

**Third Meeting of the Expert Group on  
Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific**

*28-30 October 2015*

*United Nations Conference Centre, ESCAP, Bangkok*

Concept Note

ESCAP member States have identified building resilience to disasters as one of the region's priority development challenges. In recognition of the need to improve statistics on disasters, they in 2014 established the Expert Group on disaster-related statistics. The Group comprises experts from national statistical offices (NSOs) and national disaster management agencies (NDMAs) of the region as well as a number of international experts.

***Activities of the Expert Group***

At its first meeting held in October 2014, the Expert Group agreed to focus its initial work on disaster occurrences and immediate and direct impacts of disasters. A working paper outlining related statistical definitions and issues formed the basis for discussion at the second meeting of the Expert Group which took place in March 2015. The Expert Group agreed to work further towards supporting the production of disaster-related statistics that can be compared across countries. It formed three task groups for the purpose, as follows:

Task Group 1: Focus on an agreed classification of hazards to be aligned as much as possible to existing terminology used in targets and indicators of the emerging international monitoring frameworks for the post-2015 disaster risk reduction framework and the sustainable development goals;

Task Group 2: Focus on an agreed definition of the temporal and geographical expanse and boundaries of disaster occurrences, and address the various definitional challenges, and the interplay of geographical and administrative units in the practical application of such definitions; and

Task Group 3: Focus on an agreed terminology and classification of immediate, direct impacts of disasters, bearing in mind consistency with existing internationally agreed statistical standards and classifications.

To support the work of the Task Groups, the secretariat is conducting a survey of current practices and experiences among member States in the classifications of disaster types, definitions of temporal and geographical expanse of disasters, and definitions of immediate, direct impacts of disasters.

***Objectives of the third meeting of the Expert Group***

Against the backdrop of the above-listed completed and ongoing activities, the third meeting of the Expert Group is organized with the following objectives in mind:

- to strengthen the relevance and linkages between the work of the Expert Group, other international initiatives to improve statistics and data on disasters, and the monitoring frameworks under development for the SDGs and the SFDRR2015;<sup>1</sup>
- to review the results of the survey on current practices in Asia and the Pacific for defining and classifying the occurrence and immediate, direct impact of disasters;
- to share country practices for the production (data collection, processing and reporting) of statistics on the occurrence and immediate, direct impact of disasters;
- to discuss the scope and outline of a regional guideline for the production of statistics on the occurrence and immediate, direct impact of disasters;
- to agree on a work plan for developing a regional guideline.

### ***Expected Participants***

Members of the Expert Group and other relevant national and international experts

### ***Collaborating organizations***

Tohoku University of Japan, Global Centre for Disaster Statistics, UNDP and UNISDR

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<sup>1</sup> The Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) will hold its second meeting during 26-28 October 2015 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, thus the same week and venue of the third meeting of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics.

***Tentative Programme***

<b>Wednesday 28 October</b>	
14:00 – 14:30	<p><b>Opening Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcoming remarks: <i>Mr. Romeo Soon Recide, Interim Deputy National Statistician, Philippine Statistics Authority</i></li><li>• Opening remarks: <i>Ms. Shamika Sirimanne, Director, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD), ESCAP</i></li><li>• Overview of objectives and programme for the meeting: <i>Ms. Rikke Munk Hansen, Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics Section, Statistics Division (SD), ESCAP</i></li></ul> <p>Tour de Table</p>
14:30 – 17:00	<p><b>Session 1: Survey on current practices in Asia and the Pacific for defining and classifying the occurrence and immediate, direct impact of disasters</b></p> <p><u><i>Objective: Review of the survey on current practices in Asia and the Pacific for defining and classifying the occurrence and immediate, direct impact of disasters.</i></u></p> <p><i>Presentations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview of the survey: <i>Mr. Daniel Clark, Statistician, SD, ESCAP and Ms. Dyah Rahmawati Hizbaron, Lecturer, Universitas Gadjah Mada</i></li></ul> <p>Group discussion on survey findings by the Task Groups</p>

