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Report of the Standing Committee on Finance

Summary

This report presents information on the work of the Standing Committee on Finance in 2020, its workplan and the outcomes of the activities undertaken. It contains a revised timeline and outreach plan for the fourth (2020) Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows; information on progress in preparing the first report on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement; information on progress in preparing for the next Standing Committee on Finance Forum, on finance for nature-based solutions; the workplan of the Standing Committee on Finance for 2020–2021; and a list of the members of the Committee.



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Abbreviations and acronyms

AC	Adaptation Committee
BA	Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
COP	Conference of the Parties
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
G20	Group of 20
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
LEG	Least Developed Countries Expert Group
MDB	multilateral development bank
NAP	national adaptation plan
NDC	nationally determined contribution
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PCCB	Paris Committee on Capacity-building
Q*	quarter
SB	sessions of the subsidiary bodies
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
SCF	Standing Committee on Finance
WIM	Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts

* Used exclusively in annex II.

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The SCF prepares annual reports to the COP.¹ COP 25 and CMA 2 endorsed² the workplan of the SCF for 2020.³

B. Scope of the report

2. This report presents the outcomes of the work of the SCF in 2020, including information on SCF 22 and 23, for consideration at COP 26 and CMA 3.

II. Membership and meetings of the Standing Committee on Finance in 2020

A. Membership

3. At its meeting on 25 August 2020, the Bureau of the governing bodies decided to extend the current membership of the Convention, Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement bodies as needed until successors can be appointed or elected.⁴

4. The SCF elects its Chair and Vice-Chair from among its members for a term of one year each, with one being a member from a Party not included in Annex I to the Convention and the other being a member from a Party included in Annex I to the Convention.⁵ Furthermore, COP 18 decided that the Chair and Vice-Chair shall serve as Co-Chairs of the SCF, effective from the first meeting of the SCF in 2013.⁶ The SCF decided to extend the terms of Ayman Shasly and Ismo Ulvila as SCF Co-Chairs until the beginning of the first meeting of the SCF in 2021.

5. Regarding changes in membership, Ali Waqas Malik (Pakistan) replaced Jonghun Lee (Republic of Korea), and Liucai Zhu (China) was nominated to the vacant seat for other Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.

6. A list of the members of the SCF as at 31 December 2020 is contained in annex I.

B. Meetings

7. In 2020, owing to the circumstances related to the coronavirus disease 2019, the SCF adjusted its mode of work by increasing its informal meetings and intersessional work with the aim of ensuring continued progress in implementing its workplan. In particular, the SCF made every effort to advance technical work on the fourth (2020) BA, the first report on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement, and the next SCF Forum. In addition, it pursued stakeholder engagement via webinars and virtual consultations, and collaborated with other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement by participating in their virtual meetings and exchanging information on its workplan and outcomes.

¹ As per decision 2/CP.17, para. 120.

² Decisions 11/CP.25, para. 2, and 5/CMA.2, para. 2.

³ FCCC/CP/2019/10–FCCC/PA/CMA/2019/3, annex V.

⁴ See https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/message_to_parties_and_observers_outcomes_of_cop_bureau%20meeting.pdf.

⁵ As per decision 2/CP.17, annex VI, para. 4.

⁶ Decision 5/CP.18, para. 7.

8. Although holding only virtual meetings in 2020 slowed its regular pace of decision-making, where possible the SCF made substantive and procedural decisions to advance its climate finance agenda in preparation for COP 26 and CMA 3.

9. The SCF held two virtual meetings in 2020, with over 122 attendees, including Party observers, representatives of observer organizations (non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, think tanks and MDBs) and representatives of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, who contributed to the deliberations of the SCF. Prior to SCF 22, the SCF Co-Chairs conducted a webinar to inform observers of the agenda and expected outcomes. Over 20 observer constituency focal points and representatives of intergovernmental organizations and MDBs attended the webinar and subsequently participated in the SCF meeting.

10. The SCF conducted its virtual meetings as plenary sessions. The representatives of observer organizations were invited to express their views on the issues under discussion and to engage actively in the deliberations.

11. The meeting documents and recordings are available on the SCF web pages.⁷ A total of 16 background papers and technical papers were produced to support the deliberations of the SCF.

12. At SCF 22, held virtually from 28 to 30 September 2020, the SCF agreed to:

(a) Advance work on preparing the second-order draft of the technical report on the fourth BA on the basis of the revised indicative timeline and modified outreach activities to be undertaken in 2020–2021;

(b) Advance work on preparing the first-order draft of the first report on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement on the basis of the revised indicative timeline and updated workplan;

(c) Organize the next SCF Forum, planned to take place in 2021, on finance for nature-based solutions, refine the draft programme, conduct virtual stakeholder consultations on key thematic areas, and continue to explore possible venues and dates;

(d) Appoint new, and reaffirm existing, focal points for constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, and continue in 2020–2021 the practice of the focal points representing the SCF at relevant meetings and events;

(e) Not provide draft guidance to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism in 2020 owing to the postponement of COP 26 to 2021;

(f) Extend its 2020 workplan to cover 2021, given that the implementation of most activities planned for 2020 has been extended to 2021 and COP 26 has been postponed to 2021 owing to the circumstances related to the coronavirus disease 2019 (see annex III).

