

**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific****Seventy-fourth session**

Bangkok, 11–16 May 2018

Item 3 (h) of the provisional agenda**

Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the regional institutions: statistics**The Disaster-related Statistics Framework: results of the work of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

The Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific was established by the Commission in its resolution 70/2, with extensions and adjustments to its mandate made by the Commission in its resolutions 72/11 and 73/7.

The present document contains information on the main results of the work of the Expert Group, particularly the Disaster-related Statistics Framework. Its implementation could lead to the production of comprehensive and comparable disaster-related statistics, which could be used to monitor the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The Expert Group's recommendations on future regional collaboration to strengthen disaster-related statistics are also contained in the present document.

The Commission is invited to take note of the Disaster-related Statistics Framework and to provide guidance to Governments and the secretariat on future regional collaboration to strengthen disaster-related statistics, bearing in mind the recommendations made by the Expert Group.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 25 April 2018.

** ESCAP/74/L.1/Rev.1.

I. Background

1. The Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific was established in 2014 pursuant to resolution 70/2 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Its establishment followed a series of policy discussions on the importance of disaster risk reduction in preventing disasters and in alleviating human and economic losses when disasters strike. The discussions had highlighted the need for better data and statistics to strengthen the evidence base for all phases of disaster management. The Expert Group was entrusted with assisting member States in that task through the development of a basic range of disaster-related statistics.

2. In 2016, the Commission, in its resolution 72/11 on advancing disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific for implementation of internationally agreed development goals, renewed the mandate of the Expert Group and highlighted recent international developments, particularly the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. The following year, the Commission adopted resolution 73/7, in which it requested the secretariat continue support for the work of the Expert Group, highlighting the need for international partnerships and support for the enhancement of the capacity of national statistical systems in the region to produce and use disaster-related statistics.

II. The Disaster-related Statistics Framework

3. The core output of the Expert Group's work is the Disaster-related Statistics Framework.¹ The Framework was developed through an iterative and interactive process, which involved extensive study of current practices, pilot studies to test draft recommendations based on real compilations of data by official agencies, open consultations online, and a series of expert meetings, workshops and seminars.²

4. The Framework creates a bridge between the disaster risk reduction domain and existing practices for social and economic statistics by integrating disaster risk reduction concepts with technical guidance on measurement. Based on the current statistical practices of countries, a basic range of disaster-related statistics is identified in the Framework, which is designed to be feasible in all countries and applicable for multiple purposes, to the extent possible.

5. The Framework provides technical guidance on how to develop a common and nationally standardized basic range of disaster-related statistics, which is comparable with those of other countries, by integrating data and metadata that, at present, usually are dispersed across many sources and across many responsible government agencies. A basic range of official disaster-related statistics produced by the responsible national agencies represents an efficient approach for building on the basic official data sources in order to meet the multiple and complex demands for statistics for disaster risk reduction policies. A basic range also enables subregional, regional and global analyses and calculations with regard to internationally agreed indicators for monitoring goals and targets in the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

¹ The outline and complete text is available from <http://communities.unescap.org/asia-pacific-expert-group-disaster-related-statistics/content/drsf>.

² The annex contains an overview of the major reports and activities of the Expert Group.

6. The Disaster-related Statistics Framework contains internally coherent and internationally consistent guidance for utilizing existing data to produce information relevant to all the phases of disaster risk management, including risk identification, prevention and mitigation, as well as for disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

7. The Framework is accompanied by the following implementation tools and resources:

- Sample core tables (or reporting templates) covering the scope of a basic range of disaster-related statistics
- Descriptions of good practices (case studies), which were accumulated throughout the process of developing the Framework
- Basic training materials for applying official statistics to the production of the key components of a basic range of disaster-related statistics, including use of geographic information systems and other technologies that are useful sources of statistics for informing disaster risk reduction policies.

III. International collaboration and alignment efforts

8. At the Expert Group's second meeting, at the margin of the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015, it recognized a critical opportunity to develop statistical guidance as a resource for the implementation of the Sendai Framework at the national level. From that point forward, the Expert Group's methodological discussions focused on providing statistical inputs for the achievement of the Sendai Framework.

9. After the adoption of the Sendai Framework, the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/284. The intergovernmental expert group agreed on indicators for global monitoring of the Sendai Framework targets,³ which were adopted by the General Assembly in December 2016.⁴ For consistency, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators decided to align their indicators with selected Sendai Framework indicators for the disaster-related targets for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring.⁵

10. The work of the Expert Group helped to strengthen international partnerships to develop the underlying statistical inputs for indicator reporting, including through the establishment of the Global Partnership on Disaster-related Statistics by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Economic Commission for Europe and ESCAP at the United Nations World Data Forum in 2017.⁶ The Global Partnership was established to achieve objectives common to the participating national and international organizations, including the creation of statistical conventions for disaster-related statistics for the Statistical Commission, with a view to establishing global statistics standards and guidance.

