## INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION GROUP FOR THE TSUNAMI AND OTHER COASTAL HAZARDS WARNING SYSTEM FOR THE CARIBBEAN AND ADJACENT REGIONS (ICG/CARIBE EWS)

## Proposed Working Groups and Task Teams

## Working Groups

ICG/CARIBE EWS work is enabled through Working Groups (WG). Intra-sessional (or sessional) WGs work during an ICG session and report back to the ICG session in which they were established. Inter-sessional WGs work between ICG sessions and report at the next ICG session. Inter-sessional WGs may decide to meet, or may carry their work out through e-mail, teleconferences, in-person meetings, or other means. Terms of Reference for WGs are stated through Recommendations endorsed by the ICG. The Recommendation may also state the WG members. A WG Chair may be designated by the ICG or elected by WG members. The Chair provides leadership for the WG and is responsible for annual written reports summarizing its work. Working Group members are nominated by Member States according to their individual abilities to contribute to the tasks of the WG. The nomination should be accompanied by a CV of the candidate. A WG should dissolve after its tasks have been completed. The ICG/CARIBE EWS has the following four working groups:

**EXISTING WORKING GROUPS (2023)**

## WG1: Monitoring and Detection Systems.

Purpose: To review and recommend to the ICG priorities and actions required towards the full establishment of a coordinated regional tsunami warning system.

Chair: Dan

Vice:

**Tasks**:

* Advise member states on the monitoring and detection capabilities needed for operating national tsunami warning centers.
* Define the threshold criteria for the monitoring and warning systems.
* Assure the compliance with the agreed standards for the detection systems.
* Ensure the effectiveness of the warning system by promoting the open exchange of seismic, sea level and other observational data in real time.
* Promote the sharing of experience and expertise, and capacity building essential to the effective monitoring and issuance of warnings.
* Support the establishment of a fully interoperable regional tsunami warning system.
* Advise and seek advice from member states about other coastal hazards that can be included into the warning system.

## WG2: Hazard Assessment

**Purpose: To advise the ICG on the identification and characterization of coastal hazards, their assessment and the required modeling.**

**Tasks:**

* Review and evaluate the required methods and data sets, including bathymetry and coastal topography for determining the coastal hazards.
* Advise the member states on the requirements for operating the appropriate models.
* Develop capacity building for the appropriate modelling.ow

**WG3: Tsunami Related Services**

**Purpose: To examine current and developing capacities in each country of the region and advise the ICG about the definition and composition of early warnings and tsunami products and the methods and best practices for effective procedures for end to end communication and dissemination of early warnings and tsunami products.**

**Tasks:**

* Explore and document the capabilities for dissemination of existing guidance and alerts in the countries of the region.
* Identify the difficulties and challenges existing in the region for effective “end to end” communication and dissemination of early warnings.
* Establish strategies for the development and implementation of methods and technologies to strengthen the interaction with the media and dissemination of early warnings in the countries of the region.
* Evaluate communication tests and tsunami exercises, in order to identify weaknesses and make recommendations to help strengthen these delivery systems.
* Create communication protocol and standardized information identifying the minimum acceptable levels for communication and dissemination of tsunami early warning in all countries for approval by the IGC.
* Provide feedback to the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC), as the CARIBE- EWS TSP, to help make its tsunami products for the CARIBE-EWS more understandable, actionable, and otherwise effective.
* Serve as a reviewing and approving body for proposed changes to PTWC products for the CARIBE-EWS, or determine that the proposed changes warrant going to the ICG for review and approval.

**WG4: Preparedness, Readiness and Resilience**

**Purpose: To advise and recommend to the ICG strategies to enhance public awareness, education and resilience capacities and to develop the necessary recommendations, tools and procedures**.

**Tasks:**

* Identify the public awareness and education strategies and tools that the Member States can integrate into their risk reduction and emergency management programs.
* Support the development of guidelines for preparedness, response and recovery

plans for communities and local governments and organisations which should include sharing of training and evacuation best practices.

* To closely cooperate with the Caribbean Tsunami Information Centre (CTIC) in carrying out its mandate and in the implementation of its program.

