

## TOWS-WG TT DMP Meeting re Tsunami Ready Coalition: 4 October 2021

### Summary of discussion

#### Purpose

At the request of the Chair of the TOWS-WG, the TOWS TTDMP met to consider and advise on views about the mandate, composition, and rules/procedures of a special Coalition for Tsunami Ready, as per the IOC Decision A-31/3.4.1 'Warning Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards' (June 2021).

The TOWS-TTDMP welcomed the opportunity to canvas thoughts about the intended Coalition for Tsunami Ready under the UN Ocean Decade, and reports as follows in this regard for consideration.

#### Meeting time and attendance:

The meeting was held virtually from 21:00 – 22:00 hrs on 4 October 2021 (CEST), and attended by the following members of the Task Team and the IOC/UNESCO Tsunami Programme:

- David Coetzee (PTWS; Chair)
- Laura Kong (PTWS; ITIC)
- Christa von Hillebrandt-Andrade (CARIBE EWS)
- Alison Brome (CARIBE EWS; CTIC)
- Cecilia Valbonesi (NEAMTWS)
- Amir Yahav (NEAMTWS)
- Denis Chang-Seng (IOC/UNESCO)
- Alejandro Rojas-Aldana (IOC/UNESCO)

Comments were also offered after the meeting by:

- Bernardo Aliaga (Head of Tsunami Unit a.i. IOC/UNESCO)
- Rick Bailey (IOC/UNESCO for IOTWMS)
- Ardito M Kodijat (IOC/UNESCO; IOTIC)

#### Discussion:

##### **1. Coalition mandate, goals and objectives**

The meeting first discussed the envisaged goals and objectives of the Coalition for Tsunami Ready, because this would in turn inform the potential composition of the Coalition.

The meeting agreed that the goal of the Coalition should be linked to the '**safe ocean**' Societal Outcome of the Decade, "...whereby human communities are much better protected from ocean hazards and where the safety of operations at sea and on the coast is ensured...". In this context, the goal of the Coalition should be:

***Grow the number of Tsunami Ready communities as part of the Ocean Decade.***

This goal should be achieved through the following objectives:

1. Raising the profile of Tsunami Ready in collaboration with critical stakeholders across the UN system, interested regional organizations, national disaster management agencies and public
2. Increasing funding resources for the implementation of Tsunami Ready
3. Advising the TOWS-WG and TTDMP on the implementation of Tsunami Ready, i.e:
  - flexibility with regards to accomplishing the indicators to allow for circumstances where formal bureaucratic frameworks/requirements may pose barriers
  - consideration of unique regional and/or local circumstances
  - recognition of similar standards already in place in some countries

The meeting was unanimous that with regards to these objectives, the Coalition should act in a “governance support” capacity to the TOWS-WG, advising on the above and identifying/brokering resources for the implementation of Tsunami Ready. The Coalition should therefore not have a “technical” role in the initiative; the technical aspects (i.e. IOC Manual & Guide 74: *Standard Guidelines for the Tsunami Ready Recognition Program*) should remain the mandate and responsibility of the TOWS-WG, TTDMP and the respective ICGs. **We recommend that this non-technical role be reflected specifically in the Coalition’s mandate.**

## 2. Composition

With a view on the envisaged goal and objectives, the meeting considered the following potential members or stakeholders in the Coalition (noting that the wider/bigger the Coalition, the more complex its coordination and management will be):

International:

- UNDRR
- UN Ocean Decade Alliance
- International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)
- UNDP
- WMO
- IFRC
- International Foundations (explore options via the Ocean Decade)
- Save the Children
- Banking/Insurance Foundations
- International Association of Emergency Managers (IEAM)

Regional:

- Tsunami Information Centres (the TICs have a facilitation role for IOC Tsunami Ready, and as such, TIC participation in the Coalition is important).
- Relevant ICG Working Groups and Task Teams
- Pacific Community (SPC)
- ASEAN
- UNESCAP

- Coordination Center for Disaster Prevention in Central America and the Dominican Republic (CEPREDENAC)
- Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)
- French Inter- Ministerial for the Antilles Estate Major Zone (EMIZA)
- Directorate-General for the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Ais Operations of the EC (DG-ECHO-EC)
- Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC-EC)
- U-INSPIRE Alliance (Asia and the Pacific Alliance of Youth and Young Professionals in Science, Engineering, Technology, and Innovation for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience)
- CARIDIMA Youth Platform for DRM in the Caribbean.
- Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALESCO)
- Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) (Headquarters in Rabat, Morocco).

National:

- AID Organizations i.e. USAID, AUSAID, Canadian Aid
- National Emergency Management agencies/NDMOs
- IOC & Tsunami National Contacts
- National Commissions for UNESCO
- National Youth organisations

### 3. Challenges re the functioning of the Coalition

The following challenges and questions pertaining to the intent and functioning of the Coalition resulted from the discussion:

- **Coordination and management:**  
The meeting noted that dedicated resourcing will be required to sustain coordination and management of the Coalition for it to be successful. It was unclear whether such resourcing is being considered, noting the TTDMP will be unable to offer the required level of management and coordination.  
AF point out the need for a tiny Coalition secretariat (obviously through voluntary contributions or the MS secondarily to the IOC Secretariat)
- **Development of a Strategic Plan and report to TOWS-WG XV:**  
The meeting noted that the establishment of the Coalition will take some time before it will be in a position to consider a strategic plan. It will therefore likely only be able to report on progress with regards to the development of a strategic plan by the time of TOWS-WG XV.
- **Positioning of the Coalition in the TOWS structure:**  
It was not clear to the TTDMP how/where the Coalition will fit into the TOWS structure, noting that it appears that both the TTDMP and the Coalition will report to

the TOWS-WG. The question therefore arose as to alignment and coordination between the TTDMP and the Coalition, and their reporting. Inclusion of TIC representation in the Coalition will support alignment with the TTDMP.

It was also commented that the Tsunami Ready Coalition should link with the Ocean Decade Alliance.