

2025 – WMO EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS

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High-Level Event on the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative

Date 20 October 2025
Time 9:30–12:30 CEST
Location World Trade Organization - WTO
Centre William Rappard
Rue de Lausanne, 154
1211 Geneva 21
Switzerland

1. Background

This year marks the halfway point of the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative. Launched by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres in 2022, the initiative aims to ensure that every person on Earth is protected by multi-hazard early warning systems by the end of 2027. Over the past three years, EW4All has secured broad political support at the highest levels and is now at a critical juncture, requiring renewed momentum and a sharpened focus on delivery.

Since its inception, the Sendai Framework Monitor (SFM) has provided critical insights into the global landscape of early warning systems. While this reporting remains essential to track EW4All progress, the time has come to shift the conversation to concrete action. The focus must now be on what exists, what works, and where development actors can most effectively collaborate to close the remaining gaps.

Today, nearly every country has a basic early warning system in place. In fact, the number of countries with advanced multi-hazard early warning systems has grown by 129%, reaching 119 in 2025—more than doubling in just a decade. This achievement reflects 150 years of global collaboration among WMO Members, ensuring that every nation has access to meteorological data and forecasts that serve their societies.

2025 also marks the 75th anniversary of WMO as a specialized agency of the United Nations, a milestone that underscores its enduring mandate to coordinate global cooperation in weather, water, and climate services. Over decades, WMO and its Members have laid the foundations of today's global early warning architecture, enabling science-based services that save lives and support sustainable development.

In recent years, significant progress has been made in strengthening the operational capacity of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) worldwide. NMHSs are increasingly providing essential public services, delivering forecasts and early warnings that directly inform communities and critical sectors. For example, countries with strong multi-hazard early warning systems have a disaster-related mortality rate nearly six times lower than those without. These achievements underscore the vital role of NMHSs, yet new analysis also reveals critical capability gaps that must be addressed to fully realize the EW4All ambition.

The combination of EW4All Country Snapshots and the expanding WMO Partner Coordination Mechanism represents a powerful dual tool to accelerate progress.

2. The case for urgency

As global temperatures rise, the frequency, intensity, duration and timing of adverse weather and climate events are increasing worldwide. The impacts of floods, drought, wildfires, storms and heatwaves ripple across communities, economies and beyond national borders. These risks can no longer be treated in isolation as they cascade and compound throughout entire economic systems with multi-dimensional, long-lasting and often non-linear impacts. The urgency of Early Warnings for All (EW4All) has never been clearer. Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS), when anchored in inclusive and integrated risk governance frameworks, are among the most effective tools to reduce disaster-related deaths and losses. Countries with robust MHEWS have mortality rates nearly six times lower than those without them, and even 24 hours' warning can reduce damage by up to 30%.

3. Event focus and purpose

As the EW4All initiative enters its second phase amid an increasingly complex global landscape, WMO will convene a high-level session at the outset of its Extraordinary Congress with particular emphasis on Pillar 2 – hazard monitoring and forecasting.

This event will be an opportunity to bridge global policy commitments with local realities. Discussions will focus on how multilateral cooperation is delivering tangible results on the ground—particularly for the people most at risk.

Interventions will explore the following priority areas:

- **Country ownership** – Governments commit to strengthening their multi-hazard early warning systems through financial, legal and institutional foundations.
- **Scaling up regional collaboration** – Stakeholders leverage competitive advantages and extend the reach of early warning benefits.
- **Closing the digital divide** – Partners commit to closing the digital divide and facilitating country access to information and communication technologies, including global forecasting systems.
- **Empowering communities** – Systems are co-designed with those most at risk, including women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and persons with disabilities, to ensure that early warnings are trusted, relevant, and actionable.

4. Objectives

- Secure high-level political commitment and partnerships to accelerate EW4All implementation, reinvigorating multilateral cooperation across regions, sectors, and actors.
- Launch the *EW4All in Focus: Hazard Monitoring & Forecasting* report, providing a comprehensive review of progress and next steps.
- Present the WMO Secretary-General's Call to Action outlining concrete priorities for the coming years.
- Mobilize commitments to strengthen delivery across all EW4All, in particular Pillar 2, ensuring resources are aligned, fragmentation is reduced, and benefits reach those most at risk.

5. Agenda

High-level EW4All segment

09:30–10:00 CEST	Congress Opening Session
10:00–11:00 CEST	Statements by Heads of State, heads of Government and by Ministers rank on their EW4All commitments and results.
11:00–11:15 CEST	Launch of the EW4All in Focus: Hazard Monitoring & Forecasting Report and presentation on national/ regional progress and gaps from a <i>Pillar 2: Detection, observations, monitoring, analysis and forecasting</i> perspective.
11:15–11:30 CEST	WMO Secretary-General's Call to Action on EW4All , outlining concrete priorities to accelerate progress in the coming years. With support to NMHSs
11:30–12:25 CEST	High-level panel: high-impact commitments from the United Nations; the private sector and financial institutions outline support to bridge the EW4All pillars and streamline support for impact.
12:25–12:30 CEST	WMO 75th Anniversary closing video
