

20th Meeting of the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Steering Committee

FINAL **MEETING REPORT**

20 February 2025
Geneva, Switzerland

Summary of Proceedings and Decisions

1. The 20th Meeting of the CREWS Steering Committee was held in Geneva, Switzerland on 20 February 2025.
2. Representatives from CREWS Contributing Members participated in-person at the meeting: Canada, France, Finland, Germany, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom (Chair). Austria and Monaco participated online as well as a representative from Ireland and Co-Chair of SOFF, as Observer. Australia, Luxembourg and the Netherlands were not able to participate.
3. Participating as Observers in-person were representatives from the International Federation of the Red Cross Red Crescent (IFRC), the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the Risk Informed Early Action Partnership (REAP), and the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) secretariat. Invited representatives of the Africa Union Commission (AUC), of the African Center of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), and the Weather Ready Pacific initiative attended for specific agenda items.
4. The World Bank/Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (WB/GFDRR), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) as well as the CREWS Trustee from the World Bank, and the CREWS Secretariat participated as Observers. See Annex 1 – List of Participants.
5. Summary of principal decisions:
 - The Steering Committee agree to strengthening the voice and perspectives of LDCs and SIDS in the Steering Committee and invited the Secretariat, along with interested Members, to further elaborate options, for review and discussion at the 21st Meeting.
 - The Steering Committee welcomed and noted that the review and consultations leading to a CREWS 2030 Strategy are on track, invited the Secretariat to include views and recommendations expressed at the Meeting and, to share in advance of the 21st Meeting initial findings of the review and a first draft of the Strategy.
 - The Steering Committee approved the Updated Pipeline List, to guide future financing decisions, and invited the Secretariat to present at the 21st Meeting options for the Steering Committee on how to engage and contribute to the pipelining process.
 - The Steering Committee approved the nomination of Canada as the next Chair of the Steering Committee. Canada will be invited to take its function at the 21st Meeting.

Agenda Item 1 – Opening

6. The Chair welcomed the participants and outlined the main objectives of the Meeting:
 - To review the status of the CREWS Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF) and of the work of the Secretariat since the last meeting.
 - To invite an initial set of views on a proposed modification to the CREWS Governance by inviting representatives of LDCs and SIDS on the Steering Committee
 - To discuss preliminary findings on the future of CREWS and invite views from Members on the directions, operational scope, strategic partnerships and level of ambition to inform the next

phase of the CREWS initiative.

- To review the status of projects under preparation by the Implementing Partners and approve the revised Pipeline list of countries to inform future financing.
 - To discuss CREWS alignment with the Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System (AMHEWAS) Programme and to hear from the Director General of ACMAD, a key institution in the Africa region for the provision of weather and climate information.
 - To agree on CREWS contributions to upcoming events, select the next Chair and dates and venue for the 21st and 22nd Meetings of the Steering Committee.
7. The Secretariat provided updates on the status of progress on decisions taken at the previous meeting (CREWS/SC.20/infdoc.1). All the decisions taken at the last meeting had been acted on with some of the decisions part of the day's meeting agenda.
8. The meeting agenda was adopted (CREWS/SC.20/workdoc.1).

Agenda Item 2 – Status of CREWS Operations

9. The Trustee provided an update on the status of the FIF since the last meeting (CREWS/SC.20/infdoc.2). Total contributions and pledges to date amount to USD 137.9 million with USD 127.9 million received in the Trust Fund as of 31 December 2024. Funds available to support Steering Committee decisions is USD 26.73 million. Pledges and outstanding contributions amount to USD 9.97 million. Total potential resources for decisions at the 20th meeting are USD 36.70 million.
10. The Secretariat provided updates on its activities from July – December 2024 (CREWS/SC.20/infdoc3). Report included updates on new project approved; the roll-out of the GCF-CREWS Scaling Up Framework, including the approval of the 1st scale up project under the framework for Togo; the training and roll-out of the CREWS Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) framework and the procurement of an online results tracking system; updates on the Accreditation Framework, receipt of applications from the ITU and IFRC and appointment of the two Accreditation Panel Members; latest news on partnerships such as strengthening engagement with the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), as well as priorities for the next six months for the Secretariat.
11. The Chair acknowledged the assurance from the Secretariat that the roll-out of the accreditation framework is on-track and that there is good engagement from the ITU and the IFRC in the process.
12. The CREWS consultant for the Annual Report, Becky Venton, provided the plan and proposed outline for the CREWS 2024 Annual Report. It was mentioned that many of the features from previous versions of the report with key figures recognizing the growth of the CREWS portfolio, highlighting key achievements through case studies would still be included in the 2024 version. The aim is to have a concise but informative report and to produce a digital version. The target launch of the report is in June 2025 during the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR).
13. Representative from France noted on the need to continue presenting key numbers and consistency in the information in the CREWS website and the Annual Report, particularly on the list of countries. The Secretariat provided assurance that the Annual Report will provide latest figures not just on how many outputs have been produced by CREWS projects, but also how many

people have access to early warning services.

