



Seventh meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance Bonn, Germany, 16–18 June 2014

Background paper on the communication strategy of the Standing Committee on Finance

Background

- 1) The aim of this background note is to assist the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) in developing its communication strategy in order to enhance concrete areas of collaboration and to facilitate its overall outreach activities with key stakeholders and thematic bodies under the Convention. The SCF may wish to agree on its communication strategy in 2014 after considering the information contained in this document.
- 2) The strategy will have longevity, and will inform the communication efforts of the SCF in the coming years. It will also serve as a working document, which will be updated by the SCF as its work plan evolves.
- 3) The document outlines an overall outreach activity of the SCF in order to inform bodies of the Convention as well as external stakeholders about its activities.
- 4) It also contains the following elements of the communication strategy for each activity of the SCF in the year 2014 and beyond, and may be adjusted as the SCF work plan evolves:
 - a. Areas of synergy with stakeholders and thematic bodies;
 - b. Partners and active engagement;
 - c. The target audience for information sharing activities;
 - d. Responsibilities.
- 5) The respective sections also identify possible outreach, networking, and/or communication approaches in order to address the partners/target audience appropriately, as well as to make best use of the information received from other stakeholders.

Overall outreach activities of the Standing Committee on Finance

- 6) COP19 welcomed the efforts of the SCF to achieve transparency and openness in the conduct of its work. In this context, the SCF can build on existing communication efforts.
- 7) These include, inter alia:
 - a. The webcasting/recording of meetings;
 - b. Posting of SCF documents and submissions on the SCF website;
 - c. Regular information updates during the sessions of the SB/ADP/COP;
 - d. Invitations to its meetings extended to chairs of other bodies, as well as to Parties and observer organizations;
 - e. Sharing of the reports of its meetings with the chairs of other relevant bodies under the Convention and inviting comments/inputs from those bodies on the SCF reports;
 - f. Fostering the regular exchange of information among co-chairs, for example through a conference call twice per year with all interested chairs of other bodies or through informal meetings held on the side-lines of sessions or meetings of the bodies;
 - g. Further enhancing of its website and its virtual forum to increase the user-friendliness of information provided, as well as to increase the overall visibility of the SCF activities;
 - h. Furthering of the existing active involvement by SCF members in the work of other bodies and increasing the flow of information between those bodies and the SCF through the reporting back of members engaged in such work to the SCF.

Biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows

Areas of synergy with stakeholders and thematic bodies

- 8) The work of the SCF on the biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows (BA) may benefit from synergy with thematic bodies and expert groups under the Convention, operating entities of the Convention (OEs), and special funds and climate finance stakeholders specialising in climate finance tracking and other issues related to measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of support.
- 9) Specifically, the SCF may consider exploring elements of the on-going work of other bodies and entities related to MRV of support and tracking climate finance as indicated in decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 7. Synergy can be fostered with stakeholders that have undertaken technical work on climate finance definition, including approaches to measure and report on private finance mobilized by public interventions. Furthermore, the SCF could consider any information generated by different bodies and entities on climate financing needs of developing country Parties in assessing how adaptation and mitigation needs can most effectively be met by climate finance as indicated in decision 3/CP.19, paragraph 11.
- 10) The aim of these activities is to maximize the use of existing information from within and outside the Convention and to promote transparency and inclusiveness in the preparation of the first and subsequent BAs.

Partners and active engagement

- 11) In addition to thematic bodies and expert groups under the Convention and OEs, the SCF may also wish to specifically target institutions that generate data and information relevant to the BAs, including: multilateral development banks (MDBs) and development finance institutions (DFIs), international organizations, research institutions and think tanks, private sector financial institutions (FIs), academics, and civil society organizations. Some institutions measure and report climate finance data systematically and, therefore, continued exchange with them may benefit the preparation of the first and subsequent BAs.
- 12) The preparation of a BA involves gathering and dissecting different sets of information and potentially a growing set of data sets sourced from external partners. It is expected that the amount of information would increase in the coming years. As such, knowledge management is integral to the preparation of BAs. At present, information received from external partners in the form of submissions is stored and displayed on the SCF page. Future submissions from internal or external partners could be placed in the same location in order to allow for open access and for transparency purposes. In addition, the UNFCCC finance portal will, in the process of an overall restructuring in 2014, also contain a section for the BAs, which will offer the opportunity to publish quantitative data received from external stakeholders on climate finance, thereby giving user-friendly access to all climate finance data available to the UNFCCC secretariat, including data from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), developed country Parties in the context of fast-start finance, National Communications and Biennial Reports, etc.
- 13) Outreach with partners for the BA may involve outward and/or inward communication flows. This can include, inter alia;
 - a. Continued updates to the website (as mentioned above);
 - b. Calling for inputs and interaction between the working group and climate finance stakeholders;
 - c. Information updates on progress made in the preparation of the BA including the organization of an information update in the side lines of the SB session in June and during the additional session of the ADP in October. The event would be open to all Parties, observers and other stakeholders;
 - d. Sharing the results of the BAs and recommendations for further distribution among peers;
 - e. Creating syntheses of information taken from the BA and including infographics of key facts and figures, to be shared with the broader public via the website and social media;
 - f. An invitation to thematic bodies to provide inputs on the preparation of the BA through a targeted communication note sent to thematic bodies and expert groups.
 - g. The publication of the BA and a possible press release to be prepared by the secretariat.

