



EWCI



Second International Conference on Early Warning

Integrating early warning of natural disasters into public policy

Final Announcement



International Strategy
for Disaster Reduction



Federal Foreign Office

16-18 October 2003
Bonn, Germany

Introduction

The Second International Early Warning Conference (EWC-II) will take place from 16 to 18 October 2003 in Bonn, Germany.

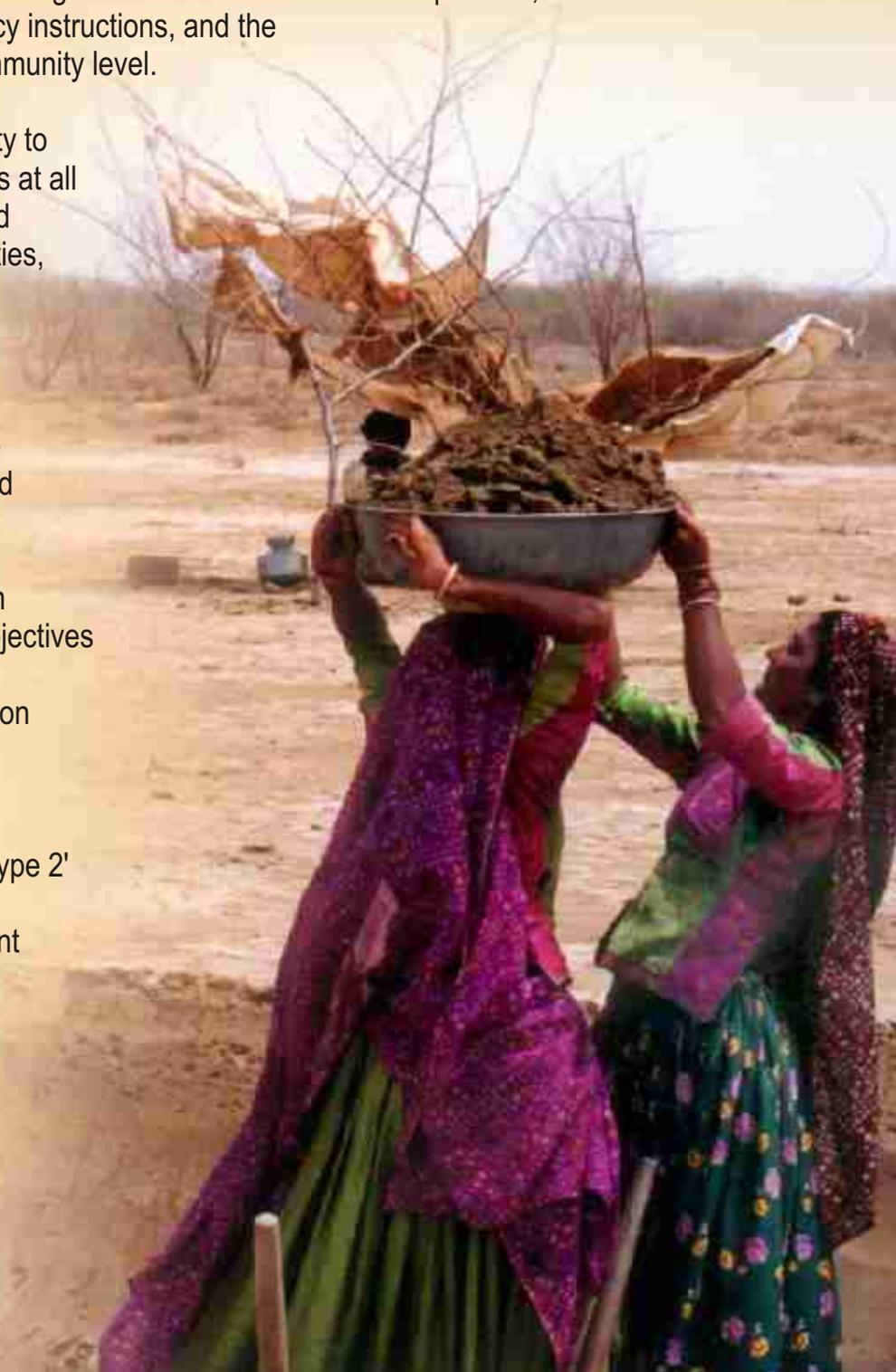
The impacts of disasters have grown rapidly over the past three decades, with thousands of fatalities, hundreds of millions of people affected and tens of billions of dollars of losses. Developing countries are disproportionately affected, with losses sometimes exceeding a year or more of hard-won and desperately needed economic development.

