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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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Ref.: 06825/2017-13 WDS/DRR

Our ref.: 06825/2017/WDS/DRR/MHEW Conf 8 March 2017
Annexes: 2 (available in English only)
Subject: Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference (Cancún, Mexico, 22-23 May 2017)
Action required: (1) Submit abstracts for the poster session before **24 March 2017**
(2) Pre-registration of your delegation before **21 April 2017**
(3) Consider voluntary contributions in support of the Conference

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to refer to my letter PR-6922, dated 26 August 2016, informing you, amongst other things, of the Multi-Hazard Early Warning (MHEW) Conference that will be hosted by the Government of Mexico in Cancún, Mexico, from 22 to 23 May 2017. The Conference is being organized jointly by WMO and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) in collaboration with key international organizations, the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and international financial mechanisms. It is held in conjunction with the UNISDR Global Platform and will serve as a preparatory meeting for the Platform. Specifically, the Conference results will feed into the Special Session on Early Warning that will be held on 24 May 2017. More information can be found in the Conference flyer and in the outline for the Conference Programme (see Annexes 1 and 2) and on the website which has been launched at www.wmo.int/earlywarnings2017.

The Conference will address the complete chain of early warning from risk information through hazard monitoring, forecasting and warnings to bringing the message to communities at risk in order to enable early action. Sessions on strengthening regional cooperation and partnerships and on investing in and sustaining early warning systems are also included. It is expected that the Summary Session will consist of high-level speakers that have been "active listeners" in the Conference and will summarize their findings. The Conference will strengthen the links between the different communities active in early warning. Moreover, the Conference will provide a good platform for the participants from countries not possessing appropriate early warning systems to appraise themselves about the latest advances in this area and the strategies to implement MHEW Systems in their countries. It will also provide a platform to present innovative approaches and latest advancements in science and technology. The outcomes will include a checklist for MHEWS and guidelines for measuring early warning effectiveness. The Conference outcomes are also expected to feed into several important international processes, as described in the attached Conference flyer.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO
cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives)
Presidents of technical commissions) (for information)
Presidents of regional associations)

The Conference Plenary Sessions will consist of invited speakers, mainly interacting in Panel discussions. In order to present an opportunity for the Conference participants to learn more about activities in early warning, exchange experiences, and to offer a session for open discussion between participants, a poster session is organized on the evening of the first day. Those wishing to present a poster are kindly requested to complete the electronic Abstract Submission Form available at the Conference website:

<http://www.wmo.int/earlywarnings2017/content/poster-session>

For technical reasons, consideration can only be given to abstracts in English, of a maximum of 300 words, which are submitted online before **24 March 2017**.

The Conference Organizing Committee will review the abstracts and will be responsible for the selection of the papers for poster display. Lead authors will be informed accordingly with further details. A group of the posters will be chosen during the Conference to be expanded into articles for the Compendium of good practices, and mapping of individual, cluster and multi-hazard early warning systems.

Regarding registration, in view of your official status with WMO, you are kindly invited to act as the focal point for the online pre-registration of participants from your service. Due to limited facilities, you may register at the most, two persons. Depending on the interest received, we may have to limit the number of attendees further. The link to the online Event Registration System (ERS), the username and the password that were sent by email remain valid for this Conference (<https://eventregistration.wmo.int/register/>). Online pre-registration is now open and closes on **21 April 2017**. Upon validation of the registration by WMO, each participant will receive a confirmation letter by e-mail. If you have any questions regarding the registration, please contact the WMO Secretariat by e-mail at: registration@wmo.int.

Please note that all participants must register for the Global Platform before pre-registering for the MHEW Conference, which can be done at:

<http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform/registration/form/register>

The Conference venue is located inside the Global Platform area and due to strict security measures, no one can enter without having registered for the Platform as well as for the Conference. The Global Platform registration number will need to be included in the Conference pre-registration.

Finally, in reference to my letter WMO-1436, dated 12 December 2016 to Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Member States of the WMO and copied to you, I would request you to consider making a voluntary financial contribution for the participation of attendees especially from developing countries. Limited financial support is currently available for participants from least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS) upon request and that is to be received at the WMO Secretariat as soon as possible but not later than **24 March 2017**. Please note that the requests can only be considered within the limits of available resources. The Programme Committee of the Conference will be responsible for reviewing all requests for funding and selection will be based on the nominated participant's profile, expected level of engagement at the Conference and on regional and gender balance.

I wish to thank you for your continued support in promoting the Programmes and activities of WMO.

Yours faithfully,



(W. Zhang)

for the Secretary-General



WEATHER CLIMATE WATER

22 TO 23 MAY 2017, CANCUN, MEXICO



MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING CONFERENCE

SAVING LIVES, REDUCING LOSSES

The Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference aims to demonstrate to countries how they can build, improve the availability of, and their communities' access to, multi-hazard early warning, risk information and assessment. The Conference will be held from 22 to 23 May in Cancún, Mexico, kindly hosted by the government of Mexico, in connection with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Conference deliberations and outcomes will:

- Guide efforts and investments by countries and international organizations for effective, impact based, multi-hazard early warning systems.
- Review progress by countries' efforts to establish early warning systems against the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Climate Change Paris Agenda.
- Learn from, exchange information on and promote the replication of good practices in individual, cluster and multi-hazard early warning systems.

