



Standing Committee on Finance

24 October 2018

Nineteenth meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance
Bonn, Germany, 29–31 October 2018

Background paper on Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement

Expected actions by the Standing Committee on Finance

The Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) will be invited to consider the ways to enhance stakeholder engagement based on the information provided in the background paper and the discussions at SCF 18, and decide on the recommendations at SCF 19.

I. Possible actions for consideration by the Standing Committee

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 to consider additional enhancements to SCF formal and informal working modalities to further enable contributions from key stakeholders to the activities of the SCF, such as enhancing virtual participation during the meetings of the SCF, organizing conference calls and issuing requests for inputs and submissions.

II. Background

A. SCF engagement with stakeholders and observers

3. The SCF considered this item at its 17th meeting 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 18.¹ 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 18.²
4. During its 18th meeting, the SCF considered the best practices in stakeholder engagement in the Convention and the possible options on further enhancing stakeholder and observer engagement with the SCF. The SCF took note that SCF has been benefiting from the engagement of observers both during meetings and also through consultations throughout the year. Observer contributions have been particularly noteworthy for example in the work of the biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows and the SCF Forums on a range of topics. The secretariat also received an input inter-sessionally from Ms. Claudia Keller (replacement for Ms. Gemma O'Reilly) as suggested during SCF 18, which is in the Annex of this Background paper.
5. SCF members expressed the need to continue finding innovative means of enhancing outreach activities and stakeholder engagement taking into account the following:

¹ SCF/2018/17/10, paragraph 16(a).

² SCF/2018/17/10, paragraph 19.

(a) The increasing workload of the SCF, its leadership role in climate finance, the need to focus in delivering the core mandates, working efficiently and prioritizing its activities;

(b) The challenges for in-person participation at SCF meetings, particularly of observer organizations from developing countries due to resources implications.

6. The SCF considered options for strengthening support to engagement through:

(a) Further-intersessional work, as appropriate;

(b) Outreach activities (for example with the Forum), to maximize cooperation with a diverse range of entities and observer constituencies. Some modalities could include webinars, side events and presentations at relevant events.

7. Some SCF members proposed exploring the possibility for virtual engagement to enhance observer participation in its meetings, keeping in mind technical constraints and limited available resources.

8. The SCF agreed that focal points should be appointed to advance and take forward possible recommendations and innovative solutions to be further discussed at SCF 19.

9. At the same meeting, the SCF also agreed that innovative ways of enhancing the engagement of stakeholders should be considered and implemented at SCF 19 and for future meetings and events of the Committee.

B. Options for further enhancing stakeholder engagements

10. Based on the above, and in addition to the steps taken at SCF 18, the following are some of the possible options for consideration by the Committee on further enhancing stakeholder and observer engagement with the SCF. The SCF may wish to keep in mind the resource implications when considering the options below.

1. Enhanced participation at SCF meetings and events through virtual platform

11. In response to the proposal at SCF 18 to virtually connect representatives of observer organizations, the secretariat arranged for virtual participation of representatives of constituencies at SCF 19 based on the following:

(a) The online broadcasting platform will be enhanced to include interactive sessions with virtual participants, in addition to the standard online broadcasting functions;

(b) Constituency focal points have nominated two representatives per constituency, encouraging balanced representation between developed and developing countries;

(c) Nominated representatives will be invited to participate through a virtual platform,³ where the representatives will engage in interactive sessions at the SCF meeting including asking questions and making interventions. It is envisaged that representatives will be connected through audio and text only, without the video, for best connections;

(d) Standard online broadcasting services will continue to be provided to the general public;

(e) Technical tests will be organized by the secretariat to ensure technical quality of virtual participation, yet it should be noted that challenges may persist in case of weak internet connections or technical issues.

2. Enhanced inter-sessional participation through webinars and conference calls

12. The SCF may wish to consider organizing webinars and conference calls for targeted constituencies aimed at increasing awareness among stakeholders on the activities of SCF. In this regard, a conference call between the Co-Chairs and the nominated representatives from the

³ Only the nominated representatives will be admitted into the interactive sessions. The admission into the interactive session will be managed by the secretariat.

constituencies was convened prior to the 19th meeting to brief the representatives about the work of the SCF and the agenda for its 19th meeting.

