



**UNESCO  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION**

**Nineteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions  
(ICG/CARIBE EWS-XIX)  
Curacao  
April 22-24, 2026**

Agenda Item 4.3

**Working Group 3: Tsunami Warning Dissemination and Communication**

This document presents the activities, recommendations, conclusions and a proposed work plan of Working Group 3: Tsunami Warning Dissemination and Communication. The ICG is requested to consider, comment and eventually endorse the recommendations issued by Working Group 3.

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**1. Introduction – Terms of Reference**

Purpose: To examine current and developing capacities and advise the ICG about the definition and composition of early warnings and tsunami products and the methods and best practices for effective end-to-end dissemination and communication.

Tasks:

- Explore and document the dissemination capabilities and existing alert guidance in the countries of the region.
- Identify the difficulties and challenges existing in the region that hinder the impact of “end to end” dissemination and communication of early warnings.
- Establish strategies for the development and implementation of methods and technologies to strengthen the interaction with the media and dissemination of early warnings within the countries of the region.
- Evaluate communication tests and tsunami exercises, in order to identify weaknesses and make recommendations to help strengthen these delivery systems
- Create communication protocol and standardized information identifying the minimum

acceptable levels for communication and dissemination of tsunami early warning in all countries for approval by the ICG.

- Provide feedback to the Tsunami Service Providers on its products and communication procedures.
- Serve as a reviewing and approving body for proposed changes to TSP products for the CARIBE-EWS, or determine if proposed changes warrant going to the ICG for review and approval.
- Present a progress report based on the Key Performance Indicators related to the UN ODTP.
- Promote the sharing of experience and expertise, and capacity building essential to effective tsunami warning dissemination and communication.

Currently the Working Group III is chaired by Ms. Christa von Hillebrandt-Andrade and vice-chaired by Mr. Trevor Queeley (UK, Anguilla). It has a total of 22 members, including 2 ex officio members. There were three virtual meetings and two regional virtual events; other business was done through email.

## 2. Working Group 3 Activities 2025-2026

### 2.1. Status on Implementation of Tasks and Recommendations from ICG CARIBE EWS XVIII:

- **Review existing national and local SOPs and provide a report for the ICG XIX.** –
  - The results from the CARIBE WAVE 26 evaluation survey provided an updated picture of the status of standard operating procedures across the region. At the national level, 97% (30 of 31) of respondents reported that their TWFP/NTWC/NDMO has standard operating procedures in place for the receipt and dissemination of tsunami alerts. At the local community level, however, only 70% (21 of 30) reported having SOPs in place. This gap highlights an area where continued capacity building is needed, particularly through programmes such as the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Programme.
  - ITIC-CAR is working on a program to support the development of local response plans.
- **Develop a strategic plan to mobilize funding and in-kind support for more effective Tsunami Warning and Dissemination with a particular focus for LDCs and SIDS (with SC and TS).**
  - Delayed due to the passing of Dr. Necmioglu and lack of resources.
- **UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Resilience Section to enhance coordination, including training, with UNDRR, International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and WMO on CAP and facilitate their participation in ICG/CARIBE-EWS meetings**
  - The Secretariat met with the International Telecommunications Union, lead for this pillar under EW4ALL.
  - ITU participated in the November 5 WTAD regional webinar: Early Warnings for All: Tsunami Warning Communication and Dissemination in the Americas and Caribbean”.
  - A webinar on GEONET CAST AMERICAS was held on March 12, 2026
  - Separate webinar for CAP to be conducted on June 8. It will be followed up with one on one meetings with interested Member States and organizations. Activity to be supported by Mr. Eliot Christian of Alert Hub.
  - ITU is participating in the Tsunami Ready Summit and the ICG XIX session

