

United Nations
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Statistics Division

Fourth Meeting of the Expert Group
On International Economic and Social Classifications
New York, 2-4 November 1998

Annotated Provisional Agenda

Monday 2 November

Morning

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

- Item 1. Opening of the meeting
- Item 2. Progress in work since the Third Meeting of the Expert Group
- Item 2.a. Preamble for Family of international economic and social classifications

Draft statement of the role and obligation of agencies responsible for international statistical classifications and stating what it means to be a member of the international classifications family

Afternoon

2:00 - 5:30 p.m.

- Item 2.b. Progress made by the Expert Group in the registration and development of the Inventory of the family of international economic and social classifications

This item reviews the work of UNSD to contact all international agencies to identify and register all international standard classifications for which they are responsible, and to ensure that this information is circulated widely through the newly established international classification network. (See Final Report of the Third Meeting, ESA/STAT/AC.60/4, para 30.1).

- Item 2.c Report on a model to show the relationships and linkages of economic and social classifications

The Expert Group requested that work be completed to establish an overview of how international classifications are related and to make explicit formal and structure relationships between reference and derived classifications in order to

keep them consistent. This would include preparation of a diagram/map/model showing the relationships and linkages of economic and social classifications. (See Final Report of the Third Meeting, ESA/STAT/AC.50/4, para 30.2. and also paras 30.22).

Item 3. Review of consolidated statement on Best Practices

Based upon the four papers reviewed at the Third Meeting, the experts asked that a consolidated statement be prepared 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 (ST/ESA/AC60/4, para 29.4).

Tuesday 3 November

Morning

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Item 4. Strategic overview of classification systems based on principles of best practices
50 years of ISIC - historical origins and perspectives (J. Ryten)

Item 4a. An evaluation of the implementation of the *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), Revision 3 (UNSD)*

As part of the regular strategic overview of international standard classifications, UNSD has organized a review of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and its derived and related classifications. This review will include the current status of the implementation of ISIC, its adequacy as an international standard and its relationship to other economic and social classifications (ST/ESA/AC.60/4, par. 30.3).

Item 4b. Discussion - Lessons learned: Problems, issues and national experience with development and use of activity classifications derived from or related to ISIC, including NACE, NAICS and ANZSIC.

Papers on national experiences have been provided by a number of countries. These countries will lead the discussion about experiences in the implementation of activity classifications and their implications for ISIC.

Afternoon

2:00 - 5:30 p.m.

- Item 4.c. Strategic planning and future directions: Where do we go from here?

Discussion about future development and implementation of ISIC, including implementation activities, guidelines and support, plans for revisions and procedures as well as future theoretical foundations of ISIC.

- Item 5. Other related issues: Note on terms of electronic data exchange (INSEE)

Review of a note on terms of electronic exchange of information for increased standardization and facilitation of dissemination (ST/ESA/AC.60/4, para.30.23)

- Item 5a. Design and implementation of a discussion database (EUROSTAT)

Proposal to design and implement a discussion database to be used on the United Nations International Social and Economic Classifications website, 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 levels (ESA/STAT/AC.60/4,para.30.21)

Wednesday 4 November

Morning

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

- Item 5.b. Report of the CPC Subgroup of the Voorburg Group
- Item 5.c. Report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services
- Item 6. Conclusions, recommendations and future actions of the Expert Group

Afternoon

2:00 -

- Item 7. Review and adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the Fourth Meeting