The ultimate goal of hazard forecasting and early warning systems is to protect lives and livelihoods, therefore proving to be a crucial element of any disaster reduction programme. To serve people effectively, early warnings need to be integrated instruments, linking the forecasters and other scientific and technical initiators of warnings with the intermediaries who process, issue and disseminate alerts and emergency instructions, and the ultimate users of warnings at the community level.

The EWC-II will provide an opportunity to enhance the dialogue among partners at all levels, strengthening coordination and cooperation to further integrate activities, interests and expertise of the various sectors involved in the early warning process.

The discussions and outcomes of the EWC-II will contribute to the goals and objectives of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, addressing the Millennium Development Goals as well as the objectives set out in Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), Johannesburg, September 2002.

The EWC-II is a contribution to the 'Type 2' partnership entitled 'Integrating early warning and disaster risk management into the sustainable development agenda and practice'. 'Type 2' partnerships consist of a series of commitments conveyed at the WSSD aimed at translating political commitments into action.



▲ Background and Objectives

▲ A number of accepted concepts for the implementation of early warning systems exist such as the Guiding Principles for Effective Early Warning resulting from the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990-1999). These guidelines benefited from an international early warning programme as well as contributions from experts associated with all aspects of warning practices and for various types of hazards. In 1998 the Potsdam International Conference on Early Warning Systems for Reduction of Natural Disasters (EWC'98) further emphasised the importance of early warning as a core component of national and international disaster reduction strategies for the 21st Century.

The EWC-II aims to address the challenge of translating these accepted principles into concrete action-oriented modalities. Early warning is not only a technical issue, but also a human and organizational one. Today, the challenge remains in obtaining political responsibility to promote early warning, raising public awareness and facilitating participation. As implied in its title - Integrating early warning of natural disasters into public policy - the EWC-II will focus specifically on political commitment and responsibilities.

The objectives of the EWC-II are:

- Support and assess the effectiveness of early warning processes at the global, regional and national levels since EWC'98, and identify issues that may have hindered or prevented intended implementation initiatives
- Assist authorities to develop the legal, institutional, financial and political frameworks required to implement long-term early warning systems based on case studies and success stories
- Develop approaches for sharing early warning knowledge and experience, including training and other capacity building activities utilising technological aspects such as the Internet and other means of information access, exchange and dissemination
- Document and share current and future techniques relevant for early warning, vulnerability and risk assessment strategies, data collection and management including space-based and associated terrestrial remote sensing technology.

The discussions at the conference will take place around three main themes:

- Theme I: Emerging Issues
- Theme II: Early Warning, Disaster Reduction & Sustainable Development
- Theme III: Sustaining the Early Warning Dialogue

▲ Outcomes

▲ The outcomes, discussions and findings of the EWC-II will contribute to the formulation of guidelines targeted at policy makers and practitioners for the effective implementation of early warning systems. Addressing policy makers is of great importance as it is a possibility to shift the attention to natural hazards from reacting to preventing. Without the politicians setting and publicizing the framework for early warning, such as laws and educational standards, the scientific experts will never have the chance to implement their expertise on disaster reduction. They will serve as blueprints to implement early warning systems as pillars of disaster reduction strategies, encompassing both environmental and climatic processes in support of sustainable development.

A set of recommended early warning benchmarks will also be developed to be met by countries, as part of a disaster reduction programme of action 2005-2015, including criteria and indicators to measure their effectiveness. Finally, an early warning programme will be developed to support the continuity and ensure the sustainability of the early warning dialogue, including various sectors involved in the early warning process and addressing various needs for strengthening capacities in this field. There is a need of facilitating the exchange of information and experience between the many participating countries. Such efforts are vital to successfully integrate early warning to natural disasters into public policy.

▲ How to participate

▲ All those who have received a notification from the ISDR Secretariat are invited to participate in the EWC-II.