14. The Secretariat also pointed out the need to update the reporting line of the Head of CREWS Secretariat in the Governance document following the appointment of the new WMO Executive Management and establishment of a new organizational structure. The Head of CREWS Secretariat now reports administratively to the Assistant Secretary-General. Another change to be reflected is that the Steering Committee has now put in place an Accreditation Framework for Implementing Partners.
15. France suggested to keep the accreditation framework eligibility in general terms rather than specify which agencies can apply to avoid constantly updating the Governance Document.
16. The Chair drew attention to the Proposal for Modifications to the Membership of the CREWS Steering Committee (CREWS/SC.20/workdoc.3). The overall intent is to ask for guidance and agreement on widening the membership of the Steering Committee to include representatives from CREWS programme countries in LDCs and SIDS with the objective of making CREWS decision-making more effective, more responsive and more impactful. There is a precedent on this amongst other FIFs.
17. Representative from Switzerland welcomed the idea in principle. There needs to be a discussion on the right modality and mechanism to engage the partner programme countries. The decision-making in CREWS has, to date, been done by consensus, hence the participants from LDCs and SIDS need to be representative and provides more accountability but not too complex.
18. Representative from Finland appreciated the proposal. Finland is supportive to the idea of working more closely with partner countries and be more responsive to their needs. However, CREWS must distinguish itself from GCF and GEF as those mechanisms were created out of different climate conventions and receive guidance and regular replenishments from COPs. Also, there needs to be a discussion on the level of expectations. The LDCs and SIDS are not a homogenous group and have varying contexts. One representative may not know all the details in all countries. Overall, Finland notes that the thinking on the modalities of involvement could be part of the discussions on the CREWS 2030 Strategy.
19. Representative from Canada noted the pivotal time for CREWS with the new strategy being developed to reinforce its commitment to strongly consider the perspectives from those at the receiving end of CREWS support. It is important to strike a balance with the requirements and expectations given to the Members by the taxpayers in the respective countries to play a steward role on the use of their hard-earned incomes. Canada agrees to the principle to have LDC and SIDS representation and agreed with the proposal to discuss different means to engage them without necessarily having them as decision-making members of the Steering Committee.
20. Representative from Germany mentioned that having representation and voices of the LDCs and SIDS well-integrated into the work of CREWS would be a game-changer in its medium and long-term success. Similar questions were raised on what the CREWS Steering Committee is trying to achieve with this proposal and what could be the best modality to engage.
21. Representative from the United Kingdom welcomed the proposal as it is important to provide a wider representation and perspectives from other countries to inform on CREWS programmes.

22. Representative from Norway also agreed in principle but also expressed similar concerns. It was suggested to learn from experiences of other mechanisms, such as SOFF that has LDC and SIDS representative in their Steering Committee. Representative from SOFF explained that representatives from LDCs and SIDS are represented in the SOFF Steering Committee as an Observer and not as decision-maker.
23. Representative from IFRC expressed that it is important to have representation but challenging as well. Representation is a good way to frame it rather than aiming for fully inclusive participation.
24. Representative from France pointed to the costs implications of having LDC and SIDS representatives attend Steering Committee meetings.
25. Representative from Austria agreed that representation is important but need to find efficient ways to engage the LDCs and SIDS and membership in the Steering Committee may not be the best one.
26. Canada suggested that holding one of the Steering Committee meetings in a partner country can be a way to closely engage with those CREWS hopes to serve and support. Canada expressed willingness to work with the Secretariat in crafting the potential options for engagement.
27. The Chair brought up a proposal related to the grade/level of the Head of the CREWS Secretariat. In 2018, WMO established the Head of Secretariat post at the P5 level (This is a United Nations category and level of staff) and recruited through a competitive process. Since then, CREWS has grown in both financing and scope. Further, it is the objective of the CREWS Steering Committee to support the medium-term effectiveness of the initiative and prepare for and anticipate changes ahead. Hence, it was proposed by the Chair to review the current level of the Head of CREWS Secretariat and request support from the WMO on the process to move that forward. All Members agreed to this proposal. The WMO representative indicated that once the request is formally received, it would pursue this position's review and collaborate with the Steering Committee and the Secretariat.

