

Conclusions and Recommendations from the Initial Planning Meeting

[Note that the Conclusions and Recommendations were drafted and agreed upon in Spanish. The Spanish version, which is available on the WMO website, should be used as the definitive text.]

Participants of the Initial Planning Meeting for the Establishment of a Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS) for South America, which had representatives from 12 countries of RA III as experts in meteorological and hydrological forecasting, after having examined the technical characteristics of the system and discussed the various aspects of its application in the region, agreed to make the following recommendations to the Permanent Representatives of RA III:

- It is of interest to the region to implement the Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS) in South America in order to reduce the loss of human life and economic damages. In addition, after being informed of the objectives of the Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project (SWFDP), it is considered equally important to implement it concurrently with the FFGS, including the co-location of the regional centres, where possible. It also requested that WMO conduct an introductory workshop on the SWFDP in RA III as soon as possible.
- For FFGS, in view of the extent and diversity of meteorological and hydrological phenomena and geophysical characteristics of the region, it [South America] should be divided into four sub-regions. The sub-regions suggested cover a) the Northwest part, b) the three Guianas, and c) and d) two regions whose final composition would be determined later.
- Based on the technical, economic and human resources capacities, regional centres should be located in some of the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Peru; the latter two having also expressed interest in hosting a Regional Centre. It should be noted that the sub-region b) should be supported by an external Regional Centre, as this has been successfully undertaken in regional projects in other parts of the world.
- The functionalities of each sub-regional system must be developed to reflect the needs of the participating countries. In addition to providing tools for hydrological and meteorological forecasters to develop timely and site-specific alerts for flash floods, the system should include optional items to help forecasters in developing alerts for: areas that have available high resolution Radar information, urban areas of selected cities experiencing flash flooding, landslides and riverine floods.
- To consider starting implementation of the system in sub-region a).

In view of the above, to request WMO, through communication from the President of RA III to the Secretary-General, to take the necessary steps to mobilize the necessary resources to carry out the detailed actions herein described above.