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World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
世界气象组织

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19 March 2019

Subject: Incorporation of the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) in the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Technical Regulations

Dear Sirs,

I wish to refer to your letter dated 25 January 2019, expressing your interest in the activities of the World Meteorological Organization, in particular, relating to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Resilience and Prevention. These are among the core activities of WMO Members.

As mentioned in your letter, WMO has been advocating for and promoting the use of CAP by the Members National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) for a number of years. I am pleased that we share the analysis that this has already led to significant successes and that the situation continues to improve globally in this regard.

I would like to assure you that WMO's efforts related to the promotion of CAP are ongoing, with the aim that not only for standard used worldwide but also that it is used in a consistent manner to allow quick and efficient dissemination of the warning information issued by the NMHSs. This dissemination should include media and private sector services worldwide, thereby enhancing to reach the population at risk and decision makers, and allowing for early preventive action.

Your recommendation is therefore aligned with WMO's concerns and goals in this area and included in the WMO Strategic Plan 2020-2023. The Strategic Plan will be submitted to the WMO Congress at its eighteenth session (Cg-18), in June 2019, for consideration and. As you are aware, a key agenda item for Cg-18 will be the WMO Constituent Body Reform, which aim to increase efficiency and responsiveness of the WMO. Building on the new technical Commissions, considerations to include new technical regulations will be handled by the relevant groups of experts and submitted to Members for approval using well-defined procedures. In this particular area, we must ensure that regulations from WMO do not conflict with the sovereignty of Nations regarding their national DRR protocols, and especially their warning policies, regulations and practices.

To: Mr Jonathan Porter, VP of Business Services and General Manager of Enterprise Solutions, AccuWeather, Inc.
Mr Jed Sundwall, AWS Global Open Data Lead, Amazon
Mr James E. Anderson, SVP, Global Sales, Earth Networks
Mr Ryan Lanclos, Director, Public Safety Industry Solutions, ESRI, Inc.
Mr Omar Abou Samra, Director, IFRC Global Disaster Preparedness Center
Mr Ian Miller, Head of Global Weather Solutions, IBM The Weather Company
Mr Dennis Schulze, Chief Meteorology Officer, Meteogroup
Mr Vint Cerf
Mr Elliot Christian

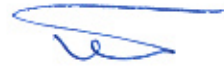
In this regard, I deeply appreciate your proposal to work more closely with WMO in detailing the specifics of your recommendations. As a general principle, I am convinced of the benefit of taking partner and user views and requirements into account in order to deliver meaningful and fit-for-purpose services. Hence, I would suggest that a joint meeting be organized the earliest at the WMO headquarters, Geneva, to explore fully the needs of the private meteorological service providers in this specific area.

This meeting could conceivably take place during the third week of May 2019, which would benefit from the presence of a number of experts attending the Second Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference and Global Platform for DRR, between 13 and 17 May 2019. As an alternative, this meeting could be scheduled during, or back to back to, the Meteorological Technology World Conference 2019, from 5 to 7 June 2019.

Should you agree to this proposal, I would kindly request you to liaise with the Weather and Disaster Risk Reduction Services Department for exploration of the practical arrangements.

I would like to thank you for your interest in this important issue.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Taalas', with a long horizontal flourish above it.

(P. Taalas)
Secretary-General