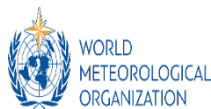# First Arab Regional Forum on
Early Warning Systems and Disaster Preparedness

Together for Enhanced Coordination and Effective Response

Cairo, Egypt, 17-18 December 2025

Venue: League of Arab States Building

Concept Note

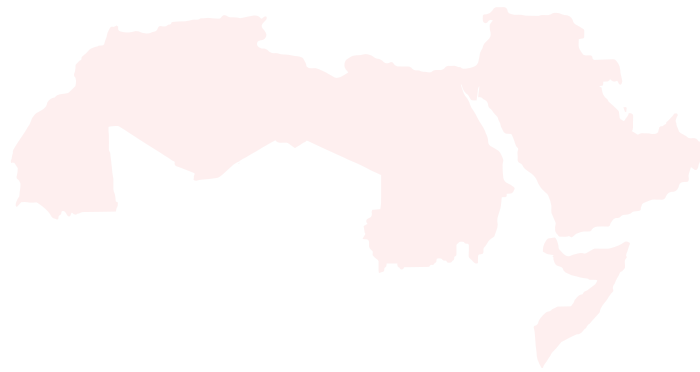# First Arab Regional Forum on Early Warning Systems and Disaster Preparedness

Together for Enhanced Coordination and Effective Response
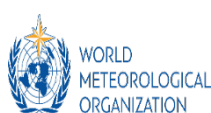
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Background

The past few years have seen a sharp intensification of disaster risks across the Arab region. Earthquakes in Morocco and Syria, floods and landslides in Libya and Yemen, forest fires in the Levant and North Africa, droughts in the Horn of Africa, and unprecedented heatwaves in the Gulf have all left lasting impacts on communities already recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. These events, and the responses to them, have been at the forefront of policymaking at national and regional levels.

Against this backdrop, early warning, disaster preparedness, and risk reduction have risen to the top of the regional agenda. The Kuwait Declaration adopted at the 6th Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in February 2025, the Arab Initiative to provide refuge for people affected by disasters endorsed at the LAS Summit in May 2025, and several other political commitments across the region all underscore this growing priority.

To build on this momentum, the League of Arab States, in partnership with the UN and other stakeholders, is convening the First Arab Regional Forum on Early Warning Systems and Disaster Preparedness. This high-level engagement aims to produce a regional roadmap with a dual focus: (i) enhancing the effectiveness of early warning systems in light of increasingly complex and cascading risks, and (ii) strengthening preparedness and resilience measures across the region.

These efforts are anchored in earlier initiatives that align with the UN Secretary-General's Early Warnings for All (EW4ALL) initiative. They include the resolution of the 55th Session of the Higher Coordination Committee for Joint Arab Action under the Council of Arab Ministers of Telecommunications and Information Technology, which called for a regional forum on early warning systems under the League of Arab States, as well as the 2023 working paper of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization (ARCO) proposing stronger regional cooperation on disaster preparedness.

The Forum is designed to serve as a strategic platform for cooperation, bringing together the League of Arab States (LAS), ARCO, UN agencies, and regional and international partners such as ITU, UNDRR, WMO, WFP, OCHA, FAO, IFRC, UNDP, the World Bank, and others. Its objectives are to:

- Enhance coordination and avoid duplication,

- Maximize synergies across mandates,

- Leverage expertise in governance, technology, climate monitoring, and humanitarian response, and

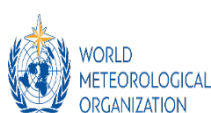- Mobilize resources for sustainable and inclusive early warning solutions.

Through collective action, partners can ensure that early warning systems in the Arab region are not only technically sound, but also people-centered, inclusive, and capable of delivering the life-saving outcomes envisioned by the Sendai Framework and EW4ALL. Strengthened collaboration will enable the region to build harmonized, scalable, and resilient early warning capacities—ensuring that no one is left behind in the face of disasters.

Forum Overview

The First Arab Regional Forum on Early Warning Systems and Disaster Preparedness, taking place on 17–18 December 2025 in Egypt, will bring together over 200 senior policymakers, technical experts, and other partners to strengthen risk knowledge, foster coordination, and align national and regional priorities under the *Early Warnings for All (EW4ALL)* initiative.

By engaging Arab States, regional organizations, and UN partners, the forum will help shape a more integrated and people-centered approach to disaster preparedness in the region. Its outcomes are expected to inform national policies, strengthen regional cooperation, and lay the foundation for scalable, inclusive early warning systems that protect lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure, toward ensuring that resilience becomes a shared priority across the Arab world.

The forum is co-led by the League of Arab States (LAS) together with the regional offices of ITU, UNDRR, FAO, WMO, IFRC, ARCO, and OCHA, with strong support from WFP, UNDP, the World Bank, and other partners. Each organization brings distinct expertise to service the proceedings of the forum, ranging from governance and risk knowledge to climate monitoring, food security, humanitarian coordination, and community resilience. By pooling these contributions, the forum will provide a unique platform

for dialogue, coordination, and knowledge exchange, ensuring that regional efforts are coherent, inclusive, and aligned with global standards.
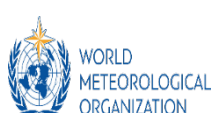
As convener, the League of Arab States (LAS) will play a central role in ensuring that the forum's outcomes translate into political commitment and action. The forum will generate concrete recommendations to guide national strategies and regional cooperation, which LAS will channel into its policymaking bodies and report back to Heads of State. In doing so, the forum will help embed disaster risk reduction and early warning as priority issues on the Arab political agenda, shaping decisions at the highest level and strengthening accountability for implementation in the face of cascading crisis and more intensifying hazards.

