UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION

**Meeting of the Expert Group on
International Economic and
Social Classifications
New York, 18-20 May 2011**

Final report

1.   The meeting of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications, organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) was held in New York from 18 to 20 May 2011.

2.   The meeting was attended by 30 experts from Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Oman, Philippines, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America, the Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique Subsaharienne (Afristat), the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Office (ILO), the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UNESCO-UIS), as well as staff members of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). The list of participants is shown in Annex 2 of this report.

3.   The meeting was chaired by Ms. Alice Born, Director of Standards Division, Statistics Canada.

4.   The meeting was opened with the reading of a statement by Mr. Paul Cheung, Director of UNSD. The remarks highlighted the achievements of the group in previous years and the expectations that are being placed now on the group. With the broadening of the group of classifications to be considered, the expert group needs to review its mandate and working arrangements, as well as the methods and criteria that will be applied to future classifications. The discussions that began at the last meeting need to be brought to a conclusion, so that an agreed proposal can be submitted to the United Nations Statistical Commission for its next session in 2012. The remarks also highlighted the expectations to come to conclusions for keeping the CPC updated according to the agreed schedule, based on inputs provided to the Expert Group. Of particular interest are also new developments and proposals that require feedback from the Expert Group, such as those related to the Classification by Broad Economic Categories. The Expert Group is also expected to consider activities related to the management of classifications, to provide better guidance to member countries, and how the current processes of implementation of classifications can be monitored and supported. Mr. Cheung underlined the expectation that the group provide conclusions on the key issues in time for submission to the Statistical Commission.

5.   The meeting was organized according to several thematic topics. For each topic, a number of papers on relevant, and often interconnected issues, was available and the papers were introduced through short presentations at the beginning of each session that highlighted the main issues raised and questions posed to the Expert Group.

6.   In total, 24 papers were submitted for the meeting, accompanied by PowerPoint or oral presentations at the meeting. In addition 2 presentations on additional topics have been given at the meeting. All papers and presentations are available on the meeting's website at: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/intercop/expertgroup/2011/ac234-2.asp

7.   The agenda for the meeting is shown in Annex 1 of this report.

Main Conclusions

8.   The Expert Group considered a wide range of topics during its meeting, including the mandate and work arrangements for the group, the review of product classifications and their impact on the CPC, the review of progress on other classifications, as well as classifications management issues. The main conclusions related to these different topics are presented below.

Topic 1 – Management and general classifications issues

9.   In this topic, the Expert Group considered issues related to its own work programme and arrangement (mandate, scope of work) and general topics related to international classifications and their implementation.

Scope

10.   The Expert Group agreed that the scope of its work should cover international statistical classifications only. The set of applicable classifications form the International Family of Classifications (see below). No regional or national classifications would be under the responsibility of the group, since regional or national entities would be responsible for their development and maintenance. However, the Expert Group may provide guidance to regional or other entities if requested to do so, in particular on issues concerning the harmonization of classifications.

11.   The work of the Expert Group itself should focus on setting directions and ensuring harmonization of work on classifications, as well as the promotion and implementation of best practices for classifications. This work will be restricted to the set of classifications in the International Family of Classifications (see below).

12.   For specific technical tasks to be carried out, the Expert Group can create subgroups with a specific mandate and lifespan. The subgroups can invite other experts (outside the Expert Group) to join for specific tasks. These subgroups report back to the Expert Group for review and decision making.

13.   In addition, the Expert Group will continue to be involved at a more technical level in work on classifications that are to be finally approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission. For these classifications it is recommended that the United Nations Statistical Commission approve such classifications as international standards only after they have been reviewed and endorsed by the Expert Group. For international classifications that are subject to an approval process separate from the United Nations Statistical Commission, the respective custodians and governing authorities are encouraged to develop or update the classifications in consultation with the Expert Group

and to take into account the views of both the Expert group and the Statistical Commission in the process.

Organization

14.   The Expert Group agreed to establish a Bureau to ensure proper functioning of the Expert Group during periods between the biennial meetings. The Bureau members will be elected for a two-year period, until the next meeting of the group. In-between meetings the Bureau will be the focal point of the Expert Group; it will carry out administrative tasks related to the functioning of the Expert Group, consider and solve technical issues when required, and will involve other group members where necessary. Other than giving advice on technical issues, the Bureau cannot make decisions on behalf of the Expert Group.

