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Final Report
Third Meeting of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications

United Nations, New York, 1-3 December 1997

Introduction

1. The Third Meeting of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications was convened in New York on 1-3 December 1997 at the request of the United Nations Statistical Commission, based on the recommendations of the second meeting of the Expert Group held in June 1996. Participants of the third meeting included statistical classifications experts of nine countries and twelve international organizations, including three United Nations regional commissions. A list of participants is attached to this report in Annex III.
2. The third meeting of the Expert Group was opened by Ms. Cristina Hannig, Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). Its subsequent sessions were chaired by Mr. Enrique Ordaz of Mexico, Mr. Andrew Flatt of the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Mr. Jacob Ryten of Canada and Ms. Mary Chamie of UNSD. The drafting of the conclusions of the meeting was assisted by Mr. Emile Bruneau of France, Mr. Jan Karlsson of the Economic Commission of Europe (ECE) and Mr. John Struik of Australia, in their capacity as rapporteurs. The discussions at the Third meeting of the Expert Group followed the provisional agenda, contained in Annex I. The documentation of the meeting is listed in Annex II.
3. The central goal of the meeting was to strengthen world-wide coordination of classification work. To this end, it considered the development plans and key problems of agencies responsible for a wide range of international economic and social classifications. The meeting also reviewed experiences in national implementation of international classifications, such as the Central Product Classification (CPC) and the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC). At the request of the Statistical Commission, the meeting focused on reviewing proposals for identifying a set of best practices in classifications and formulated recommendations on the basic principles to guide classification work.

I. Summary of discussions and main conclusions

4. The components of best practices in classifications have been the recurring, dominant theme of discussions throughout the meeting. Thus, a number of points and recommendations made under other agenda items have been addressed and considered again in the session dedicated to best practices under item 4 of the agenda.

Agenda Item 2.a Recommendations of the 29th session of the Statistical Commission on statistical classifications

5. Documents E/CN.3/1997/4 and E/1997/24 were provided as reference materials. Participants received an update on work on the immediate steps proposed by the last meeting for the implementation of the coordination functions of UNSD (para 13 of document E/CN.3/1997/4), and took note with appreciation of the progress made.

6. As an outcome of the discussions, participants suggested further uses of the already operational Classifications Hotline, the newly published Classifications Hotline Newsletter and classifications web-site of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), such as:

- posting rulings for making interpretations public and accessible to users;
- adding a feature of providing information on frequently asked questions;
- creating a forum for immediate discussion of unresolved classification issues;
- exploring the possibility for direct electronic dissemination of classification documents.

Agenda Item 2.b Progress in work on classifications included in the family of international economic and social classifications

7. Participants from international agencies presented the state of work of twelve international classifications of the "family" covering very different domains: education, tourism, labour, health, time-use, economy. (See Annex I.) This wide and comprehensive overview of the reviewed classifications showed the following common characteristics:

- 7.1. Classifications have evolved through successive in-depth revisions while trying to stabilize their structures. Rapid socio-economic and technological changes require a more dynamic approach of continuous adaptation and updating even between major revisions.
 - 7.2. Classifications included in the family have close linkages or relationships with each other. Some of these links are not formal; they may be semantic or conceptual, but need to be better identified and coordinated.
 - 7.3. Since classifications of the family constitute a network, changes in one classification may have consequences on others or on correspondence tables linking them. Therefore, updates and revisions have to be a coordinated, because it may present crucial problems for derived and related classifications when reference classifications change.
8. Facing these constraints and problems, the Expert Group recommended:
- 8.1 Constructing a network to exchange information systematically and efficiently among responsible agencies about international standard economic and social classifications in order to:
 - establish an overview of how they are related, and their analytical linkages;
 - make explicit formal and structured relationships between reference and derived classifications in order to keep them consistent;
 - identify and resolve problems of terminology;
 - clarify common concepts and address the need for clearly written concept papers;
 - anticipate future frameworks and consequences of updates and revisions to statistics. Corrections made for one reason in a classification, may result in new statistical problems and issues to confront, i.e., an example was provided on how the proposed change in the International Labour Organization (ILO) definition of employment consequently and unexpectedly affected unemployment statistics.

