



Our ref.: 27032/2022/S/DPS

11 November 2022

Annexes: 2

Subject: Invitation to the Technical Expert Forum on Tracking of Hazardous Events and Disaster Losses and Damages, Bonn, Germany, 29-30 November 2022

Action required: To confirm your participation, preferably on or before **15 November 2022**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to inform you that the Technical Expert Forum on Tracking of Hazardous Events and Disaster Losses and Damages will be held at the United Nations Campus in Bonn, Germany on 29 and 30 November 2022.

The Forum will review good practices and gaps in recording hazardous events and related impacts including a review of existing national and international standards, processes, interoperability, analysis, and transparency of data. The Forum will convene experts from the national meteorological and hydrological services and national disaster management agencies, regional and international organisations, and the private sector.

The organizers will also present a draft model to address these challenges on which feedback from the participants will be solicited. The concept note of the Forum is attached as Annex 1. Please note that the forum will be held in English with interpretation in French and Spanish.

As you may be aware, the second session of the WMO Services Commission held in October 2022 approved a recommendation to adopt the Implementation Plan for the Methodology for Cataloguing Hazardous Events (WHO CHE) to the seventy-sixth session of the Executive Council (EC-76) to be held at the end of February 2023. The Technical Forum will highlight the WMO CHE as a contribution to loss and damage accounting and its synergization with the UNDRR Sendai Monitor tool DesInventar.

In this regard, I should be grateful if you or your designated representative that has experience in loss and damage accounting, such as supervising the recording of hazardous events in your country, could participate in this forum.

Due to limited funds available for this forum, it is hoped that your Service will consider covering the expenses relating to your participation. However, if this is not possible, WMO, if so requested, would consider providing financial support (travel and/or per diem costs) for your participation.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO (limited distribution)

cc: Hydrological Advisers

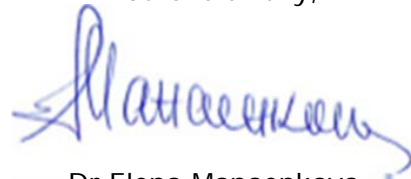
Before participants undertake travel for the above workshop, they are kindly advised of the following:

*"Non-staff members of WMO who are authorized to travel at the Organization's expense and/or who are receiving a DSA from WMO must ensure they are fully responsible for expenses incurred in the event of death, illness or injury during official travel and attendance at meetings on behalf of the Organization. They are, therefore, fully responsible for arranging life, health, accident, as well as any other forms of insurance with an adequate level of coverage for the duration of such meetings and events. WMO liability is limited to the performance of services or attendance at a meeting on behalf of the Organization, is covered by an injury and illness benefit insurance which provides a limited coverage for medical, emergency and supplementary official travel expenses."*

For administrative purposes and to plan the meeting accordingly, if financial support is required, I should be grateful if you or your designated representatives and experts could kindly fill out the Request for Financial Assistance form in Annex 1 and send it to [mrequests@wmo.int](mailto:mrequests@wmo.int) with a copy to Mr James Douris ([jdouris@wmo.int](mailto:jdouris@wmo.int)), preferably on or before **15 November 2022**.

I would like to express my appreciation for your continued support to the WMO activities.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Elena Manaenkova  
For the Secretary-General



WORLD  
METEOROLOGICAL  
ORGANIZATION

# REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Technical Expert Forum on Tracking of Hazardous Events and Disaster Losses and Damages  
Bonn, Germany  
29-30 November 2022  
**S/DPS**

Please complete this form in block letters by typing only (no handwriting).

