Standing Committee on Finance 03 June 2026

Fortieth meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance
19–20 June 2026
Bonn, Germany

Background paper on the 2026 Forum of the Standing Committee on Finance on financing climate action for water systems and the ocean

Expected actions by the Standing Committee on Finance

The Standing Committee on Finance will be invited to consider the draft provisional programme of the 2026 SCF Forum.

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

1. The SCF may wish to consider the draft provisional programme of the 2026 Forum contained in the annex.

II. Background

2. 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]

3. At SCF 39, the SCF agreed on the programme outline of the 2026 SCF Forum[3] and requested the co-facilitators to prepare a draft provisional programme based on the agreed outline and views expressed at SCF 39.

4. As of 14 April 2026, 35 submissions[4] were received from Parties, private sector and non-governmental observers, including 7 new submissions received after 6 February 2026.[5]

5. Furthermore, the SCF also invited members to submit hosting proposals to the secretariat by 6 March 2026, for consideration by the SCF. Co-facilitators were requested to compile and assess hosting proposals, with the support of the secretariat and in consultation with the SCF Co-Chairs, for an intersessional decision by the SCF on the venue and the host.

[1] Decision 2/CP.17, para. 121(a).
[2] Decision 5/CP.18, paragraph 4.
[3] Programme outline of the 2026 Forum of the SCF | UNFCCC.
[4] Submissions can be accessed online at https://unfccc.int/event/financing-climate-action-for-water-systems-and-the-ocean.
[5] Submissions received after 6 February 2026 include Adaptation Committee, Climate Policy Initiative, European Space Policy Institute, Fiji, Paris Committee on Capacity-building, Republic of Ghana on behalf of the African Group of Negotiators and SouthSouthNorth.

Annex

Draft provisional programme of the 2026 SCF Forum on financing climate action for water systems and the ocean

Time	Description	
DAY 1: FRAMING THE ISSUES AND IDENTIFYING BARRIERS		
08:30–09:00	**Registration**	
09:00–09:20 (20 minutes)	**Opening of the Forum** Welcoming remarks. Overview of the SCF Forum objectives and expected outcomes.	**Welcoming remarks**
09:20–09:50 (30 minutes)	**Session 1: Scene-setting and framing the issues** *(plenary)* Scene-setting session introducing the importance of water systems and the ocean in the context of climate change, connecting cross-cutting and systemic issues and highlighting the overarching goal that frames the Forum's discussions over the next two days.	**Scene-setting presenters** *(2)* • *A science-based overview of water systems and the ocean, highlighting their interconnections as well as distinct characteristics, challenges, needs and gaps, within the context of climate change.* • *National perspective on the importance of water systems and the ocean in the context of climate change and the economy, including their role in livelihoods, food security and sustainable development drawing on experience and insights from designing and implementing national climate plans.* **Q&A**

Time	Description	
09:50–10:35 (45 minutes)	**Session 2: Climate finance for water systems and the ocean – trends and gaps** *(plenary)* Overview of the current climate finance landscape as it relates to water systems and the ocean, highlighting recent trends in finance flows, persistent gaps and key challenges. The session aims to establish a shared understanding of water systems and the ocean within the climate finance landscape, and underscore their importance for climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience.	**Panellists** *(3)* • *An overview of the current climate finance landscape for water systems and the ocean, including recent trends in finance flows, available data and evidence, needs and gaps and key challenges.* • *Insights from an international climate fund on scaling climate finance for water systems and the ocean, including emerging priorities, challenges and opportunities.* • *Perspectives from bilateral cooperation on access, partnerships and implementation for climate actions in water systems and the ocean.* **Q&A**
10:35–11:00	**Coffee break and family photo**	
11:00–13:00 (120 minutes)	**Session 3: Barriers affecting the flow of climate finance to water systems and the ocean — structural and systemic barriers** This session will assess the structural and systemic factors that constrain the scaling up of climate finance for water systems and the ocean. It will explore barriers across different levels of the finance landscape, including fiscal space and debt constraints, low financial returns and risk perceptions for adaptation-focused interventions, complexities associated with transboundary water resource management and challenges in translating policy priorities into project pipelines and finance-ready investments. ***Format: Rotating "Focus Lab" modality*** Under this modality, participants will engage in three parallel focus labs, with discussion leaders rotating across the groups through three 30-minute rounds to enable cumulative and interactive exchanges on all topics. The session will begin with brief ice-breaker introductions, and buffer time between rounds will facilitate transitions across the labs. Participants will be assigned to a focus lab with a view to ensuring balanced and interactive discussions across the groups, while also having the opportunity to engage with each discussion topic over the	