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- **Recommends the Working Group 3 to work with UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Resilience Section to post and share the CARIBE-EWS Inventory of Tsunami Warning Dissemination and Communication Methods for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions report and findings and revise as needed.**
  - TR posted the reports as part of the documents for ICG XVIII. No other dissemination opportunities on UNESCO-IOC were identified.
  - Conversations have been held with the UWI Disaster Risk Reduction Centre on mechanisms for publication in peer reviewed journal
  - Exploring creating content for Social media / LinkedIn to share dissemination practices
  - Plans to share the existing reports with the WMO Secretariat for ingestion into the CAP Help Desk chatbot.
- **Recommends WG3 to develop a training strategy for tsunami warning dissemination and communication taking into consideration international, regional and national resources and activities.**
  - In Progress.
  - Training strategy for CAP has been developed to be implemented in 2026
- **PTWC and CATAAC to coordinate among each other and conduct communication tests which should start following a notification to Member States with the instructions and PTWC and CATAAC report the results of these communication tests to WG 3 and present to the ICG.**
  - Delayed, PTWC and CATAAC were not able to coordinate.
  - To be pursued in next intersessional period.
- **Evaluate communication tests and tsunami exercises, in order to identify weaknesses and make recommendations to help strengthen these delivery systems**
  - **The following PTWC communications tests were conducted and are pending evaluation**
    - Feb 6 communication test, conducted by the USNTWC as a backup for PTWC, which included response-request from Member States.
    - March 19 CARIBE WAVE 26 communication test
- **Requests CATAAC to submit to Working Group 3 an updated User's Guide for CATAAC Procedures and Products for the CARIBE-EWS by the end of 2025.**
  - The CATAAC Users Guide was received on April 10 and circulate to all members of the Working Group
  - A meeting was convened to discuss on April 15. Four members of the Working Group, including CATAAC, and one observer participated. Comments and suggestions were made to the Director of CATAAC.
  - It was decided that more time and stakeholders are required to do a comprehensive review.

## 2.2 Other Activities:

- Co-Organized the WTAD regional webinar: [Early Warnings for All: Tsunami Warning Communication and Dissemination in the Americas and Caribbean](#) with CTIC, WMO and UNDRR. 452 people from the Americas participated.
- Conducted a GNC-A webinar on March 12, 2026, in preparation for CARIBE WAVE 26, with 60 participants.

- Shared with the members the Revised User's Guide for the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center Procedures and Products for the Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (CARIBE -EWS), May 2025
- ITIC-CAR is writing a program that would ingest PTWC information and threat messages and produce a national product based on the input provided by the national authorities. This national product would be reviewed before being issued and disseminated.

### **3. The Key challenges/opportunities**

Impacts and risks of other hazards on coastal communities (hurricanes, storm surges, sargassum, volcanic eruptions, floods, etc.) compete with resources for Tsunami. There is an opportunity through CARIBE EWS initiatives and global initiatives to harness capabilities and activities of these efforts to strengthen the communication and delivery of tsunami warnings.

#### **Challenges**

- Limited participation of Members of WG 3
- Tsunamis are low frequency events which leads to complacency
- There are many Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives in the region in which the same tsunami stakeholders are also involved, the smaller, the state the greater is this challenge

#### **Opportunities**

- CARIBE WAVE exercises have high participation rate of all Member States and within the member states and territories, including diverse sectors (National, Local, Education, Government, Industry, Service, etc)
- The Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme outlines the actions and metrics for Tsunami Dissemination and Communication
- The UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Program, which is being implemented in many Member States across the region, has two specific indicators on tsunami warning reception and dissemination, as well as response planning actions.
- Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 provides high level guidance on multi-hazard early warning systems
- UN Early Warnings for All Initiative (EW4ALL), including capacity enhancement offers additional opportunities for Capacity Enhancement
- ITIC CAR was able to hire student interns (February – September 2026) to support WG 3 actions

### **Recommendations for ICG/CARIBE EWS XVI**

Recognizes the actions of the Working Group 3 towards the advancement of tsunami warning dissemination and communication.

Welcomes the participation of Member State nominees, WMO and UNDRR in the Working Group 3 and encourages active participation of all its members and requests MS to communicate to the Secretariat changes in designations.

