



Background paper on options for the organisation of the forum in 2014

I. Background

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), at its 17th session, agreed on the functions and activities of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), 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. Parties, at COP 18, looking forward to the creation of the climate finance forum which will enable all Parties and stakeholders to, inter alia, exchange ideas on scaling up climate finance, welcomed the work on the forum of the SCF and encouraged the SCF to facilitate the participation of the private sector, financial institutions and academia in the forum. COP 18 also requested the SCF to report on the forum in its annual reports to the COP.
3. The first in-person forum of the SCF took place in Barcelona on 28 May 2013 in conjunction with the Carbon Expo and in collaboration with the World Bank Institute (WBI).
4. At its fourth meeting in Bonn in June the SCF agreed that Mr. Syed Mujtaba Hussein, with the help of the working group and assistance by the secretariat, coordinates the preparation of a background document reflecting on the lessons learnt from the first forum of the SCF, potential options on scope, format, timing, venue, topics and other modalities for the next version of the forum. Section II of this document contains a possible outline for the organisation of the next version of the forum of the SCF in 2014.
5. Annex to this document contains a letter from the WBI referring to its reflections in collaborating for the organisation of the first forum in conjunction with the Carbon Expo in May this year.

II. Options for the organisation of the forum of the Standing Committee on Finance in 2014

A. Lessons learnt from the first forum of the SCF

6. As indicated above, the first in-person forum of the SCF took place in Barcelona on 28 May 2013 in conjunction with the Carbon Expo and in collaboration with the World Bank Institute. The meeting was a one-day event and its programme encompassed finance issues related to both, mitigation and adaptation, with an additional break-out group on tracking climate finance.
7. Facilitators, panellists and resource persons included experts from governments, private sector, investors and industry actors, multilateral and regional development banks, international financial institutions, national development banks, think-tanks, international organisations and others. Participants and attendees came from similar sectors and provided for diverse representation.
8. The format consisted of an introductory round table discussion for each slot in the programme, followed by questions and answers and an open discussion with the plenary audience.
9. While the feedback received by the secretariat from various participants was positive in general, the SCF may wish to take note of the following comments:

Venue, location and logistics:

10. The venue was considered appropriate and catered for the needs of the intended activity. It was particularly helpful to partner and collaborate with an institution that is fully familiar with the service providers and the local suppliers.



11. Regarding the location, visa issues seem to have been a difficulty for some participants in developing countries due to time constraints. Additionally, in light of the COP decision recommending the organization of meetings of the constituted bodies in Bonn, a sound justification was needed by the co-chairs to justify a meeting venue outside of Germany.

Timing

12. As the organization of the forum entails extensive administrative and logistical work, a timely decision by the SCF on the venue and date of the next in person forum would facilitate not only the administrative efforts by the secretariat, but also the securing of attendance of adequate resource persons and participants.

Duration:

13. Many participants coincided in suggesting a longer event. It seemed that one day did not allow participants to interact more with the discussion panel, and also discussions could not go into the appropriate depth and detail on some specific issues.

Participation:

14. Participants acknowledged the wide range of sectors that were represented at the forum. However, many also indicated that key actors in developing countries, especially within the private sector, local governments, academia and also at the community level, need to be engaged in future versions of the forum.

15. A more substantive participation from the private sector was recommended by some participants, especially from private sector actors from developing countries. In this regard, two sets of representatives were identified, those with a local presence in developing countries, and those with global reach, mainly in developed countries.

16. Virtual participation tools should also be made use of in the future more extensively in order to allow also for participation of interested stakeholders not physically present. This would make meetings of the forum more transparent, as well as inclusive.

Contents:

17. While the programme and its contents were considered appropriate and timely, some comments referred to the need to look more into local case studies in developing countries. Also, some participants referred to the need to consider special national and regional circumstances when discussing investment and financial needs, priorities and opportunities.

Collaboration and partnerships:

18. Collaboration with WBI proved to be very useful and helpful, particularly with regards to logistical and administrative support, as explained above, and more importantly, in engaging and reaching out to the intended audiences. On the other hand, consideration and clarification on how to balance the ownership of the future forum between the SCF and the potential partner organization, in particular on substantive arrangements and possible invitees, might be needed prior to the forum in 2014.

19. During the forum, some financial institutions including the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) expressed their interest in collaborating at the regional level.

B. Options for 2014

20. Building on the lessons learnt described above, and also taking advantage of the expressions of interest to conform strategic partnerships in the implementation of future versions of the forum, the SCF may wish to consider whether it is appropriate to continue with the same approach and format of the forum in 2013 and organize a single event in 2014.



21. If this is the case, the SCF may wish to consider expanding the number of days of the event in order to allow for in-depth discussions on all relevant topics, ensuring proper participation of stakeholders from a variety of organizations and from various regions.