For further information how to participate please contact miketta@dkkv.org

If you have not already submitted a Reply Form, please download the form from www.ewc2.org and send it to miketta@dkkv.org

Thematic papers

Participants are invited to contribute with thematic papers, following the three main themes of the event. To date many abstracts have been received from which the Steering Committee will select for presentation at the EWC-II. Relevant thematic papers submitted will be made available on the EWC-II website as well as at the Conference.

Best practices

Participants are invited to share their experiences by sending an account of their 'best practice' (maximum two pages) to the ISDR Secretariat. Early warning guidelines are being developed based on existing examples of best practices in the integration of early warning into public policy.

Poster presentations

One pin board (dimensions 1.20 length x 1.50 m height) will be provided to participants registered to make a poster presentation. To confirm your designated space please contact the registration desk on-site.

Posters must be set up on Thursday 16 October and removed upon the conclusion of the conference. Please note that the organizers will not take any responsibility for posters not removed by 21:00 Saturday 18 October.

▲ EWC-II Advisory Group and Steering Committee

▲ The EWC-II is hosted by the Government of Germany under the auspices of the United Nations and supported by the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR). The Conference preparations are coordinated by a Steering Committee of UN and international organization representatives as well as other key actors in early warning and further supported by a group of international advisors.

The EWC-II Advisory Group is chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme. The experts on the Advisory Group are Norberto Fernandez (chair), Robyn Betts (Australia), Maureen Fordham (United Kingdom), Henri Josserand (FAO), Erich J. Plate (Germany), Juan San Nicolás Santamaría (Spain), Slobodan Simonovic, (Canada), Juan Carlos Villagrán De León (Guatemala), and Seth Vordzorgbe (Ghana).

The EWC-II Steering Committee is composed of representatives from the following organizations:

- Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)
- German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV)
- Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft Deutscher Forschungszentren e. V.
- Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)
- International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU)
- Federal Foreign Office of Germany
- Munich Reinsurance (MunichRe)
- UN Development Programme Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (UNDP/BCPR)
- UN Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE)
- UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UN/OOSA)
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- UN Volunteers Programme (UNV)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Regional consultations and workshops

The EWC-II will build upon the outcomes and recommendations resulting from regional consultations and workshops on early warning that took place in Bandung, Indonesia; Antigua, Guatemala; Nairobi, Kenya; and Potsdam, Germany. These consultations provide region-specific input that will help define and prioritise the issues, relative to the three principal themes of the conference

Detailed proceedings of the consultations will be made available shortly on the EWC-II website as well as being presented and discussed at the conference.



Asia and the Pacific

Effectiveness of Early Warning Systems in Asia/Pacific
26-28 May 2003

Bandung, Indonesia

Organised by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), UN Inter-Agency Secretariat of the ISDR (UN/ISDR), Directorate General of Geological and Mining Area Environment (DGMAE), Indonesia and with financial support of the Federal Institute of Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), Germany. Additional support from the German Technical Corporation (GTZ), Mekong River Commission and UN Development Programme (UNDP).



The Americas

Hemispheric Consultation on Early Warning
3-5 June 2003

Antigua, Guatemala

Organised by UN/ISDR and GTZ with financial support of the Federal Foreign Office, Germany. The Steering Committee comprised representatives of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPRENAC), National Coordination for Disaster Reduction (CONRED), Guatemala and UNDP.



Africa

African Regional Consultation on Early Warning
23-24 June 2003

Nairobi, Kenya

Organised by UN/ISDR and UNDP with financial support of the Federal Foreign Office, Germany. The Preparatory Committee comprised representatives of the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS Net), World Food Programme (WFP), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), Drought Monitoring Center-Nairobi (DMC(N)), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).



Europe

European Consultation on Early Warning
28-29 July 2003

Potsdam, Germany

Organised by UN/ISDR, Centre for Geological Research (GFZ), Potsdam and the German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV) with financial support of the Federal Foreign Office, Germany.



Logistical Arrangements

Venue

The EWC-II will be held at the Internationales Kongresszentrum Bundeshaus Bonn (IKBB) in Bonn, Germany. The conference venue has special historical significance being the former meeting venue for the Bundestag (German Parliament) until it moved to the new capital, Berlin in 1999.

