



WMO OMM

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
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Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
世界气象组织

Secrétariat

7 bis, avenue de la Paix – Case postale 2300
CH 1211 Genève 2 – Suisse
Tél.: +41 (0) 22 730 81 11
Fax: +41 (0) 22 730 81 81
wmo@wmo.int – public.wmo.int

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GENEVA, 12 December 2016

Annex: 1 (available in English only)

Subject: Invitation to sponsor the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference, 22-23 May 2017, Cancún, Mexico

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to inform you that the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference will take place from 22 to 23 May 2017 in Cancún, Mexico, and is to be kindly hosted by the Government of Mexico. This Conference will be held in conjunction with the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which is being coordinated by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), and will inform the Session on Early Warning scheduled on the opening day of the Platform (24 May 2017).

It will be over ten years since the last International Early Warning Conference was held. During that time, the systems and approaches used to provide early warning have evolved, particularly those addressing multiple hazards that may occur simultaneously, cascadingly or cumulatively over time. The Conference outcomes will highlight strategies and actions to build, promote and strengthen multi-hazard early warning systems and will also assist in delivering on the Sendai Framework target "g": *[to] substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030.*

Attached please find the Conference flyer. The flyer provides background information, notes the relevant stakeholders and outlines the major expected outcomes.

We welcome the participation of countries that already have established systems to provide examples of good practices during the Conference. However, many nations lack appropriate systems and processes to provide the early warnings required in order to achieve target "g" and we require funding to assist these countries to participate in the Conference and gain from the experience. For these reasons, I hereby invite you to sponsor this event in a manner suitable for you. We trust that the scope and expected outcomes of the Conference match your interest and priorities.

A copy of this letter is being sent to the Permanent Representative of your country with WMO.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(P. Taalas)
Secretary-General

To: Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Member States of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO-1436)



WORLD
METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION



UNISDR
The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

WEATHER CLIMATE WATER

22 TO 23 MAY 2017, CANCUN, MEXICO



MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING CONFERENCE

INFORMATION NOTE

The Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference aims to demonstrate to countries how they can 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 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 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.

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;
- 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.

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 preliminary planning process: IFRC, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNESCO-IOC, UNISDR, UNOOSA/UNSPIDER, World Bank, WHO, WMO.



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: icmhews@wmo.int – Tel.: +41 (0) 22 730 80 06 – Fax: +41 (0) 22 730 81 28 – public.wmo.int