

# EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

## PMC-8

Nuku'alofa, Tonga • 10, 11, 14 September 2026

## Eighth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-8)

### Weather Ready for a Secured and Sustainable Pacific

10, 11, 14 September 2026 | Nuku'alofa, Tonga

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#### Agenda Item 17.1: Regional arrangement for Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) Coordination

##### Purpose:

To inform the Pacific Meteorological Council of the key Regional Arrangement for the Coordination of MHEWSs

##### Objectives:

1. To present the key coordination of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) Progress and Way forward on Coordinating of Regional MHEWS activities.

##### Background:

**PMC-7 AGENDA ITEM 11. Coordination of Multi-Hazard Early Warning System, Services and activities 11.1 Progress and Way forward on Coordinating MHEWS THE MEETING: RECOMMENDED SPREP** through the Weather Ready Pacific Programme convene a meeting with SPC, UNDRR, WMO, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and other relevant EW4All partners on how the Pacific can better coordinate work around MHEWS to support Member Countries and Territories, as soon as possible.

Noting the Pacific Meteorological Strategy 2017-2026 **PKO4:** Strengthened NHMS capacity to implement Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) for tropical cyclones, coastal inundation and tsunamis.

##### Update on PMC-7 Recommendation:

SPREP through Weather Ready Pacific coordinate with regional partners and supported the coordination meeting from 9-10 April 2025 in Nadi, Fiji. The partners, including, SPC, UNDRR, IFRC, SPREP, IOM agreed on the formulation of a Regional MHEWS and Risk Information Technical Working Group to coordinate Regional MHEWS/Risk Information work under the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) (TOR attached as Annex 1).

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## PMC-8

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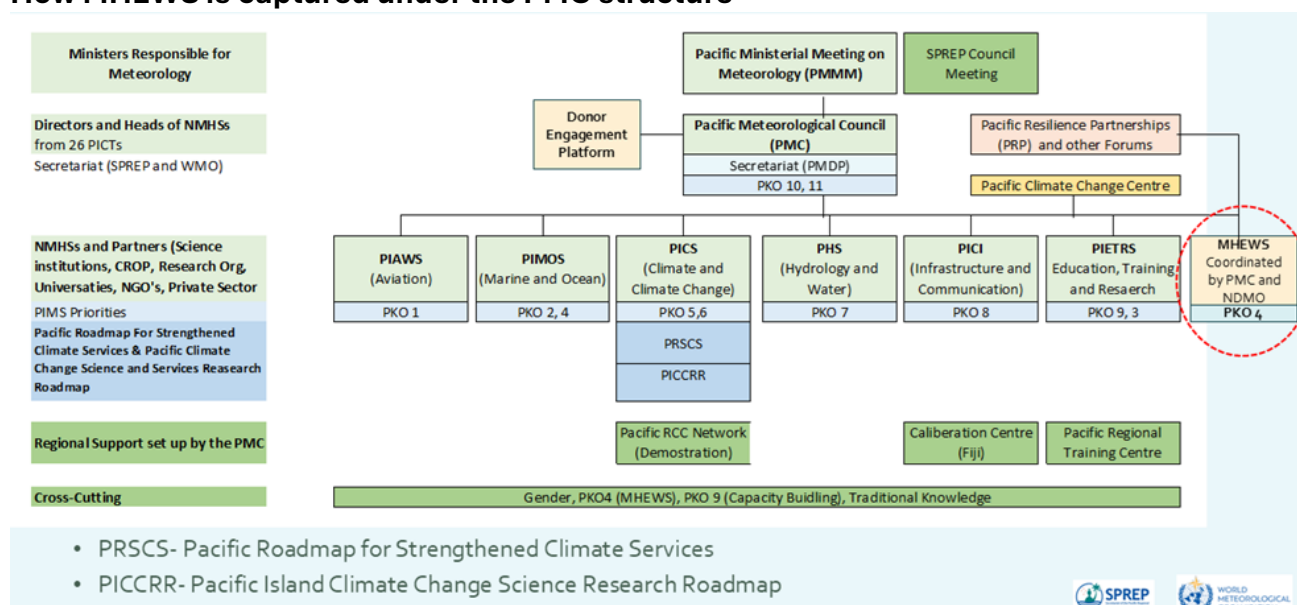


Figure 1: MHEWS Partners Meeting hosted by SPREP/Weather Ready Pacific, 9-10 April 2025, Nadi, Fiji

The *Pacific Resilience Partnership Technical Working Group on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems and Risk Information* is recognised as an important regional mechanism for strengthening coordination and coherence. Through their convening role, the TWG brings together national agencies, regional organisations, development partners and technical institutions to align investments, reduce duplication and support implementation of nationally identified priorities.