13. At SCF 23, held virtually on 16 and 17 December 2020, the SCF agreed to:

(a) Undertake further work, including data collection and analysis, in preparing the third-order draft of the technical report on the fourth BA, and initiate activities as per the agreed timeline related to the draft elements of the summary and recommendations;

(b) Undertake further work on the first report on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement, including data collection and analysis, with a view to preparing the third-order draft, and initiate activities as per the agreed timeline related to the draft elements of the summary and recommendations;

(c) Inform Parties and constituted bodies on the process of submission of views and recommendations on elements to be taken into account in developing the draft guidance for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and continue discussions on the format of and process for developing the draft guidance at SCF 24.

⁷ <http://unfccc.int/6881.php>.

III. Work of the Standing Committee on Finance in 2020

A. Fourth (2020) Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows

14. COP 25 and CMA 2 noted the outcomes of discussions on the fourth BA, including the outline of the technical report, the workplan, the outreach plan and the indicative timeline for preparation of the report.⁸ They requested the SCF to consider Parties' views on the operational definitions of climate finance in order to enhance technical work in the context of the fourth BA,⁹ and encouraged the SCF to present, to the extent possible, disaggregated information in relation to, inter alia, mapping data availability and gaps by sector, assessing climate finance flows and presenting information on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement.¹⁰

15. SCF 22 agreed on a revised indicative timeline and outreach plan for the fourth BA (see annex II), including proposed publication in mid-2021. The preparation of the technical report advanced significantly in 2020 under the guidance of the co-facilitators, Seyni Nafoussi and Vicky Noens.

16. At SCF 22 and 23, the SCF considered the first- and second-order drafts, respectively, of the technical report on the fourth BA, including issues related to data availability, methodological updates and effectiveness of climate finance flows as well as mapping of information related to Article 2, paragraph 1(c), of the Paris Agreement. The following intersessional work was conducted, on which the SCF provided guidance at its meetings:

(a) Thirteen Party submissions on their views on the operational definitions of climate finance in the context of the fourth BA were processed,¹¹ and a summary of the views was integrated into the draft technical report for consideration by the SCF at its meetings;

(b) Twenty-nine submissions in response to the call for evidence (information and data for the preparation of the BA) issued on 22 November 2019¹² as agreed at SCF 21¹³ were received by the extended deadline of 30 October 2020 and analysed and, where relevant, information was integrated into the draft technical report;

(c) Four informal webinars for contributors and experts were conducted (on 7 April, 13 October, 20 October and 6 November 2020) as outreach activities to gather inputs for the preparation of the fourth BA;¹⁴

(d) The SCF working group on the BA held two informal meetings (on 2 April and 22 July 2020) to discuss progress in developing the draft technical report and next steps. Subsequently, written comments were received from SCF members and integrated into the draft technical report.

17. At SCF 23 it was agreed to continue relevant technical work intersessionally with a view to considering an advanced version of the technical report on the fourth BA and draft elements of the summary and recommendations at SCF 24 and finalizing the relevant work at SCF 25.

⁸ Decisions 11/CP.25, para. 3, and 5/CMA.2, para. 3.

⁹ Decisions 11/CP.25, para. 10, and 5/CMA.2, para. 10.

¹⁰ Decisions 11/CP.25, para. 9, and 5/CMA.2, para. 9.

¹¹ Available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/resources/standing-committee-on-finance-info-repository#eq-6>.

¹² The call for evidence and the submissions are available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/resources/standing-committee-on-finance-info-repository#eq-5>.

¹³ SCF document SCF/2019/21/11, para. 13.

¹⁴ The webinars are available at <https://cop23.unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/resources/biennial-assessment-of-climate-finance>.

B. First report on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement

18. COP 24 requested the SCF to prepare, every four years, a report on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement for consideration starting at COP 26 and CMA 3.¹⁵ It also requested the SCF, in preparing the report, to collaborate, as appropriate, with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the subsidiary and constituted bodies, multilateral and bilateral channels, and observer organizations.¹⁶ COP 25 and CMA 2 encouraged the SCF to present, to the extent possible, disaggregated information in relation to, inter alia, mapping data availability and gaps by sector, assessing climate finance flows and presenting information on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement.¹⁷ They also encouraged the SCF, in implementing its strategic outreach plan, to build on existing efforts to reach out to developing country Parties and relevant developing country stakeholders when generating data and information for the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement.¹⁸

19. SCF 20 agreed that work on the report should be organized and implemented following the BA approach, that is comprising technical work and work at the Committee level. The technical work combines literature review with technical meetings, expert meetings, webinars and outreach activities, involving data providers and other contributors that have experience in assessing developing countries' needs at the national, regional and global level, and involves data- and information-gathering from a range of sources and databases. This approach allows the SCF to gather the necessary information and methodologies for preparing the first report on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement while also building a network of collaborators for the subsequent reports. The work is organized in three phases: technical work and interaction with Parties and collaborators; discussion of the deliverables of the technical work and review of progress at the Committee level, facilitated by the two co-facilitators; and discussion of the conclusions and recommendations by the SCF.

