



Background paper on the organization of the forum. Note by the secretariat.

I. Background

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), at its 17th session, agreed on the functions and activities of the Standing Committee (SC), including the organization of 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.
2. At COP 1, Parties decided that outside the framework of the financial mechanism, consistency should be sought and maintained between activities (including those related to funding) relevant to climate change undertaken outside the framework of the financial mechanism and the policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria for activities as relevant, established by the COP (decision 11/CP.1, paragraph 2).
3. This background paper presents information on the organization of the forum, including possible objectives, themes and structure of the forum.

II. Objectives and themes of the forum

4. The main objective of the forum, as per decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 121(a), is to facilitate communication and continued exchange of information among bodies and entities dealing with climate change finance, in order to promote linkages and coherence.
5. The forum may also serve as a concrete modality for the engagement of relevant stakeholders into the work of the SC, which includes improving coherence and coordination in the delivery of climate change financing, mobilization of financial resources, and measurement, reporting and verification of support provided to developing country Parties (decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 121). In this regard, the Committee may wish to consider the following possible themes for the forum scheduled in the first quarter of 2013:

	Themes	Outcomes
1	Understanding the potential of public and private sector partnerships in delivering climate finance.	Input into the consideration by SC of mobilization of resources and linkages and coherence.
2	Lessons learned and good practices in tracking climate finance.	Input into the consideration by SC of biennial assessment of financial flows and measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of support.
3	Roles of the operating entities of the financial mechanism and bilateral, multilateral and regional financial institutions in the delivery of climate finance.	Input into the consideration by SC of improving coherence and coordination in the delivery of climate change financing, and rationalization of the financial mechanism.

III. Structure and design of the forum

6. To enable communication and continued exchange of information among bodies and entities dealing with climate change finance, it is proposed that the forum will be organized annually in conjunction with the meeting of the Standing Committee. Additionally, and in order to increase inclusiveness and transparency of the forum, it could also make use of a web-based platform such as an e-forum and webinars.
7. The organisation and arrangements of the forum will be undertaken by the SC with the support of the UNFCCC secretariat.



(a) *Forum meetings*

8. The SC may wish to consider organizing the forum as stand-alone or in conjunction with other climate finance-related events. Invitations would be extended to all stakeholders of climate finance including public, private and civil society institutions, internal and external to the Convention. A table providing options on the design of the forum may be found in Annex 1 of this background paper.

9. A report summarising the outcomes of each forum will be prepared for consideration by the SC following the conclusion of event. The SC may wish to consider the outcomes of the forum when addressing its core functions as well as to incorporate them in its annual report to the COP. The relevant materials presented at the forum and the report may also be uploaded to the SC website for reference.

(b) *Web-based platform*

10. A web-based platform may also be an important feature of the forum which will allow for on-going interactions and continued exchanges of information to take place between all climate finance stakeholders. By means of this electronic tool participants would be encouraged to share relevant knowledge and information, including reports and technical analyses. There would also be the possibility of undertaking and hosting online discussions relating to issues of interest for the SC and its stakeholders through webinars. Webinars are online seminars which are conducted live over the internet. Live video streaming projects the image of the presenter and the presentation online, allowing participants to observe the presentation from all over the world, and giving them the possibility to interact via online questions and live chat.

**Annex 1 – Options for the design of the Forum of the Standing Committee**

	Option 1	Option 2
Type	Forum held in conjunction with other climate finance event.	Stand-alone forum.
Duration	1 day.	2-3 days.
Date	Scheduled to occur in conjunction with other climate finance event.	Scheduled to occur at a time of the year as decided by the SC. May occur in conjunction with a meeting of the SC.
Location	To be determined.	Bonn.
Number per year	One.	One.
Number of themes covered in Forum	One.	Multiple.
Format	Focused on one theme, the forum shall consist of a key presentation, plenary discussion, and conclusions.	This forum will cover multiple themes and shall consist of a combination of different sessions including: presentations, plenary discussion and break-out smaller working groups.
Advantages	Forum held back-to-back with other climate finance event, and of shorter duration, will have smaller cost implications.	Longer time duration allows for an effective and more fruitful exchange of information between all stakeholders.
	Possibility of synergy and collaboration with organisations participating in other climate event.	
	Participants will find it easier to attend a short one-day event. (Less difficult to fit into a busy calendar).	Targeted area of speciality of stakeholders may be more varied, as event is stand-alone.
Disadvantages	Areas of specialty of stakeholders may be constrained and determined by the theme of the other climate finance event.	Many participants may find it hard to attend a longer event. (Long duration is a constraint on participation).
	Short duration signifies a reduced amount of time for an effective exchange of information.	Forum held as stand-alone event and of longer duration will have larger cost implications.

Note: Alternatively, the SC may consider an option for the forum which combines elements of both of the above options.