ICG/PTWS-XXX. Agenda 4.2

UNESCO / IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme

Governance in the PTWS

INFORMATION DOCUMENT

1. Introduction

In June 2022, the IOC Assembly approved the establishment of the IOC Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme. The implementation of the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP) is intended to be a key tool to achieving the societal outcome 'A Safe Ocean' of the Ocean Decade, including the global aim to make 100% of communities at risk of tsunami prepared for and resilient to tsunamis by 2030 through the implementation of the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Programme and other initiatives.

The main goal of the programme is to improve coastal community preparedness for tsunamis and to minimize the loss of life, livelihoods and property. This is achieved through a collaborative effort to meet a standard level of tsunami preparedness through the fulfilment of a set of established indicators. The Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme is implemented as a voluntary, performance-based community recognition programme that promotes an understanding of the concept of readiness as an active collaboration among national and local warning and emergency management agencies, and government authorities, scientists, community leaders and the public.

The Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme Guidelines include 12 key indicators that serve as the standard for reducing tsunami risk at the community level. These indicators can be grouped into three categories of essential actions: Assessment, Preparedness and Response. Achieving the goal of '100% of communities at risk of tsunami prepared for and resilience to tsunamis by 2030' will draw on the expertise of the entire ICG/PTWS.

2. Existing Governance within the PTWS

The International Tsunami Information Centre (ITIC) is mandated to facilitate implementation of and documentation collation for the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme and other like initiatives in the PTWS.

The 31st Session of the IOC Assembly, June 2021, via IOC Decision A-31/3.4.1 approved the establishment of a special Tsunami Ready Coalition, which aims to raise the profile of Programme in collaboration with critical stakeholders across the UN system, interested regional organizations, national disaster management agencies, and the public. The mandate of the Coalition includes proposing a governing structure to the TOWS-WG and being responsible for reporting activities and progress made in the Programme to the TOWS-WG.

Within the ICG/PTWS, monitoring and implementation of Tsunami Ready is integrated into a number of Working Groups and Task Teams:

- **Working Group Three** is responsible for facilitating and monitoring Tsunami Ready campaigns and outcomes, and reporting results to the ICG/PTWS and the TOWS-WG. The Working Group is also to contribute to the coalition for Tsunami Ready.
- Some **Regional Working Groups** include monitoring and coordination of the Tsunami Ready Programme in their region.
- **The Task Team on Future Goals and Performance Monitoring** have worked to explicitly include Tsunami Ready within the new KPI framework.
- **The Task Team UN Ocean Decade** has interest in the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme through progress towards the goals of and engagement with other ICGs on the topic of the UN Ocean Decade.

This fragmentation of governance differs from the approach taken by other ICGs. For example:

- In ICG/IOTWMS, there are Tsunami Ready focal points, and the work of Tsunami Ready is linked to exercises.
- The ICG/CARIBE-EWS have developed a Tsunami Ready evaluation instrument which they will share with ICG/PTWS when finalized.
- In Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas (ICG/NEAMTWS), the focus is to adapt standards in the region to support Tsunami Ready.

At the 2023 ICG/PTWS Steering Committee Meeting, it was agreed that Working Group 3 would explore potential governance structures for Tsunami Ready within the PTWS, also considering sustainability beyond the UN Ocean Decade.

3. Options for the ICG/PTWS

Within the PTWS governance structure, the following options are available.

1. A Task Team is established for "Tsunami Ready" Implementation

Tsunami Ready can be considered in the same context as the TT UN Ocean Decade, which is working to support the Decade Goals by 2030. This finite, mid-term goal could be considered appropriate for a Task Team purpose.

A Task Team Tsunami Ready was previously established during the pilot of the Tsunami Ready Programme, and dissolved at ICG/PTWS-XXVIII. This was prior to the launch of the UN Ocean Decade, and the role of the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme towards the Decade's goals.

Responsibilities of such a Task Team will be specific to the implementation of the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme, and could include:

- Ensure the advocacy for Tsunami Ready is aligned with other PTWS and IOC documents,

- Provide advice on the Tsunami Ready workflow as it pertains to the PTWS and regions,

- Support the ITIC's efforts to develop standardized training under the framework of the OTGA, such as through feedback on content and helping to test trainings before officially deployed,

- Include consideration of Local Tsunami Sources, where applicable, in Tsunami Ready preparedness,

- Explore, in cooperation with the TOWS Task Team on Disaster Management and Preparedness, ways to recognize communities that choose not to implement the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready programme, as compliant with the Tsunami Ready indicators,

- Help identify sources of funding in support of the implementation of Tsunami Ready.

