



Extreme Heat Risk Reduction Technical Consultation Concept Note and Agenda

WMO, 7 bis Ave de la Paix, Geneva, Salle C-1
17-19 December 2024

Background

As global temperatures rise and extreme heat events become more frequent and severe, the imperative for more effective, collective extreme heat risk reduction, governance and management is starkly apparent.

Confronting and addressing the multi-sectoral, multi-dimensional root causes and underlying drivers of extreme heat risk, preparing and protecting both humans and the ecosystems upon which we depend, and building resilience to extreme heat is rapidly becoming one of the central challenges for nations worldwide. And yet, many societies and ecologies are ill-prepared to cope with this rapidly emerging risk.

The situation requires bold action across sectors, disciplines and from local to national to global levels. Action that is commensurate to the scale of the challenge, for the failure to do so will only see human behaviour amplify heat risk, placing billions at risk of preventable death and illness, and putting our natural life support systems in jeopardy.

Work is underway in countries, and internationally. However, as has been highlighted through the multiple technical, regional, urban-scale and G7 level consultations led by the [Global Heat Health Information Network \(GHHIN\)](#), the challenges related to aligning and integrating multi-sectoral policy approaches are repeatedly highlighted as a key challenge to effective heat action.

This technical consultation therefore will bring together a targeted group of sectoral experts from governments, international organisations and other actors to share experiences, challenges, identify opportunities for collaborative action in extreme heat risk reduction, and articulate good governance opportunities which can foster resilience to extreme heat.

This consultation is a key component of a broader initiative of UNDRR and WMO, with the [UNDRR | WMO Centre of Excellence](#), the GHHIN, and Duke University, to develop an [Extreme Heat Decision-support Package](#). This broader initiative is examining existing extreme heat risk reduction approaches and governance models, identifying challenges and solutions, highlighting successful collaborations, and exploring opportunities for common approaches in enhanced heat risk governance and management.

This concept note outlines a three-day consultation that addresses the following objectives, and in so doing, responds to the [UN Secretary-General's Call to Action on Extreme Heat](#).

Objectives

1

Understand the successes, challenges, and needs of national and subnational participants in developing extreme heat risk reduction frameworks, governance, strategies, and actions.

2

Understand the multi-sector impacts of extreme heat and articulate the role of multi-sector collaboration in extreme heat risk reduction.

3

Co-create the elements of and recommendations for a common framework for coordinated action on extreme heat risk reduction.

Provisional structure of the consultation

Experts will engage in a series of structured discussions and interactive exercises to address the above objectives. Presentations will be led by experts from different countries and sectors, to which representatives of international organisations may contribute.

Expected outcomes

This technical workshop will:

- Enable learning and sharing about approaches for multi-sectoral extreme heat risk reduction and governance.
- Identify existing heat risk governance bottlenecks and challenges, needs of national and subnational institutions, the private sector, and civil society;
- Co-create recommendations for integrated extreme heat risk governance and inform elements and principles for a common heat governance framework to guide multi-sectoral and multi-scalar heat risk reduction.
- Accelerate cooperation by identifying opportunities for collaborative action in reducing extreme heat risk in the short, medium and long term;
- Inform a roadmap of next steps in 2025 to further consult, validate, launch, and drive forward a common heat risk governance framework.
- Catalyze collaboration for tailored support and innovative solutions to the heat-related challenges of Member States and key stakeholders, and in so doing contribute to responses to the SG's Call to Action on Extreme Heat.

Day 1: Learning day

Day 1 focuses on exploring national and subnational experiences with extreme heat risk governance, highlighting successes, challenges, and barriers to implementation through case studies and group discussions. Participants will analyze sector-specific governance and needs, synthesizing emerging themes to begin defining the key components of effective heat governance

Provisional Format: Conducted in plenary and small group discussions, including opening remarks, panel discussions, and interactive plenary sessions, that address the above and identify successes in and barriers to effective heat risk governance. Supported by HAP analysis and storytelling of countries.

Day 2: Towards a Common Framework for Heat Governance

Day 2 centers on defining the essential principles, components, and processes of a common heat governance framework through sector-specific panel discussions and interactive groupwork. Participants will identify gaps, priorities, and collaborative needs across sectors, validate the structure of the proposed framework, and explore how to measure and apply good heat governance to drive cross-sectoral and multilevel collaboration.

Provisional Format: Panel discussions with short interventions from sectoral experts, interactive Q&A sessions, and focused groupwork to collaboratively refine key dimensions of a common heat governance framework. Activities will include small group discussions and reporting back to plenary, supported by presentations on metrics and models for assessing heat governance.

