

# First Meeting of the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems Initiative (CREWS) Steering Committee

12 September 2016, Geneva, Switzerland

## MEETING REPORT

The objective of the CREWS initiative is to significantly increase the capacity to generate and communicate effective impact-based, multi-hazards, gender-informed, early warnings and risk information to protect lives, livelihoods, and assets in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Islands Developing States (SIDS).

### CREWS Members



France (Chair)



Australia



Luxembourg



Germany



Netherlands

### CREWS Observers



Canada



Japan



Switzerland



ACP

### Implementing Partners



## Summary of Proceedings and Decisions

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee meeting of the CREWS initiative took place in Geneva, Switzerland, on 12 September 2016, hosted by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
2. The meeting was attended by representatives from Australia, Canada, France, Japan, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Switzerland, ACP Secretariat, UNISDR, WMO, GFDRR and the World Bank (list of participants attached).

### 1.1 Adoption of the Agenda and Appointment of the Chair

3. A video address was delivered by Ms. Ségolène Royal, COP21 President and French Minister of the Environment, Energy and Marine Affairs. She reiterated the commitment of France to the CREWS initiative. The COP21 President presented CREWS as a flagship initiatives for adaptation and resilience - and a practical action for the implementation of the Climate Change Paris Agreement.
4. Ms. Royal referred to the role of women for effective early warning systems and the need to ensure gender sensitive programming. She suggested an initial target of 50% of CREWS funded projects should demonstrate gender sensitivity.
5. She mentioned that France will continue to mobilize partners to join the initiative and the importance of starting implementation to be able to show initial progress at the COP high-level event she offered to host in the French pavilion at the COP22 in Marrakech, Morocco.
6. The meeting appointed the Government of France as the first Chair, for one year, of the CREWS Steering Committee. Ms. Brigitte Collet, Special Envoy for France for renewable energies and climate risk prevention, chaired the meeting.

### Decision 1.1

**- Government of France is appointed Chair of the Steering Committee for one year starting on the date of the meeting.**

### 1.2 Update on Status of CREWS

7. The Chair presented an update of the current status of pledges, the project countries identified in the Investment Plan and the status of the CREWS documents.
8. The Netherlands mentioned ongoing internal discussions to decide on the modality of their participation to the CREWS Initiative. The Netherlands would revert back following the meeting on their preferred approach. The representative referred in particular in the role of the Royal Netherlands meteorological Institute (KNMI) in supporting CREWS implementation.
9. WMO outlined positioning and alignment of CREWS with other initiatives such as the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS). In particular, the efforts made with regard to aligning the CREWS Investment Plan and outreach to support the implementation of the GFCS i.e. in Burkina Faso, Mali or Niger at the country level, or with the African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development at the regional level.

10. WMO confirmed it would host the small joint CREWS Secretariat within its premises, further contributing to coherence and alignment with other relevant initiatives.
11. UNISDR informed it had made one staff available full-time since April 2016 to work on the set-up of the initiative.
12. The Trustee (World Bank) informed the meeting on the status of the CREWs Trust Fund establishment (as a Financial Intermediary Fund, or “FIF”) at the World Bank. The FIF would become immediately operational once the CREWS Governance document is approved by the Steering Committee, the form of the Contribution and Financial Procedures Agreements are approved, and at least one contributing partner has signed a Contribution Agreement.

