

IOC Circular Letter No 3063
(Available in English and French)

IOC/VH/BA/DCS/
12 December 2025

To : ICG/NEAMTWS Tsunami National Contacts (TNCs)
ICG/NEAMTWS Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs)

C.c. : National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with IOC in ICG/NEAMTWS Member States
Permanent Delegations/Observer Missions to UNESCO and National Commissions for UNESCO in ICG/NEAMTWS Member States
ICG/NEAMTWS Steering Committee
ICG/NEAMTWS Chair and Vice-Chairs
WMO, UNDR
EU DG-ECHO, Joint Research Commission
NAVAREA Coordinators in the North-eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and connected seas region (Spain, France, UK, Norway and USA)

Subject: NEAMWave26 – A Tsunami Exercise of the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas, 3–24 March 2026

The Steering Committee of the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas at its meeting in March 2025 decided to align the NEAMWave26 exercise with local community exercise planned by the countries participating in the [CoastWAVE 2.0 project](#).

NEAMWave26, which will take place from 3 to 24 March 2026, will offer five scenarios. Member States will be able to choose the scenario(s) that best suit their needs. This letter provides background information and further details about NEAMWave26. To date five NEAMWave exercises have been conducted (2012, 2014, 2017, 2021 and 2023).

The NEAMWave26 exercise will provide both pilot communities and communities recognized as 'Tsunami Ready' with the opportunity to comply with UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Indicator 8 on preparedness, which requires that a community tsunami exercise be organized at least every two years.

The objectives for NEAMWave 26 are:

1. Validate and evaluate the Tsunami Service Provider (TSP) dissemination process for issuing tsunami messages in the NEAM region, also utilizing communication technologies, such as SMS;

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2. Validate and evaluate procedures enabling countries to receive Tsunami Messages issued by the TSP through their National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWC), or the country Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP) or the country Tsunami National Contacts (TNC);
3. Test the dissemination of tsunami messages to the relevant emergency response (CPA);
4. Assess the organizational decision-making process for public warnings and evacuations, in order to raise awareness of their implementation and contribute to the development of a national policy for combating tsunami risk.
5. Identify best practices (to be shared), critical issues (to be addressed by the programme in its future activities) and opportunities for improvement throughout the process (including procedures already tested between TSPs and TWFPs/NTWCs, as well as the heterogeneous panorama of national capacities to manage tsunami risk);
6. Test procedures for international assistance between the European Commission and participating Member States;
7. For this exercise (NEAMWave26), one of the main objectives is to involve Member States participating in the CoastWAVE 2.0 project, as well as communities recognized 'Tsunami Ready'. The exercise will test the efficiency and capabilities of pilot and existing 'Tsunami Ready' communities to respond and test their systems in a complex and realistic situation, overcoming any challenges that may arise.

The exercise will involve the designated Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP), National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWCs) and Disaster Management Organizations (DMOs) or Civil Protection Agencies (CPAs) in your country in order to implement the procedures described in the [NEAMTWS Interim Operational Users Guide](#). Member States are strongly encouraged to extend the exercise(s) to community level where appropriate, and to establish the necessary planning and organizational teams necessary to ensure coordination with the TWFP, NTWC and DMO. TWFPs are encouraged to share the exercise information with local stakeholders to enhance participation.

Brief Description and Conduct of the Exercise

The five accredited Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs) in NEAM region will issue exercise messages jointly for three scenarios and individually for two other scenarios prepared for: the North-eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea domains, as detailed below:

Date	Type	TSPs	Title	Epicenter (Lat - Lon)	Magnitude	Description
03-Mar-2026	Single scenario	NOA	Cyprian Arc	34.55N - 32.65E	7.5	1222 SW of Cyprus
11-Mar-2026	Joint scenario	INGV-NOA	Ionian Sea	36.40N - 22.20E	7.1	1867 Peloponnesus
12-Mar-2026	Joint scenario	CENALT-INGV	Ligurian Sea	43.42N - 7.50E	6.9	1887 Ligurian Earthquake
13-Mar-2026	Single scenario	KOERI	Black Sea	44.04N - 33.60E	7.5	Black Sea
24-Mar-2026	Joint scenario	IPMA-CENALT	NE Atlantic Ocean	36.64N -11.80W	8.5	Gorringe Bank fault

Date of NEAMWave26 exercises and scenarios

The North-eastern Atlantic Ocean joint scenario executed jointly by IPMA (Portugal) and CENALT (France) TSPs on 24 March will, in addition simulate a request for international assistance through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and the Emergency Response and Coordination Centre (ERCC) of the European Commission.

