



Background paper on the strategy of the forum. Note by the secretariat.

I. Background

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), at its 17th session, agreed on the functions and activities of the Standing Committee (SC), including the organization of a forum for the communication and continued exchange of information among bodies and entities dealing with climate change finance in order to promote linkages and coherence.
2. At COP 1, Parties decided that outside the framework of the financial mechanism, consistency should be sought and maintained between activities (including those related to funding) relevant to climate change undertaken outside the framework of the financial mechanism and the policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria for activities as relevant, established by the COP (decision 11/CP.1, paragraph 2).
3. This background paper presents a draft strategy for the forum of the SC, including a description of the possible scope and themes of the forum, an identification of the audience, a possible structure of the forum and a draft tentative timeline.
4. The SC may consider this draft strategy of the forum in its design and preparation of the forum for 2013.

II. Objectives, intended audience and discussion streams of the forum

5. The main objective of the forum, as per decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 121(a), is to facilitate communication and continued exchange of information among bodies and entities dealing with climate change finance, in order to promote linkages and coherence.
6. Following on this main objective, the intended audience for the forum would be entities, organisations, institutions and individuals involved in climate change finance or with the potential to do so in a meaningful and relevant manner, internal and external to the Convention.
7. The forum should also serve as a concrete mechanism for the engagement of relevant stakeholders into the work of the SC with a view to ensuring a comprehensive coverage of relevant inputs for discussions and recommendations on the mandated function of the SC¹:
 - (a) Improving coherence and coordination in the delivery of climate change financing;
 - (b) Rationalization of the financial mechanism of the Convention;
 - (c) Mobilization of financial resources; and,
 - (d) Measurement, reporting and verification of support provided to developing country Parties.
8. In this regard, the Committee may wish to consider the establishment of four broad discussion streams based on these core functions defined by 2/CP.17. More concrete topics and themes for discussion may then be further elaborated within each discussion stream.

¹ Decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 121.



9. The following table provides an example of this approach:

	Discussion Streams	Potential Topics/Themes	Potential Outcomes
1	Improving coherence and coordination in the delivery of climate change financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination: Governance, partnerships, and collaborations at the international, national, transnational, etc., levels in the delivery of climate finance. • Coherence: Communication exchange and the institutionalization of the delivery of climate finance. Definition of climate change financing. 	Enhanced understanding of the institutional context, linkages, modalities and conditions for the delivery of climate change finance.
2	Rationalization of the Financial Mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General allocation of resources, eligibility criteria, access modalities and other issues related to the delivery of climate change finance through the operating entities of the financial mechanism. • Standardizing the processes of the delivery of climate finance through the operating entities. • Effectiveness and efficiency of the operating entities. • Coordination and complementarity among entities within and outside the Convention. 	Greater understanding of the institutional context of the financial mechanism, the challenges and opportunities for further enhancement.
3	Mobilization of financial resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for public and private sector partnerships in delivering climate change finance. • Generation of new and additional financial resources. • Potential follow up to the outcomes stemming from the work programme on long-term finance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete follow up on long-term finance discussions as well as on sources of new and additional financial resources. • Enhanced understanding of potential opportunities for further engagement of the private sector in generation and delivery of climate change finance.
4	Measurement, reporting and verification of support provided to developing country Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons learned and good practices in tracking climate finance. • Existing and on-going initiatives in tracking financial flows and allocation of financial resources for climate change related activities. 	Input into the consideration by SC of biennial assessment of financial flows and measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of support.



III. Structure and design of the forum

10. To enable communication and continued exchange of information among bodies and entities dealing with climate change finance, it is proposed that the forum will be delivered through a dual modality: in-person (once per year) and virtual (on a continuous and on-going basis).

11. The in-person version would then be organized annually in conjunction with the meeting of the SC, or alternatively back-to-back with another related UNFCCC event or session.

12. The virtual modality for delivery refers to an on-going and continuous multidirectional exchange of information among participants through an electronic and on-line interface. This modality may include a web-based platform and also take full advantage of the experienced already gained in the information management tools, organisation and conduct of the work programme on long-term finance.

13. The organisation and arrangements of the forum will be undertaken by the SC with the support of the UNFCCC secretariat. The SC may also consider identifying potential partners and fundraising options for additional support to the forum.

