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| WEATHER CLIMATE WATER | **World Meteorological Organization**  **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**  **Seventy-Sixth Session** 27 February to 3 March 2023, Geneva | **EC-76/Doc. 4(2)** |
| Submitted by: Secretary-General  13.II.2023  **DRAFT 1** |

**AGENDA ITEM 4: STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING**

**UN** **EARLY WARNING FOR ALL INITIATIVE FOLLOW-UP**

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| **Summary** |
| **Document presented by:** the Secretary-General as a follow-up to [Resolution 3 (EC-75)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=11331#page=19) – United Nations Global Early Warning/Adaptation Initiative and [Resolution 5.6(1)/1 (SERCOM‑2)](https://meetings.wmo.int/SERCOM-2/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/SERCOM-2/English/2.%20PROVISIONAL%20REPORT%20(Approved%20documents)/SERCOM-2-d05-6(1)-UN-GLOBAL-EW-ADAPTATION-INITIATIVE-approved_en.docx&action=default) – UN Global Early Warnings/Adaptation Initiative, resolutions on Early Warning Initiative  **Strategic objective 2020–2023:** SO 1.1  **Financial and administrative implications:** Within the parameters of the Strategic and Operational Plans 2020–2023 and reflected in the Strategic and Operational Plans 2024–2027  **Key implementers:** SERCOM, in coordination with INFCOM, RB, RAs and other relevant bodies  **Time frame:** 2023–2027  **Action expected:** to adopt draft Decision 4(2)/1 (EC-76) |

# DRAFT DECISION

## Draft Decision 4(2)/1 (EC-76)

**UN Early Warnings for All Initiative Follow-Up**

**The Executive Council decides:**

(1) To note with satisfaction:

(a) The outcomes of the[*Early Warnings for All Joint Technical Conference*](https://public.wmo.int/en/wmo-technical-conference-un-global-early-warning-initiative-climate-adaptation-early-warnings-all), (Geneva, 22 October 2022) which profiled the work of a range of stakeholders including the private sector within the framework of an early warning services value cycle and where the participants, both the public and private sector, expressed their strong support and intentions to collaborate in this initiative through a [Joint Statement](https://ane4bf-datap1.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/wmocms/s3fs-public/ckeditor/files/Statement_from_the_WMO_Early_Warnings_for_All_Conference__1.pdf?S_nct4q2KLEjjp_wZCbklz4MQeHdZxTP);

(b) The UN Early Warnings for All Executive Action Plan developed under the WMO Secretary-General’s [Obayashi]leadership aims to[Obayashi] build on, and aligns with, WMO and other stakeholders’ foundational elements already in place to pursue the early warning goal, notably those developed under the Technical Commissions and Research Board of WMO;

(c) The launch of the UN Early Warnings for All Executive Action Plan by the United Nations Secretary-General at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC/COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt on 7 November 2022, captured all contributing partnership priorities for the UN Early Warnings for All related to the four pillars of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) and received resounding political support from the governments, partner agencies and stakeholders;

(d) The [Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan Chapter VII](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cop27_auv_2_cover%20decision.pdf#page=5), emphasizes the need to address existing gaps in the global climate observing system particularly in developing countries, and recognizes that one third of the world, including 60% of Africa does not have access to early warning and climate information services;

(2) **To recognize** that the Early Warnings for All initiative implementation is subject to the outcome of budgetary decisions or the Secretary General being able to identify efficiencies. [Endersby]

(3) To recognize further that the whole value cycle of multi-hazard early warning systems is built on collaborative efforts of various stakeholders inclusive of multilateral and bilateral development partners, in public, private, and academic sectors, and their collective and collaborative efforts at global, regional, and national levels are fundamentally needed;[Obayashi]

(4) To consider that a multi-hazard early warning system is a highly complex social system of systems based on science and technology, and a range of technical challenges related to financial, technical, social, legal, and policy- issues are facing Members struggling to their establishment; [Obayashi]

(5) To further consider that effective operation of the multi-hazard early warning system requires an integrated and coordinated approach to address various types of hazards, including geophysical ones such as earthquakes, tsunamis and landslides, especially in countries where such hazards are common, and sometimes occur simultaneously; [Obayashi]

(6) To reiterate the fundamental role of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) as the official and authoritative providers of early warnings for hydrometeorological hazards;

(7) To reaffirm that the commitments of the governments with their strong ownership and leadership are indispensable, and international assistance from UN agencies or other development partners is supplemental supports to their own efforts; [Obayashi]

