



Background paper on the organization of the forum of the Standing Committee on Finance. Note by the secretariat.

I. Background

1. At the 17th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the COP 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.¹
2. The SCF discussed the preliminary elements of the forum of the SCF in the second SCF meeting held in October 2012 and decided that the chair and vice-chair would undertake intersessional work including on the preparation of the forum of the SCF. The outcome of the discussion on the forum was included in the report of the SCF to the COP 18.
3. At COP 18, Parties 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. The COP also requested the SCF to report on the forum in its report to the COP.²
4. Further, at its virtual meeting in January this year, the SCF agreed to conform an open ended working group of members, on a voluntary basis, to work on the details and implementation plan and to present a proposal to the SCF at its 3rd meeting in Bonn in March.
5. According to the expressions of interest received by the secretariat, the current list of members in the open-ended working group on the SCF forum includes: Dr. Oquist Kelley, Mr. Paul Bodnar, Mr. Mujtaba Hussain, Mr. Ulf Moslener, Mr. Stefan Agne, Mr. Soren Jakobsen and Mr. Raymond Landveld. The members are expected to discuss the organization and other objectives related to the Forum and this will be further discussed and agreed at the plenary of the Committee.
6. Some members of this working group suggested the possibility to explore opportunities for collaboration with the organisers of the Carbon Expo event in Barcelona, taking place from 29 to 31 May, 2013. Following this suggestion, the secretariat has conducted initial exploratory talks with relevant staff from the World Bank, a co-organiser, in order to identify the opportunities and challenges associated with this option. The conclusions are presented below.

II. Operational Plan for the forum in 2013

7. The secretariat presented a briefing note on the potential operational objectives and implementation elements for the forum in its 2013 version. The working group may wish to consider these elements when discussing the strategies and options for the forum.
8. *Objectives:* The overarching objective of the forum is to facilitate communication and continued exchange of information among bodies and entities dealing with climate finance, in order to promote linkages and coherence. The forum may also serve as a mechanism for the engagement of relevant stakeholders with regard to relevant inputs for discussions and the recommendation on the mandated functions of the SCF.
9. Building on this, the SCF may wish to consider the following operational goals for 2013:
 - (a) to launch and position the forum in the broader climate finance landscape as the most comprehensive, appropriate and prominent platform for exchange of information on climate finance;
 - (b) to establish an initial base and network of relevant stakeholders to be engaged on an on-going basis and in future sessions of the forum;
 - (c) to initiate discussions on issues that are relevant for the agenda and work plan of the SCF.

¹ Decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 121.

² FCCC/CP/2012/L.16.



10. *Themes and topics, potential outcomes, and potential target audiences:* Following on the objectives above, the SCF may wish to consider proposing the following themes and topics for discussion in the 2013 version of the forum, including the related target audiences, as shown in the following table:

Stream	Themes and Topics	Potential outcomes	Potential target audiences
Coherence and coordination in the delivery of climate change financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who is who/ who does what in climate finance? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of the landscape of climate finance institutions Overview of governance arrangements of the most relevant institutions providing climate finance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operating entities of the FM (GEF and GCF); Adaptation Fund Board; MDBs/NDBs/IFIs; Bilateral cooperation agencies; Think-tanks; Academia; NGOs.
Rationalization of the Financial Mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Views and experiences in the context of the financial mechanism of the Convention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical inputs that can inform the work of the SCF in developing additional guidance for the 5th Review of the FM, based on views, experiences and lessons learned to be shared by relevant stakeholders, including the OEs of the FM, their implementing agencies, climate change focal points and NGOs involved in the implementation of programmes and projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNFCCC Parties/governments/climate change focal points/national implementing entities; NGOs; Think-tanks; Academia; Operating entities of the FM and AFB Board and secretariat; Implementing entities/agencies/UN agencies
Mobilization of financial resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance for mitigation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon finance NAMA finance REDD+ finance Finance for adaptation Long Term Finance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of experiences and lessons learned in the provision of financial resources for mitigation and adaptation across all relevant stakeholders; Opportunity for establishing of linkages among interested stakeholders. Opportunity for discussing further inputs to the LTF work programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNFCCC Parties/governments; Operating entities of the FM; MDBs/NDBs/IFIs; Think-tanks; Private sector; Academia; NGOs.
Measurement, reporting and verification of support provided to developing country Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing and on-going experiences in tracking financial flows for climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping and overview of existing initiatives related to accounting for and tracking of financial flows directed to climate relevant activities, which 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MDBs; UNFCCC Parties/governments; Bilateral cooperation agencies;



		may inform the work of the SCF in preparing the first biennial assessment in 2014.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OECD; • Think-tanks; • Academia. • NGOs.
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11. Members of the working group may also wish to refer to the submission made by Mr. Paul Oquist, member of the SCF, via email on 14 October 2012. The proposal suggests that the main topic for the forum be “The Climate Finance Emergency”, with sub-themes such as “Sustainable Energy for All”, as well as other mitigation, adaptation and finance subjects.