(a) *In-person Forum meetings*

14. The SC may wish to consider organizing the forum as stand-alone or in conjunction with other climate finance-related events. Invitations would be extended to all stakeholders of climate finance including public, private and civil society institutions, internal and external to the Convention. A table providing options on the design of the forum may be found in Annex 1 of this background paper.

15. The in-person Forum meetings may also be webcast live to allow for the participation of other stakeholders unable to attend the meeting. These stakeholders would also be able to interact in the meeting via electronic presentations and questions submitted by social media tools such as Twitter and Facebook.

16. A report summarising the outcomes of each forum meeting will be prepared for consideration by the SC following the conclusion of event. The SC may wish to consider the outcomes of the forum when addressing its core functions as well as to incorporate them in its annual report to the COP. The relevant materials presented at the forum and the report may also be uploaded to the SC website for reference.

(b) *Virtual Forum*

17. An electronic and web-based platform may also be an important feature of the forum which will allow for on-going interactions and continued exchanges of information to take place between all climate finance stakeholders. By means of these electronic tools participants would be encouraged to share relevant knowledge and information, including reports and technical analyses. There would also be the possibility of undertaking and hosting online discussions relating to issues of interest for the SC and its stakeholders through e-forums (open fora for discussion), webinars, online submission of inputs, uploading of videos and other mechanisms.

18. Webinars are online seminars which are conducted live over the internet. Live video streaming projects the image of the presenter and the presentation online in real time, allowing participants to observe the presentation from all over the world, and giving them the possibility to interact via online questions and live chat.

19. This virtual or electronic modality would also be intended to make extensive and full use of social media tools such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and others.

20. The virtual forum would also allow for the dissemination of the findings and recommendations of the in-person Forum meetings to those stakeholders

IV. General timeline

21. It is proposed at this stage that the Virtual Forum on climate change finance is launched by the SC in advance and prior to the in-person meeting. This would allow for an initial exchange of inputs and also to lay the ground for a more focused and productive meeting later on. The launch of the virtual version of the forum should then be expected to take place during the first half of 2013 with a view to organizing the meeting during the second half of the year, most likely in the fourth quarter of 2013. An indicative timeline may be observed below.



22. During its second meeting, the SC may consider nominating a work group consisting of a small group of SC members to provide guidance to the preparation of the forum.

2013											
Schedule of the forum of the Standing Committee											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
					SBI/SBSTA						COP 19
					Meeting of SC	Forum meeting			Meeting of SC		
Preparation and promotion of the Virtual Forum			Launching of Virtual Forum				Webinar	Webinar			
				Info exchange (on-going)							
				Social media (on-going)							

**Annex 1 – Options for the organisation of the in-person meeting of the Forum of the Standing Committee**

	Option 1	Option 2
Type	Forum held in conjunction with other climate finance event.	Stand-alone forum.
Duration	1 day.	2-3 days.
Date	Scheduled to occur in conjunction with other climate finance event.	Scheduled to occur at a time of the year as decided by the SC. May occur in conjunction with a meeting of the SC.
Location	To be determined.	Bonn.
Number per year	One.	One.
Number of themes covered in Forum	One.	Multiple.
Format	Focused on one theme, the forum shall consist of a key presentation, plenary discussion, and conclusions.	This forum will cover multiple themes and shall consist of a combination of different sessions including: presentations, plenary discussion and break-out smaller working groups.
Advantages	Forum held back-to-back with other climate finance event, and of shorter duration, will have smaller cost implications.	Longer time duration allows for an effective and more fruitful exchange of information between all stakeholders.
	Possibility of synergy and collaboration with organisations participating in other climate event.	More flexibility to enter into potential sponsorship agreements and arrangements with interested organisations to help cover the costs.
	Participants will find it easier to attend a short one-day event. (Less difficult to fit into a busy calendar).	Targeted area of speciality of stakeholders may be more varied, as event is stand-alone.
Disadvantages	Areas of specialty of stakeholders may be constrained and determined by the theme of the other climate finance event.	Many participants may find it hard to attend a longer event. (Long duration is a constraint on participation).
	Short duration signifies a reduced amount of time for an effective exchange of information.	Forum held as stand-alone event and of longer duration will have larger cost implications.

Note: Alternatively, the SC may consider an option for the forum which combines elements of both of the above options.