

Ref.: 19260/2024-1.12 S/ACS

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13 November 2024

Annexes: 3

Subject: Invitation to Technical Workshop - Towards a Common Framework for Extreme Heat Risk Reduction, Geneva, Switzerland, 17-19 December 2024

Action required: Confirm participation by 15 November 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are pleased to invite you to an in-person expert workshop to contribute to the development of a common policy framework for extreme heat risk reduction. You have been identified due to your expertise and experience in developing heat risk management and policy in your country.

This event is hosted by the WMO and UNDRR co-chairs of the [Centre of Excellence for Climate and Disaster Resilience \(CoE\)](#), in partnership with the Global Heat Health Information Network [GHHIN](#), **in Geneva, Switzerland from 17 to 19 December 2024.**

This workshop will gather government policy experts and stakeholders across health, energy, urban planning, agriculture, transportation, meteorology, and other key sectors, to shape an integrated strategy approach for addressing global heat risks. The concept note and provisional agenda are attached herewith.

Please notify us if financial support for travel and accommodation is required.

Please RSVP by 15 November 2024, to Mariavittoria DONA (mariavittoria.dona@un.org) and Alejandro SAEZ REALE (asaezreale@wmo.int). In the event you are not available to attend this meeting, please nominate an alternate expert and notify us accordingly with their contacts.

We look forward to your valuable insights in this important initiative.



Loretta Hieber-Girardet,
Chief Risk Knowledge
Monitoring and Capacity Development
UNDRR



Cyrille Honoré
Director, Disaster Risk Reduction, MHEWS
Office and Public Services Branch
Services Department, WMO

To: Invited Experts (limited distribution)



Extreme Heat Risk Reduction: Expert Consultation

Concept Note and Provisional Agenda

WMO Secretariat, 7 bis Ave de la Paix, Geneva

17-19 December, 2024

Ref.: 19260/2024.1.12 S/ACS

Background

As global temperatures rise and extreme heat events become more frequent and severe, the imperative for more effective, collective extreme heat risk reduction, governance and management is starkly apparent.

Confronting and addressing the multi-sectoral, multi-dimensional root causes and underlying drivers of extreme heat risk, preparing and protecting both humans and the ecosystems upon which we depend, and building resilience to extreme heat is rapidly becoming one of the central challenges for nations worldwide. And yet, many societies and ecologies are ill-prepared to cope with this rapidly emerging risk.

The situation requires bold action across sectors, disciplines and from local to national to global levels. Action that is commensurate to the scale of the challenge, for the failure to do so will only see human behaviour amplify heat risk, placing billions at risk of preventable death and illness, and putting our natural life support systems in jeopardy.

Work is underway in countries, and internationally. However, as has been highlighted through the multiple technical, regional, urban-scale and G7 level consultations led by the [Global Heat Health Information Network \(GHHIN\)](#)¹, the challenges related to aligning and integrating multi-sectoral policy approaches are repeatedly highlighted as a key challenge to effective heat action.

This technical consultation therefore will bring together a targeted group of sectoral experts from governments, international organisations and other actors to share experiences, challenges, identify opportunities for collaborative action in extreme heat risk reduction, and articulate good governance opportunities which can foster resilience to extreme heat.

This consultation is a key component of a broader initiative of the [UNDRR | WMO Centre of Excellence](#) and the GHHIN, in partnership with Duke University, to develop an [Extreme Heat Decision-support Package](#). This broader initiative is examining existing extreme heat risk reduction approaches and governance models, identifying challenges and solutions, highlighting successful collaborations, and exploring opportunities for common approaches in enhanced heat risk governance and management.

This concept note outlines a three-day consultation that addresses the following objectives, and in so doing, responds to the [UN Secretary-General's Call to Action on Extreme Heat](#).

¹ The GHHIN has been convening government and non-governmental stakeholders to identify solutions to extreme heat risk since 2018.



Objectives

- Understand the successes, challenges, and needs of national and subnational participants in developing extreme heat risk reduction frameworks, governance, strategies, and actions.
- Understand and articulate the multi-sector impacts of extreme heat and the role of multi-sector collaboration in extreme heat risk reduction.
- Co-create the elements of and recommendations for a common framework for coordinated action on extreme heat risk reduction.

