



Standing Committee on Finance

11 March 2019

**Twentieth meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance
Bonn, Germany, 21–22 March 2019**

**Background paper on the 2019 Forum of the Standing Committee
on Finance**

Expected actions by the Standing Committee on Finance

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

- (a) The programme of the 2019 Forum on the topic of Climate Finance and Sustainable Cities;
- (b) The dates and venue of the 2019 Forum;
- (c) The inter-sessional work to be undertaken by the co-facilitators for the organization of the Forum.

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

1. The SCF may wish to agree on the programme of the 2019 Forum, based on the draft programme prepared by the co-facilitators, as contained in annex I.
2. The SCF may wish to agree on the dates and venue of the 2019 SCF Forum, based on the list of options and potential partner organizations, as contained in annex II. The SCF may also wish to take note the budgetary implication of each option.
3. The SCF may wish to request the co-facilitators to undertake inter-sessional preparations for the Forum, including identification of potential resource persons and invitees, and engagement in outreach activities to enhance the linkage of the Forum and broaden the participation of relevant city actors.

Background

4. The COP mandated the SCF to organize a forum for the communication and continued exchange of information among bodies and entities dealing with climate finance to promote linkages and coherence.¹ Furthermore, the COP requested the SCF to facilitate participation of the private sector, financial institutions and academia in the Forum,² as well as to further strengthen its stakeholder engagement.³

5. At its 19th meeting, the SCF agreed that the theme of the 2019 Forum will be “Climate Finance and Sustainable Cities”⁴ and that its sub-themes will include:

- (a) Financing cities’ low emission development;
- (b) Financing climate-resilient cities;

¹ Decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 121(a).

² Decision 5/CP.18, paragraph 4.

³ Decision 8/CP.23, paragraph 14.

⁴ SCF/2018/19/9, paragraph 17.

(c) Capacity-building of local authorities to finance sustainable cities;

(d) The role of climate finance in facilitating a transition towards inclusive, participatory, gender-responsive and youth-oriented cities.

6. During the inter-sessional period, the co-facilitators developed the draft programme of the 2019 Forum, as contained in annex I, based on the co-facilitators' proposal on the theme of the 2019 Forum⁵ and taking into account the submissions and information received from city networks and other organizations in 2018.⁶

7. On the possible dates and the venue of the Forum, the SCF at its 19th meeting identified few potential events and host organizations that could be considered as potential partners. During the inter-sessional period, the co-facilitators, with the support of the secretariat, identified additional options that could be considered by the SCF, as contained in annex II.

⁵ SCF/2018/19/9, annex III, appendix.

⁶ The SCF had called for inputs from Parties and observer organizations on, inter alia, relevant information and case studies on the Forum:
<<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Call%20for%20inputs%20on%20the%20SCF%20Forum.pdf>>.

Annex I

Draft programme of the 2019 SCF Forum

Objective of the Forum

To enhance the understanding on how to accelerate the mobilization and delivery of climate finance for sustainable cities by:

- (1) Bringing together key stakeholders and sharing good practices and lessons learned in financing sustainable cities;
- (2) Identifying challenges faced by actors at the city level to access climate finance and sharing information on available support and;
- (3) Exploring the role of climate finance to facilitate inclusive, participatory, gender-responsive and youth-oriented cities.

Expected outcomes

At the end of the Forum, participants would have a better understanding of:

- (1) The potential of cities in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, the SDGs and other UN targets and commitments related to sustainable cities⁷;
- (2) The complementarity between climate-related actions and achieving the SDGs;
- (3) Relevant actors involved in financing sustainable cities at various stages, ranging from development of strategies and plans, early-phase project preparation to project implementation;
- (4) Current trends of climate finance flows for climate-resilient and low emission cities;
- (5) Complementarity of climate finance between municipal, national and international levels;
- (6) Models of financing urban climate change projects;
- (7) The enabling environments needed to scale-up and unlock climate finance for cities and accelerate its flows;
- (8) The capacity-building needs of local actors to access climate finance and available support to meet the needs;
- (9) Policies and measures that will help city authorities to integrate the consideration of youth, gender, as well as socially vulnerable groups in designing and financing urban climate projects.

⁷ Including New Urban Agenda from the UN Habitat III, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, etc.

