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**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**  
Committee on Statistics

**Eighth session**

Bangkok and online, 23–25 August 2022

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**Regional initiatives and partnerships for strengthening national statistical system for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: 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**

**Report on the technical working group on disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific\*\***

*Summary*

The Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific was established pursuant to a decision by the Committee on Statistics at its sixth session in 2018 to transform the earlier Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific into a technical working group. The objective of the Technical Working Group would be to support the implementation of the Disaster-related Statistics Framework, which had been developed by the Expert Group.

At its seventh session in 2020, the Committee recommended the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics function as a community of practice to share knowledge, experience, and good practices, and encouraged the initiation of capacity building activities. The first meeting of the Technical Working Group was held in October 2020 and since then, the group has met monthly.

The present information document provides an overview of the activities and achievements of the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics between October 2020 and March 2022. Bearing in mind the terms of reference of the group, which require a review and consideration by the Committee at its eighth session in 2022 on the continuation of work, the document, outlines feedback on the functioning of the group solicited from members and presents the five-year plan developed by the group for its future work.

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\* ESCAP/CST/2022/L.1/Rev.1.

\*\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

## **I. Background**

1. The Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific was established in 2014 pursuant to Commission resolution 70/2 (E/ESCAP/RES/70/2) to advance the development of a basic range of disaster-related statistics in support of policy development in the region. In 2015, the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Paris Agreement increased the momentum and sense of urgency for the development of disaster-related statistics. Subsequently, at its forty-ninth session, the Statistical Commission for the first time included disaster-related statistics on its agenda.

2. By 2018, the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific finalized the Disaster-related Statistics Framework, the statistical content of which was endorsed by the Committee at its sixth session. The Committee also supported the recommendation of the Expert Group to transform it into a technical working group to assist member States in implementing the Disaster-related Statistics Framework. In 2020, the Committee at its seventh session further recommended the technical working group to function as a community of practice for the sharing of knowledge, experience, and good practices, and encouraged capacity building activities in the region.

3. At the global level, the Statistical Commission at its fiftieth session recognized the urgency of advancing disaster-related statistics and the appropriateness of the Asia-Pacific Disaster-Related Statistics Framework to serve as the starting point for global guidance on disaster-related statistics. The Statistical Commission decided to establish the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics to advance the development of a common global framework for disaster-related statistics. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) serve as Co-Chairs of the group, with UNDRR providing secretariat support.

4. The present document provides an overview of the organization of work of the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific and summarizes its activities and achievements from October 2020 to March 2022. Bearing in mind the terms of reference of the group which include a sunset clause requiring a review and consideration by the Committee at its eighth session in 2022 of the continuation of work, the document further outlines feedback on the functioning of the group solicited from members and presents the five-year strategic plan developed by the group as the proposed way forward for regional collaboration on disaster-related statistics.

## **II. Organization of work**

### **A. Objective and functions**

5. According to its terms of reference,<sup>1</sup> the objective of the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific is to expand the production, dissemination and use of a basic range of disaster-

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<sup>1</sup> See annex I for the terms of reference of the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics.

related statistics by countries through applying the Disaster-related Statistics Framework.

6. Key functions of the group include:

(a) To provide a platform for discussion and sharing of experiences and research on development of new tools and data sources for producing official statistics related to disasters;

(b) To maintain and expand a pool of expertise for technical support; to guide the national implementation of norms and standards for disaster-related statistics; and to develop materials for technical training;

(c) To review and improve (as appropriate) the technical guidelines on the production and dissemination of the basic range of disaster-related statistics;

(d) To develop standards and recommendations to help ensure coordination among producers of data and other stakeholders of the basic range of the Disaster-related Statistics Framework at the national level;

(e) To conduct analyses and develop tools, as appropriate, to support coherence and harmonization of reporting for the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(f) To develop recommendations and technical guidance, where appropriate, in support of improvements to national reporting for the global Sendai Framework Monitoring System and the global monitoring framework for the 2030 Agenda; and

(g) To coordinate and exchange advances from Asia and the Pacific with related global and regional initiatives from other regions and to global initiatives.

