

**First Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics
(online, 7, 8 and 10 June 2021)**

Concept note

Background

The importance of setting up mechanisms to ensure collaboration and coordination of work on disaster-related statistics across disciplines and organisations has been recognized on national and international level, including the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) and the Conference of European Statisticians (CES).

The Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on Disaster-related Statistics is set up as per the decision (50/116) of the UN Statistical Commission taken at its 50th Session in 2019. It is a formal mechanism under the purview of the UN Statistical Commission established with the primary objective to advance a common statistical framework on disaster-related statistics involving a network across the expert communities to sustain cooperation, coordination and fundraising for enhancing statistics related to hazardous events and disasters. The IAEG is currently co-chaired by ESCAP and UNDRR.

One of the key functions of the IAEG is the regular organisation of an expert forum to sustain cooperation, coordination and fundraising for enhancing statistics related to hazardous events and disasters.

The IAEG will base its work on existing guidance, including those developed by groups operating in different regions of the World. The Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics operated during 2014-2019 with the work resulting in the *Disaster-related Statistics Framework (DRSF)*,¹ endorsed by the ESCAP Committee on Statistics in 2018. The Expert Group has been superseded by the Technical Working Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific, which focuses on practical application of the DRSF. Member States have shown their unwavering commitment to disaster-related statistics by establishing a monitoring system of the Sendai Framework coordinated by UNDRR that directly contributes to all the disaster risk reduction related SDGs of the 2030 Development Agenda. A Task Force on Measuring Hazardous Events and Disasters was established by the Conference of European Statisticians' in February 2015. In June 2019 CES approved the *Recommendations on the Role of Official Statistics in Measuring Hazardous Events and Disasters*². In February 2020 the CES Bureau renewed the mandate of the Task Force, which includes the organisation of an Expert Forum in 2021.

An Organising Committee with members representing both IAEG and the CES Task Force has been established to organise the first Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics.³

¹ <https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=16155350>

² <https://unece.org/statistics/publications/recommendations-role-official-statistics-measuring-hazardous-events-and-disasters>

³ Members of the Organising Committee: Angela Ferruzza (Chair, Istat), Alberto Malmierca (ECLAC), Alda Diaz (ECLAC), Andre Nonguierma (ECA), Daniel Clarke (OECD), Erhan Ünal (TurkStat), Greg Scott (UNSD), Maria Talento (ESCAP), Rahul Sengupta (UNDRR), Rayen Quiroga (ECLAC), Rikke Munk Hansen (ESCAP), Urbano Fra Paleo (University of Extremadura), Virginia Murray (Public Health England), Wafa Aboul Hosn (ESCWA), Michael Nagy (UNECE)

Objectives and target audience

The main objective is to initiate a series of annual Expert Fora supporting the establishment of a global community of practice of producers and users of disaster-related statistics. The Expert Fora will:

- a) Provide a platform for exchange of experience and knowledge;
- b) Inform about normative work of international expert groups; and
- c) Identify important areas of work for the IAEG research agenda.

The 2021 Expert Forum will be an important milestone to connect different expert communities including policy makers, analysts, disaster-risk managers, researchers, and statisticians using or producing disaster-related information.

The target audience thus includes experts from NSOs, disaster-risk management authorities and other related governmental agencies, international organizations, academia, NGOs and the private sector.

Meeting dates and format

The Expert Forum will be held online on 7, 8 and 10 June 2021.

To accommodate different time zones two similar meetings per day will be organized, and some presentations will be pre-recorded. All meetings will be held in English. If funding and the necessary technical infrastructure can be made available, simultaneous interpretation into English and Russian will be provided for the first meeting of each day.

The duration of each of the meetings will be 2-3 hours, starting at 9:00 CEST (7:00 UTC) and 15:00 CEST (13:00 UTC).

Please convert to your own time zone via the following links:

- First meeting of the day ([9:00 CEST](#))
- Second meeting of the day ([15:00 CEST](#))

Sessions

The Expert Forum will include the following sessions:

1. Disaster Risk Reduction: The role of official statistics

Session organisers: Angela Ferruzza (Istat), Rahul Sengupta (UNDRR), Virginia Murray (Public Health England), Michael Nagy (UNECE)

The main objective of the session is to facilitate the communication between producers and users of disaster-risk-related information. It should help to understand user's needs and to showcase what Official Statistics can offer, what different communities can contribute to official statistics, and to identify synergies and possible shortcomings.

The session will introduce the main related policy frameworks and their information requirements, including the Sendai Framework Monitor and its links to the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

An overview on the achievements towards harmonization of disaster-related statistics and practical guidance of international expert groups will be given. The following will be presented and discussed in more detail:

- ESCAP's Disaster-related Statistics Framework⁴
- CES Recommendations on the Role of Official Statistics in Measuring Hazardous Events and Disasters⁵
- The UNDRR/ISC Hazard Definition and Classification Review⁶

The session may also discuss further guidance needed for both producers and users of official statistics for disaster risk reduction and management.

2. Health and climate change

Session organisers: Rikke Munk Hansen (ESCAP), Albero Malmierca (ECLAC), Alda Diaz (ECLAC), Michael Nagy (UNECE), Virginia Murray (Public Health England)

National experts will be invited to present good practices on the production and use of disaster-related statistics.

The focus will be on climate change driven hazards and health-related impacts, and the contributions of NSOs to collating data on these events.

3. The geospatial dimension

Session organisers: Rikke Munk Hansen (ESCAP), Greg Scott (UNSD), Urbano Fra Paleo (University of Extremadura)

The session will showcase how geospatial data and Earth observations can be used in the production of official statistics that integrate the spatial dimension of disaster risk, exposure and impact.

Countries will be invited to present practical examples.

The session will also discuss related work of UNGGIM Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for disasters: <https://ggim.un.org/UNGGIM-wg5/>.

4. Informing disaster-risk reduction policy with official statistics: Need for action

Session organisers: Michael Nagy (UNECE), Rikke Munk Hansen (ESCAP), Rahul Sengupta (UNDRR)

Based on the outcomes of sessions 1-3 the session will conclude with recommendations on possible areas of research and need for further guidance.

The session will identify priority topics which could be addressed by the IAEG on Disaster-related Statistics and/or discussed at the next Expert Forum.

Further information

Participants are requested to register via the [link](#) by **21 May 2021**. Registered participants will receive connection details nearer to the meeting dates.

⁴ <https://stat-confluence.escap.un.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=16155350>

⁵ <https://unece.org/statistics/publications/recommendations-role-official-statistics-measuring-hazardous-events-and-disasters>

⁶ <https://www.undrr.org/publication/hazard-definition-and-classification-review>

All documents, including the programme, will be available at the meeting website: <https://unece.org/statistics/events/first-expert-forum-producers-and-users-disaster-related-statistics-online>.

Should you be interested in actively contributing to the Expert Forum with a presentation or paper, or have any other suggestions, please contact michael.nagy@un.org.

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