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| The International Teleocmmunication Union - Connecting the World. | **International telecommunication union**  **Telecommunication Standardization Bureau** | |  |
|  | | Geneva, 23 January 2024 | |
| **Ref:** | **TSB Circular 171 FG-AI4NDM/MM** | **To:**  - Administrations of Member States of the Union;  - ITU-T Sector Members;  - ITU-T Associates;  - ITU Academia  **Copy to:**  - The Chairs and Vice-Chairs of ITU-T Study Groups;  - The Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau;  - The Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau | |
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| **Subject:** | **Twelfth meeting of ITU/WMO/UNEP Focus Group on “Artificial Intelligence for Natural Disaster Management” (FG-AI4NDM) and Workshop on “Resilience to Natural Hazards through AI Solutions”, Catonsville, Maryland, USA 13-15 March 2024** | | |

Dear Sir/Madam,

# It is my pleasure to invite you to attend the twelfth meeting of the ITU/WMO/UNEP Focus Group on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Natural Disaster Management (FG-AI4NDM), scheduled to take place at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) Catonsville, Maryland (United States), from 14 to 15 March 2024. The meeting will be preceded by the Workshop on “Resilience to Natural Hazards through AI Solutions” that will take place on 13 March 2024, at the same venue. The workshop and meeting are being kindly hosted by the NASA’s Goddard Earth Systems and Technology Center (GESTAR II) and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC).

**1 Workshop of the Focus Group on AI for Natural Disaster Management**

The **workshop on “Resilience to Natural Hazards through AI Solutions”** will take place on **13 March 2024.** This workshop will highlight how AI solutions can contribute to natural hazard resilience. The workshop programme along with the registration details will be made available on the [FG-AI4NDM webpage](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4ndm).

# 2 Twelfth meeting of the Focus Group on AI for Natural Disaster Management

The twelfth meeting will take place on **14-15 March 2024**. The draft agenda, the meeting documents, registration link, logistics document along with other relevant information on how to participate in the meeting will be made available on the [FG-AI4NDM homepage](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4ndm).

This twelfth meeting will focus on finalizing the remaining Technical Report and completing the additional educational materials.

**Written contributions** are invited to further the deliverables of the working groups. All written contributions should be submitted to the TSB Secretariat ([tsbfgai4ndm@itu.int](mailto:tsbfgai4ndm@itu.int)) in electronic format using the templates available from the [FG-AI4NDM homepage](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4ndm). **The submission deadline for contributions to the twelfth meeting is 1 March 2024**.

# 3 Practical arrangements

The twelfth meeting of FG-AI4NDM will be conducted on the [MyMeetings](https://www.itu.int/myworkspace/#/MyMeetings) Platform. The discussions will be held in English only.

A limited number of travel grants are available to experts from LDCs, SIDS and developing countries (subject to availability of funds from the donors' grant received by ITU) to attend the upcoming FG AI4NDM meeting. Participants are invited to register online via the [FG‑AI4NDM homepage](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4ndm) as soon as possible. Note that registration is mandatory to attend the meeting. More information can be found in Annex 1 to this letter.

The [FG-AI4NDM homepage](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4ndm) will be regularly updated as new or additional information becomes available. Participants are invited to check periodically for new updates.

**Key Deadlines:**

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| 1 March 2024 | – Pre-registration (online via the [FG‑AI4NDM homepage](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4ndm)) |
| 1 March 2024 | – Submit written contributions (by e-mail to [tsbfgai4ndm@itu.int](mailto:tsbfgai4ndm@itu.int)) |

I wish you a productive and enjoyable event.

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| Yours faithfully,    Seizo Onoe  Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau | Qr code  Description automatically generatedLatest meeting information |

**Annexes: 2**

# Annex 1: Registration and Participation Information

# Registration and Participation Information

The twelfth meeting of FG-AI4NDM will be conducted on the [MyMeetings](https://www.itu.int/myworkspace/#/MyMeetings) Platform. The discussions will be held in English only.

Participation in FG-AI4NDM is free of charge and open to individual experts and organizations from all sectors and relevant disciplines, including geosciences, disaster risk reduction, disaster relief, disaster mitigation, artificial intelligence/machine learning (AI/ML), and other areas of information and communication technologies. Experts from all regions, particularly developing countries, including least developed countries (LDCs), and small island developing states (SIDS), are encouraged to contribute to this work.

Anyone interested in following or participating in this work is invited to subscribe to a dedicated mailing list; details on how to subscribe can be found at <http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4ndm-quicksteps>. Each working group and topic group also has a specific mailing list on which relevant information relating to their activities is regularly circulated.

A limited number of travel grants are available to experts from LDCs, SIDS and developing countries (subject to availability of funds from the donors' grant received by ITU) to attend the upcoming FG AI4NDM meeting. The deadline for applying for travel grant is 22 February 2024. More information on how to apply will be made available on the [FG‑AI4NDM homepage](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4ndm).

Participants are invited to register online via the [FG‑AI4NDM homepage](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4ndm) as soon as possible. Note that registration is mandatory to attend the meeting.

**Pre-registration**

To enable the host to make the necessary logistics arrangements, participants are required to **pre-register online** via the [FG‑AI4NDM homepage](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4ndm) as soon as possible, and no later than **28 February 2024**. Places are limited and registration will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration is required for remote participation as well as on-site participation. Please note that pre-registration of participants for the events is carried out exclusively online.

