



**10th Intersessional Meeting of the
Steering Committee**
14:00 – 16:30 (CET)
15 December 2025
Online

**CREWS/10th Inter-Sessional/
December 2025/workdoc.4**

Draft Meeting Report

Summary

The draft Report of the Meeting provides a summary of proceedings, the Decisions, as approved at the meeting, and the list of participants.

Summary of Proceedings and Decisions

Agenda Item 1 – Opening

1. The Chair welcomed Members from Austria, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Monaco, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom as well as Observers from Czechia, Spain, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the World Bank, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Risk Informed Early Action Partnership (REAP), and the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF). The CREWS Secretariat and Trustee were represented at the meeting.
2. The Agenda includes updates from the Secretariat, a targeted discussion on the Accelerated Support Window (ASW), a pipeline proposal for a cell-broadcast project in Eastern Caribbean, updates on proposal preparation in Benin, financing status of REAP and an update on CREWS Secretariat staffing.

10th Inter-sessional December 2025/Item1/Decision 1.1: The Annotated Agenda is approved.

3. The CREWS Secretariat provided an update on activities since the last meeting. In 2025, CREWS approved four projects for a total of USD 25 million, the highest approval rate since its launch. The most recent was the Pacific Drought proposal (USD 5.5 million) circulated for review. Two projects (Dominican Republic and Phase 3 of the West African project, for a total of USD 10 million additional financing) are in final preparation stages.
4. Demand for the Accelerated Support Window more than doubled, with seven additional requests received in the last four days prior to the meeting, bringing the total of pending ASW requests to 22.
5. The GCF/CREWS scale up framework is operational, with two projects approved: one for Togo and one for Belize, and Trinidad and Tobago (USD 25 million each). Work is underway with GCF to define a pipeline list of scaled-up projects, aiming for one approval at each GCF board meeting. A revision of the Scaling Up Framework is also being worked on to widen its scope beyond the simplified approval process.
6. The CREWS Strategy 2030 was approved, providing a forward perspective on CREWS strategic direction and operations. The final report of the External Review carried out in 2025 is ready for circulation and contained 6 strategic and 12 operational recommendations. A draft management response will be further circulated for review and approval in early 2026.
7. CREWS is on track to have representatives from LDCs and SIDS join the Steering Committee starting at the 22nd meeting in Malawi.
8. A dedicated results tracking tool would be established to help partners with reporting and allow the Secretariat to harmonize results at portfolio level. The results tracking tool is expected to be running within six months and is hardwired into the monitoring of progress of the Early Warning

for All initiative.

9. Resource mobilization is a top priority for the Secretariat, due to ODA contraction and growing demand for CREWS services. The current pipeline of ready-to-initiate projects stands at USD 78 million and is expected to increase. A targeted resource mobilization strategy is in place.
10. CREWS was identified in the Financing for Development Conference and is part of the Sevilla Action Plan, meaning results will be reported against the wider aid effectiveness agenda. Early warning was successfully prioritized at the G20, where CREWS contributed to a background paper on early warning financing and organized a ministerial event.
11. The adoption of indicators for the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) in Belem is considered a "game changer," as several indicators are directly tied to the CREWS M&E system, allowing CREWS to more directly show its contribution to adaptation efforts. CREWS partners will need to define "level of establishment of early warning systems", which is the wording used for the GGA indicators and look to include an indicator on the number of people evacuated to ensure full alignment.
12. Logistics notes were circulated for the 22nd Meeting preparations. The 22nd Meeting will take place on 13 February 2026 in Blantyre, Malawi. The provisional annotated agenda will be circulated on 15 January 2026, and documents on 23 January 2026. The agenda will include the CREWS operational plan linked to Strategy 2030, approval of an updated pipeline, and decisions on financing for REAP.
13. Norway representative enquired about the upcoming Annual Report for 2025 and suggested that the 2025 Annual Report specify the impact (mortality, loss of livelihoods, property) related to climate-related disasters, rather than relying solely on the general Sendai Framework indicators which include non-climate events like earthquakes. Norway also requested that baselines and targets for the five core indicators be developed for the 2025 Report.
14. The Secretariat noted that currently the initiative's higher-end indicator reported in its Annual Report is the number of people who access the early warning services developed through CREWS financing. It was clarified that while reducing loss of life/livelihoods is the highest level outcome of CREWS investments, demonstrating its impacts against this outcome is challenging due to the longer timeline (i.e. decades) required to show trends which is typically longer than the CREWS projects duration. It was also confirmed that baselines and targets will be set as part of the operational planning exercise.
15. United Kingdom representative requested an analysis of CREWS' unique place in the competitive financing world to be discussed at the 22nd meeting. It was also proposed that the Secretariat produce a GCF/CREWS brief before each GCF board meeting to inform GCF Board representatives of the CREWS Members. Support to aligning CREWS work with the 24-month horizon leading up to COP32 in Ethiopia was also mentioned, noting its importance for adaptation/resilience.
16. France representative requested a dedicated agenda item at the 22nd Meeting on resource mobilization and suggested considering dedicated Secretariat staff to this topic, to maximize the follow-up to opportunities for financing.

