council Chairman)

Signed by:

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Mr Phil Evans (Director-General)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)


Dr Abdulla Al Mandous
(President)

Signed by:

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Prof Celeste Saulo
(Secretary-General)