



Our ref.: WDS/DRR/2017 Global Platform

GENEVA, 26 August 2016

Annex: 1 (available in English only)

Subject: Progress with implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 – Preparations for the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and (sub)regional platforms in 2016/2017

Action required: Inform the Secretariat about current/planned engagement and/or participation by **9 September 2016**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to inform you about progress made with implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and in particular about the latest developments with a number of events and initiatives that are of high relevance for the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of its Members.

As you may recall, the seventeenth session of the World Meteorological Congress (Cg-17) urged the participation of NMHSs and the WMO regional associations (RAs) in the national, regional, and global platforms for disaster risk reduction (DRR) as this will lead to strengthened partnerships and cooperation with civil protection agencies as well as other partners from the public and private sectors, for example for the identification and implementation of DRR capacity development projects. Such platforms are mechanisms where NMHSs can take an active and leading role for contributing hydrometeorological perspectives in all phases of disaster risk management, on a timescale from early warnings of high-impact weather events to long-term planning and prevention aspects.

These platforms for DRR will play a critical role in supporting the implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework and provide substantive inputs and thematic reviews to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This will further foster the coherence between the Sendai Framework, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Paris Agreement. Weather, hydrological and climate services will play a crucial role in the implementation of these frameworks. WMO is building on its good and long-standing cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) to support these processes, for example through the implementation of the DRR priority within the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCs) and the new Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) funding initiative aimed at enhancing early warning in up to 80 countries.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6922)
Presidents of regional associations

cc: Hydrological Advisors to Permanent Representatives

The fifth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2017 will take place in Cancun, Mexico, from 24 to 26 May 2017 (with 22-23 May as preparatory and consultation days). The biannual Global Platform is the most important international forum dedicated to DRR, and this will be the first time it has been staged outside Geneva. More than 5,000 participants are expected, including policymakers and disaster risk managers. Hosted by the Government of Mexico in cooperation with UNISDR, this Global Platform is the first since the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015.

It will review progress made and the early successes in the implementation of the Sendai Framework which builds on countries' ongoing efforts initiated under the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015): Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA). While the structures for the efficient implementation and monitoring of the Sendai Framework are being put in place, important preliminary results have already been achieved. As such, this Global Platform will be an opportunity to share experiences on the road to meeting the Sendai Framework's seven global targets as well as innovative practice and knowledge on disaster risk informed policies, programmes and investments, while offering a space to forge new partnerships. Progress in defining baselines and risk profiles, including the establishment or enhancement of systems to record disaster losses will also be examined, while the announcement of cutting edge DRR initiatives will help drive implementation.

The Global Platform will be informed by the discussions and outcomes of regional ministerial meetings, platforms, and fora on DRR to be convened in 2016 and 2017 with support of the UNISDR Regional Offices. Regional platforms are key instruments to advance the implementation of the Sendai Framework and monitor its progress at the regional level.

Furthermore, the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology relating to Disaster Risk Reduction (OIEWG) will submit its final recommendation on the indicators for measuring progress in implementing the Sendai Framework's seven global targets and on the update of the "2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction" to the United Nations General Assembly in December 2016. A total of 107 United Nations Member States have nominated over 250 experts for this Group from a variety of national ministries and departments. Informal consultations with the Chairperson of the OIEWG will be held in Geneva in early October 2016 and the third and final formal session will take place in mid-November 2016. WMO Secretariat staff have been actively involved with this working group.

As Members are already preparing their contributions to these processes and are establishing their national delegations through the responsible national agency (e.g., UNISDR focal point) or mechanism (e.g., national DRR Platform) in each country, I would like to draw your attention to the dates and locations of the global events as well as the regional consultations in your respective Regions (see Annex).

In particular I would like to invite you to:

- Engage in and contribute to your respective national consultations and planning processes for the regional ministerial meetings, platforms, and fora on DRR and for the 2017 Global Platform for DRR; and
- Participate as part of your national delegation, if possible, in relevant regional events as well as in the 2017 Global Platform.

You are kindly requested to inform the Secretariat if you, or a member of your Service, will be attending these events by **9 September 2016**.

Information about WMO activities at the regional consultations and the Global Platform will be provided on the DRR Programme pages of the WMO public website (<http://public.wmo.int/en/programmes/disaster-risk-reduction-programme>) as well as on the

extranet (<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/drr/>) and updated as necessary. As the Sendai Framework has profound impacts on the role, responsibilities and working arrangements for the NMHSs and the strategic direction of WMO, the Secretariat will work with you and the presidents of the RAs to engage in the relevant events of the regional consultation meetings and develop WMO key messages/brochure on implications of the Sendai Framework for NMHSs to underpin WMO interventions at these events. These will be shared through a circular letter, when ready.

Lastly, Cg-17 further requested the Secretariat to keep Members informed about the progress in the establishment of the International Network for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (IN-MHEWS) and its activities, such as the related International Conference on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (IC-MHEWS). In this regard I am pleased to inform you that WMO and UNISDR have established a firm cooperation, co-chairing the IN-MHEWS Steering Committees (currently being set up through letters to key international organizations involved in early warning) in 2016/2017. With regards to IC-MHEWS, WMO and UNISDR are in the process of negotiating with the host government and are establishing organizing, programme and communications committees. While further details on IN-MHEWS/IC-MHEWS will be communicated separately, some information is already available at <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/drr/documents/IN-MHEWS/IN-MHEWS.html>.

Please note that I have designated Mr Alasdair Hainsworth, Chief of the DRR Services Division as the focal point of the WMO Secretariat on these issues, with the support of the WMO Regional Offices.

