Concept Note and Agenda

High- Level Event on Accelerating Africa's Early Warning Warnings and Resilience to Multi-Hazards

Venue: Blue Zone, Africa Pavilion, Antalya, Türkiye
Date: 12 November 2026 || 9:30 – 11:00 am

1. Introduction and Background

Africa has made substantial progress towards universal multi-hazard early warning coverage under the UN Secretary-General's Early Warning for All (EW4All) initiative. Forty-one African countries currently report having early warning systems, and the comprehensiveness of these systems has more than doubled since 2022. However, significant gaps remain in forecasting infrastructure, last-mile communication, institutional coordination and sustainable financing, particularly in Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries, fragile contexts and underserved communities. Sustainability of EW4ALL and the post-2027 agenda remains a serious challenge requiring urgent intervention.

The ongoing El Niño conditions from the second half of 2026 into early 2027 add urgency to these challenges. El Niño events have triggered droughts, floods, heatwaves, crop losses, disease outbreaks and humanitarian emergencies, with serious consequences for food security, water resources, public health and economic development. Effective early warning systems must therefore do more than predict hazards: they must enable governments and communities to act before risks escalate into disasters.

The Addis Ababa Call to Action on Early Warnings in Africa, emerging from the Africa Early Warnings Forum in September 2026, calls for accelerated implementation, stronger partnerships, inclusive last-mile delivery, increased investment and a sustainable framework beyond 2027. These priorities align with the African Disaster Risk Management and Recovery Platform, established by AUDA-NEPAD, the Africa Risk Capacity and the World Food Programme to strengthen continental coordination and scale up disaster risk management initiatives.

Against this backdrop, the High-Level event will bring together Heads of Government and State, African institutions, technical agencies, development and financing partners, and other stakeholders to connect Africa's early warning ambitions with practical action. It will build on ongoing interventions to advance a broader continental agenda: ensuring that warnings reach everyone, trigger timely action and are supported by sustainable investment beyond 2027.

2. Objectives of the Event

The objectives of the side event include:

1. To accelerate implementation of Early Warnings for All by advancing Africa's priorities under the Addis Ababa Call to Action and sustaining political commitment beyond 2027.
2. To strengthen preparedness for El Niño and other multi-hazard risks by promoting coordination among African Union Member States, regional institutions and technical partners, linking forecasts to contingency planning and anticipatory action.
3. To close last-mile protection gaps by advancing inclusive, accessible and people-centred warning systems that enable vulnerable communities to take timely protective action.

4. To mobilise sustainable investment and partnerships by promoting domestic public financing, climate finance, innovative risk-financing mechanisms and public-private partnerships to strengthen national and regional systems.

3. Expected Outcomes

The event is expected to:

1. Renew political and institutional commitment to implementing the Addis Ababa Call to Action and sustaining EW4All beyond 2027.
2. Build consensus on closing last-mile delivery gaps, particularly for vulnerable and underserved communities.
3. Reinforce partnerships and identify opportunities to mobilise predictable, long-term financing for early warning systems and early action.
4. Establish shared priorities for scaling up coordinated continental action through African institutions, Member States and development partners.

4. Key Messages

The key messages for this event include:

1. Africa must connect reliable forecasts and timely, accessible warnings with contingency plans, anticipatory action and resources that enable communities to act before disasters strike.
2. Progress under EW4All must translate into practical protection for everyone, particularly vulnerable communities, women, children, young people, persons with disabilities and populations in fragile and underserved settings.
3. Sustained national investment, climate finance, innovative risk financing and effective public-private partnerships are essential to close coverage gaps and strengthen resilience.
4. Africa must sustain political leadership, strengthen continental partnerships and establish a credible post-2027 framework to ensure that early warning coverage translates into lasting protection and resilience.

5. Structure of the Event (90 Minutes)

AGENDA

	12 November 2026 || 09:30 – 11:00
	Moderators: **AUC- Director Harsen Nyambe**
5 min.	**Introduction to the High-level Event** – Commissioner Moses Vilakati
30 min.	**Opening and welcome session** • **HE. Madam Nardos Bekele-Thomas** (Chief Executive Officer, AUDA-NEPAD) • **HE. Ibrahima Cheikh Diong (**Executive Director) Loss and Damage Fund) • **HE. Jean Chrysostome Ngabitsinze** (ARC Group Director General and UN Assistant Secretary-General) • **HE. Kamal Kishore (**UNDRR Special Representative of the Secretary-General) • **HE. Andrea Celeste Saulo (**WMO Secretary General) • **HE. Claver Gatete (**Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Africa)

	• **Hon. Sam Cheptoris** (Chair of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology)
5 min.	**Status of Early Warnings in Africa and Addis Ababa Call to Action** - Present Africa's progress under EW4All, the Addis Ababa Call to Action – AUC - Video showcasing the Early Warning in Africa
15 min.	**High-level political and institutional statements** Reflections from African leadership and Member States on political commitment. • **HE. Mahamoud Ali Youssouf** (AUC Chairperson) • **HE. Dr Abiy Ahmed Ali** (Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia) • **HE. Daniel Francisco Chapo (**President of the Republic of Mozambique)
25 min.	**Moderated discussion with Partner Institutions** *Guiding questions for partners* • How could partners strengthen collaboration to provide coordinated and more impactful support for EW4All in Africa? • How support for early warning and action systems in Africa can break out of the project approach towards sustainable, domestically led, blended financing models. ITU, IFRC, IGAD, Italy, Denmark, Canada, CREWS, GCF
5 min.	**Interactions: Question and Answer Session**
5 min.	**Closing Remarks** Summarise key messages, proposed actions and follow-up through relevant continental platforms and initiatives. • **Mrs Estherine Fotabong** (Director, Agriculture, Food Security and Environment Sustainability, AUDA-NEPAD) • **Mr. Selwin Charles Hart (**Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action and Just Transition) • **HE. Ali Hamza Pehlivan (**President of the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority, Türkiye)

6. Organizers

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