



UN Global Early Warning Initiative for the Implementation of Climate Adaptation

Ministerial Event on the Resolve to Act on Early Warnings for All

Wednesday 21 September 2022, 10.00-11.00am, UN General Assembly side event, kindly hosted by the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations in New York

Context

Early Warning Systems are a proven, effective, and feasible climate adaptation measure, that save livesⁱ, and provide a tenfold return on investmentⁱⁱ. The IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report on Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability recognized early warning systems, climate services and disaster risk management activities as key cross-cutting adaptation options, that enhance the benefits of other adaptation measures when combinedⁱⁱⁱ. G7 Ministers recently emphasized their support for early warning systems, in the context of strengthening anticipatory action in humanitarian assistance.^{iv} The practicality, implementability, and universal political appeal of early warning systems makes them a fitting focus area of COP27.

H.E. President El-Sisi of Egypt recently highlighted turning promises and pledges into implementation on the ground^v as a top priority of Egypt's COP27 Presidency. President El-Sisi also underscored the need to enhance the size, quality and mechanisms of climate financing that are available to developing countries, including to help them to adapt to the negative effects of climate change. In this regard, both COP26 and COP27 Presidencies have called for^{vi} developed countries to follow through on their commitments made in Glasgow^{vii} to at least double their climate finance for adaptation to developing countries by 2025, aiming at achieving balance between funding adaptation and mitigation.

And yet, one in three people are still not covered by early warning systems and there is insufficient capacity worldwide to translate early warnings into early action^{viii}. On 23 March 2023, UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, announced^{ix} the United Nations would spearhead new action to ensure every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within five years. He asked the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to lead this effort and to present an action plan to achieve this goal at the next United Nations Climate Conference, later this year in Egypt. The developing plan is aligned with, and leverages, other mutually complementary COP27 priorities, such as the Action for Water Adaptation and Resilience (AWARE) initiative, particularly in the context of early warnings for floods and droughts – two of the most impactful climate hazards that societies face.

WMO has been working with Members and partner agencies to develop a global architecture for achieving the goal, to present as an action plan, connected relevant financial mechanisms at COP27. This will utilize advanced analysis to improve the understanding of the global status of early warnings, across the full early warning to early action value cycle and will include a mapping of international early warning development efforts already planned for the next 5 years. This work is designed to highlight where outstanding gaps remains, and where the international community should focus and invest additional efforts as a matter of urgency.

With 3.3 to 3.6 billion people living in contexts that are highly vulnerable to climate change^x, and global temperatures continuing to rise^{xi}, it is more important than ever that the international community now send a strong commitment to act to ensure every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within the next five years.

Event Objective

Taking place on the margins of the Seventy-Seventh Session of the United Nations General Assembly High-Level week, and co-hosted by the United Nations, Government of Egypt, the World Meteorological Organization, and the Permanent Mission of Finland, this Ministerial event will bring together countries, donors and international development agencies, to jointly elevate the need to act on Early Warnings for All as an urgent climate adaptation measure.

25 minutes	<p>Opening: The Resolve to Act on Early Warnings for All video and high-level statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr Ville Skinnari, Minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade for Finland • Ministerial-level representative of Egypt and COP27 Presidency • High-level representative of the United Nations Secretary-General • Professor Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization • Ministerial-level country statements and high-level country group perspectives
12 minutes	<p>Scaling up what works – financing for implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-level donor(s) perspective • High-level MDB / financing perspective • High-level private sector perspective
12 minutes	<p>Related Multilateral Processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COP26 Perspectives • Looking ahead to COP28 • UNFCCC Perspectives • Mid-term Review of Sendai
10 minutes	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COP27 Representative • ASG Selwin Hart, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on Climate Action • Professor Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization
Total = 60 minutes	

ⁱ WMO Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water Extremes (1970-2019) (2021)
https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=21930#.YjMvH1jML0o

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- ii 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/>
- iii Climate Change 2022, Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, Summary for Policy Makers, IPCC (2022) https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf
- iv G7 Foreign Ministers Statement on Strengthening Anticipatory Action in Humanitarian Assistance (2022) <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/g7-anticipatory-action/2531236>
- v President El-Sisi's Speech at the High-Level Session of Petersberg Climate Dialogue (2022) <https://www.sis.gov.eg/Story/170163/President-El-Sisi%E2%80%99s-Speech-at-the-High-Level-Session-of-Petersberg-Climate-Dialogue?lang=en-us>
- vi Joint Statement from UK, Egypt and UNFCCC in response to IPCC Working Group 2 Report (2022) <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-from-uk-egypt-and-unfccc-in-response-to-ipcc-working-group-2-report>
- vii Glasgow Climate Pact COP26 cover decision (2021) https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cop26_auv_2f_cover_decision.pdf
- viii WMO State of Climate Services, Risk Information and Early Warning Systems, (2020) https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=10385
- ix Secretary-Generals message on World Meteorological Day (2022) <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2022-03-23/secretary-generals-message-world-meteorological-day>
- x Climate Change 2022, Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, Summary for Policy Makers, IPCC (2022) https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf
- xi WMO State of the Global Climate 2021 (2022) <https://public.wmo.int/en/our-mandate/climate/wmo-statement-state-of-global-climate>