I look forward to working with you all to ensure that the experience gained and lessons learnt through the implementation of the HFA, opportunities for the development of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) to support DRR and the critical contribution of our community, are reflected at these events.

Yours faithfully,



(E. Manaenkova)
for the Secretary-General

REGIONAL/GLOBAL PLATFORMS FOR DRR AND OTHER MAJOR INTERNATIONAL DRR-RELATED EVENTS IN 2016/2017

Consultation on and stock-taking of early progress with implementing the Sendai Framework
for DRR 2015-2030

(as of 10 August 2016)

Region & Event	Date & Venue
Europe (RA VI): 7th Annual Meeting of the European Forum for DRR (EFDRR) http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/events/48721	3-5 October 2016, Helsinki, Finland
Pacific (RA V): 7 th Session of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management https://www.unisdr.org/asiapacific	10-13 October 2016 (tentative), Suva, Fiji
Arab States (RAs I, II & VI): 3rd Arab Conference on DRR https://www.unisdr.org/arabstates	November 2016 (tentative), venue to be decided
Americas (RAs III & IV): 5th Session Regional Platform of the Americas http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/events/46627	2 November 2016 (tentative), venue to be decided, possibility of a 2 nd event in early 2017 in Canada
Asia (RA II): 7th Asia Ministerial Conference on DRR (7AMCDRR) http://www.amcdrrindia.net/	2-5 November 2016, New Delhi, India
Africa (RA I): 6th Africa Regional Platform and 5th High Level Meeting on DRR http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/events/49455	22-25 November 2016, Port Louis, Mauritius
5th Global Platform for DRR (GP DRR 2017) http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform	24-26 May 2017, Cancún, Mexico (22-23 May preparatory / consultations)
Other major DRR-related conferences	
Habitat III: United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development https://www.habitat3.org/	17-20 October, Quito, Ecuador
World Mountain Forum 2016 http://wmf.mtnforum.org/WMF16/en	17-20 October, Mbale, Uganda
International Conference for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (IC-MHEWS) http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/drr/documents/IN-MHEWS/IN-MHEWS.html	Tentatively scheduled for 22-23 May 2016, Cancún, Mexico (directly preceding the Global Platform at the same venue)
Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology relating to Disaster Risk Reduction (OIEWG) http://www.preventionweb.net/drr-framework/open-ended-working-group/	
Informal Consultations of the Chair of the OIEWG	early October 2016, Geneva
3rd and Final Formal Session of the OIEWG	mid-November 2016, Geneva

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) will be informed of the discussions and outcomes of the Regional Platforms and Ministerial Meetings for DRR to be convened in 2016 and early 2017. These events are key instruments to advance the implementation of the Sendai Framework and monitor its progress at the regional level.

For example, political support for the coordinated implementation of the Sendai Framework across Africa was solidified at the fourth High-level Meeting on DRR hosted by the Government of Cameroon on 23 July 2015 in Yaoundé, which culminated in the adoption of the Yaoundé Declaration. Adopted in a spirit of regional cooperation and coherence, the Yaoundé Declaration lays a solid foundation for implementing the Sendai Framework, including within the organs of the African Union, and called for a review of the successor to the *Extended Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR (2006-2015)* in line with the Sendai Framework. The successor document will be tabled for agreement at the forthcoming sixth session of the Africa Regional Platform for DRR to be held in Port Louis, Mauritius from 22-25 November 2016, and is subsequently expected to be adopted at the fifth High-level Meeting on DRR to be held in November 2016. Similarly, the League of Arab States has produced a regional road map for the implementation of the Sendai Framework which will guide discussions at the third Arab Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in 2016.

In Asia, a first Central Asia and South Caucasus sub-regional platform for DRR was hosted by the Government of Tajikistan in Dushanbe from 12 to 14 July 2016 (<http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/events/49434>). At the meeting, governments established a regional coordination mechanism for the effective and coherent implementation of the Sendai Framework, including national and regional action plans. Similarly, the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management will be held in October 2016 in Suva, Fiji. Compelled by the imperative for urgent action in a region increasingly exposed to the impacts of climate change and disasters, recommendations are expected to be made for the cohesive implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Strategy for Resilient Development in the Pacific. The outcomes of the sub-regional platforms will inform the development of policy recommendations for an integrated multi-stakeholder approach to implementing the Sendai Framework at the Seventh Asian Ministerial Conference for DRR to be hosted by the Government of India in New Delhi in from 2 to 5 November 2016.

At the sixth annual meeting of the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR), held in Paris in October 2015, the Forum adopted the *Road Map on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework*, specifically aligned to the 2020 target of the Sendai Framework. Moreover, the EFDRR Working Group, is currently developing an Action Matrix for the Road Map's priorities, which will provide guidance to implement integrated DRR activities across Europe. The seventh annual meeting of the EFDRR will take place from 3 to 5 October 2016 in Helsinki, Finland.

In the Americas, the first Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework was hosted by the Government of Paraguay on 8 and 9 June 2016 in Asunción (<http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/events/46626>). Towards integrating DRR into regional and national development plans across all sectors, Governments from across the region adopted the *Asunción Declaration* and the *Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas*. Building on this Meeting, the Americas Regional Platform for DRR will take place in early 2017 hosted by the Government of Canada.

A High Level Forum on Implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction at Local Level (<http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2016/highlevelforum>) took place in Florence, Italy from 16 to 17 June 2016, and the International Conference on the Implementation of the Health Aspects of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (<http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2016/health>) from 10 to 11 March 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand. The first larger event after WCDRR was the UNISDR Science and Technology Conference on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

2015-2030 (<http://www.unisdr.org/partners/academia-research/conference/2016/>) which took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 27-29 January 2016.
