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**Meeting of the Expert Group
on International Economic and Social Classifications
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Proposal for creation of a Virtual Classifications Forum

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PROPOSAL FOR CREATION OF A VIRTUAL CLASSIFICATION FORUM

The UN Statistical Commission in March 1999 gave a mandate to the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications as the central coordinating body with regards to:

- Elaboration of a revision of ISIC, for completion in 2007;
- Elaboration of a revision of CPC, for completion in 2002;

In order to ensure the maximum of input the Expert Group (through a proposed Technical Subgroup) should draw on national, regional and international user experience captured through the UN Classification Hot-line and the UN Classifications Registry and a proposed Virtual Classification Forum as well as through international statistical working groups such as the Voorburg Group

The **UN CLASSIFICATION HOT-LINE** is an e-mail/fax/letter/telephone help-desk for

- Interpretation of the current ISIC/CPC
- Help on implementation

The UNSD is assisted by a panel of classification experts in the drawing up of new rulings

The **UN CLASSIFICATIONS REGISTRY**-on the web-provides documentation on non-trivial straightforward cases, rulings on interpretation of current classifications and acts as the corporate memory.

In order to capture the additional input necessary for the revision process it is proposed to set up a **VIRTUAL CLASSIFICATION FORUM (VCF)**

The VCF should be a www discussion forum open to all international, regional and national custodians as well as to major users to

- a) send in information about issues and problems
- b) send in proposals for changes to ISIC Rev 3
- c) participate in discussions

The Chairman of the VCF will review the contributions as they come in and sort them into three categories for resolution

- 1; For transmission to UN Classification Hot-line
2. To be resolved immediately by a panel giving ISIC interpretations and subsequent transmission to the UN Classifications Registry
3. To be gathered as problems to be addressed in ISIC Rev 4 or as proposals for ISIC Rev 4.