UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
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International Statistical Classifications
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Classifications in the Disaster-Related Statistics Framework (DRSF)

ESCAP

Introduction

The Asia and Pacific Expert Group on Disaster Related Statistics has been developing a disaster related statistics framework (DRSF) comprising a number of classifications to help improve harmonization of production and dissemination of statistics on disasters. This is particularly required given the new demands for information at the global level for monitoring achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

There are three main classifications proposed relating to (i) hazard types, (ii) direct material impacts, and (iii) disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities.

A background paper https://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/intercop/expertgroup/2017/AC340-Bk4.PDF is provided for the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications (EG) to review and enable discussion on the following series of questions which the Asia and Pacific Expert Group would like advice.

Questions:

1) Overall, is the rationale, context and introductory explanations for each of the proposed international classifications presented sufficiently clear and convincing? Is there agreement within the EG that there is a need to define classifications at the international level for the three items identified (i.e. hazard types, direct material impacts, and DRR activities)?

2) Referring to the first topic (hazard type classifications) – does the EG agree with the approach to link to the family-level of hazard classes from the IRDR Peril Classification and Hazard Glossary as a simple and practical step towards improved harmonization to identify disasters statistics according to hazard type? Are there any other comments on the issue of hazard-type classifications?

3) Does the EG have any comments on the summary of definitions and categorizations of assets, drawn from the SNA 2008 (and CPC rev. 2), and its applicability for producing harmonized statistics on direct impacts from disasters?

4) What are the challenges, if any, for implementing a classification that draws from multiple sources (SNA, CPC Ver.2 and Sendai Framework)?

5) Is there a simpler way to produce the list of objects of measurement for direct impacts statistics with some acceptable degree of consistently with the broader system of official statistics?

6) Does the EGISC have any comments on the development of a functional sub-classification for "critical infrastructure" - i.e. is the concept and proposed draft classification clear and measurable?

7) Does the EG have any comments on the DRR-characteristic activity classification? Is the concept sufficiently clear?

8) Does the DRRCA meet the basic principles and requirements for a statistical classification?