



Special Session 9

Empowering communities: building resilience through early warning systems in the Arab region

Thursday, 7 March 2024, 11:15 am – 12:45 p.m. Beirut time

Background:

Early Warnings for All is a global initiative to ensure that everyone on Earth is protected by early warning systems (EWS). The UN Secretary-General released in November 2022 the High-level Executive Action Plan for this initiative, emphasizing the urgent need to support the most vulnerable first.

Objectives:

1. Share EWS success stories in developing and implementing EWS in the Arab region, as well as best practices and successful experiences in other regions.
2. Discuss gaps in early warning systems and how they can be addressed to achieve risk informed development.
3. Explore opportunities for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and technology transfer among Arab states and with other regions.
4. Assess how EWS are grounded on human rights, gender equality, and social justice, responding to needs and priorities of the populations, including vulnerable and marginalized groups.

The session may serve as an awareness-building platform for wider audiences regarding early warning issues.

Questions to be addressed:

1. What are the gaps in early warning systems in the region and how can they be addressed to achieve universal coverage?
2. What are the key challenges in implementing early warning systems at all levels and how can they be tackled?
3. What role can community-based systems play in improving early warning and responses to disasters and emergencies?
4. How can opportunities of regional cooperation in early warning systems be maximized?
5. How can early warning systems be more inclusive, accessible, and relevant to different social groups and vulnerable populations, including women, youth, and persons with disabilities?
6. What are the prospects for using early warning systems to mitigate and prevent conflicts, and how can they be integrated into peacebuilding processes?

Moderator:

Ms. Saira Ahmed – Risk Knowledge Programme Officer – UNDRR Regional Office for Arab States

Panelists:

- **Dr. Chadi Abdallah** – Director, National EWS platform- CNRS Lebanon
- **Mr. Khader Mohamed Nur** – Director, Somali Disaster Management Agency SoDMA – Somalia
- **Mr. Hamidi Soule Saadi** – Director, Volcanological Observatory of Karthala – Comoros
- **Mr. Mohamed Salem El-Za'aby** - Chief of Comms & Networks unit- United Arab Emirates
- **Dr. Ahmad Raad** – ITU expert – Telecom regulation authority – Lebanon
- **Mr. Kassem Chalaan** – Lebanese Red Cross Society

This Special Session will be organized as a hybrid event. To participate over Zoom, please [register here](#). Those physically present at the UN House can attend the session in Committee Room 2 (CR-II), B1 floor.