8.2 Registering classifications, with a view to:

- informing users on how to gain access to international classifications and to learn what are the advantages, what are the compromises and what are the services received, when a user adopts a reference classification;
- considering a strategy for making change to classifications, taking note of possibly affected classifications before updating or revising a classification and contacting those agencies responsible for the affected classifications so that they may become part of the updating or revision process;
- planning a system of editing and updating a classification or group of related classifications and disseminating the information through the international network on the family of classifications;
- establishing guidelines on the transition between revisions for use by classifications developers and major users in order to continually make them aware of the mechanism of the revision and updating process;
- coordinating and announcing timings of hearings, updates and revision meetings so that the valuable opportunities available for direct dialogue are not missed. When groups sit down in direct dialogue and make comparisons, differences in interpretation of classifications are more readily noticed. This is a complex and expensive, but mandatory exercise in the harmonisation process, and registering these events would work to maximise their effectiveness and use.

8.3 The Expert Group should continue to seek answers to the following questions:

- What are the essential criteria for classifications to be included in the family of international standard classifications?
- How should agencies responsible for international standard economic and social classifications maintain an efficiently operating network for full cooperation within the family?

- How should new technologies and advanced communication methods be utilised to improve information exchange?
- What types of relationships exist between international and national classifications?
- What is to be done to create an inventory of correspondences including the typology of the relationships of these correspondences?
- What is meant by saying that classifications should be dynamic rather than static between revisions?

Agenda item 3. Experience in the implementation and use of the Provisional Central Product Classification (Provisional CPC) and the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC)

9. Based on the case study papers submitted by Australia, Botswana, Vietnam and the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Expert Group emphasized the importance of minimizing effort through coordination and economizing costs of classification development work. They identified the following key issues regarding the success of such efforts:

- 9.1 assisting and promoting the use of international classifications as models for national classifications development; to this end, agencies responsible for classifications need to increase the awareness of users of the classifications system, as well as to include clear descriptions of the assets and limitations of specific international classifications and requirements of their use;
- 9.2 although the updates, revisions and new versions of reference classifications may lead to costly revisions of related and derived classifications, the cost of their adaptation may be reduced by better planning and coordination;
- 9.3 the application of computer assisted coding has advantages in reducing costs;
- 9.4 the elaboration of explanatory notes and preparation of stand-alone descriptors of items are particularly important in containing costs and improving clarity of concepts, especially bearing in mind that international classifications are to be translated.

10. There is a strong need for recording adjustments that have been made by countries to satisfy particular national needs when they implement international classifications. This information should be relayed systematically to the agencies responsible for maintaining the relevant reference classification. Such information could be used as input to future updating and revising of classifications and for preparing publications and reports to address problems of inconsistencies in their use. Setting up feedback mechanisms is a vital part of the harmonization, updating and revision process. Feedback mechanisms should be in place so that problems and their solutions are captured and recorded and significant issues relayed to custodians of classifications at the national and international levels. It was felt by the experts that the purpose of providing feedback could be usefully served by setting up an electronic discussion forum, or a discussion database, to document problems of national implementation and use.

11. Approaches to classifying persons according to industry in population censuses were discussed under this agenda item. The Expert Group noted the difficulties of obtaining reliable information from respondents on their establishments and the main activity of their jobs. This posed problems of coding, and also was associated with increased survey costs for data collection and coding. It was suggested that some additional guidance be incorporated into the introduction of ISIC Rev. 3, suggesting how to proceed with the implementation of ISIC in censuses and surveys.

12. The use of keywords for coding purposes has many advantages among the available existing tools. The experts did note, however, that references to brand names in indexes used to assist in the identification of establishments and main activity, may be viewed as a practical solution for internal circulation only.

13. Regarding satisfactory implementation of economic classifications in social surveys, and also implementation of social classifications in economic surveys, the experts noted that appropriate consultations and exchange of methodologies would contribute to improvement in the quality of data ultimately collected.

14. The Expert Group saw an important role for the United Nations regional commissions in reporting on the national uses of international classifications, and through their provision of technical assistance strengthening regional and national classification work. It welcomed the offer of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to distribute the results of a recent survey on the use of international classifications in countries of the region.

