

Sixteenth meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance Bonn, Germany, 18 – 21 September 2017

Background paper on the review of the functions of the Standing Committee on Finance

Expected actions by the Standing Committee on Finance

The Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) will be invited to finalize its self-assessment report, including recommendations on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the SCF.

I. Possible actions for consideration by the Standing Committee on Finance

1. The SCF may wish to finalize its self-assessment report on the basis of the draft report contained in annex I to this document, including by agreeing on the relevant recommendations on improving its efficiency and effectiveness to be included in the report.
2. In finalizing its self-assessment report, the SCF may wish to consider the following information:
 - a) The quantitative and factual information on various matters pertaining to the conduct of work of the SCF, contained in annex III to this document;
 - b) The compilation and analysis of the survey that was conducted among members of the SCF, based on a draft contained in annex IV to this document;
 - c) The submissions received from two members of the SCF during SCF 15, as well as the official communication by the Technology Executive Committee (TEC), contained in annex II to this document;
 - d) The submissions from Parties, the constituted bodies under the Convention and external stakeholders containing their views on the review of the functions of the SCF.¹

II. Background

1. As per the terms of references for the review contained in the annex to decision 9/CP.22, one of the sources of information for the review of the functions of the SCF will be a self-assessment report of the SCF and recommendations on improving its efficiency and effectiveness.
2. COP 22 invited members of the SCF, Parties, the constituted bodies under the Convention and external stakeholders to submit, by 9 March 2017, their views on the review based on the terms of reference, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) at its forty-sixth session.² The deliberations during SBI 46 culminated in substantive conclusions.³
3. During its fifteenth meeting, the SCF agreed to conduct a survey among members, as well as to compile factual, quantitative information on various matters pertaining to the conduct of work of the SCF, on the basis of which it would progress its further deliberations on this matter.

¹ Available at: <<http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/SitePages/sessions.aspx?showOnlyCurrentCalls=1&populateData=1&expectedsubmissionfrom=Parties&focalBodies=SBI>> and <http://unfccc.int/documentation/submissions_from_non-party_stakeholders/items/7481.php>.

² Decision 9/CP.22, paragraph 3.

³ <http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600009358#beg>.



Annex I

Draft self-assessment report of the Standing Committee on Finance

Background

1. As per the terms of reference for the review of the functions of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), one of the sources of information the review shall draw upon is a self-assessment report of the SCF and recommendations on improving its efficiency and effectiveness.⁴ In response to this mandate, the SCF gathered various information on its areas of work through an updated and expanded overview of its mandates to date, factual information collected by the secretariat, and a survey to current and past members (elected in 2014). The summary below outlines the factual information gathered and responses from the survey conducted among its members. The SCF agreed to update and expand the overview of the mandates provided by the COP to the SCF, building on the information provided by the SCF to COP 22 on the outputs delivered by the committee from 2011–2015,⁵ and to also include information on the related decisions taken by the COP in response to the respective outputs of the SCF, with a view to provide this information to the deliberations during the forty-sixth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).⁶

Summary of information gathered by the SCF

2. The SCF requested the secretariat to compile quantitative and factual information on various matters related mainly to its meetings, such as meeting attendance, number of working groups of the SCF, information on call for submissions issued by the SCF, and submission of SCF reports to the COP.⁷ The following outlines the findings derived from this information spanning the period 2012 to 2017.

Quantitative and factual information

3. From the first to the tenth meeting of the SCF, an average of 18 out of 20 members have attended at each meeting of the Committee, with a slight drop in participation average to about 16 members since the eleventh meeting.

4. Overall, an average of 48 persons participate in SCF meeting, including 18 members and 30 observers. Registration information maintained by the secretariat shows a fairly even distribution of participation by observer groups. The highest representation is by Party observers. On average seven Annex I Party observers and 6 non-Annex I Party observers attend meetings, followed by NGOs and INGOs. Meetings are also accessible by webcast, and where information is available, webcast views suggest that on-demand use of this service is higher than live use. Between six to ten SCF members have participated in the annual SCF Forum which is widely attended by Party observers.

5. The SCF has increasingly made use of working groups with an average of seven groups having been established in the past three years. The SCF usually submits its report to the COP two weeks prior to the session due to its last meeting of the year being held close to the COP session.

6. Overall, the SCF has issued one open-ended and six calls for inputs on specific issues such as MRV of support beyond the BA, the forum, and coherence and coordination for financing for forests, to which up to 30 responses have been received. In addition, the in-person or virtual participation of SCF representatives in meetings of AC, the TEC, the Executive Committee and the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, has also

⁴ Decision 9/CP.22, annex, paragraph 4(e).

⁵ Contained in annex VII to document FCCC/CP/2016/8.

⁶ Available at: <http://www4.unfccc.int/Submissions/Lists/OSPSubmissionUpload/39_304_131359396103493098-SCF%20submission%20SBI%2046.pdf>.

⁷ The compiled information is available in annex II of document SCF/2017/16/7.

significantly increased. Furthermore, since 2013, the SCF has organized annually information events during the sessions of the SBs and/or the COP to provide an update on the status of its work, as well as on specific activities such as the BA and the issue of coherence and coordination for forest finance.

Survey among members of the SCF

7. The SCF agreed to conduct a survey among its members, including members elected in 2014. Overall, 16 current SCF members responded to the survey, as well as five former members of the SCF who were elected in 2014.⁸ The responses show a general level of satisfaction with the meetings and substantive work of the SCF and the Committee's impact in many climate finance related areas through its technical inputs such as the biennial assessment and overview of climate finance (BA) and its cooperation with various climate finance stakeholders

8. However, the responses also show that there is room for improvement with regard to many procedural and substantive matters. SCF members provided concrete and detailed suggestions on how to improve the work of the SCF and on the need for sufficient resources to support its work. The SCF has also received three submissions, two from individual SCF members and one from the Technology Executive Committee (TEC).⁹ All submissions received in response to the invitation by COP 22 as per decision 9/CP.22, paragraph 3, are available on the UNFCCC website, including one from a non-governmental organization.¹⁰

Proposals for the further improvement and/or enhancement of specific areas of work of the Standing Committee on Finance

9. The following are suggestions by SCF members to further improve and/or enhance the meetings of the Committee and specific areas of work:

a) *In-session and inter-sessional working modalities*

- i. Better allocation of meeting time, for example, through increasing the time available for plenary sessions;
- ii. Convene at least 3 meetings in a year and increase efficient use of inter-sessional work;
- iii. Prioritize the work of the SCF in order to maximize focused outcomes; and
- iv. Ensure the full engagement and commitment by all members to actively participate in the intersessional work of the Committee, providing clear guidelines for work and decision-making process, and taking into account the technical constraints to virtual means of participation;

b) *Composition and level of participation of members*

- i. Ensure the appropriate qualification, expertise, and skills of members nominated to the SCF, including the need to balance representation of experts from inside and outside the intergovernmental process, as well as the personal commitment of individual members;
- ii. Introduce alternate members; and
- iii. SCF members are responsible in ensuring quorum particularly when the Committee adopts its decisions;

c) *Engage relevant stakeholders* in specific areas of work of the SCF, such as the MRV of support beyond the BA, the forum of the SCF, and the BA;

⁸ Annex III of document SCF/2017/16/7 contains a compilation of all responses provided by SCF members.

⁹ Available in annex I of document SCF/2017/16/7.

¹⁰ Available at <<http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/SitePages/sessions.aspx?showOnlyCurrentCalls=1&populateData=1&expectedsubmissionfrom=Parties&focalBodies=SBI>> and <<http://unfccc.int/7481.php>> respectively.

- i. Identify stakeholders whose engagement should be further enhanced, such as observers from Non-Annex I Parties, the private sector (investments banks or fund management), research, financial and insurance entities involved in climate change finance, and initiatives aiming at transforming the financial system towards climate smart investments (such as IFIs, UNEP FI, and CPI);
 - ii. Organize sessions on specific topics in order for SCF to interact with external stakeholders;
 - iii. Improve web based platform for communication and exchange of information; and
 - iv. Ensure that inputs provided by observers during meetings of the SCF, are appropriately taken into consideration; and
 - v. Incorporate formal and informal working modalities to enable more contribution from key stakeholders.
- d) *Maintain linkages with the constituted bodies under the Convention, including by:*
- i. Allocate more time and resources in order to develop synergies between the different bodies;
 - ii. Identify possible areas of duplication of tasks between the SCF and the constituted bodies, and in particular the work undertaken by SBSTA, SBI and APA;
 - iii. Provide targeted information to inform the work of other bodies, including at the informal level;
 - iv. Enhance the understanding of other constituted bodies of the work of the SCF in order to better manage their expectations;
 - v. Enhance the engagement of SCF members in meetings of other constituted bodies by agreeing on the input to be provided in advance of the meeting in order to allow for an agreed SCF input, rather than views expressed by members in their personal expert capacity;
 - vi. Ensure sufficient feedback to the SCF from members attending meetings of other bodies.
- e) *Address duplication and/or overlaps between the work of the SCF and other bodies*
- i. The SCF and the secretariat could work more collaboratively with other bodies to identify and address overlaps in order to improve coordination;
 - ii. There is need to emphasize with other constituted bodies the mandate of the SCF of preparing the draft guidance to the operating entities to ensure coherence in the provision of guidance;
 - iii. Follow-up actions/recommendations on specific sectoral issues identified by the SCF may be taken forward by other constituted bodies instead of the Committee;
 - iv. There is need for the COP to ensure that work on climate finance-related matters is not duplicated across different constituted bodies;
- f) *Improving the forum of the SCF*
- i. Develop clear recommendations to Parties, bodies and external organizations regarding the follow-up of the forum;
 - ii. Enhance the use of the findings and outputs of the forum and the integration thereof in the work of the SCF and other bodies, such as improving its linkages with other constituted bodies and external stakeholders through the promotion of the deliverables of the forum, and establishing an enhanced web based platform; and
 - iii. Link the outcomes of the forum as an activity with the promotion of the function of coherence and coordination in the delivery of climate change financing and the rationalization of the Financial Mechanism;

g) Enhance the *effectiveness of the provision of draft guidance to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism*, such as through a more strategic approach by the SCF and ensuring ownership of SCF members regarding the SCF outputs to the COP;

h) Further improve the *expert inputs to the reviews of the Financial Mechanism* through seeking of views of all constituted bodies under the Convention;

i) Further work on the *improvement of coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism*, including proposing recommendations;

j) *MRV of support beyond the BA*, such as the need to:

i. Identify the specific role of the SCF within the currently on-going MRV related work conducted by other bodies such as SBSTA and SBI, also in light of its limited resources;

ii. Ensure a focus particularly on the issues of verification and measurement of support;

k) *Mobilization of financial resources*, such as the need for the SCF to work towards providing detailed guidance to determine the mobilization of financing from a country driven approach.

