

Terms of Reference for the Technical Subgroup on ISIC (TSG-ISIC)¹

Background

The Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications (EG) at its meeting in September 2017 considered a report from the Technical Sub-Group ISIC (TSG-ISIC) which outlined progress on the treatment of factoryless goods producers (FGPs), and the treatment of intermediaries. In addition, the TSG-ISIC was to assess the OECD/UNECE Task Force review on the Statistical Units Model for any impacts on ISIC Rev.4

The EG agreed, at that time, that there was no need to review ISIC Rev.4 and that the TSG-ISIC should assess the issues on its work on factoryless good producers and the statistical units model and report back to the next EG meeting on whether ISIC Rev.4 needed review.

Since the September meeting, the Eurostat Standards Working Group has considered proposals of change in NACE Rev.2, and the US Economic Classification Policy Committee (ECPC), Statistics Canada and Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía are assessing issues for reviewing NAICS. Issues identified by both these activities may lead to the identification of issues that warrant reviewing ISIC Rev.4.

The main task of the TSG-ISIC is not to prepare for a future revision of ISIC, but rather to investigate if the issues raised can be addressed in the current structure of ISIC with additional guidance provided. If the TSG-ISIC investigation showed that this was not a practical approach it could recommend to the EG that a review of ISIC Rev. 4 take place.

Scope of work

As decided by the EG, the TSG-ISIC is expected, in the first instance to complete its assessment of the known issues in relation to FGPs, and the statistical units model with reference to the documents presented at the meeting of the EG:

- ESA/STAT/AC.315/4 – Final Report Meeting of the Technical Subgroup for the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC)
- ESA/STAT/AC.340-BK10 – Do current issues require a revision of ISIC?

The TSG-ISIC should carry out the following tasks:

1. Reassess the issues presented in paper 4 and background document 10 for relevance and impact for influencing a revision of ISIC.
2. Assess issues raised in the NACE and NAICS proposals for relevance and impact for influencing a revision of ISIC.
3. Consolidate a list of issues from 1 and 2 above, and work with UNSD to enable global consultation on those issues to take place.
4. Analyse the results of the consultation and identify issues for which 'case laws' could provide resolution

¹ Updated in May 2020 with regard to the composition of the TSG-ISIC

5. Analyse the extent of the remaining issues which could not be solved by case law and, if they are significant, make proposals of change in the present version of ISIC and, if necessary, recommend to the EG that a revision of ISIC take place.

Composition of the TSG-ISIC

Based on discussions within the Bureau of the EG, it is decided to continue with the current composition of members, subject to confirmation of their continual involvement and determination of a Chair. The TSG-ISIC will consist of the following members:

- Mr. Franklin Assoumou Ndong (Canada), Chair of the TSG-ISIC
- Mr. Francisco de Souza Marta (Brazil)
- Mr. Wei Ran (China)
- Ms. Clotilde Masson (France)
- Mr. Anthony Kofi Krakah (Ghana)
- Mr. Shinji Ueda (Japan)
- Mr. Abdelkader Choqiri (Morocco)
- Mr. Andrew Hancock (New Zealand)
- Ms. Severa Belista De Costo (Philippines)
- Ms. Cindia Duc Sfez (Switzerland)
- Ms. Fay Dorsett (USA)
- Ms. Ana Franco (Eurostat)
- Mr. Claude Macchi (Eurostat)
- Mr. Ivo Havinga (UNSD)
- Ms. Ilaria di Matteo (UNSD)
- Mr. Zhiyuan Qian (UNSD)

UNSD serves as the Secretariat of the TSG-ISIC.

Organization of work

The TSG-ISIC will communicate through email and the use of conference calls.

A physical meeting is not proposed as no funds are allocated for this and participants would have to attend at their own expense.

Timeline

A final report of the TSG-ISIC back to the EG is expected by late October 2019.

The report should contain explicit recommendations on how to address the issues raised.