### **1.3 Consideration and approval of the CREWS Governance Structure**

13. The Trustee presented the proposed governance structure of the CREWS FIF, which includes the Steering Committee, Secretariat, Trustee and Implementing Partners. The proposed governance structure is contained in the draft Governance Document, Contribution Agreement (CA) and Financial Procedures Agreement (FPA) templates.
14. The Trustee confirmed that contributors’ customization in relation to the CA could be inserted in a cover page to each agreement – however the Standard Provision template would have to be the same for all the CREWs Trust Fund is a pooled fund.
15. Discussions took place on the role of the Chair/alternate; Observer status; duration of tenure (mandatory vs. optional); possibility to expand the Implementing Partners beyond the three current ones; the need to ensure coordination with partners not contributing directly to the FIF (i.e. Canada, Japan) and how these parallel efforts are/could be accounted for; and the importance to align activities with the Sendai targets and indicators.
16. Clarifications were provided by the Trustee and Secretariat (a.i) as follows. The duration of the Chair tenure is optional and open to SC decision, however the proposed timeframe is one year. The expansion of the number of Implementing Partners would require first the establishment of minimum fiduciary standards and an accreditation process by the Steering Committee, and subsequent assessment and accreditation of any such Partners, subject to no-objection by the Trustee.
17. The meeting agreed that effective coordination of efforts will be important to ensure the identified need for an efficient use of funds, stronger programmatic coherence and avoid duplication. The Secretariat (a.i.) will look at the feasibility and possible manners to reflect investments by partners programmatically aligned with the CREWS and not contributing directly to the FIF.
18. Australia and The Netherlands requested additional time to get final internal clearances for the CA. Additionally, the Netherlands reiterated they were still discussing internally the terms of their engagement.
19. Luxembourg requested the Trustee to add a paragraph in the CA on the liability of Contributors. The Trustee agreed to circulate the appropriate text addressing the issue of limitations of ‘responsibility and liability’ of Contributors.

20. The CREWS founding documents (Governance Document and form of Financial Procedures Agreement) were approved – with the exception of the form of CA that was pending comments by two members (as described in para 18).

### **Decisions 1.3**

**- The CREWS Governance Document and the Financial Procedures Agreement (FPA) are approved by the Steering Committee.**

**- In accordance with their request, Australia and the Netherlands will have until 19 September 2016, to send comments to the Chair of the Steering Committee, with copy to the Trustee, on the Contribution Agreement (CA). The final CA will be circulated to the Steering Committee for approval, under a no-objection procedure.**

**- In response to a request from a Member, the Trustee agreed to circulate text for the CA addressing limitations of ‘responsibility and liability’ of Contributors.**

### **1.4 CREWS Project Development and M&E Procedures**

21. The proposed modalities for project development and monitoring framework under CREWS were presented.
22. The Steering Committee welcomed the presentations, recognized the importance of developing principles both for the programming and monitoring procedures.
23. The Steering Committee invited Secretariat to present for consideration and approval, at the Second Steering Committee Meeting, draft operational procedures on (1) CREWS Programming and Project Development; and (2) CREWS Monitoring and Evaluation.

### **Decision 1.4**

**- Based on the presentations made and related discussions at the meeting, the Secretariat will develop draft operational procedures, for review by the Steering Committee at its Second Meeting, on; (1) CREWS Programming and Project Development; and, (2) CREWS Monitoring and Evaluation.**

### **1.5 Status review of early warning systems in LDCs and SIDS**

24. The Secretariat (a.i.) presented the initial methodology used to map LDCs and SIDS early warning capacity and effectiveness, as a basis to prioritize investments in the framework of the CREWS initiative.
25. The Secretariat (a.i.) suggested producing short annual status reports on climate information and early warning systems in LDCs and SIDS to guide CREWS investments, in cooperation with other funds such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

26. The mapping will build on existing efforts to develop standard guidelines for measuring early warning effectiveness and global and regional reviews, such as the recent review of Early Warning Systems in the Pacific by Australia. The mapping will align with the work of the Sendai Framework Open Ended Working Group on Indicators for Disaster Risk Reduction, relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and build on WMO's Country Profile Database.

