



## WMO OMM

World Meteorological Organization  
 Organisation météorologique mondiale  
 Organización Meteorológica Mundial  
 Всемирная метеорологическая организация  
 المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية  
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Our ref.: 15113/2017/WDS/DRR/MHEW Conf

28 April 2017

Annex: 1 (available in English only)

Subject: Invitation to provide comments on the communiqué for the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference (MHEWC)

Action required: Submission of comments on the communiqué as soon as possible, but **not later than 12 May 2017**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to invite Members attending the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference (MHEWC) in Cancun, from 22 to 23 May 2017 an opportunity to provide comments on the attached communiqué. The communiqué, which will be signed at a ceremony during the event by all Permanent Representatives or their nominated representatives attending the Conference, seeks to emphasize to the broader emergency management community assembled for the 2017 Global Platform that WMO Members' National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) play a pivotal role in the delivery of early warnings of high-impact weather, water and climate events to their respective communities through the timely provision of information, warnings and advice. It also acknowledges the requirement to build stronger cooperation and partnerships between NMHSs and other stakeholders, including national disaster risk management entities, to ensure that the information delivered by the NMHSs results in efficient and effective emergency response, crisis management and humanitarian assistance.

I should be grateful if you would submit any comments on the communiqué to Mr Alasdair Hainsworth, Chief of Disaster Risk Reduction Services and co-chairperson of the MHEWC Organizing Committee, at [ahainsworth@wmo.int](mailto:ahainsworth@wmo.int) as soon as possible, but **not later than 12 May 2017**. Finally, if you have not already registered for the MHEW Conference, please note that you can still do so by sending an e-mail to [mhew2017@wmo.int](mailto:mhew2017@wmo.int).

Yours faithfully,

(E. Manaenkova)  
 for the Secretary-General

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives

**MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING CONFERENCE**  
**Cancun, 22-23 May 2017**

**Communiqué of the World Meteorological Organization**

Ref.: 15113/2017-1.1 WDS/DRR

We, Permanent Representatives with and Members of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) attending the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference:

**Note** that the Conference aims to demonstrate to countries how they may improve the availability of, and their communities' access to, multi-hazard early warning, risk information and assessment and is therefore directly linked to the achievement of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, in particular its seventh global target.

**Emphasize** that high-impact weather, marine weather, climate and hydrological events such as storms, floods and droughts cause most natural disasters, represent the highest risk both in terms of impacts and likelihood, also due to their cascading and often transboundary effects, and have devastating effects throughout the world, resulting in injury and loss of life, setting back economic and social development with huge economic losses, displacement of people, job destruction and destruction of communities.

**Note** that unprecedented changes in the climate system observed since the 1950s are likely to continue to increase risks associated with climate and hydrometeorological hazards.

**Note** further that the growth of human settlements – particularly in flood plains and low lying coastal regions – urbanization, the rise of megacities, economic interdependencies and obsolescence of infrastructure increase the vulnerability of people and infrastructure to the impacts of weather and climate extremes.

**Reaffirm** that the overarching priorities for the WMO community are to produce information that assists in reducing losses of life and property from hydrometeorological hazards, supports action that promotes resilience to climate variability and change, and enhances the socioeconomic value of hydrometeorological and climate services.

**Underscore** that meteorological forecast products and impact analyses are made available to WMO Members and other international organizations through Global Data-processing and Forecasting Systems supported by a three-level system of World Meteorological Centres, Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres and National Meteorological Centres.

**Underline** that the products and services delivered by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to address weather and climate risks are essential for meeting the longer-term ambitions reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, the priorities of the Sendai Framework and the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

**Recognize** that it is essential for WMO to contribute to the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, and to identify effective strategies and actions needed to promote and strengthen multi-hazard early warning systems in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

**Highlight** that to significantly reduce the current casualty trends and socioeconomic losses due to extreme weather events it is necessary to build on advances in impact-based forecasting technology and data provision and to provide risk-based warnings that reach communities, households and individuals.

**Agree** that there is a need to build a basis for stronger cooperation and partnerships between National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and other stakeholders including national disaster risk management entities for more efficient emergency response, crisis management

and humanitarian assistance; better risk assessment, improved monitoring, early warning and enhanced overall response to disasters and to weather and climate risk.

**Agree** further that there is a need for public authorities and businesses to work together on disaster risk reduction to ensure that public and private investments in disaster risk reduction result in more resilient societies.

**Underline** the urgency to address existing technical and human resources gaps, particularly in developing and least developed countries, Small Island Developing States and landlocked developing countries, to strengthen or develop capacity for multi-hazard early warning systems by increased investments and sharing of information and good practices through international cooperation and mechanisms such as the International Network for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems to address severe weather including tropical cyclones, drought, abnormal El Niño and other extreme events.

**Commit** to strengthen partnerships – from country level to community level, from regional level to global level – with major government agencies responsible for disaster risk reduction, such as civil protection and emergency response agencies, and key stakeholders, such as the private sector, to facilitate broader dissemination of disaster warning information.

**Reaffirm** the critical role of the Global Framework for Climate Services as a worldwide mechanism for coordinated actions to enhance the quality, quantity and application of climate services for disaster risk reduction and related impacts on water resources management, food security and health.

**Resolve** to enhance national weather warning systems worldwide through the development of a WMO Global Meteo-Alarm System that will be a global resource of authoritative warnings and information related to high-impact weather, water and climate events and optionally other hazard threats for worldwide decision-makers.

**Resolve** also to pursue the establishment of an El Niño/Southern Oscillation Information System, based on existing efforts, to improve monitoring of the ocean and atmosphere to enable meteorologists to predict and interpret the El Niño/Southern Oscillation and other ocean oscillations – and thus the climate and weather extremes and their likely physical and socioeconomic impacts.

**Resolve** further to enhance the issuance of improved advisories and early warnings, and monitoring and evaluation through strengthened partnerships, weather, climate and hydrological information products and services for use by governments and the United Nations system to facilitate a seamless approach to country programming.

**Express** appreciation to the co-sponsors of the Conference, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission for joining forces with WMO in the organization of the Conference.

**Extend** gratitude to the Government of Mexico for graciously hosting the Conference in Cancun.

**Call on** the Participants attending the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to acknowledge and support this communique.

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