

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
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26 June 2017

Annex: 1 (available in English only)

Subject: Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference, Cancun, Mexico, 22-23 May 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee of the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference (MHEWC), held in Cancun, Mexico, 22-23 May 2017, I would like to express my appreciation for your active participation. I trust that the Conference provided you with ideas and initiatives to enhance your country's capabilities to address early warnings, especially in the multi-hazard context, and that you were able to have interesting and fruitful discussions with the participants from other NMHSs as well as those representing other communities. We welcome any feedback you may have on the conference.

MHEWC brought together more than 400 experts from 95 countries with expertise in the meteorological, hydrological, marine and geophysical sectors, the disaster and health services, the IT and communications sector, academia, development agencies and community organizations. The seven sessions and the poster session of MHEWC, as well as the six side events, attracted large audiences with lively participation. I am happy to report that 23 Permanent Representatives with WMO along with NMHS representatives from 45 different countries actively participated in both the MHEWC and the Global Platform.

I am confident MHEWC made a significant contribution to the efforts made by countries to achieve the Sendai Framework's seventh Global Target, namely to "substantially increase the availability of, and access to, multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information to the people by 2030". It is encouraging that the outcomes of MHEWC were recognized in the outcomes of the 2017 Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR 2017), held at the same venue.

During MHEWC, WMO issued a Communiqué to emphasize, to the broader emergency management community assembled for the GPDRR 2017, that WMO Members' National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) play a pivotal role in the delivery of early warnings of high impact weather, water and climate events to their respective communities through the timely provision of information, warnings and advice (see Annex). It also acknowledged the requirement to build stronger cooperation and partnerships between NMHSs and other stakeholders, including national disaster risk management entities, to ensure that the information delivered by the NMHSs results in efficient and effective emergency response, crisis management and humanitarian assistance.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO who participated in the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference

Outcomes of MHEWC included identified strategies and actions that promote and strengthen Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) with the focus on how to address gaps in the dissemination of warnings and in the quality of the information provided to those at risk, through capacity development, operational support and improved coordination and governance. MHEWC also highlighted the importance of strengthening existing efforts in early warning systems including individual and cluster hazards.

Additionally, MHEWC discussed approaches for establishing national baselines on early warning systems for use by government agencies to report on advances in early warning efforts on a periodic basis, as contemplated in the Sendai Framework. These outcomes will be consolidated into two outcome documents including 1) "Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems: A Checklist" which will identify key aspects to consider when improving or developing a national MHEWS, and 2) "Measuring Early Warning Access and Effectiveness", which will complement the Checklist by providing guidance on how to measure MHEWS effectiveness.

Going forward, the outcomes of MHEWC will be included in the work plan of the International-Network on MHEWS with the two afore-mentioned documents to be published by the end of 2017.

I thank you again for your support for increasing the quality, availability of and access to MHEWS in countries around the world and look forward to our continued collaboration.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'P' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

(P. Taalas)
Secretary-General

Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference

Cancun, Mexico, 22-23 May 2017

Communiqué of the World Meteorological Organization

Ref.: 20991/2017-Z.2 WDS/DRR

We, Permanent Representatives with, and Members of, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) attending the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference:

Note that the Conference aims to demonstrate to countries how they may improve the availability of, and their communities' access to, multi-hazard early warning, risk information and assessment and is therefore directly linked to the achievement of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, in particular its seventh Global Target.

Emphasize that high-impact weather, marine weather, climate and hydrological events such as storms, floods, landslides, and droughts cause most natural disasters, represent the highest risk both in terms of impacts and likelihood, also due to their cascading and often transboundary effects, and have devastating effects throughout the world, resulting in injury and loss of life, setting back economic and social development with huge economic losses, health degradation, poverty, damaging/destroying infrastructures, displacement of people, job destruction and destruction of communities.

Note also that unprecedented changes in the climate system observed since the 1950s and the rapid changes taking place, especially in high latitudes, are likely to continue to increase risks associated with climate and hydrometeorological hazards.

Note further that the growth of human settlements – particularly in flood plains and low-lying coastal regions, urbanization, the rise of megacities, economic interdependencies and obsolescence of infrastructure, increase the vulnerability of people and infrastructure and thus increase the risk and subsequent impacts of weather and climate extremes.

Reaffirm that the overarching priorities for the WMO community are to produce information that assists in reducing loss of life and property from hydrometeorological hazards, supports action that promotes resilience to climate variability and change, and enhances the socioeconomic value of hydrometeorological and climate services.

Underscore that meteorological forecast products and climate outlooks with their impact analyses are made available to WMO Members and other international organizations through Global Data-processing and Forecasting Systems, supported by a three-level system for weather information comprising of World Meteorological Centres, Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres and National Meteorological and Hydrological Centres, and for climate information comprising of Global Producing Centres for Long-Range Forecasts, Regional Climate Centres, and National Climate Centres.

Underline that the products and services delivered by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to address weather and climate risks are essential for meeting the longer-term ambitions reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, the priorities and targets of the Sendai Framework and the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Recognize that it is essential for WMO to contribute to United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, and to identify effective strategies and actions needed to promote and strengthen multi-hazard early warning systems in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Highlight that to significantly reduce the current casualty trends and socioeconomic losses due to extreme weather events, it is necessary to build on advances in impact-based

forecasting technology and data provision and to provide risk-based warnings that reach communities, households and individuals.

Agree that there is a need to build a basis for stronger cooperation and partnerships between National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and other stakeholders, including national disaster risk management entities, for more efficient and effective emergency response, crisis management and humanitarian assistance; better risk assessment, improved monitoring, early warning and enhanced overall response to disasters and to weather, climate and hydrological risk.

Agree further that there is a need for public authorities and businesses to work together on disaster risk reduction to ensure that public and private investments in disaster risk reduction result in more resilient societies.

Underline the urgency to address existing technical and human resources gaps - particularly in developing and least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries; to strengthen, or develop capacity for, multi-hazard early warning systems by increasing investments and sharing of information and good practices through international cooperation and mechanisms, such as the International Network for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems, to address severe hydrometeorological events including tropical cyclones, drought, abnormal El Niño and other extreme events.

Commit to strengthen partnerships – from country level to community level, from regional level to global level – with major government agencies responsible for disaster risk reduction, such as civil protection and emergency response agencies, and key stakeholders, such as the private sector, to facilitate broader dissemination of disaster warning information.

Reaffirm the critical role of the Global Framework for Climate Services as a worldwide mechanism for coordinated actions to enhance the quality, quantity and application of climate services for disaster risk reduction and related impacts on water resources management, food security and health, or to assist in establishing them where they don't exist.

Resolve to develop a WMO Global Multi-Hazard Alert System that will be recognized globally by decision makers as a resource of authoritative warnings and information related to high impact weather, water, ocean and climate events.

Resolve also to pursue the establishment of an El Niño/Southern Oscillation Information System, based on existing efforts, to improve monitoring of the ocean and atmosphere to enable meteorologists and hydrologists to predict and interpret the El Niño/Southern Oscillation and other ocean oscillations – and thus the weather, climate and hydrological extremes and their likely physical and socioeconomic impacts.

Resolve further to enhance the issuance of improved advisories and early warnings, and monitoring and evaluation through strengthened partnerships with key stakeholders, weather, climate and hydrological information products and services for use by governments and the United Nations system, to facilitate a seamless approach to country programming.

Express appreciation to the co-sponsors of the Conference, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission for joining forces with WMO in the organization of the Conference.

Extend gratitude to the Government of Mexico for graciously hosting the Conference in Cancun.

Call on the participants attending the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to acknowledge and support this communiqué.