National Workshop on Climate Change and Disaster-related statistics

31 October – 2 November 2023

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Introduction

A *National Workshop on Climate Change and Disaster-related statistics* will be organised in Lesotho for three days from 31 October to 2 November 2023 in response to an official request received from the Bureau of Statistics of Lesotho to provide technical assistance to their National Statistical Systems in developing Climate Change and Disaster-related statistics and in improving the quality of data collection processes.

The national workshop is organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) in collaboration with the Bureau of Statistics and Disaster Management Authority of Lesotho.

The main goal of the national workshop is to increase the technical capacity for Climate Change and Disaster-related statistics in the country, by bringing the various stakeholders together to provide hands-on training on priority topics related to climate change and disasters.

The target audience for the national workshop are national agencies that are responsible for the collection and dissemination of environment, climate and disaster-related statistics and data, as well as for the development of policy documents in relevant areas. The participants could be from the Bureau of Statistics, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Agriculture, the Disaster Management Authority, and other relevant agencies, including non-governmental organizations and academia.

2. Content of the workshop

The workshop will consist of seven sessions.

Session 1: Opening and Introduction. The country representatives and UN experts will greet each other and share information about the scope and goals of the national workshop.

Session 2: International requirements and national experience in environment and disaster-related statistics and policy. The UN experts will present some frameworks related to environment and disaster-related statistics and policy, such as the 2030 Agenda for SDGs, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework, and others, after which representatives of national agencies responsible for environmental and disaster policy and data will share their experiences in respective areas through presentations. In addition, a panel discussion is expected with the national focal points for the UNFCCC, UNDRR and SDGs.

Session 3: Data collection, compilation of indicators and quality control. The UNSD and UNEP experts will briefly introduce the main statistical frameworks for environment statistics, such as the Framework for Development of Environment Statistics (FDES), the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA), as well as Geo-information Systems (GIS) and Earth Observation, to support data collection, compilation of indicators and quality control at the national level.

Session 4: Climate Change Statistics: Overview of international statistical frameworks and guidelines. The UNSD and UNEP experts will present the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators, recently adopted by the Statistical Commission, and the recently drafted implementation guidelines. Special attention will be given to the Climate Change Statistics and Indicators Self-Assessment Tool (CISAT). Representatives of different national agencies will be invited to participate in a panel discussion to discuss the country's capacity to provide Climate Change Statistics and Indicators based on available tools. In addition, all participants will be invited to participate in an exercise on filling the CISAT with national information within the working groups with the support of the UN experts.

Session 5: Disaster-related Statistics. Overview of international statistical frameworks and guidelines. The experts from UNDRR and UNEP will present international statistical frameworks and guidelines to support the development of Disaster-related Statistics, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and national reporting, as well as the Disaster Related Statistics Framework (DRSF), developed by the Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific. The session will aim at understanding the main international concepts and frameworks in disaster risk reduction and resilience as well as the links between the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. It will also be an opportunity to get familiar with the Sendai Framework Monitoring system.

Session 6: Data governance and available sources of scientific information to support Climate Change and Disaster-related statistics. Because Climate Change and Disaster-related statistics are inherently multisectoral, the monitoring of environmental and disaster related goals is a government process that requires engagement from many sectors and at different levels. UNDRR, UNEP and UNSD experts will engage in a discussion on how the Bureau of Statistics, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Agriculture, the Disaster Management Authority, and other relevant agencies could better work in close coordination among them to collect and centralize data for reporting. The session will also introduce participants to a variety of globally available sources of scientific information using OARE (Online Access to Research in the Environment), designed to improve access to scientific research in developing countries by providing high quality, timely, relevant, environmental and related sciences journals and other scientific content.

Session 7: Conclusions and Recommendations. The session will end with some recommendations and a summary of the lessons learned during the workshop as well as feedback from participants.

Each session will include time for questions and answers, as well as open discussions.