

No. 46327

**Comoros, Maldives
and
Seychelles**

Agreement on the cooperation on Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System for Afro-Asian Region (with protocol). Male, 30 April 2009

Entry into force: *30 April 2009 by signature, in accordance with article 25*

Authentic text: *English*

Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations: *Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia, 1 July 2009*

**Comores, Maldives
et
Seychelles**

Accord relatif à la coopération sur le Dispositif régional intégré d'alerte rapide multirisque pour la région afro-asiatique (avec protocole). Malé, 30 avril 2009

Entrée en vigueur : *30 avril 2009 par signature, conformément à l'article 25*

Texte authentique : *anglais*

Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat des Nations Unies : *Dispositif régional intégré d'alerte rapide multirisque pour l'Afrique et l'Asie, 1^{er} juillet 2009*

[ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS]

**AGREEMENT ON THE COOPERATION ON
REGIONAL INTEGRATED MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR
AFRO-ASIAN REGION
30 April 2009**

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Agreement on the Cooperation for Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Afro-Asian Region

The Governments of Africa and Asian region, [Republic of Maldives, Seychelles and Union of Comoros], being equally desirous of cooperating in a constructive and mutually beneficial manner for establishing early warning arrangement for reducing disaster risk, and saving lives and property from natural disasters of geologic and hydro-meteorological origin, have resolved to conclude this Agreement setting forth the framework for cooperation acceptable to all parties hereto to accomplish these ends, and for that purpose have appointed as their respective plenipotentiaries:

Who, having communicated to each other their respective full powers and having found them in good and due form, have agreed to the following.

Chapter I. Preamble

RECALLING the declarations of the special Association of South East Asian Nation Leaders' Meeting on the aftermath of the Earthquake and Tsunami held on 6 January 2005 in Jakarta to establish a regional early warning system, such as Regional Tsunami Early Warning Center in the Indian Ocean and the Southeast Asia region, and the Ministerial Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangement on 29 January 2005 in Phuket to establish a Regional tsunami early warning arrangement within a multi-hazard context under the framework of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission,

RECALLING the commitment and the initiative of participating countries in establishing an end-to-end multi-hazard early warning system through the resolutions of the Regional Meeting on End-to-end Multi-Hazard Early Warning System Southeast Asia Assessment of Needs (28-29 March 2005, Bangkok), Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Early Warning Arrangement, Preparedness and Mitigation of Natural Hazards (12-14 July 2006, Bangkok), and the Regional Workshop on Multi-Hazard End-to-End Early Warning System, (17-21 April 2007, Mauritius),

RECALLING the resolution of the 1st Regional Steering Committee Meeting (25 January 2008, Bangkok) for participating countries to take ownership and responsibility to sustain the regional early warning arrangements by mobilizing resources and setting up institutional mechanisms to ensure sustainability of the system,

RECALLING the interest and willingness of the Governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Comoros, China, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam, and Yemen, to participate in the regional early warning arrangements,

RECALLING the arrangements established with the University of Hawaii Sea Level Center under the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and the World Meteorological Organization to provide support and collaborate with the regional early warning arrangement,

RECALLING the collaborative arrangement with the Government of China through the China Meteorological Administration and China Earthquake Administration, Government of India through the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Government of the Philippines through the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology & Seismology, for assisting participating countries in the region,

ACKNOWLEDGING the strong desire and willingness of the respective Governments to take ownership of the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Afro-Asian Region and to manage, sustain, re-assess, re-define and establish the future framework for cooperation,

RECOGNIZING that monitoring, early warning, preparedness and mitigation of trans-boundary natural hazards is of immense value to all the countries for safeguarding the economic and social well-being and living standards of their people,

REAFFIRMING the determination to continue to cooperate and promote in a constructive and mutually beneficial manner in the utilization and management of the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Afro-Asian Region services for social and economic development and the well-being of all States,

REALIZING the necessity to provide an adequate, efficient and functional joint organizational structure to implement this Agreement and the projects, programs and activities taken thereunder in cooperation and coordination with each Member State and

the international community, and to address and resolve issues and problems that may arise from the use and development of the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Afro-Asian Region in an amicable, timely and constructive manner,

PROCLAIMING further the following specific objectives, principles, institutional framework, financial management and ancillary provisions in conformity with the objectives and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and International law:

Chapter II. Definition of Terms

For the purposes of this Agreement, it shall be understood that the following meanings to the underlined terms shall apply, except where otherwise inconsistent with the context.