## **B. Participation and leadership**

7. The Technical Working Group functions under the leadership of the Chair from Mongolia, and two Vice Chairs from Indonesia and Fiji. The secretariat supports the group in carrying out its functions.

8. The Technical Working Group comprises experts from national statistical offices, national disaster management agencies, other governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia, as well as regional and international organizations. Members participate in their individual expert capacity.

9. The group decided at its first meeting to convene every month. Since its inception, the group has met 16 times bringing together more than 200 experts from 34 countries and territories<sup>2</sup> and institutions. To support work during and in-between the monthly meetings, an online platform<sup>3</sup> provides a space for discussion and knowledge exchange, and hosts resources relevant to the functioning of the group.

<sup>2</sup> Afghanistan, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, France, Georgia, Germany, Hong Kong, China, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Tokelau, Türkiye, Tuvalu, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uzbekistan, and Vanuatu.

<sup>3</sup> <https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/x/OAGq>.

## C. Work planning

10. Considering the diversity in backgrounds and state of disaster-related statistics development in countries of the region, the Technical Working Group decided to conduct a situation analysis to inform the development of its work plan.

### *Situation analysis*<sup>4</sup>

11. The secretariat coordinated the situation analysis which comprised a desk review, a survey, and interviews of members of the group.

12. Survey responses from eleven countries revealed, as expected, that production, dissemination and use of disaster-related statistics are most advanced among the countries, which piloted the Disaster-related Statistics Framework as it was developed, namely Bangladesh, Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand.

13. Findings of the situation analysis included:

- Increasing demands for disaster-related statistics for national decision-making and monitoring, and for monitoring and reporting to the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- While country practices vary, common challenges include fragmented and dispersed data, and lack of common definitions and classifications among relevant agencies;
- Varying degrees of involvement by national statistical offices in disaster-related data governance and statistics production;
- Lack of awareness of the Disaster-related Statistics Framework by disaster management agencies and statistical offices;
- Expressed need for hands-on examples in implementing the Disaster-related Statistics Framework; and
- Expressed need for the Technical Working Group to function as a platform for learning and experience sharing.

### *Five-year strategic work plan*

14. Based on the situation analysis, the Technical Working Group formulated a five-year strategic plan<sup>5</sup> for the promotion, application, and implementation of the Disaster-related Statistics Framework.

15. The plan sets targets for the group's work in three areas: (a) strengthening technical capacity; (b) contributing to the development of internationally agreed standards; and (c) improving disaster statistics governance.

16. It is envisaged by the end of year five, (a) technical capacity among members is sufficient to implement the Disaster-related Statistics Framework, (b) an agreed international statistical framework would reflect priorities of Asia and the Pacific, and (c) the roles of official statistics and relevant stakeholders

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<sup>4</sup> [www.unescap.org/kp/2021/regional-situation-analysis-state-production-dissemination-and-use-disaster-related](http://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/regional-situation-analysis-state-production-dissemination-and-use-disaster-related).

<sup>5</sup> The five-year strategic plan is included as annex II.

in disaster risk reduction are clarified and supported by governance arrangements for disaster risk data.

17. The plan also outlines the strategy for pursuing the three areas over five years, progressing from identification of practices and issues (2021), demonstration of disaster-related statistics production and dissemination (2022), replication (2023), endorsement (2024), to expansion and replication (2025).

### III. Moving towards harmonized disaster-related statistics

18. In addition to its regular monthly meetings where members exchanged knowledge and shared country practices, the group met at the Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium on Disaster-Related Statistics hosted by Indonesia in July 2021 and organized three workshops between September and November 2021 on *Catalysing the Policy Impetus for Disaster-related Statistics*; *Determining the Scope of the Basic Range of Disaster-related Statistics*; and *Coordinating the Disaster-related Statistics Business Process*, respectively.<sup>6</sup>

19. Eighteen countries<sup>7</sup> and six organizations<sup>8</sup> have shared knowledge, practices, and experiences with the Technical Working Group thus far.

