

## Eighteenth Meeting of the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems Initiative (CREWS) Steering Committee

### Provisional Annotated Agenda\_revrev Wednesday, 24 January 2024, (0900 hrs – 1300 hrs GMT +7)

Hotel Sofitel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia - hybrid meeting.  
On-line connection details will be shared with confirmed participants.

Time	Agenda Items, Related Documents and Decisions
09.00 – 09.20	<p><b>Item 1 – Opening</b></p> <p>The 18th Meeting of the Steering Committee takes place shortly after UNFCCC COP28 where Member States most exposed to the climate crisis called for accelerated action on climate change adaptation and a step-change in the scale and pace of support in managing loss and damages to extreme events. Expectations are growing, directly related to the above, regarding access to early warnings – best represented by the Early Warning for All initiative. In response, the scale of CREWS operations; regarding the demand for effective support, the financing to the CREWS FIF and the number of operational partners, is growing. The expanding demand and scale of operations calls for continuously adapting and enhancing the effectiveness of our operations in LDCs and SIDS.</p> <p>Item 1 of the agenda will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present the objectives of the Meeting, namely: (1) look at progress across the portfolio of projects and procedures to strengthen reporting against the new Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning framework; (2) improve the criteria and modalities for prioritizing funding decisions, including, a proposal to add fragility as an eligibility criteria; (3) identify from the latest CREWS Pipeline List, countries for which to initiate project preparations; (4) ringfence resources for future financing decisions related to the Accelerated Support Window (ASW); (5) consider a revision to the ASW modalities to allow support for countries to initiate the preparation of projects; (6) modify programming and operational procedures to accommodate for the projected increase in the number of CREWS Implementing Partners; and (7) discuss the outline of a CREWS Partnership Strategy;</li> <li>• Review Progress on previous Steering Committee decisions;</li> <li>• Adopt the Agenda.</li> </ul> <p><i>Documents:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Provisional Agenda (CREWS/SC.18/workdoc.1_rev)</i></li> <li>- <i>Provisional Annotated Agenda (CREWS/SC.18/workdoc.2_rev)</i></li> <li>- <i>Meeting Report, 17<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee (CREWS/SC.17/workdoc.7)</i></li> <li>- <i>Meeting Report, Inter-sessional Steering Committee 25 September 2023 (CREWS/Inter-sessional 25 Sept. 2023/workdoc.4)</i></li> <li>- <i>Meeting Report, Inter-sessional Steering Committee 14 December 2023 (CREWS/Inter-sessional 14 Dec. 2023/workdoc.3)</i></li> <li>- <i>Status of Progress on Decisions taken at the 17<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee and the Inter-sessional Meetings (CREWS/SC.18/infdoc.1)</i></li> </ul>

	<p>1.1 Welcome by the Chair and objectives of the Meeting</p> <p>1.2 Welcome by the hosts: Cambodia, Under-secretary of State, MOWRAM, and United Nations Resident Coordinator</p> <p>1.3 Review of progress on Decisions taken at the 17th Meeting and the Inter-sessional Meetings of 25 September 2023 and 14 December 2023</p> <p>1.4 Adoption of the Agenda</p>
09.20 – 10.00	<p><b>Item 2 – Strategic stock take, status of the CREWS Trust Fund and update by the Secretariat</b></p> <p>The CREWS Initiative is guided by the CREWS Operational Plan: Delivering at Scale, 2021-2025. The Plan identified five strategic priorities that guide current operations. The priorities identified were: (1) putting people at the center by engaging actively with and encouraging collaboration between local level actors to support effective early action; (2) promoting sustainability by ensuring ownership by national and local institutions for the services developed, and sustained national and international funding; (3) increased cooperation and coherence with relevant actors and initiatives, therefore contributing to the global awareness on ongoing initiatives, and to the effectiveness of projects and investments; (4) engage the private sector to mobilize finance at scale, and foster innovative, sustainable, and cost-effective approaches to various elements of early warning systems; and (5) establish an accelerated support window to provide short term targeted technical assistance activities and maximize CREWS ability to respond to country needs.</p> <p>Item 2 of the agenda will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hear from the Chairs (past and present) on progress against the Operational Plan, its five strategic priorities, and possible adjustments required for the coming year;</li> <li>• Provide an update by the Trustee on activities and the status of the FIF;</li> <li>• Provide an update by the Secretariat on status of programmes (projects, Accelerated Support Window and GCF-SAP/CREWS Scaling-up Framework roll-out), activities (advocacy, website, resource mobilization) and priorities.</li> </ul> <p><i>Documents:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CREWS Operational Plan: Delivering at Scale, 2021-2025 (CREWS/SC.12/workdoc.2)</li> <li>- CREWS Trustee Report, (CREWS/SC.18/infdoc.2)</li> <li>- Powerpoint Presentation on Activities Carried Out by the Secretariat, July - December 2023 (CREWS/SC.18/infdoc.3)</li> </ul>

