

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-second session

1–3 and 5 March 2021

Information items 3(b) and 4 (a) – 4 (k)

Statement provided by: Bureau of the UN ESCAP Committee on Statistics	
Agenda item	Item 4(a) Demographic statistics (E/CN.3/2021/18)
Statement: <p>UN ESCAP is a regional intergovernmental platform with 53 Member States and 9 associate members, or over 30% of countries worldwide. In 2020, 60% of the estimated 7.8b people globally were in the Asia-Pacific region. The region is also home to 97 of the 100 most air-polluted cities and 5 of the 10 countries most vulnerable to climate change.</p> <p>The Bureau of the Asia-Pacific Committee on Statistics WELCOMES the report of the Secretary General on Demographic Statistics. The adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the conduct of census activities has been felt across Asia and the Pacific, with grave consequences to the work of many of the National Statistical Offices who were in the midst of undertaking or planning for the 2020 Round of Population Censuses.</p> <p>We APPRECIATE the newly established Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Mortality Assessment in anticipation that the group can assist Member States to obtain accurate estimates of numbers of deaths attributable to the direct and indirect impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. We further APPRECIATE the implementation of the Legal Identity Agenda, although the activities so far have predominantly been focused within the African continent. Asia and the Pacific has a shared vision that all people in our region will benefit from universal and responsive Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems facilitating the realization of their rights and supporting good governance, health and development, the need of which has been highlighted during the current COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>In the spirit of the Regional Action Framework for CRVS in Asia and the Pacific¹, national statistical offices have been involved in key steps to strengthen civil registration and vital statistics systems in a coordinated and multisectoral manner. Significant progress has been evidenced in a midterm review of the Asian and Pacific CRVS Decade.</p>	
Submitted on:	Click or tap to enter a date.

¹ <https://www.unescap.org/resources/regional-action-framework-civil-registration-and-vital-statistics-asia-and-pacific>

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Statement provided by: Bureau of the UN ESCAP Committee on Statistics	
Agenda item	Item 4(c) Climate change statistics (E/CN.3/2021/20)
Statement: <p>UN ESCAP is a regional intergovernmental platform with 53 Member States and 9 associate members, or over 30% of countries worldwide. In 2020, 60% of the estimated 7.8b people globally were in the Asia-Pacific region. The region is also home to 97 of the 100 most air-polluted cities and 5 of the 10 countries most vulnerable to climate change.</p> <p>The Bureau of the Asia Pacific Committee on Statistics WELCOMES the report by the UN DESA and UNECE Statistics Divisions and the secretariat for the UNFCCC on activities on climate change statistics. Climate change and disasters are significant national policy priorities for many countries in Asia and the Pacific and strengthening the policy-data nexus an agreed action area for strengthening national statistical systems.</p> <p>Many Asia-Pacific countries endorsed in June 2020, as members of the Conference of European Statisticians, the Set of Core Climate Change-related Indicators and Statistics Using the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (version 2.0) developed by a UNECE task force. Asia-Pacific priorities for capacity development were shared at the seventh meeting of the Expert Group on Environment Statistics¹ in November 2020 with a focus on ensuring capacity development is demand driven based on country priorities, not supply driven based on a particular measurement or indicator framework.</p> <p>In this light, we WELCOME continued efforts to advance climate change and disaster related statistics and ENCOURAGE a continued focus on links between policy and statistics; between national statistical offices and climate change and disaster agencies; and the use of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for deriving indicators. We NOTE with the objective of capacity building in countries, the UN-ESCAP has launched an e-learning course on Compiling climate change indicators: an accounting approach which focusses on better understanding the relationship between climate change and economic activity and welcome participation by all.</p>	
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¹ https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/fdes/EGES7/Sess4_ESCAP_FLASH.pdf

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Statement provided by: Bureau of the UN ESCAP Committee on Statistics	
Agenda item	Item 4(d) Disaster-related statistics (E/CN.3/2021/21)
Statement: <p>UN ESCAP is a regional intergovernmental platform with 53 Member States and 9 associate members, or over 30% of countries worldwide. In 2020, 60% of the estimated 7.8b people globally were in the Asia-Pacific region. The region is also home to 97 of the 100 most air-polluted cities and 5 of the 10 countries most vulnerable to climate change.</p> <p>The Bureau of the Asia Pacific Committee on Statistics WELCOMES the report on the newly formed Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related statistics and THANKS the core group for advancing the decisions of the Commission to advance a common statistical framework on disaster-related statistics and a network across relevant expert communities.</p> <p>Disaster risk reduction and its linkages to climate change, sustainable development and poverty reduction are significant policy priorities for many countries in Asia and the Pacific. The region is actively progressing disaster-related statistics and led the development of the Disaster-related Statistics Framework (DRSF) which forms an important basis for the work of now global Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related statistics.</p> <p>Given the existence of mechanisms for experience sharing and capacity support on disaster-related statistics in several regions of the world, we ENCOURAGE the new global group to focus its efforts on a common statistical framework on disaster-related statistics by further developing and elevating the considerable earlier efforts by UN ESCAP, UNECE and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to a global standard.</p> <p>The ESCAP Committee on Statistics has constituted a Technical Working Group (TWG) on Disaster-Related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific as an international network of professionals and experts to support the capacity of member States to implement the basic range of disaster-related statistics that are internationally comparable. Further, ESCAP in collaboration with partner agencies, has also developed training materials for in-person workshops. In order to reach a broader audience in a cost-effective manner, the materials are already compiled into an e-learning course.</p>	
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Statement provided by: Bureau of the UN ESCAP Committee on Statistics	
Agenda item	Item 4(j) Integration of statistical and geospatial information (E/CN.3/2021/27)
Statement: <p>UN ESCAP is a regional intergovernmental platform with 53 Member States and 9 associate members, or over 30% of countries worldwide. In 2020, 60% of the estimated 7.8b people globally were in the Asia-Pacific region. The region is also home to 97 of the 100 most air-polluted cities and 5 of the 10 countries most vulnerable to climate change.</p> <p>The Bureau of the Asia Pacific Committee on Statistics WELCOMES the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information including the report on technical assistance and advice provided in the Asia-Pacific region.</p> <p>The integration of statistical and geospatial information is critical to many statistical domains, especially those of great importance to Asia and Pacific policy makers such as disasters, climate change and sustainable development of the oceans. In this light, we would like to highlight the global applicability of analytical tools developed in the Asia-Pacific region including a step-by-step guide to using R and QGIS to produce land-cover change maps and statistics¹ and step-by-step guide to using QGIS to product urban hot-spot maps². The guides and more advanced tools will be showcased at an Asia-Pacific Stats Café on 15 March 2021.</p> <p>We express our SUPPORT to the work of the Expert Group, noting the power of geospatially enabled statistical data to facilitate evidence-based decision-making and the continuous need for capacity development in this space. We therefore ENCOURAGE all members of the Commission to actively engage and contribute to the successful implementation of the work plan of the Expert Group, including responding to the global survey to diagnose readiness at the country level for implementing the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework.</p>	
Submitted on:	Click or tap to enter a date.

¹ https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Producing_land_cover_change_maps_and_statistics.pdf

² <https://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/producing-urban-hotspot-maps-step-step-guide-use-qgis>