



Draft communication strategy of the Standing Committee on Finance

I. 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 outreach activities in 2014 after considering the information contained in this document.
2. Section II of this 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.
3. Section III of this document contains the following elements of the communication strategy for each activity the SCF in 2014:
 - (a) Areas of possible synergies with stakeholders/thematic bodies;
 - (b) Possible SCF partners to be actively engaged;
 - (c) Target audience for information sharing activities;
 - (d) Responsibilities and tasks of SCF and its working group responsible and/or the secretariat.
4. 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 the best use of the information received from other stakeholders.

II. Overall outreach activities of the Standing Committee on Finance

5. COP19 acknowledged the efforts of the SCF work to achieve transparency and openness in the conduct of its work which it may wish to pursue. In this context, the SCF can build on existing efforts such as webcasting of its meeting, posting SCF documents and submissions to the SCF website, and inviting to its meetings which are also extended to chairs of other bodies, etc.
6. In addition to the above-mentioned initiatives, the SCF may also: a) share the reports of its meeting with the chairs of other relevant bodies under the Convention, invite comments/inputs from those bodies on the SCF reports; b) organize regular information updates during the sessions of the SB/ADP/COP; c) regular information exchange among co-chairs, for example, through a conference call twice per year with all interested chairs of other bodies; d) further enhance 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; and e) active involvement by SCF members in the work of other bodies and by serving as communication link.

III. Activities of the Standing Committee on Finance

1. Biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows

a) Areas of synergies with other stakeholders/thematic bodies

7. The work of the SCF for the biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows (BA) may benefit from synergies 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.



8. Specifically, 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. Synergies can be fostered with stakeholders that have undertaken technical work on climate finance definition, including apaches to measure and report private finance mobilized by public interventions; Further, 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 4/CP.19, paragraph 11. Sub-section (b) outlines proposed outreach activities.

9. 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 BA.

b) Partners – active engagement

10. In addition to thematic bodies and expert groups under the Convention and OEs, SCF may also wish to specifically target institutions that generate data and information relevant to the BA, 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 may benefit the preparation of the first and subsequent BAs.

Proposed engagement approach, including timeline of activities

11. Outreach with partners for the BA may involve outward and/or inward communication flows such as: calls for inputs, interaction between the working group and climate finance stakeholders, information updates on progress made in the preparation of the BA, sharing the results of the BA and recommendations for further distribution among peers, managing inflow of inputs and process related queries, etc. SCF may wish to consider the following outreach activities:

(a) Organise an information update in the side lines of the SB session in June and during the additional session of ADP in October. The event will be open to all Parties, observers and other stakeholders.

(b) Invite thematic bodies to provide inputs to the preparation of the BA. SCF may wish to consider sending out a targeted communication note to thematic bodies and experts groups after the 6th meeting.

(c) Publish the BA and consider issuing press release to be prepared by the secretariat. The SCF may wish to consider organising 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.

Internal and external knowledge management of information received from partners

12. The preparation of the first 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 following 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.¹ 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 portal² will, in the process of an overall restructuring in 2014, also contain a section for the BA, 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, of National Communications and Biennial Reports, etc.

c) Target audience – information sharing

(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;

¹ http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/financial_mechanism/standing_committee/items/8034.php

² www.unfccc.int/financeportal.



- (b) *Secondary audience*: think-tanks and research institutions, international organisations, academia, and civil society;
- (c) *Tertiary audience*: broader public.

d) Responsibilities

13. The SCF working group on the BA will, with support of the secretariat, lead the implementation of the above mentioned activities.

2. Fifth review of the financial mechanism

a) Areas of synergies with other stakeholders

14. Synergies exist with the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) on the work of the SCF relating to the fifth review of the financial mechanism (FM) in light of its mandate to ensure an inclusive and transparent process. As well, the SCF may also wish to interact with the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) when assessing the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in providing financial resources for the transfer of technology. 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 for inputs to the 5th review of FM.