Recommendations

10. Based on the information it has gathered in the context of its self-assessment and in order to improve its efficiency and effectiveness, the SCF recommends that the COP:

a. XXX

Annex II

Submissions received by the SCF during and after the fifteenth meeting of the SCF

1. Dr. Paul Oquist Kelley (received 07/03/2017)

Submission by Dr. Paul Oquist Kelley, SCF Member

(LAC - Nicaragua)

To enhance the mobilization of financial resources to support developing country efforts to cope with the adverse effects of climate change, the COP urges developed countries private sectors to participate in the provision of funding of regional and national initiatives through existing financial mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund, the Global Environment Fund, or direct foreign investment, as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility. The inclusion of part of the idle corporate cash held by the largest listed firms would contribute to the stimulation of the world economy and thus to overcoming the overhang of the Great World Recession, reduce inequality, and provide urgently needed, profitable investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency and landscape restoration with greenhouse gas capture.

2. Ms. Diann Black-Layne (received 07/03/2017)

Dear Co-chairs,

Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of my constituency, the SIDS, would like to submit for the consideration of the SCF to work towards provide detailed guidance to determine the mobilization of financing from the Country driven approach. The mobilization scope should include:

- Mobilization of resources at the national levels;
- What are the Barriers to financial particularly existing legal and policy agreements that were design to maintain current financial obligations;
- The social and environmental safeguards and gender impacts identified with migration measures due to flow of financing to developing countries particularly into vulnerable communities;
- Opportunities for new instruments drawing on lessons learnt from other countries;
- The enabling environment to attract private financing, both local and international;
- The financing instruments for loss and damage - insurance and stranded assets (assets including natural ecosystems);
- The financial instruments also for Adaptation, Mitigation etc;
- Micro-financing, crowd financing and alternate financing.

The aim of this exercise is to provide guidance to the GCF Board to provide financing for an enabling activity for the Financing at the National level. This would be similar to that of the NAPS and readiness financing.

This exercise would allow for a systematic approach to the nationally assessment of the financial actions to be taken rather that a project by project approach.

Respectfully,

Diann

3. Technology Executive Committee (received 10/03/2017)

Dear Ms. MULLER, dear Mr. BOERSTING,

First of all, we would like to congratulate you with your election as Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) for 2017.

We are writing to you in our capacities as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) regarding the call for submissions for views on the review of the SCF, as called for by decision 9/CP.22.

The TEC very much appreciates the opportunity to provide its views on the review of the functions of the SCF. However, the timing of the submissions (9 March 2017) will make it challenging for the TEC to submit its views on this matter in a timely manner, since the fourteenth meeting of the TEC will be held from 28–31 March 2017.

We do like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for the work undertaken by the SCF in general and its collaboration with the TEC in particular, such as through providing inputs into the draft guidance to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention and by elaborating linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism.

As part of the process for elaborating linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism, the TEC in consultation with the SCF, has identified areas for collaboration between the TEC and the SCF to enhance coherence and synergy, including by providing inputs into the review of the Financial Mechanism and by providing inputs into preparing the biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows, building on its analytical work on technology needs assessment conducted by developing countries. The TEC stands ready to strengthen its collaboration with the SCF with a view to enhance coherence and synergy.

We look forward to our continuous collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Duduzile NHLENGETHWA MASINA

Chair of the Technology Executive Committee

Mr. Michael RANTIL

Vice-Chair of the Technology Executive Committee

Annex III

Draft report of quantitative and factual information on various matters pertaining to the conduct of work of the SCF

During its fifteenth meeting, the SCF agreed to request the secretariat to compile quantitative, factual information based on guidance to be provided by the SCF.¹¹ It also agreed to consider the information gathered at its sixteenth meeting with a view to submitting it for deliberations at SBI 47 as part of its self-assessment report.

Based on guidance provided by members of the SCF, the secretariat compiled information on the following issues:

- Attendance in meetings of the SCF;
- Webcast views of selected meetings of the SCF;
- Number of calls for submissions issued and inputs received in response;
- Number of working groups established by the SCF per year;
- Number of meetings of other constituted bodies that members participated in;
- Information on timing of issuance of reports by the SCF to the COP;
- Number of side-events organized by the SCF during sessions of the SBs and the COP;
- Participation to the fora of the SCF.

1. Attendance in meetings of the SCF

SCF meeting	SCF members	Observers (IGOs)	Observers (NGOs)	Observers Specialized Agency	Observers UN organizations	Party observers (Annex I)	Party observers (Non-Annex I)	Total number participants
1	18	9	5	3	2	12	6	54
2	18	6	0	1	3	8	5	40
3	20	6	6	2	1	4	3	41
4	20	3	6	0	1	7	5	41
5	18	4	4	3	1	5	7	42
6	18	7	2	4	2	6	6	45
7	17	5	5	3	2	7	6	45
8	19	4	9	3	1	3	6	45
9	19	4	9	2	3	5	5	47
10	18	5	7	6	6	12	11	65
11	16	7	6	4	3	10	5	51
12	16	12	11	4	4	9	8	64
13	15	6	9	4	3	5	7	49
14	16	0	10	4	1	5	3	39
15	19	4	8	3	2	8	7	51
Average	17.8	5.5	6.5	3.1	2.3	7.1	6.0	47.9

¹¹ See document SCF/2017/15/11, para. 30.

2. Webcast views of selected meetings of the SCF¹²**SCF 4 Dates of meeting: 15/06/2013 – 17/06/2013**

		Number of visitors
Live meeting	15/06/2013 – 17/06/2013	530
On demand meeting	15/06/2013 – 17/06/2013	698
	Sub-total meeting	1,228
First month	18/06/2013 – 17/07/2013	412
Second month	18/07/2013 – 17/08/2013	94
Third month	18/08/2013 – 17/09/2013	44
	Sub-total on-demand	550
Total		1,778

SCF 5 Dates of meeting: 27/08/2013 – 30/08/2013

Live meeting	27/08/2013 – 30/08/2013	530
On demand meeting	27/08/2013 – 30/08/2013	859
	Sub-total meeting	1,389
First month		Not available
Second month		Not available
Third month	31/10/2013 – 30/11/2013	4
	Sub-total on-demand	4
Total		1,393

SCF 6 Dates of meeting: 04/03/2014 – 05/03/2014

Live meeting	04/03/2014 – 05/03/2014	291
On demand meeting	04/03/2014 – 05/03/2014	1,261
	Sub-total live meeting	1,552
First month	April	388
Second month	May	18
Third month	June	30
	Sub-total on-demand	1,988
Total		1,988

SCF 9 Dates of meeting: 10/03/2015 – 11/03/2015

Live meeting	10/03/2015 – 11/03/2015	58
On demand meeting	10/03/2015 – 11/03/2015	28
	Sub-total meeting	86
First month	March-April	25
Second month	April-May	2
Third month	May-June	7
	Sub-total on-demand	34
Total		120

¹² Due to severe technical issues, a retrieval of webcast figures for all SCF meetings, including a regional breakdown of views, was not possible.

SCF 12 Dates of meeting: 06/04/2016 - 07/04/2016

Live meeting	06/04/2016 - 07/04/2016	49
On demand meeting	06/04/2016 - 07/04/2016	
	Sub-total meeting	49
First month	April	832
Second month	May	71
Third month	June	42
	Sub-total on-demand	945
Total		994

SCF 13 Dates of meeting: 18/07/2016 - 20/07/2016

Live meeting	18/07/2016 - 20/07/2016	67
On demand meeting		Not available
	Sub-total meeting	67
First month	July	2,746
Second month	August	241
Third month	September	67
Fourth month	October	1
	Sub-total on-demand	3,055
Total		3,122

SCF 14 Dates of meeting: 03/10/2016 - 05/10/2016

Live meeting	03/10/2016 - 05/10/2016	100
On demand meeting	03/10/2016 - 05/10/2016	Not available
	Sub-total meeting	100
First month	October	905
Second month	November	150
Third month	December	61
Fourth month	January	4
	Sub-total on-demand	1,120
Total		1,220

3. Number of calls for submissions issued and inputs received in response

Calls for submissions¹³	Number of submissions/inputs/contributions received
Submissions on elements to be taken into account for the development of a work programme on measurement, reporting and verification of support and the conduct of the biennial assessments and overview of climate finance flows in 2014 (2013)	7
Submissions of views on elements of the work plan on measurement, reporting and verification of support beyond the biennial assessment and overview of climate finance (2015)	3
Inputs on potential partnership and events for the 2015 Forum of the Standing Committee on Finance (2014–2015)	4
Contributions on relevant information/case studies: coherence and coordination for financing for forests (2014–2015)	30
Submissions on possible future institutional linkages and relations between the Adaptation Fund and other institutions under the Convention (2015)	8
2016 SCF Forum: Inputs received on the scope and purpose of the Forum and potential institutions and events to partner with in the organization of the Forum	15
2016 SCF Forum: Additional Information received	1
Reports and publications as provided to the Standing Committee on Finance by stakeholders involved in climate finance (2013–2016)	3

4. Number of working groups established by the SCF per year

Working groups established by the SCF per year	
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft guidance to the operating entities and fifth review of the Financial Mechanism • 2013 Forum
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013 Forum • Fifth review of the Financial Mechanism • 2014 Biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2014 Forum • 2014 Biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows • Fifth review of Financial Mechanism • Guidance to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism

¹³ Available at: <<http://unfccc.int/7561.php>>.