Decision: The Steering Committee approves the revisions to the CREWS Governance document reflecting the approval of the Accreditation Framework and update of the reporting line of the Head of the CREWS Secretariat.

Decision: The Steering Committee agree to strengthening the voice and perspectives of LDCs and SIDS in the Steering Committee and invites the Secretariat, with interested Members, to further elaborate options for review and discussion at the 21st Meeting.

Decision: The Steering Committee invites the World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) Human Resource (HR) department to provide advice on the appropriate level/band of the Head of CREWS Secretariat position to better reflect its roles and responsibilities.

Agenda Item 3 – CREWS Strategy 2030

28. The Secretariat updated on the status of the review of the CREWS initiative, which would be important input to the CREWS 2030 Strategy Development. The CREWS Members approved the Terms of Reference and budget at the 6th inter-sessional meeting. The review would look into the

relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and impact of CREWS for the period 2021 – 2024. The external reviewer would be engaged and begin the process in March 2025.

29. The Chair invited Kara Siahaan, CREWS consultant, to provide updates on the consultations held so far. The Steering Committee was reminded of the 5 building blocks of the Strategy, namely, operational modalities, strategic partnership, scope, policy alignment and scale of ambition. The agreed updated workplan was shared as well. Highlights of the discussions, including both on emphasized recurrent topics and emerging topics to be addressed per building block were shared (CREWS/SC.20/infdoc.4).
30. Representative from UNDRR suggested the integration of extreme heat and emphasis on the use of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies. Further, the systematic application of EW4ALL tools and methodologies can be useful to guide CREWS financing decisions. There is a need to show closer coordination between early warning and the loss and damage agenda. Involvement of the National Disaster Management Agencies also crucial to address the full early warning value chain.
31. Representative from the World Bank/GFDRR emphasized on the need to focus on objectives and outcomes.
32. Representative from Canada emphasized the need to sustain the political momentum beyond EW4ALL since CREWS will remain relevant after 2027. Financial resources are limited and there are priorities gaining momentum. CREWS must understand how it could fit within a certain context and within issues such as security, migration and others. The scale of ambition must be right and there is opportunity to collaborate further with SOFF and the broader early warning ecosystem.
33. Representative from IFRC mentioned that not all CREWS projects require community engagement. It would depend on the needs and context. However, when designing a CREWS project, there should be no exclusion in order to define the right interventions and focus. With the inclusion of ITU and IFRC as additional implementing partners, this would mean that there would be better collective efforts in designing activities and fewer blind spots. CREWS needs to continue to be catalytic and focus on where it could have the most added value.
34. Representative from France said that the CREWS 2030 strategy needs to be clear on what are the outcomes envisaged on the ground and that early warnings lead to anticipatory action. CREWS needs to take advantage of the political momentum brought by the loss and damage discussion. This is written in the Paris Agreement, hence clear alignment between CREWS and the loss and damage agenda must be shown and its part of the funding arrangements be demonstrated. CREWS is working and needs to build on that success and its successful partnerships, for instance with the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
35. Ownership is the key, noted by Germany. CREWS must use this ownership to excite its partners to further strengthen its operations to have concrete outcomes delivered. It was noted that focusing on FCV-context should be lesser since for CREWS to operate effectively, there needs to be a minimum level of governance to make it work and anchor it institutionally.
36. Norway reiterated on the need to recognize the current financial situation. The regional ownership in CREWS must be strengthened. CREWS has to continue to anchor on national priorities as mentioned in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

