

27 August 2019

**To:** David Wyatt, IHO  
**From:** Thorkild Aarup, IOC  
**Subject:** Tsunami Alerts to Maritime Community, WWNWS-SC 11 meeting (26-30 August 2019)

Dear David

I think you can present this and paraphrase accordingly for the report on this topic:

IOC's Tsunami Program has been in dialog with the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS-SC) over the past couple of years with a view to develop a framework for issuing Tsunami alerts to the maritime community.

Thorkild Aarup, Head of the IOC Tsunami Unit made a presentation on a draft framework proposal to the WWNWS10 - IHO, Monaco (27 - 31 August 2018) and I refer participants in WWNWS11 to that presentation.

The proposal was subsequently finalized incorporating all comments received from WWNWS-SC at the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG) in Paris 21-22 February 2019. TOWS-WG further recommended that the four regional Tsunami Warning Systems via their respective Intergovernmental Coordination Groups consider the proposal for implementation in their respective basins and that the IOC Secretariat to facilitate coordination with the WWNWS-SC. (The TOWS-WG 12 report is available at: [http://www.ioc-unesco.org/index.php?option=com\\_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=24672](http://www.ioc-unesco.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=24672) )

The 30<sup>th</sup> IOC Assembly (26 June - 4 July 2019, Paris) accepted this recommendation and instructed that the four regional Tsunami Warning Systems via their respective Intergovernmental Coordination Groups consider the proposal for implementation in their respective basins and that the IOC Secretariat facilitate coordination with the WWNWS-SC. The framework will be discussed at upcoming governance meetings for the four regional Tsunami Warning Systems.

For the Indian Ocean, the IOTWMS/ICG-XII Session (March 2019) has already tasked its Technical Working Group 2 to implement the TOWS-WG proposal on alert messages for the Maritime Community". This WG will meet in Jakarta in September 2019 and discuss which Tsunami Service Provider in the Indian Ocean (or if all three of them) should develop capability to serve the 5 NAVAREAS spanning the IOTWMS Area of Service. Once that is settled, we expect that the TSPs will start working on the service and formats, and be ready for testing the service in the next year or so.

**At some stage, coordination will be needed with the WWNWS-SC for (a) Finalizing operational arrangements – Mapping Tsunami Service Providers Area of Service to NAVAREAS, finalizing operational email lists, service testing, etc. and (b) Capacity Building - Sensitizing NAVAREA Coordinators to the TSP services and products through some workshops.**

The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD, 5 November 2019) will focus on Target 4 of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 which aims to substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030. The 30<sup>th</sup> IOC Assembly (July 2019) has further emphasized ports, harbors and vertical evacuation structures among the critical infrastructures.

For the Indian Ocean there are preliminary plans to hold a workshop in Jakarta in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2019 in relation to the WTAD. Considering that the theme for this year is critical infrastructure it may involve representatives of ports, harbours, etc. and it could perhaps also offer an opportunity for interested NAVAREA coordinators.

**It would be helpful to know from WWNWS-SC if they have any planned capacity development workshops for the NAVAREA Coordinators where IOC Tsunami Service Provider (TSP) representatives can participate and provide information on TSP products and services.**