



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

**TENTH SESSION
OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION GROUP
FOR THE TSUNAMI EARLY WARNING AND MITIGATION SYSTEM
IN THE NORTH EASTERN ATLANTIC, THE MEDITERRANEAN
AND CONNECTED SEAS (ICG/NEAMTWS-X)**

Rome, Italy 19-21 November 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with Rule of Procedure 48.3, ICG/NEAMTWS, as a primary Subsidiary Body of IOC, is required to report to a Governing Body on its sessions.

The IOC Executive Council at its 47th session will be invited to consider this Executive Summary.

1. The Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and connected seas (ICG/NEAMTWS) was hosted by Italy in Rome, from 19 to 21 November 2013 at the Italian Department for Civil Protection.
2. **The ICG welcomed** the continuation of the interim operational phase of NEAMTWS, through the Candidate Tsunami Watch Providers (CTWPs) of France, Greece, and Turkey, and the steady progress made towards the provision of tsunami watch services for the region by Italy and Portugal. **The ICG also welcomed** the progress made by Israel, Morocco, Romania and Spain towards the creation of their national tsunami warning centres (NTWCs).
3. **The ICG decided** that, following the success of the full-scale exercise NEAMWave12 involving 18 countries from the NEAM region, to conduct in the fourth quarter of 2014 an exercise named NEAMWave14 to test the readiness of the system and of the Member States, and to improve the participation of Civil Protection Authorities.
4. **The ICG decided** to conduct Communication Test Exercises by CTWPs on a quarterly and rotational basis based on a scenario event to be disseminated to all Member States TWFPs starting in the second quarter of 2014.

5. **The ICG confirmed** the continuation of the Working Groups, as follows: Working Group 1 – Hazard Assessment and Modelling; Working Group 2 – Seismic and Geophysical Measurements; Working Group 3 – Sea Level Data Collection and Exchange, Including Offshore Tsunami Detection and Instruments; and Working Group 4 – Public Awareness, Preparedness and Mitigation.
6. **The ICG established** a Task Team on Communication Test and a Task Team on Tsunami Exercises for the next intersessional period.
7. **The ICG confirmed** the continuation of the Steering Committee composed by the Officers and the Co-chairs of the Working Groups and the Task Teams, and representatives of CTWPs.
8. **The ICG acknowledged** the important results obtained by the Tsunami Information Centre for the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas (NEAMTIC; neamtic.ioc-unesco.org) project and recommended to increase education and awareness raising activities in the NEAM region and to strengthen the cooperation between NEAMTIC and Working Group 4 – Public Awareness, Preparedness and Mitigation.
9. **The ICG reiterated** that there are still gaps in the seismic and sea-level networks in North Africa. A more sustained effort by IOC with technical missions and technical assistance, workshops for seismic and sea-level communities, and awareness and preparedness raising could likely lead to more engagement with those Member States.
10. **The ICG elected** Professor Ahmet Cevdet Yalciner (Turkey) as Chair and Mr Pierluigi Soddu (Italy) as Vice-Chair of the ICG. Mr Trevor Guymer (United Kingdom) was re-elected as Vice-Chair.
11. **The ICG adopted** Decision ICG/NEAMTWS-X.I.
12. The session was attended by 74 participants from 20 Member States, and three observer organizations. The need for a stronger cooperation with the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE-EWS) was reiterated and reinforced by the presence of the Chair of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS. Several emergency response agencies were also represented. The percentage of women attending ICG/NEAMTWS-X was 23%.
13. The eleventh session of ICG/NEAMTWS will take place from 12 to 14 November 2014 in Nicosia, Cyprus.

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Decision ICG/NEAMTWS-X.I

The Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas (ICG/NEAMTWS),

Having met for its 10th Session in Rome, Italy, 19-21 November 2013,

Having reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the NEAMTWS,

Noting furthermore the positive results of the extended communication tests since the ninth session and of the first tsunami exercise for the region, NEAMWave12,

Welcoming the continuation of the interim operational phase of NEAMTWS, through the activities of candidate Tsunami Watch Providers (CTWPs) in France, Greece and Turkey,

Welcoming the commitments by Italy and Portugal to announce the establishment of their national tsunami warning centres in early 2014 and to provide CTWP services in the second half of 2014,

Urges those Member States who have not yet subscribed through the IOC to the services of the CTWPs to do so as soon as possible,

Requests the Executive Secretary to contact Member States

- who have not nominated or verified both TWFPs and TNCs,
- who have not provided tsunami forecast points,

and remind them to urgently do so;

Noting with concern that the continuation of the NEAMTWS Secretariat is not assured beyond April 2014,