<b>Thursday 29 October</b>	
09:00 – 10:30	<p><b>Session 2: Survey on current practices in Asia and the Pacific for defining and classifying the occurrence and immediate, direct impact of disasters</b></p> <p><u><i>Objective: Review of the survey on current practices in Asia and the Pacific for defining and classifying the occurrence and immediate, direct impact of disasters.</i></u></p> <p>Facilitator: <i>Mr. Puji Pujiono, Regional Advisor on DRR, IDD, ESCAP</i></p> <p><i>Presentations of Survey Findings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Definitions and classifications of disaster occurrence: <i>Mr. Agus Wibowo, Head, Data Division, National Agency for Disaster Management (BNPB), Indonesia</i></li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methodology for defining temporal and geographical expanse of disasters: <i>Mr. Pema Thinley, ICT/GIS Officer, Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Bhutan</i></li> <li>• Definitions and classifications of disaster direct impacts: <i>Ms. Kathreen Ong, Civil Defence Officer, Office of Civil Defence, Philippines</i> and <i>Mr. Rowell Casaclang, Statistical Coordination Officer II, Philippines Statistics Authority, Philippines</i></li> </ul>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:30	<p><b>Session 3: Country practices for the collection, processing and reporting of disaster data</b></p> <p><u><i>Objective: Understanding of selected country practices for the production of statistics on the occurrence and immediate, direct impact of disasters.</i></u></p> <p>Facilitator: <i>Ms. Rikke Munk Hansen, Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics Section, SD, ESCAP</i></p> <p><b><i>Part I: Collection, processing and reporting of disaster data</i></b></p> <p><i>Further reflections on survey results from disaster management perspective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr. Artavazd Davtyan, Deputy Head, Department of Rescue Forces, Rescue Services, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Armenia</i></li> <li>• <i>Mr. Rashad Gasimzade, Chief Officer, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of the Emergency Situation, Azerbaijan</i></li> <li>• <i>Ms. Ariunaa Chadraabal, Lieutenant Colonel, Senior Specialist, National Emergency Management Agency, Mongolia</i></li> <li>• <i>Ms. Zoe Touteniaki Ayong, Senior Research and Planning Officer, National Disaster Management Office, Vanuatu</i></li> </ul>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 – 15:00	<p><b>Session 3: Cont'd</b></p> <p><b><i>Part II: Production and Dissemination of Disaster Statistics</i></b></p> <p><i>Further reflections on survey results from statistics perspective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ms. Sahar Sahebi Araghi, Head of Group for Energy Statistics, Statistical Centre of Iran, Islamic Republic of Iran</i></li> <li>• <i>Mr. Rafiqul Islam, Deputy Director, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Bangladesh</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr. Kyaw San Oo, Director, Central Statistical Organization, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar</i></li> <li>• <i>Ms. W.A.D.R.D Athukorala, Statistician, Department of Census and Statistics, Sri Lanka</i></li> <li>• <i>Disaster definition and classification: statistical perspectives: Mr. Daniel Clark, Statistician, SD, ESCAP</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Part III: Summary by Task Group leaders</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Definitions and classifications of disaster occurrence: Mr. Agus Wibowo, Head, Data Division, BNPB, Indonesia</i></li> <li>• <i>Methodology for defining temporal and geographical expanse of disasters: Mr. Pema Thinley, ICT/GIS Officer, Bhutan</i></li> <li>• <i>Definitions and classifications of disaster direct impacts: Ms. Kathreen Ong, Civil Defence Officer, Philippines and Mr. Rowell Casaclang, Statistical Coordination Officer II, Philippines</i></li> </ul>
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee Break
15:30 – 17:00	<p><b>Session 4: Overview of current initiatives to improve statistics and data on disasters</b></p> <p><u><i>Objective: Strengthened relevance and linkages between the work of the Expert Group and related international initiatives</i></u></p> <p>Facilitator: <i>Mr. Puji Pujiono, Regional Advisor on DRR, IDD, ESCAP</i></p> <p><i>Presentations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Introduction and Overview: Mr. Puji Pujiono, Regional Advisor on Disaster Risk Reduction, IDD, ESCAP</i></li> <li>• <i>Updates on the development of the overall SDG indicator framework and the disaster risk reduction related indicators included in the list: Ms. Francesca Perucci, Chief, Statistical Services Branch, Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs</i></li> <li>• <i>Current efforts towards enhanced monitoring and reporting of disaster-related Sustainable Development Goals and Targets, and SFDRR: Ms. Kazuko Ishigaki, Programme Officer, Risk Knowledge Section, UNISDR (tbc)</i></li> <li>• <i>The state of global disaster statistics: Mr. Rajesh Sharma, Programme Specialist, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measuring Extreme Events and Disasters: UNECE (<i>tbc</i>)</li> <li>• Recording Disaster Losses in European Union: <i>Mr. Daniel Ehrlich, Senior Scientist, European Commission, Joint Research Centre (tbc)</i></li> <li>• Improving the evidence base on the cost of disasters: OECD (<i>tbc</i>)</li> </ul> <p>Discussion on possible implications of initiatives on the future work of the Expert Group</p>
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Friday 30 October	
9:00 – 09:15	Recap of previous sessions: <i>Mr. Puji Pujiono, Regional Advisor on DRR, ESCAP</i>
09:15 – 12:00	<p><b>Session 5: Towards a regional guideline for the production of statistics on the occurrence and immediate, direct impact of disasters</b></p> <p><u><i>Objective: Options for the scope and outline of a regional guideline for the production of statistics on the occurrence and immediate, direct impact of disasters;</i></u></p> <p>Facilitator: <i>Ms. Rikke Munk Hansen, Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics Section, SD, ESCAP</i></p> <p><i>Presentation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft outline of the guideline: <i>Mr. Jean-Louis Weber, European Environment Agency Scientific Committee</i></li> </ul> <p>Group discussion: Scope and outline of a regional guideline for the production of statistics on the occurrence and immediate, direct impact of disasters</p> <p>Presentations of Group Discussion outcomes</p>
12:00 – 13:00	<p><b>Session 6: Way Forward</b></p> <p><u><i>Objective: To agree on a plan for the future work of the Expert Group</i></u></p> <p>Co-chairs: <i>Mr. Agus Wibowo, Head, Data Division, BNPB, Indonesia &amp; Mr. Yuichi Ono, Assistant Director and Professor, International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS), Tohoku University, Japan</i></p> <p><i>Discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work plan for developing a regional guideline</li> <li>• Report by the Expert Group to the ESCAP Commission in 2016</li> </ul>