Working groups established by the SCF per year	
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum 2015 • Forum 2016 • Guidance to the operation entities of the Financial Mechanism • 2016 Biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows • Long-term finance • Possible future institutional linkages and relations between the Adaptation Fund and other institutions under the Convention • Linkages with the SBI and the thematic bodies of the Convention • Coherence and coordination in the delivery of climate change financing
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016 Biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows • Measurement, reporting and verification of support beyond the Biennial assessment and overview of climate finance • 2016 Forum • Draft guidance to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism • Coherence and coordination: Financing for forest, taking into account different policy approaches • Long-term finance
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018 Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance flows • Measurement, reporting, and verification of support beyond the Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance • 2017 Forum • Draft guidance to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism • Sixth review of the Financial Mechanism • Follow-up activities emanating from the recommendations of the 2016 SCF forum • Review of the functions of the SCF

5. Number of meetings of other constituted bodies that members participated in

Year	Meetings of other constituted bodies that SCF members participated in (in-person or virtually)
2013 (see FCCC/CP/2013/8, para. 37)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting of the Board of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) • A meeting of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) • A meeting of the Adaptation Committee (AC), one working lunch with AC members
2014 (see FCCC/CP/2014/5, paras. 41, 42, 44 and 45)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two meetings of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism (Executive Committee) • One meeting of the AC, one meeting, one conference call of the AC task force on national adaptation plans (NAPs) • One meeting of the TEC • Third meeting of the Durban Forum on capacity-building • Special event organized by the AC entitled “Promoting synergy and strengthening engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks” • Ninth meeting of the TEC thematic dialogue on climate technology financing

Year	Meetings of other constituted bodies that SCF members participated in (in-person or virtually)
2015 (see FCCC/CP/2015/8, paras. 34 and 41, relevant reports from constituted bodies, FCCC/SBI/2015/14, para. 18)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One CTCN Advisory Board meeting • AC task force on NAPs • One meeting of the Executive Committee • One meeting of the TEC • AC COP 21 side event - Enhancing coherent action on adaptation (audience with interventions from, inter alia, the SCF) • In-session workshop on long-term climate finance in 2015 • Fourth meeting of the Durban Forum
2016 (see FCCC/CP/2016/8, paras. 41, 42, 45, and 46)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One CTCN Advisory Board meeting • One meeting of the AC task force on NAPs • One meeting of the Executive Committee • One meeting of the TEC • Annual meeting between the GCF and the constituted bodies under the UNFCCC • AC/LEG side event on interim results towards implementation of the Paris Agreement mandate during COP 22 • Third voluntary meeting on the coordination of support for the implementation of activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70 • In-session workshop on long-term climate finance in 2016
2017 (official COP report not yet available)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building • Two CTCN Advisory Board meeting (remotely) • One meeting of the AC • One meeting of the TEC (secretariat on behalf of the SCF) • AC task force on NAPs • Joint AC and LEG special event on progress towards implementation of the Paris Agreement mandates during SB 46 • Fourth voluntary meeting on the coordination of support for the implementation of REDD - plus activities in developing countries

6. Information on timing of issuance of reports by the SCF to the COP

Date of last SCF meeting of the year	Date of issuance	Date of COP	Main deliverables
4 - 6 October 2012	24 October 2012 (FCCC/CP/2012/4)	26 November - 7 December 2012; COP 18, Doha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work programme of the Standing Committee for 2013-2015 • Preliminary elements of the forum of the Standing Committee • Revised composition and working modalities of the Standing Committee

Date of last SCF meeting of the year	Date of issuance	Date of COP	Main deliverables
27 – 30 August 2013	4 November 2013 (FCCC/CP/2013/8)	11 – 22 November 2013; COP 19, Warsaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the first forum of the Standing Committee on Finance • Draft arrangements between the Conference of the Parties and the Green Climate Fund • Outcome of the discussions on the draft updated guidelines for the fifth review of the financial mechanism of the Convention • Elements of draft guidance to the Global Environment Facility • Elements of draft initial guidance to the Green Climate Fund • Objective and scope of, and tentative timeline for, the first biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows
1 – 3 October 2014	17 November 2014 (FCCC/CP/2014/5) 3 December 2014 (FCCC/CP/2014/5/Add.1)	1 – 12 December 2014; COP 20, Lima	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary and recommendations by the Standing Committee on Finance on the 2014 biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows • Executive summary of the technical paper on the fifth review of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention • Executive summary of the report on the second Standing Committee on Finance forum entitled “Mobilizing adaptation finance” • Annotated suggestions for elements of draft guidance to the Global Environment Facility submitted by members of the Standing Committee on Finance • Annotated suggestions for elements of draft guidance to the Green Climate Fund submitted by members of the Standing Committee on Finance • Inputs received from the Adaptation Committee and the Technology Executive Committee with regard to draft guidance to the operating entities • List and timelines of ongoing activities related to measurement, reporting and verification of support under the Convention

Date of last SCF meeting of the year	Date of issuance	Date of COP	Main deliverables
26 – 28 October 2015	20 November 2015 (FCCC/CP/2015/8)	30 November – 11 December 2015; COP 21, Paris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary report on and recommendations of the third forum of the Standing Committee on Finance • The 2016 forum of the Standing Committee on Finance • Draft decision on the draft guidance to the Green Climate Fund • Draft decision on the draft guidance to the Global Environment Facility • Recommendations on methodologies for reporting financial information by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention • Outline of the 2016 biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows • Future institutional linkages and relations between the Adaptation Fund and other institutions under the Convention
3 – 5 October 2016	18 October 2016 (FCCC/CP/2016/8)	7 – 18 November 2016; COP22, Marrakech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary and recommendations by the Standing Committee on Finance on the 2016 biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows • Summary report on and recommendations of the 2016 forum of the Standing Committee on Finance • Standing Committee on Finance side event on “Enhancing coherence and coordination of forest finance” • Draft decision on the draft guidance to the Green Climate Fund • Draft decision on the draft guidance to the Global Environment Facility • Overview of mandates provided to the Standing Committee on Finance by the Conference of the Parties compared to outputs delivered by the Committee: 2011 – 2015

7. Number of side-events organized by the SCF during sessions of the SBs and the COP

Session of the SBs/COP ¹⁴	Event
SB 38, Bonn 3 – 14 June 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information event of the Standing Committee on Finance, 5 June
SB 40, Bonn 4 – 15 June 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biennial assessment and overview of financial flows - update of the work of the Standing Committee on Finance and inputs from collaborating institutions, 8 June • Update of the work on the 5th review of the financial mechanism by the Standing Committee on Finance, 13 June
SB 41/COP 20, Lima 1 – 8 December 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press conference and side event on the first Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows, 3 December • Progress of work in 2014 by the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) on issues related to financing for forests, 4 December
SB 42, Bonn 1 – 11 Jun 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information event of the Standing Committee on Finance, 3 June 2015
SB 44, Bonn 16 – 26 May 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the work of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) in 2016, 20 May • Enhancing coherence and coordination of forest finance, 23 May
SB 46, Bonn 8 – 18 May 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the work of the Standing Committee on Finance in 2017, 8 May

8. Participation to the fora of the SCF¹⁵

Fora of the Standing Committee on Finance ¹⁶				
	1 st Forum	2 nd Forum	3 rd Forum	4 th Forum
SCF Members	10	10	6	8
Party observers (developing country)	2	39	46	93
Party observers (developed country)	8	6	19	13
IGOs	61	12	3	16
NGOs	8	9		
Specialized Agency	2	1		
UN	1		1	3
Resource person	27	32	15	26
Total	119	109	90	159

¹⁴ More information, including presentations delivered, available at: <<http://unfccc.int/7561.php>>.

¹⁵ More information on the fora, including programmes and presentations delivered, are available at: <<http://unfccc.int/7552.php>>.

¹⁶ Participation numbers may diverge from other sources of information as, in some cases, official registration processes were hampered by the open-ended nature of some of the fora which were held in conjunction with other events, such as e.g. the third forum, in which case many participants did not register separately for the forum.

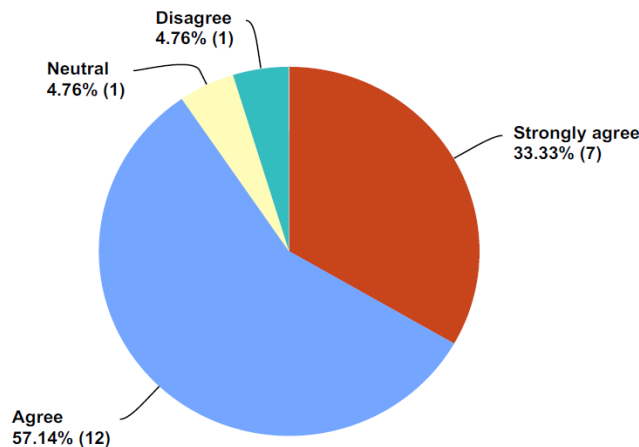
Annex IV

Draft compilation and analysis of the survey conducted among members of the SCF

During its fifteenth meeting, the SCF agreed to conduct a survey among its members, including members elected in 2014, and to submit the summary/compilation of the survey responses for SBI 47 deliberations as part of its self-assessment report to COP 23. Furthermore, the SCF agreed to consider the summary/compilation of the survey responses at its 16th meeting with a view to concluding its self-assessment report.

Overall, 16 current SCF members responded to the survey, as well as five former members of the SCF who were elected in 2014. The survey consisted of 14 questions, 12 of which were ratable on a scale of 1 to 5 in which case respondents also had the opportunity to provide additional comments, and two of which were more qualitative in nature. The below outlines the responses as provided by SCF members.

