

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
世界气象组织

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Our ref.: 30403/2021/I/SOFF

22 December 2021

Subject: Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) - request to consider contributing to the SOFF United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UNMPTF) and serving as SOFF Peer Adviser

Action required: Indication of interest in serving as SOFF Peer Advisers **by 18 February 2022**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Extraordinary session of the World Meteorological Congress, through [Resolution 3 \(Cg-Ext\(2021\)\)](#) - Systematic Observations Financing Facility: Supporting Members in the implementation of GBON, endorsed the establishment of the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF). The SOFF will provide technical and financial support for the implementation and sustained operation of the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) in Least-Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States and expert readiness from technical advisories to other developing countries, including peer-to-peer support.

The Resolution also requested the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office to pursue the creation of SOFF as a United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UNMPTF). I am pleased to inform you that the SOFF UNMPTF was legally created and brought into effect at a SOFF special event at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP26 on 3 November 2021.

The COP26 SOFF event was attended in person by many senior-level speakers, including Prime Ministers and Ministers from Fiji, Cabo Verde, Belize, and Tanzania. More than 13,000 participants joined virtually on UN TV and UN YouTube channels.

I am deeply grateful for the support of all Members in making SOFF a reality, and I am delighted that, at the COP26, Denmark, Norway, the Nordic Development Fund (NDF), Austria, and Portugal indicated their intentions to financially contribute to the SOFF UNMPTF. In addition, Switzerland is providing financial support for setting up the SOFF Secretariat and a number of other Members have committed to exploring options to financially contribute to the SOFF UNMPTF. All Members that will have made a firm pledge by June 2022 will become the founding partners of SOFF and, as members of the first Steering Committee, will adopt the final SOFF governance arrangements.

In the coming months WMO, UNDP and UNEP will be undertaking further preparatory work, including mobilizing sufficient resources so that the SOFF implementation can start in June 2022 with the first SOFF Steering Committee meeting.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers

A crucially important activity of the start-up period is preparing peer advisory support for SOFF implementation. In this context, I would like to kindly ask those Members interested in serving as SOFF peer advisers to indicate expressions of interest by **18 February 2022**. As per the SOFF Terms of Reference, SOFF peer advisers are National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) that have substantial expertise in the provision of advisory services, a track record in partnering and supporting other NMHSs, and a commitment to make available adequate human resources. The costs of SOFF peer advisory services will be covered through UNMPTF resources.

Mr Markus Repnik (mrepnik@wmo.int) and the SOFF team stand ready to respond to any questions you might have and to directly follow up with those Members considering a contribution to the SOFF UNMPTF or expressing interest in serving as SOFF peer advisers.

With best holiday and New Year wishes,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Taalas', with a long horizontal stroke above the main signature.

Prof. Petteri Taalas
Secretary-General