

Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications Online, 14 – 15 May 2024

Draft Agenda

Last update: 8 May 2024

The meeting will take place online in two days, on 14 – 15 May 2024, starting at 6am New York time. Background notes will be made available in advance of the meeting. All participants are invited to read the background notes in advance of the meeting. All materials will be made available online at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/classifications/expertgroup/UNCEISC_2024.cshtml

Day 1 – Tuesday, 14 May 2024

6:00am – 6:20am Opening and objectives of the meeting

Opening statements

- Stefan Schweinfest, Director, United Nations Statistics Division
- Andrew Hancock, Statistics New Zealand and Chair of the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classification (UNCEISC)

Introduction of participants, welcome to new members, and adoption of agenda

- Andrew Hancock, Chair of UNCEISC

6:20am – 6:30am Session 1: Update of work progress on classifications

This session will review the work progress of the UNCEISC since its last meeting in October 2023, including the actions points from the 2023 Committee meeting, outcome of the United Nations Statistical Commission in Feb.-Mar. 2024.

Background documents:

- UNSC 2024 report
- Summary of Conclusions of the 2023 UNCEISC meeting

6:30am – 9:00am Session 2: Regular revision cycle for ISIC and CPC

The UN Statistical Commission at its 55th session in 2024 “recommended more frequent revision of ISIC and CPC so these classifications accurately mirror economic realities and aid in effective policymaking; noted the recommendation by the Committee of a five-year revision cycle and acknowledged the concerns expressed about that frequency; noted the need for an adequate statistical infrastructure, concerted efforts and dedicated resources to implement the recommendation; and requested the Committee to propose and evaluate procedures, stages and milestones for implementing a regular revision cycle for ISIC and CPC leading to the next revision, and report back to the Commission by 2028”.

This session will discuss the way forward in developing a proposal for implementing a regular revision cycle of ISIC and CPC, taking into consideration the decisions of the 2024 UNSC.

Presentations and discussions:

- Developing a proposal for implementing a regular revision cycle (Julian Chow, UNSD)
- Business cases for regular revision cycle for ISIC and CPC (Vincent Russo, US Bureau of Labour Statistics and Franklin Assoumou Ndong, Statistics Canada)
- Implementing a regular revision cycle for the ISIC – issue paper (Claude Macchi and Matthias Flohr, Eurostat).
- Exploratory Study on the Possible Strategic Review of HS, focusing on revision cycle and implementation (Tashi Namgay, WCO)
- Discussions

Background documents:

- Business cases for regular revision cycle for ISIC and CPC (US BLS and Statistics Canada)
- Implementing a regular revision cycle for the ISIC – issue paper (Eurostat Unit B.1 as a member of the UNCEISC as a member of the bureau)

Day 2 – Wednesday, 15 May 2024

6:00am – 7:30am Session 3: Methodology and process for the standing Task Team on ISIC and CPC

To facilitate the ongoing maintenance, updating and implementation of ISIC and CPC, the Commission, at its fifty-fourth meeting, in 2023, endorsed the establishment of standing task teams for ISIC and CPC. At its meeting in October 2023, the Committee agreed to set up one consolidated standing task team on ISIC and CPC, which will be a permanent task team reporting to the Committee for the ongoing maintenance and revision of both ISIC and CPC.

The establishment of a standing task team for the maintenance, update and implementation of ISIC and CPC is necessary to support the regular revision of these classifications, including the monitoring of classification issues that emerge between revisions and pursuing the resolution of issues placed on a research agenda, leading to the next revision. The standing task team on ISIC and CPC will be tasked with developing an implementation and maintenance strategy and research agenda for ISIC and CPC. This session will discuss the methodology and process for the standing Task Team on ISIC and CPC (STT-ISIC/CPC). The TOR of STT-ISIC/CPC will be presented for endorsement.

Presentations and discussions:

- Terms of reference for the standing task team on ISIC and CPC (UNSD)
- Process and regular work of updating the Harmonized System within a review cycle (Ulla Larsson, WCO)
- Discussions

Background document:

- Terms of reference for the standing task team on ISIC and CPC (UNSD)

Break (7.30-7.40AM)

7:40am-8:50am Session 4: Update on COFOG, ICCS and other classifications

This session will review the work progress on the Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG), International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purpose (ICCS) and other classifications.

Presentations and discussions:

- Revision of the Classification of the Functions of Government (Tom Orford, UK HM Treasury, Chair of TT-COFOG)
- International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (Martijn Kind, UNODC).

8:50am – 9:00am Concluding Remarks

- Andrew Hancock, Chair of the UNCEISC
- Julian Chow, UNSD