A Regional-to-Global Process for Early Warnings for All

Concept Note

1. 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: to ensure that every person on Earth is protected by multi-hazard early warning systems by 2027. Since its launch, EW4All has catalyzed unprecedented political momentum, strengthened international cooperation, mobilized financing, and accelerated implementation across all regions. Countries have advanced national roadmaps, strengthened risk knowledge, forecasting and dissemination systems, invested in preparedness and anticipatory action, and elevated early warning systems within climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction agendas.

As the initiative approaches its 2027 milestone, the international community faces an important strategic transition. The challenge is no longer solely one of mobilizing attention and implementation, but of ensuring that early warning systems become sustainable, institutionalized, inclusive, and capable of evolving in response to increasingly complex and cascading risks. Significant gaps remain across countries, hazards, and communities, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected settings, least developed countries, small island developing states, and rapidly urbanizing contexts. Importantly, there is no country with a 'perfect' warning system. Devastating and avoidable disasters continue to occur in high and middle-income countries. Early warnings are a shared opportunity for all to create greater resilience and reduce costs and societal impact, working together.

At the same time, the broader international environment has changed considerably since EW4All was launched. Fiscal pressures, reductions in official development assistance, increasing humanitarian demands, growing geopolitical fragmentation, and constrained multilateral financing environments are placing significant pressure on international cooperation mechanisms.

Against this backdrop, this concept note sets out a phased regional-to-global political process that builds momentum through a series of regional consultations and culminates in a global event in 2027. The outcome document or Chair's Summary will capture shared commitments and priorities on early warning systems, and recognize them as a global public good, for strategic positioning in upcoming key intergovernmental outcomes.

By embedding early warning systems within existing regional political and institutional processes, the approach aims to generate stronger ownership, more durable partnerships, and regionally relevant political commitments, while ensuring that lessons learned and remaining gaps are reflected in the next phase of global cooperation on early warning systems.

Strategic Objectives

The process pursues four interconnected objectives:

1. Review the impact of EW4All by gathering evidence on how the initiative has advanced early warning coverage, quality, and governance across countries and regions since 2022, and document good practices and scalable approaches across the four pillars.
2. Collecting priorities and commitments on sustainable early warning systems and financing from Member States, regional bodies, civil society, the scientific community, the private sector, and communities.
3. Define the core elements of the post-2027 global early warning architecture**,** including priority areas for financial commitments, a concise set of essential actions for governments and partners; and affirmation of a global mechanism to track progress and sustain long-term accountability.
4. Build political momentum and ownership and generate innovative solutions amongst governments, development banks, the private sector, and other actors to commit to accelerated action at the 2027 event.

2. The Regional-to-Global Process

The process will unfold through a series of **regional consultations,** each embedded within existing political and institutional frameworks and spanning late 2026 through the first half of 2027. Regional events will cover continental Africa, Americas and the Caribbean, Europe and Central Asia, and Asia-Pacific, bringing together governments, regional organizations, development banks, civil society, the scientific community, the humanitarian sector, and the private sector. Each event will review progress under EW4All, identify remaining gaps and priorities, and document lessons learned and scalable good practices. Each will also generate a regional outcome statement that will feed directly into the global process.

Complementing the events, a **broader consultative and engagement process** will run from mid-2026 through July 2027. Its purpose is to ensure that outcomes from the regional and global events are grounded in evidence, technical expertise, and diverse stakeholder perspectives, and that they reflect lessons learned from EW4All implementation since 2022. This process will include in-person engagements, a series of virtual dialogues, an online stakeholder survey, and supporting knowledge products.

Consolidating the evidence generated through these events and consultations, each region will prepare a **regional synthesis report.** Each report will assess the status of implementation, remaining gaps and priorities, and recommendations for global coordination on early warning systems beyond 2027. The regional synthesis reports will then be consolidated into a single global report, to be finalized in mid-2027.

2.1. Global Culminating Event and Chair's Summary

The regional process will culminate in a high-level event in mid-2027 (date and time to be confirmed). The event will combine announcements of commitments and partnerships and the adoption of a Chair's Summary reflecting the outcomes of the regional-to-global process, and a forward-looking discussion on EW4All beyond 2027. The Chair's Summary will be strategically positioned for uptake intergovernmental processes and reaffirm that early warning systems are a global public good, and that universal protection remains an urgent international priority.

The document is intended to provide the political foundation for the next phase of global cooperation on early warning systems beyond 2027. It will signal the transition of EW4All from an initial global mobilization initiative toward a sustained international commitment to universal protection, anticipatory action, and climate and disaster resilience in an era of escalating and increasingly complex disaster risk.