



**Standing Committee on Finance**

24 August 2018

**Eighteenth meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance  
Bonn, Germany, 10–12 September 2018**

**Background paper on the Guidance from the Conference of the Parties resulting from the Review of the Functions of the Standing Committee on Finance and the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance**

*Expected actions by the Standing Committee on Finance*

The Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) will be invited to continue considerations of the overall outcome of the review of the functions of the SCF, particularly on the specific findings and guidance related to stakeholder engagement, in-session and intersessional working modalities of the SCF as outlined below.

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

**A. Possible actions in response to mandates relating to stakeholder engagement**

1. **Mandate:** The COP requested the SCF to further strengthen its engagement with stakeholders (Decision 8/CP.23, paragraph 14).
2. **Possible actions:** In response to the mandate above, the SCF may wish:
  - a. To strengthen further stakeholder engagement based on best practices under the Convention and through stakeholder inputs as appropriate, in the work of the SCF, such as in the SCF Forum, preparation of the BA, and the draft guidance to the operating entities, as well as identifying ways of engaging key stakeholders, particularly from developing countries;
  - b. To consider further enhancing formal and informal working modalities to enable more contributions from key stakeholders to the activities of the SCF, such as organizing webinars, issuing targeted requests for inputs and submissions, and enhancing virtual participation during the meetings of the SCF;
  - c. To consider SCF member liaison with constituencies;
  - d. To consider recommending support for enhanced participation.

**B. Possible actions in response to mandates related to further improvement in the working modalities of the SCF**

3. **Mandate:** The COP recognized the need for the Standing Committee on Finance to improve some of its in-session and intersessional working modalities with the aim of further enhancing its efficiency and effectiveness and ensuring the inclusiveness and transparency of its proceedings (Decision 8/CP.23, paragraph 17).
4. **Possible actions:** In response to the mandate above, the SCF may wish to affirm the adopted terms of reference for intersessional work as outlined in paragraph 18 below. Also, in improving further its in-session and intersessional work, the SCF may wish:

- a. To provide guidance on prioritizing SCF work to maximize focussed outcomes;
- b. Use virtual or other means to enhance inter-sessional participation.

## II. Background

### A. SCF Engagement with stakeholders and observers

5. The SCF considered this item at its 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. As the Committee was unable to conclude its work, it decided to continue its consideration at SCF 18 and requested the Co-Chairs, with the support of the secretariat, to identify actions to enhance stakeholder engagement based on best practices under the Convention, including with a view to strengthening stakeholder participation from developing countries, and to circulate relevant information in preparation for SCF 18.<sup>1</sup> The SCF also requested the secretariat to make information available on how the SCF is currently engaging with different stakeholders and observers, as well as an assessment of the attendance of observers in the meetings of the SCF, and prepare suggestions for enhancing stakeholder engagements for consideration at SCF 18.<sup>2</sup>

6. The following are some of the best practices in stakeholder engagement in the Convention:<sup>3</sup>

- a. Significant input to the process by observer organizations and other non-Party stakeholders through submissions, technical and background papers, workshop presentations, has reached a significant level;<sup>4</sup>

- b. For example, workshops and meetings that involved active participation and input by non-Party stakeholders include: the workshop to support the implementation of the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention; the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Dialogues on Action for Climate Empowerment; meetings under the technical examination processes; NAP Expos; workshops and side events of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group; workshops and side events of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change; NAP training; and meetings of the constituted bodies. A total of 58 workshops and meetings (including in-session workshops) were reported as open to observers in the period 2016–2017, with 231 observer presentations being made at those meetings. A wide range of virtual participation and social media tools were used to facilitate enhanced non-Party stakeholder participation and interaction in many of the meetings and workshops;

- c. All plenary meetings, meetings of the high-level segment and press briefings at large meetings (sessions of the governing and subsidiary bodies) are webcast. Selected special events and secretariat side events are also webcast, subject to the availability of resources and where appropriate. Meetings and in-session events of the TEC are all webcast. Live broadcast of all official side events was implemented at COP 22, CMP 12 and CMA 1.1;<sup>5</sup>

- d. At the end of 2017, the secretariat successfully launched a new online portal that provides one platform for statements and submissions from Parties and non-Party stakeholders <[http://unfccc.int/documentation/submissions\\_and\\_statements/items/5900.php](http://unfccc.int/documentation/submissions_and_statements/items/5900.php)>;

- e. The secretariat continues to take into account input from observer organizations in the preparation of background documents and, where appropriate, in the design of mandated activities in relation to a wide range of thematic bodies, such as Action for Climate Empowerment, the Adaptation Committee, the Durban Forum on capacity-building, the Nairobi work programme, the SCF, the TEC and the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts.<sup>6</sup>

7. The following are the current practices in engaging different stakeholders and observers in the work of the SCF and assessment of the attendance of observers:

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<sup>1</sup> SCF/2018/17/10, paragraph 16 (a).

