



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
9 December 2025

Original: English

---

## Statistical Commission

Fifty-seventh session

New York, 3–6 March 2026

Item 4 (e) of the provisional agenda\*

**Items for decision: international statistical classifications**

## Report of the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications

### Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2025/315 and past practices, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications, which is submitted to the Commission for decision.

---

\* [E/CN.3/2026/1](#).



## I. Introduction

1. In its decision 56/117, the Statistical Commission:

(a) Commended the progress made by the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications and its task teams on advancing international statistical classifications;

(b) Endorsed the explanatory notes and introduction to version 3.0 of the Central Product Classification;

(c) Encouraged the Committee to develop correspondences and supplementary materials to support the implementation of version 3.0 of the Central Product Classification by Member States, and requested the translation of version 3.0 into all official languages of the United Nations;

(d) Recommended the submission of the revised Standard International Energy Product Classification to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, in 2026;

(e) Expressed its appreciation for the progress made on the revision of the Classification of the Functions of Government;

(f) Endorsed the International Classification for Administrative Data on Trafficking in Persons as the international statistical classification for the production of administrative statistics on trafficking in persons;

(g) Approved the initiation of a limited update of version 2.0 of the Classification of Statistical Activities to consider a stand-alone food security and nutrition domain;

(h) Also approved the terms of reference of the standing task team on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities and the Central Product Classification;

(i) Further approved the terms of reference of the task team on best practices and the international family of classifications;

(j) Requested the provision of technical assistance to Member States to implement international statistical classifications;

(k) Noted the progress on the update of the International Standard Classification of Occupations and encouraged the implementation of the most recent version of the International Classification of Status in Employment.

2. The present report presents the Committee's work on the revision of the Classification of Statistical Activities, the Standard International Energy Product Classification and the Classification of the Functions of Government, and its work on the maintenance of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities and Central Product Classification. It also presents the Committee's activities in coordinating work on other classifications proposed for the Commission's adoption. The Commission is invited to: (a) endorse the Classification of Statistical Activities, Version 2.1; (b) endorse the structure of the Standard International Energy Product Classification, Version 2.0; (c) support the revision of the International Recommendations for Energy Statistics in connection with the development of the revised Classification; (d) endorse the Extended Balance of Payment Services Classification 2026; (e) endorse the International Statistical Classification on Alternative Care of Children; and (f) endorse the International Classification of Dying Places.

## II. Activities of the Committee of Experts

3. The Committee of Experts serves as the central coordination body for the work on international statistical classifications that are the responsibility of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and for the coordination and review of other international statistical classifications that are the responsibility of other international organizations and that have been proposed for adoption by the Statistical Commission. The Committee works to ensure harmonization and convergence in the development of the classifications within the international family of statistical classifications.

4. The annual Committee meeting was held virtually on 4, 6 and 12 November 2025 to review the work of its bureau and task teams on the update or revision of the Classification of Statistical Activities, the Standard International Energy Product Classification and the Classification of the Functions of Government and its work on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities and Central Product Classification maintenance. The Committee also discussed the progress on the development or revision of several classifications and regional collaboration efforts supporting the adoption of international statistical classifications. The Committee approved five classifications for submission to the Commission for endorsement as international statistical classifications, namely, the Standard International Energy Product Classification, Version 2.0, the Classification of Statistical Activities, Version 2.1, the Extended Balance of Payment Services Classification 2026, the International Statistical Classification on Alternative Care of Children and the International Classification of Dying Places.

## III. Work of the task teams

5. The work of the Committee in 2025 is organized into four work areas, with bureau members leading the related programme, as follows: (a) the task team on the Standard International Energy Product Classification, led by the United States of America Bureau of Labor Statistics; (b) the task team on the Classification of the Functions of Government, led by the Treasury of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; (c) the standing task team on the International Standard Industrial Classification and the Central Product Classification, led by the Australian Bureau of Statistics; and (d) the task team on best practices and the international family of classifications, led by Statistics New Zealand.

### A. Classification of Statistical Activities

6. The update of the Classification of Statistical Activities, Version 2.0 was mandated by the Commission at its fifty-sixth session in 2025. The update process was carried out by the Committee bureau in collaboration with the Expert Group on Food Security and Nutrition Data and Statistics. The main structure change implemented in the Classification of Statistical Activities, Version 2.1 is the creation of a new statistical activity on food security and nutrition under the statistical domain for cross-cutting statistics. This change will help address critical challenges concerning statistical activities on food security and nutrition and contribute to consistent and coordinated assessments at the global level.

7. The draft Classification of Statistical Activities, Version 2.1 underwent a global consultation in June 2025 and was subsequently updated, taking into consideration all the comments and feedback received. The Committee reviewed the revised

Classification and its development process and evaluated it against the agreed approval process. On the basis of that review, the Committee approved the Classification and recommended it for endorsement by the Commission as an international statistical classification (see background documents).

## **B. Standard International Energy Product Classification**

8. The revision of the Standard International Energy Product Classification was mandated by the Commission at its fifty-third session, in 2022. The task team on the Standard International Energy Product Classification was created by the Committee to improve harmonization between the Standard International Energy Product Classification and the Central Product Classification and to revise the Standard International Energy Product Classification.

