



EARLY WARNINGS FOR ALL

The UN Global Early Warning Initiative

Regional Launch of the Early Warnings for All Initiative (EW4ALL) for the Caribbean

6th February, 2023 - 11:00 to 12:30 (AST)

Live streaming on <http://www.uwitv.org>, <https://www.youtube.com/@UNDRR>
and <http://www.facebook.com/uwitv>

Background and justification

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, has called for every person on Earth to be protected by early warning systems within five years, in line with Target G of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and with the priority to support the most vulnerable first. In order to make this ambition a reality, during the COP27 climate change conference, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, last November, the “*Executive Action Plan for the Early Warnings for All Initiative (EW4ALL)*” was unveiled. This plan will catalyze action by multiple actors, stakeholders, and institutions, as such a comprehensive disaster and climate risk management approach sets the policy basis for joint and shared responsibilities, including stronger linkages between institutions and planning processes.

The need for inclusive and accessible multi-hazard early warning systems is urgent as the number of recorded disasters has increased five-fold, driven in part by human-induced climate change and more extreme weather, as well as, by other hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and more recently pandemics. Early warning systems are widely regarded as a relatively cheap and effective way of protecting people and assets. Early Warning Systems are a proven, effective, and feasible measure, that save lives, and provide a tenfold return on investments.

Small-Island Developing States are among the most impacted by climate risks. The Caribbean, in particular, is also subject to hazards of multiple nature. It is for these reasons as well that Caribbean nations are spearheading global efforts to put in motion effective actions and mechanisms to build resilience. Reducing disaster risks and boosting resilient development pathways is for Caribbean states a matter of survival.

In order to ensure access to early warnings, and their sustainability, it is vital that the governance mechanisms necessary for securing implementing capacities for each of the four elements of EWS, and their connections, will be in place. These mechanisms are established via regulatory frameworks that standardize clear roles and mandates, institutional capacities, budget allocations and a monitoring and evaluation frame. Similarly, budgetary provisions need to be included in development, adaptation (NAPs and NDCs) and disaster risk reduction plans and strategies (CWPs) in a coherent manner.

As identified in the regional thematic report of the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework, regional and national governance mechanisms for MHEWS have been unhurriedly put in place. From the Participating States and territories of the Caribbean Disaster Management Agency (CDEMA), only seven established a roadmap for MHEWS, two count with a MHEWS policy, only eight have established meteorological legislation and policy (including national strategic plans), and policy instruments for other cluster of hazards such as the geological or biological are very limited or inexistent. Given the above-mentioned gaps and challenges, there is a need for concerted action in order to strengthen MHEWS and protect the lives and livelihoods of Caribbean populations.



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Considering the above, Caribbean leaders, together with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Resident Coordinator Offices for the Caribbean States, and CDEMA, are organizing a regional launch of the EW4ALL initiative for the Caribbean. The event will count with the support and leadership of the Prime Ministers of Barbados and Saint Lucia.

This sub-regional launch will be an opportunity to harness the highest political as well as technical support to achieve the ambition set by the UN Secretary-General. Similarly, it would be an occasion to highlight the work that has been developed in the region, notably under the Climate Risk Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Caribbean Initiative, and from the different partners of the Regional Early Warning System Consortium (REWSC) chaired by CDEMA.

The outcomes of such event, will also contribute to the upcoming VIII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean to be held in Uruguay from the 27th of February to the 2 of March 2023, particularly to the joint meeting between directors of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, and the National Disaster Risk Management Agencies. Similarly, this event will inform the Mid-term review of the Sendai Framework high level meeting of the General Assembly to be held in New York in May 2023.

Objective: Mobilize Prime Ministers of the Caribbean region to support the EW4ALL initiative and to accelerate national and regional governance mechanisms that will facilitate its implementation.

Place and time: United Nations Building in Bridgetown, Barbados

Programme

Agenda and Speakers

Opening segment:

Moderator: **Elizabeth Riley**, Executive Director, CDEMA

- 11:00 – 11:05 Welcome, introduction video and housekeeping
- 11:05 – 11:10 **Ms. Amina J. Mohammed**, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
Opening remarks: The need for an Early Warning for All Initiative
- 11:10 – 11:15 **Dr. Carla Barnett**, Secretary General – CARICOM
The importance of the Initiative for the Caribbean
- 11:15 – 11:20 Cultural Presentation spoken word
- 11:20 – 11:30 **P. M. of Saint Lucia, H.E. Philip J. Pierre**
Inscribing the EW4ALL with the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy of the Region
- 11:30 – 11:35 Cultural Presentation



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Keynote address

11:35- 11:50 **P. M. of Barbados, H.E. Mia Amor Mottley, Q.C., M.P**
Expectations and challenges of this initiative notably for Small Island Development State: The need for a joint leadership by Prime Ministers of the Caribbean region

Panel discussion

11:50 – 12:30
Moderator: **Didier Trebucq**, United Nations Resident Coordinator

Prof. Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General of WMO
Executive Action Plan for the Early Warnings for All Initiative (EW4ALL)

Ms. Mami Mizutori, SRSG for Risk Reduction, head of UNDRR
Strengthening early warning to ensure no one is left behind

Mr. QU Dongyu, Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization
The importance of EW4ALL initiative for agrifood system transformation and food security.

Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme
The importance of the EW4ALL Initiative for environmental hazards

Mr. Gerard Howe, Chair of the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Initiative,
UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
A global commitment to support the availability of, and access to, early warning systems in Small Islands Development States

Ms Shajunee Gumbs, CDM Youth Ambassador of St. Kitts and Nevis
A call for inclusion in the implementation of the EW4ALL