



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
COMMISSION OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE  
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL  
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ

اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات

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**IOC Circular Letter No 2950**  
(Available in English and French)

IOC/VR/BA/DCS  
10 July 2023

To : ICG/NEAMTWS Tsunami National Contacts (TNCs)  
ICG/NEAMTWS Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs)

C.c. : National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with IOC  
Permanent Delegations/Observer Missions to UNESCO, and  
National Commissions for UNESCO in IOC Member States of the ICG/NEAMTWS  
ICG/NEAMTWS Steering Committee members  
ICG/NEAMTWS Chair and Vice-Chairs  
WMO, UNDRR  
DG-ECHO, Joint Research Commission  
CoastWAVE Project Partners  
NAVAREA Coordinators in the North-eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and connected  
seas region (Spain, France, UK, Norway and USA)

**Subject: 'NEAMWave23', 6–7 November 2023, a Tsunami Exercise of the  
Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-Eastern  
Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas (NEAMTWS)**

By this letter, it is my pleasure to share with you the decision of the special ICG/NEAMTWS Steering Committee (11–13 April 2023) to hold NEAMWave23 Tsunami Exercise with two scenarios, respectively on 6 and 7 November 2023, in connection with the World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD) celebrated each year on 5th November.

NEAMWave23 will be conducted with two scenarios to allow individual Member States to decide the type of exercise and the scenario they wish to follow. This letter provides background information and details. NEAMWave23 is the fifth exercise after the ones conducted in [2012](#), [2014](#), [2017](#) and [2021](#).

NEAMWave23 exercise will include potential participation, for the first time, of the ongoing implementation of Tsunami Ready communities within the IOC-DG/ECHO CoastWAVE project countries in Cyprus (Larnaka), Egypt (Alexandria), Malta (Marsaxlokk), Morocco (El Jadida), Greece (Samos), Spain (Chipiona), Türkiye (Büyükçekmece), as well as in communities in France (Cannes) and Italy (Minturno, Palmi, and Marzamemi).

The objectives of NEAMWave23 are as follows:

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1. Validate and evaluate the Tsunami Service Provider (TSP) dissemination process of issuing Tsunami Messages in the NEAM region, also utilizing communication technologies, like SMS;
2. Validate and evaluate the procedures for countries to receive the Tsunami Messages issued by the TSP through their National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWC), or the country Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP) or the country Tsunami National Contacts (TNC);
3. Test the dissemination of the tsunami messages to the relevant agencies that are responsible for emergency response (CPA);
4. Assess the organizational decision-making process about public warnings and evacuations thus raising awareness of launching and contributing to the development of a national policy to tackle the tsunami risk;
5. Identify best practices (to be shared), criticalities (to be addressed by the programme in the future activities) and room for improvements in the entire process (including the procedures already tested between TSPs and TWFPs/NTWCs and also the heterogeneous panorama of national capacities to handle tsunami risk);
6. Test procedures for international assistance between the European Commission and participating Member States;
7. A key objective is the involvement of Member States that participate in the CoastWAVE project, coordinated by UNESCO, and those of non-project countries (France, Italy). This exercise will test the efficiency and the abilities of the pilot Tsunami Ready communities to respond in a complex and realistic situation, overcoming any challenges that may arise.

The exercise will mobilize the designated Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP), the National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWC) and the Disaster Management Organizations (DMO) or Civil Protection Agencies (CPA) in your country in implementing the procedures laid out in the [NEAMTWS Interim Operational Users Guide](#). Member States are strongly encouraged to extend exercises to community level where appropriate and establish planning and organizing teams (e.g. Exercise Director, Exercise Coordinator) to coordinate with TWFP, NTWC and DMO.

