

Task Force on Measuring Extreme Events and Disasters (TF on MEED)

Conference of European Statisticians (CES)

Michael Nagy / October 29th, 2015

Conference of European Statisticians (CES)

- Highest Statistical Body in UNECE region
- Members:
 - All UNECE countries
 - All OECD countries
 - Some others (Brazil, Colombia, Mongolia, China, Indonesia, etc.)

In-depth review of measuring extreme events and disasters by CES Bureau (2014)

Main conclusions:

1. Clarify the role of NSOs:
 - Disaster risk reduction
 - Providing quickly the right information
 - Monitoring of occurrence and impact
2. Need to agree on common classifications and definitions for statistical purposes
3. Strong links with the work on climate change related statistics

Task Force on Measuring extreme Events and Disasters (2015 – 2017)



Terms of Reference:

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/ece/ces/bur/2015/February/05-ToR_TF_on_Measuring_Extreme_Events_and_Disasters.pdf

Objectives:

- Clarify the role of official statistics.
- Identify practical steps how NSOs can support disaster management and risk reduction.
- Identify main data needs and data sources. Take into account SDGs.
- Identify needs for harmonisation of classifications, terms and definitions
- Cooperate with the UN agencies and other international organisations working in this area.
- Draft recommendations by June 2017

Coordination within International Organisations is crucial, e.g.



- ESCAP: Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific
- UNSD:
 - UN Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) component 4 – Extreme Events and Disasters
 - Monitoring of SDGs and Targets
- UNISDR: Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology Relating to Disaster Risk Reduction (OEIWG)

Members of the Task Force

- Armenia
- Italy
- Kazakhstan
- Mexico
- Moldova
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- South Africa
- Turkey
- Eurostat
- JRC
- UNESCAP
- UNISDR
- WHO
- WMO

Chair:

Ms. Angela Ferruzza, National Institute of Statistics (Italy)

Initial Work Plan

Activities aggregated in 3 main tasks:

- Task 1:
 - Review of currently available statistics and practices
 - Analysing main data needs and UN-ESCAP recommendations
 - Following actively the work of the OEIWG, contribute with comments
- Task 2
 - Glossary of most relevant terms and definitions
 - Consideration of recent and upcoming developments
 - Mapping of official statistics with data needs
- Task 3
 - Drafting recommendations (to be presented to CES in June 2017)

Work is assigned to two working groups (working in parallel on different issues)

