

Sixth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-6)

Sustaining Weather, Climate, Water and Ocean Services for a Resilient Blue Pacific

14-16 August 2023, Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa, Denarau, Nadi, Fiji

Agenda item 8.3: Early Warnings for All Initiative

Purpose of the paper:

1. To provide an overview of the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative launched by the UN Secretary-General in March 2022;
2. To encourage the Council to support the initiative in order to maximize its benefits for the Pacific region; and
3. To recommend the Council to regard Weather Ready Pacific as a key vehicle for the EW4All initiative.

Background:

1. The United Nations Secretary-General made an announcement, on the occasion of World Meteorological Day 2022, that the United Nations will spearhead a new action to ensure that every person on Earth is protected by Early Warning Systems (EWS) within five years. The so-called Early Warnings for All (EW4All) Initiative is co-led by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).
2. The political declaration of the high-Level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, held on 18–19 May 2023 in New York highlights the importance and urgent need for successfully implementing the EW4All Initiative in this UN-wide initiative.
3. The [Early Warnings for All: Executive Action Plan 2023–2027](#) was launched by the United Nations Secretary-General at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC/COP 27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt in November 2022.
4. The Executive Action Plan is organized along the four pillars of a multi-hazard early warning system (MHEWS):
 - Pillar 1 - Disaster risk knowledge led by UNDRR.
 - Pillar 2 - Observations and forecasting led by WMO.
 - Pillar 3 - Dissemination and communication led by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
 - Pillar 4 - Preparedness and response led by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

Updates:

UN level update

The first meeting of the [EW4All Advisory Panel](#) took place (March 2023) and the result was an announcement of political commitment from 30 countries to kick-start the in-country- implementation phase of the EW4All initiative, including 5 from the Pacific, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Tonga. Other countries are

- Asia: Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Lao (People's Democratic Republic), Cambodia;
- Africa: Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, Chad, Comoros, Ethiopia, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, South Sudan, Uganda;
- Latin America and Caribbean: Guyana, Haiti, Barbados, Antigua Barbuda, Guatemala, Ecuador; and
- Central Asia: Tajikistan.

Regional updates

1. The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction took place in Brisbane, Australia from 19 to 22 September 2022 which was followed by the WMO Regional Conference in Regional Association V (RA V) from 23 to 24 September 2022. The main objectives of these events were to raise awareness, collect regional priorities and engage high-level political support to achieve the United Nations Secretary General's call.
2. The WMO Regional Association V Tropical Cyclone Committee and the Regional Subprogramme Management Team of the Severe Weather forecasting Programme for the South Pacific met in Nuku'Alofa, Tonga from 25 to 28 July 2023, their recommendations are presented under agenda item 8.3.1.

National updates

1. The country level implementation phase has started.
2. The process builds on the designation of a government focal point, UN Resident Coordinator office engagement and support by pillar lead agencies in convening the relevant stakeholders and coordinate their contributions to the Initiative, taking national context and priorities and existing activities and project into account.

Recommendations

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Note:**
 - that national governments have the primary responsibility to establish MHEWS, their commitments and strong leadership are indispensable;
 - the MHEWS value chain is built on collaborative efforts of national, regional and international stakeholders inclusive of multilateral and bilateral development partners, in the public, private, and academic sectors, and their collective and collaborative efforts at global, regional, and national levels are fundamentally needed;
 - that the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) and the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems initiative (CREW) are important delivery vehicles of the EW4All initiative
- **Endorse** that Weather Ready Pacific should be a key vehicle for implementation of the EW4All initiative in the Pacific region.
- **Recommend:**
 - that Pacific SIDS leverage the EW4All Initiative to assess their existing MHEWS capacity and adopt measures to fill identified gaps, ensuring the necessary funding for the sustainable operation and continuous improvement of the national MHEWS; and

- that Weather Ready Pacific implementation plan is developed with consideration of activities needed to support and improve capacities across all four pillars of MHEWS, as described in EW4ALL initiative, building on SOFF and CREWS as appropriate,
- **Invite** the World Bank, GCF, all interested entities of the United Nations system, and bilateral development partners:
 - To contribute to the timely and effective development of the initiative;
 - To align their practices with the UN ambitious objective, including through the development of Public Private Engagement (PPE) arrangements across the Early Warning-Early Action value cycle; and
 - To promote original approaches to secure long-term operation and sustainability.