### Brief Description and Conduct of the Exercise

The five accredited Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs) in the NEAM region will issue exercise messages using two different joint exercise scenarios prepared for: (1) North-eastern Atlantic and (2) Mediterranean domains as detailed below:

Date (2023)	Scenarios	Tsunami source
Monday 6 November  08:00 UTC (~6 hours*)	<b>North-Eastern Atlantic</b> joint scenario by TSP CENALT (France) and TSP IPMA (Portugal)  [8.5 Mw, 35 N, 12 West, 10 km depth]	Based on an earthquake scenario of 1761 in the Atlantic
Tuesday 7 November  08:00 UTC (~3.5 hours*)	<b>Mediterranean</b> joint scenario by TSP INGV (Italy), TSP NOA (Greece) and TSP KOERI (Türkiye)  [8.1 Mw, 34.52 N, 24.57 E, 10 km depth]	Based on an earthquake scenario offshore South Crete of the Hellenic Arc

\*Duration of message dissemination by TSPs

The **Mediterranean** 8.1 Mw Earthquake joint scenario executed by TSP INGV (Italy), TSP NOA (Greece) and KOERI (Türkiye) will, in addition simulate a request for international assistance through the [Union Civil Protection Mechanism and the Emergency Response and Coordination Centre \(ERCC\)](#) of the European Commission.

Exercise Documents and Subscription (available at the [exercise online platform](#))

A **NEAMWave Exercise Brief** enclosed with this letter was prepared to encourage participation, especially of Civil Protection Agencies and other entities who are not yet familiar with the exercise. Arabic, French and Spanish versions of the brief will be available at the [online platform](#) by 15 August 2023.

The full **NEAMWave23 Exercise Manual** will be available at the [online platform](#) by 15 August 2023 as part of the NEAMTWS Guiding Documents and Forms section.

The Exercise Manual will describe in detail the scope and the objectives of NEAMWave23 including, the exercise phases, scenarios, the description of roles, the conduct and the evaluation of NEAMWave23, as well as any media arrangements. The Exercise Manual has been simplified consisting of two separate documents:

- (i) Manual including general instructions of NEAMWave tsunami exercise, and
- (ii) Supplements including specific information for NEAMWave23, i.e., Exercise scenarios, concepts on the composition of Tsunami Messages, exercise team members contact information, etc.

Member States wishing to participate in the NEAMWave23 exercise have to fill in the online exercise subscription form at the [online platform](#) starting from 15 August 2023. Registration to the exercise should have been completed no later than 10 October 2023. **Very importantly, Member States registered as recipients of a Tsunami Service Provider are urged to also subscribe to the exercise through the online form.** The subscription form will provide additional information regarding the planning of exercise phases.

The NEAMWave23 tsunami exercise will provide the NEAMTWS Member States an opportunity to evaluate their readiness for the forthcoming service and raise awareness about tsunami risk in the region around the WTAD. I would therefore encourage all NEAMTWS Member States to participate in the NEAMWave23 Exercise.

You are kindly invited to provide the details or any updates (not solely for the exercise) concerning your Tsunami National Contact (TNC), Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP), National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) and Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs) to the ICG/NEAMTWS Secretariat by e-mail to [d.chang-seng@unesco.org](mailto:d.chang-seng@unesco.org) using the attached form no later than 15 September 2023. I also kindly encourage you to disseminate copies of this letter to the appropriate organizations and authorities within your country.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

*[signed]*

Vladimir Ryabinin  
Executive Secretary

A summary of important dates

**Before Exercise**

**15 August 2023:** Publication of NEAMWave Exercise Brief (Arabic, French and Spanish) and Exercise Manual.

**15 September 2023:** Deadline for providing updates regarding National Contact (TNC), Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP), National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) and Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs) to the ICG/NEAMTWS Secretariat through official channels (e.g., UNESCO Permanent Delegation) using the attached nomination form.

**10 October 2023:** Deadline for online subscription to the exercise at the [online platform](#) open from 15 August 2023.