<sup>2</sup> SCF/2018/17/10, paragraph 19.

<sup>3</sup> More information can be found in document FCCC/SBI/2018/7, section IV B.

<sup>4</sup> FCCC/SBI/2018/7, paragraph 40.

<sup>5</sup> FCCC/SBI/2018/7, paragraph 41 table.

<sup>6</sup> FCCC/SBI/2018/7, paragraph 41 table.

a. As per the revised composition and working modalities of the SCF, observers from Parties and all accredited observer organizations with the secretariat, including observers from the operating entities of the financial mechanism of the Convention, from funding entities (multilateral, bilateral, regional and national) involved in climate finance, and from observer organizations from the private sector and civil society admitted to the Convention, may be admitted to attend Standing Committee meetings in order to observe and participate in the proceedings;<sup>7</sup>

b. The floor is given to observers at the end of deliberations of each agenda item to solicit their feedback and comments to ensure their active participation;

c. Observers play an actively engage in discussions and directly interact with members. Furthermore, observers have also actively engaged in technical meetings organized, for example, in the preparation of the biennial assessment of climate financial flows;<sup>8</sup>

d. In general, SCF meetings include regular attendance from observer constituencies including but not limited to business and industry non-governmental organizations, research and independent non-governmental organizations and environmental non-governmental organizations. These and other observer constituencies have also in the past provided written submissions;<sup>9</sup>

e. Annex I also contains an updated compilation on attendance based on the participation statistics collected in the UNFCCC process (including total number of registered observer organizations for UN Secretariat units and bodies, specialized agencies and related organizations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

f. Also in line with UNFCCC practice, representatives from admitted non-governmental organizations are nominated to attend SCF meetings through their respective constituency focal point and participate at SCF meetings as a representative of their constituency.

g. Current reporting on participation by observer organizations in the overall UNFCCC process includes, inter alia, the replacement of observer participation in exceptional circumstances, increasing the number of meetings that are webcast and enhancing participation through enhanced virtual tools.<sup>10</sup>

## B. Options for further enhancing stakeholder engagements

8. Based on the above, some possible options for consideration by SCF members are listed here on further enhancing stakeholder and observer engagement with the SCF:

### *Option 1: Enhanced participation including through specific areas of SCF work*

9. The SCF may wish to suggest that stakeholder and observer engagement is enhanced in the organization of the SCF Forum such as by:

a. Establishing an open-ended call for inputs on the possible topics of the SCF Forums in the SCF virtual forum;

b. Issuing a call for inputs and case studies in developing the provisional programme;

c. Broadening the engagement of stakeholders that have not been actively involved previously, particularly from developing countries, including by encouraging their participation to the Forum;

d. Synchronizing the date and venue of future SCF Forums taking into account relevant events or meetings that involve participation by observer organizations;

<sup>7</sup> FCCC/CP/2012/4, annex IV, paragraph 5.

<sup>8</sup> FCCC/TP/2017/4, paragraphs 32 and 34.

<sup>9</sup> Examples are available in the archive of submissions for constituted bodies <<https://unfccc.int/process/parties-non-party-stakeholders/non-party-stakeholders/submissions-non-party-stakeholders-5>> and the SCF information repository <<https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/resources/standing-committee-on-finance-info-repository#eq-14>>.

<sup>10</sup> See paragraph 41 table of document [FCCC/SBI/2018/7](https://unfccc.int/documents/41).

- e. Strengthening virtual participation through social media and the use of collaboration platforms;
- f. Considering how inputs provided in the virtual forum could be considered inter-sessionally or at the SCF meetings;
- g. Strengthen outreach activities relating to the Forum, prior to and after the organization of each Forum, to solicit inputs and encourage participation, as well as to promote the Forum outcomes such as through webinars, side events at the sessions and presentations in other relevant events;
- h. Consider strengthening stakeholder engagement in the preparation of the Biennial Assessment of Financial Flows and the draft guidance to the operating entities;
- i. Identifying ways of engaging key stakeholders, particularly from developing countries;
- j. Considering further enhancing working modalities to enable more contributions from key stakeholders to the activities of the SCF, such as organizing webinars and, issuing targeted requests for inputs and submissions;
- k. Considering ways to enhance interaction in real time between SCF members and stakeholders and observers that may wish to participate at SCF meetings that may not otherwise be able to participate in person such as when and how to consider call-in/on-line interventions and inputs submitted through virtual forum.