20. As per its five-year strategic plan, the Technical Working Group in 2021 focused on identifying practices and issues in application of the Disaster-related Statistics Framework while the focus in 2022 on demonstration of production and dissemination of disaster-related statistics. Achievements towards the three areas of the strategic plan – technical capacity, internationally agreed statistical standards, and governance, are summarized below.

#### A. Technical capacity

21. Disaster-related statistics in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines are aligned with existing international statistical frameworks, such as the System of National Accounts (SNA), the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES), and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). During meetings of the Technical Working Group, experts from Georgia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Türkiye shared experiences with the integration of geospatial data for disaster statistics production, whereas Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal and Samoa explained how disaster-related data is disaggregated by sex, age, and for some also by disability. Further, the national statistics offices of Bangladesh and Nepal have conducted dedicated household surveys on disaster and climate change impacts, and several countries maintain loss and

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<sup>6</sup> Annex III contains an overview of meetings, workshops and symposiums organized by the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific.

<sup>7</sup> Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Georgia, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Türkiye, and Vanuatu.

<sup>8</sup> Asian Disaster Reduction Centre, Task Force on Measuring Hazardous Events and Disasters, International Research Institute of Disaster Science, UN-Women, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

damage databases, of which many are based on the UNDRR-supported DesInventar<sup>9</sup> disaster information management system.

22. Several national experts pointed to insufficient national capacity and experience with producing disaster-related statistics. The following challenges were identified and discussed by the group and will be addressed in its future work to strengthen capacity: gaps in standards, definitions, and classifications; non-standardized reporting formats; calculation of economic impacts attributed to disasters; assessment of vulnerability; database management capacity; lack of geospatial data; lack of experience with geospatial information system (GIS) software.

23. Several international experts shared their knowledge and experience during meetings of the group. According to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction 20 countries in Asia and the Pacific adequately report to the Sendai Framework Monitor on mortality, affected people and national and local disaster risk reduction capacity (Targets A, B, and E respectively). However, several gaps exist, including in the reporting by Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Insufficient data collection is a cause of several data gaps, and sex, age and disability disaggregated data remain limited globally.

24. The need for gender statistics to design comprehensive and inclusive disaster response was highlighted by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). The Asian Disaster Reduction Centre informed the group about the GLobal unique disaster IDentifier (GLIDE) to support international harmonization of data on disasters. The ESCAP secretariat presented a tool to map population exposure to flood hazards<sup>10</sup> which has been developed as a beginner's guide to statisticians and disaster experts who are interested in developing skills and experience working with geospatial data and related software to produce disaster-related statistics.

25. The ESCAP secretariat, represented by the Statistics Division and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific also worked closely with the Technical Working Group to develop an e-learning course on the Disaster-related Statistics Framework, with members of the group reviewing and commenting on training modules, and by piloting the course. By early 2021, the course was launched, and is now available as a free, public resource<sup>11</sup> in Arabic, English, Indonesian and Russian languages, with translation ongoing into the French, Spanish<sup>12</sup> and Thai languages.

## **B. Contributing to internationally agreed standards**

26. Internationally agreed guidance for disaster-related statistics is advancing under the umbrella of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics established by the Statistical Commission, supported by initiatives of several partners and global and regional groupings.

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<sup>9</sup> [www.desinventar.net/](http://www.desinventar.net/).

<sup>10</sup> [www.unescap.org/kp/2021/mapping-population-exposure-flood-hazards-step-step-guide-use-qgis](http://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/mapping-population-exposure-flood-hazards-step-step-guide-use-qgis).

<sup>11</sup> <https://siap-elearning.org/>.

<sup>12</sup> In collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

27. As the Co-chair of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group, the secretariat regularly fed lessons and experiences shared by members of the Technical Working Group into the global standard-setting work. This included the work on Hazard Information Profiles by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the International Science Council which was presented to the Working Group for feedback and review. Indonesia volunteered to pilot test the emerging classification.

28. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group organizes annual Expert Forums for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics, the first of which was held in June 2021. The Asia-Pacific region was well-represented at the Forum, with members of the Technical Working Group co-organizing sessions, Bangladesh presenting their work to implement the Bangladesh Disaster-related Statistics 2020, and Indonesia and the secretariat facilitating several sessions.

29. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group also organized a side event to the fifty-second session of the Statistical Commission to create awareness on disaster-related statistics. Here, Indonesia presented their One Disaster Data. The following year, another side event was organized, where Philippines presented their work on Disaster Risk Reduction Expenditure Satellite Accounts. The Philippines also presented this work during the 2020 Webinars on Climate Change-related Statistics, jointly organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), with support by ESCAP. The webinar series was organized again in 2022, where Nepal presented their work on the integration of climate change and disaster impacts into population census.

### **C. Supporting disaster-related statistics governance**

30. Improved data governance was identified by the Technical Working Group as key to strengthen statistics quality, including accessibility and timeliness, bearing in mind the need to adhere to privacy and confidentiality requirements. In several countries, disaster-related statistics are yet to be recognized as an area of official statistics and hence are not integrated in the national statistical system.

31. Fragmented data and the lack of coordination among national agencies and ministries involved in disaster-related statistics as well as governance challenges were cited most frequently by countries. Mandates, regulatory instruments and guidance for disaster data collection, clearer roles among agencies and the establishment of policies and strategies for disaster-related data management were some of the developments called for to improve data governance for production, dissemination and use of disaster-related statistics.

32. Countries also called for more investment in disaster-related statistics, including for data collection and processing. They noted the importance of high-quality disaster-related statistics both for development of national risk-informed policy as well as for living up to their monitoring commitments globally, including to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

33. To address governance gaps, the Technical Working Group organized a regional symposium and a series of workshops on disaster-related statistics. The Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium on Disaster-related Statistics was organized in collaboration with the Indonesian Statistical Society Forum to facilitate a dialogue between government officials, experts, and other stakeholders to take stock of progress, commitments, and plans.

34. The group organized three workshops to identify key requirements for structured and successful application of the Disaster-related Statistics Framework. The first workshop aimed to increase understanding of the core elements of a policy on disaster-related statistics, the basic steps for implementation and perceived challenges in the development process. The second workshop aimed to scope the basic range of disaster-related statistics and associate it with data sources to map out disaster-related data producers and users. The third workshop focused on the roles and responsibilities of national agencies, with members exchanging information on different national coordination platform models and sharing practices on inter-agency data flows.

35. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) presented recommendations on the role of official statistics and national statistical systems in measuring hazardous events and disasters as endorsed by the Conference of European Statisticians,<sup>13</sup> recommendations which complement the Disaster-related Statistics Framework and were developed in close collaboration with ESCAP and the earlier Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific.

#### **IV. Way forward**

36. At the end of 2021, a survey was conducted of the Technical Working Group to solicit feedback on activities, achievements, modalities, and to review the continued relevance of the five-year strategic work plan. This section summarizes the results of the feedback and subsequent reflections by the Technical Working Group.

##### **Survey results**

37. The survey<sup>14</sup> revealed that 76 per cent of respondents agreed the meetings of the group were of high relevance to their work; 85 per cent found the activities of the group effective, while 79 per cent found meeting modalities efficient.

38. Respondents highlighted the following benefits from their participation in the group: exposure to good practices and experiences from other countries; knowledge of methodologies, standards and frameworks for data collection and available data; networking with experts, producers, and users; and support in policy and workplan design.

39. Survey respondents were asked to rank topics according to priority. Technical capacity enhancement and participation in e-learning courses received the highest ranking, followed by data standards, including hazard classifications, thresholds, and metadata; and disaster-related statistics and data governance. Other prioritized topics included the step-by-step compilation methodology and guidance for the statistics included in the Disaster-related Statistics Framework, loss and damage calculation, and coordination between national statistical offices and national disaster management agencies. Members further suggested the continuation of knowledge exchange between countries and institutions and sharing of country case studies on the compilation of disaster-related indicators.

