



Standing Committee on Finance

28 May 2024

Thirty-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance
29–31 May 2024
Bonn, Germany

Background paper on the 2024 Forum of the Standing Committee on Finance on accelerating climate action and resilience through gender-responsive finance

Expected actions by the Standing Committee on Finance

The Standing Committee on Finance will be invited to:

- a) Consider the draft provisional programme of the 2024 Forum of the Standing Committee on Finance;
- b) Consider options for possible venues and dates for the Forum.

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

1. The Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) may wish to consider the draft provisional programme of the 2024 Forum of the Standing Committee on Finance as contained in the annex.
2. The SCF may wish to consider options for possible venues and dates for the Forum.

II. Background

3. At SCF 33, the Committee identified possible sub-themes of the Forum as an initial basis to design the Forum programme¹ and agreed to issue a call for inputs on information, sub-themes, case studies, and potential organization to partner relating to the SCF Forum. The SCF requested the co-facilitators, with the support of the secretariat, to prepare a draft provisional programme, taking into account discussions held during SCF 33, any written comments received from members and submissions received through the call for inputs.
4. Furthermore, the SCF agreed that the co-facilitators will make a recommendation on the potential venues and dates for the Forum for consideration by the Committee intersessionally, noting the organization of the Forum would be subject to availability of resources.

¹ [SCF/2024/33/11, paragraph 48.](#)

III. Submissions received on the Forum

5. On 28 March 2024, the Committee issued an open call for inputs on the 2024 SCF Forum to interested Parties and stakeholders to submit:²

- (a) Relevant topics and themes to be considered in designing the Forum;
- (b) Information and case studies on gender-responsive finance;
- (c) Potential institutions and events to partner with the SCF Forum.

6. As of 24 May 2024, thirteen submissions were received from SCF members, Parties, private sector and non-governmental observers, as shown in table 1.³

Table 1

Submissions received on the 2024 SCF Forum

<i>Submitter</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Date of submission</i>
Mr. Mattias Frumerie	SCF member	4 April 2024
Mr. Ian Naumkin	SCF member	11 April 2024
Gender focal point of least developed countries group	Party	18 April 2024
KPMG	Private sector	19 April 2024
Comoros	Party	21 April 2024
Children and youth constituency	Non-governmental organization	22 April 2024
National Adaptation Plan Global Network	Non-governmental organization	22 April 2024
Women and gender constituency	Non-governmental organization	22 April 2024
Panama	Party	24 April 2024
Authors of chapter six “Gender equality and social inclusion” of the Adaptation Finance Gap Update 2023 report of the UN Environment Programme	United Nations agency	27 April 2024
2XGlobal	Private sector	2 May 2024
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	United Nations agency	14 May 2024
United Nations Social and Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific	United Nations agency	16 May 2024

7. **Several submissions highlighted potential sub-themes for designing the Forum.** Many of these focused on **public-sector-related issues**, such as integrating gender into national development strategies, climate plans, public budgets and expenditures, and policy and legal tools to strengthen mobilization of and access to gender-responsive finance across all sectors. Submissions highlighted macro-economic considerations, such as financial risks, debt and taxation policies, which may underpin the discussions on gender-responsive finance and climate change. Many submissions also highlighted sources of finance at international and national levels, including the Financial Mechanism and the multilateral and bilateral sources, dedicated trust funds for gender-responsive finance, and philanthropic sources.

8. Additionally, many submissions suggested **issues relevant to the private sector** as potential sub-themes. These included enabling environments for the private sector, partnerships and networks that businesses can utilize, gender-responsive just transitions, and upskilling or reskilling programs. Emphasis was placed on gender-responsive financing for

² [Click here to access the call for inputs.](#)

³ Available here: <https://unfccc.int/2024-SCF-Forum>.

micro- and small-sized enterprises and the informal economy, as well as mobilizing finance through gender-responsive environmental, social, and governance investments.

9. Submissions also addressed **issues relating to the financial sector**, such as defining and accounting for gender-responsive finance, designing and deploying innovative gender-responsive financial instruments, tools for assessing risks associated with gender-responsive finance, policies and guidelines to encourage financial institutions to scale up investments in gender-responsive projects, and measures to improve financial literacy for women and girls in vulnerable situations to enhance their capacity and resilience.