Agenda Item 2 – CREWS Accelerated Support Window

17. The Secretariat presented its analysis of the current portfolio of ASW Actions, emphasizing that the ASW is in high demand with 16 Actions financed since 2022. Demand increased by 120% in 2025. Actions are country-driven, focusing on building core capacity (e.g., Benin, Maldives) and piloting people-centered approaches and innovative technologies (e.g., AI for forecasting in Malawi, cell broadcast in the Caribbean). ASW actions have helped leverage other investments, as well (e.g. World Bank and SOFF).
18. Currently, demand exceeds available funds. The USD 4 million ringfenced to date, has been allocated with pending ASW Actions approximately at USD 3 million. Hence, the request for replenishment along with considerations to amend the ASW operational procedures to consider people-centered and innovative actions more strongly in the proposals, incentivize timely reporting and decreasing maximum amount to USD 150,000 to better respond to requests.
19. The Chair proposed postponing a decision to ring-fence USD2 million for 2026 financing to the 22nd Meeting.
20. France requested adjusting the operational procedure language to "should pay special attention" to innovative tools and people-centered activities, rather than mandatory language, ensuring worthwhile projects without innovation are not disqualified. France also requested that the ASW pipeline be reviewed under the new conditions, encouraging a reduction in project size (down to \$150,000) to fund more actions.
21. United Kingdom inquired on the proposal behind lowering the maximum amount, asking if the goal was to fund "more" projects or "better" projects with high impact and quality. A more in-depth assessment of the ASW can be considered to consolidate learning from the actions implemented.
22. Finland, Switzerland, Norway and Germany supported the proposed decisions as well as the suggested amendments of the operational procedures. Finland supported the idea of an external review of the ASW and suggested to include, in addition to the OECD evaluation criteria, a review of any links to the ongoing or planned CREWS projects as well as scaling up the actions. Finland also pointed out that the AWS Operational Procedures stated (para 13a) that the SC would review the interim and final report - this needs to be corrected.
23. The Secretariat noted that most ASW Action Notes included multiple result areas, suggesting countries were adding activities to reach the maximum available funding limit. Hence, the proposal to lower the maximum allowable funding amount. It was also clarified that the incentive for timely reporting relates only to the ASW final report, not multi-year projects, and that partners are generally diligent with the reporting.

10th Inter-sessional Dec 2025/Item2/Decision 2.1: The Steering Committee approves the proposed amendments to the Accelerated Support Window Operational Procedures, to be applied starting in 2026, namely:

- **Strengthened criteria to review and approve the CREWS ASW Action Notes paying special emphasis on the application of innovative tools and people-centered/early action activities**
- **Amending the maximum amount per Action to USD 150,000, while maintaining the 12-**

month timeline

- Incentivising the timely submission of reports (within 3 months of the end of Actions) with no new funding decisions for Implementing Partners with delayed reports.

The Steering Committee invites the Secretariat to continue its analysis and learning on the roll-out of the ASW, including the new amendments in the context of the CREWS Operational Plan.

10th Inter-sessional Dec 2025/Item2/Decision 2.2: The Steering Committee approves the ringfencing of USD 3 million for the backlog of CREWS ASW Action Notes that meet the criteria, in line, as relevant, with Decision 2.1 above, and are subsequently approved by the Steering Committee.