Question 1: Would you consider the working modalities of the SCF (e.g. meetings, parallel breakout sessions, intersessional work, work conducted by co-facilitators, etc.), including the participation of its members, as fit-for purpose for carrying out its functions?



If not, what could be concrete changes to be undertaken to improve the working modalities?

Comments:

Membership/observers

- "The current composition and level of participation of the members is fit-for purpose. The level of participation during the previous SCF meeting was very good; problems only occurred at the end of the last day when people have to leave. Either SCF members have to ensure that they are able to stay at the meeting until the official closing; or the meeting needs to end earlier to allow SCF members to leave on time."
- "The SCF would benefit from members with a greater technical background and expertise in the area of finance."
- "Allow for having alternates from same region that could only attend if principle member is not able to attend."
- "Also it is high time we discussed the issue of observers basically because many are from Annex 1 Parties. Is it possible to encourage some observers with interest on issues of the Non Annex 1 Parties to attend the SCF meetings even if they are from ANNEX 1 countries? I really believe that Group work disadvantages some of our constituencies."

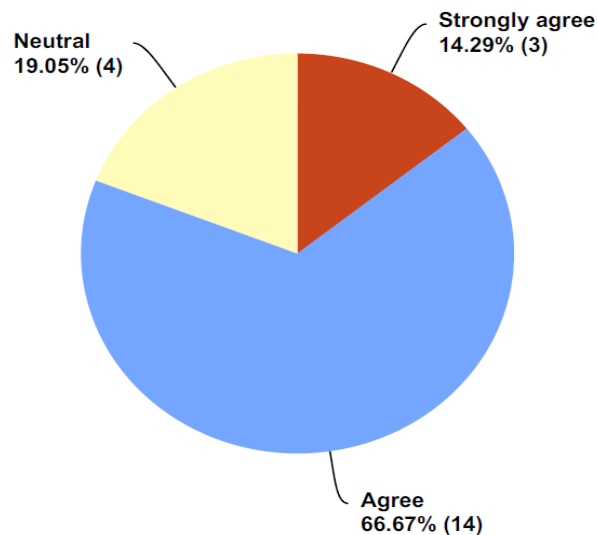
In-session / inter-sessional work

- “Ideally there should be a bit more time for meetings to address more topics in the plenary set-up instead of break-outs - there should be clearer guidelines for intersessional work, notably on how the SCF takes decisions in that mode - wider participation of members should be welcomed.”
- “I find breakout sessions are not preferable as a modality of the SCF since it prevents SCF members from engaging in some agenda items that would be discussed in parallel, although it might be introduced as a last resort to use time effectively.”
- “Reduce the parallel sessions.”
- “I agree but the intercession work which is web based is definitely not good for me.”
- “To advance the work of the SCF in an efficient and effective manner, it is essential to continue to build on intersessional technical work conducted by designated working groups under the leadership of the co-facilitators. However, regular updates on the state of play in the different working groups should become the rule rather than the exception to ensure transparency and ownership of the produced outputs. At the SCF meetings, care should be taken to avoid as much as possible overlapping breakout sessions in order to ensure full participation of SCF members and observers in all areas of work. Also, it is essential to ensure the possibility of virtual participation by SCF members at the meetings.”
- “I don't mind doing more intersessional work in smaller groups (by e-mail / shared network resources) in order to advance the work of the SCF as long as progress is communicated to the rest of the SCF regularly and there remains the possibility of individual members to engage in the different work packages.”
- “The SCF members could be more active between meetings to advance the work. ”

Other

- “I would add the substantive forums as another important modality. ”

Question 2: Has the SCF managed to maintain linkages with the constituted bodies under the Convention so far?



What, from your perspective, could be improved with regard to the maintaining of linkages with the constituted bodies under the Convention?

Comments:

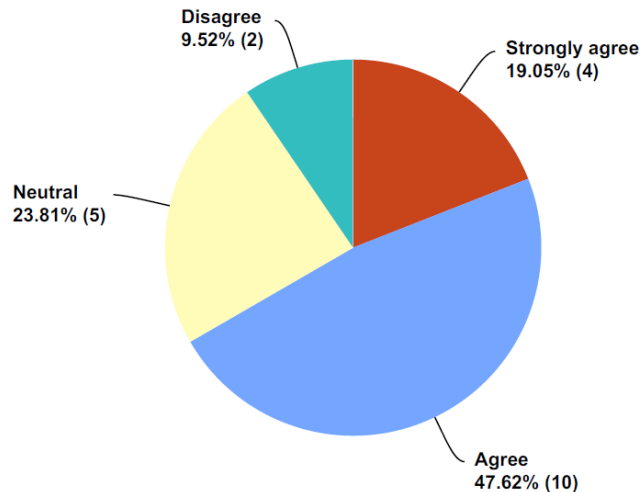
Procedural aspects

- “The approach mainly via co-chairs has worked so far but a more in-depth linkage would require more time and resources from the focal points.”
- “The SCF has increased its engagement with the constituted bodies under the Convention over the years, inter alia by appointing SCF representatives to participate in their meetings or by providing specific inputs to their work. Also, the SCF has entertained many discussions on the rules governing the exchange with the various bodies under the Convention. What could be improved is the understanding of possible duplication of tasks between the SCF and the constituted bodies, in particular the work undertaken by SBSTA, SBI and APA.”
- “I believe so, since the SCF managed to organize thematic SCF fora which require it to gain cooperation with the other constituted bodies under the Convention. The SCF, however, could improve its linkages with other bodies by promoting its deliverables to maximize the outcome of them.”
- “There is a good relationship with the bodies it has formal linkages with, but it could more effectively at the informal level to help inform work as it progresses (e.g. providing relevant information on finance to guide others, assurance of mandates, etc.). ”
- “Feedback from the constituted bodies, through the Co-Chairs, in terms of substance would be very welcome. We have made a lot of progress in getting our members to attend meetings of these bodies.”
- “There is an exchange with other bodies, but it’s hard to maintain linkages. What is the purpose of maintaining linkages? Knowing about the other bodies? Influence the other bodies decision? As agendas and preparations are most times not available at the SCF meeting, there is no possibility to have an SCF input to the other bodies and is so far by members on their personal / member view, but not an SCF input.”
{former member}

Substantive aspects

- “We need to be studying the issues discussed by these bodies and agreeing on the advice SCF should give before the representatives attend the meetings of these bodies.”
- “It would help if the other constituted bodies had a better understanding of SCF work. Right now they seem to have somewhat unrealistic expectations.”
- “Especially with interns directs of the Warsaw Mechanism on Losses and Damage, as well as long term finance a long as it existed ”

Question 3: Do you think the SCF has managed to develop and maintain a useful and productive relationship with relevant external stakeholders?



If not, could you identify areas for improvement for the development and maintenance of a useful and productive relationship with relevant external stakeholders?

*Comments:*General

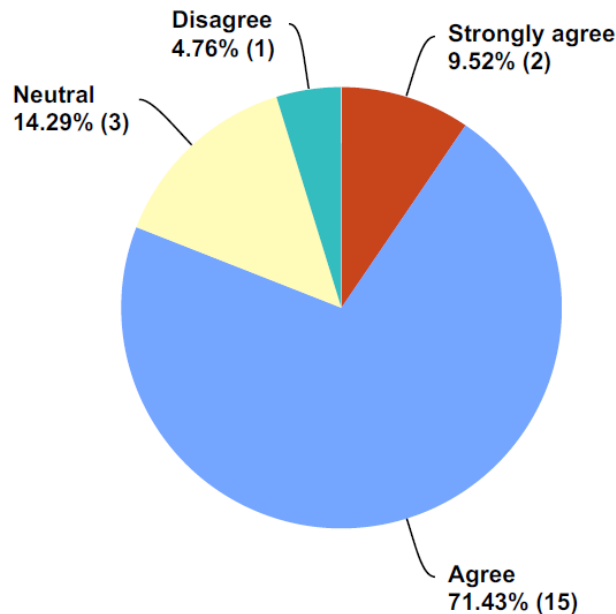
- “SCF does not appear to do this any better or worse than other bodies - it would be a potential area of improvement across the whole UNFCCC framework.”
- “There is some interaction. I can't say that I've seen evidence either way as to whether it leads to productive outcomes. ”
- “Difficult to tell who are the external stakeholders! If indeed they are organizations and bodies outside the UNFCCC, then I think the SCF has not done much.”
- “It has a strong relationship to some stakeholders, but a weak to others. From my perspective, sometimes some stakeholders are over represented and others underrepresented.” *{former member}*

Observers / meetings of the SCF

- “There is a lot of evidence supporting this, NGOs, academics, international organizations such as OECD, EIB frequently appearing as observers. For the private climate finance discussions, it might be helpful to have more observes from e.g. investments banks or fund management.”
- “Stakeholders are invited to participate and the meeting is webcast. However, during the last SCF meeting the possibility of stakeholders to contribute to the discussion of the SCF was limited. This should be improved in order to allow the stakeholders to enrich the work of the SCF. Ways to do this is to have more break-out groups; organize a specific session with external stakeholders where they are able to interact with SCF members on specific topics.”
- “It would be very useful if we could make an appreciation of the number of people/institutions accessing webcasts. The co-facilitators of each item should likewise make better use of the observers' inputs in the break our groups. My personal experience as an Observer was that my inputs were not as fully and carefully reflected as I believe they could have been. Strict limitations in the time management of Observer participation may have been one of the reasons that their views were not fully heard, nor taken on board.”

Further suggestions

- “The work for the preparation of the BA is a good example of SCF's useful and productive relationship with relevant external stakeholders. The SCF managed to organize the SCF forum so far every year which also requires cooperation with external stakeholders. The SCF, however, could improve its linkages with others by promoting its deliverables to maximize the outcome of them.”
- “The SCF could be much more proactive in relations with other research, financial and insurance entities involved in climate change finance. ”
- “Look at potential for a better web based platform for communication and exchange of information, including as part of the SCFs mandate on the Forum.”