***Option 2: SCF member liaison with constituencies***

10. The SCF members may wish to consider the possibility to further consider inputs from the respective stakeholder constituencies, including for example issues raised in advance of SCF meetings based on SCF provisional agendas and background notes made available on the SCF website, as well as possible live inputs during meetings.

***Option 3: Recommendation to support enhanced participation***

11. Should the issue of funding for stakeholders and observer organizations be considered, SCF members may wish to make a recommendation through an SCF meeting report and the report to the COP to encourage funding for participation of stakeholders and observers, particularly from developing countries, from alternative funding sources, for example from foundations/organizations and Parties.

## **C. Further improvement in the working modalities of the SCF**

12. As outcome of the review of the functions of the SCF, COP 23 recognized that there is a need for the SCF to improve some of its in-session and intersessional working modalities with the aim of further enhancing its efficiency and effectiveness, ensuring the inclusiveness and transparency of its proceedings.

13. SCF 17 also requested the Co-Chairs, with the support of the secretariat, to identify options for improving the in-session and intersessional working modalities of the SCF, with the aim of further enhancing its efficiency and effectiveness, ensuring the inclusiveness and transparency of its proceedings.

14. The SCF may wish to consider further options keeping in mind the existing composition and working modalities of the Standing Committee.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> As contained in Annex VI of document FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.1 and Annex IV of document FCCC/CP/2012/4.

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## D. Options for further enhancing SCF in-session and intersessional working modalities

15. The SCF may wish to affirm its agreement on the terms of reference for inter-sessional work as follows:

- a. To provide guidance to the secretariat regarding the allocation of meeting time, i.e. plenary settings versus breakout group sessions;
- b. Discussions during meetings will be of a more strategic nature, while inter-sessional work would focus on technical matters;
- c. Inter-sessional work will be conducted by the respective working group, led by the co-facilitators with the support of the secretariat;
- d. SCF will be regularly informed through emails of the status of and progress on all activities;
- e. Sufficient opportunities will be provided for members to provide feedback on the work and outputs of the working groups;
- f. Decisions are taken during meetings and only under exceptional circumstances that decisions will be taken inter-sessionally;
- g. Decisions intersessionally are taken on a non-objection basis. Committee members will be given opportunity to provide feedback on the document at least within 5 working days and revisions will be made based on inputs by members before the document is presented for a decision. In case of an objection, the document will be further revised by the co-facilitator for adoption on a non-objection or the document will be tabled for discussion at the next meeting of the SCF.

### *Option 1: Guidance on prioritizing SCF work to maximize focused outcomes*

16. As part of the self-assessment conducted by SCF members, SCF members suggested that the work of the SCF be prioritized in order to maximize focused outcomes. SCF members may wish to consider this issue also in the context of its workplan discussions, and in its mandate from the COP to consider guidance provided to it in other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties.<sup>12</sup>

### *Option 2: Enhanced inter-sessional participation through virtual or other means*

17. The SCF may wish to request the secretariat to explore technical or other means, for example online or interactive fora, to enhance efficient inter-sessional work, subject to availability of resources and also keeping in mind the possible technical constraints that may impact on the capacity of members to fully participate and engage in live online meetings. SCF members may wish to also consider how inter-sessional inputs would be considered at specific meetings of the SCF.

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<sup>12</sup> Decision 7/CP.23, paragraph 14.

## Annex

### Attendance in meetings of the SCF

<i>SCF meeting</i>	<i>SCF members</i>	<i>Observers (IGOs)</i>	<i>Observers (NGOs)</i>	<i>Observers Specialized Agency</i>	<i>Observers UN organizations</i>	<i>Party observers (Annex I)</i>	<i>Party observers (Non-Annex I)</i>	<i>Total number participants</i>
1	18	9	5	3	2	12	6	54
2	18	6	0	1	3	8	5	40
3	20	6	6	2	1	4	3	41
4	20	3	6	0	1	7	5	41
5	18	4	4	3	1	5	7	42
6	18	7	2	4	2	6	6	45
7	17	5	5	3	2	7	6	45
8	19	4	9	3	1	3	6	45
9	19	4	9	2	3	5	5	47
10	18	5	7	6	6	12	11	65
11	16	7	6	4	3	10	5	51
12	16	12	11	4	4	9	8	64
13	15	6	9	4	3	5	7	49
14	16	0	10	4	1	5	3	39
15	19	4	8	3	2	8	7	51
16	14	19	18	8	6	5	6	76
17	18	12	12	2	2	4	4	54
Average	17.6	6.6	7.5	3.3	2.5	6.8	5.9	49.9