DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE and AGENDA

Development of National Emergency Telecommunications Plans (NETP) Framework including the Preliminary Assessment of Early Warning Systems

The Gambia: 20 and 21 November 2024

*Stakeholder Discussion and One on One Sessions*

# Subject: Session to discuss the development and initial outcomes of the National Emergency Telecommunication Plan (NETP) Framework and Early Warning Systems (EWS) for The Gambia



**Background**

Emergency telecommunications and other information and communication technologies (ICTs) are critical for disaster management and risk reduction. They are essential for monitoring underlying hazards and for delivering vital information to all stakeholders, including the most vulnerable societies at risk.

To leverage the power of ICTs for disaster management, national and international strategies must be put in place. National policies, procedures and governance that enable the use of reliable and resilient ICT networks, services and platforms are required in all phases of disaster management. These procedures allow for information sharing across all levels of government, within communities, and between public and private organizations. Information sharing is foundational for building resilience to disasters.

# Guidelines for National Emergency Telecommunication Plans

National Emergency Telecommunications Plans (NETPs) are essential for articulating national strategies for using ICTs in the framework of disaster risk reduction. The NETPs set out a strategy to enable and ensure the availability of communications during all phases of disaster management, by promoting coordination across all levels of government, engaging stakeholders to think through the life cycle of a potential disaster, determine the required capabilities for emergency response, and create a governance framework of roles and responsibilities.

The ITU is support the Government of the Republic of The Gambia on prioritising the development of an NETP framework and provide a preliminary assessment on early warning system (EWS) focusing on cell broadcast. This will enable and ensure communications availability during the four phases of the disaster management cycle: Mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

# Description of the Session

The objective of the session is to review the draft output of the NETP framework development, and the draft Actions identified. The session will

* Offer a platform to discuss the draft documents and outcomes
* Share information that corrects and adds value to the NETP
* Consider the telecommunications industry’s state of readiness and involvement in disaster management
* Clarify EWS solutions in operation
* Discuss EWS solutions including cell broadcast and CAP
* Support the countries’ work in disaster risk reduction.

Key agency and other stakeholder one on one sessions may be arranged for further discussion.

**Timeframe**

The discussions are expected to be provided over a 2-day period split into a one-half day and a half comprising all stakeholders and a half day for one-on-one discussions. Current timeframes for these sessions (subject to change) are as follows;

1. The Gambia: Banjul, November 20 and 21 (Wednesday and Thursday)
2. Stakeholder workshop: November 20 (09:00 – 16:00), November 21 (09:00 – 15:00)
3. Individual one on one sessions: November 21 (as requested)

**Attendees**

The session will include all relevant stakeholders such as government institutions, commercial and civil and non-government organisations (NGO). Anticipated attendees are provided below.

* Key driving agencies
  + Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy, PURA, NDMA
* Other relevant government stakeholders
  + Meteorology, Water, Emergency Services, Geotechnical etc
* Country telecommunications operators, ISP’s and others
* NGO’s and other relevant civil organisations such as national Red Cresent Society, Fire-Fighters, etc
  + UN agencies

**Draft Agenda**

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| **Time** | **Wednesday 20th November 2024 - DAY 1 – National Emergency Telecommunication Plan (NETP) Development for The Gambia** |
| 07:00 – 08:55am | **Breakfast and Attendance Registration** |
| 08:55 – 09:00am | **Introduction by Moderator**   * Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy (MOCDE) |
| 09:00 – 09:30am | **Welcome Remarks & Media Coverage**   * Ms Maritza Delgado, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Telecommunications Development Bureau * Honourable Minister / Permanent Secretary – MOCDE |
| 09:30 – 10:30am | **Session 1: Presentation on the NETP Draft Framework (led by ITU expert)**   * Introductory information * Legislation and policy   + Status   + Identified gaps and issues   + Actions   + Questions and Clarifications |
| 10:30 – 10:45am | **Break** |
| 09:30am – 12:30pm | **Session 2: NETP Draft Framework**   * Vulnerability Analysis   + Availability   + Importance   + Actions   + Questions and Clarifications |
| 12:30 – 13:30pm | * Telecommunications Industry   + Inventory   + DR capabilities   + Technology advances   + Identified gaps and issues   + Possible solutions   + Actions   + Questions and Clarifications |
| **13:30 – 14:30pm** | **Lunch Break** |
| 14:30 – 15:30pm | * Early Warning Systems   + Current status   + Identified gaps and issues   + Possible solutions     - MHEWS     - CAP     - Cell broadcast   + Actions   + Questions and Clarifications   + EW4ALL Checklist |
| 15:30 – 16:00pm | **General Discussions and Wrap up and end of Day 1** |
| **Time** | **Day 2: Thursday, 21 November 2024 - National Emergency Telecommunication Plan (NETP) Development for The Gambia.** |
| 07:00 – 09:00am | **Breakfast and Attendance Registration** |
| 09:00 – 10:00am | * International Engagement   + Status   + Identified gaps and issues   + Possible solutions   + Actions   + Questions and Clarifications |
| 10:00 – 11:00am | * EOC and SOP   + Status   + Identified gaps and issues   + Actions   + Questions and Clarifications |
| **11:00 – 11:30am** | **Break** |
| 11:30 – 13:30pm | * Other DRM Issues   + Accessibility   + Recovery   + Actions   + Questions and Clarifications * Wrap up   + Summary of output   + Next steps |
| **13:30 – 14:30pm** | **Lunch Break** |
| 14:30 – 15:00pm | **Wrap up and end of session Closing Remarks**   * International Telecommunication Union (ITU) * Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy |