



## SEVENTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL (PMC-7)

*"AT THE FRONTLINE OF WEATHER, CLIMATE, WATER, AND OCEAN ACTION IN THE PACIFIC"*

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*"At the Frontline of Weather, Climate, Water, and Ocean Action in the Pacific"*

17-19 September 2024, Warwick Le Lagon-Vanuatu Resort, Port Vila, Vanuatu

### Agenda Item 8.2: Progress and Updates on Early Warnings for All (EW4All)

#### Purpose

- To provide an update to the Council on the EW4All initiative.
- To seek the Council's continued support for the EW4All initiative.

#### Background

Early warning systems (EWSs) are a proven, effective, and feasible disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation measure, that save lives and provide a tenfold return on investment. Yet, major gaps in early warning systems remain globally, especially when translating early warnings into risk-informed early action. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy and the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific all identify strengthened EWSs as a critical component of building the resilience to disasters and crises and, by extension, contributing to sustainable development. The Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative (<https://www.earlywarningsforall.org>) was launched by the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General in 2022 and its high-level Executive Action Plan was released at COP27 later that year. It aims to ensure every person on Earth is protected by EWSs by 2027.

EWSs are key elements of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, as they help reduce or avoid the detrimental impacts of hazardous events. To be effective, EWSs need to be risk-informed, target communities most at risk, disseminate messages and warnings efficiently, communicate these using understandable and actionable language, ensure preparedness, and support early action. EWSs must rely on a sound scientific and technical basis and focus on the most vulnerable people and sectors. This implies the adoption of a system-based approach incorporating all relevant risk factors, whether arising from climate-related and other hazards or social vulnerabilities, and from short-term or long-term processes.

The EW4All initiative comprises the four foundational pillars of an EWS:

- **Pillar 1: Disaster risk knowledge**  
Systematically collect risk data and undertake risk assessments on hazards and vulnerabilities to improve risk understanding (*Global lead: UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)*).



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- **Pillar 2: Detection, observation, monitoring, analysis and forecasting of hazards**  
Develop hazard monitoring and early warning services (*Global lead: World Meteorological Organization (WMO)*).
- **Pillar 3: Warning dissemination and communication**  
Communicate risk information so it reaches all those who need it and is understandable and usable (*Global lead: International Telecommunications Union (ITU)*).
- **Pillar 4: Preparedness and response capabilities**  
Build national and community preparedness and response capabilities (*Global lead: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)*).

Five Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) – Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Tonga – are among the initial 30 countries selected to receive targeted support under the global roll-out of the EW4All initiative. This is in addition to other related initiatives pursued by organisations and member countries to address EWSs.

Bringing the EW4All initiative to the Pacific, the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-6) discussed it and expressed the following way forward for its implementation in the region.

- PMC-6 noted that:
  - National governments have the primary responsibility to establish multi-hazard EWSs (MHEWSs), 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;
  - The Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) and the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems initiative (CREWS) are important financing mechanisms for the delivery of the EW4All initiative, alongside many others, as stipulated in the EW4All Executive Action Plan.
- In order to have a more systematic, coordinated and Pacific-led approach to strengthening EWSs, PMC-6 endorsed the Namaka Declaration for Sustainable Weather, Climate, Ocean and Water Services for a Resilient Blue Pacific of the Third Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Meteorology (PMMM-3), through which the Ministers acknowledges that the Weather Ready Pacific (WRP) programme (developed in 2021) would be utilised as the vehicle to deliver the EW4All initiative in the Pacific region.
- PMC-6 further recommended that:



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- 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;
- the WRP implementation plan is developed with consideration of activities needed to support and improve capacities across all four pillars of MHEWS, as described in the EW4All Executive Action Plan, leveraging on SOFF, CREWS and other financial mechanisms as appropriate.
- PMC-6 invited multilateral development banks such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and climate funds such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), all interested entities of the UN system – all of which are identified in the EW4All Executive Action Plan as key partners and which have expressed their support to the initiative, and bilateral development partners to:
  - contribute to the timely and effective development of the initiative;
  - align their practices with the UN's ambitious EW4All objective, including through the development of Public Private Engagement (PPE) arrangements across the Early Warning-Early Action value cycle; and
  - promote original approaches to secure long-term operation and sustainability.

Pacific Leaders then endorsed the WRP programme and adopted its implementation plan and governance framework at the Pacific Island Forum (PIF) Leaders' Meeting in November 2023.

Recently, the EW4All Advisory Panel at its third meeting recommended to scale up efforts to all countries expressing a need, increase engagement with the private sector, civil society organisations, academia, and regional organisations, define success measures for the initiative, also beyond 2027, and ensure country ownership of the initiative. The work of EW4All partners in the Pacific, with and via the WRP programme and its partners, is fully aligned with these recommendations.

### **Updates on the EW4All initiative in the Pacific**

In the Pacific, countries and territories and their regional and international partners have made great strides in improving their EWSs for various hazards, making them also more multi-hazard, end-to-end, people-centred and inclusive. These systems are being strengthened also in terms of governance, partnerships, sustainable financing, and feedback, and monitoring and evaluation. Many development initiatives support these processes in the region, including country and regional projects. Several projects, to be funded by e.g. SOFF, CREWS, GCF, the Adaptation Fund, USAID, the UK, and many others are under the development, and their donors and implementing partners are keen to align with the WRP programme and the EW4All initiative. Together with the coordination and financing provided by the WRP programme, ongoing projects, and the support of EW4All



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pillar leads, these new projects will contribute to the overall objectives of the WRP programme, EW4All initiative, and related policies and strategies in the Pacific.