- h. The organization of a side event at COP 20 - subject to feasibility of such an event in light of logistical constraints - and/or hold a webinar two weeks prior to COP 20.

The target audience for information sharing activities

14) Audiences include:

- a. Primary audience: COP, thematic bodies and expert groups under the Convention, OEs and Special Funds, multilaterals and bilaterals involved in mobilising and channelling climate finance;
- b. Secondary audience: think-tanks and research institutions, international organisations, academia, and civil society;
- c. Tertiary audience: the broader public.

Responsibilities

- 15) The SCF working group on the BA will, with the support of the secretariat, lead the implementation of the above mentioned activities. Activities can be discussed at SCF meetings and intersessionally during conference calls of the working groups, and by email.

Reviews of the financial mechanism

Areas of synergy with stakeholders and thematic bodies

- 16) Synergy exists between the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the work of the SCF relating to the reviews of the financial mechanism (FM) in light of its mandate to ensure an inclusive and transparent process. In addition, the SCF may also wish to interact with the thematic bodies and expert groups of the Convention when assessing the effectiveness of the financial mechanism. . It may also wish to engage with the multilateral development banks (MDBs) and other Bilateral Financial Institutions (BFIs) delivering climate finance in the context on ways to improve the consistency and complementarity of the financial mechanism with other sources of climate investment and financial flows. Moreover, the SCF may also wish, in its interaction with the operating entities, to request inputs to the reviews of FM.

Partners and active engagement

- 17) In order to ensure transparency and inclusiveness in the work of the SCF relating to the review of the financial mechanism, the SCF could undertake a number of activities, including, inter alia:
 - a. Providing updates of its work on the reviews of the FM at SBI meetings;
 - b. Organizing side events to continue to exchange information with Parties and other interested stakeholders;
 - c. Continued interaction with the thematic bodies and experts group of the Convention when assessing the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in providing financial resources for the issues related to the work of those bodies and groups. Such involvement would enable the SCF to provide streamlined and practical inputs for consideration by Parties in finalizing the reviews;
 - d. Continued engagement with the MDBs and DFIs on their activities and how these activities are aligned with the priorities of the financial mechanism. In this regard, the SCF may wish to consider issuing a call for inputs from these institutions and organizations to gather inputs on specific issues relevant to the reviews of the financial mechanism;
 - e. Creating syntheses of the outcomes of the reviews, including infographics of key facts and figures, to be shared with the broader public via the website and social media.

The target audience for information sharing activities

18) Audiences include:

- a. Primary audience: COP, thematic bodies and expert groups under the Convention, OEs and Special Funds, multilaterals and bilaterals involved in mobilising and channelling climate finance;
- b. Secondary audience: think-tanks and research institutions, international organisations, academia, and civil society;
- c. Tertiary audience: the broader public.

Responsibilities

- 19) The SCF, at the beginning of the reviews, defines the strategy for its work and establishes a working group on the agenda item, facilitated by one SCF member.
- 20) The facilitator of the SCF working group on the reviews can liaise with representatives of the thematic bodies and expert groups under the Convention as well as other relevant stakeholders, should the need arise. Activities can be discussed at SCF meetings and intersessionally during conference calls of the working groups, and by email.

