CONCEPT NOTE
ITU Guidelines for National Emergency Telecommunication Plans & ITU-ETC Emergency Telecommunications Table-Top Simulation Guide

19 March 2020
15:00 to 17:30
Remote meeting

Subject: Special ITU-ETC joint session to launch the ITU Guidelines for National Emergency Telecommunication Plans and the ITU-ETC Emergency Telecommunications Table-Top Simulation Guide

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Background

Emergency telecommunications and other information and communication technologies (ICTs) are critical for disaster management and risk reduction. They are essential for monitoring underlying hazards and for delivering vital information to all stakeholders, including the most vulnerable societies at risk.

To leverage the power of ICTs for disaster management, national and international strategies must be put in place. National policies, procedures and governance that enable the use of reliable and resilient ICT networks, services and platforms are required in all phases of disaster management. These procedures allow for information sharing across all levels of government, within communities, and between public and private organizations. Information sharing is foundational for building resilience to disasters.

Guidelines for National Emergency Telecommunication Plans

National Emergency Telecommunications Plans (NETPs) are essential for articulating national strategies for using ICTs in the framework of disaster risk reduction. The NETPs set out a strategy to enable and ensure the availability of communications during all phases of disaster management, by promoting coordination across all levels of government, engaging stakeholders to think through the life cycle of a potential disaster, determine the required capabilities for emergency response, and create a governance framework of roles and responsibilities.

To respond to the increasing demand to support countries to develop NETPs, ITU has created guidelines to assist national stakeholders and policymakers to develop a clear, flexible and user-friendly NETP with a multi-stakeholder approach. The guidelines describe the main elements that the plan should consider incorporating, including national policies, procedures and governance to support the continued use of reliable and resilient ICT networks, services and platforms for disaster management.

Emergency Telecommunications Table-Top Simulation Guide

The ITU-ETC Emergency Telecommunications Table-Top Simulation Guide outlines the key steps in planning, designing, conducting and following up on emergency simulation exercises. Table-top exercises allow stakeholders to test and refine emergency telecommunication plans and policies to verify whether networks, redundant communications capacities, personnel, and other telecommunication systems are in place. Such activities can bolster a preparedness mindset, helping to reduce vulnerability when disasters strike.

Description of the session

The objective of the special session is to launch the ITU Guidelines for National Emergency Telecommunication Plans and to showcase ITU's work on assisting countries developing the NETPs. Since 2018, ITU has supported the development and implementation of NETPs in four Pacific Islands - Vanuatu, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea - and in two countries in the Americas Region -- Guatemala and Bolivia. The session will offer a platform to share experiences from different countries on the benefits of the NETPs as well as identify challenges for their implementation. The discussion will also highlight the opportunities to support ITU's work in disaster preparedness and the importance of partnerships in disaster management.

Complementarily, the launch of the ITU-ETC Emergency Telecommunications Table-Top Simulation Guide will contribute to enhancing national disaster-readiness in the emergency telecommunications sector by testing the capacities of people, processes and technologies in a simulated emergency scenario. The session will also give a brief introduction to the Guide, outlining its operational context and overall value.

Agenda

15:00 – 15:05	**Introduction by Moderator** • Ms. Maritza Delgado, Programme Officer, Environment and Emergency Telecommunications Division, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
15:05 – 15:25	**Welcome remarks** • Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) • Ms. Enrica Porcari, Chief Information Officer and Director Technology Division, World Food Programme (WFP) and Chair, Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)
15:25 – 17:25	**Interventions with Questions & Answers** • Ms. Mijke Hertoghs, Head, Environment and Emergency Telecommunications Division, ITU • Mr. Joseph Burton, Counsellor for Technology and Security Policy, U.S. Department of State • Mr. Juan Roldan, ITU Expert • Ms. Ria Sen, Preparedness and Resilience Officer, Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) • Mr. Simon Grey, Senior Vice President of Humanitarian Affairs, Eutelsat on behalf of Global VSAT Forum • Mr. Isaac Kwamy, Senior Manager, Strategic Partnerships & Market Engagement, Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation, GSMA • Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini, Secretary general EMEA Satellite Operators Association • Mr. Javier García O. General Coordinador, International Relations Unit, of Dominican Institute of Telecommunications, INDOTEL
17:25 – 17:30	**Wrap up and end of session** **Closing Remarks** • Stephen Bereaux, Deputy Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)