

2025 – WMO EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS

64447131/2025/EM/SG/HLEW, ANNEX I

High-Level Event on the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative

Date 20 October 2025
Time 9:30–12:30 CEST
Location World Trade Organization - WTO
Centre William Rappard
Rue de Lausanne, 154
1211 Geneva 21
Switzerland

1. Background

This year marks the halfway point of the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative. Launched by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres in 2022, the initiative aims to ensure that every person on Earth is protected by multi-hazard early warning systems by the end of 2027. Over the past three years, EW4All has secured broad political support at the highest levels and is now at a critical juncture, requiring renewed momentum and a sharpened focus on delivery.

Since its inception, the Sendai Framework Monitor (SFM) has provided critical insights into the global landscape of early warning systems. While this reporting remains essential to track EW4All progress, the time has come to shift the conversation to concrete action. The focus must now be on what exists, what works, and where development actors can most effectively collaborate to close the remaining gaps.

Today, nearly every country has a basic early warning system in place. In fact, the number of countries with advanced multi-hazard early warning systems has grown by 129%, reaching 119 in 2025—more than doubling in just a decade. This achievement reflects 150 years of global collaboration among WMO Members, ensuring that every nation has access to meteorological data and forecasts that serve their societies.

2025 also marks the 75th anniversary of WMO as a specialized agency of the United Nations, a milestone that underscores its enduring mandate to coordinate global cooperation in weather, water, and climate services. Over decades, WMO and its Members have laid the foundations of today's global early warning architecture, enabling science-based services that save lives and support sustainable development.

In recent years, significant progress has been made in strengthening the operational capacity of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) worldwide. NMHSs are increasingly providing essential public services, delivering forecasts and early warnings that directly inform communities and critical sectors. For example, countries with strong multi-hazard early warning systems have a disaster-related mortality rate nearly six times lower than those without. These achievements underscore the vital role of NMHSs, yet new analysis also reveals critical capability gaps that must be addressed to fully realize the EW4All ambition.

The combination of EW4All Country Snapshots and the expanding WMO Partner Coordination Mechanism represents a powerful dual tool to accelerate progress.

2. The case for urgency

As global temperatures rise, the frequency, intensity, duration and timing of adverse weather and climate events are increasing worldwide. The impacts of floods, drought, wildfires, storms and heatwaves ripple across communities, economies and beyond national borders. These risks can no longer be treated in isolation as they cascade and compound throughout entire economic systems with multi-dimensional, long-lasting and often non-linear impacts. The urgency of Early Warnings for All (EW4All) has never been clearer. Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS), when anchored in inclusive and integrated risk governance frameworks, are among the most effective tools to reduce disaster-related deaths and losses. Countries with robust MHEWS have mortality rates nearly six times lower than those without them, and even 24 hours' warning can reduce damage by up to 30%.

3. Event focus and purpose

As the EW4All initiative enters its second phase amid an increasingly complex global landscape, WMO will convene a high-level session at the outset of its Extraordinary Congress with particular emphasis on Pillar 2 – hazard monitoring and forecasting.

This event will be an opportunity to bridge global policy commitments with local realities. Discussions will focus on how multilateral cooperation is delivering tangible results on the ground—particularly for the people most at risk.

Interventions will explore the following priority areas:

- **Country ownership** – Governments commit to strengthening their multi-hazard early warning systems through financial, legal and institutional foundations.
- **Scaling up regional collaboration** – Stakeholders leverage competitive advantages and extend the reach of early warning benefits.
- **Closing the digital divide** – Partners commit to closing the digital divide and facilitating country access to information and communication technologies, including global forecasting systems.
- **Empowering communities** – Systems are co-designed with those most at risk, including women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and persons with disabilities, to ensure that early warnings are trusted, relevant, and actionable.

4. Objectives

- Secure high-level political commitment and partnerships to accelerate EW4All implementation, reinvigorating multilateral cooperation across regions, sectors, and actors.
- Launch the *EW4All in Focus: Hazard Monitoring & Forecasting* report, providing a comprehensive review of progress and next steps.
- Present the WMO Secretary-General's Call to Action outlining concrete priorities for the coming years.
- Mobilize commitments to strengthen delivery across all EW4All, in particular Pillar 2, ensuring resources are aligned, fragmentation is reduced, and benefits reach those most at risk.

5. Agenda

High-level EW4All segment

09:30–10:00 CEST	Congress Opening Session
10:00–11:00 CEST	Statements by Heads of State, heads of Government and by Ministers rank on their EW4All commitments and results.
11:00–11:15 CEST	Launch of the EW4All in Focus: Hazard Monitoring & Forecasting Report and presentation on national/ regional progress and gaps from a <i>Pillar 2: Detection, observations, monitoring, analysis and forecasting</i> perspective.
11:15–11:30 CEST	WMO Secretary-General's Call to Action on EW4All , outlining concrete priorities to accelerate progress in the coming years. With support to NMHSs
11:30–12:25 CEST	High-level panel: high-impact commitments from the United Nations; the private sector and financial institutions outline support to bridge the EW4All pillars and streamline support for impact.
12:25–12:30 CEST	WMO 75th Anniversary closing video



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LOGISTICAL NOTE

Extraordinary Session of the 2025 World Meteorological Congress (Cg-Ext(2025)) High-Level Event on the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative and the Role of NMHSs

20–23 October 2025, Geneva, Switzerland

A. Background

Further to our earlier communication dated 21 July 2025 (1606266315-312337/LCF/CNF/Cg-Ext(2025) and 1606266315-312367/LCF/CNF/Cg-Ext(2025)), I have the honour to provide additional logistical information on the extraordinary session of Congress in 2025 (Cg-Ext(2025)), including the High-Level Event on the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative and the Role of NMHSs at the Extraordinary Session of the WMO Congress, to be held in Geneva on 20 October 2025. The Cg-Ext(2025) session will take place from Monday, 20 October to Thursday, 23 October 2025.