	<p>2.1 Stock take by the Chair against the <i>CREWS Operational Plan: Delivering at Scale, 2021-2025</i> and priorities for the coming year</p> <p>2.2 Update by the Trustee on activities and the status of the CREWS Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF)</p> <p>2.3 Update by the Secretariat on its activities since the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting and future priorities</p>
10.00 – 12.30  (with coffee break in-between for 10-15 minutes)	<p><b>Item 3 – CREWS Operations</b></p> <p><b>3.1 CREWS Results</b></p> <p>The 2022 external evaluation of the CREWS initiative recommended developing a “robust set of indicators and reporting framework”. The Inter-sessional Meeting on 14 December 2023 reviewed, for approval, a CREWS Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) framework and reporting requirements. Progress has also been achieved, by UNDRR and WMO, to develop a broader set of indicators and reporting modalities on early warning systems, as they relate to global goals such as the SDG’s, the Sendai Framework and the Early Warning for All Initiative</p> <p>Item 3.1 of the agenda will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hear of progress across the portfolio of CREWS projects (based on the current CREWS indicators and reporting modalities);</li> <li>• Define the minimum set of metrics against which all future CREWS investments need to demonstrate results that will replace the current CREWS Core-Programme Indicators: (1) for projects and Accelerated Support actions financed by the CREWS FIF; (2) to align with the indicators used by CREWS Contributing Members, to monitor the effectiveness of their ODA financing; (3) to align with relevant financing by development partners and funds i.e. the GCF/SAP – CREWS Scaling-up and SOFF; and (4) to contribute to reporting on relevant regional frameworks, global goals including the Early Warning for All goal;</li> <li>• Initiate an analytical paper on the status of early warning systems in LDCs and SIDS.</li> </ul> <p><i>Documents:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Projects Portfolio Interim Status Report and Analysis, July – December 2023 (CREWS/SC.18/infdoc.4)</i></li> <li>- <i>Revised Draft CREWS MEAL Framework (CREWS/SC.18/workdoc.3)</i></li> <li>- <i>Outline of an Analytics Paper on the Status of Early Warning Systems in LDCs and SIDS (CREWS/SC.18/infdoc.5)</i></li> </ul> <p>3.1.1 Interim Report by the Implementing Partners of progress achieved between July - December 2023 across the portfolio of projects</p> <p>3.1.2 Discussion and decision on a minimum set of indicators against which all future CREWS investments will need to demonstrate results</p> <p>3.1.3 Discussion and decision on an analytics paper with disaggregated data on status of Early Warning Systems in LDCs and SIDS</p>