Question 4: Do you think the level and nature of stakeholder engagement by the SCF has been adequate?

What sort of improvements, if any, would you foresee to help the SCF in this regard?

Comments:

General

- "Confusion about external stakeholders persists even at this question."
- "There is a positive environment for the observers who are a good part of the stakeholders."
- "I am a new member. So I do not feel I have seen enough to say definitively. I have seen stakeholder engagement with some groups. "
- "Overall, the level and nature of stakeholder engagement by the SCF appears to be adequate and fit-for-purpose. It could however be strengthened in some activities of the SCF like the MRV of support beyond the BA where the engagement of external stakeholders has not progressed at the same speed like in other activities such as the BAs, the SCF Forums or the draft guidance to the OEs."

Which stakeholders

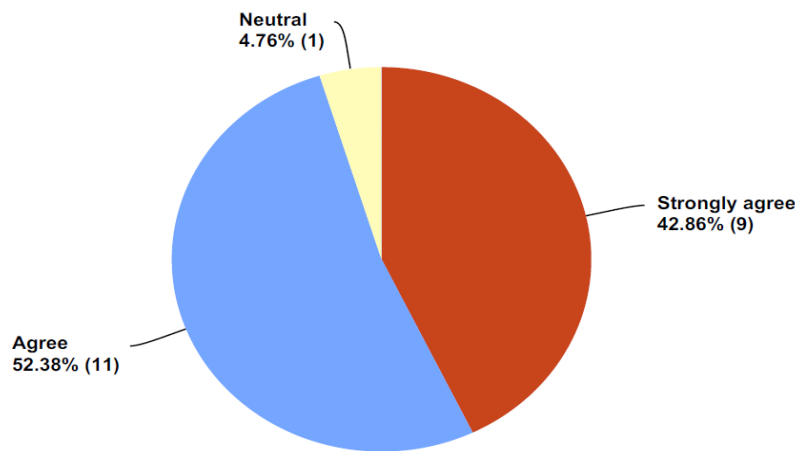
- "I believe that there could be even more dialogue with the representatives of the operating entities; this could improve the quality of the SCF input on FM guidance."
- "External stakeholders actually present during the meetings have been mainly stakeholders that are based or have an office in Europe. However, stakeholders from other parts of the world are able to participate through webcast (it would be great to allow people to send in questions online) and they have submitted written comments and submissions. To enhance external stakeholder participation, it would be good to ensure that SCF events (for instance the SCF Forum), takes place outside of Europe."
- "More private finance reps would be welcomed."
- "The SCF has been trying to invite appropriate people to relevant meetings and forum but I believe that there are much room for the SCF to improve its relationship with private sectors which are expected to play key roles in climate finance under the Paris Agreement."
- "S. above, different for different stakeholders. Missing e.g. developing countries' financial institutions."
{former member}

- “It would be useful to engage more with financial institutions and private business and investors from developed and, in particular, from developing countries.” *{former member}*

Procedural aspects

- “The more informal nature of work in practice - even in formal setting - that encourages active participation from observers is a useful model for other technical bodies. There may be ways to enhance this, recognizing the need to maintain procedural integrity and technological limitations. ”
- “There should be more time devoted to stakeholder engagement, as in the breakout groups, in the plenary meetings. It should be made clear that the Observers and stakeholders engaging in SCF discussions, including in inter-sessional work (webinars) and their views and comments are taken seriously. ”
- “Improve the content and format of the SCF Forum which is organized annually.” *{former member}*

Question 5: Have decision-making processes within the SCF been transparent?



Do you see need for improvement, and, if so, how?

Comments:

- “In my view, the SCF is exemplary in terms of transparency of its proceedings and decision-making processes. The webcasting of SCF meetings and timely publication of SCF documentation are important measures in that respect. I therefore don't see a need for further improvement presently.”

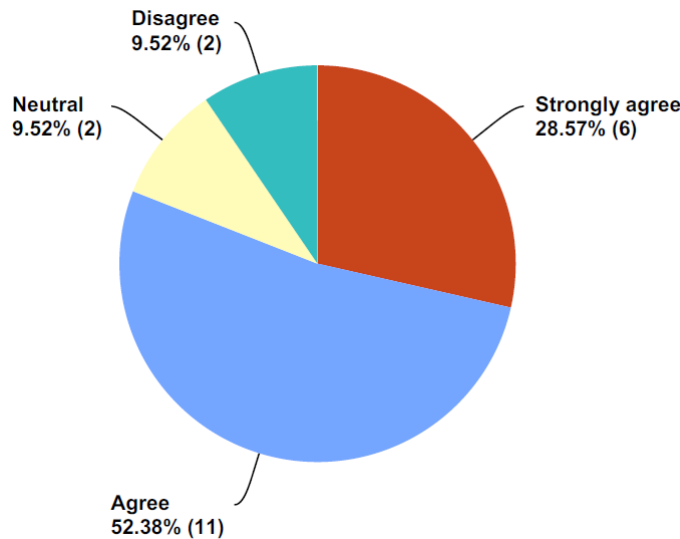
Suggestions for improvements

- “Since the decision of the SCF has been taken at the plenary meeting, I think very high level of transparency of decision-making processes has kept. The SCF should continue its style as it is. However, I also think it is necessary for the SCF to have closed session or the SCF member only session in some cases where necessary to discuss frankly before entering a decision-making process.”
- “The SCF has been hampered by the strict limitation of participation only to members. Many of the members hold more than one position of responsibilities in other financial institutions (GEF/GCF) and decision-making has been put off because of a lack of quorum, because of conflict of schedules, and the need to rush off to other meetings. This could be remedied by the nomination of alternates to members, and in the case of developing countries, not necessarily from the same country, as in the GCF. There need to be no financial implications of such nominations, but these alternates can then attend the meetings in lieu of the member in case of the latter's inability to do so. It would be the member's responsibility to

ensure that the alternate member is fully informed of the discussions in the SCF so that continuity can be assured. The regional group, in the case of developing countries, can then make these arrangements. I also note that in the case of some developed country members, more than one representative has been participating in breakout groups. This presents no problem, but that opportunity should be open also to developing countries. Advisers should also be given consideration, and not only representatives of institutions "

- "Yes and no. They are now the most transparent they have ever been, but the organization has a long history of secretariat and Co-chair over centralization."

Question 6: In your view, have the outputs/recommendations of the SCF advanced the work of the COP?



Which outputs/recommendations of the SCF have had the biggest/smallest impact on the work of the COP?

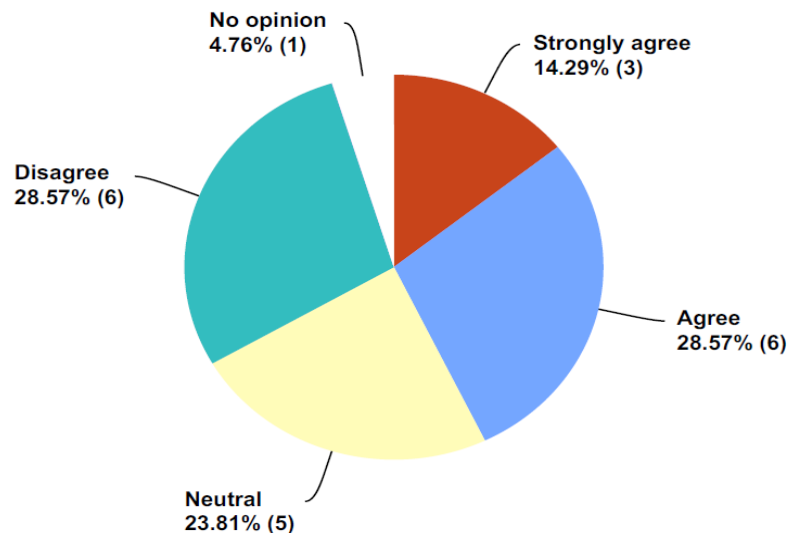
Comments:

General

- "In some cases yes, in others less."
- "Biggest impact: institutional arrangements for the GCF; guidance to the OEs; 2016 BA. Smallest impact: SCF Forums in general; 2014 BA."
- "The SCF provides a useful service, essentially developing party-owned zero drafts for many issues before the COP. This has made negotiations more efficient and arguably increased the quality of technical work - FM guidance is a good example. "
- "Generally speaking, the more specific and targeted the outputs/recommendations of the SCF are and the better they are communicated, the bigger the chance is that they effectively advance the work of the COP. In the past, the BAs, the work undertaken under the MRV of support beyond the BA, and the technical input of the SCF to the 5th review of the FM appeared to have the biggest impact on the work of the COP. This is less true for the draft guidance to the OEs, where despite considerable time and efforts by the SCF the uptake by the COP is often modest, and the SCF Forums whose recommendations are usually simply taken note of by the COP."
- "The BA2 was improved comparing with the BA1 and it is acknowledged by Parties as a useful source of climate-finance related information. Also, draft guidance to GEF and the GCF are also useful but the SCF recently fails to conclude its discussions on these agenda items and submitting halfway drafts to the COP. I think this kind of situation should be avoided."