9. The task team on the Standard International Energy Product Classification held several meetings during 2025 to resolve outstanding issues. The initial list of 18 issues identified through a global consultation in 2023 were resolved, leading to a draft structure for the Standard International Energy Product Classification, Version 2.0. This version underwent a final global consultation in July 2025. The structure was subsequently updated by the task team on the Standard International Energy Product Classification, taking into consideration all the comments and feedback received, and the final structure at the four-digit level was approved by the task team on the Standard International Energy Product Classification in October 2025. The task team will finalize the explanatory notes on the basis of the revised structure of the Standard International Energy Product Classification in 2026 and develop the correspondence to version 1.0 of the Standard International Energy Product Classification and the Central Product Classification, Version 3.0.

10. There were many proposals for the revision of the Standard International Energy Product Classification. Although not all proposals are reflected in the final structure of the classification, they have been carefully discussed by the task team on the Standard International Energy Product Classification. Often, more work was needed to fully assess the feasibility and conceptual consistency of certain structural changes. The task team recognized that these issues would have to be revisited in future revisions, and they will thus be included in the research agenda for the Standard International Energy Product Classification.

11. The Committee reviewed the revised Standard International Energy Product Classification structure and its development process and evaluated it against the agreed approval process. The Committee approved the structure of the Standard International Energy Product Classification, Version 2.0 and recommended it for endorsement by the Commission as an international statistical classification. The structure of the Standard International Energy Product Classification, Version 2.0 and a document summarizing the revisions made are provided to the Commission as background documents.

12. The original Standard International Energy Product Classification was published as part of the International Recommendations for Energy Statistics adopted by the Commission at its forty-second session in 2011. The Standard International Energy Product Classification, Version 2.0 incorporates new developments in the area of energy, including synthetic fuels, and expands the scope of the classification to include cold as an energy product. These changes render the guidance provided in the International Recommendations for Energy Statistics incomplete and outdated. It is suggested that the Recommendations be revised, with the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics overseeing the revision.

### **C. Classification of the Functions of Government**

13. The task team on the Classification of the Functions of Government has finalized a list of revision issues following a global consultation carried out in November 2024. Working groups under the task team have been established to advance discussion and resolve the revision issues. Regular virtual meetings of the task team were held in 2025 and will continue in 2026 and 2027 in addition to the working group meetings. It is proposed that the revised Classification of the Functions of Government be submitted to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session in 2028 to align with the timetable for the revisions to the Government Financial Statistics Manual and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Central Framework.

### **D. International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities and the Central Product Classification**

14. The Committee established the standing task team on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities and the Central Product Classification in 2025 to facilitate the ongoing maintenance, updating and implementation of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities and the Central Product Classification following the approval of its terms of reference by the Commission at its fifty-sixth session. It was tasked with developing an implementation and maintenance strategy and research agenda for the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities and the Central Product Classification.

15. The standing task team on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities and the Central Product Classification held two meetings in 2025, focusing on topics of importance for the implementation of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 5 and the Central Product Classification, Version 3.0. It has released the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 5-International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 4 correspondence table and a research agenda on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities and the Central Product Classification. It has also developed four alternative aggregations for data reporting based on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 5, including high-level aggregation for System of National Accounts data reporting, intermediate-level aggregation for System of National Accounts data reporting, alternative aggregations for data reporting on the informal sector and alternative aggregation for data reporting on the non-profit institutions sectors.

16. Efforts are currently being undertaken by the Statistics Division to develop correspondence tables between the Central Product Classification, Version 3.0 and the Harmonized System 2022, the Central Product Classification, Version 2.1 and the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 5 and to update the classification registry as part of an ongoing programme to support the implementation of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities and the Central Product Classification.

### **E. Best practice and international family of classifications**

17. At its fifty-sixth session, in 2025, the Commission approved the revised terms of reference of the task team on best practices and the international family of classifications. In 2025, the Statistics Division has updated the international family

of classifications and associated web pages, based on the Classification of Statistical Activities, Version 2.0. The task team will consider the application of emerging technologies that are impacting the creation and dissemination of statistical classifications, and the implications for best practice processes and guidelines.

## **IV. Other work on international classifications**

### **A. Extended Balance of Payments Services Classification**

18. The Committee was informed of the activities undertaken by the task team on international trade statistics, under the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics on the revision of the Extended Balance of Payment Services Classification as part of the revision of the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services. The Classification is a trade in services classification based on the standard service components of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, with some references to Central Product Classification. It provides a finer disaggregation for several service categories and alternate presentations for items related to intellectual property to facilitate the distinction between gross fixed capital formation and consumption.

19. The Committee reviewed the revised Extended Balance of Payment Services Classification and its development process and evaluated it against the agreed approval process. On the basis of that review, the Committee approved the Classification and recommended it for endorsement by the Commission as an international statistical classification (see background documents).