(8) To welcome the establishment of an Expert Team on Early Warning Services (ET-EWS) including experts in various technical areas including observations, telecommunication, and data processing, those from each region and external stakeholders such as representatives from development partners, [Obayashi]under the SERCOM Standing Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction and Public Services (SC-DRR), based on consolidation of, but not solely limited to, the existing Expert Team on MHEWS Interoperable Environment (ET-MIE) and Expert Team on Global Multi-Hazard Alert System (ET-GMAS), with the terms of reference provided in the [annex](#ANNEX);

(9) To request the president of SERCOM, under the guidance of EC,: [Obayashi]

1. To ensure that the work of the expert team is undertaken in close coordination with INFCOM, the Research Board, the regional associations, Capacity Development Panel[Obayashi], and other relevant bodies, as necessary;
2. To support the expert team in developing the technical, scientific and technological elements required to accelerate WMO-wide action on the Early Warnings for All initiative and present a progress update at the occasion of Nineteenth Congress; and
3. To contribute to the organization of a high-level event at the occasion of the Nineteenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-19);
4. To ensure the work of the ET and of other bodies reiterates the fundamental role of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) as the official and authoritative providers of early warnings for hydrometeorological hazards and the necessity for close collaboration with national disaster risk management agencies and other stakeholders, in the development and delivery of impact based early warnings; [Mr Graham]
5. To regularly report to EC on the progress of activities supporting the Early Warnings for All initiative and to take direction from EC on future advancement of the initiative. [MrGraham]

(10) To invite Members to launch their own initiatives contributing to the UN Early Warnings for All initiative, at regional, sub-regional, and/or national levels [Obayashi];

(11) To request the Secretary-General:

(a) To allocate the necessary resources to [Endersby]support the work of the expert team; [Obayashi]

(b) To report back to EC-77 on the terms of reference and membership of the Early Warnings for All Senior Leadership Board; [Johnson]

(c) To collect and make Member’s own initiative contributing to the UN Early Warnings for All initiative widely available to the public through its website and/or other means; [Obayashi]

(d) To coordinate with other partners of the UN Early Warnings for All initiative and ensure complementarity of their contributions with the activities; [Obayashi]

(e) To mobilize resources for the implementation of the Early Warnings for Allinitiative to the extent possible [Endersby] within resources available; [Obayashi] and

(f) To organize a high-level event at the occasion of Cg-19.

(g) To regularly report to EC on the progress of activities supporting the Early Warnings for All initiative, including the engagement with the Early Warnings for All Senior Leadership Board multi-stakeholder forums and other high-level EW4All events Johnson] and to take direction from EC on future advancement of the initiative. [Mr Graham]

**(12)** To request Members to engage in the UN Early Warnings for All initiative, including through close consultation with their mandated early warning authorities, to co-design operational Early Warning Systems in their nations which will target the most vulnerable communities in "the last mile". [Johnson]

See [EC-76/INF. 4(2)](https://meetings.wmo.int/EC-76/InformationDocuments/Forms/AllItems.aspx)

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Decision justification:

[Resolution 3 (EC-75)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=11331#page=19)-United Nations Global Early Warning/Adaptation Initiative,

[Resolution 5.6(1)/1 (SERCOM-2)](https://meetings.wmo.int/SERCOM-2/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/SERCOM-2/English/2.%20PROVISIONAL%20REPORT%20(Approved%20documents)/SERCOM-2-d05-6(1)-UN-GLOBAL-EW-ADAPTATION-INITIATIVE-approved_en.docx&action=default) - UN Global Early Warnings/Adaptation Initiative,

[Recommendation 5.6(4)/1 (SERCOM-2)](https://meetings.wmo.int/SERCOM-2/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/SERCOM-2/English/2.%20PROVISIONAL%20REPORT%20(Approved%20documents)/SERCOM-2-d05-6(4)-GMAS-FRAMEWORK-IMPLEMENTATION-PLAN-approved_en.docx&action=default) - Global Multi-Hazard Alert System Framework,

[Recommendation 5.6(6)/1 (SERCOM-2)](https://meetings.wmo.int/SERCOM-2/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/SERCOM-2/English/2.%20PROVISIONAL%20REPORT%20(Approved%20documents)/SERCOM-2-d05-6(6)-MHEWS-INTEROPERABLE-ENVIRONMENT-FRAMEWORK-approved_en.docx&action=default) - Multi-Hazard Early Warning Services Interoperable Environment,

[Recommendation 5.6(5)/1 (SERCOM-2)](https://meetings.wmo.int/SERCOM-2/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/SERCOM-2/English/2.%20PROVISIONAL%20REPORT%20(Approved%20documents)/SERCOM-2-d05-6(5)-WMO-COORDINATION-MECHANISM-IMPLEMENTATION-PLAN-approved_en.docx&action=default) – WMO Coordination Mechanism Implementation Plan.

