



Standing Committee on Finance

22 September 2023

Thirty-second meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance
26–28 September 2023
Geneva, Switzerland

**Background paper on the self-assessment report of the
Standing Committee on Finance to the second review of the
functions of the Standing Committee on Finance**

Expected actions by the Standing Committee on Finance

The Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) will be invited to consider the draft self-assessment report, including draft recommendations on improving its efficiency and effectiveness.

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

1. The SCF may wish to finalize its self-assessment report on the basis of the draft report contained in the annex to this document, including by agreeing on relevant recommendations on improving its efficiency and effectiveness to be included in the report. Once agreed, the self-assessment report will be included in the 2023 annual report of the SCF as an addendum.

II. Background

2. At the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP), Parties adopted the terms of reference (TOR) for the second review of the functions of the SCF,¹ which was affirmed by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA).² The TOR includes the objective, scope, sources of information and criteria for the review. One of the sources of information for the review is a self-assessment report of the SCF and recommendations on improving its efficiency and effectiveness.

3. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) at its 58th session, initiated the review in accordance with the TOR and, among others, provided substantive guidance to the secretariat on a technical paper to be prepared for consideration by SBI 59. In response to decision 15/CP.27, paragraph 3, the SCF prepared a submission to SBI 58, on the overview of mandates provided to the SCF compared to outputs delivered by the Committee during the review period.³

¹ Decision 15/CP.27, annex.

² Decision 15/CMA.4.

³ Available at: <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/SubmissionsStaging/Documents/202306051217---SCF%20Submission%20to%20SBI%2058.pdf>.

III. Progress on the work on the second review of the functions of the Standing Committee on Finance

4. At SCF 30, members agreed to seek input, through an electronic survey, from all SCF members during the review period (current and former), Parties and observer organizations, based on the latter's engagement with the SCF.

5. At SCF 31, members agreed on the survey questions, as well as the outline of the self-assessment report. Two of the questions were to be asked only to SCF members and one question – only to Parties and observer organizations. It was also agreed that the responses to the survey will be shared with the SCF members intersessionally. The Committee requested that the co-facilitators prepare intersessionally a draft self-assessment report, including draft recommendations on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the SCF for consideration and finalization at SCF 32.

6. During the intersessional period, the survey was converted into an electronic format⁴ and conducted as shown in table 1. In addition to 56 current and former SCF members and the UNFCCC national focal points, a total of 184 representatives of observer organizations and Parties observing SCF meetings received the survey.

Table 1
Survey statistics

<i>Group of respondents</i>	<i>Dates in 2023</i>	<i>Recipients</i>	<i>Number of Party/organizations responding</i>	<i>Completed surveys</i>
SCF members	9 August– 8 September	56 current and former SCF members during the review period	N/A	24
Parties and observer States	4 August– 8 September	NFPs and 184 representatives of observer organizations, including	16	17
Observer organizations	25 August– 8 September	Party representatives participating as observers at SCF meetings	10	15

Abbreviation: NFP = national focal points of Parties to the UNFCCC.

7. During the intersessional period, the co-facilitators prepared the draft self-assessment report, including a summary of suggestions on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the SCF.

8. The analysis of the survey results is presented in section III (Lessons learned in the fulfilment of the mandate of the SCF) of the draft report and it follows the structure of the survey. From the analysis, the following areas emerged as areas for attention with the view to SCF preparing recommendations on its:

- (a) Functions, specifically on mobilization of financial resource;
- (b) Activities, specifically on the provision of draft guidance for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to the COP and the CMA;
- (c) Prioritization of work;
- (d) Working modalities;
- (e) Products and their user-friendliness.

9. Regarding the suggestions, those were also grouped thematically according to the survey structure. Effort was made to avoid duplications and suggestions were placed under the most relevant topic.

⁴ SurveyMonkey was the tool used to conduct the electronic survey.

10. The report is included in the annex to this background paper. The suggestions are included in the appendix.
11. Further technical assessment of the working modalities of the SCF will be included in the technical paper mentioned in paragraph 3 above.

Annex

Draft self-assessment report of the Standing Committee on Finance

I. Introduction

A. Mandate and background

1. At the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP), Parties adopted the terms of reference (TOR) for the second review of the functions of the SCF,⁵ which was affirmed by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA).⁶ The TOR includes the objective, scope, sources of information and criteria for the review. One of the sources on information for the review is a self-assessment report of the SCF and recommendations on improving its efficiency and effectiveness.

2. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) at its 58th session, initiated the review in accordance with the TOR and, among others, provided substantive guidance to the secretariat on the technical paper to be prepared for consideration by SBI 59. In response to decision 15/CP.27, paragraph 3, the SCF prepared a submission to SBI 58, on the overview of mandates provided to the SCF compared to outputs delivered by the Committee during the review period.⁷

B. Approach to the preparation of the self-assessment report

3. The SCF agreed to use a survey as the primary input to the self-assessment report with the view to obtaining structured information, providing for optional elaboration of the responses to the survey questions. The SCF further agreed to disseminate the survey to the following groups of respondents:

- (a) Current and former SCF members serving on the SCF during the review period;
- (b) Parties and observer States through the national focal points and Party representatives observing SCF meetings;
- (c) Observer organizations who engaged with the SCF during the review period.

4. The survey questions focused on capturing the respondents' assessment of:

- (a) How well the SCF has delivered on its:
 - (i) Four core functions;
 - (ii) The six mandated activities,⁸ including the usefulness of the SCF Fora;
- (b) The degree to which the outputs and recommendations of the SCF have advanced the work of the COP and the CMA;
- (c) The need for reorientation and reprioritization of SCF work or rationalization of SCF outputs;
- (d) The challenges for the SCF due to operating as a technical and political body;
- (e) The degree to which the SCF has implemented its annual workplans in a gender responsive manner;

⁵ Decision 15/CP.27, annex.

⁶ Decision 15/CMA.4.

⁷ Available at: <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/SubmissionsStaging/Documents/202306051217---SCF%20Submission%20to%20SBI%2058.pdf>.

⁸ Decision 2/CP.17, para. 121.

- (f) The modalities of SCF work;
 - (g) The degree to which the SCF has been able to develop and maintain useful and productive relationships with Parties and non-Party stakeholders, with additional question to Parties and observer organizations on the adequacy of the level and nature of external stakeholder engagement by the SCF;
 - (h) The user-friendliness of SCF key products;
5. In addition, SCF members were asked to assess:
- (a) The degree to which their decision-making process has been transparent;
 - (b) The timeliness of their products.
6. Further technical assessment of the working modalities of the SCF will be included in the technical paper mentioned in paragraph 2 above.

II. Progress to date

7. The electronic survey was conducted during August and September 2023.⁹ Table 1 presents information on the survey period, the number of recipients and the number of responses received, per group of respondents. In addition to 56 current and former SCF members and the UNFCCC national focal points, a total of 184 representatives of observer organizations and Parties observing SCF meetings received the survey. It was possible for more than one representative per Party or observer organization to complete the survey.

Table 1
Survey statistics

<i>Group of respondents</i>	<i>Dates in 2023</i>	<i>Recipients</i>	<i>Number of Party/organizations responding</i>	<i>Completed surveys</i>
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Abbreviation: NFP = national focal points of Parties to the UNFCCC.

8. The electronic survey was composed of questions agreed by the SCF at SCF 31.¹⁰ The respondents were required to answer the questions on the agree-disagree scale (with five options from “Strongly agree” to “Strongly disagree”) or select option “No opinion”. For each question, the respondents were provided the option to elaborate on the reasoning behind their opinion.

9. The survey questions were not mandatory, resulting in incomplete responses being submitted (two surveys were submitted without responses in the SCF members’ group and further four – in the observer organizations’ group). Therefore, the responses per question maybe lower than the total number of respondents for each group.

10. The analysis of the survey results is presented in section III below and it follows the structure of the survey. In elaborating their responses, the respondents provided many concrete and detailed suggestions on how to improve the work of the SCF, acknowledging the growing number and complexity of SCF mandates. The suggestions, also grouped

⁹ The survey was conducted using SurveyMonkey.

¹⁰ Document SCF/2023/31/6.

according to the survey structure, are included in the annex to this report, without indication of the level of support for the individual suggestions.

III. Lessons learned in the fulfilment of the mandate of the SCF in assisting the Conference of the Parties and serving the Paris Agreement in exercising its functions

To aid understanding of this section, clarification notes are included in curly brackets in italic. The notes will be removed from the final version of the report.

11. The responses to the survey show a general level of satisfaction with the efficiency and effectiveness of the SCF among the three groups of respondents. However, the responses also show that there is room for improvement in all areas of work of the SCF with regard to both procedural and substantive matters.