Internationales Kongresszentrum Bundeshaus Bonn
Görresstraße Number 15, Entrance 2 A
53113 Bonn, Germany

Venue Access

From Bonn's main station take the Underground (U-Bahn) line numbers 16, 63, 66, 67, or 68 in the direction of Bad Godesberg, Bad Honnef and Königswinter, until arrival at the station Heussallee/Museumsmeile. Travel time is around 10 minutes.

Walk down Heussallee and turn left in the Görresstraße. The IKBB is located on the right hand side (path is clearly signposted). Walking time is no more than 5 minutes.

For further information on the conference venue please refer to:
www.maritim.de/english/tagungen/bundeshaus/plenarsaal.htm



On-site conference services

On-site internet/computer access, photocopying, fax and telephone services will be provided to participants on a commercial basis.



Accommodation

Accommodation specialists Tourismus & Congress GmbH, Bonn will make arrangements for all EWC-II hotel reservations. Hotel rates (3-4*) vary from 79,50 € - 140 € per day.

Please note that reservations should be made by 10 September 2003. After this date reservations will only be accepted according to hotel availability.

To make a reservation and for further information on hotels please refer to:
www.tcbonn.de/con/html/3126.html

Or contact:

Phone: +49 (0) 228 910 41 33

Fax: +49 (0) 228 910 41 77

Email: reservierung@bonn-region.de



Arrival

Bonn is serviced by three international airports: Cologne/Bonn, Düsseldorf and Frankfurt. Please note that all travel expenses between the airport and Bonn City are the participant's responsibility.

Köln (Cologne)/Bonn airport

Cologne/Bonn airport is 20 km from downtown Bonn. A shuttle service (number 670) departs every 20 to 30 minutes from the airport to Bonn (journey takes around 30 minutes). The bus stop is signposted at the front of the airport building.

By taxi the journey from Cologne/Bonn airport to Bonn Centre costs approximately 35 €.

For more information on Cologne/Bonn airport please refer to:
www.airport-cgn.de

Düsseldorf airport

The journey from Düsseldorf Airport to Bonn takes around 1 hour 10 mins and costs 12-17 € (depending on the train).

The IC and RE trains travel directly from Düsseldorf Airport to Bonn, while the ICE travels via Cologne to Bonn (change for IC/RE trains to Bonn).

It is not recommended to take a taxi from Düsseldorf Airport to Bonn Centre.

For more information on Düsseldorf Airport please refer to:
www.duesseldorf-international.de

Frankfurt airport

The journey from Frankfurt airport to Bonn takes around 1-2 hours and costs 29-53 € (depending on the train).

The EC and IC trains travel directly from Frankfurt Airport to Bonn, while the ICE travels to Bonn-Siegburg (change for tram number 66 to Bonn).

It is not recommended to take a taxi from Frankfurt Airport to Bonn Centre.

For more information about Frankfurt airport please refer to:
www.frankfurt-airport.de



Visas

EWC-II participants are responsible for ensuring that their passports are valid, and that visa requirements are met. To check whether you require a visa to enter Germany, please refer to your local German consulate/embassy.



Transport

Upon check in at the hotel, those who have made a reservation for accommodation by 10 September (via Tourismus & Congress GmbH) will receive a ticket for travel from the hotel to the conference venue.

Upon registration at the conference participants will receive a ticket which entitles the bearer to full use of public transport (bus and underground) within Bonn's city limits from 16 to 19 October. Please note that the ticket does not cover travel to the airport upon departure.



Meals

Lunch tickets may be purchased at the registration desk on-site.

On 16 and 17 October the City of Bonn and the German Government will be hosting evening functions, providing dinner and drinks. Please note all other meals are the participants' responsibility.



Language

The official language in Germany is German. However, English is widely spoken in hotels and restaurants.



Currency

The currency of Germany is the Euro (€). The approximate exchange rate (as at July 2003) is US \$1 = 0.875 €.

Currency exchange facilities are available at all airports. The closest currency exchange to the conference venue is Sparda-Bank, Heussallee 14. Sparda-Bank exchanges US Dollars, Canadian Dollars, British Pounds and Swiss Francs only (identification card or passport required). Its opening hours are 09:00-18:00 Monday to Thursday, 09:00-14:00 Friday, Saturday/Sunday closed.



Time zone

Bonn is UTC (GMT) + 2 hours.