	<p><b>Decisions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Implementing Partners and the Secretariat are requested to apply the new MEAL Framework and reporting requirements in relation to projects initiated as of the date of the 18<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting. This includes reporting against the revised set of core programme Indicators. The Secretariat is further invited to make the necessary updates to existing Operational Procedures.</b></li> <li><b>2. The Secretariat is invited to initiate an analytics paper on Early Warning in SIDS and LDCs as a contribution to the reporting on Early Warning for All by UNDRR and WMO, with differentiated data sets for each country grouping, drawing on data provided by countries and key partners institutions.</b></li> </ol> <p><b>3.2 Pipeline of countries, initiating project preparations, and Accelerated Support Window</b></p> <p>The Secretariat manages a pipeline list of LDCs and SIDS that demonstrate a level of eligibility, ownership and readiness for the preparation of project proposals for funding decisions. The list is based on three criteria for which information is compiled (need, demand and leveraging), information provided by the three Implementing partners drawn from their operational priorities and their regular interactions with country teams, and multiple other sources of information (development partners, GCF, SOFF).</p> <p>Item 3.2 of the agenda will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the proposal to add fragility as an eligibility criteria for countries to receive CREWS funding;</li> <li>• Identify, from the updated Pipeline List, countries for which to initiate project preparations;</li> <li>• Ringfence resources for future financing decision related to the Accelerated Support Window;</li> <li>• Add a category of actions eligible for financing by the Accelerated Support Window to allow support for countries initiating the preparation of projects.</li> </ul> <p><i>Documents:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Updated CREWS Pipeline List (CREWS/SC.18/workdoc.4)</i></li> <li>- <i>Fragility as an Eligibility Criteria for Countries to Receive CREWS Funding (CREWS/SC.18/workdoc.5)</i></li> <li>- <i>ASW: Decision to Extend Support for Project Preparation and to Ringfence USD 2 million for Future Actions' Financing (CREWS/SC.18/workdoc.6)</i></li> </ul> <p>3.2.1 Discussion and approval of the updated list of pipeline countries and decisions on countries/regions for project proposal preparation</p> <p>3.2.2 Discussion and decision on the proposal to add fragility as an eligibility criteria for countries to receive CREWS funding</p> <p>3.2.3 Discussion on the proposed revision to the ASW Operational Procedures and the decision to ringfence USD 2 million for future financing decision related to the ASW</p> <p><b>Decisions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. The updated CREWS Pipeline List of LDCs and SIDS, that demonstrates the level of eligibility, ownership and readiness of countries for the preparation of project proposals for funding decisions is approved.</b></li> </ol>
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	<p><b>2. The Steering Committee invites the identified lead Implementing Partners to initiate project(s) proposal(s) for the following country(ies)/region(s) and to submit the proposal to the Steering Committee, through the Secretariat, for consideration, review and approval for funding depending on availability of funds in the FIF:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bhutan, USD 7.82 million: modernizing the hydromet service and establishing an end-to-end flood early warning system in an inclusive and gender sensitive way. Lead Implementing Partner, World Bank.</li> <li>- South-Asia Sub-Region, covering Bhutan, Nepal and Maldives, USD 5.24 million: regional coordination towards resilience of vulnerable communities. Lead Implementing Partner, World Bank.</li> <li>- Pacific Region, USD 5.5 million (additional financing): strengthening early warning systems through improved risk information. Lead Implementing Partner, WMO.</li> <li>- Papua New Guinea + Fiji, Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Timor Leste, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Tokelau and North Pacific, USD 5 million: expand the successful drought early warning system and seasonal predictions developed in PNG to other SIDS in the Pacific where drought have a significant impact. Lead Implementing Partner, WMO.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. The Steering Committee expands the access to CREWS funds eligibility to countries classified by the World Bank as fragile and conflict affected. The Steering Committee invites the Secretariat to make necessary modification to the CREWS documentation and to include relevant countries in the ongoing mapping of needs, demand and leveraging.</b></p> <p><b>4. The Steering Committee expands the criteria of Actions that are eligible to be financed under the Accelerated Support Window to include the preparation of projects and requests the Secretariat to make necessary revisions to the ASW Operational Procedures.</b></p> <p><b>5. The Steering Committee ringfences USD 2 million in the CREWS Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF) to fund Accelerated Support Window Actions that meet the criteria of the Operational Procedures and that are positively reviewed and approved by the Steering Committee.</b></p>
	<p><b>3.3 Expanding the number of Implementing Partners and strategic partnerships for operational effectiveness</b></p> <p>At least 250 partner institutions are working directly or indirectly in the context of CREWS operations. Partners include, in addition to the three Implementing Partners, a range of institutions, such as national meteorological and hydrological organizations, disaster management organizations, other technical and academic institutions, regional intergovernmental organizations, regional specialized centers, development partners, regional development banks, civil society and private sector organizations. The 2022 CREWS external evaluation recommended that the Secretariat develop a Partnership Strategy to structure the engagements with key institutions. In addition, the Steering Committee subsequently approved the development of an Accreditation Framework for CREWS with a view to expand the number of Implementing Partners.</p> <p>Item 3.3 of the agenda will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Propose required modification to the CREWS Programming and Operational Procedures to accommodate the projected increase in the number of Implementing Partners;</li> <li>• Initiate the formalizing of agreements with a set number of National Meteorological and Hydrological Organization to support CREWS operations;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the Partnership Strategy outline and next step for its finalization.</li> </ul> <p><i>Documents:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Adapting Programming and Operational Procedures for an Expanded Number of Implementing Partners (CREWS/SC.18/workdoc.7)</i></li> <li>- <i>Partnership Strategy Outline (CREWS/SC.18/workdoc.8)</i></li> </ul>
	<p>3.3.1 Discussion and decision on modifications to the CREWS Programming and Operational Procedures to accommodate the projected increase in the number of Implementing Partners</p> <p>3.3.2 Discussion on the draft CREWS Partnership Strategy and next steps on its development</p> <p><b>Decisions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. The Steering Committee approves proposed modifications to the CREWS Programming and Operational Procedures to accommodate the projected increase in the number of Implementing Partners and invites the Secretariat to make necessary revisions to relevant Operational Procedures.</b></li> <li><b>2. The Steering Committee invites the Secretariat to circulate a draft Partnership Strategy based on comments and suggestions made at the meeting, within three months of the Meeting, for review, and subsequent approval, by the Steering Committee.</b></li> </ol>
12.30 – 13.00	<p><b>Item 4 – Any Other Business and Wrap-up</b></p> <p>Item 4 of the agenda will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree on provisional dates and objectives for the 19th and 20th Meetings of the CREWS Steering Committee;</li> <li>• Address any other business and review decisions taken at the meeting.</li> </ul> <p>4.1 Objectives and dates for the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the Steering Committee</p> <p>4.2 Any other business</p> <p>4.3 Review by the Steering Committee of the Decisions taken at the meeting</p> <p><b>Decisions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. The 19th Meeting of the Steering Committee will tentatively take place in the Second week of June 2024 as a virtual meeting for Contributing Members. The Meeting will, inter-alia, (1) review and approve the next round of financing decisions; (2) approve new Implementing Partners; (3) discuss the potential extension of the FIF beyond the current end date of 2025; and (4) assess capacity at the CREWS Secretariat to fulfil its functions.</b></li> <li><b>2. The 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CREWS Steering Committee will be an in-person meeting, open to Observers and held in the margins of UNFCCC COP29.</b></li> </ol>