20. The preparation of the first technical report advanced considerably in 2020 on the basis of the report outline agreed at SCF 21,¹⁹ under the guidance of the co-facilitators, Zaheer Fakir and Mattias Frumerie.

21. Seventeen submissions were received by the extended deadline of 30 October 2020 from Parties and groups of Parties in response to a call for evidence (information and data for the preparation of the report) issued on 22 November 2019²⁰ as agreed at SCF 21.²¹ In 2020, four informal regional webinars for contributors and experts were conducted as outreach activities to gather inputs for the preparation of the report. The webinars were held on 7 April, 17 September, 24 September and 14 October 2020.²²

22. Regarding technical work on drafting the report on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement, the relevant SCF working group held two informal meetings (on 2 April and 21 July 2020) and invited comments on the draft. Subsequently, written comments were received and

¹⁵ Decision 4/CP.24, para. 13.

¹⁶ Decision 4/CP.24, para. 14.

¹⁷ Decisions 11/CP.25, para. 9, and 5/CMA.2, para. 9.

¹⁸ Decisions 11/CP.25, para. 12, and 5/CMA.2, para. 12.

¹⁹ See document FCCC/CP/2019/10–FCCC/PA/CMA/2019/3, annex III, chap. I.

²⁰ The call for evidence and the submissions are available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/workstreams/needs-report/repository-of-information-on-the-needs-of-developing-country-parties>. The deadline for the call for evidence was extended to 30 October 2020.

²¹ SCF document SCF/2019/21/11, para. 13.

²² The webinars are available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/workstreams/needs-report>.

integrated into the draft. SCF 22 and 23 considered the technical work undertaken in preparing the report.

23. Work on the report was conducted at SCF 22 and 23 as well as intersessionally under the guidance of the co-facilitators. SCF 22 agreed on an updated workplan and revised indicative timeline for the report including proposed publication of the report in mid-2021.²³ SCF 22 and 23 considered the first- and second-order drafts of the report, respectively, including issues related to terminology, presentation of data, information and format, and provided guidance on intersessional work.

24. At SCF 23 it was agreed to continue technical work intersessionally with a view to preparing the third-order draft and to initiate activities related to the draft elements of the summary and recommendations for consideration at SCF 24.

C. Forum of the Standing Committee on Finance

25. COP 17²⁴ 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. Furthermore, the COP requested the SCF to facilitate participation of the private sector, financial institutions and academia in the SCF Forum, as well as to further strengthen its stakeholder engagement²⁵. COP 25 and CMA 2 welcomed finance for nature-based solutions as the topic of the next SCF Forum.

26. During the intersessional period following COP 25, co-facilitators Fiona Gilbert and Mohamed Nasr developed a draft programme outline for the next SCF Forum.

27. A call for inputs from Parties and observers to inform the preparations for the Forum was open from 15 June to 31 July 2020. Forty-two submissions were received from Parties and other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations agencies, multilateral and bilateral financial institutions, think tanks and academic institutions. The submissions drew attention to a range of substantive issues, such as definition and principles of nature-based solutions, synergies with the Rio Conventions and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, importance of indigenous peoples' and traditional knowledge, and the role of the private sector, as well as providing references to case studies and ongoing initiatives that provide examples of scaling action and financing for nature-based projects. The inputs can be found on the SCF Forum web page.²⁶

28. SCF 22 considered the draft programme and date and venue options for the Forum. Holding an in-person Forum is vital to achieving the objectives of fostering interaction among and meaningful engagement of participants. Given the considerable uncertainty regarding holding international in-person meetings in 2020 and noting that several key events related to nature-based solutions and UNFCCC meetings had been postponed to 2021, the SCF agreed to postpone the Forum to 2021.

29. The co-facilitators held virtual consultations on 5 November 2020 with over 50 participants (the stakeholders who had submitted the inputs referred to in para. 27 above) to gather their feedback on key substantive issues underpinning the Forum theme, including definition of nature-based solutions, high-potential nature-based solutions in climate adaptation and mitigation, key stakeholders in a nature-based project, and linkages with other intergovernmental processes, as well as on the scope and format of the Forum.

30. At SCF 23, the co-facilitators presented the outcomes of the virtual stakeholder consultations and a timeline of activities to prepare for the Forum in 2021.

²³ See SCF 22 meeting report, annex III, available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Report%20of%20the%20meeting_SCF_22_Final.pdf.

²⁴ Decision 2/CP.17, para. 121(a).

²⁵ Decisions 5/CP.18, para. 4, and 8/CP.23, para. 14.

²⁶ <https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/events-meetings/scf-forum/the-next-scf-forum-finance-for-nature-based-solutions>.

31. During the intersessional period prior to SCF 24, the co-facilitators will further refine the programme and continue to assess possible venues for the Forum.