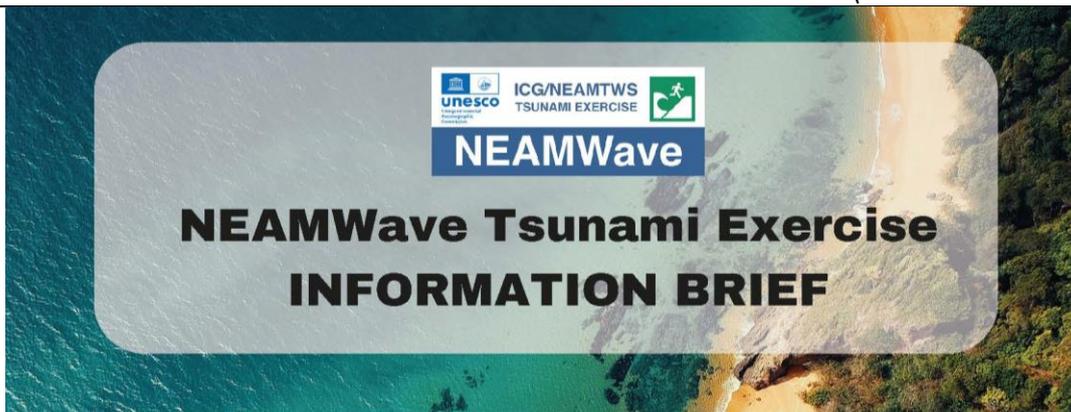
**After Exercise**

**17 November 2023:** Evaluation questionnaires completed by all participants.

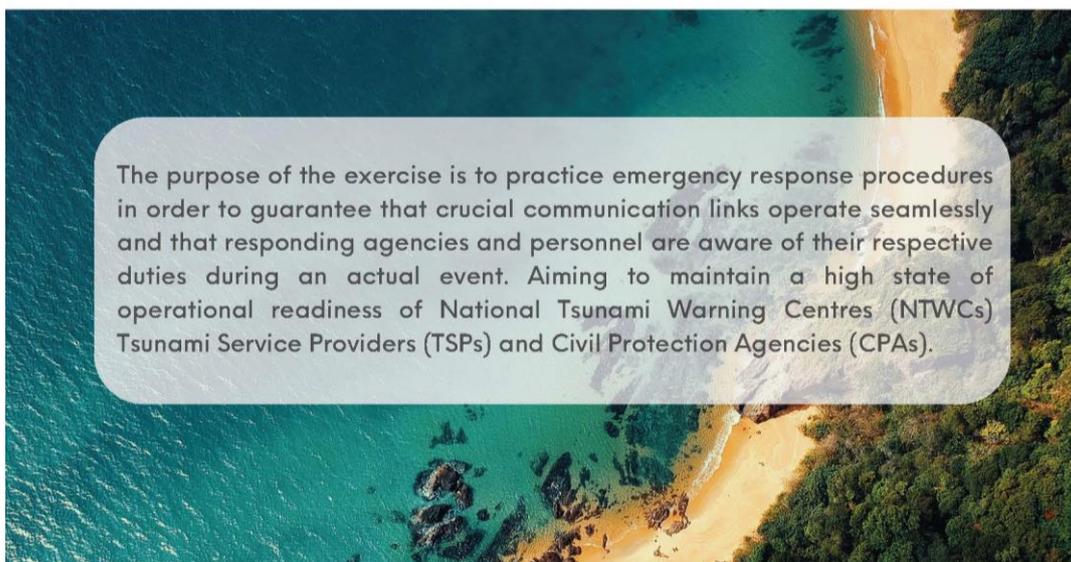
**15 December 2023:** Detailed Evaluation reports by TSPs submitted.

*All above documents and resources will be available at the [online platform](#).*

Enclosures (2): 1/ NEAMWave Exercise Brief (English only)  
2/ Nomination Form for TNC, TWFP, NTWC



This information brief aims to give a general understanding of the NEAMWave exercise's scope, description, and participation requirements. It also identifies some potential benefits of the exercise.



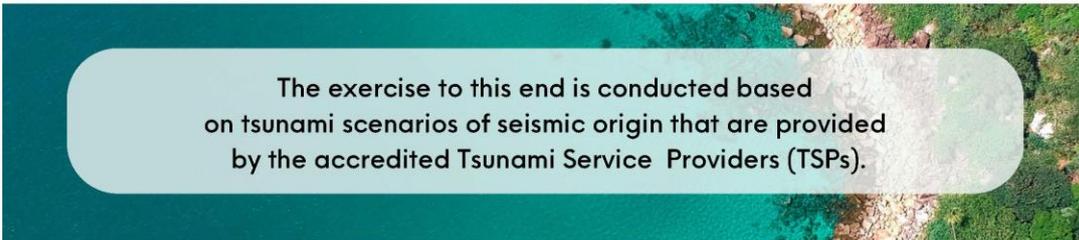
The NEAMWave exercise is designed to evaluate the national and local warning dissemination and response mechanisms put in place by Member State Civil Protection Authorities (CPAs) upon receipt of a tsunami warning message from their Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs) in the North-eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean, and Connected Seas (NEAM) region.



