



The Second Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference (MHEWC-II)

Early Warning and Early Action towards Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive Societies

13-14 May 2019, WMO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

Communiqué of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

We, the Permanent Representatives with Members of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) attending the Second Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference (MHEWC-II):

Note that this Conference aims to:

1. Demonstrate how the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning and risk information can be improved through better governance, partnerships, science, technology and learning from good practices;
2. Highlight the role that national governance plays in implementing and sustaining multi-hazard early warning systems and take stock of the progress made; and
3. Advocate for the benefits and improvement of multi-hazard early warning systems worldwide and identify requirements, opportunities and challenges;

and is therefore directly linked to achieving the goal of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, in particular its seventh global Target G;

Emphasize that hazardous and often extreme weather, marine weather, climate, hydrological and other related environmental events such as storms, floods, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and droughts cause most disasters among those triggered by natural hazards and represent the highest risk both in terms of impacts and likelihood, also due to their cascading and often transboundary effects which cause devastation throughout the world and set back economic and social development gains, resulting in injury and loss of life and livelihoods, poverty, huge economic losses, health deprivation, environmental degradation, damaged and destroyed infrastructures, displacement of people, and destruction of communities;

Note with concern that unprecedented changes in the climate system observed since the 1950s, and the rapid changes taking place globally, are likely to continue to increase the risks and exacerbate the impacts associated with hydrometeorological and related environmental hazards;

Note further that the growth of human settlements, particularly in flood plains and low lying coastal regions, and including urbanization and the rise of megacities, economic interdependencies and the obsolescence of infrastructure increase social, economic and

environmental vulnerabilities and exposure and thus increase the risk and subsequent impacts of hazardous weather, water and climate events;

Reaffirm that the overarching priorities for the WMO community are to produce information and services that assist in reducing losses of life and property from hydrometeorological hazards, supports action that promotes resilience to climate variability and change, and enhances the socioeconomic value of hydrometeorological services and that climate change mitigation requires urgent action to adapt to extreme weather events and investments in Multi-hazard Early Warning System/Services are essential for building resilient society.

Highlight that the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of WMO Members work around the clock to provide vital weather, water and climate information worldwide and that their early and reliable warnings with the latest technology for example severe weather, fluctuations in air quality and other air-borne hazards as well as of climate variability and change allow decision-makers, communities and individuals to be better prepared for hazardous weather, water and climate events;

Recognize the importance of standardized warning information and protocols provide a fundamental basis for the implementation of Target G of the Sendai Framework.

Underscore that meteorological and hydrological forecast products and climate outlooks and scenarios that are produced by WMO Members are the result of an extensive global, regional and national network that includes for example the Global Data-processing and Forecasting System (GDPS) which is supported by a three-level cascading system for weather and hydrological information and comprises of World Meteorological Centres (WMCs), Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres (RSMCs) and National Meteorological and Hydrological Centres and for climate information comprising of Global Producing Centres for Long-Range Forecasts (GPCLRFs), Regional Climate Centres (RCCs), and National Climate Centres (NCCs);

Highlight that to significantly reduce casualties and socioeconomic losses due to hazardous weather, water and climate events it is necessary to build on advances in impact-based forecasting concepts, technologies and data provision and to provide risk-informed warnings that reach all decision-makers and the “last mile” -communities, households and individuals;

Underline that innovative products and services delivered by NMHSs to address weather, water and climate risks are continuously being improved and are essential for meeting the short and longer-term ambitions reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the priorities, goals and targets of the Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement on climate change, and other international agreements;

Recognize further that it is essential for WMO to contribute to the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, and to identify effective strategies

and actions needed to promote and strengthen multi-hazard early warning systems in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Recognize also the significant contributions and progress made by the WMO community since the First Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference (MHEWC-I) in Cancún, Mexico in May 2017, for example in the development of:

- A WMO Global Multi-hazard Alert System (GMAS) that will provide an easy to use framework where aggregated hazard and warning information will be displayed directly from the authorized national authorities who issue them to their public and will substantially increase the availability and access to authoritative warnings which contributes directly to achieving the global Target G of the Sendai Framework;
- The multi-donor Climate Risk and Early Warning System (CREWS) Initiative which has assisted countries in the Caribbean, in Africa and in the Pacific in strengthening their early warning systems;
- El Niño/Southern Oscillation Information System, based on existing efforts, to improve monitoring of the ocean and atmosphere to enable meteorologists and hydrologists to predict and interpret the El Niño/Southern Oscillation and other ocean oscillations – and thus the weather, climate and hydrological events and their likely physical and socioeconomic impacts

Commit to the strengthening multi-hazard early warning capacities at the national level through sharing of good practices, leveraging capacities of neighbouring and supporting countries and capacity development projects such as under the CREWS Initiative and building on WMO's new Country Support Initiative, Alliance for Hydromet Development, WMO Policy Framework on Public-Private Engagement, and new guides and initiatives on for example hydrometeorological services for urban stakeholders and the health sector;

Commit further to enhance its provision of authoritative information and expert advice to the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies in anticipation of, during and after emergencies or disasters triggered by hydro-meteorological hazards through a dedicated WMO mechanism which is being set up;

Resolve also to provide stakeholders in loss and damage accounting and reporting with a standard and authoritative source of hazardous weather, climate, water and even space weather events that have impacted society to enable strengthened attribution of the impacts of natural hazards to the causal physical phenomena;

Recognize that standardization of warnings and protocols will facilitate the recording of hazardous events but also contribute to Members reporting on Sendai Framework Target G and also strengthen coordinated action by national authorities and the community.

Reaffirm the critical role of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) as a worldwide mechanism for coordinated actions to enhance the quality, quantity and application of climate services for disaster risk reduction and related impacts on water

resources management, food security and health, or to assist in establishing them where they do not exist;

Agree that there is a need to build a basis for stronger cooperation and partnerships among and between NMHSs and other stakeholders including national disaster risk management entities for better risk assessment, monitoring and early warning and more efficient and effective emergency response, crisis management and humanitarian assistance;

Agree further that there is a need for public authorities and businesses to work together on disaster risk reduction to ensure that public and private investments in disaster risk reduction result in more resilient societies;

Underline the urgency to address existing technical and human resources gaps in NMHSs, particularly in developing and least developed countries, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and landlocked developing countries, to strengthen or develop capacity for multi-hazard early warning systems by increasing investments and sharing of information, expertise, resources and good practices through international cooperation and mechanisms such as the International Network for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (IN-MHEWS) to address hazardous events;

Commit to strengthen lateral and vertical partnerships – from country level to community level, from regional level to global level – with government agencies responsible for disaster risk reduction, such as civil protection and emergency response agencies and key stakeholders, such as the private sector, to facilitate improvement and broader dissemination of warning information;

Resolve to enhance the issuance of improved advisories and early warnings, and monitoring and evaluation through strengthened partnerships with key stakeholders, weather, climate and hydrological information products and services for use by governments and the United Nations system to facilitate a seamless approach to country programming;

Request governments to support their national meteorological and hydrological services through strengthening of their national legislation to ensure their warning services are recognized as being the authoritative voice for triggering MHEWS and related national and local emergency response as well as ensuring that the NMHS are adequately resourced to provide the services thereof especially for those NMHS in developing countries.

Express appreciation to the partners¹ of the IN-MHEWS for joining forces with WMO in the organization of this Conference.

¹ [FAO](#), [IAEA](#), [IOC-UNESCO](#), [ITU](#), [UNDP](#), [UN Environment](#), [UNESCAP](#), [UNESCO](#), [UNISDR](#), [UNITAR/UNOSAT](#), [UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER](#), [WFP](#), [WHO](#), [WMO](#), [CREWS](#), [World Bank/GFDRR](#), [EU \(EC/JRC\)](#), [IFRC/Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre](#), [ISC/IRDR](#) and in 2018/19 co-chaired by [UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER](#) and [WMO](#)



Extend gratitude to countries, international organizations and development partners that are committed to supporting capacity development of NMHSs and their partners to support the implementation and sustainability of effective, people-centred multi-hazard early warning systems, especially in developing countries; and

Call on the participants of the 2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to acknowledge and support this Communiqué.