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<sup>13</sup> <https://unece.org/statistics/publications/recommendations-role-official-statistics-measuring-hazardous-events-and-disasters>.

<sup>14</sup> The survey was circulated to 185 individuals who had participated in one or more meetings of the technical working group. Thirty-one responses were received, corresponding to a response rate of approximately 17 per cent.



40. More than half the respondents indicated an interest and need for complementing the virtual functioning of the Technical Working Group with in-person meetings, should resources permitting.

*Work plan for the year 2022 and reflections on future direction of work*

41. The Technical Working Group met to reflect on the survey results with a view to plan its work for 2022 and consider the continued relevance of the five-year plan.

42. The group found the progression of work to be well aligned with the five-year work plan's expectation of moving from identification of issues in 2021 to demonstration of disaster-related statistics production and dissemination in 2022. Accordingly, it was agreed to leave the five-year strategic work plan unchanged, and to plan the monthly meetings in 2022 around the basic range of statistics and components of the Disaster-Related Statistics Framework, covering disaster occurrence, background statistics, exposure to hazards, impact statistics, and expenditure statistics. Each meeting would feature an expert overview of the statistics in focus for the month, followed by presentations by countries and international organizations on their related practices and experiences.

## **V. Conclusion**

43. The Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific builds capacity and assists countries in the region with implementing the Disaster-related Statistics Framework. By sharing national operations and accumulating lessons learned on disaster data and statistics, the Technical Working Group has created a knowledge pool and exchanged country practices for inspiration and replication. Members confirmed its continued relevance and benefits through the survey conducted in 2021.

44. The work of the Technical Working Group garners support and appreciation from the growing international community of practice on disaster-related statistics, demonstrated by the regular and frequent invitations from international organizations to the group and its members to present experiences, practices and knowledge from the region at international events.

45. Experiences from the Asia-Pacific region, shared and documented by the Technical Working Group shape the global guidance on disaster-related statistics, which is under development by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics. Members of the Technical Working Group are at the global forefront in experimenting and testing the implementation of the Disaster-related Statistics Framework which constitutes the foundation for the work of the global Inter-Agency and Expert Group. Lessons from the region are hence looked to for incorporation into the global research agenda and methodological guidance.

46. Challenges however remain, and the Technical Working Group therefore through its five-year strategic work plan seeks to continue supporting the advancement of disaster-related statistics in the Asia-Pacific region with a strategic focus on capacity, standards, and governance.

## Annex I

### Terms of reference for the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific<sup>1</sup>

#### 1. Background

1. ESCAP Resolution 69/12 called for strengthening evidence-based policymaking for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and invited member States to improve the quality and availability of data related to disasters. Subsequently, the ESCAP Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction at its third session requested that the ESCAP secretariat work towards more effective monitoring of the resilience of member States to disasters; and through the development of a basic range of disaster-related statistics in close coordination with the ESCAP Committee on Statistics.

2. The Commission at its seventieth session subsequently passed the resolution 70/2 entitled *Disaster-related statistics in Asia and the Pacific* to take the mandate forward by establishing an expert group comprising of statisticians and disaster management experts to work towards developing a basic range of disaster-related statistics.

3. The Expert Group developed the Disaster-related Statistics Framework, which was endorsed by the ESCAP Committee on Statistics at its sixth session in 2018. The Committee also supported the recommendation of the Expert Group to transform the Group into a technical working group as an international network of professionals and experts to support the capacity of member States to implement the basic range of disaster-related statistics that are internationally comparable, subject to review by the Committee on Statistics of the draft terms of reference for the technical working group.