Expected Outcomes of the Forum

Proposed Objectives of the Forum

1. Strengthen political commitment and policy alignment by positioning early warning systems (EWS) as a regional priority, ensuring outcomes feed into LAS processes and inform national strategies in line with the Early Warnings for All initiative.

2. Enhance risk knowledge and information-sharing by exchanging experiences, lessons learned, and best practices among Arab States on disaster preparedness, emergency planning, and multi-hazard EWS.

3. Promote innovation and capacity-building by showcasing new technologies—including digital and mobile-based solutions—and identifying gaps in governance, infrastructure, and emergency communication frameworks.

4. Foster regional cooperation and partnerships by bringing together governments, regional organizations, and international partners to mobilize resources, strengthen coordination, and build inclusive, people-centered early warning systems.

Illustrative Agenda

Day 1 – Setting the Scene and Regional Priorities	
08:00 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:30	**Opening Session** - Welcome remarks by LAS, Partners, Govt - Keynote remarks on the importance of Early Warning Systems (EWS) in safeguarding lives, livelihoods, and sustainable development in the Arab region
09:30 – 09:45	Family picture
09:45 – 10:30	**High-Level Plenary: Regional Realities and Priorities** - Overview of disaster risks and climate impacts in the Arab Region - Progress in implementing the Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030 - The Role of National Emergency Telecommunication Plans (NETP) as a foundational enabler for the Early Warnings for All (EW4ALL) - Discussion on aligning national and regional priorities with global initiatives, including Early Warnings for All (EW4ALL)
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee / Networking Break
11:30 – 13:00	**Plenary Session II: Efficacy of Early Warning Systems** - Success factors for effective EWS: governance, financing, and community engagement - ITU's global work on CAP (Common Alerting Protocol) and its adoption in Arab countries - Arab country case studies and contributions (working papers, videos, and national experiences) - Best practices in design, deployment, and communication to communities
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:30	**Parallel Track A: EW4ALL in the Arab Region** - Translating the UN Secretary-General's initiative into Arab priorities - Lessons from global pilots and regional applications - Opportunities for resource mobilization and multi-stakeholder partnerships
14:00 – 15:30	**Parallel Track B: Integrated DRR–Climate Strategies** - Linking disaster preparedness with climate adaptation planning - Role of multi-hazard risk assessments in shaping climate-resilient policies - Case studies of integrated approaches from Arab countries
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee / Networking Break
16:00 – 17:30	**Plenary: Report-back from Parallel Tracks and Open Discussion** - Key insights from Track A and B - Reflections and synthesis of outcomes
Day 2 – Technologies, Cooperation, and the Way Forward	
09:00 – 10:30	**Parallel Track A: Technology and Innovation for EWS** - Mobile-based EWS: Location Based SMS and Cell Broadcast, to deliver emergency alerts

	- Latest EWS technologies and platforms (AI, mobile applications, satellite communication) - Real-life demonstrations and case studies from the region - Best practices in leveraging ICT for disaster preparedness
09:00 – 10:30	**Parallel Track B: Disaster Scenario Applications and Community Preparedness** - Simulation of different hazard scenarios and EWS responses - Strengthening local-level preparedness and communication chains - Practical hands-on exercises on CAP Implementation OR Tabel Top Exercises - Extracting lessons learned and replicable practices
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee / Networking Break
11:00 – 12:30	**Plenary Session III: Regional and International Frameworks for Cooperation** - Reviewing the Arab Strategy for DRR 2030 and links to global frameworks - Leveraging the Tampere Convention for DRR and Emergency Telecommunications. - Arab roadmap for cooperation on emergency preparedness - Opportunities for scaling regional coordination and knowledge exchange
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 – 15:00	**Plenary Session IV: Challenges and the Way Forward** - Technical, financial, and institutional challenges facing EWS in the region - Mobilizing political will and financing for inclusive and people-centered systems - Agreement on priority actions and the way forward
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee / Networking Break
15:30 – 16:30	**Closing Session** - Adoption of forum outcomes - Summary of key messages for Arab regional cooperation

Forum Language

The forum will be held in Arabic, with simultaneous interpretation into English

Forum's Key Stakeholders

- Red Crescent and Red Cross societies.

- Civil defense and national emergency response agencies.

- Ministries and regulatory authorities for telecommunications and ICT.

- National disaster management authorities

- Ministries of Environment (Meteorology, Water, Agriculture sectors).

- Ministries of Interior and national disaster management authorities.

- Mobile and telecom service providers.

- Regional and international organizations working in DRR and humanitarian fields.

- Civil aviation authorities.

- Coast guard agencies.

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