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20 January 2025

Annexes: 2

Subject: Invitation to the first virtual sub-regional meeting between National Disaster Risk Management Offices and National Hydrometeorological Services of the Eastern and Southern Caribbean, including Guyana and Suriname, organized under the CREWS Caribbean project

Action required: Please confirm your participation

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to refer to the framework of the executive report and proposed roadmap (Annexes), developed at the Regional Summit between National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and National Disaster Risk Management Offices (NDRMOs) in Punta Del Este during the Regional Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean in March 2023.

In this context, I am pleased to invite you to the first sub-regional meeting for NMHSs and NDRMOs of the Eastern Caribbean and Southern Caribbean together with Guyana and Suriname.

This meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, 22 January 2025, between 10:00 and 12:30 (AST) via the zoom platform link.

It would be appreciated if you could register in advance for this meeting under this link:

<https://undrr.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJArf-GtrjsuE9AFBvawRvis0qFVksMoOeLK>

This meeting seeks to gather representatives, key stakeholders, regional institutions and United Nations (UN) agencies to actively participate in a dialogue oriented to share good practices on Improving Disaster Risk Knowledge on a Regional, National and Community Level and to strengthen the operational work and institutional coordination between NMHSs and NDRMOs.

Please save the date and confirm your participation to Jair Torres ([jair.torres@un.org](mailto:jair.torres@un.org)) and Stephanie Gallasch ([sgallasch@wmo.int](mailto:sgallasch@wmo.int)) with a copy to Allana Walters ([allana.walters@cdema.org](mailto:allana.walters@cdema.org)) and Anwar Baksh ([anwar.undrr@gmail.com](mailto:anwar.undrr@gmail.com)).

To: Permanent Representatives of Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, St. Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago with WMO (limited distribution)

cc: Hydrological Advisers

I hereby reiterate WMO's commitment to support its Members in strengthening their Early Warning Systems.

I look forward with appreciation to the opportunity for continued collaborative engagement.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Saulo', written in a cursive style.

Prof. Celeste Saulo  
Secretary-General

## First Regional Summit between National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and National Disaster Risk Management Offices (NDRMOs)

**"Strengthening collaboration and coordination between NMHSs and NDRMOs in Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS): Challenges and Opportunities"**

### EXECUTIVE REPORT AND PROPOSED ROADMAP

#### Background

The First Regional Summit between National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and National Disaster Risk Management Offices (NDRMOs) took place on 27 February 2023, in the framework of the VIII session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean held in Punta del Este, Uruguay between 28 February to 02 March 2023. The meeting was organized by the UNDRR and WMO Offices for the Americas and the Caribbean.

Approximately ninety (90) in-person representatives and twenty (20) virtual participants (NMHSs and NDRMOs) from thirty-nine (39) countries and key donors and partners in the region were convened with the aim of promoting institutional collaboration between NDRMOs and NMHSs as the lead institutions for MHEWS, notably in the context of the EW4ALL initiative and the Executive Action Plan 2023-2027.

#### Structure of the session:

- Five Groups and panel discussions were established: USA, Canada, West Caribbean, North Caribbean; East Caribbean, South Caribbean, Guyana and Suriname; Central America, Cuba, Mexico and Dominican Republic; South America; and online participants. These groups sought to answer the following questions:
  1. What are the main challenges to improve disaster risk knowledge (hazards, vulnerability/exposure and capacities) (Pillar 1)?
  2. What are the main actions required to improve collaboration to ensure efficient monitoring, detection, and forecasting; and Impact-based forecasting (Pillar 2)?
  3. What are the main challenges for interinstitutional coordination, the actions needed to improve collaboration among NMHSs and NDROs, and mechanisms for enhancing the governance framework? And how can WMO/UNDRR help in the process?
- A donor's panel discussed the need for complementarity and coordination across funding mechanisms.

## Key Outcomes and Commitments:

Participants agreed on the following actions:

- Ensure the continuity of this regional dialogue including at sub-regional level where particular context-related challenges, opportunities and cross-border collaborations and synergies could be identified.
- Involve other national and regional actors that play a fundamental role in the implementation of early warnings (i.e., beyond NMHSs and NDRMOs).
- Improve data sharing between NDRMOs, NMHSs and other stakeholders.
- Improve collaboration between institutions to advance the implementation of impact-based forecasting.
- Strengthen legislative and policy frameworks for disaster risk reduction defining clear roles and responsibilities for each participating institution.
- Integrate and make visible disaster risk reduction and MHEWS financing and investments within national budgets.
- Advance the implementation of the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) supported by follow-up mechanisms at the national level to reach the last mile.

These main outcomes were also included in the **Ministerial Declaration of the VIII Regional Platform for DRR for the Americas and the Caribbean – Declaration of Punta del Este** can be downloaded at:

<https://rp-americas.undrr.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/Ministerial%20Declaration.pdf>

## Proposed roadmap and activities at regional and national levels

A. Strengthening Governance mechanisms for MHEWS  
(EW4ALL Interpillar - Enabling environment)

*Regional (lead by regional entities and UN organizations):*

1. Establish a mechanism for more frequent interaction at Ministerial level to tackle sustainability issues (investment, policy development, capacities) of NMHSs and NDMROs as key factors for improving MHEWS.
2. Use inter-agency mechanisms such as the IBC on Climate and Resilience and others to promote the effective integration of MHEWS as part of National Adaptation Plans on all countries.
3. Creation and / or support of MHEWS Sub-regional consortiums (e.g.: Caribbean Regional Early Warning System Consortium-REWSC), with the role of serving as a strategic and advisory body for the advancement and strengthened coordination of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems within each of the sub-region. The Consortiums will comprise representatives of institutions which have a mandate to support single, cluster and Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems in each of the sub-regions.
4. Provide technical support on the design, development and implementation of national governance mechanisms (e.g.: Models for the design of MHEWS Policies and strategies; guidelines; case-studies; etc.)

*National (lead by NDRMOs and NMHSs):*

1. Establishment, strengthening and promotion of national and local multi-sectorial platforms for disaster risk reduction and management, where MHEWS would be a transversal topic of coordination<sup>1</sup>.
2. Development of and promotion of coherence across policy mechanisms, such as:
  - National strategies for DRR
  - NAPs
  - MHEWS policy and roadmaps
  - Legislation adjustments
  - National dialogues between DRR and Climate Change adaptation related institutions
  - Capacity building targeted on Executive staff of NMHSs, NDRMOs and authorities working on climate change adaptation
  - Harmonization of National DRR strategies and NAPs

<sup>1</sup> In line with Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, point 27 (g).

**B. Improving Disaster Risk Knowledge on a Regional, National and Community Level  
(Pillar 1 EW4ALL)**

*Regional (lead by regional entities and UN organizations):*

1. Make available living repositories of global and regional disaster risk databases to improve risk knowledge, risk literacy and risk analytics. Contributing to country-led efforts to strengthen their national risk data ecosystems, including for early warning and disaster risk reduction.<sup>2</sup>
2. Support the capture of disaster risk data through satellite information and Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools.
3. Identify, compile, and make available good practices on the identification of impact data for Impact-Based Forecasting in the region.
4. Promote technical dialogues to find practical solutions tailored to each sub-region and country and share available tools and information resources.

*National (lead by NDRMOs and NMHSs):*

1. Ensure the development of living repositories of national disaster risk multi sectoral databases to improve risk knowledge, risk literacy and risk analytics, including for early warning and disaster risk reduction.<sup>3</sup>
2. Support the identification of impact data based on: past events (damage and losses); current exposure, vulnerabilities, and capacities; and climate change projections. This aiming to ensure the transition from traditional Early Warning Systems to Impact-Based Forecasting.

**C. Strengthening NMHS and NDRMOs service provision: Detection, observations, monitoring, analyzing and forecasting of hazards  
(Pillar 2 EW4ALL)**

*Regional (lead by regional entities and UN organizations):*

1. Development of a minimum standard (needs) for ensuring capabilities and capacities for NMHSs and NDRMOs
2. Development of a series of Webinars on:
  - The role of the Hurricane Committee: how this could benefit the interaction between NDRMOs and NMHSs in the Caribbean and Central America - A case study
  - GDPFS (now WIPPS): Gap analysis to find out if the products produced by RSMCs meet the requirements for all the hazards warnings
  - Impact-based Forecasts: Good practices in the Americas and the Caribbean, data sharing, co-design experiences and positive impact. Consolidating effective integration between NDRMOs and NMHSs
  - Satellite information resources
  - Artificial intelligence tools
3. Support the implementation of the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) by promoting capacity building activities, documenting countries' good practices and ensuring a multi-hazard and multisectoral approach, as well as gender approach.

*National (lead by NDRMOs and NMHSs):*

1. Undertake institutional capacity assessments of NMHSs and NDRMOs notably pertaining to:
  - Software and hardware
  - Human resources
  - Partnerships
2. Advance the implementation of the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) by developing national roadmaps (inclusive of timelines, budgets, roles and responsibilities, and a monitoring and evaluation framework)

**Working modalities**

Creation of 4 subgroups

- USA + Canada + West Caribbean + North Caribbean
- East Caribbean + South Caribbean + Guyana + Suriname
- Cuba + Mexico + Dominican Republic +

<sup>2</sup> In this point UNDRR has offered the Rix Exchange Platform (<https://rix.undrr.org/>). As a multi-purpose platform, RiX seeks to harmonize risk information to facilitate risk analysis by government, UN, private, and other actors for risk-informed decision making and resilience building.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.