Return it to: [mrequests@wmo.int](mailto:mrequests@wmo.int) (with a copy of your passport) before **15 November 2022**

## 1. PARTICIPANT

Please complete the following **MANDATORY** information exactly as it appears in your passport:

Gender	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>		
FAMILY NAME			
MAIDEN NAME (if applicable)			
First Name			
Nationality			
Place of birth		Date of birth (DD/MM/YY)	
Passport number		Validity (DD/MM/YY)	
Holding US visa	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>		
Schengen visa	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>		
Address			
City		Postal code	
Country		Nearest departure airport	
Mobile phone number		Office phone number	
E-mail			

## 2. ASSISTANCE FROM WMO FOR TRAVEL

Assistance requested: ☐ yes ☐ no

**3. ASSISTANCE FROM WMO FOR DAILY SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE (DSA)**DSA requested ☐ yes ☐ no**Bank transfer, please indicate full bank details:**(i) ☐ **CHF** Swiss Francs, ☐ **USD** US Dollars, ☐ **EUR** Euros currencies

Name of the bank:	
Address:	
Name of account holder	
Account number	
SWIFT Code	
ABA Code (USA)/BSB(AUD)	
SORTCode (UK)/Transit (CAD)	
IBAN Code/ CLABE(MEX)	

**If bank transfer is NOT possible:**

- (ii) Payment by Swiss Bankers Card ☐ **CHF**, ☐ **USD**, ☐ **EUR**
- (iii) Payment by reloading of existing Swiss Bankers Card in my possession  
☐ **CHF**, ☐ **USD**, ☐ **EUR**
- (iv) Through UNDP Office (**USD**) ☐

**4. INFORMATION ON SUPPORT RECEIVED IN ADDITION TO WMO ASSISTANCE****4.1 Declaration**No additional support received ☐ OR Additional support received ☐**4.2 Information**

In case additional support is received, please indicate type of funding and estimated value:

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**5. APPLICABLE RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS**

The travel shall be conducted in accordance with relevant WMO rules and instructions. An excerpt of these is provided in the Annex to this form. Please read it carefully.

By signing this form, I confirm that:☐ The information I have provided is correct;

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- ☐ I shall comply with the relevant WMO rules and instructions;
- ☐ It is my responsibility to make arrangements for health insurance;
- ☐ It is my responsibility to ensure that the required medical clearance is obtained before traveling;
- ☐ It is my responsibility to obtain all necessary visas;
- ☐ If I do not attend/participate in the meeting, I will return any travel advance that I have received, and if the travel advance exceeded the amount of reimbursable travel expenses, I shall refund WMO the difference.

**Signature of the participant:** ..... **Date:** .....

## ANNEX

### Excerpt from applicable rules and instructions

In accordance with WMO travel rules, air travel shall be provided in economy class, for the most economical and direct route.

If you are unable to travel after the ticket has been issued, you must inform the WMO travel agency (at: [wmo.ch@contactcwt.com](mailto:wmo.ch@contactcwt.com)) prior to departure. Please also inform [mrequests@wmo.int](mailto:mrequests@wmo.int) and [travel@wmo.int](mailto:travel@wmo.int) as soon as your travel is cancelled.

#### Visas

It is the traveller's responsibility to ensure that all required official travel documents are valid and accurate in order to obtain the necessary visa(s) for the destination, transit stops prior to departure.

#### Medical clearance

Medical clearance is a mandatory requirement for all travellers whose official travel is paid for by WMO in order to certify that they are medically fit to travel. It is the traveller's responsibility to ensure that the required medical clearance and vaccinations are obtained before travelling.

#### Insurance

As per the regulations related to insurance in the chapter 6 of the Standing Instruction on WMO official travel, non-staff members retain the primary obligation to ensure that they have the appropriate medical and travel insurance coverage when travelling on behalf of WMO, which means that if any health or travel related eventuality should occur the non-staff members should seek assistance and claim their coverage from an insurance policy that they have taken out, as per the following regulation :

"Non-staff members of WMO who are authorized to travel at the Organization's expense and/or who are receiving a DSA from WMO must ensure they are fully responsible for expenses incurred in the event of death, illness or injury during official travel and attendance at meetings on behalf of the Organization. They are, therefore, fully responsible for arranging life, health, accident, as well as any other forms of insurance with an adequate level of coverage for the duration of such meetings and events. WMO liability, which is directly attributable to the performance of services or attendance at a meeting on behalf of the Organization, is covered by an injury and illness benefit insurance which provides a limited coverage for medical, emergency and supplementary official travel expenses".

