**EWS Joint Statement - to be published 21 September 2022, at High-Level UNGA EWS side event (TBC), titled “The Resolve to Act on Early Warnings for All”**

This Joint Statement has been co-signed by XX countries. See list of signatories here…

[Opening]

In advance of the 27th session of the Conference of Parties (COP27) to the UNFCCC in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, we have joined efforts to issue this Statement on Early Warning Systems for the Implementation of Climate Adaptation.

[High-Level context]

The IPCC’s Sixth Assessment Report on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability (AR6 Working Group II) recognizes that human-induced climate change, including more frequent and intense extreme events, has caused widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people, with the most vulnerable people and systems disproportionately affected.

Early warning systems are a proven, effective, and feasible climate adaptation measure, that save lives and are shown to provide near a tenfold return on investment. The IPCC further recognizes 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 combined.

Early warning systems support the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provide crossing-cutting benefits to nearly all of the Sustainable Development Goals. They are a key component of achieving the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, as reflected in Target G of the Sendai Framework, and are recognized as important areas of cooperation in the Paris Agreement, in relation to Article 7 on Adaptation, and Article 8 on Loss and Damage.

And yet, only half of WMO Members report having early warning systems in place and there is insufficient capacity worldwide to translate early warnings into early action. Even fewer countries report having national legislation and regulatory frameworks which link early warnings to emergency plans.

We therefore welcome the announcement of United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, on 23rd March 2022, describing new action to be spearheaded by the United Nations, to ensure every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within five years, and for 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 (COP27), in Egypt later this year.

Furthermore, we welcome the statements of H.E. President El-Sisi of Egypt on the Government of Egypt’s COP27 Presidency priority to turn promises and pledges into implementation on the ground at this year’s conference. The feasibility and implementability of early warning systems makes them a fitting focus area for COP27 and hence, we welcome the positioning of the ‘UN Global Early Warning Initiative for the Implementation of Climate Adaptation’ as a Special Initiative of the Egyptian President at COP27.

We recognize the significant efforts made by the humanitarian community in strengthening anticipatory action using early warning systems, and we take note of the G7 Foreign Ministers’ statement on Strengthening Anticipatory Action in Humanitarian Assistance.

[Regional high-level context]

Recognizing the importance of regional and sub-regional approaches to achieve the goal, and the particularly vulnerable context of Africa, we additionally take note of the Maputo Declaration of Ministers responsible for Meteorology and Disaster Risk Reduction, representing the Heads of States and Governments of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) on their Commitment to support the UN Global Early Warnings Initiative for the Implementation of Climate Adaptation.

In addition, we note the 40th Ordinary Session of the African Union Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 2022, endorsed the Africa Institutional and Operational framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action. The framework is further translated into Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System (AMHEWAS) Programme which aims to reduce the continental disaster losses by 2030 by ensuring availability and access to multi-hazard early warning and risk information to the public by 2030.

[Technical building blocks and supportive initiatives]

We welcome the efforts of WMO to develop a five-year action plan to achieve the goal, across the full early warning to early action value chain, to present at COP27, reflecting inputs from key partners, including Academia, National Disaster Management Agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, the Private Sector, Climate Finance Institutions, the UN System, Civil Society, and the important role of National Hydrological and Meteorological Services.

In this regard, we welcome the recent WMO Executive Council Resolution (EC-75 4(2)/1) which underscored WMO’s Members commitment to collective action to achieve the goal in three focus areas 1) Earth System observations and monitoring, 2) Predictive and warning capabilities, and 3) Coordinated communication for anticipatory action.

We recognize that implementation will be supported by key initiatives and financing mechanisms such as the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF), the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Initiative, the Risk-Informed Early Action Partnership (REAP), the Alliance for Hydromet Development, and the Water and Climate Coalition Leaders Action Plan, amongst others, and must leverage other mutually complementary COP27 priorities, such as the Action for Water Adaptation and Resilience (AWARE) in the context of floods and droughts.

Noting the gaps and challenges across the entire weather and climate service value-chain, we encourage new, and existing financial mechanisms be scaled up to support sustainable early warning investments, capacity building and technical support, especially for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

[Commitments to act]

We commit to elevating the important role of early warning systems, and the five-year action plan, spanning the full early warning to early action value chain, to support the implementation of climate adaptation in key upcoming global, national, regional and local processes, including at the global level, the 2023 UN Water Conference, the Mid-term Review of the Sendai Framework, the 2023 SDG Summit, and the UN Future Summit.

We pledge to come to COP27, committing to concrete actions for implementation, that contribute to five-year action plan, and support the achievement of ensuring every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems.

[Closing]

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