

"Sustainable Weather, Climate, Oceans and Water Services for a Resilient Pacific"

Fourth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-4) Working Papers

14-18 August 2017
Honiara
Solomon Islands

Agenda Item 10: Outcomes of the Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and Disaster Risk Reduction Global Platform

Purpose:

1. To provide an updated on the outcomes of the Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and Disaster Risk Reduction Global Platform Meeting held 22-26 May 2017 in Cancun, Mexico.

Background:

The Fifth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Multi-Hazard Early Warning System Meeting took place from 22 to 26 May 2017 in Cancun Mexico. The 2017 Platform builds upon the previous four sessions held in Geneva, Switzerland in 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, and the past three International Conferences on Early Warning that were held in 1998, 2003 and 2006 (EWC I-III).

The Meeting was chaired by President of Mexico and was attended by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Vice-President for Sustainable Development of the World Bank, and 70 Presidents, Ministers and Deputy Ministers, as well as parliamentarians, representatives of intergovernmental organizations, local governments, business and civil society executives. The Global Platform benefited from the remote participation of persons with disabilities from Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Pacific. It was the largest ever Global Platform with over 7000 persons registered.

The Global Platform hosted the Leaders' Forum co-chaired by the President of Mexico and the Deputy Secretary-General for the United Nations, which adopted the Cancun High-Level Communiqué on ensuring the resilience of infrastructure and housing. The Global Platform comprised over 300 events, including two Ministerial Roundtables, plenary sessions, special sessions, working sessions and special events. It was preceded on 22-23 May by a Multi-Hazard Early Warning (MHEWS) Conference which focused on increasing the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments, and on 21-23 by a "Climate and Disaster Resilience in Small Island Developing States: Practical Solutions" event.

Update:

Multi-Hazard Early Warning System Conference

The MHEW Conference identified the importance of strengthening existing efforts for individual and cluster hazards early warning systems because a multi-hazard approach to early warning systems has been shown to be effective in dealing with multiple, sometimes concurrent,

hazards, and can provide economies of scale and eventually sustainability of the system as a whole.

The MHEWS Conference concluded that efforts are needed to develop multi-hazard early warning systems that are guided by risk and impact information and that include feedback mechanisms for continuous improvement. Such approaches require coordination, expertise and continuous learning by relevant stakeholders, as well as, more efforts in the development and understanding of the way how individual and cluster hazards operate.

The Outcomes of the MHEWS Conference are as follows:

- Defined an approach to establish national baselines on early warning systems to be used by government agencies to report on advances in early warning efforts on a periodic basis, as stated in the Sendai Framework.
- Assessment of the current level of development of single and multi-hazard early warning systems, including their effectiveness, related actors and partnerships, and coordination mechanisms.
- identified strategies and actions that are required build, promote and strengthen MHEWSs, especially on how to address key gaps such as faster and broader dissemination of warnings and the quality of the information provided to those at risk at the “last mile”, through capacity development, operational support and improved coordination and governance.
- Provided a good platform for the participants from countries not possessing appropriate EWSs to appraise themselves about the latest advances in this area and the strategies to implement MHEWSs in their countries.
- Provided a platform to present innovative project proposals and latest advancements in science and technology.

Fifth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction:

The 2017 Global Platform was the first to take place after the adoption of the Sendai Framework. It was an opportunity for countries, international organisations and other stakeholders to assess implementation, identify measures to drive action further, share lessons, forge partnerships and strengthen cooperation, as well as to fundamentally restate the value of the Sendai Framework as an effective guiding instrument and the commitment to its implementation. The Leaders' Forum, Ministerial Roundtables, plenary sessions, special sessions, working sessions and special events generated substantive exchanges on key issues and concrete guidance for further action, clustered as follows according to the Sendai Framework's four priorities for action:

- 1.) Understanding Disaster Risk Reduction
- 2.) Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance to Manage Disaster Risk
- 3.) Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience
- 4.) Enhancing Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response to “Build Back Better” in Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

Furthermore, the deliberations across sessions identified the following additional priorities:

- 1.) Monitoring and implementation of the Sendai Framework
- 2.) Achieving target E – Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020
- 3.) Coherence with the sustainable development and climate change agendas
- 4.) Gender-sensitive and inclusive disaster risk reduction
- 5.) International cooperation initiatives

The Leaders' Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction drafted the Cancun High-Level Communique and agreed on the following commitments:

- a) Implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, in coherence with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the New Urban Agenda and other relevant instruments;
- b) Conduct a disaster risk assessment of existing critical infrastructure by 2019;
- c) Invest in collection of data and information on disaster risk and losses, taking into account the cultural heritage of indigenous peoples and addressing intensive and extensive risk, underlying risk drivers, and ensuring that they are tailored to local contexts;
- d) Strengthen, as appropriate, normative and regulatory frameworks at all levels for disaster risk reduction, improved land use, building codes, enforcement and accountability as well as make resilience affordable, reduce the economic incentive for vulnerable development, foster private and public partnerships, allocate budget for disaster risk reduction and make resilient investment gainful;
- e) Make disaster risk assessments a prerequisite for infrastructure and housing investments, with time horizons commensurate to the life cycles of infrastructure and housing;
- f) Consider the risk of loss in infrastructure and housing and its consequences in the development of economic strategies and budgets;
- g) Pursue the development and expansion of risk transfer mechanisms, including social safety net schemes to protect the population, natural assets, livelihoods and infrastructure, enhance their penetration and coverage, especially for the poor and low-income groups, and strengthen community resilience;
- h) Promote people-centered, gender-sensitive, accessible and resilient urban development that supports all of society, including the vulnerable, poor and marginalized;
- i) Encourage and support the development of multi-stakeholder and socially-inclusive partnership initiatives for the development of resilient infrastructure and housing;
- j) Strengthen international cooperation at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels to manage disaster risk in accordance with the Sendai Framework.
- k) And to take stock on progress at the next Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction which will take place in Switzerland in 2019.

Recommendations:

1. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **Note** the outcomes of the Fifth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Multi-Hazard Early Warning System Meeting convened from 22-26 May 2017 in Cancun, Mexico
 - **Request** that the PMC adopt the priorities for action identified by the Fifth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Multi-Hazard Early Warning System Meeting as well as the Commitments of the Cancun High-Level Communique
 - **Endorse** the outcomes of Chair's Summary-Cancun 26 May 2017-*From Commitment to Action* and the Commitments of the Cancun High-Level Communique

Attachments

- Annex 1 [Chair's Summary-Cancun 26 May 2017-*From Commitment to Action*]
- Annex 2 [Cancun High-Level Communique-24 May 2017]

[27 July 2017]