Day 1

Time	Description	Speakers and moderators
08:00–09:00	Registration	
09:00–09:30	Opening session Opening remarks, welcoming the participants and introduction of the Forum Overview of the 2-day Forum and messages to the participants on what this Forum should deliver	SCF Co-chairs Official of the host city / partner organization Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC Key speaker on the issue
09:30–10:00	<i>Session 1: Scene-setting on climate finance and sustainable cities</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues that cities are facing today, the interlinkages between the issues and how climate change exacerbates them • Goals and targets, including the Paris Agreement goals, the SDGs, that guide the development of sustainable cities • Complementarity between climate actions, SDGs, New Urban Agenda and Sendai Framework; • Finance gap that needs to be closed for cities' sustainable development and opportunities that can be harnessed through climate finance 	Keynote presentation Plenary discussion
10:00–10:20	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10:20–11:30	<i>Session 2: Brainstorming session on sustainable cities and climate finance</i>	
	Participants will be invited to have a brainstorming session around the issues cities are facing today, how the issues are the linked to achieving the Paris Agreement goals, the SDGs and other UN targets relevant to cities, and the role climate finance can play to resolve the issues. Participants will be advised to examine the issues from the perspectives of cities with different geographical / economic / demographic circumstances.	
	Brainstorming group focusing on social development issues Examples of issues: - Housing, infrastructure and settlements - Health and hygiene - Food and nutrition - Water and sanitation - Mobility and public transit - Equitable energy access - Stakeholders participation, in particular women, in line with gender sensitive approach	Brainstorming group focusing on economic development issues Examples of issues: - Green and equitable growth - Attracting investments and nurturing local businesses - Education and jobs - Production and distribution of renewable energy - Technology, innovation and entrepreneurship - Production and consumption of goods
		Brainstorming group focusing on environmental management issues Examples of issues: - Waste and recycling management - Forest and soil management - Energy efficiency - Water management - Air quality control and - Disaster management and resilience-building - Public spaces and green areas
11:30–12:30	Report-back of the discussion leaders from the breakout groups followed by a moderated discussion	
12:30–14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	

14:00–15:00	Session 3: Financing climate change actions for sustainable cities		
	This session will explore ways to mainstream climate change into urban planning and projects, and available options for supporting them through climate finance, including through readiness programs. The session will also examine the enablers required for cities to mobilize climate finance and harness its full potential, and available international support opportunities cities can avail of.	Presentations Panel discussion Plenary discussion	
15:00–16:30	Session 4: Breakout session on financing urban climate projects		
	Breakout group on sources of climate finance for cities The group will discuss the ways to identify the right source of climate finance for low emission and climate resilient urban projects, from public and private sources, at the national and international levels.	Breakout group on innovative financing mechanism and instruments The group will discuss financing mechanism and instruments that cities can utilize to mobilize the funding needed for their urban projects, and the technical support needed.	Breakout group on the financial needs and investment priorities for cities The group will share experiences on how cities assessed their financial needs and investment priorities in different sectors. It will also discuss the role of financing institutions to respond to the needs identified.
16:30–16:45	Coffee break		
16:45–17:45	Report-back of the discussion leaders from the breakout groups followed by a moderated discussion		
17:45–18:00	Wrap-up of day 1		

Day 2

Time	Description	Speakers and moderators	
09:00–09:15	Recap of day 1 and setting the stage for day 2		
09:10–10:15	Session 5: Accelerating the delivery of climate finance for cities		
	This session will focus on how cities can access climate finance for their urban projects and opportunities to address the capacity constraints that city actors are facing. It will also explore ways to create the enabling environments and regulatory frameworks to unlock urban climate actions by local private sector.	Presentations Panel discussion Plenary discussion	
10:15–10:30	Coffee break		
10:30–11:40	Session 6: Breakout session on capacity-building and readiness support		
	Breakout group on direct access and accreditation The group will discuss opportunities and challenges of cities in gaining direct access to international climate funds. It will also focus on ways to access readiness support for the institutions seeking accreditation to the funds.	Breakout group on project preparation The group will discuss the challenges that city actors face during the preparation phase of climate project and identify available technical and capacity-building support. It will also share information on available tools that can help the city actors prepare better project proposals by strengthening the climate rationale.	Breakout group on incentivizing private sector engagement This group will discuss ways to reduce the capital costs and financial risks for local businesses and start-ups to help mobilize private sector investments at the city level. It will also focus on the measures that city authorities can take to raise the awareness of private sector investment opportunities and ratchet up the capacity of local financial institutions.

Time	Description	Speakers and moderators	
11:40–12:40	Report-back of the discussion leaders from the breakout groups followed by a moderated discussion		
12:40–14:00	Lunch		
14:00–15:00	Session 7: Role of climate finance in building a more inclusive sustainable city		
	This session will highlight the how climate finance can facilitate in building a sustainable city that is more inclusive, participatory, gender-responsive and youth-oriented. It will also focus on how climate investments can contribute to alleviating poverty of the marginalized groups and help meet other SDGs.	Presentation	Panel discussion Plenary discussion
15:00–15:15	Coffee break		
15:15–16:30	Session 8: Breakout session on climate finance and inclusive and participatory cities		
	Breakout group on the role of climate finance in empowering the marginalized groups This group will discuss ways of integrating the consideration of groups in vulnerable situations in developing urban climate finance plans and implementing projects. It will also discuss participatory approaches in assessing climate financing needs of cities.	Breakout group on enabling environments for inclusive growth This group will discuss policies and regulations that can drive national and international climate finance towards fostering a more inclusive society and economic growth. It will also focus on how the policies and programming of the MDBs and international climate funds can contribute to such inclusive growth.	Breakout group on micro-businesses The group will discuss the potential of micro-business and microfinance schemes in funding climate actions that can benefit socially marginalized groups in cities. It will also discuss available national and international support for such business models.
16:30–17:30	Report-back of the discussion leaders from the breakout groups followed by a moderated discussion		
17:30–18:00	Wrap-up of the Forum	SCF Co-chairs Host city / organization representative	

Annex II

Potential partner events for the 2019 SCF Forum

The events are listed in chronological order.