D. Draft guidance to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism

32. COP 17 mandated the SCF to provide the COP with draft guidance for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism with a view to improving the consistency and practicality of such guidance, taking into account the annual reports of the operating entities as well as submissions from Parties.²⁷ Furthermore, COP 21 decided that the SCF shall serve the Paris Agreement in line with its functions and responsibilities established under the COP,²⁸ which was confirmed at CMA 1.3.²⁹

33. SCF 22 considered the timing of the publication of the 2020 annual reports of the GCF and the GEF, as conveyed by their secretariats, and a timeline of activities required for producing the draft guidance. The SCF agreed to provide draft guidance to the operating entities in 2021, in time for consideration at COP 26 and CMA 3. It also agreed to share with Parties and constituted bodies the 2020 annual reports of the GCF and the GEF once they become available, and to remind Parties of the invitation by the COP³⁰ to submit to the secretariat their views and recommendations on elements to be taken into account in developing the draft guidance. The SCF further agreed to inform Parties and constituted bodies that the submissions may be provided in 2020 and/or 2021.

34. SCF 23 took note of the status of submission of the 2020 annual reports of the GCF and the GEF and reiterated the agreements referred to in para. 33 above.

35. The SCF agreed to continue discussions on the format of and process for developing the draft guidance at SCF 24. It requested co-facilitators Diann Black-Layne and Toru Sugio to prepare a workplan with options for advancing the preparations of the draft guidance for consideration at SCF 24.

E. Gender

36. COP 22 requested all constituted bodies under the Convention to include in their regular reports information on progress towards integrating a gender perspective into their respective processes.³¹ In response, in 2020 the SCF:

(a) Continued to integrate gender considerations into the fourth BA by including information on gender in the context of climate finance tracking and reporting from a range of sources, including national reports submitted under the Convention and other reports and studies;

(b) Highlighted the topic of gender and climate finance in two informal webinars conducted for contributors and experts in relation to the fourth BA (see para. 16(c) above). One webinar included a presentation by an invited speaker on gender and climate finance issues;

(c) Considered how gender-disaggregated information on the needs of developing countries, where available in existing reports, could be incorporated into the first report on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement;

(d) Included in the draft programme for the next SCF Forum space for discussions on gender-based and inclusive approaches to addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation;

²⁷ Decision 2/CP.17, para. 121(c).

²⁸ Decision 1/CP.21, para. 63.

²⁹ Decision 3/CMA.1, para. 6.

³⁰ Decision 7/CP.20, para. 26.

³¹ Decision 21/CP.22, para. 14.

(e) Strived for gender balance among invited panellists for its webinars, stakeholder consultations and progress update event at the UNFCCC Climate Dialogues 2020.

F. Linkages with the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and the constituted bodies under the Convention

37. COP 21 requested the SCF to continue to strengthen its engagement with all relevant stakeholders and bodies under the Convention.³² The SCF continued its overall approach to maintaining linkages with the other constituted bodies, taking into account available resources and working modalities.³³

38. By sharing its workplan and informing them of the work under its various workstreams, the SCF maintained linkages with the AC, the Consultative Group of Experts, the LEG, the PCCB, the SBI, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, the Technology Executive Committee and the WIM Executive Committee.

39. The SCF appointed new and reconfirmed existing focal points to represent the SCF when engaging in work under the thematic areas of other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, namely:

(a) Gabriela Blatter, Zaheer Fakir and Mohamed Nasr on adaptation-related matters, including representing the SCF in the AC NAP task force and working group on the technical examination process on adaptation, and in the LEG;

(b) Diann Black-Layne and Vicky Noens on technology-related matters, including representing the SCF on the Advisory Board of the Climate Technology Centre and Network;

(c) Mattias Frumerie and Ismo Ulvila on matters related to capacity-building, including representing the SCF on the PCCB;

(d) Randy Caruso and Paul Herbert Oquist Kelley on matters related to loss and damage, including liaising with the WIM Executive Committee;

(e) Eva Schreuder on matters related to gender;

(f) Ivan Zambrana Flores on coherence and coordination related to financing for forests.

40. Since the previous SCF report, SCF focal points and members have participated in the following meetings and events:

(a) The 4th meeting of the PCCB, held virtually from 22 to 25 June 2020, including providing inputs on the establishment of the informal coordination mechanism;

(b) The 38th meeting of the LEG, held virtually from 17 to 21 August 2020, including the discussion on implementation of NAPs;

(c) The 18th meeting of the AC, held virtually from 9 to 12 November 2020, in particular the discussions on the synthesis report to be prepared by the AC for the global stocktake;

(d) The Climate Technology Centre and Network Advisory Board virtual meeting held from 10 to 12 November 2020, including providing an update on SCF work;

(e) A webinar organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on climate finance in the agriculture sector, held on 13 May 2020, including making a presentation on international climate finance architecture and the role of the SCF;

(f) The 14th International Conference on Community-based Adaptation to Climate Change, in September 2020, including facilitating a session on multilateral climate funds and multilateral development funds;

³² Decision 6/CP.21, para. 2.

³³ As per decision 8/CP.23, para. 11.

- (g) The Climate Dialogues, including actively representing the SCF at several mandated and non-mandated events:
- (i) The 5th annual meeting of the GCF with the constituted bodies;
 - (ii) A PCCB event on maintaining the momentum of capacity-building;
 - (iii) A WIM Executive Committee event;
 - (iv) The structured expert dialogue on the second periodic review of the long-term global goal;
 - (v) The ocean and climate change dialogue;
 - (vi) An informal dialogue with the constituted bodies.

