



IOC Circular Letter No 3070
(Available in English only)

IOC/VH/BA/ah
19 March 2026

To : ICG/CARIBE-EWS Tsunami National Contacts (TNC)
ICG/CARIBE-EWS National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWCs)
ICG/CARIBE-EWS Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP)

Cc. : Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with IOC,
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO and
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC ICG/CARIBE-EWS Member States
Directors of UNESCO and IOC Regional Offices in the Caribbean Region
Permanent Observers to ICG/CARIBE-EWS
Director Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC)
Director, International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC)7

**Subject: Invitation to the 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),
Willemstad, Curaçao, 22–24 April 2026**

On behalf of Mr Gérard Métayer, Chairperson of ICG/CARIBE-EWS, I am pleased to invite you to designate representatives to ICG/CARIBE-EWS-XIX that is set to take place at the Courtyard Hotel, in Willemstad, Curaçao, from 22 to 24 April 2026. Please do so by registering their names, positions and contact details directly on the session website at <https://oceanexpert.org/event/4967> no later than 31 March 2026. If you have questions about registration, please contact a.brome@unesco.org.

With reference to IOC Resolution XXIII-13 that established ICG/CARIBE-EWS in 2005, the membership of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS consists of:

- Member States of the IOC from the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
- Observers from other IOC Member States, and
- Invited observers from other organizations (including NGOs), programmes and projects in accordance with the IOC Rules of Procedure.

The agenda for the session attached to this invitation is technical in nature and delegates should be prepared to participate in the technical discussions. The working languages of the hybrid session will be English with simultaneous interpretation in French and Spanish during the plenary sessions. Remote participation will be permitted strictly on an observer basis.

Chairperson

Yutaka MICHIDA, Prof.
Special Presidential Envoy
for UN Ocean Decade
The University of Tokyo (Atmosphere
and Ocean Research Institute)
Kashiwanoha 5-1-5
2778564 Kashiwa
JAPAN

Executive Secretary

Mr Vidar HELGESEN
Intergovernmental Oceanographic
Commission — UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP
FRANCE

Vice-Chairpersons

Ms Allison D. REED
Foreign Affairs Officer
U.S. Department of State
Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs
Washington, DC
USA

Dr Atanas PALAZOV
Acting Director, Professor
Institute of Oceanology
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
40 Parvi May Str.
9000 Varna
BULGARIA

Capt Carlos ZUÑIGA ARAYA
Director of the Chilean Navy Hydrographic and
Oceanographic Service (SHOA)
Casilla 324,
Valparaiso, 237-0168
CHILE

Dr Hansan PARK
Principal Research Scientist, Korea
Institute of Ocean Science & Technology
(KIOST)
Director general of the Korea–Indonesia Marine
Technology Cooperation Research Center
385, Haeyang-ro, Yeongdo-gu, Busan
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Prof. Amr Zakaria HAMOUDA
President of Marine Hazards
Mitigation Center (MHMC)
National Institute of
Oceanography and Fisheries
(NIOF)
Qaitbay, Al-Anfoshi
Alexandria
EGYPT

The deadline for submitting national reports to the ICG Technical Secretary, preferably in writing using the attached template, is 10 April 2026 at the latest. In this document, the presentation of national plans and efforts towards improving the tsunami warning and mitigation system will contribute to the development of the CARIBE-EWS global [Implementation Plan](#).

A logistic note including suggested accommodation, airport transfers to the venue of the meeting and local information is attached hereafter.

The general documentation and information for the meeting will be posted and updated at <https://oceanexpert.org/event/4967> as they become available. As is customary for intergovernmental meetings, participants are required to secure their own financial support to attend the session.

At this session, Heads of delegation are kindly invited to declare their availability to host the 21st in-person session of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS, scheduled for the first semester of 2028.

Please further note that the ICG/CARIBE-EWS-XIX will be preceded by a Tsunami Ready Summit on 20 and 21 April 2026, at the same venue to be conducted by the International Tsunami Information Center–Caribbean Office (ITIC-CAR) in coordination with the Caribbean Tsunami Information Center (CTIC) with funding support from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The objective of the Summit is to increase awareness on the indicators, implementation, verification, recognition process and the available tools and resources of the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP). Interested Member States are invited to contact Christa von Hillebrandt of ITIC-CAR (christa.vonh@noaa.gov) and Alison Brome of CTIC (a.brome@unesco.org) by 27 March 2026 at the latest to express their interest in participating.