**Visas**

We would remind you that citizens of some countries are required to obtain a visa in order to enter and spend any time in United States. If required, visas must be requested before the date of arrival in United States from the embassy or consulate representing United States in your country or, if there is no such office in your country, from the one that is closest to the country of departure. Deadlines vary, so it is suggested to check directly with the appropriate representation and apply early.

The [FG-AI4NDM homepage](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4ndm) will be regularly updated as new or additional information becomes available. Participants are invited to check periodically for new updates.

# Annex 2: Background

The ITU/WMO/UNEP [Focus Group on AI for Natural Disaster Management (FG-AI4NDM)](http://www.itu.int/go/fgai4ndm) examines the potential of leveraging AI for natural disaster management. FG-AI4NDM is helping to lay the groundwork for best practices on the use of AI for detecting and forecasting natural disasters and providing effective communications during the advent of disasters.

Established by ITU-T Study Group 2 at its meeting on 18 December 2020, FG-AI4NDM is Chaired by Ms Monique Kuglitsch (Fraunhofer HHI) and supported by Ms Elena Xoplaki (Justus Liebig University Giessen), Mr Jürg Luterbacher (World Meteorological Organization), Mr Muralee Thummarukudy (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification), Ms Rakiya Abdullahi Babamaaji (National Space Research and Development Agency, Government of Nigeria), Mr Srinivas Chaganti (Bharat Sanchar Nigam, Government of India), and Ms Yan Chuan Wang (China Telecommunications Corporation), who serve as Vice-Chairs.

The FG-AI4NDM structure is as follows:

1. **Working Group on Data for AI (WG-Data)**

* ***Chair(s):*** Allison Craddock (Jet Propulsion Laboratory - NASA) and Rustem Arif Albayrak (NASA Headquarters)

1. **Working Group on AI for Modeling (WG-Modeling)**

* ***Chair(s):*** Jackie Ma (Fraunhofer HHI) and Andrea Toreti (Joint Research Centre - European Commission)

1. **Working Group on AI for Communications (WG-Communications)**

* ***Chair(s):*** Ivanka Pelivan (Fraunhofer HHI) and Thomas Ward (IBM)

1. **Working Group for Mapping AI-related Activities in Natural Disaster Management (WG-Roadmap)**

* ***Chair(s):*** David Oehmen (UNFCCC)

1. **Working Group for Educational Materials (WG-Educational Materials)**

* ***Chair(s):*** Jon Cox (WMO)

The first virtual workshop and meeting of FG-AI4NDM was held on 15-17 March 2021, during which the FG‑AI4NDM working structure, the preliminary list of deliverables, related working methods, and future meeting plans were established. In addition, the first use case proposals were approved and associated topic groups were established.

The second virtual workshop and meeting of FG-AI4NDM took place on 23-25 June 2021 to advance on the topic groups and discuss new use case proposals.

The third virtual workshop and meeting of FG-AI4NDM was scheduled on 30 August -2 September 2021. During this meeting, additional use case proposals were discussed and evaluated, and the baseline text for certain deliverables were presented.

The fourth virtual meeting of FG-AI4NDM was organized on 20 October 2021.The meeting was dedicated to advancing the draft deliverables within the different working groups, based on the incoming written contributions.

The fifth virtual meeting of FG-AI4NDM was held on 26-28 January 2022. The meeting focused on reviewing new use-cases to be incorporated into existing Topic Groups. The fourth virtual workshop on Artificial Intelligence for Natural Disaster Management was organized under the umbrella of the AI for Good on 16 March 2022.

The sixth meeting of FG-AI4NDM was held on 7-9 June 2022. The meeting was geared towards advancing the roadmap and glossary, review of new use case proposals, and building on the deliverables of the various working groups.

The seventh meeting of FG-AI4NDM and related workshop was held on 24-26 October 2022 in Athens, Greece. The meeting focused on advancing on the existing deliverables and finalizing the Glossary.

The eighth meeting of FG-AI4NDM and related workshop was held as a virtual meeting on 19 December 2022. The meeting focused on advancing on the existing deliverables and finalizing the Roadmap.

The ninth meeting of FG-AI4NDM was held on 13-16 February 2023. The meeting was dedicated to finalizing the Technical Report - AI for Communications: Towards Natural Disaster Management.

The tenth meeting of FG-AI4NDM was held on 27 June 2023. The meeting was oriented towards advancing on the Technical Report - AI for Modeling and the Technical Report – AI for Data.

The eleventh meeting of FG-AI4NDM was held on 22 November 2023. The meeting was dedicated to finalizing the Technical Report – AI for Data.

FG-AI4NDM has eleven topic groups:

* AI for Flood Monitoring and Detection
* AI for Geodetic Enhancements to Tsunami Monitoring and Detection
* AI for Insect Plague Monitoring and Detection
* AI for Landslide Monitoring and Detection
* AI for Snow Avalanche Monitoring and Detection
* AI for Wildfire Monitoring and Detection
* AI for Vector borne Disease Forecasting
* AI for Volcanic Eruption Forecasting
* AI for Hail and Windstorm Hazard Mapping
* AI for Multihazard Communications Technologies

FG-AI4NDM has two dedicated Work Streams on “Tools supporting AI for Natural Disaster Management” and “Glossary” respectively.