

## **Minutes & Outcomes from the Fourth Meeting of the Expert Group on Disaster-Related Statistics**

5-6 October 2016, Manila, the Philippines

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A core portion of the substantive focus for the 4th Meeting of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics was to review progress and the provisional draft findings and recommendations from the pilot studies conducted by the volunteer expert group focal points from four countries (Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia and the Philippines). An aim of the pilot studies is to strengthen the Expert Group's understanding of existing statistics in countries and to identify areas where the quality of the statistics (including international comparability) may be improved through the cooperative development of technical guidance on measurement.

During the proceedings, the Expert Group endorsed the draft Pilot Study Report, shared with Expert Group members and the broader network via the group's website in September, and entrusted the secretariat to finalize the document and implement the remaining minor comments or corrections that were provided to the draft.

This Expert Group Meeting was organized in connection with the Philippines' 13<sup>th</sup> National Convention on Statistics (NCS). Two special sessions during the NCS featured presentations on disaster-related statistics pilot testing and innovations for producing disaster-related statistics.

The following presentations were made during two sessions at the 13<sup>th</sup> NCS. The sessions attracted a lot of interest from NCS participants and extensive and very fruitful discussions during the question and answer phase.

- UNESCAP Presentation: Findings of DRSF Pilot testing from the perspective of SDGs and Sendai Framework Monitoring, Daniel Clarke
- Findings on the Compilation of the Provisional Disaster Related Statistics (DRSF) in the Philippines, Ma Libertie Masulino
- Disaster Related Statistics Framework (DRSF) Pilot Testing - Fiji, Poasa Naimila
- GIS for compilation and production of new statistics on disaster risk reduction by national governments, Jean-Louis Weber
- Coping with Climate shocks in Mongolia: household panel survey, Ch. Tungalag
- Innovations for Improvement of Official Statistics on Disasters: Bangladesh Experience, Md. Rafiqul Islam

Substantive and open discussions during the first day of the Expert Group meeting were structured around the topics and headings to the core sections in the draft DRSF Pilot Study Report (see attached agenda for details). During the first day of the meeting, the Expert Group also heard reactions from a representative from Indonesia's National Agency for Disaster Management (BNPB) on the pilot study via video conference because he was unable to participate in the Expert group meeting or 13<sup>th</sup> NCS in person.

Edits or adjustments to the draft Report will be minor, mostly to improve the language and to fix a few small technical errors in the data identified by experts during the review. These minor adjustments will be implemented by the Secretariat prior to finalization and its release as a background document for information at the Fifth Committee on Statistics meeting.

During the 2nd day of the Expert Group Meeting, members heard from the United Nations for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) on the global process for monitoring implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and from a senior representative of JICA on major development in global agreements and the understanding by experts on disaster risk reduction policy, on the positions and experiences of JICA, the world's top donor of international assistance on disaster risk reduction, and on a Sendai Framework Indicators Assessment study being conducted by the government of Japan.

UNISDR and ESCAP agreed to continue the conversation to find the most complementary streams of work between the DRSF and the process for global monitoring of Sendai Framework indicators, a selection of which will also be utilized for monitoring Sustainable Development Goals targets. The Expert Group will also continue to collaborate and coordinate its efforts with other groups and processes in other regions or globally. As one of its action points for future work (see work plan below), the Expert Group will work to calibrate the coherence between its continued studies of current practices and development of guidance materials for statisticians with the final recommendations from the Open Ended Intergovernmental Working Group (OEIWG) on indicators and terminologies for Sendai Framework monitoring, expected to be completed during November, 2016.

Having reached a maturity of 2 years as an Expert Group, members were required to elect new leadership (Chairs and Co-Chairs) according to the group's terms of reference (ToR). The ToR was also reviewed. Some minor changes to adjust for alignment with the renewed mandate and new context, particularly the Sendai Framework and the development of monitoring indicators by the ...(OEIWG), Besides these few modernizing adjustments, the ToR will remain as drafted at the group's first meeting in 2014.

#### **New EG Officers:**

Chair:

- Mr. Romeo Soon RECIDE, Deputy National Statistician, Philippines Statistics Authority

Vice Chairs:

- Mr. Sultan MAHMOOD, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief Bangladesh
- Ms. Tunglag CHULUUNBAATAR, Officer, National Statistics Office of Mongolia,

The meeting requested members to provide comments and notes of practices for a list of outstanding issues identified through the Pilot Studies as issues requiring some further investigations. The Meeting welcomed members' voluntary interest to undertake further studies on specific issues towards developing Regional Guidelines, Pilot Phase II as follows:

Areas/Issues for Exploration	Interested Country
1. DRR Expenditure	Bangladesh, Fiji, Myanmar, Philippines
2. Compilation of current practices/possibilities for material impacts in "physical terms"	Bhutan
- Partially damaged, damaged, destroyed	Bangladesh
- Menu of measurement units for material	

impacts	
3. Direct material impacts to infrastructure, economic loss valuation	Armenia (excluding valuation) Myanmar Bangladesh
4. Social impacts - Vulnerable groups - Measurement of evacuation, displacement, etc.	Sri Lanka, Bangladesh
5. Impacts to the Environment	Fiji, Myanmar
6. Population in areas exposed to hazards methodology validation	Indonesia
7. Special issues with small disasters or slow developing hazards	Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Mongolia
8. Managing discrepancies (national-regional, across ministries), disaggregation	Philippines
9. Accessing big data: social media, messaging	Philippines
10. Understanding risk (risk index)	Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines
11. Frequencies of hazards/climate change	Mongolia

### Work Plan/Timeline

Timeline	Milestone
October 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post Minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> Expert Group Meeting</li> <li>• Finalize Pilot Study Report (Phase 1) – to be submitted to 5<sup>th</sup> Statistics Committee</li> </ul>
November 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Third session of the OEIWG, Geneva (14-18 November)</li> </ul>
December 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5<sup>th</sup> Committee on Statistics</li> <li>• Completion of OEIWG</li> </ul>
January to September 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on Outstanding Issues for Guidelines</li> <li>• Filling-in the DSRF with basic methodological principles and examples of good practices</li> <li>• Calibrating with adopted indicators</li> </ul>
September 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5<sup>th</sup> Committee on Disaster Reduction</li> <li>• Outline for DSRF International Guideline</li> </ul>
September 2017 to May 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drafting and International Consultation on Guide</li> </ul>
October 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Conference on SDGs</li> <li>• Organize inputs or a side event</li> </ul>
May 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final report to ESCAP Commission</li> </ul>