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Vidar Helgesen
Executive Secretary

Enclosures (4):

- 1/ Provisional Agenda
- 2/ Provisional Timetable
- 3/ Template for national reports
- 4/ Logistic Note

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)

Willemstad, Curaçao

22–24 April 2026

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- 1. WELCOME AND OPENING**
 - 1.1. CURACAO AUTHORITIES
 - 1.2. ICG/CARIBE-EWS CHAIR
 - 1.3. INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION OF UNESCO
- 2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION**
 - 2.1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
 - 2.2. DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR(s)
 - 2.3. CONDUCT OF THE SESSION, TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION
- 3. REPORT ON INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**
 - 3.1. CARIBE-EWS CHAIR'S REPORT
 - 3.2. CARIBE-EWS SECRETARIAT REPORT
 - 3.3. REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN TSUNAMI INFORMATION CENTER (CTIC)
 - 3.4. REPORTS FROM UN AND NON-UN ORGANISATIONS
 - 3.4.1. IOCARIBE
 - 3.4.2. UNDRR (WTAD and EW4All)
 - 3.4.3. NCEI/WDS
 - 3.4.4. SMART Cable
 - 3.5. STATUS OF OTHER ICGs
 - 3.5.1. ICG/IOTWMS
 - 3.5.2. ICG/NEAMTWS
 - 3.5.3. ICG/PTWS
 - 3.6. TSUNAMI SERVICES PROVIDER REPORT (PTWC)
 - 3.7. CATAC REPORT
 - 3.8. NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORTS
 - 3.9. REPORT OF CARIBE WAVE 2026
 - 3.10. TSUNAMI READY RECOGNITION PROGRAMME
- 4. WORKING GROUP PROGRESS REPORTS**
 - 4.1. WORKING GROUP 1: RISK KNOWLEDGE

- 4.2. WORKING GROUP 2: TSUNAMI DETECTION, ANALYSIS AND FORECASTING
- 4.3. WORKING GROUP 3: TSUNAMI WARNING DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNICATION
- 4.4. WORKING GROUP 4: PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

5. POLICY MATTERS

- 5.1. REVIEW OF TOWS-WG-XVIII and XIX RECOMMENDATIONS
- 5.2. EXERCISE CARIBE WAVE 2027
- 5.3. CENTRAL AMERICA TSUNAMI ADVISORY CENTER (CATAC)
- 5.4. UN OCEAN DECADE TSUNAMI PROGRAMME (ODTP)

6. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2026–2027

7. INTRASESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS MEETINGS

8. INTRASESIONAL WORKING GROUPS REPORTS

9. NEXT SESSIONS

- 9.1. DATES AND PLACE OF ICG/CARIBE-EWS-XX
- 9.2. TARGET DATES AND VENUE FOR ICG/CARIBE-EWS-XXI

10. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

11. ICG/CARIBE-EWS WORKING GROUPS AND TASK TEAM MEMBERS LIST

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13. CLOSURE

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION of UNESCO
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)
Willemstad, Curaçao, 22–24 April 2026

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Hour	Wednesday 22 April 2026	Thursday 23 April 2026	Friday 24 April 2026
8:00-9:00	REGISTRATION/LOGISTICS		
9:00-10:30	1. WELCOME AND OPENING 1.1. CURACAO AUTHORITIES (10 min) 1.2. ICG/CARIBE-EWS Chair (5 mins) 1.3. UNESCO-IOC (5 mins) 2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION 2.1. Adoption of the Agenda (5 min) 2.2. Designation of the Rapporteur(s) (5 min) 2.3. Conduct of the Session, Timetable and Documentation (5 min)	4. WORKING GROUP PROGRESS REPORTS (continued) 4.1. Working Group 1 (30 mins) 4.2. Working Group 2 (30 mins) 4.3. Working Group 3 (30 mins) 4.4. Working Group 4 (30 mins)	7. INTRASESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS MEETINGS
10:30-11:00	COFFEE BREAK + Group Photo	COFFEE BREAK	
11:00-12:30	3. REPORTS ON INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES	5. POLICY MATTERS 5.1. Review of TOWS-WG-XVIII and XIX Recommendations (30 min) 5.2 Exercise Caribe Wave 2026 (30 mins)	7. INTRASESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS MEETINGS
12:30-13:30	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK	
13:30-15:00	3. REPORTS ON INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (continued)	5. POLICY MATTERS (continued) 5.3. CATAC (30 min) 5.4. UN Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme (30 min)	8. INTRASESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS REPORTS 9. NEXT SESSIONS 9.1. DATES & PLACE OF ICG/CARIBE-EWS XX 9.2. TARGET DATES AND VENUE FOR ICG/CARIBE-EWS XXI
15:00-15:30	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	
15:30-17:00	3. REPORTS ON INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (continued)	6. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2026–2027 (15 min)	10. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 11. ICG/CARIBE-EWS WORKING GROUPS AND TASK TEAM MEMBERS LIST 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS 13. CLOSURE

