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15th anniversary of the 'Tsunami Agreement' between UNESCO and CTBTO: reflections from the past and an outlook to the future

The Tsunami Programme of the UNESCO-Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO-IOC) coordinates tsunami warning and mitigation activities around the globe. As of today, 21 National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWC) in 20 CTBT Signatory States benefit from the agreement between the CTBTO Prep-Com and UNESCO allowing transmission of real-time IMS data to NTWCs recognized as such by UNESCO. In addition to the critical importance of the seismic data, there is a growing recognition of the value of the hydroacoustic and infrasound data for tsunami warning. Examples include the near-real time identification of the horizontal extent of the fault rupture, application of AI-based models to hydroacoustic data for rapid detection of tsunamis, monitoring of volcanic explosions and ice shelf break-ups which may be of tsunamigenic potential. This presentation will provide an overview from the perspective of UNESCO-IOC on the progress made during the last 15 years within the framework of this agreement and will explore further synergies between the two organizations through joint capacity programmes with a special focus on developing countries and Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) towards provision of a sustainable framework addressing the needs of their NTWCs, where many of them are or can become a CTBTO National Data Centre.

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