

## **Statement from the WMO Early Warnings for All Conference**

The participants of the “The Early Warnings for All: UN Global Early Warning Initiative for the Implementation of Climate Adaptation” Technical Conference, including leaders and experts from across the public and private sectors, meeting in Geneva, Switzerland on 22 October 2022, express our strong support for this WMO-led initiative whose goal is to ensure that all people are protected by early warning systems within five years. We commit to working collaboratively to achieve this goal, leveraging the complementary capabilities of the public and private sectors.

### **We note:**

- The mounting evidence from monitoring and scientific research indicating the rising risks of hazards, such as floods, drought and storms linked to climate change;
- Extreme weather, climate, water and related environmental impacts result in hundreds of billions of dollars of economic losses and wreak a heavy toll on human lives and wellbeing;
- Early warning systems (EWS) are an effective and indispensable means to save lives and reduce losses related to weather, climate, water and other environmental hazards and hence a key element for climate change adaptation.

### **We further note:**

- There are still major gaps in early warning systems affecting one third of the world’s most vulnerable people who are not protected by EWS;
- That 53% of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) report that their ability to provide effective early warning services is limited due to lack of capacity or capability in observing and monitoring infrastructure, data processing and forecasting systems, communication and information management systems, and institutional support to sustain effective operations.

### **We welcome:**

- The UN Early Warnings for All Initiative-- The actions of WMO to address the Initiative, including the development of an Action Plan for the UN Early Warnings

for All Initiative being developed with partners to be presented at COP 27 in November 2022.

**We recognize:**

- That the UN Early Warnings for All Initiative will contribute significantly to climate change adaptation strategies from global to local scales;
- That the global societal risks related to extreme weather, climate, water and other environmental events should be addressed through interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral partnerships;
- The relevant ongoing activities undertaken by stakeholders in the private sector, international organizations and other bodies, including the development of innovative technologies in hazard monitoring and forecasting, risk assessment and mapping, and risk information service for decision-making;
- The expanding opportunities afforded by progress in cloud computing, artificial intelligence, digital platforms and other areas of digital technology to address infrastructural and technological gaps in early warning services;
- The long history and continuing contributions of the World Weather Watch toward providing the foundation of monitoring and predictions needed to have an effective warning system;
- The benefits of free and unrestricted data exchange as affirmed in the WMO Unified Data Policy is central to the creation and delivery of early warnings;
- That many global systems operated by WMO Centres have the capacity to underpin basic warning services for a range of key hazards. While providing the full scope of multi-hazard, impact-based warnings for all is a challenging ongoing goal, there is great opportunity for early implementation and improvements of basic early warnings for many regions of the world.
- That early warnings must focus on impacts and that this requires data interoperability across domains and areas of expertise;
- The need for seasonal forecasts and longer term climate risk assessments for multiple sectors such as but not limited to disaster risk management, food security, water security, energy, health, and drought.

**We affirm:**

- That WMO has a leading role in facilitating worldwide cooperation on monitoring and predicting changes in weather, climate, water and other environmental conditions;
- NMHSs' fundamental purpose as an authoritative voice for weather, water, climate and related warnings and the importance for other actors disseminating warnings to recognize the national authority for issuing a warning;
- Our support to the actions spearheaded by WMO towards ensuring that Early Warnings ARE available to AND accessible for All by the end of 2027 and that the warnings can be translated into early anticipatory actions;
- The fundamental importance of strong collaboration across sectors and between stakeholders to realize the ambition of the UN Early Warnings for All Initiative.

**We reaffirm:**

- From the Geneva Declaration (Cg-18) “- that the global societal risks related to extreme weather, climate, water and other environmental events should be addressed through interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral partnerships, and - that the expanding opportunities to use meteorological, climatological, hydrological and related environmental information and services to inform critical decisions can foster increased societal and structural resilience, and sustainable economic development;”

**We appreciate and welcome:**

- The significant contributions of UNDRR, REAP, CREWS, ITU, GEO, CMO, European Commission EMS, HMEI, IFRC, and many other stakeholders toward realizing the benefits of the UN Early Warnings for All Initiative;
- The willingness of and contributions from private sector organizations in supporting the activities of NMHS's including Smart Communications, F24, Google, Alibaba, Microsoft, IBM and other private sector companies delivering hydrometeorological services and multi-national initiatives such as W4ALL, toward realizing the benefits of the UN Early Warnings for All Initiative.

**We call on:**

-- Stakeholders from all sectors to advocate for and contribute to a distributed global infrastructure that delivers multi-hazard early warnings to all, particularly to protect the most vulnerable members of society.

-- All parties involved to align financing mechanisms needed for proper and timely implementation of the initiative with the aimed partnership with public and private sectors and with the objective of working across the full Early Warning / Early Action value cycle.

**The provision of global multi-hazard early warnings is our collective responsibility!**