Travellers should note that WMO Regulations and Rules do not cover additional costs arising from the prolongation of stay of experts or other costs arising from travel restrictions imposed by national authorities. As with related health insurance provisions it is incumbent on the traveller to ensure that they retain the necessary travel insurance protection to cover unexpected occurrences such as border closures or other travel restrictions.

#### Insurance policy in relation to travel by car

Official travel by private vehicle will not be covered under the WMO Staff compensation and/or Benefits insurance policies. Travellers who choose to use a private vehicle for official travel should arrange for sufficient coverage with their car insurance provider for damages caused to both the vehicle and the occupants. This applies to personal vehicles as well as rental cars.

### **Ticket purchased through our WMO travel agency**

The proposed itinerary is based on official travel dates and the traveller must accept or refuse this itinerary within 24 hours.

Once the proposed itinerary is confirmed, the traveller must ensure that an "Electronic Ticket" is received.

### **Deviations from the proposed official itinerary**

For any deviation from the official itinerary proposed by WMO travel agency, the traveller should **directly** contact the travel agency, either by phone or e-mail to make the necessary arrangements.

FYI: CWT e-mail: [wmo.ch@contactcwt.com](mailto:wmo.ch@contactcwt.com),

CWT phone number: (24/7) +41 58 515 00 78

Any additional cost resulting from a private deviation request will be borne by the traveller.

Deviations for personal convenience can be undertaken by the traveller purchasing their own tickets based on the WMO financial liability as per the standard cost or the cost of the itinerary proposed by the travel agency if such an itinerary has been requested. In these cases, the actual cost of the self-purchased ticket will be reimbursed by WMO.

### **Self-purchase of official travel tickets**

Individuals travelling on behalf of WMO or whose official travel is paid for by WMO are authorized to purchase their own tickets. In this case,

- (a) Tickets can be purchased by travellers and will be reimbursed up to the actual cost paid by the traveller provided that the cost is within the financial liability as per the standard cost or the cost of the itinerary proposed by the travel agency, if such an itinerary has been requested;
- (b) In the event that there are changes to the planned official travel, the traveller is responsible for managing any associated change and refund requests by dealing directly with the ticket provider and for covering any extra charges related to these changes;
- (c) Travellers who have purchased their own tickets and are unable to travel for reasons of *force majeure* may be reimbursed the cost of the purchased tickets. Requests for reimbursement shall be justified in writing by the traveller and approved by the certifying officer;
- (d) Claims for reimbursement must be supported by the invoice paid by the traveller and/or proof of the official travel, if any.

### **Travel claims**

Individuals travelling on behalf of WMO or whose official travel is paid for by WMO shall, within two calendar weeks after completion of the official travel, submit a completed official travel reimbursement claim, with supporting documents, including hotel invoices and boarding passes. Recovery of official travel advances (or "due to") shall be initiated if an individual travelling on behalf of WMO fails to submit a duly completed claim together with the supporting documents, or if, on review of the claim, it is determined that the official travel advance exceeded the amount of reimbursable official travel expenses.

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## Technical Expert Forum 2022: Tracking of hazardous events and disaster losses and damages

Venue : UN Campus, Bonn, Germany

Date: 29-30 November 2022

Co-organised by: UNDRR, WMO and UNDP

Weblink: <https://www.undrr.org/event/technical-expert-forum-disaster-and-hazardous-event-accounting>

Ref.: 27033/2022-1.0 S/DPS

### Context

Over the past several decades, the international community has been working to standardize national information on losses and damages to better understand risk, and how these components change over time. Traditionally, the recording of disaster losses and damages starts at the impact level by the national disaster (risk) management offices (NDMOs) in terms of human and economic losses, often based on assessments by local authorities and humanitarian partners. These have been captured through disaster loss and damage tracking systems (e.g., [www.DesInventar.net](http://www.DesInventar.net) and other nationally owned systems). Attribution of impacts from these events to causal hazards is subsequently made through various sources, including by the national meteorological and hydrological services (NMHS).

