The MJO remained inactive during the past several days, with the low frequency El Nino state continuing to dominate the large scale tropical convective pattern. Two tropical cyclones developed over the central Pacific: Tropical Storm Kilo south of Hawaii, and Tropical Depression Four-C, which formed just east of the Date Line. Kilo is forecast to reach hurricane intensity, and may impact the western Hawaiian Islands.

Over the Atlantic basin, the NHC continues to monitor a disturbance near Bermuda that may gradually develop into a tropical or subtropical cyclone. Additionally, a robust tropical wave over the eastern Atlantic has a low potential for development in the wake of Hurricane Danny, and dynamical models indicate that a second tropical wave emerging off the coast of Africa also has a low potential for development. Therefore, the MDR has been highlighted with a moderate confidence shape for the remainder of Week-1 to reflect the combined potential of these waves. During Week-2, there is still a moderate potential for tropical cyclogenesis, with dynamical models generally favoring recurving tracks over the central Atlantic.
Over the East Pacific, a tropical wave west of 120W has a moderate potential for development during the remainder of Week-1. During Week-2, the base state and forecast models continue to indicate a potential for renewed activity over the eastern Pacific. Therefore, the high confidence TC shape has been maintained and expanded further west to account for the existing tropical wave.

The original forecast discussion released on August 18 follows.

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There was no discernible MJO signal during the past week. The RMM Index amplitude remained inside the circle. The spatial pattern of upper-level velocity potential anomalies had a somewhat coherent Wave-1 pattern, which projected onto the CPC MJO index; however, there is no eastward propagation of this signal. The pattern of global tropical convection remains dominated by the ongoing El Nino, and the primary subseasonal contributors are a pair of intense typhoons over the West Pacific.

Dynamical model MJO Index forecasts are extremely noisy, with different models yielding projections in almost every RMM phase. This is primarily due to the lack of any robust intraseasonal signal within the low frequency base state, which is now firmly present in the previous 120-day observational period and thus largely removed from the index calculations. Therefore, the MJO is not expected to play a role in the evolution of large-scale global tropical convective patterns during this outlook period.

Tropical Depression Four developed over the central Atlantic MDR on 18 August. This system is forecast to gradually intensify as it moves west-northwestward or westward during the next five days, approaching the Lesser Antilles towards the end of the Week-1 period. The latest NHC forecasts strengthen TD4 to hurricane intensity by Day-5. Beyond this period, there is considerable uncertainty regarding the continued evolution of this tropical cyclone. Over the eastern Pacific, Tropical Depression 11E developed on 15 August, and dissipated several days later. Two typhoons developed over the West Pacific and are both currently Category-3 or greater on the Saffir-Simpson intensity scale: Atsani, which is currently east-northeast of Guam, and Goni, which is well east of Luzon's northern coast. Atsani may impact Japan's southern coast towards the end of Week-1, while Goni may bring impacts to the northern Philippines and Taiwan.

During the next several days, additional tropical cyclogenesis is likely over the central Pacific, near or southeast of Hawaii. Any potential tropical cyclone developing in this region may bring wind, waves, or
heavy precipitation impacts to Hawaii. Later in the Week-1 period, a tropical or subtropical cyclone has a low to moderate potential for developing over the central Atlantic near Bermuda. Additionally, the Joint Typhoon Warning Center is monitoring two potential areas for development: the western Pacific between 5 and 15 degrees N and 150 and 170 E, and the Bay of Bengal. There is little confidence among the dynamical models for tropical cyclogenesis in these areas, so no shapes were depicted on the outlook. During Week-2, ongoing El Nino conditions strongly favor the eastern Pacific for additional tropical cyclone development. There is a low potential for additional tropical cyclogenesis over the Atlantic MDR as additional waves emerge from Africa.

During Week-1, suppressed convection due to the base state and subsidence south of Atsani and Goni is favored from the eastern Indian Ocean across the Maritime Continent and the equatorial West Pacific, while enhanced convection is expected along the forecast tracks of these typhoons. Dynamical models favor weakened monsoon activity over South Asia, while enhanced rainfall is likely across a wide swath of the central and eastern Pacific north of the equator. Suppressed convection is anticipated to persist across southern Mexico, Central America, and the western Caribbean, while an active ITCZ and tropical cyclone activity favor enhanced rainfall across the Atlantic MDR.

During Week-2, suppressed convection is again favored over parts of South Asia, the eastern Indian Ocean, northern Maritime Continent, and equatorial West Pacific. Enhanced rainfall is forecast near the Date Line south of the equator, as well as the eastern Pacific. Tropical cyclone activity may bring enhanced rainfall to Hawaii.

Forecasts for enhanced or suppressed rainfall across Africa are provided in collaboration with CPC’s Africa Desk and are based on MJO composites and regional scale anomaly features.