### **1.6 Consideration and approval of the CREWS Investment Plan and Budget 2016-2020**

27. The CREWS Implementing Partners presented the draft Investment Plan for 2016-2020, which includes the outlines for five national projects (Burkina Faso, DR Congo, Mali, Niger, and Papua New Guinea); one regional project in the Pacific; and two global activities.
28. The administrative budget (including Secretariat and Trustee costs) for the Fiscal Year 2017 (up to 30 June 2017) was outlined.
29. ACP Secretariat sought clarification on the fact that Caribbean countries were not included in the current Investment Plan, and asked to clarify the relevance of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) to the CREWS Initiative.
30. WMO referred to the current countries included in the investment plan and the fact that the list is based on identified needs and resources available. It was recognized that the demand far exceed resource availability. Partners referred to a number of ongoing initiatives aligned programmatically to CREWS in Caribbean countries. Funds contributed by Canada to WMO, to be programmatically aligned with CREWS, and expected to cover SIDS and South-East Asia, could be potentially used for Caribbean countries.
31. WMO clarified that the CREWS Investment Plan is aligned in substance with the objectives of GFCS to contribute to implementation of the GFCS. Moreover, CREWS will benefit from GFCS partnerships and outreach, such as the GFCS Partner Advisory Committee.
32. The Netherlands sought clarification on the timeframe of the Investment Plan (i.e. projects being multi-year whereas the administrative budget is for one year only). It was clarified that proposed activities were based on available resources so far and that administrative costs were fixed costs that are adjustable on actuals.
33. Australia, Canada and Luxembourg requested to rectify their respective contribution breakdown in the « Status of pledges as of July 2016 » table on page 8 and to move their initial contribution to WB Fiscal Year 2017 instead of 2018.
34. The Steering Committee reviewed and endorsed the initial Investment Plan 2016-2020, with the understanding that funding decisions will be made based on project proposals submitted by the CREWS Secretariat, based on proposals by the lead Implementing Partner, and once resources are available in the FIF.
35. The Steering Committee reviewed and endorsed the Administrative Budget. The Administrative Budget will be circulated to the Steering Committee for final approval once funds are available in the CREWS FIF.

## **Decisions 1.6**

- **The Steering Committee reviewed and endorsed the initial Investment Plan 2016-2020 with the understanding that funding decisions will be made based on project proposals submitted by the CREWS Secretariat, based on proposals by the lead Implementing Partner, and once resources are available in the FIF.**
- **The Steering Committee reviewed and endorsed the CREWS Administrative Budgets FY2017, with the understanding that a funding allocation will be made by no-objection procedure, once resources are available in the FIF.**

## **1.7 Advocacy and resource mobilization**

36. The Chair stressed the importance of garnering additional resources to reach USD 100 million target and highlighted the intention of the COP21 President to write to partners inviting their engagement and support to the CREWS initiative.
37. The Chair proposed organizing a CREWS high-level event at the UNFCCC COP22 in Marrakech, Morocco, under the theme “Saving Lives in LDCs and SIDS – progress with the CREWS Initiative” (tbc). Participation in the event would be by invitation, for approximately 50 participants, in the French Pavilion (blue zone), chaired (at least partially) by the COP21 President Mme Royal (tbc).
38. Presenters would include representatives from Governments of CREWS countries and partners; eminent representatives of the international community such as the former Secretary-General of the UN (Mr Kofi Annan- tbc), the Secretary General of WMO (Mr Petteri Taalas- tbc), the Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction (Mr Rober Glasser - tbc). The session – to take place preferably during the 2nd week of the COP (i.e. week of November 14), will be designed to profile women’s leadership.
39. The Steering Committee welcomed the proposal by the Chair to organize a CREWS high-level event at COP22, and committed to contribute to its organization.
40. The meeting discussed and agreed to use opportunities to advocate for CREWS in the lead-up to the COP22, including at the Global and Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Platforms, the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (13 October 2016) and the World Tsunamis Awareness Day (5 November 2016).

## **Decisions 1.7**

- **The Steering Committee welcomed the intention of the COP21 President to write to partners inviting their engagement and support to the CREWS initiative.**
- **The Steering Committee welcomed the suggestions to use every opportunity to promote CREWS, including the Global and Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Platforms, the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, 13 October 2016 and the World Tsunamis Awareness Day, 5 November 2016.**
- **The Steering Committee welcomed the proposal by the Chair to organize a CREWS high-level event at COP22, Marrakech, Morocco, preferably during the second week.**

## **1.8 Date of next meeting**

41. The Chair proposed to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee in the margins of the COP22 in Marrakech. The date of the meeting would be determined in consultation among the Chair and the Secretariat, and was likely to be during the first week of the COP. The main objectives would be to approve project proposals and review the draft Programming and Project Development and Monitoring and Evaluation documents.
42. Implementing Partners asked the Steering Committee for clarification on the level of details they would expect for the project proposals. The Secretariat (a.i) proposed that a draft outline be circulated to the Steering Committee, which was welcomed by the Chair who proposed to share an outline, subject to change.