## Group of Experts on the Work and Implementation Plan to Enhance the Warning System by including Other Coastal Hazards (Currently not Active)

## Purpose:

To develop and recommend to the ICG a work and implementation plan to enhance the warning system by including other coastal hazards.

**Functions:**

1. Determine the scope and the stakeholders should be involved in the planning to enhance the warning system by including other coastal hazards.
2. Identify the opportunities, difficulties and challenges existing in the region for effective implementation of a plan to enhance the warning system by including other coastal hazards.
3. Establish strategies for the development and implementation of the plan to enhance the warning system by including other coastal hazards.
4. Develop an action plan composed of action steps, responsibilities, timelines, cost estimations, indicators and communications strategy.
5. Support the implementation of the plan to enhance the warning system by including other coastal hazards.
6. Promote the sharing of experience, expertise and capacity building.

## Task Teams (TT)

Task teams are small ad hoc subsidiary bodies formed by the ICG/CARIBE EWS to carry out specific tasks. Upon completion of the assigned tasks, the task team is disbanded. The Member States concerned normally appoint the corresponding governmental experts. The ICG/CARIBE EWS also nominates a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson. The members, chairs and vice chairs normally serve for one intersessional period, unless there is a decision for renewal. Currently the are six task teams: Tsunami Ready, CARIBE WAVE, Volcanic Sources, Evacuation Mapping, Future Goals and Performance Indicators and UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

## PROPOSED WORKING GROUP/EXPERT GROUP AND TASK TEAM STRUCTURE:

## Noting the benefits of aligning the Working Groups with the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme Implementation Plan as well as the UNDRR Framework

## Further noting that some of the WG, the Expert Group and some of the Task Teams have not been active.

**Note: Membership should be renewed on a yearly basis. Chairs will make a decision based on observed participation.**

## The following changes in Working Group, Expert Group and Task Team Structure is Proposed:

## WG 1: Risk Knowledge (previous WG 2)

Purpose: To advise the ICG on the identification and characterization of tsunami hazards and risk, their assessment and the required modeling.

Chair and one vice chair

**Tasks:**

* Review and evaluate required methods and data sets, including bathymetry and coastal topography for determining coastal hazards.
* Advise the member states on the requirements for operating the appropriate models for risk assessment.
* Advise and build capacity for risk assessments and their interpretation.
* Present a progress report based on the Key Performance Indicators related to the UN/IOC ODTP
* Advise and seek advice from member states about other coastal hazards that can be included into the warning system.
* Promote the sharing of experience and expertise, and capacity building essential to effective tsunami risk knowledge

## WG2: Tsunami Detection, Analysis and Forecasting (Merging previous WG 1 and parts of WG 3)

Purpose: To review and recommend to the ICG priorities and actions required to explore new technologies and capabilities to improve tsunami detection and forecasting capability.

Subgroups (vice chairs)

2.1 Tsunami Source Identification and Characterization

2.2 Tsunami Detection

2.3 Tsunami Forecasting

**Tasks**:

General:

* Support the operations of a fully interoperable regional tsunami warning system.
* Support and integrate the work of the subgroups
* Present a progress report based on the Key Performance Indicators related to the UN/IOC ODTP
* Establish strategies to enhance the warning system by including other coastal hazards.
* Promote the sharing of experience and expertise, and capacity building essential to effective tsunami source characterization, detection and forecasting

2.1 Tsunami Source Identification and Characterization

* Ensure the effectiveness of the observational system by promoting the open exchange of seismic and other relevant data in real time.
* Advise member states on the monitoring and detection capabilities of tsunamigenic sources needed for operating national tsunami warning centers.
* Assure the compliance with the agreed standards for the detection systems.
* Promote the sharing of experience and expertise, and capacity building essential to effective monitoring.

2.2 Tsunami Detection

* Ensure the effectiveness of the observational system by promoting the open exchange of sea level data in real time.
* Advise member states on the tsunami monitoring and detection capabilities needed for operating national tsunami warning centers.
* Assure the compliance with the agreed standards for the detection systems.