Agenda Item 3 – Programme Updates

24. The Secretariat presented a draft decision to initiate proposal preparation for a regional cell broadcast-based emergency alert system in the Eastern Caribbean, led by the World Bank in cooperation with the ITU. This early consideration was necessary to secure co-financing from the EC's ACP EU Disaster Risk Management Program through 2027.
25. The project is estimated at \$5.5 million over 4 years. It builds on previous CREWS work in the region and the preparations are supported by Accelerated Support Window financing. The system is designed regionally but operates nationally, well-suited for SIDS. The technology focuses on cell broadcast, which leverages mobile networks (covering 80% of the world's population) to send geolocated alerts directly to phones, avoiding congestion and reaching non-subscribers. The regional approach is cost-effective because the ECTEL countries share mobile network operators.
26. Members inquired on the rationale for prioritizing this project ahead of others in the pipeline list. The Secretariat confirmed the project is being advanced due to the time constraints related to securing co-financing by the European Commission through the GFDRR. Approval of full funding for implementation remains subject to future availability of funds in the CREWS Fund (FIF). A discussion on the full pipeline and related prioritization of funding is planned for the 22nd Meeting.

10th Inter-sessional Dec 2025/Item3/Decision 3.1: The Steering Committee invites the World Bank, in consultation with ITU, to initiate the preparations of the regional project for the Eastern Caribbean for a cell broadcast-based emergency alert communication and dissemination system for a total of USD 5.5 M subject to co-financing by the European Commission's ACP-EU DRM Program through the World Bank, and to submit it to the Steering Committee, through the Secretariat, for review and approval, depending on the availability of funds in the FIF.

10th Inter-sessional Dec 2025/Item 3/Decision 3.2 The Steering Committee further requests the CREWS Secretariat to engage with the European Commission and the World Bank, in consultation with the Chair, to confirm the co-financing modalities and to report back to the Steering Committee.

27. The Chair framed the partnership between REAP and CREWS as a strategic alliance, rather than a traditional project for the CREWS pipeline. The alliance is intended to play a significant role

bridging the gap between early warning and early action, building on REAP's learning and knowledge exchange focus. A narrative outlining the policy, programmatic, and operational drivers, along with a costed work plan, linked to REAP's 5-year Strategy, will be presented at the 22nd Meeting for a decision on financing REAP, conditional on related contributions to the CREWS FIF and the finalization of IFRC's accreditation to the CREWS FIF.

28. The Secretariat informed that the CREWS Accreditation Panel members were visiting both ITU and IFRC to accelerate the finalization of Stage Three of the accreditation process.
29. The Secretariat informed that the project proposal for Benin, currently under preparation by the World Bank and initially estimated at USD 6 million would be recalibrated and the total amount for the project reduced. This revision will be included in the updated pipeline to be presented at the 22nd meeting.

Agenda Item 4 – CREWS Secretariat Staffing

30. The Chair informed that he will be inviting the Director of the Secretariat to carry out a functional assessment and to make recommendations to the Steering Committee regarding the staffing of the CREWS Secretariat to deliver on the ambitious 2030 Strategy. The objective is to ensure the Secretariat is "fit for purpose" and sufficiently staffed.
31. The United Kingdom representative suggested that the assessment should indeed demonstrate alignment with the Strategy 2030, and that the review should prioritize efficiency alongside impact. Norway suggested that the review consider the structure of the CREWS Secretariat looking at opportunities for collaboration with the SOFF Secretariat. France requested that the proposal clarify the current functional structure of the Secretariat, and the time dedicated to various tasks. Finland proposed that considering the backlog of ASW action proposals and pipeline of GCF-SAP projects, in addition to other project work, it would be good to consider whether the secretariat would need additional human resources for project management as well.

10th Inter-sessional Dec 2025/Item4/Decision 4.1: The Steering Committee invites the Secretariat Director, in consultation with the Chair, to assess the current Secretariat staffing structure and capacity, in particular regarding strategic partnerships, resource mobilization and communications and to make recommendations, to the Steering Committee, at its 22nd Meeting to ensure that the Secretariat is fit-for-purpose to deliver on the CREWS Strategy 2030.