#### 2. Key functions

4. The objective of the Technical Working Group (hereafter, the Technical Working Group) is to expand the production and dissemination of a basic range of disaster-related statistics by countries through applying the Disaster-related Statistics Framework. Implementation of recommendations contained in the Disaster-related Statistics Framework shall be aligned to national priorities and shall be coherent with the internationally-agreed development frameworks, particularly the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

5. Towards achieving this objective, the key functions of Technical Working Group are:

(a) To provide a platform for discussion and sharing of experiences and research on development of new tools and data sources for producing official statistics related to disasters;

(b) To maintain and expand a pool of expertise for technical support: to guide the national implementation of norms and standards for disaster-related statistics; and to develop materials for technical training;

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<sup>1</sup> Following initial review and approval by the Bureau of the Committee on Statistics, the present terms of reference were endorsed in May 2019 through email consultation with all members of the Committee.

(c) To review and improve (as appropriate) the technical guidelines on the production and dissemination of the basic range of disaster-related statistics;

(d) To develop standards and recommendations to help ensure coordination among producers of data and other stakeholders of the basic range of the Disaster-related Statistics Framework at the national level;

(e) To conduct analyses and develop tools, as appropriate, to support coherence and harmonization of reporting for the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(f) To develop recommendations and technical guidance, where appropriate, in support of improvements to national reporting for the global Sendai Framework Monitoring System and the global monitoring framework for the 2030 Agenda.

(g) To coordinate and exchange advancements from Asia and the Pacific with related global and regional initiatives from other regions and to global initiatives.

### 3. Membership

6. The Technical Working Group shall function as a community of practice, as per ESCAP Committee on Statistics decision 6/1<sup>2</sup> and shall be open to experts from national statistics offices, national disaster management agencies (or equivalent national authorities) and relevant international organizations. It shall coordinate its work with the Global Partnership on Disaster-related Statistics.

7. Members shall include experts from countries in Asia and the Pacific and regional and international organizations, where the membership is based on the individual's technical capacity rather than as formal representatives of national governments or organizations.

8. The secretariat shall circulate a call for expression of interest in membership to Governments in Asia and the Pacific and regional and international institutions with expertise in statistics or disaster management.

9. The composition of the Technical Working Group shall, to the extent feasible, represent knowledge and experts from statistics and disaster risk management backgrounds; and perspectives from all five ESCAP Subregions (i.e. Central Asia, East and North-East Asia, the Pacific, South and South-West Asia, and South-East Asia).

10. The Technical Working Group shall conduct its business through electronic means only, complemented by a meeting of experts when possible. Such meetings and related events shall involve a broader network of experts, including professionals from academic institutions, regional and international organizations, and non-governmental organizations.

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<sup>2</sup> ESCAP/CST/2018/6, decision 1: "The Committee decides to establish communities of practice covering the dimensions of process, data, conceptual and disciplinary integration and requests the Bureau of the Committee, with support from the secretariat, to develop terms of reference for the communities of practice, with the modality of the communities being electronic only."

**4. Methods of work**

11. The Technical Working Group, upon formation, shall agree on a five-year (2020–2024) strategy with work streams, objectives and expected outputs. The Technical Working Group shall review the identified issues through electronic discussion, sharing of resources on the group’s website, and exchange of emails.

**5. Chair**

12. The Technical Working Group shall elect a Chair; and one or more Vice Chairs from among its members. The Chair shall serve for a period of 2 years after which he/she will be eligible for re-appointment.

**6. Reporting**

13. The Technical Working Group shall report on the progress of its work and achievements on a regular basis, in the form of a written report and, if requested, through an oral report to the ESCAP Committee on Statistics at its biennial meeting. The written report shall be prepared by the secretariat in close collaboration with the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Group and shall be reviewed by other members of the Technical Working Group prior to submission.

**7. Secretariat**

14. The Statistics Division of ESCAP shall serve as secretariat of the Technical Working Group, supported by the Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division of ESCAP, whenever necessary. The secretariat shall support the Technical Working Group in carrying out its functions.

**8. Review of the terms of reference**

15. The Technical Working Group may review the current Terms of Reference as the need arises, to ensure that it carries out its functions efficiently and effectively based on the required mandate.

**9. Sunset clause**

16. The ESCAP Committee on Statistics shall conduct a review and evaluation of the functions, work program and achievements of the Technical Working Group at its eighth session in 2022, at which point the eventual continuation of the work shall be decided.