Requests the Co-chairs of the Working Groups and of the Task Team to prepare, in consultation with the Members of their respective Working Groups or Task Team, a plan of action for the intersessional period and submit it to the IOC Secretariat no later than the end of January 2014;

Decides:

- (i) To terminate the Task Team on Communication Test and Tsunami Exercises and to replace it with the Task Team on Communication Tests and the Task Team on Tsunami Exercises, with Terms of Reference as outlined in Annexes 1 and 2 hereafter,
- (ii) To continue the activities of the Steering Committee during the intersessional period with the Terms of Reference in Annex 3 hereafter,
- (iii) To produce by 1 March 2014 a WG2 inventory of the existing seismic and geodetic networks in the NEAM region that are being used or that are potentially available for NEAMTWS,
- (iv) To conduct quarterly non-dummy Communication Test Exercises based on a scenario event. The responsibility for leading the non-dummy CTE will rotate among the CTWPs and start in the second quarter of 2014. The messages will be disseminated to all Member States starting in the second quarter of 2014,
- (v) To continue with the regular dummy Communication Test Exercises conducted every month between CTWPs and their subscribers,
- (vi) To conduct NEAMWave14 based on scenario events in Black Sea, Mediterranean and North-East Atlantic with the aim of utilizing new communication technologies adopted during the previous inter-sessional period and seeking a higher level of Civil Protection Agency (CPA) participation;

Recommends:

- (i) That the Steering Committee via the Working Groups:
 - directs efforts towards simulation-based forecast,
 - directs efforts towards gaining a better knowledge on the tsunami source,
 - considers uncertainty in the whole warning chain to provide best information at the end user level,

- investigates the need to add information to messages on the method used (e.g. modelling, decision matrix, database) and to add suitable advice that, in case of multiple messages, all should be considered taking the worst case if unsure,
 - reviews the ICG/NEAMTWS documents in order to identify proposals for modifications to be approved during the next ICG/NEAMTWS session,
- (ii) that, as a priority, all sea-level data should be made available to the CTWPs and NTWCs using bilateral agreements between NTWCs whenever possible,
- (iii) that strong efforts be made by Member States to increase the number of sea-level stations available, particularly in the North of Africa, and reduce sampling and latency to one minute or less as far as possible,
- (iv) to increase the number of stations uploading sea-level data to the GTS in the NEAM region to facilitate access by other ICGs,
- (v) that Member States invite and encourage Civil Protection Authorities to participate actively in ICG/NEAMTWS and for TNCs and NTWCs to regularly inform national Civil Protection Authorities and Disaster Management Organizations about NEAMTWS activities and developments,
- (vi) to increase awareness raising and education activities in the NEAM region and to strengthen the cooperation with NEAMTIC follow-up activities through WG4,
- (vii) Member States to consider the conduct of a full-scale Tsunami Exercise in 2016 in the framework of the activities of European Commission – Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO),
- (viii) CTWPs to test new communication technologies and products;

Welcomes the offer of France and Italy to lead planning, conduct and evaluation of NEAMWave14 and **encourages** all Member States to participate;

Acknowledges the assistance provided by the European Commission Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid Office (DG ECHO) towards the completion of NEAMTIC and the continued support of the EC and JRC in capacity development, including infrastructure and research;

Agrees to exchange information with ICG/CARIBE-EWS as appropriate and to invite its Chair to participate in the Task Team for Tsunami Exercises;

Welcomes the invitation by the Chair of ICG/CARIBE-EWS to participate in CARIBEWave 2014;

Thanks Italy for hosting the tenth session of ICG/NEAMTWS and expresses its condolences over the loss of life as a result of the extreme environmental event in Sardinia the day preceding the ICG.

English only

Annex 1 to Decision ICG/NEAMTWS-X.I

Terms of Reference of the ICG/NEAMTWS Task Team on the Communication Test Exercises

Mandate

The Task Team will:

1. Refine procedures for testing the communication of tsunami alert messages between CTWPs and TWFPs, including a review of latency and availability.
2. Contribute to reviewing and proposing amendments to the relevant parts of the Interim Operational Users Guide in the light of experience with the tests.
3. Plan, conduct, evaluate and validate quarterly CTEs organized by CTWPs on rotational basis
4. Report progress to ICG/NEAMTWS-XI

Modus operandi

The Task Team will mainly work by correspondence, but hold a meeting in March 2014, and if required, another one in preparation for the next ICG meeting.