The TWG provides a practical platform to coordinate partner engagement across the meteorological, hydrological, climate, water, geohazard and disaster risk management communities. They support coherence across regional initiatives, help identify technical, institutional and capacity gaps, reduce duplication of effort and guide strategic investments and capacity strengthening priorities across the region.

### How MHEWS is captured under the PMC structure



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## PMC-8

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The Liaison platform of Weather Ready Pacific Programme is also a platform for coordinating MHEWS activities within the PMC framework.

### **Updates from the NDMO 2026 related to MHEWS Coordination.**

Whilst effective early warning systems depend on strong meteorological, hydrological and geohazard services, disaster managers noted that several critical functions remain within the primary mandate of NDMOs, namely:

- Preparedness planning and emergency coordination;
- Activation of early actions based on warnings;
- Coordination of disaster response and humanitarian assistance.

The Pacific Humanitarian Response Coordination Mechanism (PResCoM), endorsed by Pacific DRM Ministers in 2025 and Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in 2026, is a regional mechanism to coordinate humanitarian assistance and disaster relief support upon request. Activated for the first time in April 2026 in support of Solomon Islands for the TC Maila response, PResCoM complements national disaster risk management arrangements and reinforces national leadership during disaster response. Effective implementation relies on timely meteorological, hydrological, climate and geohazard information to support decision-making, early action, humanitarian assistance and regional coordination, highlighting the importance of strong collaboration between NMHSs, NDMOs and regional partners.

The implementation of the Weather Ready Pacific Programme, the Early Warnings for All initiative, COSSPAC, the planned implementation of the Pacific Hydrology Strategy, and priorities advanced through the Pacific Geohazards Network provide an opportunity for greater coherence and strengthened collaboration between NMHSs and NDMOs to ensure that meteorological, hydrological, oceanic, geological and risk information translates into effective action, informed decision-making and resilience outcomes.

Collectively, these developments present a significant opportunity to strengthen the science-to-action continuum across the Pacific and support a more integrated resilience architecture, ensuring that meteorological, hydrological, oceanic, geological and risk information are translated into effective early action, preparedness, response and risk-informed resilience investments, including infrastructure planning, water security, climate action and disaster risk financing decisions.

### **Recommendations:**

#### **The Meeting is invited to:**

1. **Note** the critical role of Pacific Meteorological Services PMC in Regional DRR and its positioning within the PMC Governance structure and the PRP Framework.



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## PMC-8

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2. **Recognise** the Regional MHEWS and Risk Information Technical Working Group as the regional coordinating mechanism for Regional MHEWS/Risk Information work under the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP).
3. **Endorse** the strengthened regional collaboration on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) and associated risk information services, recognising the need for stronger operational linkages between National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and National Disaster Management Offices to ensure information translates into preparedness, early action, response and risk-informed resilience decision-making.
4. Recognise and support the *Pacific Resilience Partnership Technical Working Group on MHEWS and Risk Information* as a key regional coordination mechanism for aligning partner investments, strengthening coherence across initiatives, identifying capacity and investment gaps, and informing regional and national priorities for risk information, early warning systems, hydrological services, geohazard monitoring, ocean observation and broader resilience investments.
5. Encourage regular engagement between the Pacific Meteorological Council, the Regional Disaster Managers Meeting and their respective Ministerial leadership mechanisms to strengthen coherence across regional initiatives and resilience investments, coordinate partner support and financing, identify regional priorities and capacity gaps, and promote the use of meteorological, hydrological, geohazard and risk information to inform preparedness, early action, infrastructure planning, water security, risk financing and broader resilience decision-making.

# EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

## PMC-8

Nuku'alofa, Tonga • 10, 11, 14 September 2026

### Annex 1 – Terms of Reference of the Regional Technical Working Group on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) and Risk Information Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

#### Background

Multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS) are a proven, effective, and feasible climate adaptation measure that saves lives and provides at least a tenfold return on investment<sup>1</sup>. Strengthen effective multi-hazard early warning system was identified as a priority for action in the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific and in the outcomes of the Inaugural Pacific DRM Ministers meeting in 2022, and Pacific Meteorological Ministers Meeting in 2023. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 has prioritized early warning as one of its seven targets (Target G), urging countries to substantially increase the availability of, and access to, MHEWS and climate and disaster risk information. Early warning early action is also recognized under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

In the Pacific, nine countries (Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) reported on the existence of MHEWS (Indicator G-1) in 2021. This illustrates that further investment is needed to strengthen MHEWS capacity and access to reliable and timely climate information in the Pacific. Many small islands, especially those facing the highest risks with the least resources, remain highly challenged in building and sustaining integrated, people-centered, end-to-end MHEWS.