Exercise Documents and Subscription

A **NEAMWave Exercise Brief** was prepared in 2023 to encourage participation, particularly from Civil Protection Agencies and other entities that are not yet familiar with the exercise. Arabic, French and Spanish versions of the brief are available [online](#).

The **NEAMWave26 Exercise Manual** will be available [online](#) by **mid-January 2026** as part of the NEAMTWS Guiding Documents and Forms.

The Exercise Manual describes in detail the scope and objectives of NEAMWave26, the phases of the exercise, the scenarios, the description of roles, the conduct and evaluation of NEAMWave26, as well as the arrangements made regarding the media. The Exercise Manual has been simplified and now consists of two separate documents:

- (i) Manual including general instructions of NEAMWave tsunami exercise, and
- (ii) **Supplements** including specific information for NEAMWave26, i.e., Exercise scenarios, concepts on the composition of Tsunami Messages, exercise team members contact information, etc.

Member States wishing to participate in NEAMWave26 exercise must fill in the [online](#) exercise registration form. Registration for the exercise should be completed no later than **end of January 2026**.

Member States subscribed as recipients of a Tsunami Service Provider do not need to register separately to the exercise through the online form, as they will receive the exercise messages as part of the full service provided by the TSPs. The exercise registration forms will provide two distinct registration levels—one tailored for TNCs, TWFPs, NTWCs, and CPAs, and another for other relevant authorities at the national or local level.

An online Information Workshop on NEAMWave26 will be organized in early February 2026. Further information will be communicated in due time.

Considering that NEAMWave Tsunami Exercises aim to test emergency procedures, crucial communication links at both regional and national levels, and response personnel preparedness in order to maintain a high state of operational readiness across the region, all Member States are encouraged to participate in the NEAMWave26 Exercise.

Updating information on TNCs, TWFPs and NTWC

Please provide the ICG/NEAMTWS Secretariat (d.chang-seng@unesco.org) with information regarding any updates concerning your Tsunami National Contact (TNC), Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP) and National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC), as well as any change to Tsunami Forecast Points¹ that will be used for the exercise using the attached form, **no later than 15 January 2026**. We also encourage you to disseminate copies of this letter to the appropriate organizations and authorities in your country.

A summary of important dates and documents:

BEFORE EXERCISE (Dates are indicative)

Mid-January 2026

- ICG/NEAMTWS Exercise Manual available at [NEAMWave26](#) (to be uploaded)

¹ The location (Longitude and Latitude) where the Tsunami Warning Centre, or other organization, provides an estimate of tsunami arrival time and/or wave height. They may correspond to important coastal cities or populations, and/or to the locations of sea level gauges.

- Deadline for providing updates regarding National Contact (TNC), Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP), and National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) to the ICG/NEAMTWS Secretariat through official channels (e.g., UNESCO Permanent Delegation) using the attached nomination form.

End-January 2026: Deadline for [online registration](#). (registration forms information to be uploaded).

Early February 2026: [Information Workshop on NEAMWave26](#), with further details to be provided in due course.

POST EXERCISE

Mid-April 2026: Evaluation questionnaire by all participants (Evaluation forms will be uploaded [here](#)).

Mid-May 2026: TSPs Evaluation report submission.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Vidar Helgesen
Executive Secretary

Enclosures (2): 1/ Nomination Form for TNC, TWFP, NTWC
2/ Tsunami Forecast Point

**NORTH-EASTERN ATLANTIC, MEDITERRANEAN AND CONNECTED SEAS TSUNAMI
WARNING AND MITIGATION SYSTEMS (NEAMTWS)**

NOMINATION FORM²

**TSUNAMI NATIONAL CONTACT (TNC)
NATIONAL TSUNAMI WARNING CENTRE (NTWC), and
24x7 TSUNAMI WARNING FOCAL POINT (TWFP)**

Note: When a new form is submitted, this form de facto replaces the previous form. If you wish to keep the same communication details provided in previous forms, please repeat them in the new form.