15.   The Bureau will propose the agenda for the next Expert Group meeting and advise UNSD on issues like timing and invitations. UNSD will continue to convene and organize the meetings of the Expert Group.

16.   It is desirable to have the custodians of international classifications as members of the Expert Group, together with countries that can provide technical support and technical feedback on the development and implementation of classifications.

17.   The group elected the following members of the Bureau for this first period:
  - Alice Born (Canada, Chair)
  - Andrew Hancock (New Zealand)
  - Norbert Rainer (Austria)
  - Emmanuel Ngok (Afristat)
  - Ashish Kumar (India)
UNSD will be an ex-officio member of the Bureau.

18.   Other characteristics of the scope and organization of work have been agreed to as outlined in the document proposing the new mandate.

19.   The mandate will be rewritten according to the above and other comments provided.

20.   The Bureau will carry out the revision of the mandate and circulate the final draft to the Expert Group. Target date for revision: 30 Sept. 2011.

Best practices document

21.   The document on best practices was reviewed and feedback on several issues provided. It was agreed that the document should be rewritten in a way that criteria and guidance are presented separately. The purpose of the recommendations should be made clearer by providing separate, targeted guidance for custodians of classifications and users of classifications. The document for custodians (and developers) of classifications

would need to include information on both the criteria that the Expert Group will apply in judging whether a classification should be adopted by the relevant governance authority and/or admitted to the family as well as guidance on the procedures to follow in order to develop an international classification and submit it to the Expert Group for consideration.

22.   The document should include a chapter on terminology and revision schedule, with guidelines as discussed later in the meeting.

23.   The following Expert Group members volunteered as drafters: Andrew Hancock (New Zealand, coordinator), Ana Franco (Eurostat), David Hunter (ILO), Ralf Becker (UNSD).

24.   The group will report back to the Bureau with the final drafts. Target date for revision: 30 Sept. 2011.

International Family of Classifications

25.   The Expert Group agreed that the concept of the International Family of Classifications should be maintained. It should be referred to as the International Family of Classifications, rather than International Family of Economic and Social Classifications to clearly indicate that classifications from other statistical domains, like environment statistics, are included as well.

26.   The Family will be restricted to international classifications only, i.e. it will not include regional or national classifications and it will be restricted to statistical classifications.

27.   The scope of the Family was changed from its previous narrow scope to include all international classifications that represent standards for a given statistical domain. A first list of classifications will be developed using the Classification of Statistical Activities and identifying relevant international classifications for each domain.[1]

28.   At this point no distinction will be made according to "reference", "derived" or "related" classifications.

29.   However, after review of the classifications in the list, a decision will be taken on how to categorize the classifications according to their degree of compliance with the best practices criteria.

30.   The new template for the International Family was approved, with a number of recommendations for improvement.

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[1] Although the Classification of Statistical Activities (CSA) will be used as a starting point for the populating the International Family, the CSA will not be used as a structure for Family, i.e. there is no need to uniquely assign classifications to a particular domain.

31.   The Bureau will prepare a first list of classifications to be considered for the Family and circulate it to the Expert Group by July 2011.

32.   UNSD will revise the template as discussed and start distributing it to respective custodians by Aug. 2011.

Terminology and schedule for revisions

33.   The Expert Group agreed to use a two-tiered system, referring to "updates" and "revisions", following the definitions proposed in submitted paper no.8.

34.   While the frequency of such changes depends on the classification, a review schedule should be announced for each classification to allow national statistical offices, other custodians of (national or international) classifications and users of the classification to be informed in a predictable manner.

35.   In the case of the main international reference classifications, a review outlining the case for a revision, update or no change should be considered by the relevant governing authority at least every 5 years (taking into account necessary time after long revision/development processes).

36.   For ISIC and CPC revision numbers, integers will be used for revisions, decimal increments for updates.

37.   To denote intermediate changes, clarifications or other information related to a classification, there was discussion of the need for a consistent terminology to manage proposals for change and to record the decisions. Such recording should take place on an ongoing basis, preparing information for the regularly scheduled reviews. The terminology used for documenting changes to the SNA was suggested as a model that could be adopted or adapted for use with classifications.

