



6th meeting of the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific

April 23rd-25th
Bangkok, Thailand

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Sustainable development goals in Asia-Pacific, the world's most disaster-prone region, cannot be achieved without enhancing the capacity of member States for disaster risk reduction and resilience. Disasters in the region are quite diverse and many are transboundary in nature, such as disasters caused by floods, droughts, tropical cyclones, earthquakes, tsunamis and sand and dust storms.

The global development frameworks, particularly the SDGs and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, established as a globally agreed policy priorities and indicators and requirements for international reporting of progress. The global agreements have created an important opportunity for international cooperation towards more rigorous and internationally comparable measurement of disaster-related statistics. In order to achieve progress, there is also a need to continuously improve and update official statistics for use in key instruments of evidence-based disaster risk reduction policy-making, such as risk assessment and post-disaster impact assessments.

The Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific was established in 2014 and was requested by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to develop a basic range of disaster related statistics for the advancement of evidence-based disaster risk reduction and in support of implementation of the internationally agreed development goals. The Expert Group responded in 2018 with a final draft of the Disaster-related Statistics Framework (DRSF) and a recommendation for international cooperation towards increased harmonization of statistics and strengthened capacities of national statistical systems with producing and utilizing the basic range of disaster-related statistics.

In September 2018, the ESCAP Committee on Statistics supported the recommendations to transform the Expert Group into a technical working group (TWG), subject to review of a new terms of reference (ToR) for a new phase of work. The focus of work for the new phase under the TWG will shift from development of the Disaster-related Statistics Framework into providing support to the responsible national agencies for its implementation and improved international comparability of the basic range of disaster-related statistics. The new TWG is a forum for sharing of experiences, research or case studies and to exchange knowledge and information on technologies for improved capacities for disaster-related statistics production and analyses across the region.

Objective of the Meeting

Noting that this 6th meeting of the Expert Group will take place during the point of transformation into a technical working group with a new mandate and ToR, the proposed objectives for this meeting are:

- Improved knowledge and understanding of needs and basic requirements for development and improvement of comparability of the basic range of disaster-related statistics by national agencies;
- Exchange of information on current good practices within the Asia and Pacific region;
- Collaborative development of technical training materials for use by national agencies towards increased capacities for producing the basic range of disaster-related statistics with a reasonable degree of regional comparability;
- Agreement on a new terms of reference (ToR) and work plan for the new technical working group (TWG) and new phase of work for regional cooperation.

Meeting Programme

The programme is currently under development – for suggestions or questions on the programme, please contact Daniel Clarke, clarke@un.org, with copy to stat.unescap@un.org