2.3 Tsunami Forecasting

* Define the operational requirements for the monitoring and forecasting systems.
* Promote the sharing of experience and expertise, and capacity building essential to the development of impact forecasts.

**WG3: Tsunami Warning Communications**

**Purpose: To examine current and developing capacities in each country of the region and advise the ICG and its Member States about the definition and composition of early warnings and tsunami products and the methods and best practices for effective procedures for end to end communication and dissemination of early warnings and tsunami products.**

Chair and one vice chair

**Tasks:**

* Explore and document the dissemination capabilities and existing alert guidance in the countries of the region.
* Identify the difficulties and challenges existing in the region that hinder the impact of “end to end” communication and dissemination of early warnings.
* Establish strategies for the development and implementation of methods and technologies to strengthen the interaction with the media and dissemination of early warnings within the countries of the region.
* Evaluate communication tests and tsunami exercises, in order to identify weaknesses and make recommendations to help strengthen these delivery systems.
* Create communication protocol and standardized information identifying the minimum acceptable levels for communication and dissemination of tsunami early warning in all countries for approval by the IGC.
* Provide feedback to the Tsunami Service Providers on its products and communication procedures.
* Serve as a reviewing and approving body for proposed changes to TSP products for the CARIBE-EWS, or determine if proposed changes warrant going to the ICG for review and approval.
* Present a progress report based on the Key Performance Indicators related to the UN/IOC ODTP
* Promote the sharing of experience and expertise, and capacity building essential to effective tsunami warning communications

## WG4: Preparedness, Response,and Resilience Capabilities

## Purpose: To advise and recommend to the ICG strategies to enhance awareness, education, preparedness, response and resilience capacities and to develop the necessary recommendations, tools and procedures.

Chair

Vice chair: Preparedness and Response capabilities

Vice chair: Resilience

Vice chair: Tsunami Ready

**Tasks**

General

## Consider UN Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme and other relevant decade actions, the Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas and the Caribbean and the UN Early Warnings for All Initiative (EW4ALL)

* Present a progress report based on the Key Performance Indicators related to the UN/IOC ODTP
* Promote the sharing of experience and expertise, and capacity building essential to effective preparedness, response and resilicance

## 4.1 Preparedness and Response capabilities

## Identify the public awareness and education strategies and tools that the Member States can integrate into their risk reduction and emergency management programs.

## To closely cooperate with the Caribbean Tsunami Information Centre (CTIC) in carrying out its mandate and in the implementation of its program.

4.2 Resilience

## Identify best practices related to plans, structural and nature-based solutions and that more communities have implemented plans and measures to minimize impacts to critical infrastructure and marine assets from tsunamis and other coastal hazards.

## Identify and employ strategies to support mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into urban planning

4.3 Tsunami Ready

## Identify and employ strategies to ensure 100% of at-risk communities achieve UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Designation

## Support the development of guidelines and capacity development on preparedness, response and recovery planning for Member States, communities and organizations, which should include sharing of training and evacuation best practices.

## Task Teams (TT)

Recommend retain TT on CARIBE WAVE

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Realign CARIBE EWS Working Groups according to UNODTP Objectives:
   1. WG on Tsunami Risk Knowledge
   2. WG on Tsunami Detection and Forecasting
   3. WG on Tsunami Warning and Communication
   4. WG on Tsunami Pre[aredness and Resilience
2. Task Teams on Tsunami Ready, Volcanic Sources, Future Goals and performance indicators, Evacuation Mapping and UN Decade be stood down as they have complete their tasks.
3. Task Team on CARIBE WAVE be retained indefinitely
4. ICG/PTWS-WA-CA to report at next ICG/CARIBE EWS session
5. Task Teams on **Tsunami Ready**, **Volcanic Sources**, **Evacuation Mapping**, **Future Goals and Performance Indicators**, and **UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development** be stood down all having achieved their objectives
6. Task Team on **CARIBE WAVE** be retained indefinitely
7. ICG/PTWS-WG-CA to report at next ICG/CARIBE-EWS session