



World Meteorological Organization

WMO TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON "THE UN GLOBAL EARLY WARNING INITIATIVE FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION: EARLY WARNINGS FOR ALL"

Geneva, Switzerland, 22 October 2022

09:00-12:00, 14:00-17:00 Geneva time
(07:00-10:00, 12:00-16:00 UTC)

Concept note

The Challenge

"Early warnings and action save lives," Secretary-General António Guterres said in a video message during a ceremony marking World Met Day 2022, adding that the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) would "spearhead new action to ensure every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems (EWS) within five years."

In today's world it is unacceptable that one-third of the world's most vulnerable people – living mainly in least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS) – are not protected by EWS. In Africa it is even worse with 60 per cent of the population lacking coverage.

Globally, 53% of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) report that they cannot provide effective early warning services due to a lack of capacity and/or capability in the following areas:

- (1) Observing and monitoring infrastructure;
- (2) Data processing and forecasting systems architecture;
- (3) 'Warning and informing' dissemination systems and 'last mile' communication mechanisms;
- (4) Insufficient institutional support at the national level to sustain effective operations, including the education and training of staff.

In seeking to address these in today's ever-changing world, it will be necessary to develop new models of collaboration and partnership if NMHS are to realise the benefits of technological progress, the data explosion and the continued rise of social media and related digital platforms.

The Response

In leading the charge to address the UN Secretary General's challenge, WMO is looking to better define the EWS value cycle across all time scales to inform the development of an action plan to drive a coordinated response to gaps in hydro-meteorological, marine and related environmental infrastructure, research and service delivery.

Cooperation and coordination will be key in responding to the challenge, particularly for the most vulnerable and minority groups, as highlighted during the Multi-Hazard Early Warnings Conference at the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction Global Platform in Bali, Indonesia in May 2022.

This Conference will be an opportunity for Members and stakeholders including 'Big Tech', the wider private sector, other UN Agencies and funding partners, to play a part in further exploring the global EWS 'value cycle' within the context of current and future user needs, the UN Secretary General's 5-year challenge, the relevant outcomes of the 75th session of WMO Executive Council (2022) and the four component areas highlighted above.

Starting with existing models of 'good practice', discussions will focus on establishing delivery priorities and how the roles and responsibilities of all EWS stakeholders could evolve to address these.

Format

Hybrid with the WMO DPS facilitating the event at the WMO Secretariat and invited participants attending the event virtually through Zoom or Teams Platforms. It is designed in 4 sessions, the first focus on identifying the gaps for effective early warnings (EW), the second presents Public/Private initiatives reaching the last mile, the third addresses the role of Big Tech in EW and the fourth panel session will define success for the initiative.

Venue

In-person attendance

Salle Obasi
World Meteorological Organization
7bis, avenue de la Paix,
CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland

List of Organizations/ Experts to be invited

Google, IBM, Microsoft, Bezos Earth Fund, Starlink, WMO-Secretariat, UNDRR, ITU, REAP, CREWS, WFP, HMEI, EU Emergency Management Services, LDC or SIDS, Baidu, Alibaba

A tentative list of keynote speakers can be found [here](#).