- "The growing number of finance and finance-related agenda items has made the work of the SCF indispensable to the smooth functioning of the COP on these items. It must be recalled that the SCF has actually been conceived as doing the work of the contact group on finance which met only during COPs previous to the establishment of the SCF, in the period between the COPs. Many of the members of the SCF are also the ones who are involved in the COP negotiations. The work therefore makes progress in-between COPs in substance as well as in process."
- "Guidance to the subsidiary bodies and fulfillment of COP mandates has been good. The weakest point is resource mobilization is not recognized as a valid function by all."
- "Several outputs have advanced work of COP a lot, others failed like Arrangements COP - GCF, partly guidance, MRV issues." *{former member}*
- Uptake of SCF outputs / mandates provided to the SCF by the COP
- "The advice given by the SCF is again renegotiated as if the SCF had not made recommendations. I believe that the relationship between GCF and the COP was established based on SCF work but after lengthy negotiations. Most times all outputs of the SCF are renegotiated by the same SCF members!!!"
- "I think the SCF has a big role to play in supporting the COP. The SCF is already providing the materials for this. I think the COP needs to become more familiar with the SCF to more readily trust and use its outputs."
- "Especially the BA has had an impact in moving the discussion on finance forward and informed the work of the COP. The COP however, needs to remain strategic in its requests for work from the SCF. The SCF also needs to ensure that it is specific in providing recommendations and indicate who should provide follow-up on the recommendations."
- "I think that some outputs, like the BA, which has a concrete mandate and value-add has enabled better COP and SBSTA decisions. However, the SCF is currently engaged in a number of activities that add little value to the work of the COP. These include the organization of an annual forum and work on the MRV of finance outside of the BA (which has, over time, proved redundant to the BA). In order to streamline its work and concentrate on areas where the SCF can add value, work in such areas should be seen as ad hoc/on an as-needed basis as opposed to omnipresent, annual activity. Parties could also streamline the SCF's mandate with regards to these types of activities in the future."

Question 7: In your opinion, have the SCF outputs advanced the work/saved time at the COP: The Forum?



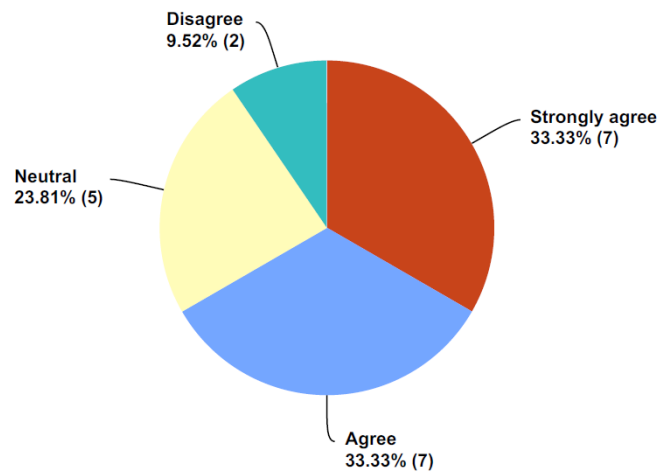
*Comments:*General

- "This is again a mixed bag of results. SCF outputs such as compilation of draft guidance and the BA have helped save the COP time, but other outputs and activities such as the annual forum and work in the areas of MRV of finance have not justified themselves in terms of delivering actual benefits to the work of the COP."
- "The forums are a very positive contribution that advisers a summary and analysis on important subjects."

Dissemination / use of knowledge/outcome generated through the forum

- "The SCF Forums have been excellent outreach events and produced a lot of material. The SCF and the COP, however, have failed to use the material - except for side-events at the COP or SBs."
- "The forum has put a number of issues forward and brought stakeholders together to discuss current climate finance issues. This has enhanced common understanding of certain issues, the underlying trends, frameworks and solutions and in return has helped the COP in its deliberations. The SCF should ensure that it provides clear recommendations to Parties, bodies and external organizations regarding the follow-up of the forum. At this moment there is a tendency that a forum adds directly to the workload of the SCF after it has been organized as the follow-up is put on in the workplan of the SCF. There is a risk that this overburdens the SCF agenda, leading to a reduced effectiveness of the SCF."
- "While the SCF Forums as such are a useful and powerful format to advance understanding of a particular finance related topic and establish linkages with multiple actors within and outside of the Convention, the use and ownership of the accumulated knowledge and expertise remains unclear to this date."
- "The outcome of the forum seems not utilized enough by other thematic bodies because regardless of the existence of the SCF Forum, finance discussions under each thematic bodies are carried out by themselves anyway."
- "I'm not sure they have yet saved time. I think the learning has been useful to advance the objectives of the UNFCCC, even if its direct contribution to the work is as yet not settled. We need to have further thinking on how best to use the outcomes of the forum."
- "The outputs of the Forum have unfortunately not been given the proper attention. More integration of the results of the forum should be considered in the work of the SCF. The forum has been identified as an important activity of the SCF in the implementation of its function of improving coherence and coordination in the delivery of climate change financing and the rationalization of the Financial Mechanism (Decision FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.1, paragraph 121-a). The results of the forum have not clearly led to the implementation of this function. A clear linking of the results of the forum as an activity with the promotion of the function of coherence and coordination in the DELIVERY of climate change financing and the rationalization of the financial mechanism should be underlined after each forum. It might even be worthwhile to look at the results of the previous fora held by the SCF in this perspective. The SCF was set up in order to operationalize the results of the Bali Action Plan, and the LCA as part of the Bali Road Map. This is the reason why the SCF has been given the function of MRV of support, as this MRV of support is the one glaring gap in the implementation of the BAP (paragraph 1 (b) (ii) of the Bali Action Plan, Decision 1/CP.13, in document no. FCCC/CP/2007/6/Add.1)."

Question 8: In your opinion, have the SCF outputs advanced the work/saved time at the COP: The draft guidance to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism?



Comments:

General

- "It has improved the development of guidance but has not yet saved time at the COP in agreeing guidance. That will come with time. "
- "The draft guidance has been positive."

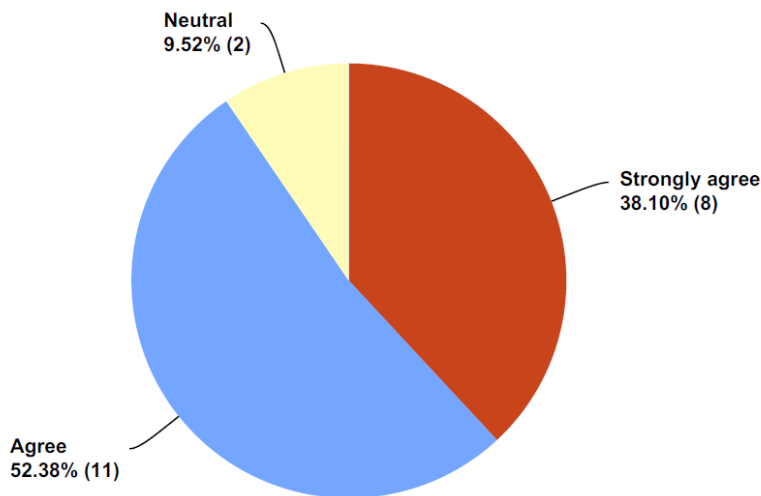
Uptake by the COP of draft guidance by the SCF

- "It is negotiation all over with the same members."
- "There should be discussion about how to improve details and frequency of the guidance to only focus on the minimum necessary. Work already undertaken at the SCF should to the extent possible be considered as a starting point at the COP and not to be re-opened as e.g. draft guidance at COP 22."
- "Although this has improved, there is still a lot of time needed to come to a decision because Parties often introduce new elements."
- "SCF work on draft guidance has helped to improve the quality of the guidance. There have been cases, however, where the SCF input on guidance has been torn apart at the COP by the same SCF member(s) who at the SCF meeting had agreed to the same draft input. SCF members should take more ownership of the SCF work and seek to facilitate and defend the SCF work at the COP, not dismiss and attack SCF inputs."
- "The draft guidance provided by the SCF certainly helps prepare the ground for informed discussions at the COP. However, as highlighted above, this does not prevent the COP from starting at zero when considering guidance to the OEs which leads to major inefficiencies. A more strategic approach by the SCF in providing draft guidance could be a way to alleviate this risk and enhance the effectiveness of the process."
- "Since there was a thing that should be highlighted as I wrote as comments on Q6, so far I agree that the SCF outputs advanced the work time at the COP because it provides a good ground of its discussion."
- "Certainly on technical aspects. The outcome may be time-neutral in practice, as Parties will fill the void with more political discussions, but this is a matter for Parties."
- Frequency of guidance
- "The SCF performs an important function by writing draft guidance and forwarding this to the SBI. The work on compiling guidance in a database has also been very helpful in identifying duplicative and repetitive guidance. The work on guidance can be further streamlined if the COP decided to shift from

annual to bi-annual or multi-annual guidance. This would also free-up time for the SCF to focus on other issues."

- "This is one area where the work of the SCF has been particularly useful. However, the work has been hampered by the late issuance of the report of the GCF, which I hope will now be addressed. What is also very important is to recognize that the SCF members who prepare the work on guidance to the OEs of the financial mechanism, and who often are also involved in the work of the OEs (the GEF and the GCF), have a different perspective from the Parties to the COP that bring forward their own on-the-ground experience with these operating entities. The work of the COP therefore is to bring these two perspectives to an understanding and to a decision on guidance that would be helpful for both sides. Parties do not necessarily have the same views of the work of the OEs as those involved in them, and their experience which is the concrete implementation of the work done at policy level in the OEs should be given equal, if not more importance. It is the COP that gives guidance to the OEs and not the other way 'round."
- "SCF outputs particularly the draft guidance to the operating entities of the financial mechanism have not saved time not because of the output quality, but rather because of the lack of trust of some Parties in the SCF process. Country Parties that have no representative don't want to own the SCF process and hence provide their own ideas as to what should be in the draft guidance." *{former member}*

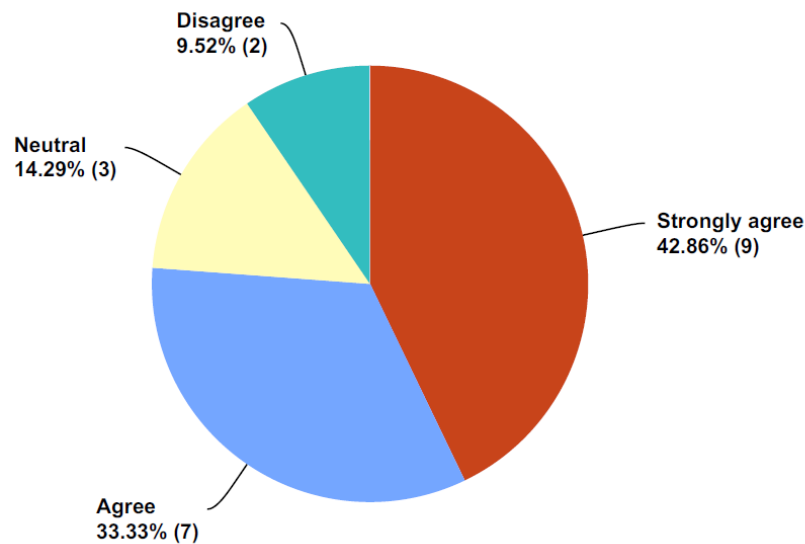
Question 9: In your opinion, have the SCF outputs advanced the work/saved time at the COP: The expert input to the reviews of the Financial Mechanism?