10. Several submissions suggested **issues related to hands-on experiences in formulating and implementing climate change projects with gender-responsive finance** as potential sub-themes. These included mainstreaming gender into the project lifecycle, gender-responsive governance structures of different funding mechanisms, allocation policies of multilateral and bilateral sources of finance, coherence and complementarity of funds related to gender-responsive policies and action plans, experiences with direct access and available readiness support, and strengthening the sustainability of projects through improved monitoring, evaluation, and learning cycles.

11. A few **cross-cutting issues** were identified across all proposed sub-themes, such as importance of adopting intersectional approach to the discussions. Intersectionality was highlighted as a framework to recognize how different factors (such as race, ethnicity, age, disability, economic status, class, Indigeneity, etc.) intersect climate change and gender and create unique dynamics and effects. Consideration of the intersectionalities will be helpful enhance participants' understanding on the inequality, vulnerability and exposure to climate risks and needs and priorities relating to gender and climate change, and to explore possible ways to address / minimize them through gender-responsive finance.

12. Many submissions underscored the importance of data and indicators to measure impacts, enhance transparency and accountability, and facilitate informed decision-making. Furthermore, many submissions emphasized the need for a shared understanding of gender-responsive finance to enhance communication and collaboration among stakeholders.

13. Some submissions pointed to the importance of coverage of all thematic issues – such as mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage. Also, some submissions highlighted synergies with ongoing processes related to gender-responsive finance within and outside the UNFCCC, including the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the new collective quantified goal on climate finance, Article 2, paragraph 1(c), of the Paris Agreement, the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan and Action for Climate Empowerment programme.

14. Capacity-building and technical support for developing countries were frequently mentioned across many submissions as crucial steps toward gender-responsive financing of climate action and resilience in developing countries.

15. Lastly, many submissions highlighted potential case studies relevant to the issues illustrated above. The SCF could consider showcasing these case studies during the Forum, once the provisional programme is finalized.

IV. Potential dates and venues

16. The co-facilitators, with the support of the secretariat, explored potential venues and dates for organizing the Forum. They considered the SCF's agreement to hold the Forum alongside relevant UNFCCC climate finance meetings, where possible, to maximize broader participation of relevant stakeholders and reducing costs and emissions related to travel for attendees. See table 2 for details.

Table 2
Potential dates and venues of 2024 SCF Forum

<i>Venue</i>	<i>Proposed tentative dates for the event(s)</i>	<i>Note</i>
Arusha, Tanzania	2–3 September 2024: 2024 SCF Forum 4–5 September 2024: Second workshop under the Sharm el-Sheikh (SeS) Dialogue on Article 2, paragraph 1(c), of the Paris Agreement and its complementarity with Article 9 ⁴ 7–9 September 2024: SCF 35	The host government will cover the standard hosting requirements (including conference venue, catering, visas and local assistants).
Geneva, Switzerland	Same as above	In addition to the standard hosting requirements, the host Government is considering to cover the costs related to travel and daily subsistence allowances for funded participants for the Forum and the second workshop under the SeS Dialogue. The number of funded participants will be determined at a later stage, based on the actual funding available.
Bonn, Germany	2–3 September 2024: 2024 SCF Forum 4–6 September 2024: SCF 35	Subject to funding availability, secretariat would cover the full cost of the Forum, including the conference venue, catering and travel of all funded participants.

⁴ More information available at: <https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/workstreams/sharm-el-sheikh-dialogue/sharm-el-sheikh-dialogue>.

Annex

Draft provisional programme of the 2024 Forum on accelerating climate action and resilience through gender-responsive finance

Day 1

Time	Description
08:30–09:00	Registration
09:00–09:30	Session 1: Opening session In the opening session, high-level speakers, including the head of relevant UN Agency and the head of the host institution, will deliver opening remarks. These remarks will highlight the critical importance of gender-responsive finance in achieving a low-emission, climate-resilient (LECR) future that will be equitable and inclusive.
09:30–10:30	Session 2: Scene-setting session on gender-responsive finance A high-level representative will deliver a keynote presentation, focusing on: (i) potential opportunities and benefits of implementing climate action and resilience through gender-responsive finance; (ii) importance of gender-responsive just transitions towards LECR development pathway, which can strengthen social legitimacy and political support for climate actions and resilience at all levels and; (iii) identification of key enablers and actions that can unlock and deliver gender-responsive finance to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and the sustainable development goals (SDGs). Following the presentation, a panel of senior representatives from governments, financial institutions, scientific body and local or grassroots organization will share their insights, including on how to define gender-responsive finance, evidence on gender-compounding vulnerability to climate change impacts, data on the current level of gender-responsive finance and possible ways to scale it up.
10:30–10:45	Coffee break and family photo