### **Decision 1.8**

**- The 2<sup>nd</sup> CREWS Steering Committee meeting will take place in the margin of COP22, Marrakech, Morocco. The main objectives will be to review and approve Project Proposals and review and approve the documents agreed under decision 1.5.**

## **1.9 Any Other Business, summary of proceedings and closing remarks**

43. The Steering Committee members were reminded on the availability of a closed workspace for the CREWS Steering Committee, accessible at <http://cc.preventionweb.net/crews>.
44. It was noted that in the next steps for the development of the CREWS projects, Implementing Partners would need to submit for Steering Committee approval – thru the Secretariat, an allocation request, with the identified lead Implementing Partner and a breakdown of resources.
45. The 1<sup>st</sup> CREWS Steering Committee draft Meeting Report, including draft Decisions will be circulated by the Chair, along with the revised governance documents and draft meeting minutes by 26 September 2016.



## Annex I - List of Participants

<b>Contributing Partners</b>		
France (Chair)	Ms. Brigitte Collet	Special Envoy for renewable energies and climate risk prevention
	Mr. Michel Pré	Environment and climate Department , MAEDI/DGM/DDD
	Ms. Marie-Pierre Méganck	International and European affairs Unit MEEM/DGPR
	Mr. Michaël Chouraki	Environment and climate Department , MAEDI/DGM/DDD
	Mr. Philippe Ramet	French Mission in Geneva
Australia	Ms. Lisa Gittos	Policy Officer Sustainability and climate change branch -DFAT
	Ms. Greer Alblas	1 <sup>st</sup> Secretary Australian Mission in Geneva
Luxembourg	Ms. Cheryl Dentzer	Attaché de Gouvernement
The Netherlands	Mr. Vincent Swinkels	Climate Unit - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Germany	Not represented	
<b>Observers</b>		
Canada	Ms. Lorraine Anderson	Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations
ACP Secretariat	Mr. Olusola Ojo	Expert - Sustainable Economic Development and Trade Department
Switzerland	Mr. Andre Wehrli	Program Manager, FFDA –SDC Global Cooperation Climate Change Division (GPCC)
WMO	Ms. Elena Manaenkova	Assistant Secretary General
	Mr. Maxx Dilley	Director Climate prediction and adaptation branch
	Ms. Mary Power	Director - Office for Resource Mobilization and Development Partnerships
	Mr. Jean Paul Gaudechoux	Senior program manager
	Mr Angiolo Rolli	Director Resource Management Department
UNISDR	Ms. Shoko Arakaki	Chief Regional Program Coordination and National Implementation Support
	Mr. John Harding	Program Officer

WB-trustee	Mr. Jonathan Caldicott	Sr Financial Officer Development Finance
WB/GFDRR	Mr. Francis Ghesquiere	Head of GFDRR Secretariat
	Ms. Manuela Chiapparino	Team Leader GFDRR Europe and European Donors relations
	Mr. Vladimir Tsirkunov	Lead Specialist
	Mr. Daniel Kull	Sr Disaster Risk Management Specialist
	Ms. Henriette B. Mampuya	Disaster Risk Management Analyst
	Mr. Jean-Baptiste Migraine	DRM Specialist WB Africa region

## **Annex II - Provisional Agenda | 12 September 2016**

*Venue: World Meteorological Organization (WMO),  
7bis, avenue de la Paix, Geneva , Switzerland*

### **Monday 12 September 2016**

8.30 – 9.00	<b>Registration</b>
9.00 – 9.30	<b>1. Welcome, adoption of the Agenda and appointment of the Chair</b>
9.30 – 10.00	<b>2. Update on Status of CREWS</b>
10.00 – 10.30	<b>Coffee break</b>
10.30 – 11.15	<b>3. Consideration and approval of CREWS governance structure</b>
11.15 – 12.00	<b>4. CREWS Project Development and M&amp;E Procedures</b>
12.00 – 13.30	<b>Lunch break</b>
13.30 – 14.00	<b>5. Status review of early warning systems in LDCs and SIDS</b>
14.00 – 15.30	<b>6. Consideration and approval of the CREWS Investment Plan 2016-2020</b>
15.30 – 16.30	<b>7. Advocacy and resource mobilization</b>
16.30 – 17.00	<b>Coffee break</b>
17.00 – 17.15	<b>8. Date of next meeting</b>
17.15 – 17.30	<b>9. Summary of proceedings and closing remarks</b>
	<b>Reception hosted by Government of France</b>