Agenda Item 5 – Any Other Business

32. France representative invited the Secretariat to engage more with the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) board members and its Secretariat and to explore how country partners of CREWS could be supported to submit proposals to the FRLD's call for proposal in the context of the Barbados Implementation Modality.

END OF MEETING

Annex 1 – List of Participants

MEMBERS	NAMES	STATUS
Austria	Cornelia Jäger, Federal Ministry for Climate Action	Confirmed online
Canada (Chair)	Francis Pigeon, Environment and Climate Change Canada	Confirmed online
	Linh Trinh, Environment and Climate Change Canada	Confirmed online
Finland	Outi Myatt-Hirvonen, Ministry for Foreign Affairs	Confirmed online
France	Lorelei Lankester, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs	Confirmed online
Germany	Verena Ommer, BMZ	Confirmed online
	Tjark-Adrian Herzog, GIZ	Confirmed online
Monaco	Carl Dudek, Département des Relations Extérieures et de la Coopération	Confirmed online
Norway	Lars Andreas Lunde, NORAD	Confirmed online
Switzerland	Sergio Perez, SDC	Confirmed online

UK	Gerard Howe, FCDO	Confirmed online
	Reel Ahmed, FCDO	Confirmed online
	Aleks Ciezarek, FCDO	Confirmed online
TRUSTEE/World Bank	NAMES	STATUS
	Larissa Vovk	Confirmed online
OBSERVERS	NAMES	STATUS
Czech	Ladislav Zeman, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Confirmed online
Spain	Fernando Belda, AEMET	Confirmed online
REAP	Paula Trepczyk	Confirmed in person
SOFF	Olga Miltcheva	Confirmed online
	Ana Heureux	Confirmed online
IFRC	Stephanie Julmy	Confirmed online
	Jon Stone	Confirmed online

ITU	Vanessa Gray	Confirmed in person
	Joaquin Jose Azpiroz Echecolenea	Confirmed online
IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	NAMES	STATUS
UNDRR	Andrew Spezowka	Confirmed in person
	Loretta Hieber Girardet	Confirmed online
	Huw Beynon	Confirmed online
	Stefanie Dannenmann-Di Palma	Confirmed online
WORLD BANK	Henriette B. Mampuya	Confirmed online
	Hugo Wesley	Confirmed online
	Anna-Maria Bogdanova	Confirmed online
	Rosella Della Moncia	Confirmed online
	Arati Belle	Confirmed online
WMO	Daniel Kull	Confirmed in person
	Lina Sjaavik	Confirmed online

	Jean Baptiste Migraine	Confirmed in person
SECRETARIAT	NAMES	STATUS
	John Harding	Confirmed in person
	Maria Lourdes Macasil	Confirmed in person
	Catherine Thompson	Confirmed in person
	Mathias Mulumba	Confirmed in person
	Yi Wang	Confirmed in person
	Rothsopong Hap	Confirmed online
	Rhodaine Tetteh-Narh	Confirmed in person

Annex 2 –Agenda

- 14.00 – 14.30 Item 1 – Opening
Welcome by the Chair and objectives of the Meeting
Adoption of the Agenda
Short update by the Secretariat
- 14.30 – 15.10 Item 2 – CREWS Accelerated Support Window
Findings of the analysis, by the Secretariat, of the ASW operations to date
Proposed amendments to the ASW Operational Procedures
Decision to ring-fence funds
- 15.10 – 15.40 Item 3 – Programme Updates
Proposal to initiate preparation from the CREWS Pipeline – regional cell broadcast-based emergency alert communication and dissemination system for Eastern Caribbean
Update on the status of preparation for CREWS Benin
Update on progress regarding Decision 3.1 of the 9th inter-sessional meeting on the financing of the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) and related status of the accreditation of IFRC
- 15.40 – 16.00 Item 4 – CREWS Secretariat staffing
Update on Director position and proposal to strengthen the Secretariat staffing
- 16.00 – 16.30 Item 5 – Any Other Business and Wrap Up
Review of decisions made at the meeting
Next steps and closing remarks

The CREWS Initiative gratefully acknowledges the support of:

CREWS Members



Australia



Austria



Canada
(Chair)



Finland



France



Germany



Luxembourg



Monaco



Netherlands



Norway



Switzerland



United Kingdom

CREWS Observers



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Mexico



New Zealand



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