

Talking points for the Chair of the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific for the 8th session of the Committee on Statistics

Agenda Item: 4a Progress made in support of the collective vision and framework for action by groups responsible for regional initiatives of the Committee on Statistics and by the secretariat

Distinguished delegates, Excellencies, gentlemen and ladies

1. In my capacity as the Chair of the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics (TWG-DRS), I have the honour of summarising the progress of the TWG as contained in the document ESCAP/CST/2022/INF/4.
2. The Committee on Statistics at its seventh session in 2020 recommended the function of the TWG as a community of practice to share knowledge, experiences, and good practices, and encouraged the initiation of capacity building activities.
3. To establish a strategic direction of the community of practice, the TWG conducted a situational analysis in early 2021, taking stock of the diverse backgrounds and gaps in disaster-related statistics in the region. The result of which was the formulation of the Group's five-year Strategic Plan to implement the disaster-related statistics framework (DRSF). The Plan sets targets for the work of the TWG in three areas namely: strengthening technical capacity; contributing to the development of internationally agreed standards; and improving disaster statistics governance.
4. In addition to its regular meetings to implement the Strategic Plan, the TWG in 2021 organized the Asia-Pacific regional symposium on disaster-related statistics as well as three workshops on the policy impetus, the scope of the basic range of disaster-related statistics, as well as the business process required for production and dissemination of disaster-related statistics.
5. In accordance with the Strategic Plan, this year the TWG aims to demonstrate the compilation of disaster-related statistics by conducting a review of the DRSF tables, gathering countries' practices in applying these tables in their own contexts, and documenting these experiences, outputs and challenges as well as potential solutions for data producers and compilers. It is expected that this demonstration will strengthen members' capacity, help convey Asia-Pacific

good practices and priorities to international standard setting processes; and improve in-country interdepartmental collaboration for disaster-related statistics.

6. As stipulated in the terms of reference of the TWG, the Committee is invited to review and consider the continuation of the work of the TWG.
7. Distinguished delegates, as we all witness, the ever-increasing impacts posed by disasters necessitate improved disaster-related statistics for effective disaster risk management. I invite you all to support the continuation of this initiative to advance disaster-related statistics for risk-informed development.
8. I take this opportunity to thank you, as well as the TWG members and partners for your commitment to improving disaster-related statistics. Your invaluable contributions and insights are truly appreciated. Thank you.