Summary of Session: The International Standard Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) and the UN Action Plan on Early Warnings for All

Organizer: Alert-Hub.Org CIC

Data and Time of Workshop: 13 March 3:45pm

https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/286

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- The Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)

- CAP Editor Freeware

- CAP Alert Hubs

- The Call to Action on Emergency Alerting

- The 'UN Early Warnings for All' Action Plan

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Much more needs to be done in developing countries with regard to: Promotion of ICTs for development (Action Line C1); Information and communication infrastructure (Action Line C2); Access to information and knowledge (Action Line C3); Capacity building (Action Line C4); and, Realizing the benefits of e government (Action Line C7).

- All societies need to ramp up efforts for Building confidence and security in use of ICTs (Action Line C5). This is especially worrisome for public alerting of emergencies because of their high profile and their potential vulnerability to malicious disruption and disinformation.

- Progress has been quite good with regard to the CAP-based emergency alerting infrastructure leveraging ICTs as an Enabling environment (Action Line C6). However, there is a certain tension between the centralized, proprietary approaches common among social media platforms and the inherently decentralized, protocols-based approach used in the CAP architecture. This tension should be cautionary for governments in satisfying their legal and policy requirements with regard to public alerting records.

- It is heartening to see that many international institutions are aware of aspects of emergency alerting that focus on assuring that messages are understandable and actionable, and that focus on how to improve service to underserved segments of society. These aspects touch on WSIS Action Line C8, Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content, and WSIS Action Line C10, Ethical dimensions of the Information Society.

- It is also heartening to see the growing awareness of CAP-enabled public alerting among news media, including "new media" as well as traditional broadcast radio and television. However, much remains to be done in this area, so we should say that WSIS Action Line C9, Media, is a work in progress.

- Cooperation at the international and regional levels (Action Line C11) has been good with regard to emergency alerting for particular hazard types such as severe weather. However, such cooperation is notably lacking for many other hazard types. This is very evident in the

international Register of Alerting Authorities which lists nearly all of the world's national meteorological and hydrological services, but very few of the world's national emergency management services.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points)

- **This Workshop itself did not have any tangible outcomes.**

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Although this Workshop did not produce an actionable plan, participation in WSIS Forum 2023 led to [this online consultation](#) to provide input to the Global Digital Compact: Timely warning of life-critical emergencies is essential to public communication services.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

My suggested theme for the WSIS Forum 2024 is: "ICTs in the UN Action Plan on Early Warnings for All". Given the primary role of governments in official public alerting and the gap in CAP uptake by developing countries, my suggested theme links to WSIS Action Lines: C1, The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development; and C7, ICT applications: benefits in all aspects of life—E government. There are also strong linkages to WSIS Action Lines: C2, Information and communication infrastructure; C3, Access to information and knowledge; and C4, Capacity building. Also, because public alerting of emergencies deals with life-critical information and is a potential target for malicious disruption and disinformation, my suggested theme links to WSIS Action Line C5, Building confidence and security in use of ICTs.