12. Regarding the assessment of the SCF's delivery on its core functions and mandated activities, the survey reveals that the participants are not fully satisfied with the SCF's delivery on one of its core functions (the mobilization of financial resources) and see room for improvement in the SCF's delivery on a few of its mandated activities, namely the provision of draft guidance for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, as well as the recommendations to the operating entities on how to improve their coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency.

13. Respondents recognized the growing number and complexity of SCF mandates. It was noted by some respondents that for the SCF to be able to fulfil its functions, it would either require sufficient resources or a manageable workload or a balanced approach between the two. Further, it was suggested that the SCF could improve its working modalities. This is the area that received the most suggestions for improvements, indicating that the SCF may benefit from elaborating its rules of procedure.

14. Overall, the SCF products were well received by respondents, with many acknowledgements of the high value of the executive summaries for different reports and the need to establish the executive summaries as a standard practice. The report with greatest appreciation by respondents is the Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows. Other reports, in particular the USD 100bn report and the work on definitions of climate finance were not as well received.

15. The survey reveals different perspectives in the assessment of the SCF effectiveness and efficiency, depending on the group of respondents. Effort has been made to reflect these different perspectives in a balanced manner.

16. Detailed information on the trends in responses is included under the sub-sections for the individual survey topics.

A. SCF delivery on its four core functions

17. Overall, respondents agreed or partially agreed that the SCF has fully delivered on three of its core functions, namely (1) improving the coherence and coordination in the delivery of climate change financing in the context of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention; (2) the rationalization of the Financial Mechanism and (4) the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of support provided to developing country Parties, with the observer organizations group providing more favourable responses in comparison to the SCF members and Parties. More nuanced were the views related to how well the SCF has fulfilled its function related to function (3) mobilization of financial resource, whereby no one strongly agreed to the SCF fulfilling it, with many disagreeing or strongly disagreeing. Some respondents questioned the ability of the SCF to institutionally fulfil this core function.

B. SCF delivery on its six mandated activities

18. Regarding the effectiveness of the Forum and the SCF linkages with the SBI and constituted bodies, all groups provided favourable responses, with the SCF members showing the highest appreciation for the Forum and the SCF members and Parties a higher

appreciation for the effectiveness of the SCF linkages in comparison to observer organizations, who expressed some concerns about the growing complexity of the network of UNFCCC bodies and the linkages between them.

19. Regarding the Forum's topics, the majority of the respondents from all groups agreed that they were useful. SCF members and observer organizations gave more nuanced responses in comparison to Parties, with more high ratings but also more no-opinion-type responses. The topic of the last Forum "Financing Just Transitions" received the highest number of strong agreements reflecting on its usefulness and at the same time, together with the topic of the previous Forum "Financing Nature-based Solutions", the most varied assessments.

20. All respondent groups expressed mostly partial agreement to the SCF effectiveness in providing draft guidance for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and the effectiveness of its recommendations to the operating entities on how to improve their coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency. The SCF members were relatively more conservative in their reviews with the highest proportion of disagreeing respondents.

21. Respondents generally provided favourable views regarding SCF's expert input to the periodic reviews of the Financial Mechanism by the COP and even more so regarding the preparation of biennial assessments and overviews of climate finance flows (BAs) with SCF members and observer organizations praising the value and relevance of the BAs.

C. SCF advancing the work of the COP and the CMA

22. Respondents mostly agreed and some partially agreed that SCF outputs and recommendations have helped to advance the work of the COP and the CMA, with Parties expressing a higher proportion of partial agreement and hence showing relatively less appreciation in comparison to the other two groups.

D. The need for reorientation and reprioritization of SCF work or rationalization of SCF outputs

23. In the context of an increasing amount of technical work mandated to the SCF, including requests for the preparation of technically complex reports over short periods of time, most respondents agreed or strongly agreed that there is a room for the SCF to reorient and reprioritize its work. Party respondents expressed more conservative views by partially agreeing or disagreeing with the need for rationalization of SCF outputs, recalling the role of Parties in guiding the work of the SCF.

E. Challenges in SCF operating as a technical and political body

24. Parties generally agreed that SCF should continue to operate under its dual role as a technical and political body, one Party noting that political considerations should not prevent SCF from presenting technical information. Responses from SCF members and observer organizations were more nuanced, with several respondents acknowledging the value of addressing political considerations in the context of technical discussions as a way of advancing towards governing body decisions.