37. CREWS needs to define what success is and its vision from now until 2030, noted by the United Kingdom. Anticipatory action is crucial to ensure early warnings are turned into action. People-centred early warning is aligned with the UK's priorities. On programming in FCVs, the interventions need to be tailored in those contexts. Subnational and local actors' engagement is important and IFRC can play a role in that. Access to finance for local actors is needed as well as part of locally led adaptation.
38. ITU welcomes the focus on innovation and the opportunity to expand and substantiate early warning messages. There is a need to bridge the digital divides and ITU is looking forward to contributing.
39. Switzerland agreed on the need to measure success but also on the need to define on what are the failures and learn from them. Sustainability is vital.
40. REAP notes that CREWS is working on mutual dependency with different actors in the EWS ecosystem. Hence, this has to be built on. There is a need to recognize the skills and mandate of every organization and initiative.
41. ACMAD representative echoed the issues put forward: (i) trust and ownership is vital; (ii) sustainability is important and to be considered from the onset; (iii) failure also needs to be documented and considered; (iv) local knowledge has to be considered.
42. Representative from Finland reflected on ensuring alignment, in particular strategic level alignment and national alignment. If CREWS has a clear focus, then other partners can easily align.
43. UK Met echoed the need for regional strengthening and have regional organizations lead CREWS programs. CREWS is also strong in its regional approach. Further, there is a need to understand the socio-economic benefits of early warning.
44. WMO Representative noted that the emerging topics presented resonated well with WMO's priorities: impact-based forecasting, working with artificial intelligence, CREWS as catalyst at the national and regional levels with sustainability in mind. Concept of anticipatory action is key. WMO also appreciates the work with the NMHSs to provide technical assistance. The focus on outcomes is important and this can be evident in anticipatory action, which helps everyone along the chain to prove value and input. Prominence of extreme events is a driver for action and must address its increase. Flooding is a priority for WMO and looking for CREWS support to that. CREWS must preserve what it has invested.

Decision: The Steering Committee notes that the review and consultations leading to a CREWS 2030 Strategy are on track, invites the Secretariat to include views and recommendations expressed at the Meeting and, to share in advance of the 21st Meeting initial findings of the review and a first draft of the Strategy.

Agenda Item 4 – Status and Decisions on CREWS Programmes

45. The Secretariat provided a presentation on the interim status of the CREWS portfolio covering the period January – December 2024 (CREWS/SC.20/infdoc.5). The interim report is based on submitted project status reports from the Implementing Partners and records of the Secretariat. It provides a

status update on CREWS projects, key challenges, financial leverage and scaling up efforts.

46. Nine country projects, nine regional projects and one multi-country projects are ongoing. The partners reported that 13 projects are on-track and six with moderate progress in terms of rate of delivery and rate of expenditure. There are nine ongoing ASW actions, of which eight are on-track and one requested for an extension due to delays in its initiation.

47. There are ten projects expected to be completed in 2025; three projects ending in 2026 and two projects with due completion date in 2028. Four ASW projects have been completed.

48. Haiti, Mali and Niger are high-risk projects with specific mitigation measures put in-place and continuous monitoring by the Implementing Partners.

49. A total of USD 110 million was leveraged for national institutions via CREWS investments.

50. Some key project highlights were also shared: (i) Burkina Faso's new forecast system co-financed by the GCF and CREWS; (ii) West Africa's 10-day flood forecasting system and regional early warning integration; (iii) launch of the Tonga weather applications; and (iv) diagnosis, capacity building plan and multi-risk early warning system roadmap developed for Benin.

51. As of date, seven projects' preparations are under development and will be circulated for review and approval; seven projects are at different stages of development under the GCF-CREWS Scaling Up framework.

52. France noted that it would be interested to understand why the EW4ALL multi-country project risk status is medium.

53. The Chair invited CREWS to look at the risk to its portfolio following the aid freeze by the United States which has changed the early warning ecosystem.

54. Representatives from the lead Implementing Partners for each CREWS project under preparation were requested to provide updates on the status of project development (CREWS/SC.20/infdoc.6). There are seven projects approved for preparation at the 18th and 19th CREWS Steering Committee meetings.

- South-Asia sub-regional project – draft proposal submitted to the Secretariat for review on 7th February 2025 and would aim to enhance regional collaboration among hydromet services through the South Asia Hydromet Forum (SAHF), improve service delivery capacity and explore private sector engagement for better early warning services;
- Two proposals for the Pacific region are expected to be submitted in March. For both proposals, extensive consultation processes were carried out through workshops, project meetings, multilateral meetings and consultations with regional technical partners;
- Phase 2 proposal for Cambodia and Lao PDR (South-east Asia subregional project) is expected

to be submitted as well in March. A number of consultations with partners were held, including several writeshops. This project is designed to complement the GCF-CREWS scale up proposals in both countries;

- The proposal for West Africa phase 3 is to be submitted in May 2025. Currently, draft agreements are under preparation and Benin will be added to the list of countries to be included in this phase of the project;
- The Benin proposal would build on the results of the ASW action in Benin and would leverage on the outputs produced. It is still in early stages of preparation and a draft is expected in May 2025;
- May 2025 is also the target submission for the Dominican Republic proposal. An ASW request will be put forward to support project design.