Forums of the Standing Committee on Finance

Areas of synergy with stakeholders and thematic bodies

- 21) The Standing Committee on Finance is mandated to organize yearly forums for the communication and continued exchange of information among bodies and entities dealing with climate change finance in order to promote linkages and coherence.
- 22) The first forum, held in 2013, focussed on “mobilizing finance and investments for climate action now”. In accordance with the decision at COP 19, the second forum in 2014 will focus on “mobilizing adaptation finance” from both public and private sectors.
- 23) In terms of the second and subsequent forums, it is expected that the following activities may be pursued with stakeholders, depending on the particular theme of the forum:
 - a. Identifying potential areas of collaboration with relevant bodies such as the Adaptation Committee (AC), the Technology Executive Committee, the LDC Expert Group (LEG);
 - b. Collaborating with partners e.g. the World Bank and the Climate Investment Funds Administrative Unit;
 - c. Creating awareness about the forums through a variety of channels;
 - d. The exchange of information among stakeholders such as national governments and the private sector on possible approaches to scale up private investments;
 - e. Holding conference calls with resource persons to discuss the concept notes for the forums;
 - f. Disseminating a press release, as well as updates via Twitter and Facebook (via the UNFCCC secretariat or alternatively via one of more active SCF members in attendance); and publishing a background paper (in collaboration with the AC, in terms of the second forum);
 - g. Sharing infographics and key information presented by resource persons at the Forum via the virtual forum and social media;
 - h. Disseminating good practices on the effective approach to deploy and deliver adaptation finance, including via the website.

Partners and active engagement

- 24) The SCF agreed at its 5th meeting to organize the second forum in partnership with the Climate Investment Funds (CIF). Additionally, the SCF will actively collaborate with the AC, TEC, LEG and NWP; as well as various practitioners and experts engaged in adaptation finance for adaptation as resource persons to the second forum.

The target audience for information sharing activities

25) Audiences include:

- a. Primary audience: UNFCCC Parties and their local government and national implementing entities; practitioners, OEs; IFIs including the Adaptation Fund and the multilateral/regional/bilateral development banks; private sector enterprises including investment banks and insurance companies; relevant UN agencies; think-tanks and academia; NGOs and CSOs.
- b. audience: The COP;
- c. Tertiary audience: the broader public.

26) For those who will not be able to attend the second forum in person, the virtual forum on the UNFCCC website, social media such as Twitter and the Facebook and a recorded webcast may be accessed. Relevant documents will be made available on the website of the SCF.

Responsibilities

27) The SCF and its working group, supported by the secretariat, may wish to enhance the communication flows among different organizations including the private sector relating to financing for adaptation. Activities can be discussed at SCF meetings and intersessionally during conference calls of the working groups, and by email. The secretariat can then follow up with the practical outreach efforts.

Draft guidance to the operating entities of the financial mechanism

Areas of synergy with stakeholders and thematic bodies

28) The SCF will continue to collaborate with operating entities (OEs) and initiate cooperation with thematic bodies in preparing draft guidance to the OEs.

Partners and active engagement

29) To improve the consistency and practicality of the draft guidance to the OEs of the FM and to facilitate the overall discussions during the COP on OE-related matters, the SCF will continue to engage stakeholders. Activities could include the following, inter alia:

- a. Inviting input from the OEs and relevant thematic bodies of the Convention such as the Adaptation Committee, the TEC, the LEG, the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE), and the Executive Committee of the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage;
- b. Sending out official communications to thematic bodies on an annual basis, encouraging them to actively engage with the SCF on the matter of the draft guidance to the OEs, as well as to provide concrete inputs for the draft guidance to the SCF. Inviting the thematic bodies to submit relevant information, and/or elements for draft guidance to the OEs, based on the annual reports of the OEs.
- c. Continued liaising by the facilitator of the working group of the SCF on the draft guidance to the OE with a dedicated representative of the respective body in order to address questions and/or concerns by the respective body on draft guidance.
- d. Sharing meeting reports of the SCF with the thematic bodies and the OEs to increase the overall transparency of the work of the SCF and extending invitations to the thematic bodies specifically to meetings where draft guidance to the OEs will be discussed.
- e. Incorporating input received from the thematic bodies, either as is, or adjusted by the SCF according to its mandate to improve the overall consistency and practicality of the draft guidance to the OEs. Should questions arise regarding an input received from another body, the SCF may liaise with said body via the facilitator of the working group on draft guidance to the OEs.

The target audience for information sharing activities

30) Audiences include:

- a. Primary audience: the COP, the OEs, thematic bodies and expert groups under the Convention;
- b. Secondary audience: special Funds, multilaterals and bilaterals involved in mobilising and channelling climate finance; think-tanks and research institutions, international organisations, academia, and civil society;

Responsibilities

31) The SCF and its working group, supported by the secretariat, may wish to enhance the communication flows among the OEs and thematic bodies, as well as other stakeholders. Activities can be discussed at SCF meetings and intersessionally during conference calls of the working groups, and by email.

