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| The International Teleocmmunication Union - Connecting the World. | | **International telecommunication union**  **Telecommunication Standardization Bureau** | |  |
|  | | | Geneva, 19 May 2021 | |
| **Ref:** | **TSB Circular 315 FG-AI4NDM/MM** | | **To:**  - Administrations of Member States of the Union;  - ITU-T Sector Members;  - ITU-T Associates;  - ITU Academia | |
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| **E-mail:** | [tsbfgai4ndm@itu.int](mailto:tsbfgai4ndm@itu.int) | | **Copy to:**  - The Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of ITU-T Study Groups;  - The Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau;  - The Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau | |
| **Subject:** | **Workshop and Second meeting of ITU/WMO/UNEP Focus Group on AI for Natural Disaster Management (FG‑AI4NDM), 23-25 June 2021** | | | |

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my pleasure to invite you to attend the second Workshop on AI for Natural Disaster Management, which will take place electronically on **23 June 2021** from *1000-1530 hours CEST*. The workshop will be followed by the 2nd meeting of the Focus Group on Artificial Intelligence for Natural Disaster Management (FG‑AI4NDM), scheduled to take place fully virtually on **24‑25 June 2021** (*1000-1400 hours CEST*).

# 1 Background

The ITU/WMO/UNEP [Focus Group on AI for Natural Disaster Management (FG-AI4NDM)](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4ndm) explores the potential of leveraging AI within the domain of natural disaster management. In particular, it is helping to lay the groundwork for best practices on the use of AI for assisting with data collection and handling, improving modeling across spatiotemporal scales, and providing effective communication.

The Focus Group was established by ITU-T Study Group 2 at its meeting on 18 December 2020, with Ms Monique Kuglitsch (Fraunhofer HHI) as Chair along with Mr Jürg Luterbacher (World Meteorological Organization), Ms Preeti Banzal (Government of India), and Ms Yan Chuan Wang (China Telecommunications Corporation) as Vice-Chairs. During the first meeting of FG-AI4NDM, which was held as an online meeting on 16-17 March 2021, Ms Elena Xoplaki (Justus Liebig University Giessen) and Mr Muralee Thummarukudy (UN Environment) were also appointed Vice-Chairs.

A virtual workshop on AI for Natural Disaster Management was organized on 15 March 2021 to kick-off the first meeting of FG-AI4NDM. The first meeting also accomplished various objectives including agreement on the FG-AI4NDM working structure (three working groups and three related topics groups were established), an initial roadmap of expected deliverables, related working methods, and future meeting plans.

# 2 Second workshop of the Focus Group on AI for Natural Disaster Management

The second **workshop on AI for Natural Disaster Management** will take place on **23 June 2021** from **1000‑1530 hours CEST.** This workshop will provide multidisciplinary perspectives on the application of AI‑based technologies for supporting data collection and handling, improving modeling for detecting and forecasting natural disasters, and providing effective communication. It will feature keynote presentations as well as three sessions of high-caliber scientific and technical presentations with interactive discussions. The presentations of the workshop will focus various use-cases relating to the application of AI in predicting regional locust swarm distributions, detecting extreme events (e.g., droughts, forest fires) and supporting earth monitoring. The workshop will also examine how AI could be integrated into emergency dashboard systems; and will elaborate on how stakeholders could be involved in the development of AI‑based early warning systems.

The [workshop programme](https://www.itu.int/go/AI4NDM-02/) along with the registration details will be made available on the [FG-AI4NDM webpage](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4ndm).

# 3 Second meeting of the Focus Group on AI for Natural Disaster Management

The meeting will take place on **24–25 June 2021**, **1000-1400 CEST** (each day). A draft agenda, meeting documents, and additional information will be available on the [FG-AI4NDM homepage](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4ndm) in advance of the meeting. The main objective of this second meeting is to receive and review use case proposals that demonstrate how AI is being leveraged to enhance our ability to detect, forecast, and communicate natural hazards and disasters. The meeting also aims to advance on the activities within the Topic Groups (TG-AI for Flood data monitoring, TG-AI for Landslide data monitoring, and TG-AI for Tsunami data monitoring) and Working Groups.

**Written contributions** are invited to further progress the work of the Topic Groups and propose new use cases relating to AI-based technologies for early warning systems. Written contributions should be submitted to the TSB Secretariat (tsbfgai4ndm@itu.int) in electronic format using the templates available from the [FG-AI4NDM homepage](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4ndm). **The contribution deadline for the second meeting is 10 June 2021**.

# 4 Registration and Participation Information

The workshop will be conducted on [Zoom](https://itu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IhbRa8lPQf-AckJNOtKgxg), followed by the second meeting of FG-AI4NDM, which will be organized on the [MyMeetings](https://www.itu.int/myworkspace/#/MyMeetings). Please note that **separate registration is required for the workshop and second meeting**. The discussions will be held in English only.

Participation in FG-AI4NDM is free of charge and open to individual experts and organizations from all sectors and relevant disciplines, including geosciences, artificial intelligence/machine learning (AI/ML), and other areas of information and communication technologies. Experts from all regions, particularly developing countries, including least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS), are encouraged to contribute to this work.

Anyone interested in following or participating in this work is invited to subscribe to a dedicated mailing-list; details on how to subscribe can be found at: <http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4ndm-quicksteps>.

To enable ITU to make the necessary arrangements, participants are invited to register online via the [FG‑AI4NDM homepage](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4ndm) as soon as possible. Note that registration is mandatory to attend the workshop and meeting.

The [FG-AI4NDM homepage](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4ndm) will be regularly updated as new or additional information becomes available. Participants are invited to check periodically for new updates.

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| 10 June 2021 | Submit written contributions (by e-mail to [tsbfgai4ndm@itu.int](mailto:tsbfgai4ndm@itu.int)) |
| 16 June 2021 | Pre-registration for Workshop online at <https://itu>.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_IhbRa8lPQf-AckJNOtKgxg  Pre-registration for Second meeting of FG-AI4NDM online at <https://www.itu.int/net4/CRM/xreg/web/Registration.aspx?Event=C-00009785> |

I wish you a productive and enjoyable meeting.

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| Yours faithfully,  Chaesub Lee Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau | Latest meeting information |