



**11th Inter-sessional Meeting of the
Steering Committee**

14:30 – 17:00 CEST
17 September 2026

Online: connection details for
participants available upon request

**CREWS/11th Inter-Sessional
Sept 2026/workdoc.2**

Agenda Item 2.2

Draft Terms of Reference ASW review

Summary

The Draft Terms of Reference ASW review is presented, by the Secretariat, for review and approval by the Contributing Members under Agenda item 2.2.

Strategic Learning & Impact Assessment: The CREWS Accelerated Support Window (ASW)

DRAFT Terms of Reference (TOR)

1. Background and Context

The Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Initiative has mobilized over \$142 million to make Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) accessible to most-at-risk populations. Launched in 2022, the Accelerated Support Window (ASW) was designed as an agile, small-scale (\$50k–\$150k), fast-tracked seed-funding mechanism to achieve three strategic goals:

1. Demonstrate Innovation: Serve as a quick-stage testing ground for new operational models, technologies, and ideas.
2. Bridge Gaps: Fix critical systemic bottlenecks in national early warning systems.
3. Catalyze Scale: Unlock larger downstream climate investments and preserve momentum between major projects.

With US\$7 million spent across 29 actions to date and US\$15 million targeted for 80+ actions under CREWS 2030, this review shifts away from traditional process oriented evaluation. Instead, it serves as a strategic reflection and evidence-gathering exercise to determine how the ASW creates value to address the pressing needs of LDCs and SIDS.

2. Core Purpose & Value Proposition

This assessment will aim to answer three core questions:

1. **Catalytic Impact**: Did small money (\$50k–\$150k) unlock big movement (downstream funding, policy shifts, preserved institutional capacity)?
2. **Value Added**: Did the small grants offer value added, facilitate flexibility and showed agility in addressing the pressing needs of LDCs and SIDS?
3. **Strategic Learning**: What worked, what failed to scale, and how to improve?

3. Learning-Focused Review Framework

Instead of rigid OECD-DAC compliance criteria, the assessment will evaluate performance across four categories:

1. **CATALYTIC LEVERAGE & SCALE**: Did small ASW investments help unlock major EWS projects/funding and improve readiness of countries for larger financing from CREWS and other funds?

2. **SYSTEMIC GAP-FILLING & SPEED:** Did ASW respond fast enough to fix real bottlenecks in LDCs/SIDS?

3. **PORTFOLIO INNOVATION:** Which ASW supported approaches worked, which failed, and why didn't they?

4. **ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT:** How should ASW operationalize the \$15M expansion for CREWS 2030?

Category 1: Catalytic Leverage & Scale (Outcome focus)

- **The Multiplier Effect:** To what extent did ASW actions directly unlock, inform, or shape CREWS multi-year projects or larger-scale EWS investments (e.g., GCF, World Bank, regional projects)?
- **Missed Connections:** Where did ASW actions fail to link to larger investments, and what structural barriers stopped them?

Category 2: Systemic Gap-Filling & Agility (Execution focus)

- **Targeted Value:** Did the \$50k–\$150k capital cap address the right high-leverage problems, or was it spread too thin on routine activities?

Category 3: Innovation & Strategic Learning (Risk focus)

- **Testing Ground:** Which new ideas, technologies, or operational models were piloted? Which ones are ready for replication across other LDCs/SIDS?
- **Honest Reflection:** What didn't work? What factors caused certain actions to underperform, and what systemic lessons can be extracted without penalizing risk-taking?

Category 4: Portfolio Optimization for CREWS 2030 (Forward-looking)

- **Resource Calibration:** Based on empirical evidence from the reviewed actions, should CREWS adjust the \$150k funding ceiling, implementation timelines, or multi-partner joint funding rules for future actions?

4. Scope & Methodological Strategy

- **Sample Scope:** In-depth review of **selected completed/ongoing ASW actions** (2022–2025) across Africa, Asia-Pacific, and the Caribbean.
- **Methodology:**
 - **Rapid Portfolio Mapping:** Synthesis of output data, project information and funding pipelines.

- **Key Stakeholder Discovery:** Deep-dive outcome-harvesting interviews with national agencies (NMHSs, DRM authorities), Implementing Partners (WMO, UNDRR, WB/GFDRR, ITU, IFRC), and Contributing Members.
- **Case Study Deep-Dives (3–4 actions):** Tracing the path from small ASW interventions to broader systemic impacts or scaled funding.
- **Adaptive Workshop Facilitation:** A participatory validation workshop focused on collective learning.

5. Target Deliverables

Deliverable	Objective(s)	Timeline	Payment %
1 – Inception brief and workplan	Methodologies, interview targets	10 days	30%
2- Brief on Stakeholders consultations	Synthesis of emerging findings and leverage points to be presented in a workshop/OCG meeting with the partners and to the Steering Committee	20 days	40%
3- Final Report	Concise report featuring key decision options	15 days	30%
TOTAL		45 days	100%

6. Required Qualifications

Instead of a standard program evaluator, the candidate should demonstrate:

- 15+ years in climate finance, early warning systems, or agile development funding mechanisms.
- Proven track record in outcome harvesting, catalytic finance analysis, or systems-change reviews.
- Deep understanding of institutional dynamics in LDCs and SIDS.

- Strong facilitation skills to run high-level, candid learning exchanges with global stakeholders.

7. Administrative Details

- **Duration:** 45 working days (starting approx. 15 October 2026 – considering the WMO procedures and timeline for hiring consultants).
- **Budget:** proposed at maximum USD 750/day (Payband D in WMO procedures) with a total of USD 33,750 plus potential travel costs of up to a maximum of 2 travels of up to 5 days each approximately at USD 5,000. Total requested budget is **USD 38,450**.

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