



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 24 July 2026

To:
ITU-D Sector Members in Africa, and
ITU-D Partners

Subject: Invitation to the Africa Early Warnings Forum, 2-4 September 2026, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite your organization to participate in the Africa Early Warnings Forum to be held in-person from 2–4 September 2026 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Forum will focus on accelerating implementation and strengthening sustainable early warning systems across Africa.

The Forum is co-organized by the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the World Meteorological Organization, the African Union Commission, and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia will host the Forum.

Launched by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2022, the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative aims to protect every person on Earth by multi-hazard early warning systems by 2027. Significant progress has been made across Africa, including through the African Union's Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System (AMHEWAS) and Africa Multi Hazard Early Warning for All Action Plan 2023-2027, yet major gaps remain in infrastructure, last-mile communication, and sustainable financing. Climate and disaster risks, and the frequency and intensity of natural hazards, continue to grow.

We kindly invite you to nominate participants from your organization and encourage nominations from women and persons with disabilities. Due to limited venue capacity, participation is subject to confirmation. designated representatives are therefore encouraged to [register through the Indico platform](#) at their earliest convenience.

We look forward to your participation and to the valuable perspectives your organization will bring to this important Forum.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava
Director

Annexes: Concept note

Annex 1

Africa Early Warnings Forum

Concept Note

Date	2-4 September 2026
Location	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Organizers	UNDRR, WMO, AUC, ITU and IFRC and in partnership with Ethiopia, and relevant regional institutions
Participants	Approximately 300 participants at technical level from across Africa, including governments, regional institutions, development banks, private sector leaders, scientific institutions, civil society organizations, humanitarian actors, and international partners
Language	English and French (simultaneous interpretation)

Background and Strategic Context

The Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative, launched by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2022, established an ambitious global objective: ensuring that every person on Earth is protected by multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS) by 2027.

Africa has made significant progress across the MHEWS value chain. More countries are developing, implementing, and strengthening their MHEWS. By 2026, 26 countries in the region reported having MHEWS in place – more than double the 10 countries that reported having MHEWS in 2015. This has been made possible thanks to the African Union’s Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System (AMHEWAS) initiative, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) efforts and national commitments. On the regional scale, Africa developed the [Multi-hazard Early Warning for All Action Plan for Africa \(2023-2027\)](#) to guide the implementation of the initiative and this has seen the EW4All create value by systematically reducing disaster risk and saving lives through early warning systems that detect hazards, assess risks, disseminate timely alerts, and enable effective community response actions.

At the same time, climate and disaster risks are increasing in frequency, intensity, and complexity across the continent², where exposure, vulnerability, and fiscal pressures continue to place growing strain on national systems. In fragile, conflict and violence affected areas, there is a particularly strong need to implement innovative, community-focused solutions supported by regional structures.

Many countries continue to face major gaps in forecasting infrastructure, observational networks, connectivity, last-mile communication, institutional coordination, and sustainable financing.

Progress is often constrained by fragmented project-based approaches, limited operational capacity, and insufficient long-term investment in national systems. Emerging hazards, humanitarian pressures, and constrained public financing environments are further increasing the urgency for scalable and sustainable solutions.

As the 2027 milestone approaches, the challenge is to accelerate implementation at scale and ensure systems remain operational, nationally owned, effectively governed and financially sustainable in the long term. This requires leveraging technology and innovation, and expanded operational partnerships across governments, development banks, scientific institutions, development, climate and humanitarian actors, and the private sector. At the same time, greater emphasis must be placed on bridging the last mile gap

by strengthening community level capacities, inclusive communication channels and locally led actions to ensure that warnings lead to life saving early actions everywhere.

Particular emphasis is needed on sustainable financing approaches that move beyond short-term project cycles toward long-term system strengthening, including domestic investment, climate finance, blended finance models, insurance and risk financing mechanisms, and public-private partnerships.

Against this backdrop, the Africa Early Warnings Forum will serve as an implementation and partnership platform focused on recommendations for rapidly scaling effective and sustainable MHEWS across Africa.

The Forum will bring together governments, regional institutions, technical agencies, financing partners, private sector leaders, humanitarian actors, and scientific institutions to take stock of progress to date, identify operational priorities, provide recommendations to accelerate implementation, strengthen partnerships, and mobilize the financing and innovation needed to close remaining gaps. The Forum will also contribute African priorities, leadership, and implementation experience to the broader global dialogue on the future of sustainable early warning systems beyond 2027.

Objectives

The Forum will focus on accelerating implementation and strengthening sustainable early warning systems capable of operating at scale across Africa. Specific objectives include:

- Take stock of EW4All implementation to mark progress, challenges and gaps and consolidate the achievements and lessons of the initiative in Africa, including through strengthened reporting.
- Prioritize strategic actions to accelerate the implementation of MHEWS across Africa and to ensure their sustainability and operational maturity beyond 2027.
- Advocate for sustainable financing, investments and strategic partnerships to sustain and scale effective MHEWS beyond 2027.

Participants

The Forum will bring together representatives from:

- African government representatives from national meteorological and hydrological services, disaster risk reduction and management authorities, finance ministries, telecommunications authorities, and planning ministries
- Regional organizations, such as the African Union and Regional Economic Communities
- United Nations entities, international organizations, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent movement partners and other humanitarian agencies
- Development finance institutions and climate finance actors
- Private sector leaders, including telecommunications companies, satellite and geospatial firms, AI and data companies, insurers, reinsurers, fintech providers, technology innovators, associations of farmers' and livestock producers' associations, infrastructure managers, energy and touristic sectors.
- Academia and Scientific institutions, universities, and research organizations
- Civil society organizations, youth representatives, and community-based organizations
- Representatives of persons with disabilities and other groups most at risk from disasters and climate impacts
- Media

Expected Outputs

The Forum is intended as an action-oriented acceleration platform focused on implementation, financing, partnerships, and sustainable systems-building.

Expected output includes:

- **Africa Early Warnings Forum Outcome Statement** outlining priority commitments, partnerships and actions toward universal and sustainable MHEWS warning coverage across Africa.
- **Recommendations on sustainable post-2027 framework to support early warning systems**, including governance priorities, financing approaches, institutional sustainability measures, and accountability considerations.
- **A regional synthesis report** assessing progress and remaining gaps, capturing operational lessons, scalable practices, remaining bottlenecks, investment needs, and financing and emerging opportunities for accelerating implementation across Africa, to be developed based on Forum outcomes.