Provisional structure of the consultation

National experts will engage in a series of structured discussions and interactive exercises to address the above objectives. Interventions will be led by national experts, to which representatives of international organisations may contribute.

Day 1: National Experiences: Learning Day

Day 1 will explore country experiences and needs for extreme heat risk reduction and management. Conversations are expected to identify cross-sectoral and multi-scalar challenges and bottlenecks as well as success stories and opportunities. Participants will examine the engagement approaches and roles of both public institutions (national and sub-national) and private sector entities.

Provisional Format: Conducted in plenary and small group discussions, including opening remarks, panel discussions, and interactive plenary sessions, that address the above and identify barriers to effective heat risk governance, solution pathways, and opportunities for enhanced public and private heat risk reduction.

Day 2: Seeking Solutions & Towards a Common Framework for Heat Action

Day 2 will explore integrated, multi-sectoral approaches, and move toward building the components of a common framework for heat action. The day concludes with a self-assessment of national and subnational maturity along a governance maturity curve that includes reflection on capacity and competency needs for sustained progress.

Provisional Format: Roundtable dialogue, focused group discussions with reporting back to plenary, and a small group activity to facilitate self-assessment of heat governance maturity.

Day 3: Aligning National Needs with International Cooperation and Support

Day 3 will begin with a summary of the previous days' discussions and key takeaways. Participants will work together to identify elements of and make recommendations for the development of a common framework. This will be followed by a discussion with the IO's present, including key takeaways and on opportunities for collaboration, before returning to next steps in the development of the common framework.

Provisional Format: Panel discussions, each followed by Q&A, and focused group discussions. The day concludes with identification of next steps in the development of a common framework.



Expected Outcomes

The dialogue and insights will:

- represent the current state of understanding and action in multi-sectoral extreme heat risk reduction;
- identify existing heat risk governance challenges, needs of national and subnational institutions, the private sector, and civil society;
- explore recommendations for integrated extreme heat risk governance, and co-create the elements of a common framework for extreme heat risk reduction and management;
- identify opportunities for collaborative action in reducing extreme heat risk in the short, medium and long term;
- inform the decision-support package being developed by the CoE to support efforts for enhanced heat risk reduction, leveraging existing work, and addressing gaps in current approaches.

By fostering dialogue, sharing experiences, and developing practical strategies, this dialogue can catalyse collaboration for tailored support and innovative solutions to the heat-related challenges of Member States and key stakeholders, and in so doing contribute to responses to the SG's Call to Action on Extreme Heat.



Provisional Agenda

Day 1 – Tuesday 17 December

		Description	
09:00 – 09:15	Teleconference open to join TBC		
09:15 – 09:30	Welcome remarks		SRSK Kamal Kishore
09:30 – 10:00	Tour de table, review of agenda	Synthesis of the CoE's work and presentation of stock take report	SG WMO Celeste Saulo
10:30 – 12:00	Session 1: National and subnational experiences and needs	Understand the successes and challenges in developing extreme heat risk reduction frameworks, governance, strategies and actions and identify barriers to and the need for developing extreme heat reduction approaches.	Moderator National expert
12:00 – 13:00	Break		
13:00 – 14:00	Session 2: National and subnational experiences and needs	Understand the successes and challenges in developing extreme heat risk reduction frameworks, governance, strategies and actions and identify barriers to and the need for developing extreme heat risk reduction approaches.	Moderator National expert
14:00-15:30	Session 3: Sector-Specific Breakouts	Discuss how each sector group impacts and is impacted by extreme heat. Sector groups: (1) water/ag/ecosystems; (2) transportation/construction/energy; (3) health, labour, emergency response; (4) housing/urban development	Facilitators National experts
15:30 – 16:00	Break		
16:00 – 17:00	Session 4: Report back from Sector-Specific Breakouts		Moderator Facilitators
17:00 – 17:30	Questions – looking toward tomorrow		Moderator Facilitators

To: Invited Experts (limited distribution)



