

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Approved

Meeting of the 2023/2025 Bureau  
Cardiff, UK, 9-10 October 2023

Item III (g) of the Provisional  
Agenda

**UPDATED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TASK FORCE ON  
MEASURING HAZARDOUS EVENTS AND DISASTERS**

**Prepared by the Task Force and the Secretariat**

*In June 2023 the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) endorsed the ‘Pilot set of core disaster-risk-related indicators’ developed by the Task Force on measuring hazardous events and disasters. CES supported the continuation of work to develop practical implementation guidelines and contribute to the global efforts on the statistical operationalization of terms, definitions and classifications used in disaster risk management.*

*The CES Bureau approved the updated terms of reference of the Task Force on measuring hazardous events and disasters (until 2026).*

**I. BACKGROUND**

1. In February 2020 the Bureau approved the mandate of the Task Force on measuring hazardous events and disasters to: (a) provide guidance for the practical implementation of the *CES Recommendations on the role of official statistics in measuring hazardous events and disasters (2019)*; (b) support the statistical operationalisation of terms, definitions and classifications used in disaster risk management; (c) develop a set of core statistics and indicators; and (d) support the establishment of a community of practice.
2. During 2020-2021, the Task Force had to refocus its activities on providing immediate support to guide statistical offices in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. In October 2021 the Task Force turned back to the originally planned activities according to a revised work plan.
3. In June 2023, the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) endorsed the ‘Pilot set of core disaster-risk-related indicators’ developed by the Task Force, subject to minor amendments. CES supported the continuation of work to develop practical implementation guidelines and contribute to the global efforts on the statistical operationalization of terms, definitions and classifications used in disaster risk management.
4. These updated ToR build upon the original mandate of the Task Force and take into account the above-mentioned developments.

## **II. MANDATE**

5. The work of the Task Force is conducted within the framework of CES and its Bureau. The Task Force will be extended for a period of two years (until June 2026).

## **III. OBJECTIVE**

6. The main objective of the Task Force is to support the implementation of the *CES Recommendations on the role of official statistics in measuring hazardous events and disasters (2019)* and address issues for further work, presented in Chapter 9 of the Recommendations.

7. In pursuing this objective, the Task Force will cooperate with the UN agencies and other international organizations working in this area, building upon the expert network which has already been established.

## **IV. PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS**

8. The planned activities and outputs of the Task Force are the following:

### **A. Pilot testing and refinement of the set of core statistics and indicators**

9. A priority issue mentioned in the CES Recommendations for further work was the development of a set of core statistics and indicators, including suggestions for official statistics to be quickly available and in sufficient quality in case of emergency situations (“emergency data kit”).

10. Several countries are working on hazardous event and disaster-related indicator sets. This work should be internationally coordinated to ensure availability of comparable official statistics and to maximise its use. A recommended set of core statistics and indicators will help countries to prioritise their implementation efforts and to have an internationally comparable set of information on hazardous events and disasters.

11. A pilot set of core disaster-risk related indicators was endorsed by CES in June 2023. However, the set of core indicators needs further pilot testing and refinement, and the development of a related core set of statistics.

### **B. Drafting of implementation guidance**

12. Preparing practical guidance for the implementation of the CES Recommendations is among the priority issues for further work.

13. The CES Recommendations, together with the *Disaster-related Statistics Framework (DRSF)* developed by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), provide a useful tool helping to begin or to improve producing official statistics related to hazardous events and disasters. However, more practical guidance for implementation is needed, including the implementation of the pilot set of core disaster-risk related indicators as endorsed by CES in June 2023.

14. The implementation guidance will also address which measures can be taken to use the required statistical information for disaster-risk management while preserving statistical confidentiality.

15. The main output of this activity will be a document with practical guidance for NSO and NSS for improving statistics and indicators for measuring hazardous events and disasters. The document will also provide guidance for strengthening the roles and responsibilities of NSO and NSS in this area.

