



Terminology related to disaster risk reduction

Informal consultation of the Chair on of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology relating to Disaster Risk Reduction.

Geneva, 20 June 2016



Terminology related to disaster risk reduction: technical non-paper (10 June 2016)

The Secretariat at the request and in support of the informal consultation of the Chair of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group (OEIWG) has prepared a technical non-paper on terminology.

The non-paper **builds on the previous reports on DRR terminology** developed through the work of the OEIWG, in particular the last Working Text issued in March 2016, as well as the Information Note on Comments received (Dec. 2015) and the Working Background Text (Oct. 2015).

Reviewing **all expert inputs and comments** received from Member States during formal sessions and inter-sessional periods.

The non-paper was widely **consulted** with the UNISDR Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (**STAG**).



Terminology related to disaster risk reduction: technical non-paper (10 June 2016)

The study focuses on terms and definitions where:

- differing views were presented by Member States.
- substantive changes were proposed by Member States.
- the need for additional clarification was expressed.

Three groups of terms:

1. **Contested terms:** it is suggested as the focus of today's informal consultation ([pages 4 to 36](#)).
 2. **Terms that Member States may wish to consider not retaining in the working text** (including working definitions related to indicators, and terms not specific to DRR) ([pages 37 to 66](#)).
 3. **Non-contested terms** or for which minor amendments were suggested by Member States ([pages 67 to 70](#)).
-

Group 1: Example of contested term (page 16)

Term
(including definition and annotation)

Recommendation

Justification

36. Disaster risk governance

The system of institutions, mechanisms, policy and legal frameworks and other arrangements to guide, coordinate and oversee disaster risk reduction and related areas of policy [**with established clear roles and responsibilities for governmental and non-governmental stakeholders**].

Annotation:

Good governance needs to be transparent, inclusive, collective, and efficient to reduce existing risks and avoid creating new ones.

[Alt. Annotation:

The leading, regulatory and coordination role of Governments, having political power to address the underlying causes of vulnerability to disasters, to engage all relevant stakeholders at all levels, in the design and implementation of policies, plans and standards for DRR needs to be underlined in order to avoid depoliticisation of these processes and improper balancing of governmental and non-governmental stakeholder roles and responsibilities.]

Disaster risk governance

The system of institutions, mechanisms, policy and legal frameworks and other arrangements to guide, coordinate and oversee disaster risk reduction and related areas of policy.

Annotation: Retain original text.

Disaster risk governance that is effective usually includes established clear roles and responsibilities. However, weak or inefficient governance environments may lack these and yet the term disaster risk governance would hold. Therefore, the definition of the term itself does not require this qualification, which indicates an ambition of good disaster risk governance.

The annotations add dimensions of principles of risk governance which are useful to expand the definition further. The focus provided in the alternative text for annotations is strongly on government roles, which does not correspond with the way the definition is presented.

Group 1: Example of contested term – consider merging with related ones (page 19)

Term (including definition and annotation)	Recommendation	Justification
<p>42. Economic loss</p> <p>Total economic impact that consists of direct economic loss and indirect economic loss.</p> <p><i>Annotations: Direct and indirect economic loss are two complementary parts of the total economic loss.</i></p>	<p>Economic loss</p> <p>Total economic impact that consists of direct economic loss and indirect economic loss.</p> <p>Direct economic loss: the monetary value of total or partial destruction of physical assets existing in the affected area. Direct economic loss is nearly equivalent to physical damage.</p> <p>Indirect economic loss: a decline in economic value added as a consequence of direct economic loss and/or human and environmental impacts.</p> <p><i>Annotations: Example of physical assets that are the basis for calculating direct economic loss include homes, schools, hospitals...] Direct losses usually happen during the event or within the first few hours after the event and are often assessed soon after the event to estimate recovery cost and claim insurance payments.[...] Indirect economic loss includes micro-economic impacts [...], meso-economic impacts [...] and macro-economic impacts [...].</i></p>	<p>The definition of the terms economic loss, direct economic loss and indirect economic loss are best presented together as they are closely linked and most meaningful in relation to each other.</p> <p>Expanding the definition and annotations of the term “Economic loss” would allow for overage of the sub-terms direct and indirect economic loss, adding clarity and focus to the Terminology.</p>

Group 1:

Example of term – consider merging (page 10)

Term (including definition and annotation)

28. Direct economic loss

The monetary value of total or partial destruction of physical assets existing in the affected area.

Annotation: Examples of physical assets include homes, schools, hospitals, commercial and governmental buildings, transport, energy, telecommunications infrastructures and other infrastructure; business assets and industrial plants; production such as standing crops, agricultural infrastructure [, **fisheries**] and livestock [**infrastructures**]. They may also encompass environment and cultural heritage.

Recommendation

Member States may wish to consider merging this term into “Economic loss”.

Justification

The definition of the terms economic loss, direct economic loss and indirect economic loss are best presented together as they are closely linked and most meaningful in relation to each other.

Expanding the definition and annotations of the term “Economic loss” would allow for overage of the sub-terms direct and indirect economic loss, adding clarity and focus to the Terminology.

Group 2: Example of term to consider not retaining – working definition of indicators – (page 53)

Term (including definition and annotation)	Recommendation	Justification
<p>66. Health facilities damaged or destroyed</p> <p>The number of health centres, clinics, local and regional hospitals, outpatient centres and in general facilities used by primary health providers damaged or destroyed by the hazardous event.</p>	<p>Member States may wish to consider not retaining this term in the Working Text. It may be considered in the working definitions of indicators.</p>	<p>This term, originally introduced by the Secretariat in its preparatory work for indicators, is mainly relevant as a working definition for related indicators. It may be considered in the context of indicators for Target D.</p>

Other examples (pages 37 to 66):

Accessible, understandable and usable format.

Accounting for future risk.

Agricultural lands affected...

Group 2: Example of term to consider not retaining – term not specific to DRR – (page 57)

Term (including definition and annotation)	Recommendation	Justification
<p>New proposal from Member States:</p> <p>[Lifelines] Networks that support services for water, sewerage, electricity, communications, natural gas, liquid fuels, transportation and other systems.]</p>	<p>This term has not been discussed to date. Member States may wish to consider not retaining this term in the Working Text.</p>	<p>This term is not specific to disaster risk reduction and therefore not relevant to the Terminology.</p>

Other examples (pages 37 to 66):

Accident,

Manageability,

Physical resistance...



Group 3:

Examples of non-contested term and terms for which minor amendments were suggested (pages 67 to 70)

10. Building code

A set of ordinances or regulations and associated standards intended to control aspects of the design, construction, materials, alteration and occupancy of structures which are necessary to ensure human safety and welfare, including resistance to collapse and damage.

Annotation: Building codes can include both technical and functional standards. They should incorporate the lessons of international experience and should be tailored to national and local circumstances. A systematic regime of enforcement is a critical supporting requirement for effective implementation of building codes.

18. Contingency planning

A management process that analyses **[specific or] [imminent]** [emerging – **delete**] [disaster - **delete**] risks and establishes arrangements in advance to enable timely, effective and appropriate responses.



Thank you for your kind attention