15. The Expert Group recognized that there was an increased use of the CPC and related product classifications for purposes of procurement both at national and international levels and underlined the importance of dialogue with this group of users.

Agenda item 4. Basic principles for the development and use of international classifications

16. The agenda item arose from a recognition at the second meeting of the Expert Group, supported by the recommendation of the Statistical Commission, that there was a need for a statement of best practices, which should ultimately be included in the Common Code of Best Practices in the United Nations System. Four papers were presented to the meeting, three of which covered a range of matters and one dealt with the specific matter of correspondence tables. The papers addressed various problems, including the lack of a central registration of classification problems and issues, lack of transparency, insufficient guidelines and lack of documentation for revisions.

17. There was recognition that classifications attempted to represent a world which was not static, and discussion about whether classifications themselves should be considered dynamic. The general view was that classifications were subject to revisions, sometimes quite frequently at the detailed level, and that the maintenance process could be considered dynamic in terms of the relationship of the classification to its underlying concept.

18. The issue of the appropriate time to begin a revision of a classification was noted as an important part of best practice. This was seen as a coordination issue for consideration by the Group.

19. It was recognized that the concepts of reference, derived and related classifications (defined in paras. 17-19 of paper E/CN.3/1997/15) were not sufficient to cover all relationships between classifications and that names would be required for other kinds of relationships. Identifying related classifications was noted as a significant difficulty and the suggestion that agencies take responsibility for identifying those classifications to which theirs was related, was agreed to. The need for a central database to record relationships was raised, and the features of relational and object oriented databases were noted as potentially being useful in this respect.

20. It was noted that a key objective of best practice was to keep in step the classifications in groups of related classifications. It was also recognized that the difficulty of coordination increases with the number of classifications concerned, hence raising the need for principles of

best practice. The view was expressed that there would always be derived classifications out of step with their reference. In the case where derived classifications did not change in step with reference classifications, appropriate notes of explanation should be attached to the classification.

21. The group recommended that attention be paid to the practices of WHO concerning the maintenance of its International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Health Related Problems (ICD), based on paper E/CN.3/1997/9 and also described in document "WHO Long-term Strategy for the Development and Management of Health-related Classifications " distributed at the meeting. The coordination activities of WHO were considered as an example of best practices, and reference to it should be made in the statement of basic principles for the development and use of international classifications.

22. It was agreed that the representation of networks of classifications should be more fully developed. It was recognized that because of the number of types of relationships, more than one network diagram may be required.

23. Regarding correspondences, it was agreed that we needed best practices for their construction, along the lines outlined in the paper presented. There was debate on the extent to which classifications should absorb concepts as opposed to maintaining separate classifications and relying on correspondence tables.

24. The World Wide Web was recognized as an essential part of the overall communication process. This extended to appropriate web site pages for notification of meetings, task forces, etc., as well as allowing highly accessible means for viewing classifications documents and conceptual papers such as those dealing with best practice.

25. The issue of classification ownership was raised and it was agreed that some way of overcoming the legal impediments of accessing classifications over the Internet, at least for the purposes of experts of national governments and international agencies, had to be found.

26. Finally, the technical problem of transmitting classifications electronically between interested parties was discussed. The inconvenience and technical difficulties of conversion from various formats into one's own was recognized. It was agreed that a standard means for classification exchange should be investigated.

27. There was agreement that the four papers together covered, sometimes with overlap, many of the important aspects of best practice, and that a consolidated statement drawing together these aspects should be developed. It was also agreed that such a consolidated paper

should include a glossary of standard terminology, since there was significant variation in terminology evident throughout many of the papers presented for the meeting. It was agreed that the definition of a "family member" needed to be precisely defined.

28. It was agreed that the consolidated paper should be presented in the first instance as a useful working paper for consideration by the next meeting of the Expert Group. It was understood that the presentation of best practice did not mean complete and formal agreement. It was also noted that the paper should not attempt to cover each and every aspect of classifications, otherwise the task would become unmanageable.