<table>
<tr><th>Time</th><th colspan="3">Description</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2"></td><td colspan="3">course of the session. Reflections and key takeaways can be shared during the closing wrap-up session of the day.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Focus Lab 1: Macro-fiscal and financial system constraints
This focus lab will explore structural macroeconomic and financial system factors that influence the quality, availability and accessibility of climate finance for water systems and the ocean.</td><td>Focus Lab 2: Policy priorities and implementation
This focus lab will examine best practices and challenges related to translating policy priorities and planning frameworks into coordinated, finance-ready projects and programmes for climate action in water systems and the ocean.</td><td>Focus Lab 3: Investment and market barriers
This focus lab will explore systemic investment and market factors that affect the scale, quality, direction and effectiveness of climate finance flows for climate action in water systems and the ocean.</td></tr>
<tr><td>13:00–14:30</td><td colspan="3">Networking lunch</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">14:30–16:30
(120 minutes)</td><td colspan="3">Session 4: Enabling environments: governance and institutional systems for scaling climate finance
The session will explore how enabling environments at global, regional, national and subnational levels can create the institutional and governance systems necessary for scaling climate finance for water systems and the ocean. This session aims to examine how water systems and the ocean can be embedded within planning and policy frameworks, including nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans, and how institutional arrangements, regional and national coordination mechanisms and capacity-building efforts can influence the coherence and impact of climate finance flows.

Format: Rotating “Focus Lab” modality
This session will follow the rotating “Focus Lab” modality described under Session 3.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Focus Lab 1: Global and regional enabling environments
This focus lab will discuss how global and regional cooperation, coordination mechanisms and</td><td>Focus Lab 2: National governance and planning systems

This focus lab will explore how national planning processes, policy</td><td>Focus Lab 3: Subnational and local implementation systems

This focus lab will examine the role of subnational and local institutions,</td></tr>
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Time	Description		
	institutional arrangements can support more coherent, accessible and effective climate finance flows for water systems and the ocean.	*frameworks, taxonomies, role of finance ministries and institutional arrangements can help integrate water systems and the ocean into broader climate and development priorities and support the translation of those priorities into financing strategies and implementation efforts.*	*coordination mechanisms and capacity-building efforts in supporting access to and delivery of climate finance for water systems and the ocean at the local level.*
16:30–16:45	**Coffee break**		
16:45–17:30 (45 minutes)	**Day 1 Wrap-up: Reflection and interactive dialogue** *(plenary)* This session will provide an opportunity to reflect on key messages and insights emerging from the discussions held during Day 1. The session will begin with a case study presentation to help ground discussions in local realities and experiences relating to financing climate action in water systems and the ocean. Building on the presentation, participants will engage in an interactive exchange reflecting on practical experience, lessons learned and key insights emerging from Day 1 discussions.		
DAY 2: ADVANCING SOLUTIONS AND DELIVERY			
09:00–09:45 (45 minutes)	**Opening of Day 2: From barriers to delivery** *(panel discussion)* Building on the discussions from Day 1, this panel discussion will provide a forward-looking introduction to Day 2 by highlighting practical experience, implementation perspectives and lessons learned relating to	**Panellists** *(3 presenters)* • *Practical insights from project development and preparation processes in translating priorities into implementable and finance-ready initiatives for water systems and the ocean in the context of climate action.* • *Perspectives from global partnerships, coalitions and alliances supporting implementation across different contexts and stakeholders.*	

