



ICG/NEAMTWS-V/3s
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INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

FIFTH SESSION
OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION GROUP FOR THE TSUNAMI EARLY
WARNING AND MITIGATION SYSTEM IN THE NORTH EASTERN ATLANTIC,
THE MEDITERRANEAN AND CONNECTED SEAS (ICG/NEAMTWS)

Athens, Greece
3–5 November 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with Rule of Procedure 48.3, ICG/NEAMTWS, as a primary Subsidiary Body of IOC, is required to report to a Governing Body on its sessions.

The IOC Assembly at its 25th Session will be invited to consider this Executive Summary.

1. The Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas (ICG/NEAMTWS-V) was held in Athens, Greece, on 3–5 November, 2008 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Stefano Tinti. It was attended by 55 participants from 17 ICG/NEAMTWS Member States, and 10 observers.
2. **The ICG reviewed** the progress made during the intersessional period and adopted updates to the NEAMTWS Implementation Plan which is available online on the NEAMTWS website. The plenary asked (i) Member States to nominate national Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP) and Tsunami National Contacts (TNC) and to (ii) openly share and exchange all tsunami-relevant real-time observational data for the purposes of the NEAMTWS in accordance with the UNESCO/IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy. The ICG decided (iii) for tsunami alert messages from Regional Tsunami Watch Centres (RTWCs) to use the terms “watch” and “advisory” solely for the two classes of alert in the decision matrix while “warning” will be used by the NTWCs only (iv) to extend the duration and mandate of the Task Team on the Regional Tsunami Warning System (RTWS) architecture until the next ICG session to prepare an RTWC operations plan for NEAMTWS and (v) that sea level data from the NEAMTWS core network will be freely available for the regional and national tsunami warning centres. In the meantime, these data can be provided to the IOC sea level monitoring facility as an interim solution.
3. **The four Working Groups** on (i) hazard assessment, risk and modelling; (ii) seismic and geophysical measurements; (iii) sea level data collection and exchange, including offshore tsunami detection and instruments; and (iv) advisory, mitigation and public awareness **as well as the task team each met** during a break out session and provided the ICG with a summary of future activities and the requested update on infrastructure, functionalities and architecture of the TWS. The ICG confirmed the four intersessional Working Groups and encouraged them to continue their work in the context of the Implementation Plan.
4. **The ICG decided** to organize its Sixth Session in November 2009 and accepted the kind offer of Turkey to host it.

ANNEX I

AGENDA

- 1. OPENING**
- 2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION**
 - 2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
 - 2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR
 - 2.3 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION, TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION
 - 2.4 ESTABLISHMENT OF SESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS
- 3. REPORT ON ICG/NEAMTWS INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**
 - 3.1 OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ICG/NEAMTWS
 - 3.2 REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUPS
 - 3.3 REPORT ON TOWS
 - 3.4 REPORTS FROM OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS
- 4. REGIONAL ARCHITECTURE OF NEAMTWS**
 - 4.1 REPORT OF THE AD-HOC TASK TEAM
 - 4.2 CONTRIBUTIONS BY MEMBER STATES TO NEAMTWS
- 5. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**
- 6. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**
- 7. SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS**
 - 7.1 BREAK OUT SESSIONS
 - 7.2 REPORTING IN PLENARY
- 8. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2008–2009**
- 9. DATES AND PLACE FOR ICG/NEAMTWS-VI**
- 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 11. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 12. CLOSING**

ANNEX II

RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS

The Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas (ICG/NEAMTWS),

Having met for its 5th Session in Athens, Greece, 3 - 5 November 2008,

Having reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the NEAMTWS,

Welcomes the declaration by several Member States of progress achieved in the establishment of NTWCs and appreciates the willingness and commitment of France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Turkey in offering RTWC services to other Member States. This does not exclude other candidate centres from joining the RTWC network to improve the coverage for the NEAM coastlines, and provide relevant data and backup services.

Reinforces the urgency of having the NEAMTWS operational in an interim phase as soon as possible and in the full configuration no later than 2011.

Urges Member States to

- openly share and exchange for the purpose of the NEAMTWS all tsunami-relevant real-time observational data as appropriate and in accordance with the UNESCO/IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy,
- nominate both Tsunami Warning Focal Points and Tsunami National Contacts as soon as possible,
- consider extra-budgetary contributions to IOC in support of NEAMTWS,
- ensure seismic and sea-level expertise in the operational staff for potential RTWCs,

Invites Member States, acknowledging the pre-proposal by Germany to Barcelona Process: Union for Mediterranean, to consider preparing prioritized action items in accordance with the NEAMTWS Implementation Plan.

Encourages Member State institutions to submit proposals to appropriate calls within the 7th FP of the European Commission.

Agrees in principle on the revised Roles and Requirements for TWCs as detailed in the Task Team report.

Decides:

- To extend until the next ICG session the duration and mandate of the Task Team on the RTWS architecture to prepare a development plan and operations guide for the NEAMTWS network as detailed in annex VII.
- For tsunami alert messages from RTWCs to use watch and advisory solely for the two classes of alert in the decision matrix. Warning will be used by the NTWCs only.
- Sea level data from the NEAMTWS core network should be freely available for the regional and national tsunami warning centres, once these become established. In the meantime, these data can be provided to the IOC sea level monitoring facility as an interim solution for visualization and control of operational status, without data archiving facility for those stations not belonging to GLOSS.

The ICG thanks Greece for hosting its fifth session in Athens, and **gratefully acknowledges** the offer by Turkey to host the next ICG session in Istanbul in November 2009. Details will be decided in consultation with the ICG officers.