Recommends the Working Group 3 to continue working on the publication and dissemination of the results of the CARIBE-EWS Inventory and MS Needs of Tsunami Warning Dissemination and

Communication Methods for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions report and findings and revise as needed

Further Recommends the Working Group 3 to continue coordination with UNDRR, International Telecommunications Union (ITU), WMO, Alert Hub and other relevant organizations on strategic planning and training on CAP and other methods for enhanced tsunami warning dissemination and communication.

Additionally Recommends the Working Group 3 to continue the review of existing national and local SOPs and provide a report for the ICG XX

Recalls that PTWC and CATAAC were to coordinate among each other and conduct communication tests which should start following a notification to Member States with the instructions and PTWC and CATAAC report the results of these communication tests to WG 3 and present to the ICG.

Further recalls the WG3 task to evaluate communication tests and tsunami exercises, in order to identify weaknesses and make recommendations to help strengthen these delivery systems.

Notes that the Revised User's Guide for the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center Procedures and Products for the Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (CARIBE -EWS) was published in May 2025 and that the new products will be implemented by PTWC.

Noting further advances by CATAAC, including in Earthquake Early Warning, and potential applications for Tsunami warning and communication,

Recommends CATAAC to continue to share, explore and integrate EQEW applications into its tsunami services and products for its TWFP and NTWCs and report to ICG XX.

Notes User's Guide for the Central American Tsunami Advisory Center (CATAAC)  
– English, version 2026.

Recalls that CATAAC is serving as an interim sub-regional Tsunami Service Provider for both the Pacific and Caribbean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation Systems (PTWS, CARIBE-EWS).

Recommends that the Secretariat coordinate between CATAAC and the CARIBE-EWS and PTWS Steering Committees for the publication of the Users Guide by IOC.

Notes that AI is having a greater relevance in the warning enterprise for tsunami warning dissemination and communication and its potential impact on the protection of life and property.

Further Notes the need for more coherence across the emergency management community and warning enterprise on the role of AI, given the nature of tsunami warnings.

Recommends WG3 to explore with stakeholders the role of AI on tsunami warning dissemination and communication

Appreciates the support that the International Tsunami Information Centre Caribbean Office has provided to Working Group 3, as the contributions of other stakeholders;

Membership as of April 17, 2026:

1. Christa Von Hillebrandt-Andrade, Puerto Rico, USA (Chair, 2023-2027)
2. Trevor Queeley, Anguilla, UK (Vice Chair, 2025-2027)\*\*

3. Racquel Davis, Barbados
4. Wilberth Steban Forero Wagner, DIMAR, Colombia
5. Kristel Espinoza Hernández, Costa Rica
6. Eva Merceron, France
7. Gael Rakoto, METEOFRACTANCE, France
8. José Antonio Tojil Jiménez, Guatemala\*
9. Pablo Daniel Martínez Zeceña, Guatemala\*
10. Wilfried Strauch, Nicaragua (CATAC)
11. Miguel Flores, Nicaragua (CATAC)
12. Junior Aimable, Saint Lucia\*
13. Kaza Hippolyte, Saint Lucia\*
14. Mabiús Francis, Saint Lucia
15. J'Lisa Martínez, USVI, USA\*\*
16. Charles McCreery, USA (PTWC)
17. Carolina Hincapie, USA (PTWC)
18. María Torres, PRSN, PR, USA
19. Rodney Martínez Güingla, WMO Representative for North America, Central America, and the Caribbean\*\*
20. Raphael Hamoir, UNDRR\*\*
21. Bernardo Aliaga, AI Technical Secretary, UNESCO-IOC (Ex-Officio)
22. Eng. Gerard Metayer, Caribe EWS Chair (Ex-Officio)

\*Inactive Members as of ICG CARIBE EWS XIX (2025-2026)

\*\*New Members as of ICG CARIBE EWS XIX (May 2025)