- Central America
- South America

#### Each group will:

- Meet virtually once every 4 months
- Report progress on the implementation of the roadmap
- Identify and share good practices
- Identify challenges and discuss new issue
- A standing event in the framework of the Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean will be organized, ensuring the participation of representatives from the NDRMOs, NMHSs, and MHEWS regional partners inclusive of other hazards communities and other sectors.
- Ad hoc meetings will be organized in line with other initiatives (e.g.: Hurricane Committee, Regional Conferences, etc.).
- UNDRR + WMO + IGOs will support each subgroup. The creation of a Secretariat or Regional Coordination body would facilitate coordination and provide sustainability to these agreements. The Secretariat / Regional Coordination mechanism will:
  - Support the organization and development of virtual and in-person meetings of:
    - NMHSs and NDRMOs meetings + relevant partners
    - MHEWS Sub-regional consortiums
  - Consolidate subregional progress and report on the advancements of the roadmap
  - Map funding support for MHEWS and list of current and pipeline projects, identifying patterns and gaps.

#### Immediate next steps

- 1) UNDRR and WMO will distribute the draft roadmap among NDRMOs and NMHSs; regional organizations leading with disaster risk reduction and MHEWS; and concerned UN agencies. Comments on the proposed roadmap will be them integrated and presented during the 4 virtual meetings foreseen for each of the sub regions, during the last week of June 2023.

- 2) Regional entities and UN organizations will approach funding mechanisms that will support and enable the implementation of this Roadmap.
- 3) UNDRR and WMO, will prepare the Terms of Reference of the Secretariat or Regional Coordination, including a budget for its operation. The TORs will be presented and discussed during the 4 sub-regional meetings.
- 4) NDRMOs and NMHSs, will prepare a workplan for the development of the proposed activities, and will ensure that permanent cooperation mechanisms are established for this end (e.g., MoUs, etc.).

**First Sub-Regional Virtual Meeting between National Meteorological  
and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and National  
Disaster Risk Management Offices (NDRMOs)**  
*East Caribbean + South Caribbean + Guyana + Suriname*

***Concept Note***

**Background**

In the context of the VIII Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean, held in Punta del Este, Uruguay from February 28 to March 2, 2023, the First Regional Summit was convened between National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and National Disaster Risk Management Offices (NDRMOs). This summit marked a milestone in fostering regional collaboration, specifically addressing challenges and opportunities to improve disaster risk knowledge, monitoring, detection, forecasting, and interinstitutional coordination.

One of the primary proposed actions from this summit was to establish **living repositories of national disaster risk multi-sectoral databases** that could support the continuous improvement of risk knowledge, risk literacy, and risk analytics for early warning and disaster risk reduction. Additionally, participants recommended efforts to **identify and utilize impact data** based on historical damage and losses, current vulnerabilities, capacities, and climate change projections to facilitate a transition from traditional Early Warning Systems (EWS) to Impact-Based Forecasting (IBF).

This upcoming sub-regional meeting will serve as a platform to discuss the next steps in implementing these proposed activity and to identify best practices that can be shared among NMHSs and NDRMOs across the region.

This activity is planned under the CREWS Caribbean 2. Project. The main objectives of the project are to strengthen the operational capacities of NDRMOs and NMHSs, in the four+one pillars of MHEWS, through regional cooperation and improved governance mechanisms that are conducive for users to participate and be engaged in the design and delivery of early warnings. In doing that, this project will contribute to the goals of the Early Warning for All (EW4All) Initiative and other international frameworks, such as the SDGs, the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement or the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

**Objectives**

1. Present the Executive Report of the First Regional Summit between National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and National Disaster Risk Management Offices (NDRMOs).

2. Evaluate progress on the establishment of national multi-sectoral disaster risk databases and discuss current capacities, challenges, and resources needed for their implementation and sustainability.
3. Explore ways to strengthen coordination between NMHSs and NDRMOs, focusing on creating a more effective governance framework that enables streamlined and responsive decision-making processes.
4. Share successful experiences and lessons learned in data collection, risk analysis, and IBF application, and assess the regional capacity-building needs to advance disaster risk reduction efforts.

### **Proposed Participants:**

- National Disaster Risk Management Organizations and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services from East Caribbean + South Caribbean + Guyana + Suriname
- CDEMA
- CMO
- CIMH
- UNDRR
- WMO

### **Date and Time:**

- Wednesday January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, 10:00-12:00 (AST)

### **Language:**

This meeting will be held in English with simultaneous interpretation in Dutch.