Time	Description	
	financing climate action in water systems and the ocean.	• *Experiences with delivery models and financial mechanism for strengthening access to and delivery of financing climate action in water systems and the ocean.* **Q&A**
09:45–11:30 (105 minutes)	**Session 5: Financial instruments and approaches for scaling climate finance for water systems and the ocean** The session will discuss a range of available financial instruments and innovative approaches, particularly public and private sources, blended and concessional finance that can support the scaling up of climate finance for water systems and the ocean. ***Format: "Action Group" modality*** Throughout the day, discussions will take place through two thematic action groups – Water systems and Ocean – anchored in practical case studies to support solution-oriented exchanges among participants. Participants will be invited to self-select into the action group most closely aligned with their interests and areas of expertise. Unlike Day 1, both discussion leaders and participants will remain within a single thematic action group throughout the session. Reflections and key takeaways can be shared during the closing wrap-up session of the day.	
	Action Group A: Climate action for water systems – Financial sources and instruments *Discussions will focus on financial instruments and approaches for climate action in the context of sustainable and climate-resilient water systems, including water and sanitation infrastructure, watershed and river basin management, flood resilience and nature-based approaches, as well as key considerations on access.*	**Action Group B: Climate action for the Ocean – Financial sources and instruments** *Discussions will focus on financial instruments and approaches for climate action in the context of sustainable coastal and marine ecosystem management, blue economy activities and climate-resilient coastal infrastructure, as well as key considerations on access.*

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<tr><th>Time</th><th colspan="2">Description</th></tr>
<tr><td>11:30–11:45</td><td colspan="2">Coffee break</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">11:45–13:30
(105 minutes)</td><td colspan="2">Session 6: Solutions to address barriers for the provision and mobilization of finance and investments
Building on the structural and systemic barriers identified during Day 1 and the instruments discussed in Session 5, this session will explore how financial solutions, stakeholder engagement, partnership approaches and enabling conditions can be combined to respond to specific constraints affecting the provision and mobilization of climate finance for water systems and the ocean. Discussions will aim to identify common lessons and practical considerations for improving the effectiveness and scalability of financing approaches across different contexts, including through collaboration among relevant public, private and community stakeholders.

Format: “Action Group” modality
This session will follow the modality described under Session 5.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Action Group A: Climate action for water systems - Matching solutions to barriers
Discussions will explore practical solutions and available support for addressing implementation, institutional and investment barriers affecting climate finance for water systems. Discussions may also consider the role of partnerships, stakeholder engagement and coordination mechanisms in supporting the mobilization and delivery of finance. The Action Group will identify what makes solutions effective and what considerations are most relevant for accelerating implementation.</td><td>Action Group B: Climate action for the Ocean - Matching solutions to barriers
Discussions will explore practical solutions and available support for addressing implementation, institutional and investment barriers affecting climate finance for the ocean. Discussions may also consider the role of partnerships, stakeholder engagement and coordination mechanisms in supporting the mobilization and delivery of finance. The Action Group will identify what makes solutions effective and what considerations are most relevant for accelerating implementation.</td></tr>
<tr><td>13:30–14:30</td><td colspan="2">Networking lunch</td></tr>
<tr><td>14:30–16:15
(105 minutes)</td><td colspan="2">Session 7: Delivery and access: reaching local actors and communities
Assess how climate finance for water systems and the ocean is delivered to, or not effectively reaching, local actors responsible for implementation, including cities, subnational governments, and frontline communities. The</td></tr>
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<tr><th>Time</th><th colspan="2">Description</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2"></td><td colspan="2">session will consider practical experiences and emerging models that improve the delivery, accessibility, inclusiveness and effectiveness of climate finance at the local level.

Format: “Action Group” modality
This session will follow the modality described under Session 5.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Action Group A: Climate action for water systems – Delivery and access to climate finance at the local level
The climate action for water systems action group will identify institutional, financing and delivery approaches that support locally led implementation, including through sub-national and community-level delivery models and instruments, and direct access modalities.</td><td>Action Group B: Climate action for the Ocean – Delivery and access to climate finance at the local level
The climate action for the ocean action group will identify institutional, financing and delivery approaches that support locally led implementation, including through sub-national and community-level delivery models and instruments, and direct access modalities.</td></tr>
<tr><td>16:15–16:30</td><td colspan="2">Coffee break</td></tr>
<tr><td>16:30–17:15
(45 minutes)</td><td colspan="2">Session 8: Key Takeaways and recommendations (plenary)

This session will provide an opportunity for participants to reflect on the key messages and recommendations emerging from the two days of Forum discussions for consideration by the Standing Committee on Finance. Through an interactive exchange, participants will consider cross-cutting insights, practical opportunities for advancing action and issues that may warrant further consideration and action by the COP.</td></tr>
<tr><td>17:15–17:30
(15 minutes)</td><td colspan="2">Closing remarks</td></tr>
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