G. Enhancing stakeholder engagement

41. COP 25 and CMA 2 took note of the SCF strategic outreach plan on enhancing engagement with stakeholders.³⁴ The SCF undertook several activities in 2020 with a view to involving a wide range of stakeholders in its workstreams, including:

- (a) Four outreach webinars in the context of the fourth BA (see para. 16(c) above) (with approximately 350 participants);
- (b) Three regional outreach webinars in the context of the first report on the determination of needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement (with approximately 230 participants) and a fourth webinar for contributors and experts on the development of the report (with approximately 120 participants) (see para. 21 above);
- (c) Virtual stakeholder consultations with those who responded to the call for public inputs on the SCF Forum on finance for nature-based solutions (see para. 29 above);
- (d) A virtual progress update on SCF work during the Climate Dialogues (with approximately 80 participants). The SCF Co-Chairs and co-facilitators communicated information on the status of the SCF workplan and progress across various workstreams and hosted an interactive panel session on how SCF flagship products could support and inform the work of Parties and non-Party stakeholders.

³⁴ Decisions 11/CP.25, para. 11, and 5/CMA.2, para. 11.

Annex I

Members of the Standing Committee on Finance as at 31 December 2020

[English only]

I. Parties included in Annex I to the Convention

Gabriela Blatter (Switzerland)
Randy Caruso (United States of America)
Sergey Chestnoy (Russian Federation)
Delphine Eyraud (France)
Mattias Frumerie (Sweden)
Fiona Gilbert (Australia)
Vicky Noens (Belgium)
Eva Schreuder (Netherlands)
Toru Sugio (Japan)
Ismo Ulvila (European Union)

II. Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

African States

Zaheer Fakir (South Africa)
Mohamed Nasr (Egypt)

Asia-Pacific States

Ali Waqas Malik (Pakistan)
Ayman Shasly (Saudi Arabia)

Latin American and Caribbean States

Paul Herbert Oquist Kelley (Nicaragua)
Ivan Zambrana Flores (Plurinational State of Bolivia)

Least developed countries

Zerihun Getu Mekuria (Ethiopia)

Small island developing States

Diann Black-Layne (Antigua and Barbuda)

Other Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

Hussein Alfa Nafu (Mali)
Liucai Zhu (China)

Annex II

Revised indicative timeline and outreach plan for the preparation of the fourth (2020) Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows

[English only]

Table II.1

Revised indicative timeline and milestones

Activities and deliverables	2019				2020				2021			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Phase I: developing and finalizing the outline												
Scope, structure and annotated outline												
Phase II: research and drafting												
Literature review												
Engagement with data providers, producers and aggregators		Collaborators meeting			Stakeholder webinar		Stakeholder webinars (to be confirmed)					
Open call for evidence period												
Phase III: developing the BA												
Developing the first- and second-order and final drafts of the technical report					Zero-order draft	First-order draft		Second-order draft	Final draft			
Working group discussions on draft chapters of the technical report												
SCF discussions on draft report							SCF 22	SCF 23 (to be confirmed)	SCF 24 (to be confirmed)	SCF 25 (to be confirmed)		
Drafting and finalizing the summary and recommendations									First-order draft	Final draft		

Activities and deliverables	2019				2020				2021			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Consolidating the final drafts of the technical report and the summary and recommendations												
Phase IV: publication												
Layout, design and production												
Development of web-based content												
Phase V: outreach and dissemination												
Website updates on the development of the report												
Updates at SCF side events at COP and subsidiary body sessions												
Meetings with constituted bodies (to be confirmed)												
Communication and promotion of the technical report and the summary and recommendations												
Webinars and launch event at COP 26												
Continued outreach												

Revised outreach plan

1. Outreach is an important component of the BA preparation process, particularly for collecting and reviewing data, addressing methodological issues, and obtaining inputs on work relevant to Article 2, paragraph 1(c), of the Paris Agreement.¹ Additionally, the SCF has identified the need to promote and disseminate the findings and recommendations from the fourth BA once it has been launched across multiple communication and engagement platforms.

A. Phase I of outreach: stakeholder engagement during report development

1. Call for evidence

2. The call for evidence² period was extended to 30 October 2020. Awareness-raising of the call included online news articles, social media posts and dissemination of the call through SCF networks.

