

INFORMATION NOTE

This information note has been prepared to provide clarity on the mandate, scope and complementarity of work of the two activities on Global Initiative on “Resilience to natural hazards through AI solutions” and AI for Early Warnings for All (EW4All) sub-group to highlight coordination between the two activities.

Global Initiative on “Resilience to natural hazards through AI solutions”

The [ITU/WMO/UNEP Focus Group on AI for Natural Disaster Management \(FG-AI4NDM\)](#) was established in December 2020. FG-AI4NDM lays the groundwork for best practices in the use of AI for assisting with data collection and handling, improving modelling across spatiotemporal scales, and providing effective communication. The ToR can be found [here](#).

From March 2021 to March 2024, FG-AI4NDM convened twelve meetings and organized eleven Webinars/Workshops on topics related to leveraging AI for disaster management. In keeping with its mandate, FG-AI4NDM has developed three reports on AI for communications, transformative AI models for disaster management and leveraging AI for data related processes in the context of natural hazards. The Focus Group also developed a standardization roadmap and glossary related to the application of AI for natural hazards.

During the 12th meeting of FG-AI4NDM, hosted by NASA Goddard Earth Systems and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, there was a call to launch an initiative on “Resilience to natural hazards through AI solutions” to build on and further the activities of this Focus Group by exploring the potential of AI and other emerging technologies across different disaster types through the prism of research, innovation and standardization.

This Initiative was announced during the *UN Leaders Roundtable Lunch - How to leverage AI in the UN in support of safe, responsible and equitable AI?* on 30 May 2024 at the AI for Good Global Summit, in the presence of the representatives from key UN partners of the Initiative.

AI for Early Warnings for All (EW4All) sub-group

The [AI for EW4All sub-group](#) was created by, and reports to, the EW4all Initiative’s inter-pillar technical coordination group (lead by WMO, UNDRR, ITU and IFRC) in September 2023, to identify partners and applications to allow the use AI for the achievement of the EW4all initiative. The initiative, which was launched by the UN Secretary General in March 2022, wants to ensure that by 2027, every person on Earth is protected by an early warning system. AI is specifically referenced in the [EW4All plan of action](#) and the sub-group was announced by the EW4all [Advisory Board](#). The AI sub-group specifically focuses on adding structure to the application of AI to support the attainment of the EW4All Initiative objectives. Its key members are WMO, UNDRR, ITU and IFRC (who lead the work of the sub-group) but also Microsoft, Google, GSMA, UNDP, UNFCCC, GEO and the Global Initiative on *Resilience to natural hazards through AI solutions*. Key areas of work include:

- Explore and compile opportunities and present examples across AI use cases to support the four EW4All Pillars in realizing the outcomes defined in the EW4All Action Plan.
- Cultivate partnerships and collaborate with stakeholders to identify ways to leverage AI effectively and ethically across the implementation of the initiative.
- Develop, organize, and deliver capacity development and awareness-raising sessions to showcase how AI can be harnessed to improve the capacity and effectiveness of EWS along all four Pillars.
- Based on the expertise of the Pillar leads and partners, pinpoint gaps in early warning systems and work with private sector partners and academia to identify AI applications to address these gaps
- Based on the above, identify pilot projects that will be carried out in cooperation with countries implementing the EW4all initiative.
- Establish a clear roadmap for AI implementation that aligns with international standards and safeguards the rights and well-being of individuals and communities at risk of disasters.
- Develop comprehensive guidelines and frameworks for the responsible and ethical integration of AI within the EW4All Initiative. These guidelines will ensure that AI applications prioritize privacy, transparency, fairness, and accountability, while also addressing potential biases and unintended consequences.

Highlight coordination of two activities

The AI for EW4all sub-group will focus on the use of AI within the early warning value chain across the four Pillars of the EW4all Initiative. Within this scope, any work related to standardization will be handled by the Global Initiative. The Global Initiative has a broader scope, exploring a wider range of disaster types and AI and emerging technologies from the perspective of innovation and standardization. Work carried out by the Global Initiative related to the EW4A initiative will be coordinated with the EW4A sub-group. All completed work by the AI sub-group will be available to the Global Initiative and vice-versa.

To ensure alignment of work, focal points will be designated from the Global Initiative to the EW4A sub-group and vice versa.