Membership

The ICG officers

- Chairs or co-chairs of existing NEAMTWS Task Teams and Working Groups
- Representatives of candidate TWPs
- Experts designated by Member States having interest in participating in the system (NTWCs, TWFPs, TNCs, Civil Protection authorities)
- Representatives of relevant organizations working in the NEAMTWS region

Annex 2 to Decision ICG/NEAMTWS-X.I

Terms of Reference of the ICG/NEAMTWS Task Team on Tsunami Exercises

Mandate

The Task Team will:

1. Plan, conduct and evaluate NEAMWave14, together with the Exercise Team*
2. Report progress to ICG/NEAMTWS-XI

Modus operandi

The Task Team will mainly work by correspondence, but hold a meeting in March 2014, and if required, another one in preparation for the next ICG meeting.

Membership

The ICG officers

- Chairs or co-chairs of existing NEAMTWS Task Teams and Working Groups
- Representatives of candidate TWPs
- Experts designated by Member States having interest in participating in the system (NTWCs, TWFPs, TNCs, Civil Protection authorities)
- Representatives of relevant organizations working in the NEAMTWS region
- Representative of ICG CARIBE-EWS

* Exercise Team: Current and previous co-chairs of TT-CTE, WG1 (Hazard Assessment and Modelling), WG4 (Public Awareness, Preparedness and Mitigation), Chairperson of NEAMTWS, members of the IOC Secretariat.

Annex 3 to Decision ICG/NEAMTWS-X.I

Terms of Reference of the ICG/NEAMTWS Steering Committee

Mandate

The Steering Committee shall coordinate and integrate the work of ICG/NEAMTWS in the intersessional periods, as implemented through the various working groups and task teams, including but not limited to:

- Monitor performance and interoperability of the NEAMTWS and report to ICG/NEAMTWS.
- Implement decisions and recommendations of the ICG and provide strategic advice on the implementation of the NEAMTWS.
- Identify relevant funding sources taking account of the resource implications of approved activities.
- Facilitate implementation at the level of the ICG of relevant resolutions, decisions and recommendations of the IOC Governing Bodies.
- Evaluate the feasibility of implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG) in NEAMTWS.
- Develop and maintain the NEAMTWS Implementation Plan, Interim Operations Users Guide, and Development Plan.
- Examine continuing compliance of Tsunami Watch Providers (TWPs) with the adopted operational and organizational function and requirements.
- Implement the procedures as adopted and the ToRs for the accreditation of Candidate Tsunami Watch Providers (CTWPs).
- Nominate accreditation teams, foster the accreditation process during the coming year and assist in seeking funds for the visits.

- Continue the tasks initiated by the ICG/NEAMTWS Task Team on the Multi-hazard Approach to Coastal Inundation that is, identifying relevant national and international activities and the scope for linkage with NEAMTWS.
- Liaise with the Steering Committees or equivalent structures of other ICGs.

Modus operandi

The Steering Committee will mainly work by correspondence, but hold a coordination meeting prior to each ICG session. Other meetings will be held as needed.

Membership

The ICG/NEAMTWS Officers (Chair and two Vice-Chairs)

The Co-chairs of ICG/NEAMTWS Working Groups and Task Teams

Representatives of all TWPs/CTWPs

ANNEX I

AGENDA

- 1. OPENING**
- 2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION**
 - 2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
 - 2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR
 - 2.3 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION, TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION
 - 2.4 ESTABLISHMENT OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS
- 3. REPORTS ON ICG/NEAMTWS INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**
 - 3.1 REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON
 - 3.2 REPORT BY IOC SECRETARIAT
 - 3.3 REPORT BY TOWS-WG
 - 3.4 REPORT BY THE WORKING GROUPS AND TASK TEAMS
 - 3.5 REPORT BY OTHER ICGS
 - 3.6 REPORTS BY OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
- 4. IMPLEMENTATION**
 - 4.1 STATUS FOR ESTABLISHMENT AND REPORT OF NATIONAL TSUNAMI WARNING CENTERS AND TSUNAMI WATCH PROVIDERS
 - 4.2 TSUNAMI INFORMATION CENTER (NEAMTIC)
 - 4.3 EVALUATION OF NEAMWAVE12 AND DISCUSSION ON NEAMWAVE14
- 5. ELECTIONS OF THE ICG/NEAMTWS OFFICERS FOR 2014-2015**
- 6. PROGRAMME FOR 2014**
 - 6.1 ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED FOR 2014, INCLUDING NEAMWAVE14
 - 6.2 ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS AND TASK TEAMS
- 7. DATE AND PLACE FOR ICG/NEAMTWS-XI**
- 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 9. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 10. CLOSING**