On 17 April 2024, partners of the EW4All initiative and WRP programme organized a regional coordination meeting. Its objectives included: (i) Kick-start the coordination of the EW4All initiative and WRP programme in the region; (ii) Share experiences from first national EW4All and WRP activities as well as from other EWS-related projects and initiatives in the Pacific region; (iii) Take stock of Pacific EWSs initiatives – regionally and nationally – across the four pillars providing an overview of existing gaps, challenges and barriers and explore how ongoing and upcoming initiatives such as the WRP programme and EW4All initiative could best address them; and (iv) Raise awareness about and provide updates on the EW4All initiative and WRP programme among national and regional stakeholders. The meeting benefitted from the presence of directors and senior officials from National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) and other key stakeholders, as many of them participated in a number of closely related meetings during the period of 8 to 18 April 2024, such as the SOFF Regional Pacific Workshop, Second Pacific Anticipatory Action (AA) Workshop, and others.

Further regional meetings to discuss both the WRP programme (including discussion on updating its governance structure and implementation plan) and the EW4All initiative (including leveraging various ongoing and pipeline projects) have taken place since then. For example, the WMO Regional Association V (South-West Pacific) Tropical Cyclone Committee (RA V TCC) meeting on 1 August 2024 also discussed gaps and needs and ways the EW4All initiative and WRP programme can address them.

As the first among the initial EW4All focus countries in the Pacific, Fiji organised national consultation and technical working group meetings on EW4All on 29 February and 1 March 2024, respectively in Suva, Fiji. The purpose of these meetings included discussing, identifying and setting priorities for each EW4All pillar contributing to the development of the national MHEWS roadmap and for a GCF project intervention in Fiji. A follow up workshop was held on 26 June 2024. Both the roadmap and GCF project are currently under development. With regards to the project, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) has been tasked by the EW4All pillar leads to develop a global GCF project to support seven countries on the delivery of EW4All commitments and address key climate information and early warning gaps that exist amongst highly climate vulnerable countries. Fiji has been selected among the seven countries to receive coordinated and targeted support towards EW4All, together with Antigua and Barbuda, Cambodia, Chad, Ecuador, Ethiopia, and Somalia.

The Solomon Islands' National Consultation on EW4All was held for two days on 21 and 22 August 2024 in Honiara, Solomon Islands, following an AA Workshop in February 2024.



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The purpose of the workshop included discussing, identifying and setting priorities for each of the EW4All pillar contributing to the development of the national roadmap for EW4All. A consultant has been hired under the CREWS global EW4All Accelerator project to support Solomon Islands in this endeavour and overall coordination.

The national EW4All Inception Workshop for Tonga and AA Sensitization workshop was held in Nuku'alofa from 17 – 19 July 2024. The workshop resulted in a draft roadmap to support implementation of Tonga's MHEWSs policy, which was adopted earlier this year, as well as invited feedback on the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the MHEWS Technical Working Group, which will oversee the implementation of the roadmap. The two-day AA workshop also linked the AA concept to the EWS of Tonga and provided participants with the opportunity to discuss potential pre-arranged actions and financing based on AA/early warning triggers in the context of Tonga. The advancement of AA for Tonga was also included in the ToR and workplan for the Tonga MHEWS Technical Working Group.

The national consultations for Kiribati and Samoa are planned for October and November 2024, respectively.

EW4All partners are supporting the development of a legislative guide to assist Pacific Governments to review and revise relevant legislation. *The Early Warning Early Action: Legal Frameworks for the Pacific Guide* will support decision makers and practitioners working in the EWS space to ensure they are taking a systematic and comprehensive approach to legal aspects of early warning and early action in the region. Pacific experiences and reflections from national and regional level will inform the development of the guide, with consultations planned for the remainder of 2024. The legislative guide will be available in 2025.

After PMC-7, the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR, <https://apmcdrr.undrr.org>), held in conjunction with the first EW4All Multi-Stakeholder Forum for Asia-Pacific from 14 to 18 October in Manila, Philippines, will provide further opportunities for discussions, sharing knowledge and experiences, and progress with implementing the EW4All initiative through the WRP programme as well as closely aligned projects in the Pacific. Several national and regional stakeholders from the Pacific, covering all EW4All pillars, have registered for this important event, which will also inform the next Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2025, <https://globalplatform.undrr.org>) and Global EW4All Multi-Stakeholder Forum next year in June in Geneva, Switzerland.

### Recommendations

The Council is invited to:

- **Note** the progress with the implementation of the EW4All initiative in the Pacific region.



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- **Note** with appreciation the regional coordination between the EW4All initiative and WRP programme, as well as national EW4All-related initiatives.
- **Encourage** ongoing coordination and alignment between the EW4All initiative and WRP programme for joint programming and delivery.
- **Recommend** that integration of activities across all four pillars of MHEWS is included in the WRP implementation plan, with consideration of Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI).
- **Re-iterate** PMC-6's invitation to development partners to scale-up and coordinate investments in EWS across the Pacific.