38.   These recommendations should be reflected in the Best Practices document. (see above)

Registry of national classifications

39.   The Expert Group supported the proposed template for the questionnaire with some additional amendments. Consultation with FAO should be undertaken to align similar activities. The questionnaire should be mailed by UNSD in coordination with regional commissions.

40.   The questionnaire would be mailed out in a 5-year cycle, in particular to track the implementation of ISIC Rev. 4 and CPC Version 2, but can also be used to assess implementation of other classifications, such as ISCO or ISCED. Target date for first mailout: Jan. 2012.

Regional efforts for implementation of classifications

41.   The Expert Group took note of regional efforts undertaken by ECLAC and Afristat, as well as Maghreb and Gulf countries to support the implementation and adaptation of international classifications in their respective member states.

42.   The Expert Group supports regional efforts targeted at the implementation of the newly revised classifications (ISIC, CPC, ISCO, and ISCED) and encourages other regions to also follow these examples. The Expert Group recommended that the Regional Commissions play an initiating and coordinating role and noted the support that international custodians can provide to these efforts.

Topic 2 - Review of CPC and product classifications

43.   In this topic, the Expert Group reviewed classifications and proposals that have a strong link to the CPC, mostly based on discussions that have started at the last meeting of the Expert Group. One goal of the discussion was to determine if any changes to the CPC are necessary at this point.

Standard International Energy Product Classification (SIEC)

44.   The Expert Group agreed that improving the links between CPC and SIEC should be a target and that alternative aggregations of CPC and SIEC should be explored to describe these links. The submitted paper can serve as a starting point.

45.   A Technical Subgroup (TSG) should be formed to do further work on the detailed links (see below). The group should include Expert Group members, energy experts and environmental-accounting experts to ensure that the needs of the latter are considered.

46.   The Expert Group agreed to include SIEC in the Family, since it is the recommended international standard for reporting energy statistics.

Agriculture classifications

47.   The Expert Group agreed to consider the FAO proposals for modification of CPC detail in the area of agricultural, fishery, forestry and food products as part of the next review of the CPC with adoption of appropriate changes.

48.   Also, further additional detailing by organizations such as the FAO is supported and encouraged and may be included as an example in the CPC. This would also provide feedback that may help to improve the CPC in the future.

49.   A TSG will be formed to review the details of this proposal for inclusion in the CPC (see below).

HS 2012 amendments

50.   The Expert Group agreed to consider the amendments to the Harmonized System 2012 for changes in CPC. This would apply only to 8 highlighted cases. For all others only the links between CPC and HS will be updated, while the scope of the CPC subclasses will not be affected. Out of the 8 cases, 3 will be part of the agriculture review and one will be part of the SIEC review.

51.   A small group could review the options for the remaining cases (see below).

CPC

52.   After reviewing the different inputs provided by other classifications / developments, the Expert Group agreed that an update to the CPC should be undertaken for 2012. This will be labelled as an update (CPC Ver.2.1) since it is restricted to some areas of the goods part only and involves only rearrangements or subdivisions at the lower levels (class, subclass) of the classification.

53.   A TSG will be established to consider all of the proposed inputs into the CPC, supported by experts for some of the individual components (e.g. agriculture, energy).

54.   Due to the limited number of changes and the advanced state of proposals, completion of this update should be done in time for submission to the United Nations Statistical Commission.

55.   The TSG will be composed of: UNSD, Canada, Eurostat, France, US

56.   For inputs from work on specific classifications / proposals, additional members will be invited from:
    -   FAO (for agriculture, fishery, forestry and food products)
    -   IEA, UNSD (energy, env.acct.) for energy-related products

57.   Target date for finalization of new CPC draft: Oct. 2011. The full draft should be ready to be submitted to the United Nations Statistical Commission for its 2012 session, i.e. by November 2011.

Topic 3 – Other classifications

58.   In this topic, the Expert Group reviewed proposals for revisions of existing classifications, proposals for the development of new classifications and was updated on progress made on other processes discussed at earlier meetings of the Expert Group.

