

THE STATISTICS PART OF THE ACC PROGRAMMES CLASSIFICATION

ESCAP, ILO and ISI

1. At its 31st session, the Subcommittee considered the revised report prepared by the ILO (SA/1997/x) presenting a correlation between the latest version of the proposed ACC classification and the classification used in the integrated presentation of work programmes of ECE Conference of European Statisticians (CES), OECD and EUROSTAT, and incorporating agreed changes and other comments provided by the Bureau at its February 1997 meeting. Following discussion, the Subcommittee requested ESCAP, ILO and ISI to prepare a further revision of the report spelling out the uses and purposes of the classification and taking into account comments made during the Subcommittee meeting as well as additional comments that members would send the ILO following the meeting.

2. Subsequent to the meeting, the ILO received two written comments, by ESCAP and ECE, and prepared a revised note for presentation at the Bureau Meeting in New York, 13 February 1998 (copy attached). The Bureau noted the similarities and differences between the proposed classification and that in use for the CES/OECD/EUROSTAT integrated presentation of work plans, and considered it important that there should be just one classification.

3. At the suggestion of the Bureau, F. Mehran (Chairman) contacted Mr. T Griffin, Director, ECE Statistics Division on 16 March 1998, and discussed ways to bring the two classification into agreement. While emphasising that the CES/OECD/EUROSTAT classification has been developed for a specific purpose and is subject to change as the programme of work of CES or OCDE or EUROSTAT evolves, Mr. Griffin stated that in principle, there should not be any major objection from the Conference of European Statisticians on the merging of the two classifications provided that the proposed changes are minor, and do not affect the basic aim of the CES/OCDE/EUROSTAT classification.

4. The following course of action was thought to be appropriate:

- (a) Subject to the approval of the merging of the two classifications by the ACC Subcommittee, a letter should be sent by the Chairman of the Subcommittee addressed to the CES Bureau Chairman, spelling out the intention of the ACC Subcommittee and listing the proposed items of change in the CES/OECD/EUROSTAT classification;
- (b) The CES Chairman would then seek the opinion of the Bureau of the Conference and if necessary the issue will be raised at the Conference itself before a reply is given.

5. In order to facilitate the discussion on the subject, the note prepared by ILO for the February 1998 Bureau meeting of the Subcommittee is reproduced below. The annex to the note has been slightly revised to take account of the decision of the Bureau in placing "environmental accounting" under "National resources and environment statistics" rather than "National accounts". This will bring the two classification closer together. Also, the heading for 034 has been changed from "Activities not classified" to "Activities not classified by field," and a new subcategory 034.3 "Dissemination and interchange of statistical information" has been inserted to cover Statistical Yearbooks and other multi-subject dissemination activities, and aligned to the corresponding category in the CES/OECD/EUROSTAT classification.

6. Analyzing the correlation between the two classifications in annex 1 of the note, it appears that the merging of the two classifications should be interpreted to mean that the ACC Classification is a subset of the CES/OECD/EUROSTAT classification, and for that to be possible a number of headings of the CES/OECD/EUROSTAT would require slight changes. No splitting of items, nor movement from one grand category to another is required.

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Note by ILO

1. The revision of the statistics part of the ACC Programmes Classification is now in its final stages. At the last session of the Sub-committee (16-18 September 1997), ESCAP, ILO and ISI were requested to prepare a further revision of the report on this topic based on the comments made during the Sub-committee meeting as well additional comments that members would send the ILO following the meeting. The revised report would be submitted to the Thirty-second session of the Sub-committee in June 1998.

2. Subsequent to the meeting, the ILO received two written comments, by ESCAP and ECE. These and earlier comments may be grouped into three points as follows:

- (a) The uses and purposes of the classification should be set forth from the outset, as they would influence its structure and details;
- (b) The heading 030 General Statistics should be construed as the root of the classification and not as a subcategory by itself;
- (c) Several sub-categories should be reworded, split or moved to enhance the clarity and usefulness of the classification.

3. These points are developed below and the resulting draft revised classification is presented as an Annex to this note.

Uses and purposes of the classification

4. Among the many possible uses of an ACC classification of statistical activities that one may imagine, five are singled out here for the purpose of elucidating reactions by the Bureau:

- o Coordination of collection and dissemination of data by the international agencies members of the ACC Sub-committee and possibly others. Such a use is already made in the compilation of the "inventory of

statistical data collection activities" by UNSD;

- o Presentation of integrated work programmes in statistics of the international agencies. An immediate application could be in connection with the pilot work proposed to be undertaken by the UNSD, IMF, World Bank and ILO for providing the UN Statistical Commission with the requested information on the work programmes in statistics of the international organisations, particularly, on activities and meetings;
- o Analysis of resources deployed in the different fields of statistics by the international agencies combined;
- o Coordination of international statistical training;
- o Coordination of technical cooperation activities.

5. While the first use of the classification listed above requires essentially a structure by field of statistics such as agriculture, labour, tourism, etc., the other four require both a structure by field, methodology and function, thus covering such statistical tools as business registers, household surveys, standard classifications, etc. as well as management, technical cooperation and training. Thus, if the ACC classification is to be designed as a multipurpose clarification, it should cover fields, tools and functions.