### **B. International Statistical Classification for Alternative Care for Children**

20. The Committee, at its meeting in 2024, supported the proposal by UNICEF to develop a new international classification on alternative care for children. The International Statistical Classification on Alternative Care of Children will enable a better articulation of how the main types of alternative care for children are defined to improve international data and statistics.

21. Since the Committee meeting in 2024, UNICEF has conducted global consultations which provided significant feedback and enabled iterative revisions to be made to the draft International Statistical Classification on Alternative Care of Children. Subsequently, UNICEF has conducted a small-scale in-person multi-country pilot of the draft classification in early 2025 to gather further input on the feasibility of the draft classification in terms of implementation from the country perspective, considering national capacity to produce data aligned with the classification, current data availability and discrepancies with national definitions.

22. The Committee reviewed the International Statistical Classification on Alternative Care of Children and its development process and evaluated it against the agreed approval process. On the basis of that review, the Committee approved the Classification and recommended it for endorsement by the Commission as an international statistical classification (see background documents).

### **C. International Classification of Dying Places**

23. The International Classification of Dying Places has been developed as part of an international research project “EOLinPLACE: Choice of where we die: a

classification reform to discern diversity in individual end of life pathways”, funded by the European Research Council under the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.

24. The International Classification of Dying Places responds to a fundamental need for an internationally agreed and standardized approach to classifying statistical data on dying places. It provides a comprehensive list of dying places that groups them according to a hierarchical system designed to be meaningful for individuals, responding to what is known about preferences for places of end-of-life care and death. The International Classification of Dying Places has been developed by a project team supported by an international advisory group of leading researchers, policymakers and relevant international associations. Global consultation events were held during 2024 and 2025, along with international focus group meetings during 2025.

25. The Committee reviewed the International Classification of Dying Places and its development process and evaluated it against the agreed approval process. On the basis of that review, the Committee approved the Classification and recommended it for endorsement by the Commission as an international statistical classification (see background documents).

#### **D. International Standard Classification of Education**

26. The International Standard Classification of Education Review Panel, established in June 2023, has completed its review of the International Standard Classification of Education 2011 (programmes and attainment) and the International Standard Classification of Education: Fields of Education and Training 2013 to strengthen their global relevance and applicability. The Panel’s recommendations were focused on improving consistency of programme classification across countries, expanding International Standard Classification of Education coverage to include work-based learning, refining categories and definitions for early childhood and tertiary education and integrating emerging fields such as artificial intelligence.

27. Building on the Panel’s recommendations, the UNESCO Institute of Statistics is preparing to commence the revision phase (2025–2027), which will involve acknowledgement of the recommendations adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its forty-third session, in November 2025, the establishment of technical task forces to develop proposals for the amendment of the International Standard Classification of Education 2011 and the comprehensive revision of the International Standard Classification of Education Fields of Education and Training 2013. The revised frameworks are expected to be submitted for adoption to the UNESCO General Conference at its forty-fourth session, in 2027.

#### **E. International Standard Classification of Occupations**

28. The Committee was informed of the activities undertaken by the International Labour Organization on the revision of the International Standard Classification of Occupations. Significant progress was made in 2024 to address complex conceptual issues, resolve skills-related issues and update the Classification structure during 2025. Additional work to complete this task is planned for 2026 and 2027. The revised Classification is planned to be presented at the twenty-second International Conference of Labour Statisticians, in 2028.

## V. Regional initiatives

29. Under the guidance of the Committee, the Statistics Division is collaborating with regional partners to support the regional implementation of international statistical classifications.

30. A Specialized Technical Group on Classification in Africa was established by the Executive Council of the African Union as part of the Continental Strategy for the Development of Statistics in Africa. The Economic Commission for Africa serves as the secretariat for the Group. The Group's mandate is to prepare and implement action plans for statistical harmonization and adopt international standards and methodological guidelines for statistical harmonization concerning classification for Africa. The outcome of the first meeting, conducted from 28 to 30 April 2025, led to the development of a priority implementation road map for statistical classification in the region.

31. The Statistics Division and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean jointly organized a regional workshop on International Statistical Classifications from 20 to 22 May 2025, to introduce the latest developments on international statistical classifications, focusing on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, the Central Product Classification and other classifications. The workshop led to the creation of a new cooperation community among national statistical offices in the region to support the adoption, adaptation and training of international statistical classifications, fostering a collaborative and sustainable approach to statistical classifications across the region.

## VI. Action to be taken by the Statistical Commission

32. **The Statistical Commission is invited to:**

- (a) **Endorse the Classification of Statistical Activities, Version 2.1;**
- (b) **Endorse the structure of the Standard International Energy Product Classification, Version 2.0;**
- (c) **Support the revision of the International Recommendations for Energy Statistics in connection with the development of the revised Standard International Energy Product Classification;**
- (d) **Endorse the Extended Balance of Payment Services Classification 2026;**
- (e) **Endorse the International Statistical Classification on Alternative Care of Children;**
- (f) **Endorse the International Classification of Dying Places;**
- (g) **Welcome progress made by the Committee and its task teams on advancing international statistical classifications; express its views on the progress of work and provide guidance on the elements of the work programme of the Committee.**