

PHILIPPINES

Introduction to Disaster-related Statistics (3d)

Mr. Chair, I am honored to introduce the agenda item on disaster-related statistics.

Disaster-related statistics poses specific challenges for national statistical systems. Our governments collectively identified a need for improvements in statistical standards for this topic when ESCAP created the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics (EG-DRS) in Asia and the Pacific in 2014. The group was requested to develop a “basic range of disaster-related statistics” for the region. The expert group brought together experts from national statistics offices and disaster management agencies and helped facilitate new collaborations and mutual understanding across the two domains of official statistics and disaster risk reduction.

The PSA is proud to support this process as Chair of the Expert Group for the 4th and 5th meetings and to participate in national pilot studies that were conducted to inform the process of development of the statistical framework. The Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics held 5 meetings, and the group has reported progress on a regular basis to this Committee and to the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction.

The group’s technical recommendations in the disaster-related statistics framework (DRSF) were developed through an iterative process, involving:

- studies of current practices in statistics offices and disaster management agencies,
- pilot testing
- 3 rounds of open online consultation to collect and discuss feedback on draft text (before and after pilot studies and as part of a final round of review after the 5th Expert Group meeting).

This work, and the importance of international comparability and use of the relevant official statistics, received a major boost in attention and importance with the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction at the World Conference on DRR in 2015 and by the subsequent processes to develop and adopt indicators for global monitoring of the Sendai framework and for disaster-related indicators in the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Sendai Framework and SDGs targets and indicators provided the expert group with a clear and common, globally adopted, set of standard concepts and terminologies for identifying new uses for currently available data in our official statistics systems. The Expert Group’s disaster related statistics framework (DRSF) provides practical guidance for converting these opportunities into new statistics for use in disaster risk reduction.

Our Committee is requested to review the recommendations of the Expert Group (as described in ESCAP/CST/2018/2 and in the report of the Expert Group to the Commission: ESCAP/74/24)).

Briefly summarized: the expert group's recommendations, from its 5th meeting last September, were to:

- endorse implementation of DRSF for production of internationally comparable statistics for disaster risk reduction.
- transform itself into a technical working group to support the implementation of the Framework, to function as a platform for discussion and sharing of experiences and research on statistics, and as a pool of expertise for technical support to help guide national implementation of norms and standards for disaster-related statistics.

If agreed by our Committee, the Expert Group would continue to report to the ESCAP Committee on Statistics and the ESCAP Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction, under the overall guidance of the Commission.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Philippine Statement Disaster-related Statistics (3d)

Mr. Chair, thank you.

The Philippines thru the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) continues to support the vision and framework of action of the Asia Pacific Statistical Community for advancing official statistics, including disaster-related statistics, for Agenda 2030.

The PSA fully supports the work done by the UNESCAP and the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics (EG-DRS) in Asia and the Pacific in the formulation of the Disaster-related Statistics Framework (DRSF). The PSA further recognizes that the implementation of the DRSF could lead to the production of comprehensive and comparable disaster-related statistics to monitor the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

The DRSF is a valuable document that will help in the production of “disaggregated data related to disasters and strengthen evidence-based policy-making at all levels for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.”

Distinguished colleagues,

Our work was identified by the UN Statistical Commission as one of the inputs for the development of a report for discussion on disaster-related statistics at the forthcoming 50th Session of the Statistical Commission, next year. In our national capacity, we would like to encourage the distinguished colleagues in this committee to endorse the recommendations of this Expert Group, made last year during its 5th meeting in Incheon, Republic of Korea, which are summarized in the document before this Committee (ESCAP/CST/2018/2), including to endorse the disaster-related statistics framework as an important input from our region into the discussions on disaster-related statistics that

will take place as a new agenda item at the next session of the UN Statistical Commission.

The Philippines remains committed to the DRSF and supports the following recommendations of the EG-DRS to the Committee on Statistics:

1. Transformation of the EG-DRS into a new group with a fresh mandate;
2. Review of the Disaster-related Statistics Framework;
3. Discuss the content of the joint report (CST and Commission on Disaster Risk Reduction) regarding disaster-related statistics to the Asia-Pacific Commission at its 76th Session.

Thank you Mr. Chair.