55. Representative from the United Kingdom appreciated the updates provided, including the various consultations held with stakeholders. The UK would like to seek a discussion on what could be the ways to improve the project development process, the role of the Steering Committee in approving projects, and what further support the Implementing Partners require.

56. Canada would like to see a reflection on the extent the Steering Committee would like to empower the Secretariat in terms of steering the directions that the Implementing Partners would take in projects implementation and up to what would be the level of detail and strategic discussions that need to take place at the Steering Committee level regarding the status of projects.

57. The Chair noted that the presentation provided assurance, confidence and accountability to the CREWS Steering Committee on the status of CREWS investments in the countries and regions. However, it was mentioned that the growing number of requirements the Steering Committee asks of the Implementing Partners to consider in project design, increases the complexity and duration of project preparations.

58. The Secretariat emphasized that the Implementing Partners have the network and expertise to manage the CREWS programmes. It is in the interest of the Secretariat to ensure the robustness and solidity of the projects being prepared and submitted to the Steering Committee. Moreover, the Secretariat re-assures, through its reviews, that the projects being developed are based on the operational procedures and guidance provided. Quality assurance is undertaken prior to endorsement to the Steering Committee.

59. The Secretariat presented the latest pipeline list of countries and regions that demonstrate a readiness to initiate projects, as a basis to guide future financing decisions (CREWS/SC.20/workdoc.4). There are 12 country projects, 6 regional projects and 1 global project proposed in the pipeline list. New countries added since the 19th meeting are Bangladesh, Haiti, Nepal, Timor-Leste, Togo and regional programmes in Africa, Caribbean and the Hindu Kush Himalaya region. Countries prioritized based on needs and exposure to risks, demand for early warning and potential for resource leveraging. All proposed pipeline projects contribute to CREWS outcomes on strengthening early warning governance, improved early warning services and

ensuring gender-responsive and people-centered early warning. The total pipeline amounts to USD 78.8 million and expected to leverage USD 623.85 million from partners, including the World Bank, Adaptation Fund, GCF, UK WISER and the European Commission.

60. ITU representative expressed that ITU is looking forward to becoming a CREWS Implementing Partner. ITU is committed to strengthening early warning dissemination through digital technologies. ITU's role very much aligns with the CREWS vision by ensuring that warnings reach the most-at-risk communities through scalable multi-channel and technology driven solutions. ITU engaged closely with the CREWS Implementing Partners to enhance the understanding of priorities and needs in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and emergency telecom space and to share a more comprehensive approach to warning dissemination.

61. ITU worked with the World Bank in the submission of a CREWS pipeline proposal for the Caribbean on implementation and integration of an emergency alert system based on cell broadcast in the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL) member States. ITU stands ready to further contribute to the operationalization of CREWS projects by leveraging technology, innovation and strategic partnerships.

62. IFRC representative reiterated their commitment to work with CREWS as a future Implementing Partner. For this round of the pipeline, IFRC contributed to the development of the Nepal, Yemen and Maldives country pipeline briefs. The focus of IFRC's contributions were focused on community-based, people centered approaches across the value chain. Activities proposed were on community risk assessments to better obtain understanding from the communities on early warning effectiveness and their trust in early warning systems. IFRC also investigated the contextualized approach to early warning dissemination and response. The national societies remain committed to support capacity building at the local level, with their role as auxiliaries to public authorities to further add value to more effective provisions for early warning and anticipatory action.

Decision: The Steering Committee approves the Updated Pipeline List and invites the Secretariat to present at the 21st Meeting options for the Steering Committee on how to engage and contribute to the pipelining process.

63. The Chair invited, Catalina Jaime who is the Head of the Climate and Conflict of the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and consultant for CREWS, to provide updates on the development of the CREWS Operational Procedures on Programming in FCV-context (CREWS/SC.20/infdoc.7). As requested by the CREWS Steering Committee, the Secretariat is developing Operational Procedures for FCV settings to ensure the effective implementation of early warning systems in these challenging environments. Prior to this process, an analytical paper was developed and shared with the Implementing Partners and ongoing stakeholder engagement through interviews with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and partners, including the conduct of a survey, to further gather input and examples. The operational procedures would include guidelines on integrating FCV considerations into project planning and execution as well as defining the responsibilities of each CREWS entity. The objective of the operational procedures is to integrate

FCV sensitivity into CREWS operations, including through forming financial and operational partnerships, exploring tailored financing instruments and enhancing CREWS' response times.

64. Germany inquired on examples of tailored financing instruments for FCV can be shared. Ms. Jaime mentioned that there would be a lot of lessons that can be learned from how the World Bank in its IDA process make funding accessible to countries in different scenarios.