Time	Description		
10:45–12:00	<p>Session 3: Breakout brainstorming session on gender-responsive finance</p> <p>Participants will be invited to a brainstorming session to: (i) identify linkage between gender and the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change and; (ii) explore how gender-responsive finance can be utilized to address/minimize the challenges and harness the opportunities.</p> <p>Objective of this brainstorming activity is to enhance participants' holistic understanding of the issues underlying climate change, gender equality and approaches to gender responsive financing and identify possible key questions to be addressed during the two-day Forum.</p> <p>Importantly, participants in each group will be advised to consider different intersectional contexts (e.g., race, ethnicity, age, disability, economic status, class, Indigeneity, etc.) that underpin and inform different approaches to gender-responsive finance.</p>		
	<p>Brainstorming group #1: How gender-responsive finance can be utilized to address/minimize the challenges and harness the opportunities in the context of climate change mitigation</p> <p><u>Example of issues to be discussed:</u> the intersection between gender equality and mitigation across a range of sectors, including energy, agriculture, transport and infrastructure, links between climate, gender equality and economic diversification and development and workforce planning and transitions.</p>	<p>Brainstorming group #2: How gender-responsive finance can be utilized to address/minimize the challenges and harness the opportunities in the context of climate change adaptation</p> <p><u>Example of issues to be discussed:</u> impacts of climate change and how and where they intersect with gender equality and other relevant social, political environmental and economic factors, climate risk and gender equality, approaches to financing transformative adaptation from a gender responsive perspective.</p>	<p>Brainstorming group #3: Cross-cutting issues underlying climate change and gender, and how gender-responsive finance can be utilized to address/minimize the challenges and harness the opportunities</p> <p><u>Example of issues to be discussed:</u> debt burden and cost of capital, financial risks, access to opportunities and incentives (and disincentives) for participation in climate action and resilience, informal and formal economies, support needs for financial literacy and capacity-building in the context of broader economic development and meaningful empowerment and participation, and cross cutting consideration of efforts to deliver on the SDGs.</p>
12:00–12:45	At the end of session 3, brainstorming groups will report back in plenary, followed by a short panel discussion among the discussion leaders		
12:45–14:00	Networking lunch		
14:00–15:00	<p>Session 4: From plans to actions: implementing gender-responsive development strategies, climate change plans and investment frameworks</p> <p>This plenary session will focus on the topic of mainstreaming gender and climate change into development strategies, NDCs, NAPs and climate financing strategies. It will emphasize the importance of integrating gender into national, subnational and local levels of planning and look into concrete activities, such as gender-responsive budgeting. Additionally, the session will explore the benefits and challenges of incorporating gender into public and private investment frameworks.</p>		

Time	Description		
15:00–16:30	Session 5: Breakout group discussions on implementing gender-responsive development strategies, climate change plans and investment frameworks		
	Group 1: Development of gender-responsive public expenditures and investment frameworks. This group will discuss insights gained in developing gender-responsive public expenditures and investment frameworks, facilitating the sharing of experiences on pre- and post-budget analyses, identification of gender-responsive investment criteria and investment-ready projects and programmes. The group will also discuss key enablers, such as vertical and horizontal coordination mechanisms, data availability and policy, regulatory and legal frameworks.	Group 2: Integration of gender-responsive finance in the financial sector. This group will discuss ways to integrate gender-responsive finance into the financial sector, including the design of gender-responsive financial products, taxonomies for gender-responsive finance and leveraging partnerships and collaborations. Responsibilities and opportunities for financial institutions and asset managers will be discussed, along with necessary public interventions for creating conducive enabling environments and policy frameworks.	Group 3: Needs and priorities relating to gender-responsive finance: This group will focus on country experience in identifying and assessing needs and priorities for gender-responsive finance in different sectors. Examples of the needs identified in the NDCs and NAPs will be showcased to share insights, best practices and lessons learned. The role of different financing actors and institutions in responding to these identified needs will also be discussed.
16:30–16:45	Coffee break		
16:45–17:30	After a short coffee break, breakout groups will report back in plenary, followed by a short panel discussion among the discussion leaders		
17:30–17:45	Wrap-up of day 1		

Day 2

Time	Description
09:00–10:00	Session 6: Scaling-up the resources: sources, instruments and enabling environments for gender-responsive finance This plenary session will explore potential sources and instruments for mobilizing and incentivizing scaled-up gender-responsive finance, highlighting examples from all levels. It will present the latest available figures on gender-responsive financial flows, identify gaps in financing gender-responsive climate action and resilience and explore how various sources and instruments can be tapped to address these gaps. Furthermore, the session will examine enabling environments that can incentivize gender-responsive climate investments, as well as the financial and technical support available to developing countries.