Basic structure

6. In line with comment (b) stated in paragraph 2 above, the basic structure of the classification at the one-digit level should be revised as follows:

030 General Statistics

031 Demographic and social statistics

032 Economic statistics

033 Natural resources and environment statistics

034 Activities not classified

7. Under this structure, the first three categories are set in terms of field of statistics, while the fourth is reserved for all other activities which are not necessarily specific to a particular field of statistics, for example, activities that can best be described by the methodology (e.g., household survey) or by function (general statistical training).

Sub-categories

8. Taking into account the above comments and the proposals made on sub-categories (splitting demographic and population statistics, distinguishing between distributive trade and international trade, replacing construction, communication and training statistics), the resulting revised Statistics part of the ACC Programme Classification is presented in Annex 1 and its correspondence with the classification used in the integrated presentation of programmes of ECE, OECD and EUROSTAT.

9. The two classifications now match well with respect to Demographic and Social statistics. On the category "economic statistics," the ACC Classification could further consolidated by integrating "forestry and fishery" into agriculture and combining manufacturing, mining and construction statistics into a single entry "industrial statistics". Similarly, the three sub-categories "Money, Finance, Insurance", "Fiscal" and "Balance of payments" may be combined into a single category as in the ECE-OECD-EUROSTAT classification.

10. The issue of where to classify "environmental accounting and natural resources account" is still unresolved: as part of "national accounts" within economic statistics, or as a separate item under "natural resources and environment statistics"?

11. Another issue which we could still be discussed is on the extent of details that the classification should exhibit under the fourth category "034 Activities not classified". In the present revised version of the classification only two very general substantive items are identified "Statistical methodologies" and "data processing". By contrast, the ECE-OECD-EUROSTAT classification distinguishes some 14 sub-categories including regional statistics, management issues, and technical cooperation and training activities.

ANNEX 1

THE PROPOSED REVISED ACC PROGRAMME CLASSIFICATION - STATISTICS PART AND THE CLASSIFICATION USED IN THE INTEGRATED PRESENTATION OF PROGRAMMES OF ECE, OECD AND EUROSTAT

PROPOSED ACC CLASSIFICATION

ECE, OECD, EUROSTAT

030 General statistics

031 Demographic and social statistics

1. Demographic statistics
2. Population statistics
3. Housing statistics
4. Labour statistics
5. Education and training statistics
6. Culture and mass communication
7. Distribution of income and consumption

8. Social security statistics
9. Health statistics
10. Gender statistics
11. Other social, demographic and related statistics

4. Social and demographic statistics

11. Demographic statistics (including projections, migration and fertility)
5. Population and housing censuses
14. Statistics on population groups of special interest
12. Human settlements and housing statistics
10. Labour statistics
8. Education and training statistics
9. Culture statistics
13. Statistics of household income and expenditures, of the welfare of the population, and of poverty and income inequality
7. Crime and criminal justice statistics
6. Health statistics
2. Gender statistics
- xx. Other work in the field of social and demographic statistics
 1. Social indicators and frameworks
 3. Multi-purpose social surveys
 4. Registers and administrative records for social and demographic statistics

032 Economic statistics

1. National accounts
2. Agriculture statistics
3. Forestry and fishing statistics
4. Manufacturing statistics
5. Mining statistics
6. Construction statistics
7. Energy statistics
8. Distributive trade statistics
9. International trade statistics

10. Transport statistics
11. Communication statistics
12. Tourism statistics
13. Services statistics
14. Money, Finance and Insurance statistics
15. Fiscal statistics

3. Economic statistics

1. Implementation of SNA
10. Agriculture statistics

11. Industrial statistics

12. Energy statistics
5. Distributive trades
3. International trade in goods
6. International trade in services
4. Transport

7. Tourism
8. Other marketed services
2. Money and banking, government finance,

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|---|--|
| 16. Balance of payments statistics | balance of payments |
| 17. Prices | 9. Price statistics, ppp |
| 18. Statistics on Science, Technology and Patents | 13. Science and technology |
| | 14. Business registers, administrative records in support of economic statistics |
| 19. Other economic statistics | xx. Other work in the field of economic statistics |
| 033 <u>Natural resources and environment statistics</u> | 5. <u>Natural resources & environment statistics</u> |
| 1. Environment statistics | 1. Standards and frameworks for environmental data and indicators |
| 2. Environmental accounting | 2. Natural resources and environment accounting |
| 3. Meteorological statistics | 3. Environmental database development and dissemination |
| 034 <u>Activities not classified by field</u> | |
| | 2. <u>Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues</u> |
| 1. Statistical methodologies | 5. Statistical methodology |
| 2. Data processing | 2. Statistical data collection and processing |
| 3. Dissemination and interchange of statistical information | 3. Dissemination and interchange of statistical information |
| 4. Other activities | 1. Management of statistical information technology |
| | 4. Industry, commodity and occupation classifications |
| | 6. Geography |
| | 7. Regional statistics |
| | 8. Training |
| | 1. <u>Organization and operation of statistical services</u> |
| | 1. Issues of statistical policy |
| | 2. Transition countries |
| | 3. Promotion and coordination of international statistical work |
| | 4. Technical assistance to developing countries |
| | 6. <u>Dissemination and support for secretariat activities</u> |
| | 1. Dissemination of statistical data by secretariats |
| | 2. Statistical support for other activities of the secretariats |

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