

## **Opening LIG:**

**Celebrating the world meteorological day 2025, “Closing the early warning gap together”**

**Date & Time:** 24 March 2025, 15:00 – 17:00 CEST

**Venue:** WMO & Online | YouTube

---

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to World Meteorological Day here in Geneva, at the WMO. After 75 years, the WMO remains vital and effective. It was demonstrated last week with an intergovernmental agreement on new international standards for Early Warning Services.

Today, we focus on a crucial theme: “Closing the Early Warning Gap Together.” Early warnings save lives – only if they reach everyone, on time, with clear actions to follow. This is our shared responsibility. And we must act—together.

### **Innovating Together**

Early warnings must be people-centered: inclusive, timely, and actionable. Weather, water, and climate services provide the evidence we need to make informed decisions. National and local governments, farmers, and communities depend on them. But warnings alone are not enough. They must lead to early action, reflect local needs and realities. This requires innovation. We need new technologies, better data-sharing, and stronger coordination. The “Early Warnings for All” initiative led by WMO, UNDRR, ITU and IFRC is an important step forward. It is key to make sure that this Initiative is based on the articulation of all relevant partners. It needs a strong coordination that avoids duplication of efforts and builds on successful existing mechanisms. We must

ensure warnings reach the last mile—where the most vulnerable people live.

### **Standing Together**

Switzerland is committed to this cause. Adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction are key priorities for us. Recognizing the WMO's central role, Switzerland is proud of its Weather4UN pilot project. It aims at strengthening the WMO's ability to support the humanitarian sector in cases of extreme weather events. Fragmentation weakens our impact. Cooperation strengthens it. That is also true at regional level. In the Andean region, we have seen the power of collaboration through ENANDES+. This project is not just about delivering solutions. It is about learning from each other. It is about twinning—peer-to-peer collaboration. This approach works. And we could expand it further.

### **Investing Together**

Early warning systems require sustainable investment. Not just in technology, but in people, institutions, and long-term strategies. For investments to be effective, they must be accessible. Communities need to understand the warnings and have the resources to act. This means supporting capacity-building, education, and local leadership. It also means ensuring that WMO regional offices, such as in the Americas, have more resources. Looking ahead, we are exploring ways to support regional collaboration. This means co-funding future phases of projects, based on results. It also means working together to secure new partners and resources.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, we have the tools, the knowledge, and the partnerships. But we must act now. The cost of inaction is too high. Let us innovate together. Let us stand together. Let us invest together. And let us ensure that early warnings reach everyone, everywhere. Thank you.