To address these challenges, global and regional initiatives were launched, including Early Warning for All Initiative and Weather Ready Pacific Decadal Programme of Investment. In addition to technical and financial support, there is a critical need for comprehensive, localised risk information to strengthen the effectiveness of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) and inform investments in resilience. This includes not only quantitative hazard and exposure data but also qualitative insights such as traditional knowledge, community risk perceptions, and social vulnerability assessments. Such information is essential for tailoring contextualized early warning messages that are understandable, trusted, and actionable by recipients.

Given the range of actors involved, including national meteorological services, disaster management agencies, local governments, NGOs, academic institutions, and community leaders—coordinated approaches to risk knowledge generation and sharing are vital. Partnership, collaboration and inclusion are particularly critical across **early warning, early action** in the Pacific. The ambition of the Early Warning for All Initiative to have all at risk communities protected by early warning systems has garnered partners, national authorities, civil society and sectors, providing a platform for collaboration and innovation. This includes Anticipatory Action Initiative, Weather Ready Pacific, the Oceania Regional Seismic Network (ORSNET) and related geohazards initiatives, hydrological and ocean prediction services. The importance of collaboration across sectors, at all levels and most importantly with meaningful engagement of more at-risk communities across early warning work, was again emphasized in the outcomes of the Inaugural Pacific Disaster Risk Management Ministers Meeting, 6<sup>th</sup> Pacific Meteorological Council and 3<sup>rd</sup> Pacific Meteorological Ministerial Meeting and 2023 Pacific Resilience Meeting.

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<sup>1</sup>WMO, Early Warnings for All Executive Action Plan 2023–2027. Available online: [https://library.wmo.int/doc\\_num.php?explnum\\_id=11426](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=11426)

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## PMC-8

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As such, it is a critical time for the Pacific Resilience Partnership to establish a dedicated Technical Working Group under the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific to ensure that early warning initiatives and investments are well coordinated and are inclusive of all, in both the design and delivery across the region.

### Strategic vision

The MHEWS and Risk Information TWG will be a coordination body and provide advisory support to Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTS) TWG will facilitate coordination and collaboration of MHEWS partners and stakeholders to strengthen coherence, harmonize efforts, and leverage local, national and regional investments. The TWG offers an opportunity for knowledge exchange and peer learning between countries and with partners. The TWG will meet quarterly with ad hoc meetings as required.

### Purpose

1. **Strengthening overall coordination:** a regional TWG will harmonize efforts and initiatives in strengthening MHEWS at the regional /national level with partners and governments
2. **Convene partners to support development and implementation of nationally owned MHEWS roadmaps and action plans**
3. **Strengthening risk information, communication and action**
4. **Leveraging investments:** increase resourcing to strengthen and sustain MHEWS within countries and across the region.

### The roles and functions

The role of this TWG is to serve as a coordination and information sharing mechanism under the Pacific Resilience Partnership to advance and strengthen MHEWS work in the Pacific.

- Facilitate stakeholder coordination and collaboration across end to end early warning and risk information.
- Support coordination and implementation of the global and regional initiatives on MHEWS
- Support stocktake of the MHEWS initiatives in the Pacific.
- Support the development and maintenance of a regional MHEWS dashboard as a monitoring and evaluation tool.
- Coordinate cross-sectorial initiatives and approaches including DRM, CCA, Disaster Risk Financing (including Anticipatory Action)

### Membership and participation

MHEWS TWG membership is open to government agencies mandated to support MHEWS and non-government stakeholders involved in the design and delivery of EWS in the Pacific.

### Frequency of the meetings

Quarterly, and as required.

### Chair

The TWG will be chaired by (Govt XXX) with rotating TWG co-lead.

# EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

## PMC-8

Nuku'alofa, Tonga • 10, 11, 14 September 2026

The technical working group co-leads are SPC, SPREP, IFRC and UNDRR who will provide Secretariat support to the Technical Working Group. TWG Secretariat will be responsible for meeting Minutes. Minutes will be distributed within 1 week after the meeting.

It is expected that nominated people will work with the respective co-leads to coordinate the TWG.