MRV of support beyond the biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flowsAreas of synergy with other stakeholders and thematic bodies

- 32) MRV-related work is being undertaken by various bodies under the Convention. Work focuses mainly on reports provided by Parties, methodologies, and the review of information provided. All three areas offer opportunities for synergy with the SCF's work on MRV of support beyond the BA.
- 33) In order to be able to identify gaps and areas of further work necessary, collaboration with the various bodies of the Convention is advisable to avoid duplications of work and for the SCF to build on the work of those bodies. In addition, the SCF could greatly benefit from the extensive body of work undertaken by external stakeholders on the issue of MRV of support.

Partners and active engagement

- 34) Technical MRV-related work is mainly being undertaken by the SBI and SBSTA. Activities the SCF can undertake could include, inter alia:
- a. Closely following the work of the SBI and SBSTA and seeking collaboration on the matter of MRV of support beyond the BA.
 - b. Following the work of the AC on monitoring and evaluation of adaptation, which may also be of interest to the SCF.
 - c. Taking into consideration and building on existing work by external stakeholders which are heavily engaged in various MRV related areas of work.
 - d. Mandating the SCF co-chairs to engage with the chairs of the subsidiary bodies in order to exchange information on the on-going work in those bodies.
 - e. Reaching out to the thematic bodies via its working group on the issue of MRV of support beyond the BA, in order to exchange information on the status of work within those bodies on matters related to the issue of MRV of support.
 - f. Continuing to reach out to external stakeholders by calling for inputs on specific issues, as well as through its Forums.

The target audience for information sharing activities

35) Audiences include:

- a. Primary audience: the COP, the SBI and SBSTA, thematic bodies and expert groups under the Convention;
- b. Secondary audience: the OEs and Special Funds, multilaterals and bilaterals involved in mobilising and channelling climate finance; think-tanks and research institutions, international organisations, academia, and civil society;
- c. Tertiary audience: the broader public.

Responsibilities

- 36) The SCF co-chairs would be responsible for engaging with the chairs of the subsidiary bodies. The SCF working group, with the support of the secretariat, could be responsible for the outreach with regards to the thematic bodies of the Convention and external stakeholders. Activities can be discussed at SCF meetings and intersessionally during conference calls of the working groups, and by email.

Financing for forests

Areas of synergy with other stakeholders and thematic bodies

- 37) The SCF will communicate with different bodies and stakeholders in order to address coherence and coordination on financing for forests. By regularly exchanging information and views among different bodies and stakeholders, the SCF may be able to play a pivotal role in assisting the COP by providing more coherent and coordinated policy guidance on this subject, in light of the overall picture of climate finance.

Partners and active engagement

- 38) SCF chairs or the working group may wish to undertake the following activities, inter alia:
- a. Approaching the chairs of subsidiary bodies during SB sessions, and seeking their assistance in reaching out to Parties.
 - b. Regularly attending the voluntary meetings of national entities/focal points, Parties and relevant entities financing REDD-plus, envisaged to start in conjunction with SB41, for continued interactions with Parties and relevant stakeholders on matters related to coherence and coordination for financing for forests. Putting together a tentative list of experts to be invited to the SCF forums, including the forum on finance for forests to be held in 2015.
 - c. Inviting relevant representatives from OEs and thematic bodies to attend SCF meetings in person or by videoconference;
 - d. Utilizing the virtual forum of the SCF as an on-going platform of communication including in terms of financing for forests;
 - e. Communicating with the OEs on information related to financing for forests, as this may benefit the SCF when drafting guidance to the OEs on the subject matter.

The target audience for information sharing activities

- 39) Audiences include:
- a. Primary audience: the SBI and SBSTA, OEs and thematic bodies and expert groups under the Convention, UNFCCC Parties.
 - b. Secondary audience: International financial institutions relevant to the financing for forests, including the multilateral/regional/bilateral development banks; think-tanks and research institutions, international organisations, academia, and civil society; relevant UN agencies.

Responsibilities

- 40) SCF co-chairs would be responsible to engage with the chairs of the subsidiary bodies. An SCF working group, with the support of the secretariat, could be responsible for the outreach with regards to the thematic bodies of the Convention and external stakeholders. Activities can be discussed at SCF meetings and intersessionally during conference calls of the working groups, and by email.