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اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات
政府间海洋学委员会

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7 December 2020

To: ICG/NEAMTWS Tsunami National Contacts (TNCs)
ICG/NEAMTWS Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs)

Cc: National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with IOC in Member States
Permanent Delegations/Observer Missions to UNESCO and
National Commissions for UNESCO in IOC Member States¹ of the ICG/NEAMTWS
ICG/NEAMTWS Steering Committee
ICG/NEAMTWS Chair and Vice-Chairs

Subject: Tsunami Ready Programme in the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation Systems (ICG/NEAMTWS): Nomination of Experts and Expression of Interest to Pilot Community Tsunami Ready

Since 2017, on the recommendation of the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG-X), which coordinates the development of the regional tsunami warning systems, related regional Intergovernmental Coordinating Groups have been considering adapting the CARIBE-EWS Tsunami Ready guidelines with a view to developing harmonized consistent global preparedness guidelines for communities. CARIBE-EWS Tsunami Ready community based performance recognition programme were first adapted and piloted in the Pacific and Indian Ocean. Tsunami Ready programme is getting more visibility through the promotion of tsunami awareness in communities and among authorities through communication and tsunami wave exercises, training, information, and community preparedness and recognition programmes.

Consequently, the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas (ICG/NEAMTWS) recommended at its 14th session in 2017 to focus on tsunami education, awareness and preparedness, and to explore the adaptation of community preparedness and

¹ Albania, Algeria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, and United Kingdom

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recognition programmes such as Tsunami Ready* in the NEAM region, including Tsunami Hazard and Tsunami Evacuation Maps, Plans, and Procedures (TEMPP).

The recent significant tsunami triggered by an earthquake of magnitude 7.0 Mw hitting the island of Samos (Greece) and the Aegean coast of the Izmir region (Turkey) on 30 October 2020, shed light – once again – on the complexity of warning for locally generated tsunamis of rapid onset which challenge the ability of local authorities and communities at risk to take early action. This event is a renewed pressing call after the wake-up call on 20 July 2017, following the Bodrum (Turkey)-Kos (Greece) tsunami, to increase tsunami preparedness and readiness at the community level.

The recent online session of [ICG/NEAMTWS Working Groups and Task Teams](#) held on 24–26 November 2020, appreciated and welcomed the steps taken by some cities in France (Cannes), Italy (Minturno, Palmi and Marzamemi-Pachino municipalities) and Spain (Chipiona, Province of Cadiz) to spearhead the Tsunami Ready recognition processes. Participants to the meeting agreed to form a dedicated Group on Community Tsunami Ready within Working Group 4 on Public Awareness, Preparedness and Mitigation which will report to ICG/NEAMTWS at its next session in November 2021.

Pursuant to this latest development, I am pleased, on behalf of the Chairperson of the ICG/NEAMTWS, to invite Tsunami National Contacts (TNCs) to nominate experts to this new Group on Community Tsunami Ready established within Working Group 4 on Public Awareness, Preparedness and Mitigation (WG4) to coordinate, develop and recommend strategies, actions and an implementation plan for Community Tsunami Ready under ICG/NEAMTWS.

I would also like to take this opportunity to request Member States to communicate their interest in piloting Tsunami Ready in their country.

The names, positions and email of experts and interests to pilot Tsunami Ready should be communicated by email to Mr Denis Chang Seng, ICG/NEAMTWS Technical Secretary, at d.changseng@unesco.org by 8 January 2021.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

*[Tsunami Ready](#) is a voluntary community recognition programme that promotes tsunami hazard preparedness as an active collaboration among federal, state/territorial and local emergency management agencies, community leaders and the public. The main goal of the programme is to improve public safety before, during and after tsunami emergencies. It aims to do this by establishing guidelines for a standard level of capability to mitigate, prepare for and respond to tsunamis, working with communities to help them meet the guidelines and ultimately become recognized as Tsunami Ready. To this date, there are 26 UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready recognised communities in 18 countries and territories in the Caribbean, Pacific region and the Indian Ocean region.