Comments:

- "The technical paper prepared for the review was excellent and the SCF discussions helped to pave the way."
- "The Second Review helped the Parties focus on the important issues under the review and it provided a good input for the negotiations."
- "The SCF plays a critical role in enhancing the coherence of expert input received from across the COP."
- "The technical report which the Secretariat and the SCF develop is comprehensive and useful in the review of the FM."
- "Specialty of the SCF. "
- "As I previously stated, SCF members are often those also involved in the work of the COP. They therefore have the knowledge, competence and expertise to conduct the review of the financial mechanism. What should be given equal importance would be the views of the constituted bodies of the Convention, the Technology Executive Committee and the Adaptation Committee, as well as those dealing with the REDD+ plus and forest issues, as well as the recently-created Warsaw Mechanism for Loss and Damage and the Paris Committee on Capacity-building. "

Question 10: In your opinion, have the SCF outputs advanced the work/saved time at the COP: Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows?



Comments:

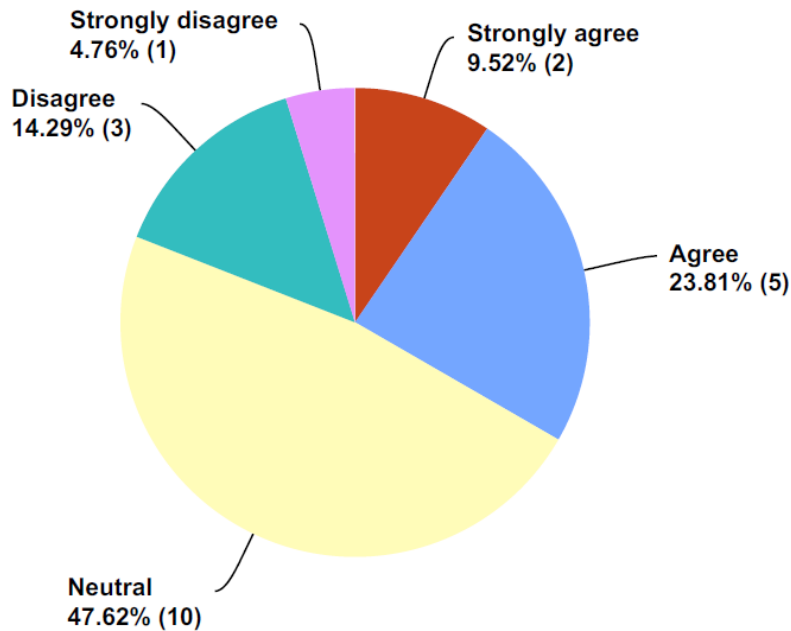
General

- "The BA must be considered as the flagship product of the SCF and it provides for an unbiased opinion of the climate finance flows. As such it provides for technical information and also serves as a confidence building measure between the Parties."
- "The SCF work on the BA has helped to improve the understanding of the size and nature of climate finance flows both within and outside the UNFCCC negotiations community. It has not answered the 100 bn question, but it was never meant to do that."
- "The BA helped develop and streamline methodologies for measuring climate finance flows. This gave guidance to the COP on issues such as MRV, level of climate finance already flowing and definitional issues. These are evolving issues and the BA is an important output that takes stock and moves the discussion forward. This helps the COP, Parties and external stakeholders identify and further detail issues that are needed in order to better identify, track and in the end mobilize climate finance."
- "The BAs has become a key reference for stakeholders involved in climate finance and is likely to increase in significance in the coming years for the COP and the CMA."
- "Summary and recommendations are useful."
- "This information is crucial across the COPs agenda to inform discussions. However, I would not say that it saves time."
- "This is one area of activity that the COP has been trying to deal with since the beginning of the Convention. Various assessments of the financial needs for the implementation of the Convention have been produced but the work done through the Biennial Assessment has been the most successful so far. These assessments were first conducted in order to meet the requirement of Article 11.3 (d) of the Convention, to guide the replenishment of the GEF (please see the Annex to the MOU between the COP and the GEF), and now also to be applied in the establishment of the replenishment process of the GCF. The SCF was successful in getting the cooperation of all institutional dealing with what they consider to be climate finance, in providing information in an open and transparent manner. The interaction between those who prepare the biennial assessments, the SCF members and the Article 11.5 institutions is particularly welcome and made possible through the SCF work. It must be underlined however that the biennial assessment is not an end in itself but the main activity that would lead to the fulfillment of the MRV function of the SCF. It is also the only authoritative assessment, however fraught with difficulties, even

without a clear common understanding of an operational definition of climate finance, that we have so far."

- "This is the most objective appraisal of climate finance. "
- "Developing countries disagreed with findings."

Question 11: In your opinion, have the SCF outputs advanced the work/saved time at the COP: The Measurement, Reporting and Verification of support beyond the BA?



Comments:

General

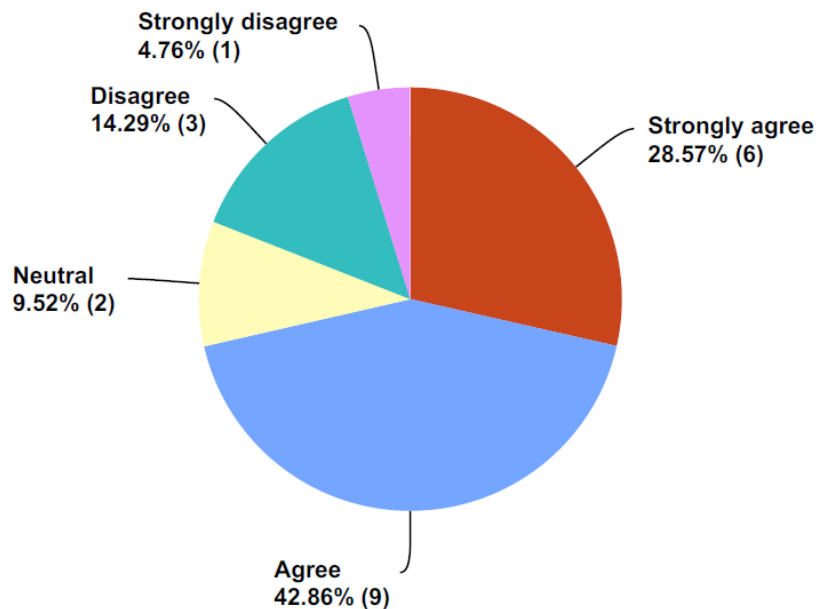
- "The work on the methodologies on the reporting for financial information by Annex1-Parties is a case in point to illustrate the importance and usefulness of the SCF work on MRV of support."
- "I don't have any strong impression how the SCF outputs on this issue was received."
- "It might be too early to say since part of the SCF work risks being repetitive and not being too well resourced. The SCF should find its particular "niche" on how it could, on the basis of its limited resources, to best contribute to the MRV work in the negotiations context."
- "Please see my response also above. The BA is the main activity undertaken by the SCF to fulfill its function of MRV of support. Due to the difficulties presented by identifying climate finance as defined by the institutions providing this finance, the constant guidance of the COP for the SCF related to moving from the BA to the MRV of support has not been followed. The work now becomes more important because of the work currently being undertaken by the APA on the transparency framework, and its pillar of transparency of support. In particular, the focus only on reporting, only one of the three-pronged goal of Measurement, Reporting and Verification of support has not been helpful in moving forward. Much work still remains to be done- and that work must now be focused on setting up the mechanisms for verification and measurement of support, and not merely its reporting. This should now be the focus of the work of the SCF as it gets ready to serve the Paris Agreement. "
- "This is a first changing and even more complex world of climate finance of which the SCF in not knowledge."

- "I find the work of the SCF to be good but when it is at COP same SFC members prolong finance meetings as if they were not at the Committee meetings. This is really confusing and needs to be improved."

Linkages with work of other bodies

- "Too early to tell. The 2014 and 2016 BAs contain recommendations that should help advance the APA and COP work on transparency."
- "A lot of work on MRV is currently taking place under the SBSTA and SBI. The SCF has been instrumental in bringing knowledge on MRV together in its work on the BA and this knowledge is also applied beyond the BA. The SCF should continue its work on MRV but strike the right balance between assisting the SBSTA and SBI negotiations while leaving them in the lead and identifying gaps that are not being covered by the current negotiations on MRV under other bodies."
- "There is a considerable amount of working ongoing in the COP/SBs on this area. It is hard to see a significant role for the SCF at this point in time."

Question 12: Is the mandate of the SCF and the work done by the SCF clearly distinguished from the work of other bodies?



If not, what are possible overlaps with the mandate/work of other bodies?

Comments:

General

- "Some grey areas, e.g. on MRV."
- "There is overlap with SBSTA on transparency work that needs to be spelled out more clearly."
- "The mandate of the SCF seems to be easily distinguished from other bodies'. The work on climate finance, however, is popular under the UNFCCC recently and there seems to be some duplications in work between the SCF and other thematic bodies. For example, the SCF organizes thematic forum every year but thematic bodies discuss their related issues on finance by themselves without using the outcomes of the SCF."