2. Stakeholder engagement webinars

3. In the light of restrictions on meetings and travel throughout 2020, webinars offer an opportunity to engage with a broad group of stakeholders. One webinar was held in April 2020, attracting approximately 140 participants. For the remainder of 2020, three webinars are proposed, as described in paragraphs 4–12 below.³

(a) Webinar on improving reporting on climate finance inputs, impacts and results

4. This webinar will be open to stakeholders from public and private financial institutions, civil society and governments. The proposed agenda of the webinar will focus on gathering inputs in order to follow up on recommendations from the 2018 BA related to:

(a) Reporting on the impacts of climate finance (**recommendation (n)**): invite, as for the 2016 BA, multilateral climate funds, MDBs, other financial institutions and relevant international organizations to continue to advance work on tracking and reporting on the impacts of mitigation and adaptation finance);

(b) Reporting on ‘climate proofing’ and climate-resilience measures in climate finance (**recommendation (o)**): encourage all relevant United Nations agencies as well as international, regional and national financial institutions to provide information to Parties through the secretariat on how their development assistance and climate finance programmes incorporate ‘climate proofing’ and climate-resilience measures, in line with new available scientific information);

(c) Gender and climate finance (**recommendation (m)**): encourage climate finance providers to improve the tracking of and reporting on gender-related aspects of climate finance, impact measurement and mainstreaming);

(d) Domestic institutional capacities for programming climate action and tracking impacts (**recommendation (k)**): encourage developing countries to take advantage of available resources through the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to strengthen institutional capacity for programming their priority climate actions as well as for tracking climate finance, effectiveness and impacts).

5. **Proposed date and time:** The webinar is planned to be held in the week of 5 October 2020, at 2–4 p.m. Central European Summer Time.

¹ As per decision 4/CP.24, para. 10.

² See https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Call_for_evidence_2020BA_30Oct.pdf.

³ The webinar dates and details were tentative at the time of consideration by the SCF. See para. 16(c) of this document for the actual webinar dates, and for more information on the webinars see <https://cop23.unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/resources/biennial-assessment-of-climate-finance>.

6. **Format:** Brief introductory remarks by the co-facilitators will be followed by three 40-minute sessions comprising presentations and discussions led by members of the climate finance community (climate funds, development finance institutions and civil society), with the opportunity for audience intervention. The first session will focus on measuring and reporting on impacts related to adaptation and climate resilience; the second on gender and climate finance; and the third on best practices for improving domestic institutional capacities.

(b) Webinar on climate finance methodological issues, data availability, and quality and assessment of effectiveness

7. This webinar will be open to stakeholders, partners, data providers, contributors and experts involved in the fourth BA. Its aim will be for them to provide (1) the latest information on data availability and methodologies related to climate finance and (2) the recipient perspective of the assessment of climate finance delivery and impacts.

8. **Proposed date and time:** The webinar is planned to be held in the week of 19 October 2020, at 2–3.30 p.m. Central European Summer Time.

9. **Format:** The webinar will provide an overview of each chapter of the fourth BA and the opportunity to gather feedback by chapter.

(c) Webinar on Article 2, paragraph 1(c), of the Paris Agreement

10. This webinar will be open to all stakeholders and enable them to provide input and feedback on their activities relevant to achieving the purpose and goals of the Paris Agreement that may be reflected in the fourth BA.

11. **Proposed date and time:** The webinar is planned to be held in the week of 9 November 2020, at 2–3.30 p.m. Central European Summer Time.

12. **Format:** The webinar is to be moderated by Nick Robins, with introductory remarks by the SCF co-facilitators providing background, and the participation of selected discussants from ministries of finance, central banks and the investor community.

3. Informal outreach to stakeholders

13. Informal outreach may consist of bilateral calls and meetings with stakeholders, including Parties and other bodies, on specific topics to gather information relevant to the preparation of the fourth BA or to improve the prospects for disseminating the BA outputs, once available, to target groups. The technical team conduct such activities as part of the research and information gathering process for drafting the technical report on the BA. In addition, organized calls with targeted groups of stakeholders may be arranged for feedback.

Proposed call on mapping information relevant to Article 2, paragraph 1(c), of the Paris Agreement

14. This call would provide an opportunity for finance experts and officials from ministries of finance and central banks as well as members of the investment community to exchange perspectives and provide the SCF with inputs on their activities relevant to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. The call is proposed to be held after the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group, from which updates on the work of these two stakeholders may be forthcoming.

15. **Proposed date and time:** The webinar is planned to be held in the week of 26 October 2020, at 2–3.30 p.m. Central European Summer Time.

16. **Format:** The webinar is to be moderated by Nick Robins, with introductory remarks by the SCF co-facilitators providing background, and the participation of selected discussants from ministries of finance, central banks and the investor community.

4. Technical expert meetings

17. These meetings are organized as stand-alone technical expert workshops in collaboration with partners and/or in conjunction with the SCF. A stand-alone technical

expert workshop to address climate finance data availability and gaps as well as methodological issues would be organized in conjunction with the SCF meetings in 2021.

B. Phase II of outreach: report launch and dissemination

18. The second phase of outreach will focus on launching the report and disseminating its key findings and recommendations to a broad group of stakeholders through presentations at both in-person and virtual events as well as on social media and the UNFCCC website. A communications plan is to be developed by the co-facilitators with the UNFCCC communications team in the fourth quarter of 2020 to guide coordination of the report launch. The plan will cover:

(a) The selection of **events** with opportunities for presenting and launching the report (potential events in 2021 include those relevant to the UNFCCC and those listed in table II.2);

(b) The preparation of a **dissemination pack** comprising slides for presentations, talking points and quotes for social media for potential use by SCF members participating at various events in that capacity;

(c) The role of the BA web page on the **UNFCCC website**,⁴ which will feature interactive graphics and key messages from the report as well as a press release;

(d) The role of the UNFCCC **social media** channels, which will be used, in coordination with the Communications division, to disseminate the report findings and recommendations. SCF members will be encouraged to disseminate the report findings.