While some of these classifications or aggregations are linked to the CPC, no need for an immediate change to CPC was considered necessary.

BEC

59.   The Expert Group agreed to form a subgroup to review the proposal for revision of the BEC. It should take into account the applications of the BEC and consider primarily the links to classifications like HS and CPC. Services should be included in the scope. The submitted discussion paper no.25 will serve as a starting point for this work.

60.   Composition of the TSG: UNSD (incl. ITSB), OECD, WCO, UNIDO, New Zealand, Austria, plus additional experts identified by UNSD (ITSB)

61.   Target date for new proposal: Mar. 2012

Business functions

62.   The Expert Group agreed that guidance for the identification of core business functions and support functions (not necessarily a classification) should be developed. However, it is not clear how to determine what the core functions within each sector are. Global sourcing is creating many problems for statisticians and it would be very useful to study this under some common guidelines. A subgroup will discuss how to approach this.

63.   It was agreed that besides looking at the CPC products, guidelines are necessary on how to implement the business functions concept using the CPC.

64.   Composition of TSG: UNSD (ITSB), OECD, India, Statistics Denmark, plus additional experts identified by UNSD (ITSB).

65.   Target date for new proposal: March 2012

EBOPS

66.   The Expert Group welcomed the report on the development of the EBOPS-CPC2 correspondence table and will assist in the review. Modalities will be determined by the Bureau.

ICT product aggregates

67.   The Expert Group took note of the work of the Working Party on Indicators of the Information Society (WPIIS) in developing a definition of products of the information society, based on CPC product detail.

68.   The Expert Group agreed to include this definition in CPC publications, similar to the alternative aggregation for the information economy shown in the ISIC Rev.4 publication. The text will be confirmed between UNSD and the WPIIS.

ISCED

69.   The Expert Group took note of the progress made in finalizing the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED). The classification has now been completed and will be publicly available within the next few days.

70.   UIS requested assistance from the Expert Group in establishing a Technical Advisory Panel for the revision of "fields of education and training" and raised the question of whether this should be considered a stand-alone classification. This was supported by some members.

71.   The Expert Group recommended that issues for developing countries should be identified for this work and that the ILO should be involved in this process.

72.   The Bureau will follow up with the custodians and the Expert Group to identify potential members of such an advisory panel by September 2011.

Classification of environmental expenditures and activities

73.   An information paper was submitted shortly before the Expert Group meeting and a brief introduction provided. The objective of the paper was to alert the Classification Expert Group that the Classification of Environmental Activities will be submitted for global consultation in June 2011 and that the Expert Group will be requested to review this classification for its compliance with Best practices criteria.

74.   The discussion of the information paper indicated a few areas of concern that the compliance review should address, including clarification of the scope, classification units and classification variables, potential conflicts with the title of the classification etc. It was indicated that the classification will undergo further changes before being submitted for review.

75.   Some Expert Group members agreed to discuss the classification when it is submitted: Australia, Sweden, Morocco, FAO, Eurostat and UNSD. These members will then report back to the Bureau on the outcome.

Revision of ICD

76.   The Expert Group reviewed the progress made and tools used in the revision of ICD and noted the use of modern tools for the collection of input and engagement of users. While noting the use of alternative aggregations to address different user needs, the

Expert Group was concerned that absence of a single default structure or absence of exclusivity of categories at any level would not be consistent with principles of a statistical classification. The Expert Group will monitor and clarify this issue with the custodian.

Classification of statistical activities

77.   The Expert Group reviewed the current draft/version of the classification of statistical activities, the custodian of which is the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). While the classification itself is a useful tool also for the identification of classifications in the international family of classifications (based on domains for which they are relevant), the classification itself will not be part of the family. It is not a statistical classification and therefore does not have to meet the criteria set out in the best practices document.

78.   The Expert Group also had comments on the structure/detail of the classification itself. These will be consolidated after further review by Expert Group members and submitted to the custodian.

79.   The Expert Group also noted that the classification had a regional focus, which is reflected in its structure. The Expert Group acknowledged that, since the classification was assuming the important but originally unintended role of being a framework for the organization of statistical data in electronic repositories globally, its scope/structure should be reviewed and custodianship of the classification should be investigated for possible transfer to an international body rather than a regional one.