## Annex II

### Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific: five-year strategic plan

Year	Identification	Demonstration	Replication	Endorsement	Expansion
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Area</b>	<b>Strengthening members' technical capacity</b>				
<b>Status</b> (As of May-21)	<b>No or limited technical capacities exchange through the Technical Working Group</b>				
<b>Target</b>	<b>Technical capacities are augmented through various capacity strengthening modalities, e.g. E-learning and thematic training, experience sharing / exchange, technical assistance, tools / instruments sharing</b>				
<b>Topic</b>	Technical capacity needs assessment conducted	Priorities for technical capacity enhancement are agreed	Simplified, localized language E-learning country-level courses	Technical Working Group endorses list of training modules, expert rosters and the confluence request/ offer mechanisms	Member countries conduct sub-national and/or sectoral training
	E-learning is conducted and versions in different languages are available	Individual experts and officials participated in E-learning	Members request/offer technical capacity support in between Technical Working Group meetings	Localized E-learning courses for engaging local officials and communities	Members through the confluence request/ offer/ respond to technical capacity needs
	Members are familiar with the use of basic functions of the Confluence	Advanced E-learning courses with thematic topics	Capacities for conducting special surveys and strengthen quality administrative data collection	Showcases of national and local level good practices	n/a
	Brochures/ videos on what Disaster-related Statistics Framework is and how it supports the country's DRR international reporting	Technical Working Group to help promote the standardized quantification of disaster damage and losses on routine-basis in sectors responsible for reporting disaster impacts.	Disaster-related Statistics Framework is adopted in four countries, including working in low-tech and low connectivity contexts	Country-level technical capacity strengthening good practices compiled	n/a
	n/a	n/a	n/a	Technical Working Group facilitates peer to peer learning exchanges between countries	n/a

Year	Identification	Demonstration	Replication	Endorsement	Expansion
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Area</b>	<b>Contributing to the development of internationally-agreed standards</b>				
<b>Status</b> (As of May-21)	<b>Early development of internationally-agreed standards</b>				
<b>Target</b>	<b>Internationally agreed standards reflect Asia-Pacific regional priorities</b>				
<b>Topic</b>	Needs for standards assessed and preliminary works completed including the needs for accounting of small-scale disasters.	Technical Working Group facilitates discussions on hazards classifications, disaster threshold, metadata, practical calculation formula and translation to monetary terms	Technical Working Group actively deliberates and, through its representatives and champions, gives feedback to the draft global standards	Technical Working Group validates and endorses the internationally-agreed draft standards	Technical Working Group disseminates and promotes the internationally-agreed standards to member countries
	Technical Working Group conveys to the global forums country's needs for more realistic standards	Technical Working Group conveys regional needs, innovations and good practices to the global processes	Technical Working Group compiles good practices of real situation for better understanding and application of the standard	Assists countries in applying the standards including local governments' roles for compiling and reporting	n/a
<b>Area</b>	<b>Supporting members' governance of disaster statistics</b>				
<b>Status</b> (As of May-21)	<b>Lack of coordination and cooperation between stakeholders results in data fragmentation, inconsistencies, and incomparability</b>				
<b>Target</b>	<b>Role of official statistics in measuring disasters are clarified and applied stakeholders are playing their parts in a coordinated manner.</b>				
<b>Topic</b>	Technical Working Group uses existing frameworks to identify and assesses the governance aspects of disaster statistics	Technical Working Group incorporates governance as an added component of disaster statistics framework	Good practices of governance framework in three countries, to include issues such as data collection, data security, and information dissemination	ESCAP Statistical Committee endorses the Disaster-related Statistics Framework model	Technical Working Group makes available and facilitates exchange of good practices of governance frameworks to support countries continuous improvements
	Contextualize ECE guidelines to the region to address the disconnected disaster data to the national statistical system through clarification the role of national disaster management offices and national statistical office	Compilation of practical examples and potentially research about collaboration and coordination and addressing barriers	Modules and models for decentralized engagement sub-national and communities	Case studies and demonstrable good practices on making data to underpin decisions and investments that contribute to a public good/national development	n/a