Day 2 – Wednesday 18 December

		<i>Desired Outcomes</i>	
09:00 – 09:15	Teleconference open to join TBC		
09:15 – 09:30	Reflections from yesterday, preview today		
09:30 – 11:00	Session 1: Roundtable dialogue on multi-sector approaches to extreme heat	Discuss challenges and good practices for enabling successful cross-sector and multilevel governance collaboration.	Moderator National expert
11:00 – 12:00	Session 2: Presentation of Skeleton Common Framework; Assessment of HAPs; Case Studies	Present the decision-support package: skeleton common framework; assessment of Heat Action Plans; national Case Studies; and good practices.	Facilitators
12:00 – 13:00	Break		
13:00 – 15:00	Session 3: Breakouts to review common framework and good practices	Discuss good practices derived from decision-support package work and refine where appropriate.	Facilitators National experts
15:00 – 15:30	Break		
15:30 – 16:00	Session 4: Report back		Facilitators
16:00 – 17:00	Session 5: Self-assessment and co-creation of a Heat Governance Maturity Curve	Present the maturity curve and guidance for activity, followed by national and subnational assessment.	Facilitators
17:00 – 17:30	Closing	Validate the structure and development of a common framework.	Moderator National expert



Day 3 – Thursday 19 December

		<i>Desired Outcomes</i>	
09:00 – 09:15	Teleconference open to join		
09:15 – 09:30	Reflections from Days 1 and 2, preview today		
09:30 – 10:30	Session 1: Co-creation of a common framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geographically-specific across timescales 	Work across geographies and timescales to identify the components for a common framework relevant at the national and subnational levels.	Moderator National expert
10:30-11:00	Transition to Session 2		
11:00 – 12:30	Session 2: Co-creation of a common framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sectoral / domain-specific 	Integrate multi-sector approaches and timescales to refine geographic perspectives from previous sessions.	Moderator National expert
12:30 – 13:30	Break		
13:30 –15:00	Session 3: Co-creation of a common framework	Breakout groups of all participants to refine components of a common framework and identify IO inputs to the proposed framework	Facilitators National experts
15:00 – 15:30	Break		
15:30 – 16:30	Session 4: Panel discussion – International organisations' reflections	IO reflection on and key takeaways from the workshop	Moderator
16:30 - 17:00	Closing Discussion and Remarks: Next steps for the development of the common framework	Discussion on the process for the elaboration and finalisation of the framework in 2025	SRSK Kamal Kishore SG WMO Celeste Saulo



Provisional Participant List

Countries invited:

Technical experts from 12 countries across 5 regions, representing a range of sectors and holding responsibilities for extreme heat risk governance and management.

Representatives may hail from national disaster management authorities; national hydrometeorological services; public health authorities; food and agricultural authorities; transportation, energy and power authorities and providers; construction, land use and environmental authorities and regulators; urban authorities; ministries of labour, social welfare, finance, planning, environment..

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| 1. Australia | 5. France | 9. Singapore |
| 2. Brazil | 6. Germany | 10. South Africa |
| 3. Canada | 7. India | 11. United Kingdom |
| 4. Egypt | 8. Senegal | 12. United States |

International organisations invited:

10 experts, holding responsibilities for extreme heat risk governance and management (max. one representative per entity).

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| 1. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) | 9. United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) | 15. United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) |
| 2. Group on Earth Observations (GEO) | 10. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) | 16. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) |
| 3. International Federation of Red Cross / Red Crescent societies (IFRC) | 11. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) | 17. United Nations University (UNU) |
| 4. International Labour Organization (ILO) | 12. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) | 18. World Bank (WB) |
| 5. International Organization for Migration (IOM) | 13. United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) | 19. World Food Programme (WFP) |
| 6. International Science Council (ISC) | 14. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) | 20. World Health Organization (WHO) |
| 7. Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre | | 21. UNDRR WMO, co-chairs of Centre of Excellence on Climate and Disaster Resilience (CoE) |
| 8. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) | | 22. Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General (EOSG) |



Other Expert Partners invited:

1. Natural Resources Defence Council (NRDC)
2. C40 Cities
3. University of Arizona
4. ICLEI
5. Global Alliance on Building and Construction
6. Global Nation
7. Duke University