80.   The Bureau will draft a note to ECE/CES based on feedback from Expert Group members.

**Topic 4 – Classifications management**

81.   In this topic, the Expert Group discussed options for interacting with users and providing guidance to users on the management of systems of classifications. This was a first look at issues that will be followed up in the future.

Classifications management

82.   The Expert Group reviewed a system developed by Statistics New Zealand for the management of classifications. The importance of such systems increases once we advocate a broader use of standard classifications that need to be modified for individual statistical surveys. The New Zealand approach is just one option, but was viewed with interest and some countries reported on their successful use of this system. Maintenance and availability of upgrades remain issues to be further discussed.

83.	This will be an item that the Expert Group will focus on in the future to provide consistent guidelines to countries.

84.	No immediate action necessary. The Bureau will review possible follow-up options in 2012.

Data formats

85.	A discussion of ways in which classification information is shared took place to assess the current situation in countries and organizations. A lack of suitable ways to transmit comprehensive metadata about classifications was acknowledged, as well as a lack of consistent guidelines.

86.	The Expert Group took note that Switzerland is planning to introduce SDMX-based formats this year and will review this once available. Also, France and FAO have done some work on this, which should be reviewed.

87.	This will also be an item for future work of the Expert Group in the context of classifications management.

88.	UNSD will follow up with France, FAO and Switzerland on the results of their work before end of 2011 and provide a note for the Expert Group if necessary.

Interaction with users

89.	The Expert Group agreed that an open wiki-style approach to collecting feedback on classifications (e.g. for revisions) would not be a recommended option. This can still be used within the confines of the Expert Group or a TSG for research and drafting purposes however. The experiences of WHO in the work on ICD-11 can serve as an example in such a case.

90.	The Expert Group agreed to conduct a limited test for user feedback on the classifications by building in a feedback mechanism into the UNSD website, allowing users to provide comments on classifications or individual categories. In this case, the comments will not be made public and are for internal consideration only, potentially assisting in early phases of a revision process.

91.	UNSD will introduce this on the website after further consultation with the Bureau, by November of 2011.

Summary of action items

	Action item	Responsibility	Target date
1	Revise mandate of the Expert Group	Bureau	Sep. 2011
2	Revise Best Practices document	**New Zealand**, Eurostat, ILO, UNSD	Sep. 2011
3	Prepare first draft of list of classifications to be considered for the Family	Bureau	July 2011
4	Revise questionnaire for international family	UNSD	July 2011
5	Send questionnaire for international classifications to first set of custodians	UNSD	Aug. 2011
6	Revise questionnaire for national classifications	UNSD	Jan. 2012
7	Consult on distribution mode and send first set of questionnaires for national classifications	UNSD	Jan. 2012
8	Review inputs and update CPC (incl. proposals for SIEC)	**UNSD**, Canada, Eurostat, France, US + FAO, IEA, UNSD(EEA)	Oct. 2011
9	Develop full proposal for revised BEC	**UNSD(ITSB)**, OECD, WCO, UNIDO, New Zealand, Austria	Mar. 2012
10	Develop full proposal for Business Functions (alternative aggregation of CPC + guidelines)	**UNSD(ITSB)**, OECD, India	Mar. 2012
11	Review of EBOPS-CPC correspondence	Bureau (coord.)	Tbd
12	Identify experts for TAP on "fields of education and training"	Bureau, all	Sep. 2011
13	Review of Classification of environmental expenditures and activities (for further review by the Bureau)	Australia, Sweden, Morocco, FAO, Sweden, Eurostat, UNSD(EEA)	June-July 2011[2]
14	Provide feedback on the Classification of Statistical Activities and draft note to ECE/CES	All, Bureau	Aug. 2011 (all), Sep. 2011 (Bureau)
15	Review developments on data formats for classifications	**UNSD**, France, FAO, Switzerland	Dec. 2011

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[2] Depending on availability of final proposal

	Action item	Responsibility	Target date
16	Add detailed feedback mechanism to UNSD Classifications website	UNSD	Nov. 2011
17	Review of possible follow-up items related to classifications management tools	Bureau	July 2012