Table II.2

Possible list of international forums for consideration for representation

<i>Event</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Place</i>
2020		
26 th GCF Board meeting	18–21 August	Virtual
Helsinki Principle 6 workshop on the role of ministers of finance in NDC development, review and implementation	19 August	Virtual
G20: 3 rd International Financial Architecture Working Group meeting	22–23 September	Seoul, Republic of Korea
7 th OECD Forum on Green Finance and Investment and OECD Research Collaborative workshop	6–9 October	Virtual
G20: 5 th Finance and Central Bank Deputies meeting	15 October	Washington, D.C., United States
G20: 4 th Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting	15–16 October	Washington, D.C., United States
75 th session of the United Nations General Assembly	15–30 September	New York, United States
Climate Week NYC 2020	21–27 September	Virtual
2020 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group	12–18 October	Washington, D.C., United States, and virtual
United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative 16 th	13–14 October	Virtual

⁴ <https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/resources/biennial-assessment-of-climate-finance>.

<i>Event</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Place</i>
Global Roundtable (“Financing a resilient future”)		
14 th International Conference on Climate Change Economics	29–30 October	Paris, France
Finance in Common Summit for public development banks (during the Paris Peace Forum)	10–12 November	In-person and online sessions Paris, France
London Climate Action Week (second instalment)	14–20 November	London, United Kingdom
G20: Sherpas and Finance Deputies joint meeting	19 November	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
15 th G20 Leaders’ Summit	21–22 November	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
59 th meeting of the GEF Council and 29 th meeting of the LDCF/SCCF Council	7–11 December	Virtual
23 rd ASEAN, Japan, China and Korea (ASEAN+3) Finance Ministers’ and Central Bank Governors’ meeting	18 September	Virtual
2021		
Global Commission on Adaptation Climate Adaptation Summit	25 January	Virtual
International Monetary Fund and World Bank Spring Meetings	9–11 April	Washington, D.C., United States
15 th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and related meetings	17–30 May	Kunming, China
Principles for Responsible Investment in Person 2021	14–16 September	Tokyo, Japan
2021 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group, including the Annual Meeting of the Development Committee	15–17 October	Marrakech, Morocco
UNFCCC regional climate weeks	To be confirmed	To be confirmed

Annex III

Workplan of the Standing Committee on Finance for 2020–2021

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Outcomes/results</i>	<i>Time frame</i>
1. Mandated activities of the SCF under decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 121		
(a) Organize a forum for the communication and continued exchange of information among bodies and entities dealing with climate change finance in order to promote linkages and coherence	SCF Forum on finance for nature-based solutions	Pending adoption of the date and venue of the Forum by the SCF
	Continuous update and implementation of the SCF strategic outreach plan	Ongoing
	Established linkages and continued exchange with bodies and entities dealing with climate finance under and outside the Convention	Ongoing Forum outreach activities
Decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 70: implement the work programme of the SCF, including the creation of a climate finance forum that will enable all Parties and stakeholders to, inter alia, exchange ideas on scaling up climate finance		Ongoing
Decision 5/CP.18, paragraph 4: facilitate the participation of the private sector, financial institutions and academia in the Forum		Ongoing
Decision 8/CP.23, paragraph 12: ensure the value added of the Forum when deciding on the topic of each Forum; provide clear recommendations to the COP, as appropriate, regarding follow-up actions on the Forum; and enhance the dissemination, use and ownership of the accumulated knowledge and expertise gathered at the Forum	Continuous update and implementation of the SCF strategic outreach plan	Ongoing
	Established linkages and continued exchange with bodies and entities dealing with climate finance under and outside the Convention	
(b) Maintain linkages with the SBI and the constituted bodies of the Convention , including decision 8/CP.23, paragraph 11: further refine the approach to maintaining linkages with the subsidiary and constituted bodies according to resources available and in the context of existing working modalities	SCF Co-Chairs inform the presiding officers of the constituted bodies under the Convention about the activities of the SCF and establish working relationships	Annual
	Continuous update and implementation of the SCF strategic outreach plan	Ongoing
	Enhanced linkages with the SBI and the constituted bodies under the Convention	Ongoing