F. Gender responsiveness in the implementation of the SCF annual workplans

25. While most respondents across the three groups agreed or partially agreed that the SCF implements its workplans in a gender responsive manner, about a quarter of the answers indicated no opinion, suggesting that this aspect is not straightforward to assess for all. Among the three groups, the observer organizations showed the most favourable opinion with three respondents strongly agreeing to the SCF integrating the gender perspective in its work.

G. Modalities of SCF work

26. Across the three groups, most respondents agreed or partially agreed that the SCF's working modalities are fit-for-purpose and those agreeing had a higher proportion than those partially agreeing, but some respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed. Regarding the use of breakout-group sessions, respondents expressed diverging views, some supporting this format due to its more relaxed setting and potential for expediting work, while others expressed concerns about its inclusivity. The many suggestions for improvements elaborated

by respondents indicate a potential for improvement in the SCF's working modalities, e.g. through the consideration and update of its rules of procedure.

H. SCF ability to develop and maintain useful and productive relationships with Parties and non-Party stakeholders

27. SCF members looked favourably on their ability to develop and maintain relationships with Parties and non-Party stakeholders, while Party representatives expressed diverging views and observer organizations were somewhat in the middle with most of the respondents in this third group confirming or partially confirming SCF's ability to develop and maintain such relationships. Most of the suggested improvements focused on non-Party stakeholder engagement.

I. Parties and observers' views on the adequacy of the level and nature of external stakeholder engagement by the SCF

28. Assessments of the adequacy of the level and nature of external stakeholder engagement by the SCF followed somewhat normal distribution among the two groups that were asked this question, with several Party representatives expressing no opinion.

J. User-friendliness of SCF key products

29. The assessment of the user-friendliness of the SCF flagship products, including the outreach and engagement regarding the SCF Forum reports, presented a mixed picture. Overall, Parties were more reserved in assessing the user-friendliness of the SCF products in comparison to the other two groups of respondents, with the exception of the guidance for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, which is mainly prepared for Parties and most Parties agreed or partially agreed that it is well designed and easy to use. Overall, the BAs received the most positive assessment, followed by the SCF Forum reports and the reports on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties. The work on the Article 2, paragraph 1(c), of the Paris Agreement and the USD 100 billion report generally received mixed assessment. The work on the climate finance definitions attracted mixed reviews among SCF members and observer organizations and Parties mostly disagreed that it is a well-designed and easy to use.

K. SCF assessment of the degree to which their decision-making process has been transparent

30. Most SCF members agreed that their decision-making process is transparent. Some members provided justifications, elaborating on the SCF practice of having their meetings open to observers, reporting back to plenary when break-out sessions were held during SCF meetings and the practice of capturing and publishing outcomes of SCF deliberations.

L. SCF assessment of the timeliness of their products

31. Regarding the seven SCF flagship products, members expressed diverging views only with respect to the timely dissemination of the draft guidance for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism. SCF members mostly agreed that the other flagship products were disseminated in a timely manner. One respondent stressed that Parties don't have enough time to read and digest materials, also recognizing that it would be hard to do better considering the proximity of SCF meetings that produce the guidance to the COP sessions.

IV. Recommendations on improving its efficiency and effectiveness

To be agreed on by SCF, based on the outcomes of the survey.

Based on the outcomes of the survey, the SCF's intersessional work and the discussion during SCF32, the SCF suggests the following recommendations for improving its efficiency and effectiveness:

- Placeholder for recommendations related to the SCF's delivery on its core functions
- Placeholder for recommendations related to the SCF's delivery on its mandated activities

- Placeholder for recommendations related to the user-friendliness of the SCF's product
- Placeholder for recommendations related to the working modalities of the SCF and potential consideration and update of the SCF's rules of procedure
- Placeholder for recommendations related to the SCF operating as a technical and political body
- Placeholder for recommendations related to the gender responsiveness of the SCF in the implementation of its annual workplans

Appendix

Suggestions from individual SCF members, Parties and observer organizations on how the SCF could improve its efficiency and effectiveness

1. The following is a streamlined compilation of the suggestions from individual SCF members, Parties and observer organizations on how the SCF could improve its efficiency and effectiveness, grouped according to the survey structure.