Climate

October is generally quite mild in Bonn, enjoying the warmth of the late European summer cooled down by the early autumn breeze. Temperatures range between 7°C and 14°C (45-57°F) during the day. An umbrella is recommended.



Electricity

220 volts, 50 Hertz (round, two-pin plugs).



Shopping

Shops in Bonn are usually open between 08:00-10:00 and close around 19:00. In the city centre they often close later, at around 20:00. On Saturday shops in the city centre close around 16:00.

It is recommended that participants carry a small amount of cash as not all shops offer electronic payment facilities.



Tourist information

Bonn City Map

www.germany.map-vista.com/bonn-map

Bonn Visitor's Guide

http://www.bonn.de/tourismus/e_index.htm

For further information

For updated information on the EWC-II please visit the website www.ewc2.org

For all EWC-II enquiries please contact:

UN Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)

Palais des Nations

CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Tel : +41 22 917 27 62

Fax: +41 22 917 05 63

Email: isdr@un.org

For registration and logistical matters please contact:

EWC-II Conference Secretariat

German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV)

Tulpenfeld 4

D-53113 Bonn, Germany

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Fax: +49 228 243 48 36

Email: miketta@dkkv.org

Preliminary agenda

For updates on the agenda, please refer to www.ewc2.org

Wednesday, 15 October 2003	Thursday 16 October 2003	Friday 17 October 2003	Saturday 18 October 2003
<p>15:00-18:00 Registration</p>	<p>08:00-09:15 Registration</p> <p>Opening Ceremony Opening Statements: German Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs</p> <p>Messages: Ministers from selected countries Heads of UN Agencies German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV) Representative</p> <p>Coffee Break</p> <p>Plenary Session Keynote Speech Presentation of EWC-II Work Programme</p> <p>Lunch</p> <p>Best Practices I Presentation of 'Best Practices' in Early Warning</p> <p>Plenary Session Integrating Early Warning into Public Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrating Disaster Reduction and Early Warning into Development and Public Policy - Needs and Challenges Early Warning and Sustainable Development - Opportunities for Vulnerability Reduction Early Warning - A Tool for Climate Risk Management <p>Coffee Break</p> <p>Plenary Session Panel Discussion: New Technologies versus Low-Tech Solutions for Early Warning Systems</p> <p>United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction Ceremony</p> <p>Welcome Cocktail hosted by the City of Bonn</p>	<p>Plenary Session Overview of Preparatory Regional Consultations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Africa The Americas Asia and the Pacific Europe <p>Compilation of Regional Findings and Recommendations</p> <p>Coffee Break and Group Photo</p> <p>Plenary Session Panel Discussion: Early Warning, A Decision Tool for Emergency Management</p> <p>Lunch</p> <p>Best Practices II Presentation of 'Best Practices' in Early Warning</p> <p>Working Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Warning Targets 2005-2015 From Potsdam (EWC'98) to Bonn (EWCII) and beyond Sustaining the Early Warning Dialogue <p>Parallel Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective Early Warning - Use of Hazard Maps as a Tool for Effective Risk Communication among Policy Makers and Communities (Japan/Asian Disaster Reduction Center) Effective Drought Early Warning - An Integrated Approach to Reducing Societal Vulnerability to Drought <p>Plenary Session Panel Discussion for Local Authorities: Early Warning and Urban Risk: Responsibilities of Policy Makers</p> <p>Presentation of <i>Living with Risk: A global review of disaster reduction initiatives 2003</i>, UN/ISDR</p> <p>Cocktail Cruise on the Rhein hosted by the German Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>Plenary Session Findings of Working Groups</p> <p>Coffee Break</p> <p>Emerging Issues Presentation of Emerging Issues related to Early Warning</p> <p>Parallel Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing Transboundary Early Warning Systems for Floods (DKKV) New Technologies and Scientific Networks <p>Lunch</p> <p>Plenary Session Conference Outcomes and Follow-Up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of Guidelines for Policy Makers High Level Panel with Ministers and Government Representatives - Challenges in Integrating Early Warning into Public Policy Presentation of International Early Warning Programme and Recommendations for International Early Warning Benchmarks and Targets 2005-2015 Presentation of EWC-II Declaration <p>Closing Ceremony</p>

With additional support from