Annex 1 – Agenda

Wednesday, 18 May 2011

08:45   Registration of participants

Session 1: Opening

09:30   Opening statement
Paul Cheung, UNSD

09:45   Introduction of participants, adoption of agenda

10:00   Review of decisions and recommendations made at the previous meeting of the Expert Group

Documentation:
- Report of the Meeting of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications, New York, 1-4 September 2009 (ST/ESA/AC.190/4)

Session 2: Organization and mandate of the Expert Group

10:20   Proposal for new mandate and organizational structure of the Expert Group

The EG will discuss an updated mandate for the EG, its governing structure and operating procedures. A draft document has been prepared by a subgroup after the 2009 EGM. The EG is expected to review this document and finalize a proposal that will be submitted to the UN Statistical Commission in 2012.

Documentation:
- Update of the Mandate for the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications, EG working group (ST/ESA/AC.234/5)

11:05   Coffee break

Session 3: Family of International Classifications

11:20   Review of the Best practices guidelines and criteria for inclusion in the Family of International Classifications

The EG will review the draft of the revised Best practices document, providing guidance for countries/organizations in the development of new classifications and outlining criteria that need to be fulfilled for a classification to be recognized as a member of the Family of International Classifications.

Documentation:
- Best Practice Guidelines for Developing International Statistical Classifications, EG working group (ST/ESA/AC.234/6)

13:00   Lunch

14:30   Review of the Family of International Classifications

The EG will discuss the composition of the Family, necessary criteria necessary for classifications to be included and the categorization of classifications (within and outside of the Family). This will entail a review of the definitions of "reference", "derived" and "related" classifications.

Documentation:
- Best Practice Guidelines for Developing International Statistical Classifications (ST/ESA/AC.234/6)
- A new template for the Family of International Classifications, UNSD (ST/ESA/AC.234/7)

14:45   Review of terminology for revisions

The EG will review a proposal for terminology of revisions/updates to classifications.

Documentation:
- ISIC and CPC Maintenance and Revision Policies, USA / Eurostat (ST/ESA/AC.234/8)

15:30   Coffee break

15:45   Revision schedules for classifications

The EG will discuss a proposal for harmonizing and coordinating revision schedules for classifications in the Family and beyond. Different needs, organizational constraints and mechanism need to be considered to decide what is feasible within the scope of the mandate of the Expert Group.

Documentation:
- Classification revision frame - Proposal for the family of UN economic and social classifications, INSEE, France (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/10)

16:30   Assessment of implementation of international standard classifications in national statistical systems

The EG will review an proposal for assessing the implementation of ISIC, CPC and other classifications, based on a revised template for describing national classifications. The EG will also review activities to support the implementation of the revised classifications and is expected to provide feedback on possible support activities.

Documentation:
- An updated template for assessing the implementation of national classifications, UNSD (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/11)
- Working Group on International Classifications for the ECLAC region, ECLAC (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/19)
- Revised activities classification (NAEMA Rév1) and revised products classification (NOPEMA Rév1) of AFRISTAT Member States, Afristat (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/24)

Thursday, 19 May 2011

Session 4:   Review of new classifications developments and/or revisions

In this session, the EG will discuss a number of classifications (either recently revised, under revision or proposed) that use the concept of products and as such have a natural relationship with the CPC. The EG is expected to provide feedback on these classifications, either by recommending them for inclusion the Family or by providing recommendations for future changes to these classifications. Throughout, additional requirements should be noted and the need for a revision or update of the CPC at this time evaluated. At the end of this session the EG is expected to make a recommendation regarding the need for and timing of an update/revision of the CPC.

09:30   **Standard International Classification of Energy Products (SIEC)**

The EG will discuss the classification of energy product that is part of the International Recommendations for Energy Statistics (IRES), which were adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in 2011. The EG will review the characteristics of the classification and its links to other product classifications. The EG is expected to provide comments on the classification and consider its inclusion in the Family.