A. Delivery of the SCF on its four core functions

2. It was suggested that:

(a) Regarding improving the coherence and coordination in the delivery of climate change financing, the SCF could:

(i) Consider the degree to which the COP and the CMA accept the SCF recommendations related to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and if there is no increase in reliance on SCF recommendations, the SCF could use its resources in other areas;

(ii) Consider and make recommendations to the COP and the CMA regarding the establishment of a dedicated fund for the most vulnerable communities and segments of society based on a simplified access to financing at the national- and sub-national levels;

(iii) Conduct further work on how climate finance can be accessed at the national level;

(b) Regarding rationalization of the Financial Mechanism, the SCF could recommend to the COP and the CMA to improve the clarity, congruence and alignment of the SCF core functions, mandated activities and additional mandates it receives, with the view to SCF delivering robust input to governing body discussions, sufficiently covering all key areas of interest to Parties;

(c) Regarding mobilization of financial resource, the SCF could discuss enabling regulatory environments of countries;

(d) Regarding MRV of support provided to developing country Parties, the SCF could consider, without duplication of work, progress under the enhanced transparency framework of the Paris Agreement.

B. Delivery of the SCF on its six mandated activities

3. It was suggested that:

(a) Regarding the organization of its Forum, the SCF could:

(i) Reconsider its frequency and always conducting it back-to-back with other events;

(ii) Engage more actively the private sector actors and observers of SCF work, especially civil society constituencies, including by providing financial support for non-Party observers to attend the Forum;

(iii) Seek ways to promote linkages and coherence with private sector actors and objectives;

(b) Regarding its linkages with the SBI and constituted bodies, the SCF could:

(i) Further strengthen and make more systematic and equitable its engagements, ensuring that all relevant constituted bodies, working and expert groups have focal points;

- (ii) Strengthen the strategic alignment and advancement of mutual priorities, where possible, and seek perspectives from constituted bodies that could strengthen the diversity of inputs received by the SCF;
- (iii) Ensure that efforts to engage with the Financial Mechanism and the inputs from constituted bodies are valued and taken on board;
- (c) Regarding its provision to the COP and the CMA of draft guidance for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the SCF could:
 - (i) Further improve its work, including the methodology to generate such guidance;
 - (ii) Recommend to the COP and the CMA to request that the guidance is extended to other international financial institutions, including in the context of Article 2, paragraph 1(c) of the Paris Agreement;
 - (d) Regarding its recommendations on how to improve the coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the SCF could:
 - (i) Further improve its work;
 - (ii) Improve the potential for implementation of the guidance by the operating entities;
 - (iii) Produce the guidance more systematically and in a strategic and coherent manner;
 - (e) Regarding its expert input to the periodic reviews of the Financial Mechanism by the COP, the SCF could recommend to the COP to raise the profile of these reviews in the wider context of the climate finance architecture;
 - (f) Regarding its preparation of BAs, the SCF could follow a clear climate finance accounting methodology. *{It should be clarified if this is a recommendation for consideration by the COP and the CMA to provide accounting methodology or to the SCF to develop and recommend one.}*

C. SCF advancing the work of the COP and the CMA

4. It was suggested that the SCF could formulate clear recommendations to the COP and the CMA.

D. The need for reorientation and reprioritization of SCF work or rationalization of SCF outputs

5. It was suggested that the SCF could:
- (a) Recommend to the COP and the CMA to limit its workload to a manageable level;
 - (b) Avoid low-level technical negotiations;
 - (c) Focus on large flagship reports that are data-driven (not political in nature);
 - (d) Exercise greater independence in identifying priority issues for expert reports, including what work could be outsourced, and ensure the alignment of its products within a longer-term strategic work program *{This appears to be a potential recommendation to the COP and the CMA}*;
 - (e) Improve the alignment of its work with work programs outside the finance tracks to reduce duplication of effort.

E. Challenges in SCF operating as a technical and political body

6. It was suggested that the SCF could:
- (a) Initiate a discussion on its future direction;
 - (b) Agree at the beginning of the year on its priorities, strategy and agenda, taking into account the technical-political balance, and focus on its technical role during meetings;

(c) Avoid political discussions taking up too much meeting time, including by employing appropriate working modalities, leaving larger political considerations for the COP and the CMA;

(d) Reserve capacity and time for technical work to ensure continued advancement of strategic research on longer-term priorities;

(e) Recommend to the COP and the CMA to clearly define the SCF mandates.

F. Gender responsiveness in the implementation of the SCF annual workplans

7. It was suggested that the SCF could:

(a) Bring about more consistency with regard to gender considerations in its work;

(b) Strengthen its approach to integrating gender analysis and disaggregated data, if available, in its reports and ensure that women are consulted in the review and consideration of its products, including with the view to making them accessible to women and girls;

(c) Seek contributions from the Women and Gender Constituency;

(d) Engage with the development and implementation of Gender Action Plans;

(e) Ensure that all panels and events it organizes aim for gender balance;

(f) Organize a forum on gender responsiveness.

