

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
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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31 January 2023

Annex: 1 (Available in English only)

Subject: Invitation to participate in the joint session between UNDRR and WMO on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) to be held prior to the VIII Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean (RP23), Punta del Este, Uruguay, 28 February - 2 March 2023

Action required: To confirm to the Secretariat your attendance to the indicated events preferably no later than **3 February 2023**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to the joint session organized by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO): *"Strengthening collaboration and coordination between NMHSs and National Disaster Risk Management Offices in Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS): Challenges and Opportunities"* to be held on 27 February 2023, prior to the start of the *VIII Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean (RP23)*, which will take place from 28 February to 2 March 2023 in Punta del Este, Uruguay. Please find attached the [Concept Note](#) and the [Provisional Agenda](#).

The objective of this session is to convene a dialogue aimed at sharing best practices, expanding a joint community of practice by theme and/or subregion, to strengthen the operational work and institutional coordination between the NMHSs and the National Disaster Risk Management Offices, in the context of the "Early Warning for All" ([EWS4ALL](#)) initiative, launched during COP27, and to share the results in the plenary session of the UNDRR Americas Regional Platform.

The [VIII Regional Platform](#) represents an opportunity for governments, intergovernmental bodies, private sector, civil society, scientific-technological communities, youth, cooperation agencies and donors, as well as other relevant stakeholders in the Americas and the Caribbean, **to exchange experiences and facilitate decisions on the Regional Action Plan (RAP) for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas and the Caribbean**, agreed in March 2017 in Montreal, Canada, and revised under the auspices of the Government of Jamaica in November 2021. The slogan of the RP23 is *"Science and Technology for the Comprehensive Management of Disaster Risk"*, and for which it is necessary to focus on scientific and technological support as a fundamental tool for comprehensive disaster risk management, especially in terms of its feasibility, development, financing and implementation.

To: Permanent Representatives of RA III and RA IV Members with WMO

For administrative purposes, I should be grateful if you could notify Ms Barbara Tapia (btapia@wmo.int) of your participation in this session and the Regional Platform by **3 February 2023**, and whether you or your delegate will require financial assistance. I also urge you to register in advance through the following link: [RP-23 Registration](#).

In order to clarify WMO's insurance coverage for non-staff members, please advise participants in the above session, before they undertake travel, as follows:

Non-staff members of WMO who are authorized to travel at the Organization's expense and/or who are receiving a DSA from WMO must ensure they are fully responsible for expenses incurred in the event of death, illness or injury during official travel and attendance at meetings on behalf of the Organization. They are, therefore, fully responsible for arranging life, health, accident, as well as any other forms of insurance with an adequate level of coverage for the duration of such meetings and events.

WMO liability is limited to the performance of services or attendance at a meeting on behalf of the Organization, is covered by an injury and illness benefit insurance which provides a limited coverage for medical, emergency and supplementary official travel expenses.

I would like to express my appreciation for your continued support in promoting the activities of WMO.

Yours faithfully,



Prof. Petteri Taalas
Secretary-General



CONCEPT NOTE

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING AND PLENARY SESSION RP23

“Strengthening collaboration and coordination between NMHSs and National Disaster Risk Management Offices in Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS): Challenges and Opportunities”

27 and 28 February 2023, Punta del Este, Uruguay

Background

The Sendai Framework, through its Target G, aims “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”¹. Progress towards Target G enables governments to assess their availability of, and access to, Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS), along with necessary governance arrangements for its implementation, contributing to the overall efforts in implementing the Sendai Framework.

Early Warning Systems are a proven, effective, and feasible climate adaptation measure, that saves lives and provides at least a tenfold return on investment. The *State of the Global Climate 2021* (WMO-No. 1290) shows that extreme weather, such as floods, droughts, heatwaves and storms, led to hundreds of billions of dollars of economic losses and wreaked a heavy toll on human lives and wellbeing. The IPCC’s Sixth Assessment Report on Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability recognized early warning systems and disaster risk management activities as key cross-cutting adaptation options, that enhance the benefits of other adaptation measures when combined.²

The Early Warnings for All Initiative Executive Action Plan 2023–2027 (EWS4ALL) identifies key areas for **advancing universal disaster risk knowledge (Pillar 1)**, and outlines the priority actions required to achieve this, building on the aforementioned Sendai Target G report. It prioritizes the top technical actions required to **enhance capacity to detect hazards, close the observations gap, and advance global forecast data processing systems and data exchange (Pillar 2)**, optimizing international efforts. The plan highlights both the infrastructure, governance and people-centred approach required to **effectively disseminate and communicate warnings (Pillar 3)**. And it outlines the policies, capacities, finance and collaboration needed to **improve preparedness and response capabilities (Pillar 4)** over the next five-years. This Multi-hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) should be people-centred to empower those threatened by hazards to act in sufficient time and in an appropriate manner and must build on partnerships within and across relevant sectors.

The National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) who are members of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) serve public good by providing reliable and timely weather, climate, hydrological and related information to the community at large. These services have an essential role to play in bringing about disaster risk reduction through delivery of quality public weather services, including the provision of weather forecasts, early warnings on hazardous weather, outreach activities to enhance public awareness of weather hazards, interpretation, and use of the weather information, as well as collaboration with disaster relief organizations to minimize loss of life and property.