National emergency managers and civil protection agencies, both at national and local levels are encouraged to actively participate in the Exercise, in cooperation with the respective Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP), NTWC, and the European Commission Emergency Response and Coordination Centre (ERCC) by:

-  Receiving the alert messages from the respective TWFP/NTWC
-  Simulating the consequent operational actions, if possible

## HOW DOES IT WORK?



The exercise to this end is conducted based on tsunami scenarios of seismic origin that are provided by the accredited Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs).

In order to attract as many participants as possible, more than one scenarios are implemented in each exercise to achieve greater geographical coverage of the NEAM region. The scenarios are usually designed and conducted by one or more TSPs:

### SINGLE SCENARIO

One scenario designed and conducted by one TSP.

### JOINT SCENARIO

Common scenario conducted in collaboration between two or more TSPs.



During the joint scenario, the TSPs will directly communicate their tsunami exercise messages to the subscribers participating in the exercise.

The NEAMWave exercise consists of three phases (Phase A, Phase B, and Phase C):

### Phase A TSPs-Alert

Simulation of the first step of the early warning process in case of a tsunamigenic seismic event, consisting of the detection of the event and the timely provision of the related alert messages by the responsible scientific institutions (the so-called Tsunami Service Providers - TSPs) to the tsunami service recipients.

The simulation continues at the national level, with the early warning provided by the TWFPs to the national CPAs and consequently, the simulation of the relative operational actions.

### Phase B CPAs - Early Action

### Phase C CPAs Requesting International Assistance

According to the scenario, the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) of the European Commission will receive one or more requests for international assistance from one or more affected countries. The Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) will be activated by the assistance request. This indicates that the CPAs taking part in the chosen scenario will also have the option to continue the simulation and send a request to ERCC for international help.

The ERCC will then conduct a Command Post Exercise to test the procedure for providing international assistance through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) to those affected countries that request it.



TSPs with a proven capability of disseminating messages using email, fax, and GTS are participating in Phase A (early warning) of NEAMWave exercises, providing Tsunami Warning Messages.

## PARTICIPATION

TWFPs, in cooperation with national and local CPAs, are invited to participate in one of the following exercise levels:

1. Orientation Exercise
2. Command Post (Drill) Exercise
3. Table-Top Exercise
4. Functional Exercise
5. Full-Scale Exercise

The Exercise Team and IOC Secretariat will inform participants when and how to subscribe to the planned exercise. The Team will also provide detailed documents to prepare for the exercise (i.e., Exercise manual).



In the case of a real event occurring during the exercise, TSPs and TWFPs/CPAs will give full priority to the event and a decision will be made by TSPs whether to continue or cease their participation in the exercise.

## BENEFITS



European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (UCPM) of ERCC participating actively by taking part in a CPAs-dedicated Phase C of the exercise.

Evaluating the CPA's ability to respond to a local or regional tsunami emergency.



Exercising parts of the response, or simulating an entire end-to-end warning and evacuation scenario

Testing communication policies, reviewing agency Standard Operating Procedures, and promoting emergency preparedness.



Contributing to fulfilling the indicator on Preparedness concerning the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme.

Maintaining operational readiness of response agencies, staff familiarity and efficiency for the real event.



Tsunami exercises and drills are excellent ways in which to increase tsunami preparedness and awareness of coastal communities.

