

**Standing Committee on Finance**

07 October 2021

Twenty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance
12–14 October 2021

Background paper on the Fourth (2020) Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows*Expected actions by the Standing Committee on Finance*

The Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) will be invited to:

- a) Finalize the technical report of the Fourth (2020) Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows (Fourth BA); and
- b) Finalize the summary and recommendations by the SCF.

I. Possible actions for consideration by the Standing Committee on Finance

1. The SCF may wish to consider:
 - (a) The final draft of the technical report of the fourth BA; and
 - (b) The draft of the summary and recommendations by the SCF.
2. Additionally, the SCF may wish to consider the updated outreach plan contained in the annex to support the dissemination of the fourth BA key findings and recommendations.

II. Background

3. The Conference of the Parties (COP) at its seventeenth session decided that the SCF shall assist the COP in exercising its functions with respect to the Financial Mechanism of the Convention in terms of measurement, reporting and verification of support provided to developing countries, inter alia, through preparing biennial assessments (BAs). The BAs are to include information on the geographical and thematic balance of flows drawing from available sources of information, including, inter alia, from biennial reports and biennial update reports. Further guidance is contained in decisions 1/CP.18, paragraph 71, 5/CP.18, paragraph 11, 3/CP.19, paragraph 11, 9/CP.21, paragraph 13, paragraph 37(f) in the annex to decision 8/CP.22, decision 4/CP.24, paragraphs 4, 5 and 10.

4. COP 24 requested the SCF to map, every four years, as part of its biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows, the available information relevant to Article 2, paragraph 1(c), of the Paris Agreement, including its reference to Article 9 thereof.

5. COP 25 and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of Parties to the Paris Agreement at its second session (CMA 2) requested the SCF to consider Parties views on operational definitions of climate finance to enhance technical work in the context of preparing the fourth BA.

6. COP 25 and CMA 2 encouraged the SCF to present, to the extent possible, disaggregated information in relation to, inter alia, mapping data availability and gaps by sector, assessing climate finance flows and presenting information on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

7. At SCF 25, the Committee considered the fourth-order draft of the technical report of the fourth BA and possible elements for the summary and recommendations. The Committee suggested amendments to improve the final draft of the technical report and requested the co-facilitators to prepare the final graphics, layout and editing of the technical report. At SCF 25, the Committee also considered inputs for the draft summary and recommendations and requested the co-facilitators to prepare a draft of the summary and recommendations ahead of SCF 26, and invited SCF members to submit writing inputs in this regard by 17 September 2021. The SCF further requested co-facilitators to prepare an updated outreach plan to support the dissemination of the key findings and recommendations of the fourth BA.

III. Progress on the Fourth (2020) Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows

8. The technical team, under the guidance of the co-facilitators, have implemented the amendments suggested at the technical stakeholders' dialogue and SCF 25, and prepared the editing, layout and graphics for the final draft of the technical report. The co-facilitators have also integrated written comments received by 17 September 2021, in the preparation of the draft summary and recommendations.

9. In presenting the draft, the co-facilitators acknowledge the work of the technical team has undertaken to complete the final draft including in identifying key messages and findings from each chapter and the development of the graphics for the summary and recommendations.

10. The secretariat and the technical team, under the guidance of the co-facilitators, are planning outreach and dissemination activities for the report in line with the updated outreach plan as contained in the annex to this background note.

Annex

Updated outreach plan for the Fourth Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows

1. Outreach is an important component of the preparation and development of the BA as well as the dissemination of its findings and recommendations. At SCF 22, a revised outreach plan was circulated to SCF members for their consideration in light of the revised timelines and milestones in the development of the fourth (2020) BA.¹
2. The revised outreach plan included two phases designed to engage stakeholders during the report development in phase one, and to support outreach for the report launch and dissemination in phase two. Below is the updated outreach plan for phase two.

A. Outreach components

3. The outreach will focus on launching the report and dissemination of key findings and recommendations among a broad group of stakeholders through speaking opportunities at events and virtual events as well as on social media and through the UNFCCC website. The plan is developed in coordination with the UNFCCC communications team. The components of the outreach plan during the launch phase include:

(a) **Events** for speaking opportunities and report launch. In addition to UNFCCC relevant events during COP 26, the Secretariat will advise for potential events and speaking opportunities in late 2021 and 2022 as they arise.

(b) **Dissemination packs** for SCF members. With the finalisation of the technical report and summary and recommendations, the team will prepare a presentation slide deck on the content of the BA, talking points notes and social media quotes, including infographics, for SCF members for their potential use in their capacity as members of the committee and participation in various events.

(c) **Website.** The BA webpage on unfccc.int will include interactive graphics and key messages of the report, as well as a press release.

(d) **Social media.** The UNFCCC social media channels will be used, in coordination with the Communications division, to disseminate the report findings and recommendations. SCF members will be encouraged to do similar.

B. Launch activities

4. Upon finalisation of the report, the outreach activities will include the following:

(a) **Website article:** During the week of 18th October, a website article to note the outcomes of the SCF 26 meeting will be posted on the UNFCCC website which will include information on finalisation of the BA, quotes from co-facilitators, SCF Chairs and the Executive Secretary as well as a link to the report. Links to the Summary and Recommendations and report infographics will be circulated via social media channels on UNFCCC accounts.

(b) **SCF COP 26 side event:** During the Finance Day on Wednesday 3 November 2021, the SCF side event will support the official launch of the BA report with presentations, photos and media interviews provided by co-facilitators and SCF members. The launch event will be followed by a press release and website article noting the in-person launch of the report and follow up with further links through social media channels to the key findings and recommendations of the report.

¹ Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/BN5_2020_BA_200910_Formatted.pdf.

C. Post-launch outreach

5. Post COP 26, outreach will continue to disseminate the key findings and recommendations through:

(a) Outreach webinars held on specific topics and/or on a regional basis based on expressions of interest to the co-facilitators and/or the Secretariat

(b) Participation in regional climate weeks including related discussions on climate finance, where resources are available.

(c) Speaking opportunities and panel invitations for conferences and events related to climate finance and targeting specific public, private and civil society stakeholders, including the in-person SCF forum and other events.