<i>Year</i>	<i>Identification</i>	<i>Demonstration</i>	<i>Replication</i>	<i>Endorsement</i>	<i>Expansion</i>
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
	A model of inter-ministerial coordination	Training needs assessment on joint capacity building of national statistical offices and national disaster management offices	Discussion on capitalizing and broadening the interagency momentum emerging from Sendai and Sustainable Development Goal monitoring and reporting	Good practices of governance framework in five countries	n/a
	n/a	Documentation of the governance framework for disaster statistics in at least one country	n/a	Periodical update from member States on the state of disaster statistics governance	n/a

### Annex III

#### Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific: meetings and workshops

<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting Title</i>
28 October 2020	<b>First Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics</b>
	<a href="https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/1st+Meeting+of+the+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics">https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/1st+Meeting+of+the+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics</a>
25 November 2020	<b>Second Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics</b>
	<a href="https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/2nd+Meeting+of+the+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics">https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/2nd+Meeting+of+the+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics</a>
16 December 2020	<b>Third Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics</b>
	<a href="https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/3rd+Meeting+of+the+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics">https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/3rd+Meeting+of+the+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics</a>
27 January 2021	<b>Fourth Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics</b>
	<a href="https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/4th+Meeting+of+the+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics">https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/4th+Meeting+of+the+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics</a>
24 February 2021	<b>Fifth Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics</b>
	<a href="https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/5th+Meeting+of+the+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics">https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/5th+Meeting+of+the+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics</a>
31 March 2021	<b>Sixth Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics</b>
	<a href="https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/6th+Meeting+of+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics">https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/6th+Meeting+of+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics</a>
30 April 2021	<b>Seventh Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics</b>
	<a href="https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/7th+Meeting+of+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics">https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/7th+Meeting+of+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics</a>
21 May 2021	<b>Workshop on Five-year Plan</b>
	<a href="https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/Workshop+on+Five-year+plan+of+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics">https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/Workshop+on+Five-year+plan+of+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics</a>
27 May 2021	<b>Eighth Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics</b>
	<a href="https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/8th+Meeting+of+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics">https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/8th+Meeting+of+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics</a>
30 June 2021	<b>Ninth Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics</b>
	<a href="https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/9th+Meeting+of+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics">https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/9th+Meeting+of+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics</a>



<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting Title</i>
27 July 2021	<b>Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium on Disaster-Related Statistics/ Tenth Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics</b>
	<a href="https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=23790089">https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=23790089</a>
25 August 2021	<b>Eleventh Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics</b>
	<a href="https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/11th+Meeting+of+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics">https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/11th+Meeting+of+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics</a>
29 September 2021	<b>Workshop on Catalysing the Policy Impetus for Disaster-related Statistics/ Twelfth Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics</b>
	<a href="https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/12th+Meeting+of+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics">https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/12th+Meeting+of+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics</a>
27 October 2021	<b>Workshop on Determining the Scope of the Basic Range of Disaster-related Statistics/ Thirteenth Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics</b>
	<a href="https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/13th+Meeting+of+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics">https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/13th+Meeting+of+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics</a>
24 November 2021	<b>Workshop on Coordinating the Disaster-related Statistics Business Process/ Fourteenth Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics</b>
	<a href="https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/14th+Meeting+of+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics">https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/14th+Meeting+of+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics</a>
23 February 2022	<b>Fifteenth Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics</b>
	<a href="https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/15th+Meeting+of+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics">https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/15th+Meeting+of+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics</a>
30 March 2022	<b>Sixteenth Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics</b>
	<a href="https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/16th+Meeting+of+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics">https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/display/TWG/16th+Meeting+of+Technical+Working+Group+%28TWG%29+on+Disaster-related+Statistics</a>