

# **Thirteenth Steering Committee**

## **18 February 2026**

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# **Decisions of the**

# **SOFF Thirteenth**

# **Steering Committee meeting**

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Systematic Observations  
Financing Facility

**Weather  
and climate  
data for  
resilience**



# Decisions of the SOFF Thirteenth Steering Committee meeting 18 February 2026

## Decision 13.1: Adoption of the Agenda

The **SOFF Steering Committee** adopts the Agenda for the SOFF Thirteenth Steering Committee meeting.

## Decision 13.2: Systematic Observation Impact Bond: Progress to Date & Endorsement of Next Steps

### The SOFF Steering Committee

**Recalls** [Decision 11.5](#), which requested SOFF to pursue the development of the Systematic Observation Impact Bond with utmost importance and urgency, with a view to announcing the Bond at COP30 as an innovative contribution to the new climate finance goal established at COP29.

**Notes** the importance of basic weather and climate data representing a global public good.

**Notes** with appreciation that at COP 30:

- The Systematic Observation Impact Bond has been announced;
- The bond has been included as an integral part of the COP30 Action Agenda;
- The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) recognised SOFF's important role in supporting GBON compliance and early warning systems, invited SOFF to consider extending its support to additional developing countries, and noted the potential of the new SOFF funding vehicle; and
- The major European meteorological infrastructure organizations ECMWF, EUMETSAT and EUMETNET issued a joint call to governments, philanthropies, and the private sector to financially support SOFF.

**Further Notes** that the SOFF Advisory Board recommended:

- Positively considering the establishment of a SOFF Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) as a complementary and innovative SOFF resource mobilization vehicle that would enable the issuance of multiple bonds over time; and
- To explore whether the SPV could be established in a manner that would allow other UN organizations and UN-administered climate initiatives to potentially use it for scaled-up innovative climate finance with a focus on adaptation finance.

**Decides** to:

- Progress work towards the establishment of the SOFF SPV as a complementary and innovative SOFF resource mobilization vehicle, that would enable the issuance

of multiple bonds over time, to support the scaling up of SOFF operations and respond to high country demand.

- Reserve up to USD 150,000 for the further SOFF SPV and bond development, including for targeted advisory support to refine the SPV design, in case the SOFF Secretariat could not mobilize these funds from other sources.

**Requests** the SOFF Secretariat to:

- Advance engagement with potential donors and investors required for bond issuance, and progress work towards the establishment of the SPV in coordination with the UN MPTF office, the SOFF co-founders (WMO, UNDP and UNEP), and technical, legal, and financial partners;
- Develop a detailed proposal for the SPV set-up including SPV structure, governance framework, and division of roles and responsibilities between the SPV and the SOFF Steering Committee for consideration at the 14th Steering Committee meeting and to share this proposal five weeks in advance of the 14th Steering Committee meeting;
- Organize a technical 'deep dive' meeting with interested Steering Committee members as the detailed SPV proposal is being developed;
- Explore whether the SPV could be established in a way that allows other UN organizations and UN-administered climate initiatives to use it to scale up climate adaptation finance, while fully ring-fencing SOFF's financial activities and ensuring no financial or legal liability for SOFF. In addition, ensuring this would not delay the establishment of the SPV and only advancing it where there is a clear and demonstrable value added for SOFF; and
- Seek to mobilize short-term funding for bond and SPV development from other sources.

**Request** the UN MPTF Office to disburse up to USD 150,000 for further SPV and bond development to the SOFF Secretariat through WMO in its capacity as host of the Secretariat, if no other funding becomes available.

**Invites** Steering Committee members to champion and advocate for SOFF's innovative financing approach and engage potential funders and partners within their networks, in coordination with the SOFF Secretariat and using key messages and outreach material prepared by the Secretariat.

## Decision 13.3: SOFF Investment Funding Requests

### The SOFF Steering Committee

#### Recalls

- [Decision 6.3](#) and [Decision 8.4.1](#) that approved and conditionally approved the South Sudan and Madagascar Investment funding request with African Development Bank (AfDB) as the Implementing Entity.
- [Decision 9.7](#) which offered Madagascar and South Sudan the option to change their Implementing Entity, given the delays of the African Development Bank in signing its legal agreement with the UNMPTF Office, and to resubmit their Investment funding requests.

#### Notes

- That through [Decision 10.2](#) Madagascar's revised funding request was approved;
- That South Sudan has changed its Implementing Entity to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and has submitted a revised funding request as summarized in section 1.

**Approves** the revised Investment funding request from South Sudan with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as Implementing Entity for a total budget of USD 2,079,598.80

#### Requests

- The UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office to disburse the funding to the recipient organization in tranches according to the schedule stipulated in the funding request ProDoc:
  - Food and Agriculture Organization: USD 1,851,750.00
  - World Meteorological Organization: USD 227,848.80 (inclusive of 7% fee for WMO)
- WMO to issue the Assignment Agreement with GeoSphere, Austria as the peer advisor for South Sudan as per the terms of reference annexed in the funding request, and to disburse the funds accordingly.