- Advise ICG/PTWS on key issues relating to the reduction of tsunami risk as identified through the implementation of the TRRP, including tsunami source needs, enhanced access to high-resolution bathymetry and topography for inundation modelling, and enhanced integration of mitigation measures to minimise disaster impacts,

- Other Tsunami Ready supporting tasks as identified by TOWS-WG and ICG/PTWS.

2. A Working Group is established for "Tsunami Ready"

The need for a programme to advocate for ongoing tsunami risk mitigation and disaster preparedness will continue past the 2030 goal, and could also be considered appropriate for a Working Group. This has precedence in the ICG/IOTWMS, where a Working Group for Tsunami Ready Implementation has been established.

This however risks duplication of effort and / or membership with WG3, which has an overall mandate of disaster risk management and preparedness.

Responsibilities of such a Working Group will be specific to the implementation and sustainment of the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme, and could include a slightly broader mandate than a Task Team:

- Ensure the advocacy for Tsunami Ready is aligned with other PTWS and IOC documents,

- Provide advice on the Tsunami Ready workflow as it pertains to the PTWS and regions,

- Support the ITIC's efforts to develop standardized training under the framework of the OTGA, such as through feedback on content and helping to test trainings before officially deployed,

- Advocate as a priority for enhanced access to high-resolution bathymetry and topography for inundation modelling,

- Advocate for science and emergency management to work together in the application of probabilistic based risk mitigation,

- Advise Working Group 1 on the tsunami source needs for Member States,

- Include consideration of Local Tsunami Sources, where applicable, in Tsunami Ready preparedness,

- Advocate for enhanced integration of mitigation measures to minimize disaster impacts, i.e., rapid restoration of socio-economic activities and critical infrastructure services,

- Advocate best practices in engineering design and construction of evacuation shelters, especially against local tsunamis,

- Encourage use of School Disaster Risk Reduction / preparedness materials, as compiled by the IOC IOTIC,

- Explore, in cooperation with the TOWS Task Team on Disaster Management and Preparedness, ways to recognize communities that choose not to implement the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready programme, as compliant with the Tsunami Ready indicators,

- Help identify sources of funding in support of the implementation of Tsunami Ready,

- Other Tsunami Ready supporting tasks as identified by TOWS-WG and ICG/PTWS.

3. "Tsunami Ready" remains under the remit of Working Group Three

This approach would retain responsibility for within the remit of Working Group Three. This has precedence in the ICG/PTWS, with monitoring of Tsunami Ready being included WG3 terms of reference.

This approach retains sustainability of a dedicated tsunami disaster risk reduction programme beyond the UN Ocean Decade (2021 – 2023), and integrates 'Tsunami Ready' with closely related disaster risk management and preparedness activities and efforts.

However, it also sustains existing challenges, in particular that WG3 is not necessarily representative of the varied cultural approaches to risk. If WG3 were to retain this responsibility, it is suggested that closer coordination should occur across the ICG/PTWS with regards to the subject of Tsunami Ready, including Regional Working Groups and TT UN Ocean Decade, led by WG3.

4. **Recommendations**

Working Group 3 **recommends** that the ICG/PTWS:

Noting the current structure of governance relating to the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme across IOC/UNESCO and ICG/PTWS

Agrees the establishment of a Working Group 3 Task Team Tsunami Ready with Terms of Reference [as attached], with elected Chairs…

Draft Terms of Reference

WG3 Task Team:
Tsunami Ready

This expert Task Team will facilitate and coordinate efforts relating to the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme and within the ICG/PTWS, in support of UN Ocean Decade Goals.

1. Monitor Tsunami Ready campaigns and outcomes, and report results to Working Group 3 and ICG/PTWS.

2. Advise ICG/PTWS on the Tsunami Ready workflow as it pertains to the PTWS and regions, including alignment with PTWS and other IOC documents.

3. Support the ITIC in its efforts to facilitate the implementation of Tsunami Ready in PTWS Member States

4. Support the ITIC's efforts to develop standardized training under the framework of the OTGA, such as through feedback on content and helping to test trainings before officially deployed.

5. Explore, in cooperation with the TOWS Task Team on Disaster Management and Preparedness, ways to recognize communities that choose not to implement the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready programme, as compliant with the Tsunami Ready indicators.

6. Report to TOWS-WG progress on encouraging the standard text in the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready signage for vertical evacuation, such as "Go to the designated building for vertical evacuation".

7. Report to TOWS-WG progress and advice on methods to inform the public on the validity of the recognition, as indicated on the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready signage and certificate under the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready logo.