Documentation:
- The Standard International Energy Product Classification (SIEC) and its relationship with the Central product Classification (CPC), UNSD (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/14)

11:15   Coffee break

11:30   **Classifications for food and agriculture statistics and resulting proposals for CPC**

Documentation:
- CPC Ver.2 Review and Harmonization with Food and Agriculture Statistics in FAO, FAO (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/15)

13:00   Lunch

14:30   **Classifications related to international trade statistics and new data needs**

Following recommendation at the last EG meeting, the EG will review a document outlining uses of the BEC and proposals for revision (in terms of scope and structure). The EG is expected to provide guidance on further steps. The EG will also review the link between the revised Extended balance of Payments Services Classification (EBOPS) and the CPC. In addition, the EG will review a proposal for the creation of a classification of business functions.
All three proposals are linked to the CPC.

Documentation:
- Revision of the Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC), UNSD / OECD (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/25)
- The draft EBOPS – CPC correspondence table, UNSD (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/27)

- International Classification of Business Functions, UNSD (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/28)

16:00   Coffee break

16:15   Revision of the Harmonized System for 2007 and its impact on the CPC

Documentation:
- Impact of the HS 2012 amendments on CPC Version 2, UNSD
(ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/16)
- Comments on the Impact of the HS 2012 on CPC Ver. 2, Philippines
(ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/30)

17:00   The need for a revision or update of the CPC

The EG is expected to decide whether a revision or update of the CPC is necessary, based on the outcomes of the previous discussions. The EG is expected to provide guidance on the scope of the revision/update, the sources to be considered, its timing and the proper mechanism to carry out the technical work required.

17:30   Close

Friday, 20 May 2011

Session 4+5:   Review of new classifications developments and/or revisions; Management of classifications

09:30   Classification of Statistical Activities

The EG will discuss the Classification of Statistical Activities, which is maintained by ECE and the Conference of European Statisticians. This classification gains wider acceptance and is used also in the context of SDMX. The EG is expected to provide comments on the classification and consider its inclusion in the Family.

Documentation:
- Management of the Classification of Statistical Activities, ECE
(ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/9)
- Classification of Statistical Activities – Proposed Revisions, Canada
(ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/13)
- Standard Classification of Statistical Activities: A New Zealand Perspective, Statistics New Zealand (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/26)

10:45   Coffee break

11:00   Communication with users

The EG will discuss options for strengthening its communication with users, including main users within the statistical community and users in academia, industry etc. that may not be fully aware of the role of statistical classifications. Outreach activities should increase the recognition of classifications among data users and inform developers of national classifications about international standards, updates/corrections, developments and timelines. Options for improving

the collaboration with national stakeholders during revision processes will also be discussed. A key component will be modern IT options.

Documentation:
- Options for communication with users, New Zealand (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/18)
- Outreach mechanisms employed in the development of ICD-11, WHO (presentation)
- Overview of the UNSD Classifications website (presentation)

12:00   Updates on other classifications under revision

The EG will have status reports on the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) and the ICT trade and ICT product classifications/aggregates developed by the OECD.
The EG will also be provided with information on the Classification of Environmental Activities, which is being developed within the context of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). The EG is expected to provide feedback on these classifications.

Documentation:
- ISCED 2011: Current Status and next steps, UNESCO-UIS (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/17)
- Measuring trends in ICT trade: From HS2002 To HS2007 / ICT product definition OECD (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/23)

13:00   Lunch

14:30   Updates on other classifications under revision (cont.)

Documentation:
- Classification of Environmental Activities (CEA) - Information paper, UNSD (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/29)

15:15   Classifications Management Systems

The EG will discuss options for effective management of classifications, including options for standardized data exchange protocols.

Documentation:
- Classifications Management System used in New Zealand (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/21)
- Data formats for exchanging classifications, UNSD (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/22)

16:00   Coffee break

Session 6: Future work

16:15   Future work

The EG will discuss the future work programme for the period 2011-2013 and beyond. In this session, elements of the discussion on the EG's mandate and organization will be reviewed in light of the discussions on selected classifications held during this meeting. The EG is expected to finalize proposals for the revised

mandate, the revised Best Practices document and a work programme, which can be submitted to the UN Statistical Commission at its session in February 2012.

17:00   Closing

Annex 2 – List of participants

Expert Group on International Classifications
New York, 18-20 May 2011

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