

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

A side Event no 274
at the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
C101, Kawauchi-Kita Campus, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan
Tuesday, 17 March 2015, 9 AM – 5 PM

Draft concept note

The international community is gearing up towards a post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction which will contain negotiated numerical targets of progress and achievements in disaster risk reduction. Against that backdrop ESCAP Expert Group on the establishment of a basic range of disaster statistics will seek to contribute to the endeavour by helping member States improve the monitoring and reporting of their progress in attaining the disaster risk reduction targets. The underpinning statistics are crucial to measure the attainment of those goals, targets, and indicators in the framework in consistent, systematic and comparable manner. Only thus disaster data could meaningfully inform development process and, at the same time, be comparable across countries.

ESCAP established an Expert Group comprising statisticians and disaster risk reduction experts to work towards developing a basic range of disaster-related statistics to be approved by the Commission. The Group will report on the progress made to the Committee on Statistics in and the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction. Member States also requested ESCAP to inform the WCDRR in Sendai.

At its first meeting in Sendai in October 2014, the Expert Group was benefitted from the rich experience gained from UNDP's years of supporting national level disaster loss databases in 57 countries worldwide, and the various current projects and initiatives, findings from a five-country study. The Expert Group then agreed that the development of a basic range of disaster-related statistics should be guided by national policy priorities, taking into account regional and international frameworks in particular the relevant goals and targets of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals as well as the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. They also agreed that the core of the basic range of disaster-related statistics, as a matter of priority, is to comprise disaster occurrence and direct and immediate impacts of disasters. With regard to disaster occurrence, the Group decided to complement the existing materials with more information in order to ensure the inclusion of the broadest possible types of disasters that occur in the Asia-Pacific region. As for disaster impacts, the Group is to have further discussion immediate impacts of disasters to lives and livelihoods as well as their appropriate valuation methods.

Objectives: At its second meeting, organised jointly by ESCAP and Tohoku University with the support of UNDP, the Expert Group will aim to:

- Ascertain the alignment of the basic range of disaster statistics with the ongoing negotiation on the post 2015 Framework in Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals indicators
- Achieve consensus on a core components of disaster statistics including the definition of disaster occurrence, types and classifications of disasters and the immediate impacts.
- Develop a plan for producing a compilation guide for the disaster statistics

Expected Participants

In addition to the members of the Expert Group, a number of regional and international experts will also be invited to the meeting.