

Eighth meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance Bonn, Germany, 1–3 October 2014

Background paper on the outcomes of the first Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows

I. Background

1. One of the functions of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) is to assist the the Conference of the Parties (COP) with respect to measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of the support provided to developing country Parties through activities such as the preparation of the Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows (BA).
2. COP, by decision 2/CP.17 paragraph 121(f), requested SCF to include information on the geographic and thematic balance of such flows.
3. In subsequent decisions, the COP requested the SCF, in preparing the first BA, to also consider the following elements: relevant work by other bodies and entities on the MRV of support and the tracking of climate finance¹; ways of strengthening methodologies for reporting climate finance²; and ongoing technical work on operational definitions of climate finance, including private finance mobilized by public interventions, to assess how adaptation and mitigation needs can most effectively be met by climate finance³.
4. Following a proposed draft outline⁴, SCF, at its 6th meeting, discussed the approach to organizing and implement the work for the preparation of the first BA, and subsequently agreed to a draft work plan.⁵
5. SCF, at its 7th meeting, assessed the progress made in the preparation of the BA on the basis of a working draft and deliberated on preliminary results of the work based on a paper by the co-facilitators of the BA.⁶ SCF has also worked intersessionally on this matter and has involved external expertise and collaborated with external contributors throughout the preparation of the draft BA. More information is available on the dedicated page of the the SCF website⁷.
6. In fulfilling its mandate, the SCF is expected to deliberate on the outputs and include information in the annual report to the COP, as deemed necessary.⁸

II. Proposed action by the Standing Committee

7. At this meeting, the SCF may wish to agree on the content and the form of the outputs to the COP. In this regard, in addition to the third version of the draft technical report of the BA, the SCF may wish to consider the content of a draft executive summary of the BA, and conclusions and ways forward and possible recommendations accompanying this background note.
8. Furthermore, SCF may also wish to consider the following:
 - a) The procedure to finalize the technical report of first BA by the end of October, and agree on a date for publication on the website; the proposed options include: Option 1: To continue inter-sessional work based on the feedback received from members; and Option 2: To approve the full report on a non-objection basis;

¹ Decision 1/CP.18 paragraph 71.

² Decision 5/CP.18 paragraph 11.

³ Decision 3/CP, paragraph 11.

⁴ FCCC/CP/2013/8, Annex VII.

⁵ SCF/2014/6/11, Annex I.

⁶ SCF/2014/7/3.

⁷ <http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/financial_mechanism/standing_committee/items/8034.php>

⁸ Annexed to decision 8/CP.19.



- b) Decide whether to provide a clear mandate to the secretariat to conduct outreach activities to promote the BA outputs, under the guidance of the co-facilitators of the BA;
- c) Decide whether it will share the BA with the thematic bodies, and, if so it needs to: Option 1: Agree on the nature of inputs it seeks from the thematic bodies, including timelines for such feedback; and Option 2: Agree on how to handle such potential inputs received by the thematic bodies, based also on the nature of feedback it may potentially seek from the bodies.
-