

17th Meeting of TOWS-WG-XVII (the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems)

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TOWS-WG noted:

- [ODTP](#) focuses on 2 goals: 1) warning systems' capability to issue actionable and timely tsunami warnings for tsunamis from all identified sources to 100 % of coasts at risk ; and 2) 100 % of communities at risk to be prepared and resilient to tsunamis by 2030 through efforts like the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP)
- low number of endorsed actions related to the ODTP for Ocean Decade Challenge #6 “Increase Community Resilience to Ocean Hazards”
- progress achieved in the revision to the Tsunami Glossary 2023 ([IOC/2008/TS/85](#) rev 5), concerning clarifying definitions (e.g., meteotsunamis, arrival time) and updates (e.g., global, regional, deadly tsunami maps, tables, tsunami service provider, edits, and simplifying), as well as addressing new terms, including Lamb Wave, TRRP, and volcanic tsunamis, and that the IOC is working to finalise the layout for publishing in 2024;

- progress of the *Ad Hoc Team* on Meteotsunamis;
- concerns of WMO on the term and definition of Meteotsunami;
- tsunamis are included in the key Action Areas of the UN Early Warnings for All ([EW4All](#)) Global Initiative for the Implementation of Climate Adaptation;
- tsunami hazard was already identified by a number of UN EW4All concerned countries, especially SIDS, as part of their priority hazards;
- National Tsunami Ready Focal Points (TRFP) and their participation in the WG3 on Tsunami Ready Implementation: to help champion and facilitate national and international coordination and communication;
- IOC Tsunami Resilience Section is developing a new website to highlight the importance of the Tsunami Ready components, such as the community pages hosted by the ITIC, which will be continued and with high visibility;

TOWS-WG noted:

- important role of the Special Coalition for Tsunami Ready in raising the profile globally in support of the UN Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme goals;
- both local and distant tsunamis can cause damaging and deadly tsunami impacts to communities, and specifically, that strong or long shaking from earthquakes will not be felt by distant communities;
- current standard text in the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready signage is *'In case of a strong or long (duration) earthquake, or any official message, go to high ground or inland'*
- need for Tsunami Ready Disaster Risk Reduction approach (Assessment, Prevention, Mitigation, Emergency Response, and Recovery) to critical Coastal Infrastructures, including Tsunami Ready Airports, Tsunami Ready Hotels, Tsunami Ready Ports;

- linking Tsunami Ready with Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) is an opportunity to capitalize on the cities' efforts in making cities resilient, to increase the visibility of Tsunami Ready, with TRRP as an example of good practice;
- 2024 theme of WTAD is *Empowering Children and Youth, ensuring the next generation is tsunami prepared*;
- importance of creating dialogues on challenging issues to attract greater stakeholder engagements (vulnerable groups), and social integration and technical support needed to bridge and facilitate effective engagement and social integration;

TOWS-WG Recommendation

- **The Group recommended** IOC collaborate more closely with the WMO to connect tsunami activities with the Multi Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) and UN Secretary General Early Warning for All Initiative (EW4All), such as the WMO Coastal Inundation Forecasting Initiative (CIFI) that is an example of a multi-activity addressing coastal inundation, no matter the source of the coastal inundation;
 - **The Group recommended** for locations that will not feel the earthquake, the use of the standard text in the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready signage such as *“In case of any official tsunami message, go to high ground or inland”* as an alternative to *‘In case of a strong or long (duration) earthquake, or any official message, go to high ground or inland’*;
 - **The Group recommended** formal engagement of trained social science experts by Tsunami Resilience Section to support the production of guidance for enhancing stakeholder engagement;
- **The Group encouraged** the National Tsunami Ready Board of Member States to include where applicable the national agency working on Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) to be member of the NTRB, and to see the possibilities for ICGs and TICs to promote Tsunami Ready in MCR2030 events;
 - **The Group encouraged** TOWS WG and Task Teams members to review the Ocean Decade Vision 2030 Challenge 6 White Paper and provide comments by February 2024

TOWS WG Recommendation to

Intergovernmental Coordination Groups (ICGs)

- To consider performing exercises outside of working hours, in particular during the night, but being careful to take into consideration difficulties and possible issues of involving the public in night-time drills;
- To consider submitting coordinated Ocean Decade actions in future calls that contribute to the goals of the ODTP, including identification of and submission of existing actions that may align with the ODTP;
- ICGs and TICs to advocate Member States implementing Tsunami Ready to link with Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030);
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- ICG/IOTWMS WG1 and WG3 to develop and share guidelines for Tsunami Ready Critical Infrastructure

Member States

- to consider submitting coordinated Ocean Decade actions in future calls that contribute to the goals of the ODTP, including identification of and submission of existing actions that may align with the ODTP;
- to work with the UN EW4All partners in addressing any gaps in consideration of tsunami, including geohazard observations required for tsunami warning, where required as part of their national MHEWS;



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Thank you ...