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**A Suggested Communications Standard For Asteroid Impact Alerts**

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**ABSTRACT**

Both the International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN) and the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG) were established in 2013 on the basis of the recommendations of the Action Team on near-Earth objects (NEOs) for an international response to the NEO impact hazard. These very entities were also recommended by the Working Group on NEOs of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC). Both IAWN and SMPAG were endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution of 11 December 2013.

IAWN is a partnership of scientific institutions, observatories, space agencies and other interested parties performing observations, orbit computation, modeling and other scientific research related to the impact potential and effects of asteroids. It endeavors to foster a shared understanding of the NEO hazard and optimize the scientific return on these small celestial bodies. This partnership is organized consistent with the concept developed within the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). To that end, the IAWN is specifically tasked with developing a strategy using well-defined communication plans and

protocols to assist Governments in the analysis of asteroid impact consequences (and in the planning of mitigation responses).

In response to SMPAG Action Item 5.6 (Communication Guidelines in the Case of a Credible Impact Risk Identified by IAWN), IAWN has prepared a guideline template in the event of a pending, credible real-world impact event. The rationale for these communications guidelines is to provide correct, clear, and concise information on the nature of an impact hazard. The intent of the product is to provide a 'playbook template' that IAWN (and SMPAG) can quickly reference.

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