



Standing Committee on Finance

04 September 2024

Thirty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance
4–6 September 2024
Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania

**Background paper on the 2025 Forum of the Standing
Committee on Finance**

Expected actions by the Standing Committee on Finance

The Standing Committee on Finance will be invited to launch the preparations of the 2025 Forum.

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

1. The Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) may wish to launch the preparations for the 2025 Forum by considering options for possible venue and dates. In this regard, the SCF may wish to consider the expression of interest received from Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to host the Forum and a meeting of the SCF in the FAO Headquarters located in Rome, Italy.
2. The SCF may wish to discuss possible sub-themes of the 2025 Forum.
3. Furthermore, the SCF may wish to provide guidance to the co-facilitators on the inter-sessional work to prepare for the Forum, which may include:
 - (a) Preparing a draft programme for the Forum based on the sub-themes to be identified by the SCF;
 - (b) Opening a call for submissions from Parties, accredited observers and relevant stakeholders on information and case studies relating to the topic and sub-themes of the 2025 SCF Forum, to inform the Forum programme;
 - (c) Undertaking outreach activities to relevant institutions and stakeholders;
 - (d) Supporting the secretariat to raise the funds needed to support the participation of developing country experts and resource persons.

II. Background

A. Background and mandates relating to the 2025 SCF Forum

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 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

¹ Decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 121(a).

² Decision 5/CP.18, paragraph 4.

³ Decision 8/CP.23, paragraph 14.

5. At SCF 32, the SCF agreed to focus its 2025 Forum on accelerating climate action and resilience through financing for sustainable food systems and agriculture. COP 28 welcomed the topic for the Forum.⁴

B. Expression of interest received from an SCF member to host the Forum

6. FAO expressed its interest to host the 2025 SCF Forum in conjunction with either SCF 37 or SCF 38 in Rome, Italy. In its letter to the SCF, FAO underlined its dedication to achieving food security and its unique position to contribute to this vital discourse. It also underlined FAO's extensive expertise in agrifood systems, combined with its strategic focus on scaling up access to climate finance, making FAO an ideal host for the SCF Forum and meeting.

7. FAO communicated the following dates as possible options when it can host the Forum and the meeting, based on the availability of meeting rooms and capacity in the FAO Headquarters:

- (a) Option 1: 21–26 July 2025;
- (b) Option 2: 8–12 September 2025.

8. The SCF may wish to consider the above options, taking into account other climate finance meetings scheduled to be held in 2025 as well proposed dates for SCF meetings.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Events/Meetings</i>
Proposal for SCF 36	17–19 February 2025, Bonn, Germany
Proposal for SCF 37	12–13 June 2025 (<i>back-to-back with SB62</i>) or 23–24 July 2025 (<i>back-to-back with Forum option 1</i>)
Proposal for SCF 38	10–12 September 2025 (<i>back-to-back with Forum option 2</i>)
SB 62	16–26 June 2025, Bonn, Germany
Adaptation Fund Board meeting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forty-fourth meeting of the Board • Forty-fifth meeting of the Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18–21 March 2025, Bonn, Germany October 2025 (tbc)
Green Climate Fund Board meetings	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forty-first meeting of the Board • Forty-second meeting of the Board • Forty-third meeting of the Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24–27 February 2025, Republic of Korea 30 June – 3 July 2025, TBD 27–30 October 2025, Republic of Korea
Green Environment Facility Council meetings	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 69th meeting of the GEF Council • 70th meeting of the GEF Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week of 2 June 2025, Washington, D.C. Week of December 15, 2025, virtual
UNGA 80	9–23 September, New York, USA
COP 30/CMA 7	10–21 November 2025, Brazil

⁴ Decision 5/CP.28, paragraph 12 ([Advance unedited version](#)).

C. Possible sub-themes for the 2025 SCF Forum

9. The SCF may wish to consider the following sub-themes as a basis for discussion:

10. **State of play on financing for sustainable food systems and agriculture:**

(a) This sub-theme could explore the current financial landscape for sustainable agriculture and food systems, focusing on how much funding is currently flowing into these sectors and identifying the gaps between available resources and actual needs.

(b) It could also address the challenges related to the limited financial flows, examining the underlying causes and potential strategies for increasing investment.

(c) Additionally, the sub-theme could highlight the significant gaps in transparency and data availability regarding where and how finance is being allocated, and discuss ways to improve information access and tracking of financial resources within these sectors.

11. **National plans and policies for financing sustainable food systems and agriculture:**

(a) Integration of sustainable food systems and agriculture into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) is of critical importance. These sectors are significant, as they span both adaptation and mitigation efforts, while also contributing to a wide range of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Recognizing the interlinkages between these sectors and national plans is essential for ensuring that sustainable agriculture and food systems are prioritized in national development agendas, thereby reinforcing their role in achieving broader sustainability and climate objectives.

(b) It is important to ensure policy coherence in the financing of agriculture and food systems. While governments introduce policies to scale-up financing for these sectors, financing should not be directed towards areas where policies condone or encourage unsustainable land practices or other environmentally harmful activities. In this context, NDCs and NAPs offer valuable opportunities for aligning national policies, enhance coordination and ensure that their policies are consistent with their commitments to sustainability.

(c) A robust financing strategy is essential for translating the goals of sustainable food systems and agriculture, as outlined in NDCs and NAPs, into investment-ready projects. This includes developing national climate financing strategies that can effectively mobilize resources and catalyze private sector investments.

12. **Sources and instruments:**

(a) At both international and national levels, a variety of sources and instruments are available to support sustainable food systems and agriculture. These include public sources, such as government subsidies and international financing, as well as private sources, such as investments from agribusinesses, banks, and impact investors. Ensuring that farmers, particularly those in local communities, have access to these financial resources is crucial for promoting sustainable practices. This involves understanding the different sources of funding and making them more accessible to those who need them most.

(b) Innovative sources and instruments are increasingly playing a role in financing sustainable agriculture. These may include mechanisms such as green bonds, climate-smart agricultural loans, and digital financial platforms tailored for smallholder farmers. However, for farmers to effectively utilize these innovative financial tools, they require adequate capacity-building support. This means providing training, resources, and infrastructure that enable farmers to understand and access these instruments, ensuring they can fully benefit from the opportunities available.

Multilateral climate funds are critical in supporting the transition to sustainable food systems and agriculture, providing resources that can be channeled into projects for food systems and agriculture. Ensuring that local farmers can tap into these funds is essential for scaling up sustainable agricultural practices and achieving broader climate objectives.
