**National Consultation on Early Warnings for All (EW4All)**

Concept Note

1. **INTRODUCTION**

Early Warning Systems are a proven, effective, and feasible disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation measures, that save lives and provide a tenfold return on investment[[1]](#footnote-2). Yet, major gaps in early warning systems remain, especially when it comes to translating early warnings into risk-informed early actions.

**Early Warnings for All** (EW4ALL) – a global initiative to ensure that everyone on Earth is protected by early warnings by 2027 – is being fast-tracked into action on the ground. The UN Secretary-General released in November 2022 the High-level **Executive Action** **Plan[[2]](#footnote-3)** for this initiative, emphasising the urgent need to support the most at risk first.

The EW4All comprises the four foundational pillars of early warning systems:

* Pillar 1: Disaster risk knowledge - systematically collect risk data and undertake risk assessments on hazards and vulnerabilities to improve risk understanding
* Pillar 2: Observations and Forecasting - develop hazard monitoring and early warning services
* Pillar 3: Dissemination and communication - communicate risk information so it reaches all those who need it, and is understandable and usable
* Pillar 4: Preparedness and response - build national and community response capabilities

Furthermore, an effective early warning system is:

* Multi-Hazard: systems designed to detect different hazards that may occur in isolation, simultaneously, or in a cascading manner
* End-to-end: systems that cover the entire range – from hazard detection to action – supported by accessible, understandable and actionable warning messages
* People-centred: systems designed with people in mind, empowering them to act on time and in an appropriate manner to reduce potential harm
* With a clear governance structure, partnerships and sustainable financing
* Aiming at continuous improvements based on monitoring and evaluation of the efforts being done by all stakeholders

While governments play a crucial role in driving action on early warning services for their citizens, adopting a "whole-of-society" approach that involves all stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, can better strengthen and sustain early warning services. It's equally important to recognize that disasters and climate change affect people differently based on their gender, age, disability and other factors. Therefore, an intersectional approach is required to ensure that the early warning services are inclusive, responsive, and equitable. By involving all sectors of society and taking an intersectional approach, early warning services can be more effective in protecting most at risk populations from the impacts of disasters and climate change.

Building on current or forthcoming investments in early warning systems in [COUNTRY], the UN system and its partners are seeking to boost political momentum and boost collectively the achievement of the EW4All Action Plan by 2027.

This national consultation is led by [MINISTRY/DEPARTMENT], and co-organized with the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office, UNDRR, WMO and [NAME(S)].

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EARLY WARNINGS FOR ALL**
2. Review the current state of early warning systems in [COUNTRY], and evaluate the progress in implementing the four pillars of EW4All.
3. Explore the linkages and alignment among ongoing and upcoming initiatives, and consolidate key stakeholder commitments to strengthen early warning services;
4. Establish a national coordination mechanism / affirm existing national coordination mechanism to guide efforts to scale-up early warning programming across the four pillars, and linking national and local engagement.
5. Agree on a process for identifying gaps in national early warning systems, with respect to the minimum core capabilities checklist tool provided by the EW4All initiative.
6. Identify key challenges and barriers to effective, accessible and coherent early warnings, and recommend targeted actions to overcome these, in line with national developmental priorities.
7. Provide initial inputs towards a multi-year, multi-stakeholder, focussed and actionable *EW4All National Roadmap*, around which all actors can marshal resources, technical assistance, and long-term support.

**3. EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

1. Given the diverse array of expertise represented at this conference, it is anticipated that the proceedings will yield the following outcomes: Agreement on national coordination mechanism to guide the scale-up of early warning systems
2. Agreement on process for identifying national and sub-national policy, technical, financial and other gaps in [COUNTRY] across the four pillars of the EW4All Action Plan
3. Agreement on process for the formulation of multi-year, multi-stakeholder EW4All National Roadmap (2023-2027) around which all actors can rally to achieve universal early warning coverage in [COUNTRY].

**4. TARGET AUDIENCE**

* National Disaster Management Organization [NAME]
* National Hydro-Meteorological Services [NAME]
* Line ministries and departments, e.g., information and communication technology, agriculture, transport, infrastructure, health, education, energy, environment, finance, etc., as well as the regulatory telecommunication authority
* District/provincial/local government representatives
* UN and international organisations active in early warning
* Civil society organizations, including Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) active in early warning services, climate and disaster risk information
* Private sector, including the mobile network operators (MNOs) national insurance industry

**5. PROPOSED AGENDA**

1. **Opening Session**

High-level official (President or Vice President) to open the conference. The RC and Minister to deliver opening remarks.

1. **Status of Early Warning**

The UN (or NDMA) provide an overall presentation of the current set-up and status of national early warning systems.

1. **Discussion on gaps and priority actions**
2. **Proposed coordination mechanism**
3. **Way Forward**

The tentative dates for the EW4All Conference are [DATES], and will be convened at [VENUE].

**6. PREPARTORY WORK**

* National Stakeholder Mapping
* Review of MCC Gap Analysis Tool
* Presentations on EW system

**National Consultation on Early Warnings for All: 2024**

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| **Time** | **Activity** | **Facilitators / Comments** |
| 8:40 – 9:00 | Registration (online and in person) |  |
| 9:00 – 9:30 | Opening and welcoming participants | Minister, Government  United Nations Resident Coordinator |
| 9.30 – 9.45 | Introduction of the Early Warnings for All | WMO/ UNDRR |
| 9:45 – 10:30 | Status of national early warning systems in [COUNTRY] | Government representative |
| 10.30-10.45 | BREAK |  |
| 10.45-12.30 | Overview on EW Initiatives and discussion | Presentations by Key Initiatives |
| 12.30-13.30 | LUNCH |  |
| 13.30-15.30 | Discussion on pillar status and or approach to gap analysis | Designated representatives |
| 15.30-16.00 | Agreement on a coordination mechanism | Government, UN system, Red Cross movement, stakeholders |
| 16.00-17.15 | Developing a country roadmap | National |
| 17.15-18.00 | Closing remarks |  |

1. [Adapt now: a global call for leadership on climate resilience, Global Commission on Adaptation (2019)](https://gca.org/reports/adapt-now-a-global-call-for-leadership-on-climate-resilience/) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. <https://www.preventionweb.net/publication/early-warnings-all-executive-action-plan-2023-2027> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)