

Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference Cancun, 22-23 May 2017

Communique of the World Meteorological Organization

We, Permanent Representatives with and Members of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) attending the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference:

Note that the Conference aims to demonstrate to countries how they may improve the availability of, and their communities' access to, multi-hazard early warning, risk information and assessment and is therefore directly linked to the achievement of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, in particular its seventh global target.

Emphasize that high-impact weather, marine weather, climate and hydrological events such as storms, floods, landslides, and droughts cause most natural disasters, represent the highest risk both in terms of impacts and likelihood, also due to their cascading and often transboundary effects, and have devastating effects throughout the world, resulting in injury and loss of life, setting back economic and social development with huge economic losses, health degradation, poverty, damaging/destroying infrastructures, displacement of people, job destruction and destruction of communities.

Note that unprecedented changes in the climate system observed since the 1950s and the rapid changes taking place especially in high latitudes, are likely to continue to increase risks associated climate and hydrometeorological hazards.

Note further that the growth of human settlements – particularly in flood plains and low lying coastal regions – urbanization, the rise of megacities, economic interdependencies and obsolescence of infrastructure increase the vulnerability of people and infrastructure and thus increase the risk and subsequent impacts of weather and climate extremes.

Reaffirm that the overarching priorities for the WMO community are to produce information that assists in reducing losses of life and property from hydrometeorological hazards, supports action that promotes resilience to climate variability and change, and enhances the socioeconomic value of hydrometeorological and climate services.

Underscore that meteorological forecast products and climate outlooks with their impact analyses are made available to WMO Members and other international organizations through Global Data-processing and Forecasting Systems supported by a three-level system for weather information comprising of World Meteorological Centres, Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres and National Meteorological and Hydrological Centres and for climate information comprising of Global Producing Centers for Long-Range Forecasts, Regional Climate Centers, and National Climate Centers.

Underline that the products and services delivered by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to address weather and climate risks are essential for meeting the longer-term ambitions reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, the priorities and targets of the Sendai Framework and the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Recognize that it is essential for WMO to contribute to United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, and to identify effective strategies and actions needed to promote and strengthen multi-hazard early warning systems in support of the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Highlight that to significantly reduce the current casualty trends and socioeconomic losses due to extreme weather events it is necessary to build on advances in impact-based forecasting technology and data provision and to provide risk-based warnings that reach communities, households and individuals.

Agree that there is a need to build a basis for stronger cooperation and partnerships between National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and other stakeholders including national disaster risk management entities for more efficient and effective emergency response, crisis management and

humanitarian assistance; better risk assessment, improved monitoring, early warning and enhanced overall response to disasters and to weather, climate and hydrological risk.

Agree further that there is a need for public authorities and businesses to work together on disaster risk reduction to ensure that public and private investments in disaster risk reduction result in more resilient societies.

Underline the urgency to address existing technical and human resources gaps, particularly in developing and least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, to strengthen or develop capacity for multi-hazard early warning systems by increasing investments and sharing of information and good practices through international cooperation and mechanisms such as the International Network for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems to address severe hydrometeorological events including tropical cyclones, drought, abnormal El Niño and other extreme events.

Commit to strengthen partnerships – from country level to community level, from regional level to global level – with major government agencies responsible for disaster risk reduction, such as civil protection and emergency response agencies, and key stakeholders, such as the private sector, to facilitate broader dissemination of disaster warning information.

Reaffirm the critical role of the Global Framework for Climate Services as a worldwide mechanism for coordinated actions to enhance the quality, quantity and application of climate services for disaster risk reduction and related impacts on water resources management, food security and health, or to assist in establishing them where they don't exist.

Resolve to develop a WMO Global Multi-Hazard Alert System that will be recognized globally by decision makers as a resource of authoritative warnings and information related to high impact weather, water, ocean and climate events.

Resolve also to pursue the establishment of an El Niño/Southern Oscillation Information System, based on existing efforts, to improve monitoring of the ocean and atmosphere to enable meteorologists and hydrologists to predict and interpret the El Niño/Southern Oscillation and other ocean oscillations – and thus the weather, climate and hydrological extremes and their likely physical and socioeconomic impacts.

Resolve further to enhance the issuance of improved advisories and early warnings, and monitoring and evaluation through strengthened partnerships with key stakeholders, weather, climate and hydrological information products and services for use by governments and the United Nations system to facilitate a seamless approach to country programming.

Express appreciation to the co-sponsors of the Conference, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission for joining forces with WMO in the organization of the Conference.

Extend gratitude to the Government of Mexico for graciously hosting the Conference in Cancun.

Call on the Participants attending the 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to acknowledge and support this communique.