



United Nations
Climate Change



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan

Climate
High-Level
Champions

Marrakech
Partnership



UN Climate Change Conference - COP 30 - Belém, Brazil

Showcase of Highlighted Results & Solutions “Scaling Early Warnings for All: Governance & Local Action”

Concept Note

DATE: 11 November 2025

TIME: 12:30-13:30

ROOM: Thematic Hub

Organized by



United Nations Office for Disaster
Risk Reduction



Water at the Heart of Climate
Action Initiative



Risk-informed Early Action
Partnership

Event Description:

Comprehensive risk management and water-centred early action strengthen governance, bridge climate and disaster agendas, and deliver inclusive resilience globally. The session will highlight real-world examples and locally led solutions to scale-up Early Warnings for All, with a focus on water-related hazards.

Headline:

A holistic, systemic approach is required to manage climate and disaster risk and protect sustainable development through Early Warnings for All.

List of speakers:

- **Moderator: Catalina Jaime**, Head of REAP Secretariat
- **Kamal Kishore**, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction, and Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- **Loretta Hieber Girardet**, Chief, Risk Knowledge, Monitoring and Capacity-Development Branch, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- **Stefan Uhlenbrook**, Director, Hydrology, Water and Cryosphere, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- **Dires Desyibelew**, Deputy Secretary General, Ethiopia Red Cross Society
- Representative from the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (tbc)
- Government or National Agency Representative from Americas and the Caribbean or SIDS (tbc)

- Government or National Agency Representative from Asia, especially Mekong Basin Countries (tbc)
- **Loyce Pace**, Regional Director for the Americas, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Target audience:

Policy-makers, national and local government representatives, international organizations, climate and disaster risk experts, donors, and practitioners from across the DRR, climate adaptation, and water management communities.

Organisers:

- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- Water at the Heart of Climate Action initiative (WHCA)
- Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP)

Key results:

- Demonstrated integration of disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, and water governance under a unified Comprehensive Risk Management framework and a cross-border initiative, WHCA.
- Elevate interdisciplinary thinking, such as water's role in climate adaptation and resilience, through sharing lessons learned from WHCA's first operational year.
- Launch of the Global Synthesis Report on Comprehensive Risk Management and presentation of scalable models for coherent, inclusive, and locally led resilience planning.

Prospective Agenda:

Timing (60 min)	Segment	Speaker suggestions
5 min	Welcome & Introduction	Moderator: Catalina Jaime , Head of REAP Secretariat
5 mins	Opening remarks	Kamal Kishore , Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction, and Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
15 mins	Bridging science, policy, and local action • 5 min presentation of key results of the Global Synthesis Report on Comprehensive Risk Management (and risk knowledge for early warning systems) • 5 min presentation of the first operational year of the Water at the Heart of Climate Action (WHCA) programme with a focus on 'A new Era of Regional Coordination for Early Action' • 5 min presentation of the first operational year of the Water at the Heart of Climate Action (WHCA) programme with a focus on WHCA local action	Loretta Hieber Girardet , Chief, Risk Knowledge, Monitoring and Capacity-Development Branch, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Stefan Uhlenbrook , Director, Hydrology, Water and Cryosphere, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Dires Desyibelew , Deputy Secretary General, Ethiopia Red Cross Society



20 mins	Avenues for collaboration <i>Interactive conversation between Representatives from climate vulnerable countries and the moderator about solutions in their national risk-governance and locally-led action.</i>	<i>Representative from the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands</i> <i>Government or National Agency Representative from Americas and the Caribbean or SIDS (tbc)</i> <i>Government or National Agency Representative from Asia, especially Mekong Basin Countries (tbc)</i>
5 min	Q&A	Moderator: Partnership/Initiative: Catalina Jaime , Head of REAP Secretariat
5 mins	Closing: Hope in the midst of hopelessness Positive takeaway & motivation to collaborate across disciplines for joint action	International Organisation: Loyce Pace , Regional Director for the Americas, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
5 mins	Buffer	