However, there are critical challenges in this process, including lack of or limitations in:

- A globally accepted methodology to uniquely identify an event in terms of its time of origin and completion.
- Data standards and event terminology that would allow uniformity in hazard characterization, comparison across time and space, and the ability to link hazardous events with its interconnected and cascading impacts.
- Capability to systematically record impact information with relevant disaggregation levels like sex, age and disability.
- Coordination between the NDMO and sectoral agencies, like agriculture or transport, and NMHS.
- Institutionalization leading to sporadic and discontinuous data collection and registration.
- Compatibility of primary loss data obtained from assessments with loss and damage databases.

These challenges point to the need for a global framework to cover: (1) Institutionalization of national disaster losses and damages tracking systems and relevant policies; (2) Primary hazard and loss data collection systems; (3) Adoption and application of standards; (4) Quality control; and (5) Capacity development.

The ongoing development of a new-generation disaster losses and damages tracking system, by UNDRR in partnership with UNDP, and cataloguing of hazardous events, by WMO, are good opportunities to strengthen tracking of disaster impacts, and their linkages with hazardous events (See [Annex](#)). Hence, UNDRR, UNDP and WMO, are collaborating to co-organize a Technical Expert Forum on Tracking of Hazardous Events and Disaster Losses and Damages. This is part of a series of Technical Forums organised annually by the UNDRR Bonn office. The event is linked with the Centre of Excellence for Climate and Disaster Resilience, and also contributes to the work plan of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage.



## Collective action for stronger risk data: Fulfilling the 2030 Agenda

Recent progress in strengthening the data ecosystem for tracking hazardous events and disaster losses and damages points to the need to harness comparative advantage of organisations to inform a range of services. These include generating impact-based early warning to enable early action, tracking disaster impacts and how they affect disproportionately some vulnerable, excluded and marginalized groups, and informing risk-based approaches and planning, besides reporting against SDGs and Sendai Framework indicators.

Such integrated approaches will help achieve several purposes:

- Enhance the granularity in analysis of disaster impacts by better linking with causative factors and benefit forensic analyses of disasters.
- Extend the disaster data value chain (*observation-event-impact*) to better understand and assess the complex nature of risks and cascading impact of disasters.
- Inform inclusive and end-to-end multi hazard early warning systems as well as informing humanitarian action and strategies to prevent future disasters and/or reduce their impact
- Enable tracking of progress in disaster risk reduction and ensuring actions are targeted to most at-risk and marginalized groups.
- Better inform disaster risk reduction financing strategies and actions including risk transfer (insurance, risk facilities, catastrophic bonds)
- Greater institutionalization of data registration at country level with open access policies
- Agreement on dissemination of and adoption of standards.
- More regular and systematic primary data collection and reporting of hazard events, physical loss and damage, and economic loss equivalencies
- Universal adoption and on-going maintenance of an internationally accepted, standardized coding system allowing unique event identification.
- Integration of disaster loss tracking systems into the Sendai Framework Monitor and contributing to SDG monitoring.

## Objectives of the Forum

The Technical Expert Forum will follow a consultative process to advance mechanisms to record and account for hazardous events and disasters and their interlinkages. The Forum will:

1. Review and document good practices and gaps in recording of hazardous events and disaster impacts.
2. Discuss potential synergies among various national data from different agencies and institutions.
3. Discuss opportunities for strengthening hazardous event data and their linkage with impact data through partnerships and agreements at national as well as national to international levels
4. Identify challenges and opportunities to strengthen capacity for disaggregated data collection and analysis
5. Discussion of the role of the private sector for added value capabilities that can benefit developing, small islands developing states and least developed counties.

## Expected outcomes

With the wide range of expertise involved in this workshop, it is expected that the Forum will result in recommendations on:

1. Strengthening standards, processes, interoperability, analysis and transparency of hazardous event and impact data and information.
2. Parameters for recording of data for hazardous events and disasters
3. Capacity development strategies
4. International partnerships.