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Outcomes/results</i>	<i>Time frame</i>
(c) Provide the COP with draft guidance to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism with a view to improving the consistency and practicality of such guidance, taking into account the annual reports of the operating entities and relevant submissions from Parties	Draft guidance provided to the COP and the CMA	COP 26
Decision 3/CMA.1, paragraph 8: prepare draft guidance for the entities entrusted with the operation of the Financial Mechanism, and on the LDCF and the SCCF, for consideration and adoption at CMA 2	Draft guidance for consideration by Parties	COP 26
Decisions 11/CP.25, paragraph 13, and 5/CMA.2, paragraph 13: consider inputs that may be provided by the WIM Executive Committee to the work of the SCF in preparing elements of draft guidance for the operating entities	Draft guidance for consideration by Parties	COP 26
(d) Make recommendations on how to improve the coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism	Recommendations provided to the COP, as appropriate	Sessions of the COP
Functions of the SCF as per decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 112: rationalize the Financial Mechanism, including the undertaking of analyses and information exchanges	Recommendations provided to the COP, as appropriate Exchanges through the SCF Forum, as appropriate	Sessions of the COP Ongoing
(e) Prepare a biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows, to include information on the geographical and thematic balances of such flows	Ongoing technical work for the fourth BA, including data collection and engagement with climate finance data producers and aggregators	Outcome at COP 26
Decision 3/CP.19, paragraph 11: in the context of the preparation of the BA, consider ongoing technical work on operational definitions of climate finance, including private finance mobilized by public interventions, to assess how adaptation and mitigation needs can most effectively be met by climate finance, and include the results in the annual report of the SCF to the COP		Ongoing
Decision 9/CP.21, paragraph 13: take into account the enhanced information provided by Parties included in Annex II to the Convention referred to in paragraph 6 of decision 9/CP.21 in the BA		Ongoing
Decision 4/CP.24, paragraph 5: use the established terminology in the provisions of the Convention and the Paris Agreement in relation to climate finance, where applicable		Ongoing
Decision 4/CP.24, paragraph 10: map, every four years, as part of the BA, the available information relevant to Article 2, paragraph 1(c) of the Paris Agreement, including its reference to Article 9 thereof		Ongoing
Decision 19/CMA.1, paragraph 24: prepare synthesis reports for the technical assessment of the global stocktake		Ongoing

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Outcomes/results</i>	<i>Time frame</i>
Decisions 11/CP.25, paragraph 10, and 5/CMA.2, paragraph 10: consider the views of Parties on the operational definitions of climate finance in order to enhance technical work in the context of preparing the fourth BA		Call for submissions by 30 April 2020
Decisions 11/CP.25, paragraph 9, and 5/CMA.2, paragraph 9: present, to the extent possible, disaggregated information in relation to, inter alia, mapping data availability and gaps by sector, assessing climate finance flows and presenting information on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement		Ongoing
2. Determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement		
Decision 4/CP.24, paragraph 13: prepare, every four years, a report on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement for consideration starting at COP 26 and CMA 3	Ongoing technical work for preparation of the report	Outcome at COP 26
Decision 4/CP.24, paragraph 14: collaborate, as appropriate, with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the subsidiary and constituted bodies, multilateral and bilateral channels, and observer organizations		Ongoing
Decisions 11/CP.25, paragraph 9, and 5/CMA.2, paragraph 9: present, to the extent possible, disaggregated information in relation to, inter alia, mapping data availability and gaps by sector, assessing climate finance flows and presenting information on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement		Ongoing
Decisions 11/CP.25, paragraph 12, and 5/CMA.2, paragraph 12: in implementing the strategic outreach plan, build on existing efforts to reach out to developing country Parties and relevant developing country stakeholders when generating data and information for the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement		Ongoing
3. Additional SCF mandates: general		
Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 63: serve the Paris Agreement in line with its functions and responsibilities established under the COP		Ongoing
Decision 6/CP.21, paragraph 2: continue to strengthen engagement with all relevant stakeholders and bodies under the Convention	Continuous update and implementation of the SCF strategic outreach plan	Ongoing

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Outcomes/results</i>	<i>Time frame</i>
	Enhanced linkages with the SBI and the constituted bodies under the Convention	Ongoing
Decision 8/CP.23, paragraph 14: further strengthen stakeholder engagement	Enhanced stakeholder engagement	Ongoing
4. Additional SCF mandates: gender		
Decision 21/CP.22, paragraph 14: all constituted bodies under the UNFCCC process to include in their regular reports information on progress towards integrating a gender perspective into their processes according to the entry points identified in the technical paper referred to in paragraph 13 of decision 21/CP.22	Integration of a gender perspective into SCF processes according to the entry points identified in the technical paper	Ongoing
Decisions 11/CP.25, paragraph 14, and 5/CMA.2, paragraph 14: continue to enhance efforts towards ensuring gender-responsiveness in implementing the workplan	Thematic integration into the SCF Forum on finance for nature-based solutions, the BA and the report on determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement	Ongoing
5. Additional SCF mandates: forests		
Decision 7/CP.19, paragraph 11: consider in the work on coherence and coordination, inter alia, the issue of financing for forests, taking into account different policy approaches	Financing for forest-related considerations integrated into existing workplan, where appropriate, and work on this matter continued in the context of the overall issue of improving coherence and coordination in the delivery of climate change financing Thematic integration into the SCF Forum on finance for nature-based solutions	Pending adoption of the date and venue of the SCF Forum
Decision 8/CP.22, paragraph 10: integrate financing for forest-related considerations into the workplan, where appropriate, and continue work on this matter in the context of the overall issue of improving coherence and coordination in the delivery of climate change financing, taking into account all relevant decisions on forests	Financing for forest-related considerations integrated into existing workplan, where appropriate, and work on this matter continued in the context of the overall issue of improving coherence and coordination in the delivery of climate change financing Thematic integration into the SCF Forum on finance for nature-based solutions	Pending adoption of the date and venue of the SCF Forum