Document list – 18 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee		
Workdocs		
Reference	Document title	Status
CREWS/SC.12/workdoc.2	CREWS Operational Plan: Delivering at Scale, 2021-2025	final
CREWS/SC.17/workdoc.7	Meeting Report, 17 <sup>th</sup> Steering Committee	final
CREWS/Inter-sessional 25 Sept. 2023/workdoc.4	Meeting Report, Inter-sessional Steering Committee 25 September 2023	final
CREWS/Inter-sessional 14 Dec. 2023/workdoc.3	Meeting Report, Inter-sessional Steering Committee 14 December 2023	final
CREWS/SC.18/workdoc.1_rev	Provisional Agenda	draft
CREWS/SC.18/workdoc.2_rev	Provisional Annotated Agenda	draft
CREWS/SC.18/workdoc.3	Revised draft CREWS MEAL framework	draft
CREWS/SC.18/workdoc.4	Updated CREWS Pipeline List	draft
CREWS/SC.18/workdoc.5	Fragility as an Eligibility Criteria for Countries to Receive CREWS Funding	draft
CREWS/SC.18/workdoc.6	ASW: Decision to Extend Support for Project Preparation and to Ringfence USD 2 Million for Future Actions' Financing	draft
CREWS/SC.18/workdoc.7	Adapting Programming and Operational Procedures for an Expanded Number of Implementing Partners	draft
CREWS/SC.18/workdoc.8	Partnership Strategy Outline	draft
Infdocs		
Reference	Document title	Status
CREWS/SC.18/infdoc.1	Status of Progress on Decisions taken at the 17th Steering Committee and the Inter-sessional Meetings	draft
CREWS/SC.18/infdoc.2	CREWS Trustee Report	draft
CREWS/SC.18/infdoc.3	Powerpoint Presentation on Activities Carried Out by the Secretariat (July - December 2023)	draft
CREWS/SC.18/infdoc.4	Projects Portfolio Interim Status Report and Analysis, July – December 2023	draft
CREWS/SC.18/infdoc.5	Outline of an Analytics Paper on the Status of Early Warning Systems in LDCs and SIDS	draft

## CREWS Members



Australia



Austria



Canada



Finland



France



Germany



Luxembourg



Monaco



Netherlands



Norway



Switzerland



United Kingdom  
(Chair)

## CREWS Observers



European Union



Japan



Mexico



New Zealand



Spain



US

## CREWS Implementing Partners