65. Representative from the United Kingdom supports this activity. It was noted that it is challenging to propose prescriptive approaches in difficult contexts. Tailoring and adapting and being flexible with continual learning are crucial to move this agenda forward.

66. Representative from France reminded that the Secretariat is a small team and so the expectations on the fast-tracking response times must be manageable.

67. Switzerland raised several points: (i) is the proposal compatible with the way CREWS currently operates; (ii) CREWS should not be seen as humanitarian funding mechanism; (iii) the need to consider that there are other institutions that can coordinate humanitarian response in these contexts such as OCHA and the IFRC; (iv) how to leverage the existing WMO coordination mechanism to support the humanitarian organizations. Ms. Jaime clarified that indeed CREWS is not a humanitarian agency, but it is a matter to have a better understanding of the context to enable the development of systems that could adapt to the different circumstances that could happen in those countries.

68. Representative from WB/GFDRR emphasized that even those countries that are categorized as FCVs are still very different in contexts. It is harder to build scientific capacities in FCVs that already have low capacities. Ms. Jaime noted this and in the operational procedures' emphasis would be made on the diversity of context and capacities in these countries.

Decision: The Steering Committee notes the growing importance of integrating FCV sensitivity into CREWS operations. The Steering Committee invites the Secretariat to include contributions made at the meeting, further consult with Members and to circulate a draft Operational Procedures in advance of the 21st Meeting for review and approval.

Agenda Item 5 – CREWS Strategic Partnerships

69. Several key partners were invited to provide updates on engagement with CREWS. The representative from the Weather Ready Pacific (WRP) Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) presented WRP's aim to address extreme weather events and hazards and focuses on infrastructure development (including radar network expansion) and early warning systems in Pacific Island nations. 50% of investments are going into infrastructure, including new radars in Niue, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Palau and Solomon Islands. With support from New Zealand and Australia, meteorological trainings are ongoing. Small island nations face financial challenges in maintaining this expensive infrastructure. The Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) has called for a regional approach to maintenance, leading to plans

for a Regional Instrument Center and training facility. WRP has mobilized USD 35 million of the USD 190 million funding target. Establishing a sustainable financing model remains a challenge with discussions ongoing about creating a regional financing facility. There is great interest to partner with CREWS and explore a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize the collaboration.

70. The Secretariat noted the programmatic alignment with WRP and the CREWS financing in the Pacific, including the USD 10 million pipelined for 2025. A MOU would be an important document to strengthen strategic partnership between WRP and CREWS. CREWS aligns with the aspiration of WRP to have a regionally owned programme and there are no procedural barriers to that in the context of CREWS. Both CREWS and WRP adhere to finding ways for more effective financing.
71. The representative from the African Union (AU) presented an initiative known as Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System (AMHEWAS). It was established to strengthen early warning systems across the African region focusing on hydrological and meteorological risks. It is supported financially by Italy and technically by UNDRR and CIMA Research Foundation. It works in three levels: national, regional and continental situation rooms. It encourages co-design, co-creation and co-production of early warning products with regional and national entities. Currently, AMHEWAS was able to establish 6 situation rooms at various levels, published more than 400 bulletins for disaster preparedness and conducted multiple training sessions for Member States. It is faced with the following challenges: coordination and integration among disaster agencies, need for sustainable financial support and demand to scale up implementation of the situation rooms in each Member State that operates them.
72. The director of the African Center for Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) explained that it focuses on providing advanced weather and climate information services across Africa. It also acts as a bridge for technological advances and provides training programmes for meteorologists. It is also a supporter of AMHEWAS. In terms of sectoral support, ACMAD implements activities to help provide seamless forecasts to assist the agriculture, food security, health and disaster risk reduction sectors. It ensures data accessibility for African countries by collaborating with other agencies such as the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and regional climate centers. ACMAD is pushing for the AI-driven climate modelling to enhance forecasting accuracy and hopes to expand its support. It promotes impact-based forecasting by integrating climate data with socio-economic factors. ACMAD is committed to building Africa's climate resilience and ready to support CREWS investments in the region.
73. WMO representative noted that to fill in the gap in the region on demonstrating the value added and socio-economic benefits of improved warnings and to build on the work of ACMAD and AMHEWAS, an African continental regional pipeline was proposed to CREWS. It aims to focus on the functions that are not covered by the various designated centers already working with CREWS and scaling up at the regional level. This would also allow the exchange of good practices for learning and capacity building. By supporting ACMAD, all initiatives in the region can be better aligned, the technical support being provided to the countries can be made more coherent and support will be provided through a bottom-up approach connecting better the country level warnings with the regional centers' warnings.
74. WB/GFDRR representative enquired on the broader applicability of the system and the costs it would entail to keep the system running sustainably. Further exchange on this matter may be required.