3. *Enhanced participation through request for inputs and submissions*

13. The SCF may wish to consider further enhancing the requests for written submissions and inputs, through issuing call for inputs and submissions, at the discretion of the co-facilitators, of each of the substantive agenda item.

4. *Posting a “how to” guide for stakeholder engagement on the UNFCCC website*

14. The SCF may wish to consider making available on the SCF website, with the support of the secretariat, a “how to” guide for observers, on what avenues they may have for engagement with the SCF.

Annex

Input received from Ms. Claudia Keller (Replacement for Ms. Gemma O'Reilly for SCF 18)

Proposals for improved stakeholder engagement in SCF meetings, tasks and products

Background

- **Decision -/CP.23 para 8** calls on the SCF *to continue its cooperation with relevant stakeholders and experts; based on FCCC/CP/2017/9 Report of the Standing Committee on Finance [to Cop 23]: Proposals for the further improvement and/or enhancement of specific areas of work of the Standing Committee on Finance, page 61, listing the following options:*
 - o Identify stakeholders whose engagement should be further enhanced, such as **observers from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention**, the private sector (investment banks or fund management), research, financial and insurance entities involved in climate change finance, and initiatives aiming at transforming the financial system towards climate-smart investments (such as international financial institutions, the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative, and the Climate Policy Initiative)
 - o Organize sessions on specific topics in order for the SCF to interact with external stakeholders
 - o Improve the web-based platform for communication and exchange of information
 - o Ensure that inputs provided by observers during meetings of the SCF are appropriately taken into consideration
 - o Incorporate formal and informal working modalities to enable more contribution from key stakeholders.

Current practices of participation in physical meetings

- Stakeholders can participate in all meetings, during plenary and in the breakout groups. This modality is highly valued by participants. Stakeholder attendance is high when meetings take place back to back with other major climate finance events and UNFCCC sessions; and their role in providing targeted input/ a constituencies view is clear. Note that climate finance negotiators constitute the SCF and observers have difficulties following the discussions either because they are too technical or too political. Webcast of the fora has improved a.) that it is live and b.) it can be accessed according to relevant agenda items.

Proposals

Organisational

- Name stakeholder focal points at SCF actively managing stakeholder engagement beyond constituted bodies and report back during one of the three annual meetings on outreach activities and proposal for improvement
- Name **climate finance focal points in all stakeholder groups and IGOs** to act as primary communication channels between COP presidencies, secretariat and the SCF
 - o invite focal points to submit views on how stakeholder engagement could be improved
 - o clarify observer cap in SCF meetings (current practice: max. 2 per constituency can attend)
- Understand BINGO and RINGO better (is C40 represented in BINGO? Who in RINGO could provide input to BA? Which private finance institutions follow the work of the SCF) answering bullet one of last year's report to the COP)
- Continue to organize meetings back to back with other climate events as this is the most effective and ecological way to ensure broad participation

Communication

- make use of *all existing* Sec communication channels (including Twitter)
- make the dedicated SCF website more stakeholder user-friendly e.g by moving up the "Spotlight Section" and adding a new column on stakeholder engagement linking to the relevant activities of the SCF where stakeholders' inputs are welcomed and the main page on stakeholder registration
- improve targeted communication with concentric circles of climate finance admirers

- “inner circle” constituencies and IGOs through the focal points
- Establish and sustain **admirers of climate finance targeted communication channels** through:
 - the possibility to subscribe to SCF website updates (feasibility to be confirmed by the secretariat; ideally before/ after meetings, possibility to subscribe to different products / task / updates of the SCFs work on the website (comparable to mailchimp insession)
 - participation in different task and products of the SCF

BA

- **Tendering process:** ensure that consultants represent parties in a balanced and equitable manner and include stakeholder engagement – as appropriate- as a task into their contracts; to be presented at the first meeting when BA cycle starts and to be endorsed by the SCF.
- Technical meetings well received as this is targeted to stakeholders; consider adding a webinar on the outline of the BA and different order drafts to secure continued and improved stakeholder consultations

Forum

- Allow for stakeholder inputs on topics (already implemented)

Beyond SCF

- Improve knowledge management through donors where NGO, think tanks and scientific institution are supported
 - Liaise with IPCC Co-Authors working on relevant questions.
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