Fifth Global Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics
Concept Note

Introduction

Disasters caused by natural and anthropogenic hazards continue to have a profound impact on societies and economies worldwide. The ability to understand, synthesize, monitor, and respond to these events is crucial for effective risk management, mitigation, and adaptation. Disaster-related statistics play a vital role in supporting decision-making, policy formulation, and resource allocation for prevention, preparedness, and response.

However, the connection between those who produce the data, such as statisticians, and those who use them, including policymakers, researchers, and practitioners, remains limited. It is essential to establish a platform where producers and users can come together to exchange knowledge, share experiences, and collaborate on improving the quantity, quality, and accessibility of disaster-related statistics. This includes fostering stronger coordination between national statistical offices and disaster risk management agencies, which often have overlapping data roles but limited mutual visibility. Improving disaster-related statistics and risk metrics not only supports evidence-based policymaking but also enhances countries' ability to monitor and report on progress toward global commitments, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

In response to growing demand for coherent disaster-related data, the UN Statistical Commission has taken a series of steps to advance this agenda. In 2018, it welcomed an increased focus on disaster-related statistics (49th Session, Decision 49/113), and in 2019, it requested key UN entities to establish a mechanism to develop a common framework (50th Session, Decision 50/116). This led to the establishment of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-Related Statistics (IAEG-DRS) in 2020, co-chaired by UNDRR and ESCAP, with broad participation from Member States and technical partners.

A key initiative currently led by the IAEG-DRS is the development of the Common Statistical Framework for Disaster-related Statistics (CF-DRS). While a number of technical frameworks and guidance documents related to disaster statistics exist, the CF-DRS represents the first comprehensive effort to develop a common statistical framework to be proposed for consideration by the UN Statistical Commission. The 2025 Expert Forum provides an important opportunity to promote awareness of and engagement with the framework ahead of its planned global consultation in the third quarter of 2025. The CF-DRS draft is expected to be submitted to the Statistical Commission for consideration in early 2026.

The Expert Forum has been convened annually since 2021, with each session hosted by one of the five UN regional commissions. Previous forums were organized by ECE (2021), ESCWA (2022), ESCAP (2023), and ECA (2024). On this occasion, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) will host the Fifth Global Expert Forum from 6 to 8 October 2025 in a fully virtual format.

This year's Forum takes place following the 8th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction[1] (2-6 June 2025), which underscored the urgent need for improved disaster data, including greater disaggregation, and highlighted the "ongoing development of a global disaster-related statistical framework." The Geneva Call for Disaster Risk Reduction, the outcome of the Global Platform, called upon countries to collect and share historical data; disaggregate disaster impacts by sex, age, disability, and income; and invest in predictive analytics and interoperable, high-quality data as a global public good.[2]

The Forum also aligns to the specific context of Latin American and the Caribbean, a region highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change—including hurricanes, floods, landslides, and extreme temperatures—despite contributing only 7 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2019.[3] ECLAC is working on a new project, Better Climate Change Statistics and Indicators in Latin America and the Caribbean, under the 17th tranche of the Development Account. This project aims to strengthen national capacities to produce climate-related statistics and indicators that support resilience and a green productive transformation. This project will show the importance of discussing the intersection of disaster and climate data needs in the region and beyond.

Objectives

a) Provide a platform to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences between producers and users of disaster-related statistics.
b) Increase awareness of, engagement in, and contributions to the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-Related Statistics, especially the preparation of the Common Statistical Framework for Disaster-Related Statistics.
c) Highlight key emerging areas for consideration in future efforts to improve the production and use of disaster-related statistics.

Specific objectives:
- Foster dialogue and knowledge sharing among statisticians, policymakers, researchers, and disaster risk management practitioners.
- Highlight and draw lessons from country experiences in producing and using disaster-related statistics to guide risk-informed development and monitor progress toward relevant global commitments.
- Promote best practices, methodologies, accurate sources of data, and innovative approaches used at the international, regional, and national levels for the production, collection, dissemination, analysis, and use of disaster-related statistics.
- Assess current needs for disaster-related statistics and explore strategies to address them, given the urgency of reducing disaster risks and impacts.

Expected results:

- Participants gain an improved understanding of current frameworks, tools, and methodologies for disaster-related statistics, including the draft Common Statistical Framework for Disaster-related Statistics.

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[1] https://globalplatform.undrr.org/
[2] Global Platform 2025 Co-Chairs' Summary: Geneva Call for Disaster Risk Reduction | UNDRR
[3] Statistics and Indicators: Environmental - CEPALSTAT Statistical Data Portal and Publications

- Peer learning is facilitated through the sharing of country experiences, challenges, and innovations, supporting participants in adapting insights to their own national and institutional contexts.
- Connections are strengthened among producers and users, creating opportunities for ongoing collaboration and knowledge exchange beyond the Forum.
- Key technical priorities and capacity needs are identified, helping guide future country support and regional collaboration efforts, considering the various stages in the development of disaster-related statistics among the regions.
- Dialogue during the Forum contributes to the continued development of the Common Statistical Framework, ensuring its relevance and usability in meeting country priorities and user needs.

Audience

The Forum will convene representatives from governments, academia, NGOs, the private sector, international organizations, and leading experts involved in the production and use of disaster-related statistics, including statisticians, risk management experts, geospatial scientists, and policymakers.

Organizers

The organizing partners of the Expert Forum include the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and the five UN regional commissions: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The Forum is also organized in collaboration with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

Date/Format

The 2025 Expert Forum will be held virtually from 6 to 8 October 2025. The Forum will be organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and conducted in both Spanish and English. Subject to the availability of funding and logistical arrangements, interpretation into other official UN languages may also be provided.