In March 2022 on the occasion of [World Meteorological Day 2022](https://public.wmo.int/en/resources/world-meteorological-day/world-meteorological-day-2022-early-warning-early-action) - Early Warning and Early Action, the United Nations Secretary-General announced that the United Nations will spearhead a new action to ensure every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within five years and called on the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to lead this effort and to present an action plan to achieve this goal at the UN Climate Change Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh, COP27.

The Executive Action Plan, developed in partnership with key partner organizations (UNDRR, UNDP, UNESCO, UNEP, ITU, IFRC, REAP, OCHA, FAO and WFP), summarizes the initial actions required to achieve the goal broken down into four pillars of a multi-hazard early warning system. The Plan was launched at COP27 and received wide support from the governments, as reflected in the [Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan](https://unfccc.int/documents/624444?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIks3cvoyS_QIVhIxoCR31eAbDEAAYASAAEgIybfD_BwE) adopted at COP27.

The Executive Council through its [Resolution 3 (EC-75)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=11331#page=19) – United Nations Global Early Warning/Adaptation Initiative, requested SERCOM, in consultation with other WMO bodies and with the support of the Secretariat, to develop an initial action plan to respond to the Early Warnings for All initiative.

Reminiscent of the challenging time frame, SERCOM-2 (October 2022) through its [Resolution 5.6(1)/1 (SERCOM-2)](https://meetings.wmo.int/SERCOM-2/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/SERCOM-2/English/2.%20PROVISIONAL%20REPORT%20(Approved%20documents)/SERCOM-2-d05-6(1)-UN-GLOBAL-EW-ADAPTATION-INITIATIVE-approved_en.docx&action=default) - UN Global Early Warnings/Adaptation Initiative, requested P/SERCOM to “take immediate action to advance preparations for the practical implementation of the challenge” in close coordination with other WMO bodies, and “inform a recommendation to EC-76 relating to the priority activities, proposed subsidiary body structures and supporting partnerships necessary”.

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## Annex to draft Decision 4(2)/1 (EC-76)

## Expert Team on Early Warning Services (ET-EWS)

## Terms of Reference

The Expert Team on Early Warning Services (ET-EWS) will serve, under the direction of the Standing Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction and Public Services (SC-DRR) of the Commission for Weather, Climate, Water and Related Environmental Services and Applications (“Services Commission” – SERCOM) and the general oversight of the president of SERCOM, taking into account the Executive Action Plan on Early Warnings for All, in consultation with the relevant substructures of the technical commissions, the Research Board, Capacity Development Panel, regional associations and other bodies as necessary, to: [Obayashi]

1. Analyse technical challenges and needs of Members struggling to establish multi-hazard early warning systems, including those of development partners and their lessons learnt; [Obayashi]
2. Develop draft priority activities, including a list of WMO standards and new guidance and training material necessary for the said Members to establish the effective multi-hazard early warning systems to be incorporated into workplans of the technical commission and other relevant bodies s; [Obayashi]
3. Develop the draft proposal of technical, scientific and technological elements required for WMO activities contributing to Early Warnings for All; [Obayashi]
4. Engage with, and learn from, existing WMO programmes and initiatives and those of other organizations, to leverage synergies and avoid duplication of efforts;
5. Build on existing, and develop new guidance and supportive frameworks, where necessary, to cover gaps in hazards not currently addressed and extend the coverage of existing WMO Infrastructures including regional specialized meteorological centres, leveraging outcomes from the previous activities, including those [Obayashi]of the Expert Teams on MHEWS Interoperable Environment (ET-MIE) and Global Multi-Hazard Alert System (ET-GMAS) including but not limited to MIE Framework and GMAS implementation plan;

Build in gender equality and social inclusion requirements into WMO activities contributing to the UN Early Warning for All. [Obayashi]

To report outcomes of ET activities to EC for its consideration.

1. To ensure the work of the ET and of other bodies reiterates the fundamental role of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) as the official and authoritative providers of early warnings for hydrometeorological hazards and the necessity for close collaboration with national disaster risk management agencies and other stakeholders, in the development and delivery of impact based early warnings. [Mr Graham]
2. To regularly report to EC on the progress of activities supporting the Early Warnings for All initiative and to take direction from EC on future advancement of the initiative. [Mr Graham]

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