Venue

The session will take place in Geneva, with the possibility to connect online in two different venues (**see Modality of participation**):

- Monday, 20 October, morning (Opening and High-Level Event on the Early Warnings for All initiative):
World Trade Organization (WTO),
William Rappard Centre, Rue de Lausanne 154, Geneva
William Rappard Council Room (CR).
- Monday, 20 October, afternoon to Thursday, 23 October 2025, afternoon:
World Meteorological Organization (WMO),
Rue de la Paix 7bis, Geneva
Salle Obasi and Salle C1.

Working hours

The tentative working hours are as follows (Geneva local time):

- Monday, 20 October 2025:
9:30–12:30 and 15:00–18:00 CEST
- Tuesday, 21 October to Thursday, 23 October 2025:
9:00–12:00 and 14:00–17:00 CEST

Modality of participation

Delegates from Members and Observers can participate physically and/or virtually.

Physical participation is subject to the following conditions:

- Monday, 20 October 2025, morning at WTO: **see section B below.**
- Monday, 20 October 2025, afternoon at WMO to Thursday, 23 October 2025, afternoon:
 - 1 principal delegate and 1 additional person (alternate or advisor) in Salle Obasi **(Members)**. **At the registration desk at WMO on the morning of 20 October, two access cards per country will be distributed for entry to Salle Obasi, in addition to the meeting badges. These cards are not personalized and may be shared within the delegation to take turns, but delegates must present both their meeting badge and the country access card to enter Salle Obasi.**
 - A maximum of 2 additional persons in Salle C1 **(Observers)**
 - 1 principal delegate and 1 additional person in Salle C1

There are no limitations on the number of delegates attending online, provided that they are suitably registered. If you have not done so yet, you are encouraged to inform the Secretariat at HLEvent@wmo.int if you plan to attend physically and provide, if necessary, the names of the individuals attending.

B. Opening and High-Level Event on EW4All at WTO

The opening of the session will take place at 9:30 in the WTO building, with remarks by the President of the Organization, the Secretary-General and the Swiss Federal Councillor for Home Affairs.

The High-Level Event on the EW4All initiative will commence immediately after the Opening Session.

Delegates attending this event are strongly encouraged to be seated in the WTO William Rappard Centre Council Room well ahead of the opening of the session, that is, **before 9:30**.

C. Meeting venue and access to the WTO Building and the WMO Building

The meeting will take place from 9:30 at the William Rappard Council Room of the WTO, located across from the WMO Headquarters (approximately five minutes on foot). WMO staff will guide participants from WMO to WTO during registration hours.

A detailed logistics note can be found [here](#).

Depending on your participant category, procedures are different—please see the section below. Badges issued by WMO will be valid for both WTO and WMO on 20 October 2025.

As parking space at WTO is extremely limited, delegates are kindly encouraged to use public transport whenever possible.

D. Registration and badge distribution for the High-Level Event on the EW4All initiative and the Role of NMHSs

All participants wishing to attend the High-Level Event on the EW4All initiative and the Role of NMHSs in person are kindly requested to register through this [link](#). Please note that a valid badge is required for entry to the event.

Permanent Missions in Geneva are strongly encouraged to coordinate with their Permanent Representatives to WMO and ensure that a single, consolidated registration list, including all members of their delegation, without exception, is submitted through the form.

There are **three** categories of participants with distinct procedures for access and badge issuance:

- (a) *VVIPs (Heads of States and Ministers):* VVIP delegates are kindly requested to proceed directly to the WTO Council Room. They will not be subject to X-ray screening. Please transmit the full names of principals and accompanying persons, as well as vehicle details (name of the drivers and car plates) **by 15 October 2025** to HLEvent@wmo.int. No firearms are permitted on the premises except for one person for the Heads of State.
- (b) *Representatives from Permanent Missions:* Holders of a valid UNOG "D" badge may enter the WTO in accordance with established protocols.
- (c) *Others, including Permanent Representatives with WMO (PRs):* All other delegates, including PRs with WMO, should first report to WMO for badge issuance, valid for access to both buildings. Upon arrival at the WTO, standard security procedures, including X-ray screening and identity verification, will apply.

The registration desk at WMO will be open on Friday, 17 October 2025, from 14:00 to 17:00 CEST for early badge collection. On Monday, 20 October 2025, registration will open at 07:00 CEST and remain available throughout the day.

E. Virtual connection

Delegations not attending in person may follow the proceedings online via Zoom or the public webcast. Connection details will be shared with registered participants.

F. Seating arrangements

For the session held at WTO, delegation nameplates will be placed on a table outside the WTO William Rappard Centre Council Meeting Room. Delegations are kindly requested to arrive well in advance in order to collect their nameplate and proceed to the meeting room to be seated at their convenience.

G. Working languages and interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Passive Portuguese interpretation will also be available.

Should you require any further information or assistance regarding logistical arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact the WMO Secretariat at HLEvent@wmo.int.