### Further information

Visit our websites:  
[NEAMTWS Guiding Documents and Forms](#)  
[NEAMWave exercises](#)

Contact:  
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**NORTH-EASTERN ATLANTIC, MEDITERRANEAN AND  
CONNECTED SEAS TSUNAMI WARNING AND MITIGATION  
SYSTEMS (NEAMTWS)**

**NOMINATION FORM<sup>2</sup>**

TSUNAMI NATIONAL CONTACT (TNC) NATIONAL TSUNAMI WARNING CENTRE (NTWC),  
and 24x7 TSUNAMI WARNING FOCAL POINT (TWFP)

*Note: When a new form is submitted, this form de facto replaces the old form. If communication details provided in previous forms would be kept, then they have to be repeated in the new form.*

Member States of the ICG/NEAMTWS are requested to officially update or re-confirm information on their National Tsunami Warning Centres and contact details of their Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP) in operation in the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System by filling up this updated form. Nomination forms duly completed should be sent to the IOC Executive Secretary and copy to the Technical Secretary, through one of the following channels:

1. Minister of Foreign Affairs
2. Head of the National Commission for UNESCO
3. Permanent Delegate to UNESCO

Name of Country:

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Do you agree to share your TNC, TWFP and NTWC information with other TWFP, TNC and NTWC contacts?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Definitions** (IOC EC-XLVII/Dec.3.2.1 (IV), 2014):

Tsunami National Contact (TNC): The person designated by an ICG Member State government to represent his/her country in the coordination of international tsunami warning and mitigation activities. The person is part of the main stakeholders of the national tsunami warning and mitigation system programme. The person may be the Tsunami Warning Focal Point from the national disaster management organization, from a technical or scientific institution, or from another agency with tsunami warning and mitigation responsibilities.

National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC): A centre officially designated by the government to monitor and issue tsunami warnings and other related statements within their country according to established national Standard Operating Procedures

Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP): A 24x7 point of contact (office, operational unit or position, not a person) officially designated by the NTWC or the government to receive and disseminate tsunami information from an ICG Tsunami Service Provider according to established national Standard Operating Procedures. The TWFP may or not be the NTWC.

**1. Tsunami National Contact (TNC)**

Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person in Agency or Officer in Charge: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cellular Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC)**

NTWC Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person in Agency or Officer in Charge  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP) for receiving Tsunami Bulletins

TWFP Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(if different from NTWC agency)

TWFP Agency Contact or Officer in Charge (if different from NTWC agency)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **TWFP 24x7 point of contact (office, operational unit or position, not a person):**

Name of office, operational unit or position: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cellular phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Designated Communication Method Information (operational on 24/7 basis)

Please specify GTS (WMO-Global Telecommunication System), email, SMS or Fax in a priority order. Note that all dissemination methods designated below will be made simultaneously by the NEAMTWS Tsunami Service Providers, but notification messages may reach their destinations at different times depending on the communication method.

Please note the following:

- In general, the GTS dedicated communication network provides receipt of notification messages within several minutes, whereas email and Fax may incur delays during peak usage times.
- For GTS, please include the international 4-letter GTS Location Indicators used in the abbreviated headings. Location Indicators can be found at:  
[http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/ois/Operational\\_Information/VolumeC1/CCCC\\_en.pdf](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/ois/Operational_Information/VolumeC1/CCCC_en.pdf)

For each dissemination method, please specify the mode (GTS, email, SMS or Fax) and the addresses/contact numbers to use (GTS Location Indicator, email address(es), cellular phone number(s), Fax number):

#### **Primary Method:**

Mode (GTS, email, SMS, Fax): \_\_\_\_\_

Address/contact numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Alternate 1:**

Mode (GTS, email, SMS, Fax): \_\_\_\_\_

Address/contact numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

**Alternate 2:**

Mode (GTS, email, SMS, Fax): \_\_\_\_\_

Address/contact numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

**Alternate 3:**

Mode (GTS, email, SMS, Fax): \_\_\_\_\_

Address/contact numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Please also specify telephone number for voice communication, in a priority order. In general, due to language barriers, the NEAMTWS Tsunami Service Providers do not use voice communication as the primary means of dissemination, but as a backup or for confirmation of message receipt through the above means, when urgently needed.

**Primary:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Alternate 1:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Alternate 2:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Alternate 3:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Comments:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Government Department/Agency:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_