Member States of the ICG/NEAMTWS are requested to officially update or re-confirm information on their National Tsunami Warning Centres and contact details of their Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP) in operation in the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System by filling up this updated form. Nomination forms duly completed should be sent to the IOC Executive Secretary (v.helgesen@unesco.org) and copy to the Technical Secretary (d.chang-seng@unesco.org), through one of the following channels:

1. Minister of Foreign Affairs
2. Head of the National Commission for UNESCO
3. Permanent Delegate to UNESCO

Name of Country: _____

Do you agree to share your TNC, TWFP and NTWC information with other TWFP, TNC and NTWC contacts?

Yes _____ No _____

Definitions (IOC EC-XLVII/Dec.3.2.1 (IV), 2014) :

Tsunami National Contact (TNC): The person designated by an ICG Member State government to represent his/her country in the coordination of international tsunami warning and mitigation activities. The person is part of the main stakeholders of the national tsunami warning and mitigation system programme. The person may be the Tsunami Warning Focal Point from the national disaster management organization, from a technical or scientific institution, or from another agency with tsunami warning and mitigation responsibilities.

National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC): A centre officially designated by the government to monitor and issue tsunami warnings and other related statements within their country according to established national Standard Operating Procedures

Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP): A 24x7 point of contact (office, operational unit or position, not a person) officially designated by the NTWC or the government to receive and disseminate tsunami information from an ICG Tsunami Service Provider according to established national Standard Operating Procedures. The TWFP may or not be the NTWC.

² Updated in January 2015 & July 2018

1. Tsunami National Contact (TNC)

Agency Name: _____
Contact Person in Agency or Officer in Charge: _____
Name: _____
Email Address: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Cellular Phone Number: _____
Fax: _____
Postal Address: _____

2. National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC)

NTWC Agency Name: _____
NTWC Agency Contact or Officer in Charge (person): _____
Name: _____
Position: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Email address: _____
Postal Address: _____

3. Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP) for receiving Tsunami Bulletins

TWFP Agency name: _____
(if different from NTWC agency)

TWFP Agency Contact or Officer in Charge (if different from NTWC agency):

Name: _____
Position: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Email Address: _____
Postal Address: _____

TWFP 24x7 point of contact (office, operational unit or position, **not a person**):

Name of office, operational unit or position: _____
E-mail Address: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Cellular phone number: _____
Fax: _____

4. Designated Communication Method Information (operational on 24/7 basis)

Please specify GTS (WMO-Global Telecommunication System), email, SMS or Fax in a priority order. Note that all dissemination methods designated below will be made simultaneously by the NEAMTWS Tsunami Service Providers, but notification messages may reach their destinations at different times depending on the communication method.

Please note the following:

- In general, the GTS dedicated communication network provides receipt of notification messages within several minutes, whereas email and Fax may incur delays during peak usage times.
- For GTS, please include the international 4-letter GTS Location Indicators used in the abbreviated headings. Location Indicators can be found at:

http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/ois/Operational_Information/VolumeC1/CCCC_en.pdf

For each dissemination method, please specify the mode (GTS, email, SMS or Fax) and the addresses/contact numbers to use (GTS Location Indicator, email address(es), cellular phone number(s), Fax number):

Primary Method:

Mode (GTS, email, SMS, Fax): _____

Address/contact numbers: _____

Alternate 1:

Mode (GTS, email, SMS, Fax): _____

Address/contact numbers: _____

Alternate 2:

Mode (GTS, email, SMS, Fax): _____

Address/contact numbers: _____

Alternate 3:

Mode (GTS, email, SMS, Fax): _____

Address/contact numbers: _____

Please also specify telephone number for voice communication, in a priority order. In general, due to language barriers, the NEAMTWS Tsunami Service Providers do not use voice communication as the primary means of dissemination, but as a backup or for confirmation of message receipt through the above means, when urgently needed.

Primary: _____

Alternate 1: _____

Alternate 2: _____

Alternate 3: _____

5. Comments:

Submitted by: _____

Signature: _____

Position: _____

Government Department/Agency: _____

Date: _____

2/ Tsunami Forecast Points

[illegible]