Disasters are increasing in frequency and severity all around the globe, with climate change and variability exacerbating the situation, causing major disturbances with human, environmental and economical consequences. Significant gaps remain in providing early warnings to deal with these events, especially in reaching the "last mile" - the most vulnerable and exposed populations with timely, understandable and actionable warning information. Many developing countries, including least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), have not benefited from advances in the science, technology and governance behind early warning systems. The resulting societal benefits of early warning systems have therefore been spread unevenly across regions, countries and communities.

A multi-hazard approach to early warning systems has been shown to be effective in dealing with multiple, sometimes concurrent, hazards, and can provide economies of scale and eventually sustainability of the system as a whole. Currently, efforts are needed to develop multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWSs) that are guided by risk and impact information and that include feedback mechanisms for continuous improvement. Such approaches require coordination, expertise and continuous learning by relevant stakeholders, as well as, more efforts in the development and understanding of the way how individual and cluster hazards operate.

The Conference is expected to serve as a Preparatory Meeting on Early Warning for the Global Platform, complementing the overarching goals of the Platform, and specifically providing more detailed background to the Early Warning Session planned to be held on the opening day of the Platform.



Relevant stakeholders include

- All countries, but in particular, those who stand to benefit the most from further development of MHEWSs such as LDC, SIDS and LLDC;
- National disaster risk management/civil protection agencies;
- National meteorological and hydrological services, geological surveys and institutes, health organizations and related scientific and academic institutions from nations that are interested to share good practice examples;
- Government representatives from different sectors – including health, transport, environment, agriculture, finance, development cooperation - requiring hazard information for better planning;
- Private sector entities that play a major role in the provision of data and information and the operations of systems key to MHEWS efforts, as well as representatives of companies that already benefit of individual, cluster or multihazard early warning systems;
- Regional organizations supporting the development and provision of early warnings; and
- Key intergovernmental and international organizations including United Nations entities, the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and international financial institutions.

Expected outcomes

The Conference will build upon the three International Conferences on Early Warning that were held in 1998, 2003 and 2006 (EWC I-III). The Conference outcomes will highlight strategies and actions to build, promote and strengthen MHEWSs, especially how to address key gaps such as faster and broader dissemination of warnings and the quality of the information provided to those at risk at the “last mile”, through capacity development, operational support and improved coordination and governance. It will also highlight the importance of strengthening existing efforts for individual and cluster hazards early warning systems.

The Conference will be used to define an approach to establish national baselines on early warning systems to be used by government agencies to report on advances in early warning efforts on a periodic basis, as contemplated in the Sendai Framework. One goal is therefore to take stock of the current level of development of single and multi-hazard early warning systems, including their effectiveness, related actors and partnerships, and coordination mechanisms.

Specifically, the Conference will provide a good platform for the participants from countries not possessing appropriate EWSs to appraise themselves about the latest advances in this area and the strategies to implement MHEWSs in their countries. It will also provide a platform to present innovative project proposals and latest advancements in science and technology.

Conference Structure

The Conference is foreseen to consist of plenary sessions, including panel discussions, a poster session and an exhibition. A possibility to organize side-meetings will be provided.

Contributions

The Conference organizers are open to financial and in-kind contributions in support of the conference. Contributions will be acknowledged as per agreement, for example by appropriate display of logo in conference materials. The Climate Risk Early Warning Systems (CREWS) is supporting the participation of representatives and experts from SIDS and LCDs.

Organizations involved in the planning process: FAO, IFRC, ITU, JRC/EC, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNESCO-IOC, UNISDR, UNOOSA/UNSPIDER, WFP, WHO, WMO, World Bank.



On behalf of the organizers:

For more information, please contact: **World Meteorological Organization** – 7 bis, avenue de la Paix – P.O. Box 2300 – CH 1211 Geneva 2 – Switzerland
Weather and Disaster Risk Reduction Services Department – E-mail: mhew2017@wmo.int – Tel.: +41 (0) 22 730 80 06 – Fax: +41 (0) 22 730 81 28

www.wmo.int/earlywarnings2017

MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING CONFERENCE

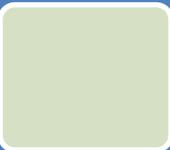
CANCÚN, MEXICO, 22-23 MAY 2017

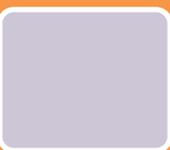


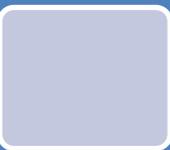
Saving Lives,
Reducing Losses

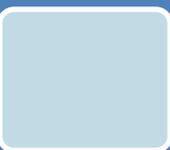
Day 1 (Monday 22 May)

 **Opening**

 **Session 1 – Risk informed early warnings – the first mile**
Lead: UNISDR

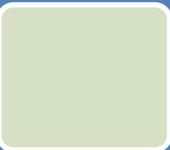
 **LUNCH BREAK**
Side Events/Workshops
Side Events/Workshops

 **Session 2 - Hazard monitoring, forecasting and warnings**
Co-Leads: WMO and UNESCO

 **Session 3 – Bringing the message to communities at risk**
Lead: ITU

Day 2 (Tuesday 23 May)

 **Session 4 – Enabling early action**
Co-leads: IFRC and FAO

 **Session 5 – Strengthening regional cooperation and partnerships**
Co-leads: UNESCO/IOC and UN ESCAP

 **LUNCH BREAK**
Side Events/Workshops
Side Events/Workshops

 **Session 6 – Investing in and sustaining early warning systems**
Co-leads: World Bank, UNISDR and WMO

 **Session 7.**
Summary session