75. The Secretariat updated the meeting on its contributions to various partnerships and global events (CREWS/SC.20/infdoc.8).
76. The Secretariat has applied to the Santiago Network per the Steering Committee's decision and will inform the Steering Committee on any development and potential collaboration on early warning.
77. UNDRR reported that it serves as the official Secretariat for the G20 Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) working group. The 1st virtual meeting is scheduled on 5th March, followed by an in-person meeting on the 10th-11th of April. South Africa, as the current G20 President is leading the coordination of knowledge and agenda setting.
78. Switzerland noted that the next Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) is to be held in Geneva from 2-7 June 2025. It focuses on linking DRR with climate change and development financing. As a pre-event to the GPDRR, a Global Early Warning for All Multi-stakeholder Forum will be held from 2-3 June 2025. These events are being organized by the UNDRR and WMO. On the last day, the Swiss Government will be hosting a field visit showcasing Swiss expertise in climate adaptation, water management and disaster prevention.
79. France will provide further details on the plans for the 10th year anniversary of the Paris Agreement once the agenda has been decided. Moreover, there will be a high-level dialogue on funding arrangements on loss and damage in April. The invitations will be sent out soon and both UNDRR and WMO will be invited. The Fund Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) will also be holding its next Board meeting in Barbados in April, as well.
80. WMO reported that the Financing for Development Conference is upcoming from 30 June – 03 July 2025 to be held in Seville, Spain. WMO will be working with CREWS, SOFF, World Bank and the members of the Alliance for Hydromet Development to develop a concept note proposal for a side event focusing on financing for early warnings. Further, the WMO will be holding an extraordinary Congress in early October and one of the main themes is Early Warning for All.
81. Norway mentioned it will be hosting a High-Level Policy Forum on Financing for DRR in Oslo on the 25th to 26th of March together with UNDRR. The purpose of this high-level forum is to mobilize more resources to meet the Sendai goals.

Decision: The Steering Committee notes that the CREWS Secretariat has applied to the Santiago Network as a body that is a provider of technical assistance on early warning. The Steering Committee invites the CREWS Secretariat to provide regular updates on the status and progress on the partnership with the Santiago Network.

Agenda Item 5 – Any Other Business

82. It was agreed by Members that Canada be nominated as the next Chair of the Steering Committee, taking over from the UK, as of the 21st Meeting in June 2025. UK and Canada informed that the transition process will begin following the 20th Meeting, ensuring a smooth handover.

83. The 21st Meeting of the Steering Committee is proposed on 2^d of June alongside the GPDRR in Geneva, Switzerland.

84. The 22nd Meeting, tentatively in early 2026, is proposed to take place in an African country where CREWS has projects, allowing field visits for CREWS Contributing Members to CREWS project site.

85. There was confirmation that the CREWS FIF is in the process of being formally extended with no expected difficulties. The Trustee will report once finalized.

Decision: The Steering Committee approves the nomination of the next Chair of the Steering Committee. Canada agrees to be the next Chair and is invited to take its function at the 21st meeting.

Decision: The 21st Meeting of the Steering Committee will be held as an in-person meeting, in Geneva, Switzerland on 2 June 2025, in the margins of the Global Platform on DRR.

Decision: The 22nd Meeting of the CREWS Steering Committee will be held in the 1st quarter of 2026 potentially in connection with a visit to a CREWS project in the Africa region.

END OF MEETING

Annex 1 – List of Participants

MEMBERS	NAMES	STATUS
Austria	Traude Wollansky, BMK	Confirmed online
Canada	Francis Pigeon, ECCC	Confirmed in person
	Linh Trinh, ECCC	Confirmed in person
	Lyne Dalby, ECCC	Confirmed in person
	Heather Aucoin, ECCC	Confirmed online
Finland	Outi Myatt-Hirvonen, MFA	Confirmed in person
France	Lorelei Lankester, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs	Confirmed in person
Germany	Verena Ommer, BMZ	Confirmed in person
Monaco	Carl Dudek, Foreign Affairs and Cooperation	Confirmed online
Norway	Lars Andres Lunde, NORAD	Confirmed in person
Switzerland	Sergio Perez, SDC	Confirmed in person
	Marie Brüning, Permanent Mission	Confirmed in person
UK (Chair)	Gerard Howe, FCDO	Confirmed in person
	Jo Moore, FCDO	Confirmed in person
	Aleks Ciezarek, FCDO	Confirmed in person
OBSERVERS/COUNTRIES	NAMES	STATUS
Ireland	Karina McGinley	Confirmed online
TRUSTEE	NAMES	STATUS
	Larissa Vovk	Confirmed in person
	Chalida Chararnsuk	Confirmed in person
IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	NAME	STATUS