16. The implementation guidance will include national case studies.

**C. Maintaining a community of practice, support exchange of experience and knowledge**

17. The Task Force will continue to contribute to maintaining a community of practice and exchanging experience and knowledge in this subject area in close cooperation with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics (IAEG-DRS, set up by the UN Statistical Commission in 2019<sup>1</sup>) and other partners.

18. During the course of its work, the Task Force has established good working relationships with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Eurostat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and other key players working on this emerging issue.

19. To support these efforts the Task Force will co-organise and actively contribute to the organisation of the *Global Expert Fora for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics*.

**D. Statistical operationalisation of Sendai Framework terminology and indicator methodologies - providing contributions to work at the global level**

20. From NSO and NSS perspective the statistical operationalisation of terminology, definitions and classifications used in this area is of very high priority. However, many of these activities are done by other expert communities, often under the auspices of UNDRR.

21. The Task Force can contribute to these efforts by participating in technical expert groups, providing substantive contributions and reviewing of draft outputs.

22. The *Report of the Open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction* (endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2017) together with the *Technical guidance for monitoring and reporting on progress in achieving the global targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* (UNISDR, 2018) contributed substantially to the global harmonisation of terminology and methods used for measuring hazardous events and disasters.

23. However, many of the terms, definitions and classifications used in disaster-risk management and in the Sendai Framework still are not fully operational from a statistical perspective.

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the 50<sup>th</sup> session, Decision 50/116

24. The Task Force started to play a key role in the statistical review of the UNDRR/ISC hazard classification in collaboration with UK Health Security Agency and other partners. The Task Force, to the extent possible, will continue the statistical review of the Hazard Information Profiles prepared by UNDRR and ISC in 2021 and 2022, and provide further expert contributions to this work and to other related international work where input from the statistical community is important.

## V. TIMETABLE

25. A revised timetable for the remaining work is presented below.

Oct – Nov 2023	Make amendments to the <i>Pilot set of core disaster-risk-related indicators</i>
Oct – Nov 2023	Develop guidance and a questionnaire for pilot testing of the indicators
Nov – Dec 2023	Draft a report with the results of the statistical review of the UNDRR/ISC hazard classification
Jan – Jun 2024	Pilot test the proposed core indicators with countries, and refine them further
Jan – Jun 2024	Support the organisation of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Global Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics
Jan – Jun 2024	Collect more national case examples
Ca. Apr 2024	2-3 days physical meeting of the Task Force to take stock of progress made and start drafting implementation guidelines (main outline).
Aug 2024	Contribute to the Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Climate Change-Related Statistics and organise a TF meeting back-to-back
Sep – Dec 2024	Draft indicator metadata sheets and identify core statistics
Jan – Jun 2025	Draft practical implementation guidelines
Jan – Jun 2025	Support the organisation of the 5 <sup>th</sup> Global Expert Forum for Producers and Users of Disaster-related Statistics
Jul – Dec 2025	Consult the draft implementation guidelines with various stakeholders, and make necessary updates
Jan - Feb 2026	Submit the set of core statistics, refined set of core indicators and implementation guidelines to the CES Bureau February 2026 meeting
Mar – May 2026	Electronic consultation of the set of core statistics, refined set of core indicators and implementation guidelines with CES members, submission to the CES plenary session for endorsement

## VI. METHODS OF WORK

26. The Task Force will work primarily by e-mail, SharePoint workspace and MS Teams meetings. Physical meetings of the Task Force could be organised back-to-back with other events that would be attended by a significant number of Task Force members, such as the Expert Forum on climate change-related statistics.

## **VII. MEMBERSHIP**

27. The Task Force currently includes members from eight countries (Belgium, Italy, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Mexico, New Zealand, Türkiye and the United Kingdom), six international organisations (ECLAC, ESCAP, IMF, OECD, UNDRR and WMO) and one research organisation (University of Extremadura). The Chair of the UN Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications (also representing New Zealand) is a member of the Task Force. Angela Ferruzza from the Italian National Statistics Institute (ISTAT) is the Chair of the Task Force.

28. The membership continues to be open for representatives and experts from all countries and international organizations.

29. UNECE will act as Secretariat of the Task Force.

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