



Conference Statement

Second international Conference Early Warning II

The Second International Conference on Early Warning (EWC-II) met in Bonn, 16-18 October 2003.

The participants, representing political leaders, organisations engaged in disaster risk management and humanitarian aid, the private sector, as well as the scientific community, identified the need to further strengthen capacities for early warning as a crucial element to reduce risk and vulnerability to natural and technological hazards and thus securing sustainable development.

The participants call upon all national, regional and international authorities to act with resolve to implement the following recommendations which build on the four preparatory regional workshops held in 2003 in Bandung, Antigua, Nairobi and Potsdam.

Considering

that natural and human induced disasters are increasingly becoming an impediment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the objectives of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation for Sustainable Development,

the ongoing review of the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World of 1994.

Recognising

that disasters are a result of natural hazards and of human, social, economic and environmental vulnerability,

that disaster reduction is an essential component of relevant global agendas such as combating desertification and reducing the effects of drought, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, conservation of

biodiversity, water resource management and effective humanitarian aid,

the progress achieved in understanding the importance of early warning since the first International Conference on Early Warning held in Potsdam in 1998 and the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR, 1990-1999),

that the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000, provides a suitable framework for advancing early warning as an essential risk management tool for the reduction of risk and vulnerability to natural and technological hazards,

that the guiding principles for early warning identified in 1998 are still not effectively implemented.

Calls for

the integration of early warning systems into government policies and requests the organizers to disseminate widely to authorities at all levels the relevant guidelines recommended by the Conference,

governments and relevant organizations including the private sector to support the implementation of the early warning programme as recommended by the Conference and to integrate the programme into disaster reduction strategies at all levels,

the early warning programme to focus on: (i) integration of early warning into relevant development policies and programmes; (ii) improvement of data collection, facilitating access to relevant data and forecasting; (iii) enhancement of capacities; (iv) people centred warning systems in particular ensuring gender balance and a; (v) platform to sustain the early warning dialogue.

the ISDR Secretariat to facilitate the implementation of the proposed early warning programme, to sustain the dialogue on early warning and mobilize resources to strengthen partnerships and capacities at all levels,

the organizers of the Conference to convey its recommendations to the UN General Assembly at its 58th session.

Welcomes

the offer of the German Government to provide additional support to the work of the ISDR Secretariat in the field of early warning and invites other Governments to contribute,

and expresses its warm appreciation

to the German Federal Foreign Office, the German National Committee for Disaster Reduction and the city of Bonn for their hospitality.

Bonn, 18 October 2003