National Reports will be posted to the ICG/CARIBE EWS-XIX web site without TWFP contact details

NATIONAL REPORT
Submitted by (country name)

BASIC INFORMATION

1. ICG/CARIBE EWS Tsunami National Contact (TNC)

The person designated by a Member State to an Intergovernmental Coordination Group (ICG) 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. 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.

Name:

Title:

Organization:

Postal Address:

E-mail Address:

Telephone Number:

Fax Number:

Cellular Telephone Number:

2. ICG/CARIBE EWS Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP)

The 7x24 contact person, or other official point of contact or address, is available at the national level for rapidly receiving and issuing tsunami event information (such as warnings). The Tsunami Warning Focal Point either is the emergency authority (civil defense or other designated agency responsible for public safety), or has the responsibility of notifying the emergency authority of the event characteristics (earthquake and/or tsunami), in accordance with national standard operating procedures. The Tsunami Warning Focal Point receives international tsunami warnings from the PTWC, or other regional warning centres.

Name:

Title:

Responsible Organization:

Postal Address:

E-mail Address:

Emergency Telephone Number:

Emergency Fax Number:

Emergency Cellular Telephone Number:

National Tsunami Warning Centre (if different from the above)

Person in Charge:

Title:

Responsible Organization:

Postal Address:

E-mail Address:

Emergency Telephone Number:

Emergency Fax Number:

Emergency Cellular Telephone Number:

3. Tsunami Advisor(s), if applicable

(Person, Committee or Agency managing Tsunami Mitigation in country)

Name:

Title:

Postal Address:

E-mail Address:
Emergency Telephone Number:
Emergency Fax Number:
Emergency Cellular Telephone Number:

4. **Tsunami Standard Operating Procedures for a Local Tsunami (when a local tsunami threat exists, less than 1 hour travel time)**
5. **Tsunami Standard Operating Procedures for a Regional Tsunami (when a regional tsunami threat exists, 1–3 hour travel time)**
6. **Tsunami Standard Operating Procedures for a Distant Tsunami (when a distant tsunami threat exists, more than 3-hour travel time)**

For each situation, please provide the following:

- *What organization identifies and characterizes tsunamigenic events?*
- *What is the threshold or criteria for declaring a potential tsunami emergency?*
- *What organization acts on the information provided by the agency responsible for characterizing the potential tsunami threat?*
- *How is the tsunami information (warning, public safety action, etc) disseminated within country? Who is it disseminated to?*
- *How is the emergency situation terminated?*
- *For Distant Tsunami Procedures:
What actions were taken in response to warnings issued by PTWC and/or US NTWC, during the intersessional period?*

7. National Sea Level Network

Please include a table with position and description of stations/sensors, and a map.

8. Information on Tsunami occurrences/Tsunami Exercises

Please include sea level observations, pictures, wave arrival descriptions, public, media, or other responses to warnings, lessons learned, etc.

9. Web sites (URLs) of national tsunami-related web sites

10. Summary plans of future tsunami warning and mitigation system improvements. This information will be used to aid the development of the CARIBE-EWS Implementation Plan

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES INFORMATION

11. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Brief statement of no more than one page addressing all items discussed in the Narrative section of the National Report (below).

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12. NARRATIVE

Detailed description of innovations or modifications to National tsunami warnings procedures or operations since last National Report, tsunami research projects, tsunami mitigation activities and best practices (especially in preparedness and emergency management), tsunami exercises, as well as public education programmes or other measures taken to heighten awareness of the tsunami hazard and risk.

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Date: Name:

1. Contacts

Principal local contacts are:

Ms Marzella de Palm

Admin and local organizer

Emails: info@meteo.cw;

Phone number: + 599 983 933 66

Dr Albert Martis

Director

Meteorological Department Curacao

Emails: albert.martis@meteo.cw

Phone number: +599 983 933 66

2. Venue and Accommodation

The meeting will take place at the Courtyard by Marriott Curaçao, located at Pater Euwensweg #11.