22. The SCF may also wish to consider the possibility of establishing key partnerships for the implementation of the forum in 2014. Such partnerships may not need to be limited to one organisation only and can include a number of relevant institutions such as the WBI and the Climate Investment Funds (CIF), that can help engage targeted audiences. At the third meeting of SCF, representative of the secretariat of CIF indicated that they are interested in offering to co-host the SCF Forum in conjunction with their partnership forum during the first half of 2014.

23. Furthermore, the SCF may also wish to appoint a working group among its members to work intersessionally in order to facilitate the interaction with partner organisations and to define the final agenda for the event.

24. Virtual tools offered by the SCF online platform could be made use of in a very extensive form in order to increase the outreach capacities of the SCF forum, as well as to use it in a highly efficient way to receive relevant information from external actors, which could facilitate the work of the SCF with regards to its mandates. This could include: a) call for submissions; b) webinars; c) an e-forum; d) social media tools such as: Facebook, which could be used as a means to build a climate finance network among interested stakeholders, thereby facilitating the development of a landscape of climate finance actors; or Twitter, which could be used for Q&A sessions, raising awareness of call for submissions, new information received, etc. The SCF may wish to give the secretariat the mandate to include in its budget for 2014 sufficient resources in order to further develop such online tools.

25. In addition to an international in-person meeting of the forum, the SCF could also consider potentially the organization of forum related to regional activities in collaboration with regional institutions already engaged in supporting or organizing climate finance related events in different regions. In this context, the SCF may wish to consider which options can best meet the objectives of the forum as well as the expectations of stakeholders, taking into consideration potential cost, resource, ownership and timing implications of the different modalities.

Possible topics:

26. In order to facilitate the preparatory work, the SCF may wish to engage in substantive discussions on potential topics and themes for the 2014 forum, and come to an agreement on the overall direction for next year.

27. In light of the mandates given to the SCF and the expected deliverables for COP 20, two potential topics seem to be appropriate in this regard: a) measurement, reporting and verification as well as the biennial assessment an overview of climate finance flows; and b) mobilization/scaling up of climate finance.

28. Should the SCF decide in favour of option a), the work undertaken within the context of the forum, under special consideration of various outreach activities and information received from outside actors in this regard, could facilitate the conduct of the first biennial assessment of the SCF.

29. The SCF may wish to decide, which approach seems suitable, and, in turn, whether or not to take up one or both issues in the framework of the 2014 forum, bearing in mind potential time financial resource implication in addressing both topics in 2014.



Annex – Letter from the World Bank Institute (WBI) on its reflections on the first forum of the Standing Committee on Finance

The World Bank

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Washington, D.C., August 14, 2013

Mrs. Diann Black-Layne and Mr. Stefan Schwager
Co-Chairs
UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance
P.O. Box 260 124
D-53153 Bonn, Germany

Subject: Sharing Feedback Received on the First Forum of the Standing Committee on Finance

Dear Ms. Black-Layne and Mr. Schwager,

We were delighted to support the delivery of the First Forum of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF Forum) which took place in Barcelona, Spain on May 28, 2013, in collaboration with the UNFCCC Secretariat. The event was extremely well received as it provided an interactive platform for participants to engage in dynamic discussions about the future of climate and carbon finance. We were also delighted to receive a letter of appreciation from the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, Christiana Figueres and we appreciate the opportunity to have worked together on this very important event.

Looking ahead, based on feedback received from sponsored participants, the World Bank Institute would like to offer some suggestions on the lessons learned from the delivery of the SCF Forum. In addition to positive impressions, we also received feedback on ways in which the Forum could be scaled up to achieve an even broader outreach. To that end, we are happy to share these suggestions with the Secretariat:

- Additional time and space would allow participants the opportunity to exchange experiences;
- Explore the possibility of transforming the Forum into a process rather than a standalone event;
- Provide clarity on ways in which the input received from participants could be translated into policy;
- Develop an ongoing collaboration among the Secretariat, the World Bank and organizations such as IETA by way of:
 - a. sharing calendars and ideas over the course of the year, which will offer additional opportunities for the Standing Committee to participate and engage with public and private sector stakeholders;
 - b. where appropriate, integrate outcomes or case studies from the Forum into WBI learning materials for policy-makers and other development practitioners;
- Incorporate a regional approach which would allow participants to discuss regional issues separately; and
- In light of ongoing opportunities in and growing demand for climate finance, consider greater private sector presence at these forums.

We hope that these recommendations will contribute to building a stronger Forum. Please let us know if we can provide any clarifications.



Yours sincerely,

Neeraj Prasad
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Climate Change Practice
World Bank Institute
