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30 September 2022

Annex: 1

Subject: Update on the UN Global Early Warning Initiative, Early Warnings for All: The UN Global Early Warning Initiative for the Implementation of Climate Adaptation

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to provide you with an update on the UN Global Early Warning Initiative, Early Warnings for All: The UN Global Early Warning Initiative for the Implementation of Climate Adaptation.

As announced by the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, on 23 March 2022, the United Nations will spearhead new action to ensure every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within five years. Secretary-General Guterres has designated the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to lead this effort and to present an action plan to achieve this goal at the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), later this year in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

Reference is made to [Resolution 3 \(EC-75\)](#) – UN Global Early Warning / Adaptation Initiative, through which the Executive Council requested the Secretary-General to issue a high-level Statement at UNFCCC/COP27 for international action to close the global early warning gap.

The development of said Statement and the Executive Action Plan as requested by Secretary-General Guterres, is being informed through the following processes and events:

- The third Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference (MHEWC-III), “From Stock take to Scale on Target G: Accelerating the knowledge and practice of MHEWS for risk-informed resilience”, which took place in Bali, Indonesia, on 23–24 May 2022. During the conference an Early Warnings survey was shared with attendees to engage a wide range of partners active in the field of early warnings and early action. Over 110 responses were collected, registering the interest of 29 international partner agencies, eight donor agencies, 30 government agencies, and a number of private sector companies, academic institutions, and telecommunication agencies. All pledged their support to achieve the five-year goal.
- An accelerated data collection campaign of WMO Members to improve the current global picture on the status of early warning systems, was completed in July 2022. We thank all Members for their important contributions to this campaign. The results of this campaign are guiding the development of the high-level action plan and key messages that will be delivered at COP27. Moreover, this data was used to support the development of the publication *Global Status of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems Target G*, a joint effort between WMO and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) under the joint Centre of Excellence for Climate and Disaster Resilience. The publication will launch on 13 October 2022 on the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers

- A technical, financial and political round-table meeting was hosted by the COP27 Presidency, the United Nations Climate Action Team, and WMO in Cairo, Egypt, on 5–6 September. The meeting was held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt. The meeting brought together key relevant UN agencies, national donors, and international development partners to advance development of the action plan. The president of the Commission for Weather, Climate, Water and Related Environmental Services and Applications (SERCOM) attended the meeting, and the president of the Commission for Observation, Infrastructure and Information Systems (INFCOM) was invited to attend.
- A Ministerial Meeting on an Integrated Early Warning and Early Action System Initiative in Southern Africa took place in Maputo, Mozambique, on 5–9 September. The main objective of the high-level political meeting was to develop a regional blueprint for implementing the call of the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres that every person on Earth should be protected by early warning systems in the next five years. The [Maputo Ministerial Declaration](#) was signed by African ministers to commit to scaled up action to achieve the UN SG call.
- The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction took place in Brisbane, Australia from 19–22 September which was followed by the WMO Regional Conference in Regional Association V (RA V) from 23 to 24 September. The main objectives of these events were to raise awareness, collect regional priorities and engage high-level political support to achieve the UN SG call.
- A Ministerial Event took place on the margins of the Seventy-Seventh Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA77) High-Level Week, in New York, United States of America, on 21 September. The Government of Egypt, the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations, the United Nations Climate Action Team and WMO organized the event to bring countries, donors, the private sector and international development agencies together to jointly elevate the need to act on early warnings as a key climate adaptation measure. A number of supportive interventions were made by developed and developing countries. A press release on the event can be found on the [WMO website](#).
- The United Nations Secretary-General convened an [Informal Climate Leaders Roundtable on Climate Action](#) on 21 September at the Heads of State and Ministerial Level. Country support for the Early Warnings for All initiative was recorded in the [Chair's Summary of the meeting](#).
- The second session of the Commission for Weather, Climate, Water and Related Environmental Services and Applications (SERCOM-2), to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 17 to 21 October 2022, followed by the second session of the Commission for Observation, Infrastructure and Information Systems (INFCOM-2) from 24 to 28 October 2022. During the weekend between the two sessions, the WMO Technical Conference on “The UN Global Early Warning Initiative for Climate Adaptation: Early Warnings for All” will be an opportunity to examine the Early Warning System value cycle and its component parts in more detail with a view to develop ideas on how to collectively address the gaps and meet the goal that every person on Earth will be protected by early warning systems (EWS) within five years. The participation of all actors in the global weather enterprise is encouraged, including the ‘Big Tech’ companies. Following these events, work will continue to develop a more detailed implementation plan, including the development of an ongoing monitoring and coordination framework, for reporting progress being made to address the gaps identified in global end-to-end early warning systems.

The draft joint Statement was formulated using inputs from the above events and can be found in the [annex](#) to this letter. The statement is short and non-technical and has already received endorsement and suggested inputs from a number of Members’ Foreign Ministries. In addition, we welcome reflections from WMO Members on the content of the draft statement, by **Monday 10 October 2022**, to allow sufficient time for further circulation and

adoption by Members' Missions thereafter. Reflections and comments can be sent to [achampagne@wmo.int](mailto:achampagne@wmo.int).

A Heads of State level event is being planned for the launch of the Executive Action Plan and accompanying joint Statement, with the United Nations Secretary-General, during the World Leaders Summit of the UN Climate Change Conference COP27, in Sharm El-Sheikh, on 7 and 8 November 2022.

Details of the action plan and planned COP27 event are being developed and will be shared at a virtual briefing of WMO Permanent Representatives in mid-October.