## Target Audience

The Technical Forum will see participation of:

1. NDMOs
2. NMHS
3. Regional organisations
4. UN and international organisations specialising in disaster loss and damage data
5. Private sector including the insurance industry

## Interpretation

The Forum will be conducted in English, and simultaneous interpretation will be provided in French and Spanish.

## *Programme (Forthcoming)*

## Annex: Background

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, Priority for Action 1 indicates that:

*Policies and practices for disaster risk management should be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment. Such knowledge can be leveraged for the purpose of pre-disaster risk assessment, for prevention and mitigation and for the development and implementation of appropriate preparedness and effective response to disasters.*

To do this, the Sendai Framework encourages countries “to systematically evaluate, record, share and publicly account for disaster losses and understand the economic, social, health, education, environmental and cultural heritage impacts, as appropriate, in the context of event-specific hazard, exposure, and vulnerability information.”

One of the key mechanisms to account for disaster losses is **DesInventar** ([www.desinventar.net](http://www.desinventar.net)), which has been in existence since 1994. UNDRR and UNDP have been supporting this disaster loss accounting system that forms the basis for national disaster loss databases in about 110 Member States, besides the existence of several such databases at sub-national levels in other countries.

These national databases provide a comprehensive picture of human, economic, and infrastructural losses at subnational levels. DesInventar has unique functionality and significant strengths, including a remarkable volume of data. These databases are mostly nationally owned, with data on disaster impact collected and validated within the country. The system is based on collection and analysis of homogeneous disaster data at all scales (small, medium, and large) and generated from the lowest administrative levels in a country. Following the adoption of the Sendai Framework, the system was enhanced, called DesInventar Sendai, to enable closer alignment with relevant targets and indicators of the Sendai Framework, enabling streamlined reporting.

However, the disaster loss data accounting processes and needs have changed significantly over the last 25 years since the first inception of DesInventar. Present-day challenges originate from different factors including technical issues, limited institutionalization, capacities for disaggregated data collection, horizontal and vertical coordination, loss estimation, data management and analytics. These limitations are complex and include loss normalization, cascading events, longer periods of damage assessments and data security concerns.

There is also a strong need to understand the origin of each recorded event, to be able to link the impact of events with weather-related and other hazardous events. Hence, UNDRR has partnered with UNDP and WMO to develop a new-generation hazardous event and disaster loss tracking system that meets the growing needs, with a higher level of sustainability, and based on learnings from DesInventar and other similar systems globally. UNDRR has also been co-leading the development of a common disaster-related statistical framework to strengthen the quality and robustness of data.

UNDRR and the International Science Council have also developed a comprehensive hazard classification and review and subsequently Hazard Information Profiles to provide consistent definitions of hazards, grouped in eight clusters. This represents an important step to building local, national, regional and internationally comparable risk and impact information.

The WMO Congress in 2019 approved a methodology, “**WMO Cataloging of Hazardous events**,” that provides the basis for NMHSs to record the physical parameters of hazardous events systematically and authoritatively. This methodology will help address the challenges above by augmenting NMHSs existing observation and monitoring capabilities to systematically record the

physical hazardous event with linkages to the causal larger-scale phenomena. This provides the opportunity to link climate-related variables, losses and damages, and disaster events.

These records of hazardous events will ensure that events are recorded uniquely with a standardized event name, begin and end times, spatial area of impact, and linking the events to larger-scale phenomena (e.g., a tropical cyclone has linkages to its elements such as heavy rain, strong winds, storm surge flooding and landslides). The linking feature makes this methodology scalable from local (micro event) to larger phenomena, including the climate scales. Effective implementation of the methodology requires cooperation and partnership (e.g., disaster management agencies) at the national level to ensure that hazard and impact data are linked and quality controlled. Furthermore, regional and global cooperation and partnerships can ensure loss and damage information is quality-assured and consistently reported.

Hence the aim is to develop a universally applicable architecture that the countries can adapt to their national context depending on their data and digital maturity. This will determine the level of granularity we would want to go for in this basis system.