Early Warning:

The provision of timely and effective information, through identified authoritative national institutions, that allows individuals, institutions and societies exposed to a hazard to take action to avoid or reduce their risk and prepare for effective response

Early Warning System:

A system that addresses a chain of concerns understanding and mapping the hazard, monitoring and forecasting/ predicting impending/ emerging harmful events, processing and disseminating understandable warnings to authorities and the population, and undertaking appropriate and timely actions in response to the warnings by involvement and participation of all stakeholders

Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Afro- Asian Region:

A complete and effective multi-hazard early warning system that facilitates establishment and maintenance of core regional observation and monitoring networks with the participation of Member States, provides Regional Tsunami Watches to designated authoritative institutions of Member States, research and development support to enhance capabilities of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to provide hydro-meteorological hazard risk information on various time scales, enhances capabilities of national systems in the application of scientific evidence-based early warning information for decision making purposes and builds capacities of National Red-Cross and other civil society organizations to enhance community preparedness to respond to early warning information

Masterplan:

A comprehensive program document that operationalizes the overall concept to provide Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning Services to Member States in a cost-effective and sustainable manner.

Member State:

A sovereign State that has expressed interest to participate in the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Afro-Asian Region and accepts the rights and obligations under this agreement, being the sole authority to provide early warning services in its jurisdiction

Multi-Hazard:

A single or any combination of the following natural hazards. avalanche, cyclone or typhoon, drought, earthquake, flood, landslide, lightning strikes, snowstorm, storm surge, thunderstorm, tsunamis, tornado, wave action-associated coastal erosion, and any other natural hazard as agreed by the Member States

Regional Facility:

The Regional Facility, a project implemented by Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, currently located at the Outreach Building, Asian Institute of Technology, Pathumthani,

Thailand, with funding support from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific through the United Nations Tsunami Regional Trust Fund, United Nations Development Program, the Government of Denmark through the Danish International Development Agency, and the American Red-Cross comprises the scientific, technical and professional staff, data processing facilities, communication, observation and monitoring networks, and information systems necessary to enhance capacities for provision of regional integrated early warning services, and any changes thereafter.

State:

Any sovereign State not necessarily a party to this Agreement.

Chapter III. Objectives and Principles of Cooperation

Article 1. Objectives:

A) To promote Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early warning System, as defined in this Agreement, to cater to different needs and demands of Member States for provision of early warning services for enhanced disaster preparedness, response and mitigation of natural hazards with following specific objectives.

1). To facilitate establishment and maintenance of core regional observation and monitoring networks and ensure data availability for early warning purposes.

2). To provide Regional Tsunami Watches within the framework of United Nations Educational Scientific, and Cultural Organization's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

3). To provide Research and Development support to National Meteorological and Hydrological services for providing localized hydro-meteorological risk information with in the framework of World Meteorological Organization.

4). To enhance capacities of National systems to respond to early warning information of different lead times at National, sub-National, local, and at-risk community levels with in each National Early Warning framework.

B). To provide portfolio of options for Member States to avail from/contribute to any specific objective or objectives.

Article 2. Projects, Programs and Planning

To promote, support, cooperate and coordinate in the development and implementation of joint projects and programs benefitting all participating Member States for early warning of natural hazards.

Article 3. Sovereign Equality and Territorial Integrity

To cooperate on the basis of sovereign equality and territorial integrity in the sharing and utilization of early warning information.

Article 4. Member States' Responsibility

The Member States to exchange monitoring data from observation and monitoring networks of the regional system for the sole purpose of delivering early warning services; to coordinate and collaborate with all agencies in their respective countries to ensure upkeep and maintenance of the multi-hazard observation and monitoring system on a sustained basis; to collectively own and maintain the regional facility and utilize early warning information, research and development outcomes and capacity building services