II. Proposals for actions and the next meeting of the Expert Group

A. Proposals for action

29. The meeting agreed on four major points of action and recommended to review their progress at the next meeting:

- 29.1. Preparing a work programme that allows international agencies to identify and register all international standard classifications for which they are responsible, and to circulate this information widely through the newly established international classifications network;
- 29.2 Designing and implementing feedback mechanisms such as discussion databases on the use of international standard classifications, for use by responsible agencies and their classifications committees and task forces, so that implementation problems are captured and recorded and solutions proposed. These solutions and elaborations would be relayed to users working on classifications at the international, regional, multinational and national level through the preparation of editorial updates, interpretations and rulings, announcements of revisions and their procedures, publications of supporting technical materials, technical cooperation and training, and the like;

- 29.3 Initiating a strategic overview of selected international standard classifications included in the family of international economic and social classifications as a regular feature of Expert Group meetings, acting as a test case of the basic principles of best practice for the design, implementation, revision and use of international classifications;
- 29.4 Preparing a consolidated statement of basic principles for the development and use of international classifications, including a glossary of standard terminology, for review as a working paper for consideration by the next meeting of the Expert Group.
30. Points of action on these same issues, for review at the next meeting of the Expert Group are stated below.

Identification and registration of international standard economic and social classifications and their responsible agencies, classifications committees and task forces

- 30.1. The experts requested that the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD):
- 30.11. contact all international agencies responsible for international standard classifications and ask that the agencies list the international standard classifications for which they have primary responsibility, as well as to identify all international, multinational or regional classifications that are derived from or related to the international standard classification;
- 30.12. disseminate a questionnaire to these same agencies for the purpose of registering all classifications identified by them, and to place this information into the United Nations Classifications Inventory for wide dissemination and use both electronically and in printed format;
- 30.13. set up a link with the United Nations International Social and Economic Classifications web site (www.un.org/Depts/unsd/class/class1.htm) holding registered information on classifications, to the classification web sites of responsible agencies, so that the information held in the UN Classifications Inventory will remain fully linked, updated and complete, concerning each international standard classification.

Implementation of feedback mechanisms in the review process of reference classifications

- 30.2. The experts also agreed that the following actions would be taken in the preparation of feedback mechanisms on the use of standard international classifications, for review at the next meeting of the Expert Group:
- 30.21. prepare a proposal to design and implement a discussion database to be used on the United Nations International Social and Economic Classifications web site, for purposes of capturing and recording significant issues that need to be relayed to agencies working on classifications at the international, regional, multinational and national level (Niels Langkjaer, Eurostat);
 - 30.22. draw a diagram/map/model showing the relationships and linkages of economic and social classifications (Emile Bruneau, France);
 - 30.23. prepare a note on terms of electronic exchange of information for increased standardization and facilitation of dissemination (Emile Bruneau, France; Niels Langkjaer, Eurostat).

Completion of a strategic overview of classification systems

- 30.3. It was requested that as part of the regular strategic overview of international standard classifications that UNSD organize a review of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and its derived and related classifications at the next meeting of the Expert Group. The review will include the current status of the implementation of ISIC, its adequacy as an international standard, its relationship to other economic and social classifications within the family, updating and revision intentions, and technical cooperation plans. The need for including the perspectives of selected countries was stressed (Session organized by UNSD).

Preparation of a consolidated statement of basic classifications principles, or best practices

- 30.4. Based upon the four papers reviewed at the meeting, the experts asked that a consolidated statement of best practices be prepared, including the addition of a glossary of standard terminology, as a working paper for consideration and review by the next meeting of the Expert Group (Consolidated statement: Mary Chamie and Virgilio Castillo, UNSD; Eivind Hoffmann, ILO. Glossary of standard terminology: John Struik, Australia).
- 30.5 UNSD would also prepare a preamble stating the role and obligation of agencies responsible for international standard classifications, and stating what it means to be a member of the international classifications family.

B. Next meeting of the Expert Group

31. Participants proposed holding the next meeting of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications in New York, tentatively during the first week of November 1998. Suggested topics for the agenda:

- Review of the consolidated statement on Best Practices;
- Review of ISIC and its derived and related classifications; and relationship to the family of international economic and social classifications;
- Discussion of progress made in the United Nations work programme on statistical classifications;
- Discussion of strategic planning, coordination and feedback mechanisms of responsible agencies, their classifications committees and task forces;
- Future actions.

