

Tenth meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance Bonn, Germany, 12–13 June 2015

Background paper on the 2015 forum of the Standing Committee on Finance: Financing for forests, taking into account different policy approaches

Expected actions by the Standing Committee on Finance

The Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) will be invited to:

1. Consider and finalize the concept note of the forum, including the draft forum programme and the guiding questions, found in document SCF/2015/10/10.
2. Discuss and consider the outcomes of the inter-sessional outreach events thus far; and the relevant case studies, information and contacts that can be used to inform the forum.

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

1. In considering and finalizing the concept note of the forum, the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) may wish to discuss the outline of the draft programme and the guiding questions. In doing so, the SCF may wish to bear in mind the outcomes it wishes to reach through the forum i.e. preparing recommendations to the COP, and how the working paper and the guiding questions can serve as stepping stones to reach such outcomes.
2. In discussing and considering the outcomes of the inter-sessional outreach events that have taken place, the SCF may also wish to discuss the possibility of additional outreach efforts prior to the forum.

II. Background information

3. At its ninth meeting, the SCF agreed to organize the forum on 8–9 September 2015, in conjunction with the 14th World Forestry Congress (WFC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), pending the finalization of logistical and legal arrangements. The Congress will take place in Durban, South Africa, from 7–11 September 2015.
4. At its ninth meeting, members also agreed to inter-sessionally prepare a draft concept note of the forum, which includes the objective, scope, draft programme and guiding questions. The SCF agreed to invite input from observers, including representatives of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, in its work.¹
5. At its eighth meeting, the SCF agreed to prepare a working paper on coherence and coordination on financing for forests, with a view to using the working paper as a background document for the forum.² This working paper will be considered under the SCF 10 agenda item on coherence and coordination for financing for forests. The preliminary findings of the working paper may further inform the formulation of the forum guiding questions as discussed by the working group intersessionally.³

¹ The report of the ninth meeting of the SCF can be accessed here: <www.unfccc.int/6881>.

² FCCC/CP/2014/5, paragraph 29.

³ More information on the linkage between the forum and the working paper can be found in SCF/2015/10/7.



ANNEX**I. Update on organizational arrangements**

1. The secretariat is in regular contact with FAO regarding logistical arrangements for the forum. The majority of specifications proposed, based on lessons learned from previous years, were deemed possible. The secretariat and Government of South Africa are in discussions regarding the content of the Memorandum of Understanding, with a view to concluding the legal arrangements in due time.

II. Preparation of the concept note

2. During the inter-sessional period and under the guidance of the co-facilitators, the working group prepared the draft concept note, taking into account input during the webinars held on 19 May. It was shared with the SCF members in advance of SCF 10.
3. In particular, the draft guiding questions were informed by the preliminary findings of the working paper on coherence and coordination for financing for forests, which will also serve as a background paper for the forum.⁴

III. The consideration of input from outreach activities

4. The SCF, during the inter-sessional period, carried out various outreach activities. This included attending meetings held by other organizations.
 - Ms. Suzanty Sitorus represented the SCF at the Joint UNFF-UNESCAP Workshop on Integrating Climate and Forest Financing in Southeast Asia, which was held on 23–25 March 2015. The SCF interaction at the UNFF-UNESCAP Workshop has already fed into the SCF's discussions on both the forum and the working paper. All documents related to the workshop, including the slides that Ms. Sitorus presented on the status of the SCF work on financing for forests, can be found on the UNFF website.
 - Mr. Stefan Agne and Ms. Sitorus represented the SCF at the Global Landscapes Forum: The Investment Case, on Wednesday, 10 June 2015, in London. The event was hosted by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the World Bank, PROFOR, UNEP and the European Investment Bank. The members presented on the status of SCF work on financing for forests. The event is expected to benefit the forum and the working paper through information gained on, inter alia, private finance for forests.
 - Mr. Raymond Landveld attended the Eleventh Session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF 11), where he made a statement in the plenary informing delegates of the SCF forum.
5. The SCF may wish to invite the members mentioned in paragraph 4 above to briefly present the relevant outcomes of the respective events to the SCF.
6. The SCF may also wish to consider how the SCF can further reach out to relevant stakeholders, so as to encourage their participation, in addition to the WFC participants. These include: representatives of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, international financial institutions, multilateral, regional and national development banks, commercial banks, interested Party delegates under the Convention, academia, the private sector, UN agencies such as UNEP-FI, UN-REDD Programme, and any relevant observers who might be present at SCF 10.
7. On 19 May 2015, the SCF working group on the forum convened a webinar with SCF members, Parties and organizations. The participants were invited to share information and views relating to the SCF work on the 2015 SCF forum and the working paper on coherence and coordination for financing for forests, taking into account different policy approaches. The webinar took place in two runs, to enable members and observers in different time zones to take part. A total of 40 participants joined the webinar. The video recordings and presentation slides have been posted on the SCF webpage.⁵
8. The SCF was invited to attend the Voluntary Meeting on the Coordination of Support for the Implementation of Activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70,⁶ on Monday 8 June 2015, from 15:00-18:00, in conjunction with the UNFCCC SB sessions.⁷ The working group inter-sessionally agreed on the usefulness of attending this meeting to present its ongoing work and interact with Parties, as a follow-up to the informal SCF outreach event on financing for forests, which was held at COP 20. Members may wish to reflect on the relevant outcomes of the meeting.

⁴ More information on how the working paper is linked with the guiding questions can be found in SCF/2015/10/7.

⁵ Slides used during and the recording of the webinar can be accessed at: <www.unfccc.int/8985>.

⁶ Invitation made by the Coalition for Rainforest Nations on 19 October 2014. See paragraph 10 of their submission: http://unfccc.int/files/cooperation_and_support/financial_mechanism/standing_committee/application/pdf/standing_committee_on_finance-cfrn_submission_on_scf_working_paper.pdf

⁷ https://unfccc.int/land_use_and_climate_change/redd_web_platform/items/8784.php