

**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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04 March 2024

Annexes.: 2

Subject: Invitation to the Initial Planning Meeting of the Pacific islands Flash Flood Guidance System (Pacific FFGS) and the Early Warning System for Flood (EWS-F), 7 March 2024 (online)

Action required: Inform on participation to the Pacific FFGS and EWS-F 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 Center (HRC) and the US Agency for International Development/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), 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. The concept endorsed by the Fifteenth WMO Congress, is implemented through a series of regional projects, and is planned to expand it further in new regions.

I am pleased to invite you, as the Permanent Representative and the Hydrological Advisor, to the Initial Planning Meeting on establishing a Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS) for Pacific islands region, to be held online on 7 March 2024.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide an introduction to the fundamentals of the FFGS and explore ways for its development, including the commitments and activities that are required for the successful implementation of the system. It is also envisioned to discuss and present the Early Warning System for Flood (EWS-F) component, which will be closely linked to the FFGS expansion in the region. You are kindly requested to provide a 10-minute presentation on your country's needs for flood forecasting using the template provided in Annex II. I kindly invite you to send your presentation to Mr Nakul Prasad, nprasad@wmo.int and Ms Petra Mutic, pmutic@wmo.int, **by 5 March 2024**.

Based on the conclusions and recommendations of this meeting, endorsed by each Permanent Representative via a letter of commitment to the Secretary General of WMO, the development and implementation of the Pacific FFGS covering Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu will be carried out with funding being provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development/Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA).

The Initial Planning Meeting (see Annex I) is expected to take place online on Wednesday, 7 March 2024, from 1 a.m. to 3:30 a.m. (UTC).

To: Permanent Representatives of Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu with WMO
cc: Hydrological Adviser

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

Yours faithfully,

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

Prof. Celeste Saulo
Secretary-General

Pacific islands Flash Flood Guidance System (Pacific FFGS) and Early Warning System for Floods (EWS-F)

Initial Planning Meeting

7 March 2024 (online)

1 am – 3:30 am (UTC)

01:00–01:20	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RA V: President of Regional Association/Regional Hydrological Advisor – RHA• Donors: USAID/BHA• WMO Secretariat <p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Country Representatives (PR + HA)• WMO Secretariat
01:20–02:00	<p>Overview and purpose of the meeting (WMO)</p> <p>Introduction to the FFGS and EWS-F projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flash Flood Guidance System<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ <i>What is FFGS?</i>◦ <i>Implementation (expansion of FijiFFGS)</i>◦ <i>Data requirements</i>◦ <i>Roles and Responsibilities of the Regional and National Centres</i>• Early Warning Systems for Floods<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ <i>Introduction</i>◦ <i>Objectives</i>◦ <i>Outcomes of rapid assessment by WMO</i>◦ <i>Alignment with regional and global initiatives</i>◦ <i>Tentative workplan</i>
02:00–03:00	<p>Country presentation (10 mins each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Overview of national meteorological and hydrological services</i>• <i>Key hazards</i>• <i>Priorities to be addressed by FFGS and EWS-F</i>• <i>Challenges for implementation and possible suggestions</i>
03:00–03:20	<p>Next steps and actionable items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Timelines, next events</i>- <i>Any other topics</i>
03:20–03:30	<p>Final remarks and closing of the meeting (RA V President, RHA)</p>

2024/S/HWC, ANNEX II

Template of Country Presentation
for
Pacific Islands Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS) and Early Warning System for
Flood (EWS-F) Initial Planning Meeting

(PPT template attached as a separate file)