12. *Delivery approach:* In view of the broad range of issues, and taking into account the time and logistical constraints, the working group may wish to consider a modular approach whereby the forum would be delivered in more than one focused and scaled-down events throughout the year 2013, most likely in two separate events. Such an approach may offer opportunities for more focused discussions and also a more in-depth engagement with relevant groups of stakeholders. In order to facilitate the logistical arrangements, the approach may also include the establishment of pilot partnerships for this year and for each specific event, with a view to taking advantage of logistical readiness and cost savings while gaining experience. At its last meeting of this year, the SCF may wish to reassess the continuation of such partnerships based on the outcomes and lessons learned.

13. *Format:* The delivery of the forum may make use of a range of different discussion formats, including roundtables, presentations, panel discussions, consultations, and others, which may run simultaneously as appropriate.

14. *Dates and timelines:* The report of the SCF to COP 18 stated that the in-person forum meetings may be held in conjunction with a meeting of the SCF, or alternatively back-to-back with a climate finance event that the SCF deems relevant to the work of the committee. Taking into account the time and logistical constraints, the SCF may wish to consider organising the forum in two separate events in 2013, the first one taking place sometime between April – May, the second potentially at the margins of the UNFCCC SB sessions in Bonn in June.

15. *Virtual forum:* The virtual forum will allow on-going interactions and continued exchanges of information to take place between all climate finance stakeholders. In order to make the virtual forum sufficiently effective, the working group may wish to consider recommending the SCF to request/mandate the secretariat to establish a prototype of the virtual forum for all climate finance stakeholder and members of the SCF to share relevant knowledge and information, including reports and technical analyses in respective thematic areas. The prototype should be made available to the SCF ideally before June 2013 and should include an initial set of basic functionalities to allow a reasonable prompt start of virtual exchange of information and promote linkages and coherence.

16. Based on the outcome of how effectively it works, the working group may wish to consider developing further arrangements for the virtual forum with support from the secretariat.

17. *Communication and media:* Communication and social media tools such as Twitter and Facebook are widely used in the UNFCCC sessions and meetings including LTF workshops in 2012. Taking it into consideration, the SCF may wish to consider making extensive use of Twitter, Facebook and, where appropriate, YouTube, as a basis for facilitating discussions among participants and other stakeholders unable to attend the in-person forum or to support the in-person events. The use of the web page and internet tools is also expected to be widely used in order to enhance the accessibility to the discussions, conclusions and material generated throughout.

18. *Expected participation in the in-person forum meeting:* While it is difficult to predict at this stage the actual amount of interested participants, the SCF may wish to consider attendance in the range of 100 participants. Participation through virtual means may significantly increase the number of stakeholders engaged in the process.

19. *Potential partnerships and hosting agreements:* The working group may also wish to consider the possibility of establishing partnerships and hosting agreements with relevant potential institutions or even Parties to the Convention. One example is the possibility suggested by some members related to opportunities for



collaboration with the Carbon Expo. Members of the group may also wish to suggest other options as alternatives or complement to this potential option. These partnerships may be agreed this year on an experimental basis and subject to assessment of the outcome by the SCF in its report on the forum in order to determine any continuation in the future.

20. *Key issues when considering collaboration with the Carbon Expo:* Following a suggestion by a member of the SCF, the secretariat contacted relevant staff from the World Bank in order to explore the opportunities and challenges for collaboration with the Carbon Expo in the organisation of the forum. The following are the key conclusions for consideration by the working group:

- (a) The World Bank has expressed a keen interest to collaborate with the SCF in the organisation of the forum back-to-back with the Carbon Expo, which is also shared by the other co-organisers;
 - (b) The event would take place before the Carbon Expo, and would not need be part of the Expo's agenda, although the co-organiser are currently considering broadening the scope of the expo to encompass a wider range of issues on climate finance;
 - (c) The World Bank expressed its willingness to support with all the logistical arrangements and also collaborate on the outreach and mobilisation of networks to promote wide participation, which would also result in significant cost savings in terms of the organisation of the event;
 - (d) Privileges and immunities for participating SCF members, resource persons and invitees engaged by the SCF/secretariat, as well as secretariat staff, remain an issue and would require a country agreement between the secretariat and the government of Spain.
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