Time	Description		
10:00–10:15	Coffee break		
10:15–11:30	Session 7: Breakout groups on sources and instruments		
	Group 1: Sources of gender-responsive finance. This group will explore available international sources of gender-responsive finance, such as multilateral development banks, multilateral climate funds, regional institutions and bilateral cooperation agencies. Discussions will focus on insights drawn from the sources' gender action plans, strategies and policies as well as complementarity and coherence of the different sources and instruments. The group will also explore domestic sources of finance, including public and private finance, philanthropies, dedicated trust funds and corporate social responsibility programs, featuring the different programming areas relating to gender equality and climate.	Group 2: Innovative financing mechanism and instruments. This group will share experiences in designing and utilizing financial instruments to mobilize gender-responsive finance. Instruments to be discussed may include green (or climate) bonds with gender equality criteria, blended finance, gender-responsive climate insurance and microfinancing. Participants will reflect on the potential benefits, implications and requirements of designing and utilizing the instruments, as well as available technical support.	Group 3: Unlocking gender-responsive private finance This group will discuss successes and challenges faced by the private sector in making the case to integrate gender and climate into their investment decisions. Discussion elements may include environmental, social and governance investment criteria, assessment of risk and impacts relating to gender-climate investments and the financial and technical support available for businesses.
11:30–12:15	At the end of session 7, brainstorming groups will report back in plenary, followed by a short panel discussion among the discussion leaders		
12:15–13:30	Lunch with video: Inspiring success stories An audio-visual presentation of a project that is advancing and accelerating investment in gender and climate change. The project could be chosen from winners of UNFCCC Momentum for Change.		
13:30–14:30	Session 8: Financing the project management cycle of a gender-responsive climate project: experience, best practices and lessons learned This plenary session will focus on hands-on experience by governments, practitioners and financial institutions in formulating and implementing climate change projects by accessing gender-responsive finance. Participants will examine effectiveness and efficiency of a project lifecycle in a holistic manner, focusing on gender and climate at each stage of the project - ranging from building readiness, assessing the needs, preparing project proposals to identifying and accessing sources of gender-responsive finance. The session will also provide insights on ensuring the effectiveness and impact in relation to climate and gender equality of projects through monitoring, evaluation and learning processes.		
14:30–14:50	Coffee break		
14:50–16:30	Session 9: Breakout group on financing the project or program management cycle of a gender-responsive climate project		

Time	Description		
	Group 1: Project preparation This group will discuss best practices and lessons learned during the preparation phase of gender-responsive climate projects. Participants will examine issues, such as aligning the project focus with the needs and priorities articulated in the NDCs and NAPs, building readiness and capacity activities to prepare project proposals and conducting inclusive stakeholder engagement through effective governance mechanisms. The group will also share information on available tools that project managers can utilize.	Group 2: Direct access and accreditation. This group will reflect on experience relating to direct access to gender-responsive finance and ways to build strong, diverse, inclusive and effective intermediaries in developing countries. Participants will share insights on building and strengthening direct access entities from women's groups and enhancing the participation and inclusion in the operations of existing direct access entities. Furthermore, the group will focus on available financial and technical support for accreditation to international climate funds with a focus on gender equality.	Group 3: Monitoring, evaluation and learning: data, reporting and transparency This group will highlight the importance of both qualitative and quantitative data, reporting and transparency relating to gender-responsive finance that can strengthen the monitoring, evaluation and learning of climate projects. Participants will be invited to discuss best practices and challenges in collecting accurate, timely and reliable data and share information on tools and methodologies for data collection and reporting. The group will also focus on transparency and disclosure mechanisms in both public and private sectors that can enhance accountability of gender-responsive finance.
16:30–17:15	At the end of session 9, brainstorming groups will report back in plenary, followed by a short panel discussion among the discussion leaders		
17:15–17:45	Session 10: Takeaway messages from the Forum Based on the two days of discussions, participants will deliberate on actions that can be pursued by actors and entities at all levels to accelerate the mobilization and delivery of gender-responsive finance. The discussions on the way forward will include key takeaway messages and potential recommendations by the SCF for consideration by the COP.		
17:45–18:00	Session 11: Closing session		