



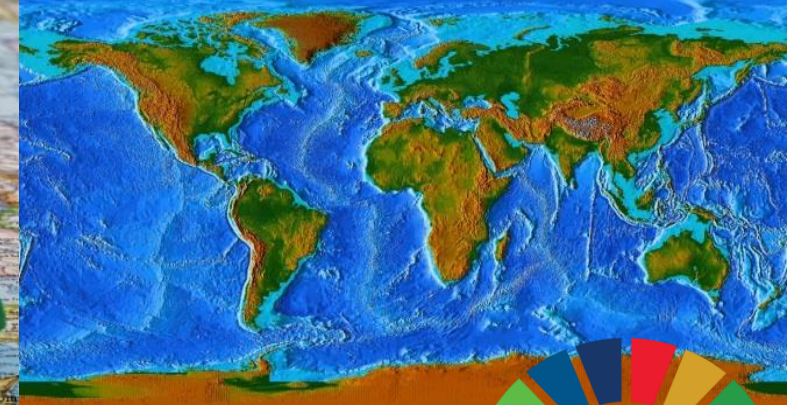
**BETTER DATA
BETTER LIVES**

Celebrating our 50TH Session

5–8 March 2019
United Nations, New York

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DISASTER-RELATED STATISTICS: THE CURRENT SITUATION AND GROWING RELEVANCE

A growing sense of urgency to integrate disaster measurements with statistics, and the need for better data and statistical measurement to improve the understanding of disaster risk reduction, including strengthening resilience and preparedness.

At its 49th session, the Statistical Commission, in its decision 49/113, welcomed a greater focus on disaster-related statistics given the importance of the Sendai Framework, and decided to include in the agenda for the 50th session a separate item on this topic, building on existing work in this emerging area.



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UNSD, UNESCAP, UNECE, UNECLAC and UNISDR prepared a report for the 50th Session of the Statistical Commission, which:

- Elaborated on the growing data demands and needs for disaster-related statistics;
- Took stock of the current situation of activities around the world, with an emphasis on the constraints that developing countries face;
- Contained a summary of the work of the main international and regional organizations that are active in statistics relating to hazardous events and disasters;
- Demonstrated that there is already considerable complementarity, coordination and cooperation taking place on this topic under the purview of the Statistical Commission;
- Provided an opportunity to discuss ways to continue to build and strengthen a common statistical framework and a network of experts among the multiple disciplines and areas of expertise; and
- Considered options and modalities for the establishment of a formal mechanism for sustaining cooperation and coordination of statistics related to hazardous events and disasters across the expert communities, organizations and regions of the statistical community.

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/50th-session/documents/2019-16-DisasterStats-E.pdf>

United Nations Statistics Division



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Discussion at the 50th Session of Stat Com:

Namibia: On behalf of the African group, we strongly support the establishment of further statistical guidance relating to hazardous events. Needs to be inclusive and available to enable rapid assessment and other possible impacts in response and recovery. Africa strongly supports the establishment of this and represents one of the largest impacts to loss. We need reliable data to protect citizens and communities. The Sendai Framework provides mechanisms to reduce DRR, but we need a renewed sense of urgency to build into national plans, policies and programs, the Sendai Framework therefore should lay down further work to support nations and regions.

Finland: We share concerns about the uncoordinated situation of today. We need to guide this work towards a balanced outcome. This is advantageous as it shows there is a need and work to resolve it. We need to bring this work together.

Kyrgyzstan: We support the initiative, especially the call to step up efforts for disaster related statistics. We agree that we need to step up the collection of data in this area needs to be accessible to users. We need to be in accordance with the SDGs, we have developed a new framework for damage statistics. We need capacity support and building of geospatial data.



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In making decision 50/116 at the 50th Session of Stat Com:

- Recognized the need for better, disaggregated and comparable data for statistical measurement and to incorporate social, economic and environment statistics into disaster information;
- Acknowledged the already considerable coordination and cooperation and emphasized the need for further capacity-building and training on this important topic;
- Appreciated the leading role of ESCAP in advancing the initial methodological development through the disaster-related statistics framework, which serves as a good starting point for a universally applicable tool with global relevance;
- Supported the continuing work under the leadership of the international and regional organizations, towards progressing a common statistical framework and a network of experts for disaster-related statistics among the multiple disciplines and areas of expertise involved; and
- Requested the organizations to consider options and modalities for the establishment and coordination of a formal mechanism under the purview of Stat Com to advance a common statistical framework, and report back to Stat Com at a suitable time.

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/50th-session/documents/Report-on-the-50th-session-of-the-statistical-commission-E.pdf>



Main Outcomes of the 6th Expert Group Meeting on Disaster-Related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific

23-25 April 2019

Bangkok, Thailand

The 6th and last Expert Group meeting was held 23-25 April 2019

- 60 experts from 23 Asia and Pacific countries and from international organizations and non-government organizations participated.
- In the opening session, participants were informed of the endorsement of the Disaster Related Statistics Framework (DRSF) by the Committee on Statistics as the main output of the Expert Group's collective work.
- The workshop's 3-day program of activities centered around sharing of the accomplishments of the Expert Group and exchanging country case studies, initiatives and good practices in the production of disaster related statistics.
- The presentations were followed by group discussions to develop recommendations on the components of DRSF implementation (*demands and challenges for use of official statistics for informing disaster risk reduction; institutional arrangements for disaster-related statistics; statistics for disaster risk assessment; emerging issue and new methodologies, among others*).
- The countries expressed and identified their training needs on specific areas of disaster-related statistics and were informed on the international initiatives and available opportunities for capacity development.

The priorities and modalities of future work were identified:

1. Transitioning of the Expert Group into a Technical Working Group (TWG), as recommended to the Commission in 2018 in a report by the 5th Meeting of the Expert Group: moving forward from the development of methodological guidance in the Disaster-Related Statistics Framework (DRSF) to the implementation of international guidance, capacity development, conduct of pilot studies and further investigations for the DRSF research agenda.
2. Experts agreeing on priority actions and requirements for each country, in accordance with the current context and roles of their institutions, such as strengthening national platforms and coordination mechanisms for data sharing and for reporting international indicators, among others.
3. Listing of new areas of research and methodological development for disaster-related statistics for consideration by the TWG for further study, such as:
 - DRR Expenditure and transfers, including international aid and response (resource inflow) during and after disasters.
 - How to integrate data on vulnerable groups into collection or compilation of disaster related statistics.
 - Trans-boundary effects of disasters.
 - Impact of disasters to mental health (post-disaster trauma).
 - Development of common indicators for a gender perspective for disaster-related statistics.