Press release

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UN MEMBER STATES URGED TO ADOPT EARLY WARNING CHECKLIST

GENEVA, 23 March 2018 – The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) today welcomed the creation of a Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems Checklist as a major contribution to saving lives in an age of increasing exposure to extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change.

The UN Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, Mami Mizutori, said: “Advances in early warning systems are important as they make an enormous contribution to reducing the death tolls in disasters.”

Ms. Mizutori congratulated the World Meteorological Organization and its members on the creation of the checklist. She urged countries to incorporate it into national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction which are scheduled to be in place by 2020 in accordance with a key target of the global plan for reducing disaster losses, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Published today on World Meteorological Day, the checklist focusses on engagement and education at community level, disaster preparedness, and effective dissemination of warnings so that early action and evacuation as necessary takes place in a timely manner.

Ms. Mizutori said: “Disaster preparedness and understanding of disaster risk has never been more important. Climate change is driving major changes in the frequency, intensity and unpredictability of extreme weather events. A multi-hazard approach to early warnings is an essential part of building the resilience of communities and nations to disasters.”

The checklist is available here https://bit.ly/2INNhfp

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About UNISDR: UNISDR is the UN office dedicated to disaster risk reduction. It is led by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and supports implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 which seeks “the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses, in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.”

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