

### Report of the Secretary-General on Disaster-related statistics

#### Turkey's Comment:

**(a) Express its views on the report and discuss the way forward, in particular on the coordination of the various initiatives, including through the establishment of a network of experts;**

It can be easily seen that there are various initiatives across the world, all aiming to create an infrastructure for countries to be prepared to handle the impact of disasters and their aftermath, which entails measurement of risks and hazards by developing systems of indicators of disaster risk and vulnerability at national and sub-national levels. Therefore, for ensuring disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness, it is crucial to have cooperation and coordination across these initiatives under one umbrella, which is explicitly UN. Turkey supports the establishment of a network-of-networks to develop common strategies, address the diverse community of practice, jointly develop methodologies and terminologies for disaster related statistics and indicators and efficiently support sustainable implementation of Sendai Framework and 2030 Agenda.

**(b) Urge the international statistical community to expand its capacity-building efforts in statistics relating to hazardous events and disasters;**

In spite of the many competencies the statistical system brings to the measurement of extreme events and disasters, it is clear that existing official statistics are not always as useful for disaster-risk management as they might be regarding some problems like confidentiality, time lag etc. In general, existing official statistics were not developed for measuring extreme events and disasters. Thus, the statistical system may make changes to allow it to better respond to the need for disaster-related statistics. This will certainly require changes to the way official statistics are disseminated, possibly also to data collections, and it may also require organizational changes within the statistical system.

Another point is that, as measuring hazardous events and disasters is a different technical field for statisticians, it can be convenient for international statistical community to support disaster related statistics compilers- in some countries it is National Disaster Management Authorities (NDMAs), in some National Statistics Offices (NSOs) and/or both- in terms of providing guidelines including common methodology, classification and disaster related statistics framework and providing technical assistance for producing disaster related statistics having the strengths of official statistics which are high quality, consistency, comparability, compatibility with international standards, robustness and its production with sound, transparent and commonly agreed methodologies.

**(c) Consider modalities for the establishment of a formal mechanism for sustaining the cooperation and coordination of statistics relating to hazardous events and disasters among expert communities, organizations and regions**

A network-of-networks can be established by UN as a task force or working group including experts from all the initiatives working in this field and having a mandate to develop common methodology, ensure the harmonisation of classifications, terms and definitions and produce disaster-related statistics framework by examining, inspiring and using the outputs of the existing studies carried out by these initiatives (ESCAP, ECLAC, UNECE, UNSD, UNISDR etc.) so far. The output of this work should be published and disseminated by UN to all countries as a main source for the compilation of disaster related statistics and reporting for the international requirements.

Moreover, Turkey proposes establishment and management of a website as UN SEEA website (<https://seea.un.org>) under UN providing “methodology, capacity building, coordination, meetings, projects, news and media gallery” headlines to users which will inform the shareholders, statistical community and public about the developments and events about disaster related statistics and works carried out in this field. This website may include a list of working groups, task forces and other initiatives working on this field and their outputs also.