The hotel rate is USD 165 per night, including breakfast for one person. The rate is subject to 17.7% tax and service charge.

Hotel rooms will be reserved by the Meteorological Department of Curaçao under a group contract. The Meteorological Department is responsible for completing the rooming list, including full names and check-in and check-out dates, and submitting it to the hotel to ensure proper registration of all participants.

The cut-off date is March 19, 2026.

3. Visa, Arrival, Departure and Customs Requirements

Participants are advised to verify individually whether their nationality is subject to a visa requirement for entry into Curaçao.

Do I need a Caribbean visa?: <https://www.netherlandsworldwide.nl/caribbean-visa/visa-needed-caribbean>

Participants who require a visa to enter Curaçao must obtain a *short-stay Caribbean visa* prior to travel, unless they hold: a valid multiple-entry short-stay Schengen visa

A Caribbean visa application may be submitted up to three months prior to the intended date of travel. Applicants must apply either with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands responsible for their country of residence or with the designated External Visa Application Center, as applicable. The website indicates, per country, whether the application must be submitted through the Dutch representation or through an external service provider. Applicants are therefore advised to consult the webpage carefully to determine the correct submission channel in their respective country.

General information on the application procedure and requirements can be found via the following links:

Where to apply:

<https://www.netherlandsworldwide.nl/caribbean-visa/short-stay/apply>

Checklist for a business or official visit:

<https://www.netherlandsworldwide.nl/caribbean-visa/checklist/business-official-visit>

We strongly recommend that visa-required participants complete their application form and schedule an appointment with the competent Dutch representation as soon as possible to avoid delays.

Please do not forget to complete the Digital Immigration Card prior to your arrival in Curaçao. For your convenience, here is the link: <https://dicardcuracao.com/dicard>

Should you have any further questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out by sending an e-mail to: consulaire.dbb@gobiernu.cw

4. Transport

The government of Curacao will provide transportation from the airport to the Courtyard hotel and visa versa.

In order to arrange your transportation, it is recommended to provide the coordination committee your arrival and departure information.

Taxi are available on the island and can make reservation directly to the taxi companies.

5. Currency

On March 31, 2025, the Caribbean guilder was introduced as legal tender for the countries of Curaçao and Sint Maarten. The Netherlands Antillean guilder, which has been in circulation on the former islands of the Netherlands Antilles - Curaçao, Aruba, Bonaire, Sint Maarten, Sint Eustatius, and Saba - since 1952, will remain legal tender until June 30, 2025, after which it will be taken out of circulation.

The Caribbean guilder is pegged to the U.S. dollar at an exchange rate of US\$1 = Cg1.79
The exchange rate between the Netherlands Antillean guilder and the Caribbean guilder is 1:1.
The Netherlands Antillean guilder and the Caribbean guilder are of equal value.

Please visit the [**Caribbean guilder website**](#) for all details regarding the design and security features.

6. Voltage and plugs

Curaçao operates on a dual-voltage system of 127V / 220V at 50 Hz. While many hotels and older buildings use 127V with American-style (Type A/B) plugs, others may feature 220V with European (Type F) sockets. It is highly recommended to check with your accommodation and bring a universal travel adapter.

7. Additional Information

Sightseeing

Interesting sites near the hotel are:

Climate in Curacao

Curaçao is situated in the so-called Southern Caribbean Dry Zone, and are characterized by its semi-arid to arid climate (BS) with a distinguishable dry and rainy season, and sustained moderate to fresh easterlies. The dry season runs from February through May, whereas the rainy season starts in October and ends in January. The months of July to September can be considered as transitional months. During the summer months rain showers usually occur during the early morning or early to late evening hours, which differs from the typical tropical regime. The climate

has good seasonal predictability for the precipitation, which is sensitive to changes in the oceanic circulations. A Niño will suppress the main rain season (Oct-Jan) while La Niña will enhance this rain season.

For additional information please visit the National Meteorological Service of Curacao (www.meteo.cw)

Average rainfall: 15.8 mm

Mean temperature: 27.8 °C

Average high temperature: 34.2 °C

Average low temperature: 22.0 °C

Sunrise: 06:32 – 06:16

Sunset: 18:47 – 18:50

Sea conditions: _____.