15. The aim of this communication strategy is to ensure transparency and inclusiveness in the work of the SCF relating to the review of the financial mechanism.

b) Partners – active engagement

16. The SCF will provide an update of its work on the review of the 5th review of the FM at SBI 40 and may wish to consider organizing a side event during SBI 40 to continue to exchange information with Parties and other interested stakeholders on the fifth review.

17. The SCF may wish to consult with the TEC when drafting conclusions and recommendations with regards to the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in providing financial resources for technology transfer. Such involvement would enable the SCF to provide streamlined and practical inputs for consideration by Parties in finalizing the review at COP 20.

18. As for the MDBs and DFIs, inputs from these organizations may include 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 questionnaire to these institutions to gather inputs on specific issues relevant to the fifth review.

c) Responsibilities

19. The facilitator of the SCF working group on the fifth review will liaise with representatives of the TEC and other relevant stakeholders, should the need arise.

3. Second forum of the Standing Committee on Finance

a) Areas of synergies with other stakeholders

20. In accordance with decision at COP 19, the second forum in 2014 will focus on mobilizing finance for adaptation from both public and private sectors. In this regard, it is expected that the following activities may be pursued with other stakeholders:

- (a) Identify potential area of collaboration with relevant bodies such as the Adaptation Committee (AC) and the Technology Executive Committee in mobilizing adaptation finance;
- (b) Exchange information among stakeholders such as national government and private sector on possible approaches to scale up private investments;
- (c) Disseminate good practices on the effective approach to deploy and deliver adaptation finance.

b) Partners – active engagement

21. 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 and various areas of practitioners engaged in finance for adaptation as resource persons to the second forum.

c) Target audience – information sharing

- UNFCCC Parties and their local government and national implementing entities;
- Operating entities of the financial mechanism under the Convention;
- International financial institutions relevant to the theme of the second forum 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.

Potential tools for virtual engagement

22. 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 live webcast may be accessed. Relevant documents will be made available on the website of the SCF.

d) Responsibilities

23. The SCF and its working group, supported by the secretariat, may wish to enhance the communication flows among different organizations including private sector relating to financing for adaptation.

4. Draft guidance to the operating entities of the financial mechanisma) Areas of synergies with other stakeholders

24. The SCF is collaborating with thematic bodies and operating entities with regards to the preparation of draft guidance to the operating entities.

25. The aim of this communication strategy is to improve the consistency and practicality of preparing draft guidance to the OEs of the FM and to facilitate the overall discussions during the COP on OE-related matters.

b) Partners – active engagement

26. The operating entities and relevant thematic bodies of the Convention such as the Adaptation Committee (AC), the TEC, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (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 may be invited to provide inputs when preparing the draft guidance to improve the consistency and practicality of all guidance provided to the OEs.

27. In addition, the SCF could invite the thematic bodies to submit relevant information, and/or elements for draft guidance to the OEs, based on the annual reports of the OEs.

Proposed engagement approach, including timeline of activities

28. With regards to the thematic bodies of the Convention, an official communication may be sent out after the 6th meeting, encouraging said bodies 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 in advance of its last meeting in 2014. The facilitator of the working group of the SCF on the



draft guidance to the OE may liaise with a dedicated representative of the respective body throughout the year in order to address questions and/or concerns by the respective body on the draft guidance.

Internal and external knowledge management of information received from partners

29. Meeting reports of the SCF may be shared with the thematic bodies and the OEs to increase the overall transparency of the work of the SCF.

30. Inputs received from the thematic bodies may be incorporated into the template for the draft guidance to the OEs, 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.

31. Feedback received on the SCF discussions subsequent to the meetings may be made available on the SCF website in addition to being shared with SCF members.