UNDRR	Loretta Hieber Girardet	Confirmed in person
	Sujit Kumar Mohanty	Confirmed in person
	Richard Bailey	Confirmed in person
	Stefanie Dannenmann-Di Palma	Confirmed online
	Andrew Spezowka	Confirmed in person
World Bank	Niels Holm-Nielsen	Confirmed in person
	Henriette Mampuya	Confirmed in person
	Hugo Wesley	Confirmed in person
WMO	Ko Barrett	Confirmed in person
	Daniel Kull	Confirmed in person
	Jean Baptiste Migraine	Confirmed in person
OBSERVERS/PARTNERS	NAMES	STATUS
ACMAD	Ousmane Ndiaye	Confirmed in person
	Nshimirimana Godefroid	Confirmed in person
Africa Union Commission	Harsen Nyambe	Confirmed online
	Teresa Pinto	Confirmed online
	Jolly Wasambo	Confirmed online
	Nomsa Dude	Confirmed online
IFRC	Stephanie Julmy	Confirmed in person
	Jon Stone	Confirmed in person
	Jurg Wilbrink	Confirmed in person
ITU	Vanessa Gray	Confirmed in person
	Anna Perlin	Confirmed in person
	Galimira Markova	Confirmed in person
REAP	Gavin White	Confirmed in person

SOFF	Ana Heureux	Confirmed in person
SECRETARIAT	NAMES	STATUS
	John Harding	Confirmed in person
	Maria Lourdes Macasil	Confirmed in person
	Catherine Thompson	Confirmed in person
	Yi Wang	Confirmed in person
	Chiara Ditunno	Confirmed in person
	Kara Siahaan (Consultant)	Confirmed in person
	Drorima Chatterjee (Intern)	Confirmed in person
	Hap Rothsopong (Intern)	Confirmed in person
	Becky Venton (Consultant)	Confirmed online
	Catalina Jaime (Consultant)	Confirmed online

Annex 2 –Agenda | 20 February 2025

09.00 – 09.15 Item 1 – Opening

- Welcome by the Chair and objectives of the Meeting
- Review of progress on decisions taken at the 19th meeting
- Adoption of the Agenda

09.15 – 10.00 Item 2 – Status of CREWS Operations

- Update by the Trustee on the status of the CREWS Trust Fund
- Update by the Secretariat on its activities since the 19th Meeting
- Revisions to the CREWS Governance document
- Proposal of modifications to the membership of the Steering Committee to include representatives from LDCs and SIDS

10.00 – 10.15 Coffee/Tea Break

10.15-12.30 Item 3 – CREWS 2030 Strategy

- Provide views on initial issues and directions emerging from the consultations leading to the CREWS Strategy 2030 around its five building blocks

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch

13.30 – 15.30 Item 4 – Status and Decisions on CREWS Programmes

- Portfolio Status Report for 2024
- Status of preparation of projects approved for full proposal development
- Programming and financing priorities based on the status of needs, demand and leveraging potential indicated in the updated list of pipeline countries
- Update on the development of CREWS Operational Procedures in Fragile, Conflict and Violence settings (FCVs)

Item 5 – CREWS Strategic Partnerships

- Africa Multi-hazard Early Warning and Early Action System (AMHEWAS)
Presented by African Union Commission (AUC)
- Weather Ready Pacific Programme (WRP), updated by SPREP

15.30 – 15.45 Coffee/Tea Break

15.45 – 16.45 Item 6 – CREWS contributions to key events and agendas in 2025

16.45 – 17.30 Item 7 – Any Other Business

- Next Chair
- 21st and 22nd Meeting

The CREWS Initiative gratefully acknowledges the support of:

CREWS Members



Australia



Austria



Canada



Finland



France



Germany



Luxembourg



Monaco



Netherlands



Norway



Switzerland



United Kingdom
(Chair)

CREWS Observers



Japan



Mexico



New Zealand



Spain



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CREWS Implementing Partners



CREWS Operational Partners



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