#	Dates	Event and organizer	Location	Estimated participants ^a	Theme	Notes	Budget implication
					Geographical focus		
1	tbc	2019 Green Finance and Investment Forum "Closing climate finance investment gap and sustainable cities" – <i>World Green Economy Organization and UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Center (RCC) in Dubai</i>	Dubai, United Arab Emirates		Climate finance, sustainable cities	Limited information available on the content of the event (as at 8 March)	Support from the UNFCCC RCC office may be useful for reducing transaction cost and organizational issues
					Global		
2	tbc August / September 2019	Local Climate Solutions for Africa – ICLEI	tbc, Africa	500	Climate finance, cities	Limited information available on the content of the event (as at 8 March)	The SCF may have to absorb most of the cost for the venue, logistics and participants; cost-sharing arrangement with the host event may be explored
					Africa		
3	19–23 August 2019	Latin America Climate Week – UNFCCC and NDC Partnership	Salvador de Bahia, Brazil	650	NDCs, market-based approaches, economic instruments, climate finance	It may have a strong convening power in the region for climate change actors but less so for city actors	The event is organized by the UNFCCC, which may be useful in terms of reducing the transaction costs Some cost-sharing arrangement may be explored; the SCF may need to undertake additional fundraising for the funded participants
					Latin America and Caribbean		
4	26–30 August 2019	The Meeting of the Municipalities for Sustainable Development –	Brasilia, Brazil	8,500	Sustainability, health, education, security, smart	The topics may be relevant, but the focus is limited to Brazil; this may also entail language barriers	The SCF may have to absorb most of the cost for the venue, logistics and participants; cost-sharing

#	Dates	Event and organizer	Location	Estimated participants ^a	Theme	Notes	Budget implication
					Geographical focus		
		National Front of Mayors, Brazil			cities, management and finance Brazil		arrangement with the host event may be explored
6	2–6 September 2019	Asia Pacific Climate Week – UNFCCC and NDC Partnership	Shenzhen, China	550	NDCs, market-based approaches, economic instruments, climate finance Asia and Pacific	It may have a strong convening power in the region for climate change actors but less so for city actors	The event is organized by the UNFCCC, which may be useful in terms of reducing the transaction costs Some cost-sharing arrangement may be explored; the SCF may need to undertake additional fundraising for the funded participants
7	The week of 9 September 2019	A standalone SCF Forum – <i>to be hosted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)</i>	Beirut, Lebanon	100 – 120	Climate finance, sustainable cities Global		The UNESCWA offered the venue, logistical requirements and fund 3–5 participants from the sub-region
7	16–20 September 2019	Third Global Meeting of the Global Platform for Sustainable Cities – The GEF and the World Bank	Sao Paulo, Brazil	250	tbc	Event organized by the GEF and the WB; previous events show that the event may focus on topics relevant to climate finance and sustainable cities	Cost-sharing arrangement with the host event may be explored; the SCF may have to absorb the cost for the venue, logistics and participants;

#	Dates	Event and organizer	Location	Estimated participants ^a	Theme	Notes	Budget implication
					Geographical focus		
					Global		
8	Tbc September /October	Forum of the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA)	Tbc Bonn, Germany	tbc	tbc	Overlaps with the UNGA and close to the UNSG Climate Summit CCFLA was launched at the UNSG Climate Summit in September 2014 as a global platform to facilitate collaboration between public and private-sector institutions committed to mobilizing investments into low-emissions and climate-resilient urban infrastructure.	Cost-sharing arrangement with the host event may be explored; the SCF may have to absorb the cost for the venue, logistics and participants
				tbc			
9	3–4 October 2019 ⁸	Second Annual Meeting of the Malaga Coalition on Municipal Investment Finance – <i>UN Capital Development Fund and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)</i>	Malaga, Spain	90 – 110	SDG, global financial ecosystem for municipal and local governments, capital market Global	Previous events show that the event may focus on topics relevant to climate finance and sustainable cities Event held in the Global North and the city actors from developing countries may find it challenging to attend	Support from another UN agency will be useful in terms of reducing the transaction costs Some cost-sharing arrangement for the venue and the logistics may be explored; the SCF may need to undertake additional fundraising for funded participants
10	9–10 October 2019	2019 C40 Mayors Summit – C40	Copenhagen, Denmark		Climate action, innovative solutions for cities	High profile of the participants i.e. C40 mayors; unclear whether the event will have a strong finance component	The SCF may have to absorb most of the cost for the venue, logistics and participants; cost-sharing arrangement with the host event may be explored

^a Postponed from March 2019.

#	Dates	Event and organizer	Location	Estimated participants ^a	Theme	Notes	Budget implication
					Geographical focus		
					Global		