5. MRV of support beyond the biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows

a) Areas of synergies with other stakeholders

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 synergies with the consideration of the SCF on matters regarding 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.

b) Partners – active engagement

34. Technical MRV related work is mainly being undertaken by the SBI and SBSTA. Therefore, the SCF may wish to closely follow the work of those bodies and seek collaboration with those two bodies on the matter of MRV of support beyond the BA. In addition, for example the AC is conducting work on monitoring and evaluation of adaptation, which may also be of interest to the SCF's consideration on this matter. Furthermore, external stakeholders are heavily engaged in various MRV related areas of work, which the SCF may wish to both, build on, as well as to take into consideration in its deliberations on this subject matter.

Proposed engagement approach, including timeline of activities

35. The SCF may wish to mandate its co-chairs to engage with the chairs of the subsidiary bodies in order to exchange information on the on-going work in those bodies. In addition, the SCF may wish to reach 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. With regards to external stakeholders, the SCF may wish to continue to reach out by calling for inputs on specific issues, as well as through its Forum.

c) Responsibilities

36. SCF co-chairs would be responsible to engage with the chairs of the subsidiary bodies, the SCF working group, with the support of the secretariat, would be responsible for the outreach with regards to the thematic bodies of the Convention and external stakeholders.



6. Coherence and coordination

(a) Financing for forests

a) Areas of synergies with other stakeholders

37. The objective of this communication strategy is to identify concrete ways to communicate with different bodies and stakeholders in order to seek coherence and coordination on forestry finance. By regularly exchanging information and views on forestry finance among different bodies and stakeholders, the SCF may be able to play a pivotal role in aligning the issue and assisting the COP by providing more coherent and coordinated policy guidance on forestry finance, in light of the overall picture of climate finance. This role is particularly important because so far there is no incumbent body under the Convention taking such role, and it may also benefit various non-Party stakeholders with more coherent and coordinated policy guidance from the COP.

b) Possible SCF partners to be actively engaged

38. Subsidiary bodies: Subsidiary bodies can assist the SCF in establishing communication channels with Parties and experts on forest finance through its agenda items on forests and the annual meetings in conjunction with subsidiary bodies.

39. OEs of the FM: Communication with the OEs on information related to financing for forests may benefit the SCF when drafting guidance to the OEs on the subject matter.

40. Thematic bodies under the Convention: Since the issue of finance and forestry cuts across different themes, periodic exchange of views with other thematic bodies on this subject may further enhance coherence and coordination. For example, it may be useful to periodically communicate with AC and exchange views in light of funding for projects with adaptation and mitigation co-benefits.

c) Target audience – information sharing

- UNFCCC Parties, especially with those closely involved in activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70 (here onwards referred as REDD plus);
- Thematic bodies of the Convention;
- Operating entities of the financial mechanism;
- International financial institutions relevant to the financing for forests, including the multilateral/regional/bilateral development banks;
- Relevant UN agencies such as UN-REDD programme;

d) Responsibilities and tasks of SCF and its working group responsible and/or the secretariat

41. SCF chairs may wish to approach the chairs of subsidiary bodies during its fortieth session in June 2014, and seek their assistance in initially reaching out to Parties involved in the REDD plus agenda items.

42. Subsequently during the forty-first meeting of subsidiary bodies in December 2014, SCF may wish to continue engaging with the Parties through REDD plus agenda items to inform them on its recommendation to the COP regarding coherence and coordination on financing for forests, possible means of regular interactions after 2014 and tentative list of REDD plus experts to be invited to the forum on finance for forests.

43. As for the communication with OEs and other thematic bodies, depending on the necessity, the SCF may wish to request the secretariat to invite relevant experts in person or by videoconference during the SCF meetings. Additionally, the virtual forum of the SCF may also serve as an on-going platform of communication with a new section on forestry finance, so that non-Party stakeholders relevant to financing for forests can stay informed.

44. The SCF will be able to discuss during its meetings the outcomes of its communication with various stakeholders, and include its conclusions and recommendation in its annual report to the COP.