### The SOFF Steering Committee

**Recalls** [Decision 11.6](#) which adopts an approach to managing SOFF country funding requests including the establishment of a pipeline for Investment funding requests.

## Notes

- The nine countries in the SOFF Investment Phase pipeline, namely Zambia, Cuba, Bangladesh, Guyana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Antigua and Barbuda (in this order) as publicly available on the [SOFF website](#);
- That the current financial situation of the fund as presented in INF 13.1 allows for the approval of five Investment funding requests in the pipeline.

**Approves** the Investment funding requests for a total amount of USD 19,497,376.21:

- Zambia with a total budget of USD 3,627,539.58
- Cuba with a total budget of USD 6,523,639.06
- Bangladesh with a total budget of USD 4,954,865.05
- Guyana with a total budget of USD 1,931,350.00
- Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with a total budget of USD 2,459,982.52

## Requests

- The UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office to disburse the funding to the recipient organization in tranches according to the schedule stipulated in the Investment funding request ProDocs and as outlined in the table below:

Country	Implementing Entity (IE)	IE Amount (USD)	Peer Advisor	WMO Amount (USD) (Peer Advisor fee and WMO 7% fee)
Zambia	World Food Programme	3,189,755.50	UK	437,784.08
Cuba	United Nations Development Bank	6,096,858.93	Spain	426,780.13
Bangladesh	Islamic Development Bank	4,438,055.05	Norway-China	516,810.00
Guyana	Inter-American Development Bank	1,802,950.00	Austria	128,400.00
Democratic Republic of Congo	World Food Programme	1,914,282.52	Switzerland	545,700.00

- WMO to issue Assignment Agreements with: Met Office, United Kingdom as the peer advisor for Zambia; AEMET, Spain as peer advisor for Cuba; MET Norway as peer advisor for Bangladesh; GeoSphere, Austria as peer advisor for Guyana;

Meteo Swiss as peer advisor for Democratic Republic of Congo, as per the terms of reference annexed in the funding requests, and to disburse the funds accordingly.

## **The SOFF Steering Committee**

**Acknowledges** the two newly submitted and reviewed Investment funding requests from Cambodia and Haiti for consideration by the 13th Steering Committee

**Decides** to include the new Investment funding requests in the Investment funding pipeline, to follow after the remaining Investment funding requests in the [pipeline](#), in the following order: Cambodia and Haiti. The Steering Committee will further consider the funding requests when resources are available.

## **Decision 13.4: Terms of Reference for SOFF Independent External Evaluation**

### **The SOFF Steering Committee**

#### **Recalls**

- [Decision 6.6](#), which included the evaluation in the SOFF work programme and budget for the first implementation period (July 2022–June 2025);
- [Decision 7.2](#), which endorsed the outcomes of the independent external review and management response prepared by SOFF Secretariat.
- [Decision 11.3](#), which further updated the evaluation timeline to the 16th Steering Committee (February 2027) by when the final evaluation results are to be presented.

**Welcomes** the approach to ensure an inclusive and transparent evaluation process through the establishment of a multi-stakeholder “Reference Group”, which will guide the work of the evaluator(s) and review key evaluation deliverables.

**Endorses the** Terms of Reference for the fund-level SOFF Independent External Evaluation.

#### **Requests**

- The SOFF Secretariat
  - To convene and coordinate the “Reference Group” and to facilitate the evaluation process in accordance with the evaluation Terms of Reference.

- To include in the "Reference Group" an organization representing the civil society, such as the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), member of the SOFF Advisory Board.
  - To manage the administration of the Independent External Evaluation. This includes facilitating the procurement process conducted by WMO in consultation with the "Reference Group", as well as provisioning of logistical support to the evaluation team, while safeguarding the independence of the evaluation.
  - To facilitate the presentation of the final findings at the 16<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting.
- The UNMPTF Office to disburse USD 100,000 to WMO to contract the evaluator.

### **Decision 13.5: Date and format of 14th Steering Committee meeting**

#### **The SOFF Steering Committee**

**Notes** with appreciation Belgium hosting the 14<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee in Brussels.

#### **Adopts**

- The 14<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting to be held between 27-29 May 2026 and taking place in physical/hybrid format. In Brussels, Belgium.
- The preliminary agenda for the 14<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting.

#### **Signed by**

**UN Steering Committee Co-Chair**

19 February 2026

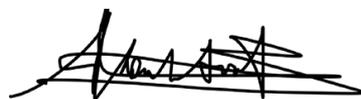


**Celeste Saulo**

Secretary-General,  
World Meteorological Organization

**Co-Chair of the Steering Committee**

19 February 2026



**Annemarie Van der Avort**

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