G. SCF modalities of work

8. It was suggested that the SCF could:

(a) Hold close sessions to allow SCF members to address sensitive issues before returning to report on their deliberations in public sessions;

(b) Consider extending its meetings time, after rationalizing its work on core functions and mandates as much as possible;

(c) Provide adequate time for key topics such as the guidance to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism;

(d) Be capable of making decisions, including through voting on specific issues, where the decision could be taken by the majority;

(e) Be given more attention and resources to carry out the necessary work;

(f) Improve its working modalities with the view to enabling balanced participation of members, observers of SCF work and advisers from developing and developed countries;

(g) Recommend to the COP and the CMA to provide a funding mechanism for the participation of at least one representative per observing Party from each UNFCCC negotiating group at SCF meetings, particularly if a negotiating group is not represented on the SCF and the SCF continues to utilize break-out groups. Such an approach would ensure improved and more-balanced SCF flagship products;

(h) Recommend to the COP and the CMA to fund more SCF members and observers from developing countries to participate in SCF meetings; *{It should be clarified if observers refers to both Parties and observer organizations}*

(i) Improve the selection of its co-chairs and co-facilitators with the view to the SCF process being more fairly and equitably served;

(j) Establish working groups and/or ad-hoc committees which involve observers and representatives from relevant constituencies and professional organizations, to ensure deeper engagement on specific issues; *{It should be clarified if 'observers' refers to both Parties and observer organizations.}*

(k) Consider conflicts of interest in the SCF proceedings;

- (l) Develop a code of input to SCF work applicable to all stakeholders, including members;
- (m) Further strengthen its intersessional work;
- (n) Make its meetings more family-friendly.

H. SCF ability to develop and maintain useful and productive relationships with Parties and non-Party stakeholders

9. It was suggested that the SCF could:
- (a) Strengthen its engagement with:
 - (i) Real-economy financial institutions and business actors rather than non-Party stakeholders with intergovernmental experience;
 - (ii) Technical bodies outside the UNFCCC;
 - (iii) All interested constituencies observing SCF and ensure they can meaningfully engage in SCF work, including by allowing them to take the floor during SCF meetings;
 - (iv) Non-Party stakeholders beyond the submission process;
 - (b) Ensure that, with respect to the processing of Party submissions, off-line synthesis of submissions is based on clear and transparent process and includes all Parties' views in a complete and balanced manner;
 - (c) Use online and electronic means to engage with observers of SCF work and the wider community in the intersessional periods *{i.e. between SCF meetings.}*;
 - (d) Ensure the greatest possible participation and transparency in the delivery of its products, including by carrying out webinars;
 - (e) Ensure its products are shared well in advance with non-SCF members. *{SCF products are typically published and therefore shared with SCF members and observers of SCF work at the same time.}*

I. Parties and observer organizations' views on the adequacy of the level and nature of external stakeholder engagement by the SCF

10. It was suggested that the SCF could:
- (a) Continue to ensure that the process is Party driven, while welcoming views and participation from non-Party stakeholders, as appropriate and when needed;
 - (b) Improve its working approach to ensure it engages not only at the global, but also at the regional and national levels;
 - (c) Clarify the purpose of its engagement with external stakeholders and increase the opportunities for meaningful contributions by external stakeholders.

J. User-friendliness of SCF key products

11. It was suggested that that the SCF could:
- (a) Improve the readability, communication/outreach and online access for all its products;
 - (b) Prepare executive summaries with visual aids for all its products;
 - (c) Ensure that its products reflect views and suggestions from all participants in a fair and equitable manner;
 - (d) Regarding the draft guidance for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism:
 - (i) Produce a draft decision text, indicating agreed and not agreed elements;
 - (ii) Streamline and refine the elements of the draft guidance, rather than compiling submissions;

(e) Regarding the work related to Article 2, paragraph 1(c), of the Paris Agreement, increase the depth of reporting.

K. SCF assessment of the degree to which their decision-making process has been transparent

12. It was suggested that the SCF could reflect minority views in its documents or ensure that such views are reported orally for enhancing the understanding of the different points of view.

L. SCF assessment of the timeliness of their products

13. It was suggested that the SCF could circulate well in advance documents that are large in volume.