³ See A/71/644 and A/71/644/Corr.1.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 71/276.

⁵ See E/CN.3/2017/2.

⁶ See E/CN.3/2018/14.

IV. The way forward: recommendations of the Expert Group

11. At its fifth meeting, held in the Republic of Korea in September 2017, the Expert Group identified several key points of guidance for the future.⁷ It noted that with the finalization of the Disaster-related Statistics Framework, the next phase of work would be to apply the Framework to the production and dissemination of statistics and indicators. While many participating national agencies are in a strong position to take the work forward at the national level, the Expert Group noted the need for continued regional coordination, exchange of best practices, and efforts to increase the capacity of national statistical systems to implement the Expert Group's recommendations.

12. The Expert Group highlighted the need to develop training materials on the implementation of the Framework. Technical assistance programmes should be developed in close coordination with other international entities involved in disaster risk management at national and local levels, such as the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. Technical assistance should draw on the capacities of the Commission's regional institutions, in particular the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management. In particular, the outcomes of the Expert Group meetings could contribute to the main services envisioned for the Centre, which include acting as a repository of knowledge, databases and standards; capacity development; and providing regional information services for cross-border disasters. The Centre will serve as an important resource for delivering training activities on disaster statistics.

13. The Expert Group recommended that, building on the network created through its collaborative activities, the Expert Group should be replaced by a technical working group on disaster-related statistics to support the implementation of the Framework. As a technical working group, it could function as a platform for discussion and sharing of experiences and research on statistics and as a pool of expertise for technical support to help guide national implementation of norms and standards for disaster-related statistics. The technical working group could comprise experts from national statistics offices, national disaster management agencies and relevant international organizations and would coordinate its work with the Global Partnership on Disaster-related Statistics. As in the case of the Expert Group, the technical working group should report to the Committee on Statistics and the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction, under the overall guidance of the Commission.

V. Conclusion

14. Bearing in mind the recommendations of the Expert Group, the Commission is invited:

(a) To express support for national implementation of the Disaster-related Statistics Framework for the production and use of internationally comparable statistics for disaster risk reduction;

(b) To provide guidance on future regional collaboration to strengthen disaster-related statistics, including on the role of the secretariat and of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, in building national capacity for implementing the Framework;

⁷ See http://communities.unescap.org/system/files/egmreport_final2.pdf.

(c) To advise the Committee on Statistics and the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction on the transformation of the Expert Group into a technical working group.

Annex

Timeline of reports and activities of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific

<i>Date</i>	<i>Events and activities</i>
May 2014	Establishment of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, resolution 70/2 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
27 and 28 October 2014	First Expert Group meeting, Sendai, Japan
March 2015	Initial recommendations on a statistics framework, focusing on occurrences and direct impacts of disasters, developed for discussion by the Expert Group
17 March 2015	Second Expert Group meeting as a side event to the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Sendai
25 to 27 March 2015	Report to the Committee on Statistics at its fourth session (E/ESCAP/CST(4)/7)
25 to 29 May 2015	Report to the Commission at its seventy-first session (E/ESCAP/71/17)
August–September 2015	Survey of current practices of national agencies producing disaster statistics in Asia and the Pacific
28 to 30 October 2015	Third Expert Group meeting, Bangkok
27 to 29 October 2015	Report to the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction at its fourth session (E/ESCAP/CDR(4)/4)
October–December 2015	Development of an initial draft statistics framework and standard tables for pilot studies
15 to 17 December 2015	Disaster-related statistics framework pilot study inception workshop, Bangkok
January–March 2016	Pilot implementation of the draft disaster-related statistics framework in four countries (Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, the Philippines)
15 to 19 May 2016	Report to the Commission at its seventy-second session through the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (E/ESCAP/72/19)
4 October 2016	Special sessions on disaster-related statistics organized for the 13th National Convention on Statistics, Manila
5 and 6 October 2016	Fourth Expert Group meeting, Manila
14 to 16 December 2016	Report to the Committee on Statistics at its fifth session (E/ESCAP/CST(5)/9)
15 and 16 December 2016	Post-pilot study workshop on the development of regional guidance on the production and dissemination of disaster-related statistics
23 May 2017	Special event on economic losses from disasters organized for the Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week 2017, Bangkok

<i>Date</i>	<i>Events and activities</i>
August–September 2017	First online consultation for completed draft disaster-related statistics framework (version 1.0)
19 to 22 September 2017	Fifth Expert Group meeting, Incheon, Republic of Korea
4 to 6 October 2017	Session at the 2017 International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals Statistics organized by the Expert Group, Manila
27 December 2017–9 February 2018	Second online consultation for completed draft disaster-related statistics framework (version 2.0)
April 2018	Disaster-related Statistics Framework final draft posted to Expert Group website
