

Thirty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance  
 11–12 February 2026  
 Bonn, Germany

## Programme outline of the 2026 SCF Forum on financing climate action in water systems and the ocean

<b>DAY 1: FRAMING THE ISSUES AND IDENTIFYING BARRIERS</b>
<p><b>Opening Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Introduction of the overall theme and objectives of the Forum</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Session 1: Scene-setting session</b></p>
<p><b>Session 2: Climate finance for water systems and the ocean: trends, gaps and the climate agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>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. It will help establish a shared understanding of water systems and the ocean within the climate finance landscape and the broader climate and sustainable development agenda, and underscore their importance for climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience.</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Session 3<sup>i</sup>: Barriers affecting the flow of climate finance to water systems and the ocean: Structural and systemic barriers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Assess the structural and systemic factors that constrain the scaling up of climate finance for water systems and the ocean. The session aims to 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 trans-boundary water resource management and challenges in translating policy priorities into project pipelines and finance-ready investments.</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Session 4<sup>i</sup>: Enabling environments: governance and institutional systems for scaling climate finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>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. The 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.</i></li> </ul>
<b>DAY 2: DELIVERY, EFFECTIVENESS AND COHERENCE OF CLIMATE FINANCE</b>
<p><b>Session 5<sup>i</sup>: Financial instruments and approaches for scaling climate finance for water systems and the ocean</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Discuss a range of available financial instruments and innovative approaches, particularly public and private sources, and blended finance that can support the scaling up of climate finance for water systems and the ocean, with particular attention to adaptation and resilience.</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Session 6<sup>i</sup>: Solutions to address barriers for mobilizing finance and investments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Explore how different financial instruments and approaches can respond to specific barriers identified during Day 1. Through focused discussions, the session aims to highlight linkages between constraints, financial solutions and enabling conditions, and to identify common lessons and considerations for improving the effectiveness and scalability of climate finance for water systems and the ocean</i></li> </ul>

**Session 7<sup>i</sup>: Delivery and access: reaching local actors and communities**

- *Assess how climate finance for water systems and the ocean is delivered to, or constrained from reaching, local actors responsible for implementation, including cities, subnational governments, and frontline communities. The session will consider practical experiences and emerging models that improve the delivery, accessibility, inclusiveness, and effectiveness of climate finance, at the local level.*

**Session 8: Key takeaways**

- *Identify key takeaways and actionable recommendations for consideration by the COP and the CMA.*

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<sup>i</sup> As appropriate, breakout groups under sessions 3 to 7 may be split into water systems and the ocean.