- “The functions of the SCF are clear, and these are aimed at assisting the COP in fulfilling its mandate as the Supreme Body of the Convention and its related legal instruments. Work still needs to be done, in particular as concerns Article 7.2 (h) of the Convention, which is also a function of the SCF. The SCF has been established in accordance with Article 7.2 (i) of the Convention, and the Bali Action Plan. The SCF is now dealing with the means through which the necessary action for the implementation of climate objectives, going beyond the voluntary actions which constitute the Paris Agreement, could be concretely achieved. Climate change and its adverse effects have gotten works since the entry of the force of the Convention. means of implementation have mainly been borne by the developing countries themselves, especially for adaptation. The work of the SCF has now become indispensable for global action to address climate change and its adverse effects.”
- “No one else is exclusively involved in finance.”

Suggestions to address duplication/overlaps

- “The mandate is fairly clear, but there is always a challenge in avoiding overlap. This is why the SCF (and secretariat) could work more collaboratively with other areas to identify and address overlaps before issues arise. Collaborative mandates (such as those with the AC/LEG) come to mind as an area of recent confusion.”
- “The COP needs to keep a strict focus on who issues guidance to the operating entities. The SCF prepares the draft guidance but in practice many other bodies also have a tendency to want to issue guidance to the OE directly. This should be clarified through the links that the SCF has with other bodies. On MRV, there is a risk of overlap if the SCF starts to duplicate negotiations that are already going on under the SBI and SBSTA. The SCF should also not focus too much on specific sectoral issues. The role of the SCF should be to identify issues, put them on the agenda but follow-up should not remain with the SCF but with the bodies and organizations dealing with specific or sectoral issues.”
- “A number of other bodies continue to expand their work programmes and mandates into financial issues, such as the Adaptation Committee, the Executive Committee on Loss and Damage, and the Technology Executive Committee. The COP should ensure that work on financial related matters does not continue to be duplicated across every committee.”
- “There is an increasing tendency to mandate the SCF with work which is conducted in parallel by other bodies under the Convention, such as the SBSTA or the AC for instance. These overlaps and duplications needs to be addressed as we move forward in implementing the Paris Agreement. Failing to do so would result in overburdening the SCF and blurring its sweet spot.”

Question 13: How would you assess the impact and status of the activities of the SCF which were identified in decision 2/CP.17: Organizing a forum for communication and continued exchange of information among bodies and entities dealing with climate change finance in order to promote linkages and coherence; maintaining linkages with the SBI and thematic bodies of the Convention; Providing to the COP draft guidance for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, with a view to improving the consistency and practicality of such guidance, taking into account the annual reports of the operating entities as well as submissions from Parties ; Making recommendations on how to improve the coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism; Providing expert input, including through independent reviews and assessments, into the reparation and conduct of the periodic reviews of the Financial Mechanism by the COP; Preparing a BA.

Comments:

General

- “Very Good.”
- “Good.”
- “SCF work is proceeding smoothly and is of high quality in general.”

- “The provision to the COP of draft guidance for the OEs of the FM and the preparation of the BAs are to me the most visible, effective and well-used outputs of the SCF. They have had a clear impact (on the negotiations, for the draft guidance, and on the overall discussion on climate finance on the broader climate finance community, for the BAs) and are well-recognized outputs of the SCF.”
- “The most value-adding elements of the SCF’s work from those outlined above are the BA and the compilation of draft guidance.”
- “Although there are several things that need to be improved, the SCF has managed to respond to its mandates well in general.”
- “I think it remains important, technical work that is valued by parties. The challenge is in avoiding over-politicization of the Committee, but this is not a challenge unique to the SCF.”
- “The SCF did an excellent job delivering on these mandates and continues to improve over time.”
- “Good.”
- “Different by each issue.” *{former member}*
- “It provides an overall idea about the climate relevant financial flows. However, a long way to go with regard to climate finance consistent with the Convention principles.” *{former member}*
- “Well done, good impact.” *{former member}*
- “Relevant and on the good track.” *{former member}*

Forum

- “The forum has not found its intended form yet. Now more of a workshop with the SCF as organizer, not a “forum for communication and continued exchange...” etc.”
- “The SCF is active in all these areas. On linkages and forum follow-up it could perhaps do more subject to resources available. The guidance principles clearly should be reworked concerning the details and frequency. The BAs have become very relevant reference pieces of reports.”

Recommendations on how to improve the coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism

- “In general the activities haven been performed reasonably well with a varying degree of success at the COPs (see comments above). The exception is the recommendations to improve coherence, etc. of the operating entities of the FM, due to the difference in operationalization between GEF and GCF. This will however develop further over time.”

MRV beyond the BA

- “We now need absolutely to move to MRV of finance and not be bogged down only on the BA.”

Question 14: What are the most relevant lessons learned from the perspective of an SCF member involved in climate finance deliberations in terms of:

a) The substantive work conducted by the SCF and the related outcomes/outputs, and how these have been perceived by Parties and other relevant stakeholders?

General/uptake/appreciation by the COP

- “I think the SCF has played a useful role in bringing together knowledge and expertise on (climate) finance under the Convention. It has played a leading role in putting issues on the agenda and moving them forward under the negotiations. The risk is that the agenda of the SCF becomes too full with following-up on reports and events that it organized in the past. The COP should reflect on the question what it really needs from the SCF especially in relation to the coming implementation of the Paris Agreement.”
- “In the context of the COP, the work of the SCF on drafting guidance to the OEs of the FM has optimized finance negotiations and allowed for more items to be considered. “Outsourcing” work from the COP to the SCF has proved to be effective, and the Committee has the legitimacy to do so. In terms of other relevant

stakeholders, the work done on the BAs has truly brought relevant institutions into the finance discussion under the UNFCCC in a way that negotiations are not able to achieve. The SCF has become the main channel of contact between the UNFCCC and the outside world in terms of concrete work on climate finance, and this should be praised and enhanced."

- "At times the amount of work put into the different subjects doesn't seem to be appreciated by the COP, i.e. when issues are reopened (guidance) or hardly reacted to (review, forum), but supposedly it should be a matter of time for the SCF to improve up to the point when the decision-making becomes more smoothly."
- "On balance, when the SCF does good work it generally gets recognized by the COP and adds value to COP decision making. However, the SCF has shown that it is not able to add value in a number of areas that were included in its original mandate, including the organization of annual fora, improving the coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of the OEs of the FM."
- "The SCF has successfully managed to position itself in the complex and fragmented climate finance landscape by providing widely appreciated technical input and fostering cooperation between various actors working on climate finance. To ensure maximum uptake of its outputs by the COP and other relevant stakeholders, it will be critical for the SCF to further strengthen its profile and set clear priorities in its work."
- "The outcomes of the SCF such as draft guidance and BA are increasingly appreciated by Parties and the SCF should continue its work."
- "Parties appear to treat SCF outputs with a high degree of respect and consider them to carry significant weight. It is rare that work or outputs face insurmountable challenge from parties or groups of parties - potentially due to the diverse representation on the Committee."
- "The one substantive work done by the SCF that had a significant outcome was development and conclusion of the Arrangement document between the COP and the GCF. The SCF demonstrated its ability to deal with such difficult and complex matters and stands ready to continue to provide such input."
- "I personally liked the work of SCF in terms of draft decisions forwarded to the COP especially with regard to the GCF and GEF matters. It saved a lot of time at the COP and resulted in fruitful discussions." *{former member}*
- "Even if the mandate is very clear in theory is very weak in practice. How can the SCF best contribute and support the decision making at the COP without preempting COP negotiations, is still a very important question." *{former member}*

Biennial assessment and overview of climate finance

- "The SCF is still trying to find its shape and focus of work. The BA is a crucial part of its mandate, but resource demanding and needs to become more professionalized and funded if it is to evolve into useful source of information for Parties and other stakeholder."
- "The BAs - flagship, need more resources and gradual technical improvement. More footwork necessary for the involvement with the stakeholders."
- Areas for improvement
- "Linkages question needs more time and development, notably from the MoI perspective and how to develop synergies between them. Guidance not always welcome for other SHs. Forums appreciated;"
- "How to effectively track climate finance flow in countries;" *{former member}*
- "SCF work has been useful; SCF could have a bigger impact by connecting more strongly to initiatives aiming at transforming the financial system towards climate smart investments (IFIs, UNEP FI, CPI, ...)."
- "Need for resource mobilization that the developing urgently countries." *{former member}*
- "Transparency is important. Focus on key tasks where the SCF can add value is crucial. If limited resources of SCF are spread over to many tasks, the output will be less useful and the reputation of the SCF as an expert contributor would be undermined."

b) The relevant procedures, i.e. working modalities, membership, etc.?Working modalities / meetings

- "Modalities broadly fit for purpose but intersessional work modus operandi and decision making needs to be better defined."
- "In order to improve the quality of work, the SCF should hold its meetings at least 3 times in a year and use inter-session efficiently. Also, the SCF should prioritize its work so that it can maximize its more focused outcomes."

Outreach / engagement

- "Increase in engagements with Parties." *{former member}*
 - "SCF members benefit from participation and intellectual contribution of individuals and organizations outside UNFCCC circles. It is important for SCF to incorporate both formal and informal working modalities to enable more meaningful contribution from key stakeholders." *{former member}*
 - Membership
 - "Membership of SCF should allow a balance representation of experts from inside and outside negotiation circle to avoid a silo mentality." *{former member}*
 - "Procedures, working modalities, membership, etc. are alright, the main challenge being keeping the activities of the SCF strictly within its mandate, avoiding adding tasks and follow-up activities."
 - "There is a need to do more outreach and to have a clearer/better messaging on most SCF outputs. The working modalities and the membership are OK. There is a lot of trust within the SCF that needs to be maintained."
 - "The current working modalities of the SCF are largely fit-for-purpose and do not require any major adjustments. The same is true for the SCF membership which should not be broadened or modified at this point. More important is that SCF members have the necessary expertise and skills, namely in the areas of climate change and development finance, and that they show personal commitment in fulfilling their function."
-