Work mainly via phone conferences, email and wiki-forum

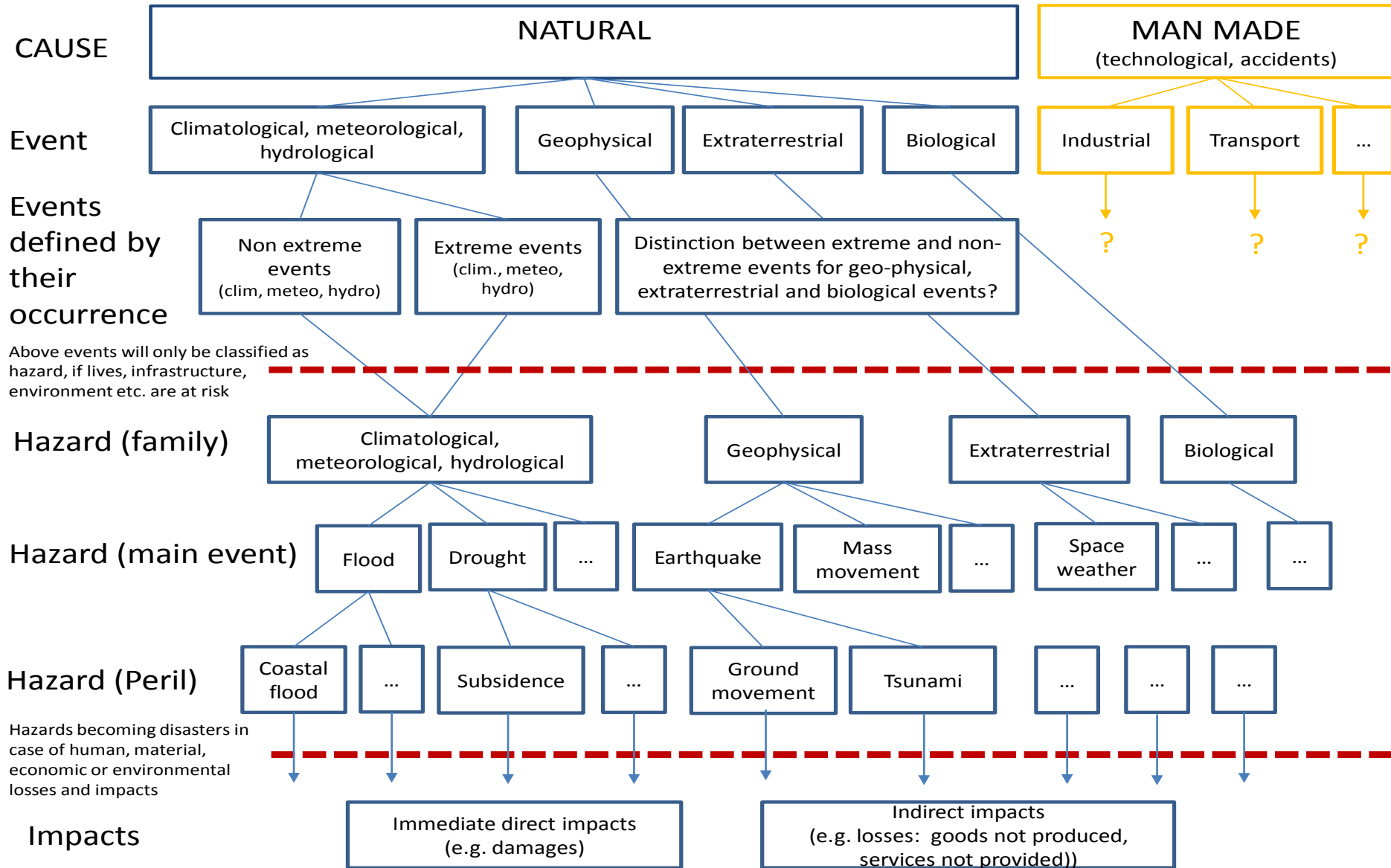
Current working priorities

- **Preparing a survey to NSOs:**
 - Role of NSOs
 - Institutional cooperation
 - Main challenges
 - Main data sources
 - Data sharing (including data confidentiality problems)
 - Integration of geographical data
 - Existing «key» statistics
 - Etc.
- **Providing comments and input on the work of the UN-ESCAP Expert Group**
- **Providing comments on the main documents of the OEIWG**

Current discussions in the TF

- Name of the TF and its recommendations: "*Extreme events and disaster-related statistics and geospatial information*"
- Defining the scope is important:
 - The scope of the set of statistics to be defined is broad
 - The scope of the work of the Task Force is defined by priorities
- Establishing conceptual links between "extreme events", "hazards", "disasters", "impacts" etc. this could finally lead to a conceptual framework and help to identify terminological overlaps and classifications problems. Different expert communities are looking at the same "extreme" event from different perspectives (statistical occurrence versus impact)
- IRDR peril classification: It was suggested to actively contribute to its further development and improvement
- Four typical phases of disaster risk management and related statistics requirements proposed by the UNESCAP Expert Group considered as useful (risk identification / risk reduction, mitigation and preparedness / response / medium and long term recovery)

Attempt to show conceptual links



Work is in progress....

- Development of survey to NSOs
- Preparing comments on most recent documents of OEIWG (deadline 30 November)
- Analysing the outcomes of the 3rd meeting of the UN-ESCAP Expert Group
- Discussing the scope of "extreme events and disaster related statistics" via a wiki-forum

Thank you for your attention!

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