

**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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8 March 2024

Annex: 1

Subject: Invitation to the Initial Planning Meeting of the West and Central Africa Flash Flood Guidance System (WCAFFGS) to be held on 14 March 2024 (online)

Action required: Inform on participation to the WCAFFGS Initial Planning Meeting (online)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Recognizing the disastrous impact on lives and properties of affected populations by flash floods, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), jointly with the United States (US) National Weather Service (NWS), the Hydrologic Research Centre (HRC) and the US Agency for International Development/Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA), have developed the concept of the Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS) with global coverage to assist forecasters in providing the guidance to issue timely and accurate flash flood warnings for small basins. The concept has been endorsed by the Fifteenth World Meteorological Congress and is implemented through regional projects.

I am pleased to invite you, as the Permanent Representative and the Hydrological Adviser, to the Initial Planning Meeting on establishing a FFGS for West and Central Africa regions, which will be held online on 14 March 2024. The purposes of this meeting are to provide an introduction on the fundamentals of the FFGS, its potential development and to better understand your willingness to access the FFGS.

Based on the conclusions and recommendations of this meeting, endorsed by each Permanent Representative via a letter of commitment to the WMO Secretary-General, the development and implementation of the West and Central Africa Flash Flood Guidance System (WCAFFGS) covering: Benin, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo for West Africa; and Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda and São Tomé and Príncipe for Central Africa; will be carried out with funding provided by USAID/BHA and the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) in West and Central Africa projects.

The Initial Planning Meeting is expected to take place online on Thursday, 14 March 2024, from 1200 to 1500 UTC, including simultaneous interpretation in English and French.

Topic: West and Central Africa FFGS Initial Planning Meeting

Date/Time: 14 March 2024, 1300 Geneva Time

To: Permanent Representatives of Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Benin, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Rwanda and São Tomé and Príncipe with WMO (limited distribution)

cc: Hydrological Advisers

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://wmo-int.zoom.us/j/95558543018?pwd=bk8vaENTY2VlOU9UanZ3TVU4WXozQT09>

Meeting ID: 955 5854 3018

Passcode: 245678

In the framework of the Early Warnings for All Initiative, I appreciate your support for the mitigation of flash floods impacts in your country and the region. I wish you a successful meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Saulo', written over a horizontal line.

Prof. Celeste Saulo
Secretary-General

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA FLASH FLOOD GUIDANCE SYSTEM (WCAFFGS) INITIAL PLANNING MEETING

**14 March 2024 (online)
1200–1500 UTC**

Ref.: 02400/2024.L8 S/HWR

1200–1220	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RA I: President of Regional Association/ Regional Hydrological Adviser (RHA) • Donors: USAID, CREWS • Representative of the WMO Secretariat <p>Self-introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All participants including Country Representatives (PR + HA), stakeholders
1220–1300	<p>Overview and purpose of the meeting (WMO)</p> <p>Introduction to the FFGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope • System architecture • Operational community • Partners and stakeholders • Governance • Roles and responsibilities of the Regional and National Centres
1300–1345	<p>West Africa FFGS: key achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration (case study) and lessons learned • Capacities and capabilities behind the operations • Roles of agencies in effective flash flood forecasting and warnings
1345–1430	<p>Active country assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits to support warning decisions • Enhancement of capabilities • Timeline for implementation • Countries commitment • Q&A
1430–1445	<p>Next steps and actionable items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country expectations and requirements • Timelines, next events • Any other topics
1445–1500	<p>Final remarks and closing of the meeting (RA I President, RHA)</p>