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High-Level Dialogue on Early Warnings for All

Title: Accelerating and Scaling up Action at the Country Level

Date & Time: 22 May 2023, 10:30 – 12:00

CICG - Hybrid, Geneva, Switzerland

Background

The United Nations Secretary-General announced on 23 March 2022, World Meteorological Day, a new call to action to ensure every person on Earth is protected by MHEWS within five years: the Early Warning Systems Initiative (EWS4ALL).

Early Warning Systems (EWS) are a proven, effective, and feasible climate adaptation measure, that save lives and provide at least a tenfold return on investment. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) State of the Climate 2022 report 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 well-being. And yet, the recent United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and WMO Global Status of Early Warning Systems: Target G report, highlighted that only half of countries have early warning systems in place with coverage especially low in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and in Africa.

The Early Warnings initiative has thus far received broad support from both developed and developing countries, with quickly advancing technical, political, and financial tracks, and a strong focus on implementation. For this reason, the initiative is being elevated to be highly visible at COP28.

We are committed to work with our partners, UNDRR, IFRC and ITU, as pillar leads, and together with more than twenty others UN agencies as well as a very wide range of stakeholders, from financial institutions to private sectors, to avoid duplication, leverages what already exists and scale up efforts on the ground for immediate and concrete results.

Together with the UN Secretary-General team, we have identified a first set of 30 countries, including SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs, for the roll-out of the initiative in 2023. The aim is to identify countries' requirements to reach a basis minimum core level of capacity for an effective, inclusive multi-hazard early warning system and to provide the necessary technical support.

Together, we must ensure that the UNSG's vision will be transformed into reality.

This high-level event will showcase examples of how these pledges are indeed turning into reality on the country level, and outline the further support needed to reach the ambitious goal of EW4All.

Objectives

This event aims to raise awareness among WMO Members and align efforts to accelerate the in-country implementation of EW4All. It will showcase commitments /engagements from Member States, UN entities, and financial institutions towards advancing the implementation of the EW4All

- Ensure political engagement and action in support of UN SG's EW4All
- Accelerate action for in-country implementation of EW4All.
- Scale up financial support



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Programme (total 90 mn)

Moderator (2 mn)

Dr Paul Egerton

Presentation of EW4All video (2mn)

Welcome Remarks (3 mn each) - 6mn

Prof Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Ms Mami Mizutori, Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) (*video recording*)

Opening Remarks (3mn)

Mr Selwin Hart, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action and Just Transition (*video recording*)

Setting the Scene (3 mn each) -6 mn

Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Mr Jagan Chapagain, Secretary-General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) (*virtual participation*)

High-Level Speakers (3 mn each - TBC) (*Speaking order to be adjusted according to UN Protocol, once all confirmations have been received speaking time to be adjusted also*)

Questions from the floor (30 minutes)

Closing Remarks (2mn)

Prof. Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)