Day 3: Catalyzing heat action

Day 3 focuses on transition from strategies to implementation, and explores tools to assess institutional readiness and refine approaches for catalyzing heat financing and setting actionable targets. Participants will define success metrics for heat risk reduction and governance across global, national, and subnational levels, and establish next steps for rolling out and socializing the framework, with reflections and commitments from IOs to close the workshop

Provisional Format: Panel discussions, each followed by Q&A, and focused group discussions will structure the day. Interactive exercises, including self-assessments and team-based activities, will help refine metrics, strategies, and priorities for heat governance. The day concludes with identification of next steps in the development of a common framework.

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Day 1: Learning day

Tuesday 17 December 2024

08:30 Registration and coffee in the Foyer

09:00 Welcome remarks by WMO and UNDRR Executives

09:15 Review of Workshop's Agenda

09:45 Session 1: Defining and Unlocking Effective Heat Governance

This session will frame the technical consultation scope and purpose and introduce participants to preparatory work that has been conducted and its links to the UN Call To Action on Extreme Heat. It will present the synthesis of findings from Heat Action Plan Assessment and Case Studies as a lens through which we have reviewed heat risk governance needs and opportunities.

10:30 Session 2: Sharing National Experiences and Needs

Session 2 will describe experiences developing and implementing extreme heat risk reduction frameworks, governance, strategies and actions at national levels. Session aims to identify governance related successes and barriers to implementation through four national level examples and discussion.

12:00 Lunch break

13:00 Session 3: Sharing Subnational Experiences and Needs

Session 3 will continue to describe experiences in developing extreme heat risk reduction frameworks, governance, strategies and actions at subnational levels. It will aim to identify governance related barriers to implementation at subnational and city-scale levels through four examples and discussion.

14:00 Session 4: Sharing Sector Specific Experiences and Needs

Session 4 is the first groupwork session that will begin to surface sector-specific challenges and approaches, as well as consider priority governance and investment issues to address sector-based priorities for heat risk reduction.

15:00 Tea break / group photo

15:30 Session 4 continued... Sharing Sector Specific Experiences and Needs

16:30 Questions – looking toward tomorrow

Synthesis of emerging themes from Day 1 - that start to define what heat governance means and how a common framework can facilitate success of heat action.

17:00 Social event – cocktail WMO Attique (9th floor)



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Day 2: Towards a Common Framework for Heat Action

Wednesday 18 December 2024

09:00 Reflections from yesterday, preview of today

09:30 Session 1: Roundtable dialogue on multi-sector approaches to extreme heat

Surfacing session to engage all participants through an interactive structured discussion on challenges and good practices for enabling successful cross-sector and multilevel governance collaboration – this conversation will help define common framework essential principles, requirements, components.

10:30 Morning break in the Foyer

11:00 Session 1 continued... Roundtable dialogue on multi-sector approaches to extreme heat

12:00 Lunch break

13:00 Session 2: Introduction Co-creating a Common Heat Governance Framework

This session will introduce expected and emerging dimensions of a common framework that can promote good heat governance. A presentation will introduce afternoon working group sessions.

14:00 Session 2: Co-creating a Common Heat Governance Framework: Working groups

Groupwork defining the characteristics and pillars of the common heat governance framework, with regards to institutions, actors, strategies, and processes required for successful heat risk reduction.

15:00 Tea break

15:30 Session 2 continued... Group work Feedback and Consensus Building

16:30 Closing

Consensus review of the overall structure and key elements of the proposed common framework



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Day 3: Catalyzing heat action

Thursday 19 December 2024

09:00 Reflections from Days 1 and 2, preview of today

09:15 Session 1: Measuring Progress and Success

Session will draft targets and goals for successful heat action.

Discussion will focus on questions such as how will we know we are making progress? What needs to be monitored to measure progress in heat risk reduction and good governance? Who should do that at which level? Are 10 metrics of success possible? What does success look like?

10:30 Morning break in the Foyer

11:00 Session 2 Are we ready to catalyse progress on heat action?
Heat Governance Maturity Curve Self-assessment exercise

This session will present the heat governance maturity model, as tested on UN partners, as an exercise to consider institutional readiness. Facilitators will guide an in-session self-assessment exercise.

12:30 Lunch break

13:30 Session 4: Next steps: Roadmap 2025 toward more effective heat governance

Present and discuss next steps in 2025, to draft, validate, launch, socialize, and advance extreme heat risk reduction and governance support

15:00 Tea break

15:30 Session 5: Panel discussion – International Organisations' Reflections

Reflection on and key takeaways from the consultation.
Commitments toward success.

16:30 Closing Discussion and Remarks: Next steps