¹ UNDRR and WMO (2022) [Global status of multi-hazard early warning systems: Target G](#), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

² [Early Warnings for All Initiative Executive Action Plan 2023–2027](#)

Governments, concerned with the security of citizens threatened by both natural and human-induced hazards, will increasingly turn to NMHSs for information in support of reducing these risks. More will be expected from them, especially with the increasing frequency of extreme hydrometeorological events and the critical need of more accurate forecasting and timely early warning NMHSs will also be expected to deliver impact-based forecasts as well as specific forecasts of environmental conditions that may lead to disease outbreaks and to deliver advance warnings of these to public health communities and other important specific sectors. However, the operational work and overall standardized articulation between NMHSs and National Disaster Risk Management Offices (NDRMOs) is the most critical pillar for the effectiveness of an Early Warning Systems and solid risk management support.

For this meeting, it is expected to gather government representatives, key stakeholders, institutions, UN agencies and other international cooperation agencies to actively participate in a dialogue oriented to define challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the Initiative EWS4ALL at national and regional level, to strengthen the operational work and institutional coordination between NMHSs and NDRMOs in each country following the national legislation. In this context, the current UNDRR Regional Platform for the Americas is an excellent opportunity to discuss those issues and establish a precedent in order to assure the continuity of these meetings in upcoming Regional Platforms.

Proposed events

- (1) One day high-level meeting before the DRR Regional Platform (27 February 2023)
- (2) Plenary session during RP23 (28 February 2023)

Expected outcomes of the High-level meeting (27 February 2023)

- (a) To discuss about the gaps and challenges that NMHSs must improve in their MHEWS, and how they can coordinate their work with NDRMOs following the national legislation;
- (b) To provide a better understanding of the tools such as Impact-based Forecasting (IBF) and the use of Common Alert Protocol (CAP) to enhance the MHEWS considering the current observation, monitoring, analysis and forecast capabilities in the region (Pillar 2) and the disaster risk knowledge (Pillar 1);
- (c) To discuss the most adequate strategies for an effective communication among NHMSs and NDRMOs in order to get an effective dissemination of early warnings (EW) to the population (Pillar 3);
- (d) To explore further initiatives on Early Warning – Early Action through regional projects, platforms, and networks;
- (e) To discuss innovative approaches for mainstreaming MHEWS in climate change adaptation efforts;
- (f) To provide key messages and actions to influence the RP23 Political Declaration.

Expected outcomes of the Plenary session (28 February 2023)

- (a) To demonstrate the added value of operational and institutional coordination in the effectiveness of MHEWS;
- (b) To strengthen the combined efforts on capacity building for NMHSs and NDRMOs leveraging opportunity of existent centres, platforms, and networks;
- (c) To identify the contribution of the UNDRR-WMO Centre of Excellence to support the specific steps forward to strengthen MHEWS and improve early action;
- (d) To provide key messages and actions to influence the RP23 Political Declaration.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA HIGH-LEVEL MEETING

Monday, 27 February 2022

Ref.: 01608/2023-3.II.MS/RAM

Time	Session	Presenter(s)
0900–0930	Opening remarks	National authority, Uruguay WMO, UNDRR,
0930–0950	Keynote presentation Early warning-Early action, strengthening the operational and institutional coordination between NMHSs and NDRMOs	TBC
0950–1050	Open discussion: about the gaps and challenges that NMHSs have to improve their MHEWS, and how they can coordinate work with NDRMOs	
1050–1120	Coffee break-Photo	
1120–1220	Keynote presentation Impact-Based Forecasting (IBF) and CAP: good practices in the Americas and the Caribbean, gaps, and opportunities	TBC
1220–1300	Open discussion: about the challenges of an effective dissemination of Early Warnings and the need of coordination between NMHSs and NDRMOs	Moderated by WMO All participants
1300–1430	Lunch break	
1430–1530	Keynote presentation Initiatives on Early Warning – Early Action through regional projects, platforms, and networks	- ENANDES - CREWS - Other
1530–1600	Coffee break	
1600–1700	Plenary discussion Ways to consolidate the collaboration of NMHSs and NDRMOs on impact-based forecasting	Moderated by WMO
1700–1730	Closing remarks and key messages	National authority, Uruguay WMO, UNDRR,

PROVISIONAL AGENDA PLENARY SESSION

Tuesday, 28 February 2022 – (Time to be defined)

Ref.: 01608/2023-3.II MS/RAM

Time	Session	Presenter(s)
10'	Introduction to the session	WMO, UNDRR,
15'	Summary of good practices and Key messages from session: Early warning-Early action, strengthening the operational and institutional coordination between NMHSs and NDRMOs	NDRMO's Representative
15'	Summary and Key messages from session: Initiatives on Early Warning – Early Action through regional projects, platforms, and networks	TBC
15'	Summary and Key messages from session: Impact-based Forecasting and CAP: good practices in the Americas and the Caribbean, gaps, and opportunities	NMHS's Representative
	Closing remarks	WMO, UNDRR,