Annexes

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ANNEX I

United Nations
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Statistics Division

**Third Meeting of the Expert Group
on International Economic and Social Classifications**
New York, 1-3 December 1997

Provisional Agenda

Monday, 1 December

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

Item 2. Progress in work since the Second Meeting of the Expert Group

Item 2.a. Recommendations of the 29th session of the Statistical Commission
on statistical classifications

Progress of work based upon the recommendations of the Second Meeting of the Expert Group (contained in E/CN.3/1997/4 Annex I. para. 9-13) was reported to and discussed at the 29th session of the Statistical Commission. Actions taken by the Commission for strengthening coordination of world-wide classification work are presented in document E/1997/24. The Expert Group will review the status of implementation of the recommendations of its second meeting, such as providing a central point for registering classifications, increasing access to classifications, improving exchange of information among custodians, etc.

Documentation: United Nations documents E/CN.3/1997/4 and E/1997/24

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Item 2.b Progress in work on classifications included in the Family of international economic and social classifications

The Second Meeting of the Expert Group suggested the consideration of development plans and key problems of agencies responsible for international classifications at the present meeting (see E/CN.3/1997/4 Annex I. para. 14). The submitted papers support an exchange of information on various aspects of the development, maintenance, use, updating and revision of the concerned classifications. The discussion is expected to focus on how the current practice and planned activities address some of the problem areas identified at the second meeting and listed under para. 8. (a)-(i) in Annex I. of document E/CN.3/1997/4 (e.g. transparency, timing, documentation of changes, technical assistance to users etc.). The experience and conclusions of this session will provide additional input to the discussion on best practices in classifications under agenda item 4.

Documentation:

Contributions for discussion:

Progress report on the revision of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) - Paper by UNESCO (ESA/STAT/AC.60/5)

Status of Tourism Classification - Paper by the World Tourism Organization (ESA/STAT/AC.60/6)

ILO and ISCO-88 - Paper by ILO (ESA/STAT/AC.60/7)

ILO and ICSE-93 - Paper by ILO (ESA/STAT/AC.60/8)

Report on the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD) - Paper by WHO (ESA/STAT/AC.60/9)

Report on work on the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps (ICIDH) - Paper by WHO (ESA/STAT/AC.60/10)

Classifications of Expenditures by Purpose - Oral presentation by OECD

Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Trial international classification for time use activities (United Nations document ESA/STAT/AC.59/3)

Report of the April 1997 Seminar on Statistical Nomenclatures - Background document by ECE (CES/SEM.36/3)

Contributions for information:

Report of the Secretariat of the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency -Background document by ISO (ESA/STAT/AC.60/BKG.1)

ICSE-93 and the border between paid employment and self-employment: A review of national practices - Background document by ILO (ESA/STAT/AC.60/BKG.3)

Monday, 1 December

2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Item 2.b Progress in work on classifications included in the Family of international economic and social classifications - Continued

The presentation of papers under this item and their discussion will continue.

Tuesday, 2 December

9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Item 3. Experience in the implementation and use of the Provisional Central Product Classification (CPC) and the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC)

The Second Meeting of the Expert Group underlined the need for information exchange on strategies and methods for implementing international classification standards at the national level (see E/CN.3/1997/4 Annex I. para. 8.g). In this session the national statistical offices of Australia, Botswana and Vietnam will share their experience in the implementation of CPC and ISIC, two major United Nations classifications. Problems and solutions in using ISIC for coding industry in population censuses and surveys will be presented by ILO.

Documentation:

Contributions for discussion:

Implementation of the CPC in Australia - Paper by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ESA/STAT/AC.60/11)

Uses of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities - Paper by the Central Statistics Office of Botswana (ESA/STAT/AC.60/12)

Experience in the implementation of CPC and ISIC in Vietnam - Paper by the General Statistical Office of Vietnam (ESA/STAT/AC.60/13)

Capturing "Industry" in population censuses and surveys - Paper by ILO (ESA/STAT/AC.60/14)

Contribution for information:

Way to integration of international economic and social classifications through the system of world classifications under the auspices of the United Nations - Background document by Goskomstat of Russia (ESA/STAT/AC.60/BKG.2)

Tuesday, 2 December

2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Item 4. Basic principles for the development and use of international classifications

The Second Meeting of the Expert Group identified as one of the problem areas, the lack of a statement of best practices for the development and use of international classifications. The Statistical Commission (see E/1997/24 para. 19.c.) endorsed the development of a module on basic principles for the implementation and use of international classifications, for inclusion in the Common Code of Best Practices in the United Nations System. It was recommended to review the draft of the basic principles at the present meeting of classifications experts.