Noting the broad interest, and high-level political support for the initiative, as demonstrated through the [conclusions of the Egypt COP27 Presidency and Germany, Co-Chairs of the Thirteenth Petersburg Climate Dialogue](#), WMO is developing a package of communications products to further enhance global awareness on this initiative. This includes a short two-page summary which has been adapted to populate the [WMO Early Warnings for All](#) webpage. Further communications materials can be found in the [Early Warnings for All Trello board](#) which Members' communications departments can use to support their own Early Warnings for All outreach efforts.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support to Early Warnings for All: The UN Global Early Warning Initiative for the Implementation of Climate Adaptation.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a long horizontal stroke followed by a smaller, curved stroke underneath.

Prof. Petteri Taalas  
Secretary-General

**EWS JOINT STATEMENT – TO BE PUBLISHED AT COP27 IN SHARM EL-SHEIKH****“THE RESOLVE TO ACT ON EARLY WARNINGS FOR ALL”**

This Joint Statement has been joined by XX countries. See list of endorsing countries here:  
[List of countries signed joint statement – GA77 21 September 2022.xlsx](#)

**[Opening]**

On the occasion of the 27th session of the Conference of Parties (COP27) to the UNFCCC in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, we have joined efforts to issue this Statement on Early Warning Systems for the Implementation of Climate Adaptation.

**[High-Level context]**

The IPCC’s Sixth Assessment Report on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability (AR6 Working Group II) recognizes that human-induced climate change, including more frequent and intense extreme events, has caused widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people, with the most vulnerable people and systems disproportionately affected.

Early warning systems are a proven, effective, and feasible climate adaptation measure, that save lives and are shown to provide near a tenfold return on investment. The IPCC further recognizes early warning systems, climate services and disaster risk management activities as key cross-cutting adaptation options, that enhance the benefits of other adaptation measures when combined.

Early warning systems support the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provide cross-cutting benefits to nearly all of the Sustainable Development Goals. They are a key component of achieving the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, as reflected in Target G of the Sendai Framework, and are recognized as important areas of cooperation in the Paris Agreement, in relation to Article 7 on adaptation, and Article 8 on averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage.

And yet, only half of WMO Members report having early warning systems in place and there is insufficient capacity worldwide to translate early warnings into early action. Even fewer countries report having national legislation and regulatory frameworks which link early warnings to emergency plans.

We therefore welcome the announcement of United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, on 23 March 2022, describing new action to be spearheaded by the United Nations, to ensure every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within five years, and for the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to lead this effort and to present an action plan to achieve this goal at the next United Nations Climate Conference (COP27), in Egypt later this year.

Furthermore, we welcome the statements of H.E. President El-Sisi of Egypt on the Government of Egypt's priority as incoming COP27 President to turn promises and pledges into implementation on the ground at this year's conference. The feasibility and implementability of early warning systems makes them a fitting focus area for COP27.

We recognize the significant efforts made by the humanitarian community in strengthening anticipatory action using early warning systems.

#### [Regional high-level context]

Recognizing the importance of regional and sub-regional approaches to achieve the goal, and the particularly vulnerable context of Africa, we additionally take note of the Maputo Declaration of Ministers responsible for Meteorology and Disaster Risk Reduction, representing the Heads of States and Governments of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) on their Commitment to support the UN Global Early Warnings Initiative for the Implementation of Climate Adaptation.

In addition, we note the 40th Ordinary Session of the African Union Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 2022, endorsed the Africa Institutional and Operational framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action. The framework is further translated into the Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System (AMHEWAS) Programme which aims to reduce the continental disaster losses by 2030 by ensuring availability and access to multi-hazard early warning and risk information to the public by 2030.

#### [Technical building blocks and supportive initiatives]

We welcome the efforts of WMO, working with Members, to develop a five-year action plan to achieve the goal, across the full early warning to early action value chain, to present at COP27, reflecting inputs from key partners, including from academia, national disaster management agencies, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, climate finance institutions, the UN System, civil society, and national hydrological and meteorological services.

In this regard, we welcome the recent WMO Executive Council Resolution ([Resolution 3 \(EC-75\)](#) – UN Global Early Warning / Adaptation Initiative) which underscored WMO's Members commitment to collective action to achieve the goal in three focus areas 1) Earth System observations and monitoring, 2) Predictive and warning capabilities, and 3) Coordinated communication for anticipatory action.

We recognize that implementation will be supported by relevant initiatives including, for example the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF), the Climate Risk and Early Warning System (CREWS) Initiative, the Risk-Informed Early Action Partnership (REAP), the Alliance for Hydromet Development, and the Water and Climate Coalition Leaders Action Plan, amongst others.

Noting the gaps and challenges across the entire weather and climate service value chain, we encourage new, and existing financial mechanisms be scaled up to support sustainable early warning investments, capacity building and technical support, especially for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

#### [Commitments to act]

We commit to elevating the important role of early warning systems, and the “Early Warnings for All” initiative, spanning the full early warning to early action value chain, to support the implementation of climate adaptation in key upcoming global, national, regional and local processes, including at the global level, the 2023 UN Water Conference, the Mid-term Review of the Sendai Framework, the 2023 SDG Summit, and the UN Future Summit.

We pledge to commit to concrete actions for implementation, that contribute to a five-year action plan, and support the achievement of ensuring every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems.

#### [Closing]

With 3.3 to 3.6 billion people living in contexts that are highly vulnerable to climate change, as reported by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and global temperatures continuing to rise, it is more important than ever that we, the international community, now urgently act to ensure every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within the next five years.

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