Documentation:

Contributions for discussion:

Basic principles for the development and use of international classifications -
Paper by UNSD (ESA/STAT/AC.60/15)

Methodological issues in the development, use, maintenance and revision of
statistical classifications - Paper by ILO (ESA/STAT/AC.60/16)

Basic principles for the development of correspondence tables: linking the CPC
Version 1.0 to COICOP - Paper by the Austrian Central Statistical Office
(ESA/STAT/AC.60/17)

Best practices in classifications - Paper by Eurostat (ESA/STAT/AC.60/18)

Wednesday, 3 December

9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Item 4. Basic principles for the development and use of international classifications
- Continued

The presentation of papers under this item and their discussion will continue.

Wednesday, 3 December

2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Item 4. Basic principles for the development and use of international classifications
- Continued

Wrap-up discussion and formulate the Expert Group's proposal on the basic
principles for inclusion in the Common code of statistical practice.

Item 5. Suggestions for topics of future meetings

Item 6. Review and adoption of the main conclusions and recommendations of the meeting

ANNEX II

United Nations
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Statistics Division

**Third Meeting of the Expert Group
on International Economic and Social Classifications**
New York, 1-3 December 1997

List of Documents

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ESA/STAT/AC.60/3	List of participants
ESA/STAT/AC.60/4	Report of the Third Meeting of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications
ESA/STAT/AC.60/5	Progress report on the revision of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) - Paper by UNESCO
ESA/STAT/AC.60/6	Status of Tourism Classification - Paper by the World Tourism Organization
ESA/STAT/AC.60/7	ILO and ISCO-88 - Paper by ILO
ESA/STAT/AC.60/8	ILO and ICSE-93 - Paper by ILO
ESA/STAT/AC.60/9	Report on the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD) - Paper by WHO
ESA/STAT/AC.60/10	The World Health Organization and the revision of the ICIDH; A progress report - Paper by WHO

ESA/STAT/AC.60/11 Implementation of the CPC in Australia - Paper by the Australian Bureau of Statistics

ESA/STAT/AC.60/12 Uses of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities - Paper by the Central Statistics Office of Botswana

ESA/STAT/AC.60/13 Experience in the implementation of CPC and ISIC in Vietnam - Paper by the General Statistical Office of Vietnam

ESA/STAT/AC.60/14 Capturing "Industry" in population censuses and surveys - Paper by ILO

ESA/STAT/AC.60/15 International standard classifications: A draft statement of best practices - Paper by UNSD

ESA/STAT/AC.60/16 Methodological issues in the development, use, maintenance and revision of statistical classifications - Paper by ILO

ESA/STAT/AC.60/17 Basic principles for the development of correspondence tables: linking the CPC Version 1.0 to COICOP - Paper by the Austrian Central Statistical Office

ESA/STAT/AC.60/18 Best practices in classifications - Paper by Eurostat

E/CN.3/1997/4 Report on International Economic and Social Classifications submitted to the 29th session of the Statistical Commission; including the Report of the Second Meeting of the Expert Group on International Classifications (United Nations document)

E/1997/24 Action taken by the Statistical Commission at its 29th Session with regard to classifications (United Nations document)

ESA/STAT/AC.59/3 Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Trial international classification for time use activities (United Nations document)

- CES/SEM.36/3 Report of the April 1997 Seminar on Statistical Nomenclatures -
Background document by ECE
- ESA/STAT/AC.60/BKG.1 Report of the Secretariat of the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency -
Background document by ISO
- ESA/STAT/AC.60/BKG.2 Way to integration of international economic and social
classifications through the system of world classifications under the
auspices of the United Nations - Background document by
Goskomstat of Russia
- ESA/STAT/AC.60/BKG.3 ICSE-93 and the border between paid employment and self-
employment: A review of national practices - Background
document by ILO