

# **United Nations Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications (UNCEISC)**

## **Summary Report**

**24-27 October 2023**

### **Introduction**

1. The United Nations Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classification (UNCEISC) was held in New York from 24 to 27 October 2023. The meeting was attended by representatives from Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, France, Ghana, India, Ireland, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Eurostat, FAO, ILO, IMF, SPC, UNICEF and UNSD. Remote Australia, ESCWA, IUCN, OECD, UNESCO, WHO.
2. This summary report documents the main conclusions reached at this Committee meeting. Annex to this report document a list of action items agreed.

### **Summary of Day 1**

#### **Session 1: Mandate and Governance of UNCEISC**

3. the Committee:
  - a. approved the discussed changes to the Mandate; UNSD will update the document and send the final version to the Committee;
  - b. agreed to hold virtual meetings in May and September moving forward, with a potential physical meeting at the end of 2025.

#### **Session 2. Review of the International Family of Classifications (IFC)**

4. The Committee proposed revising the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Best Practice Task Team (TT-BP) to cover issues with the International Family of Classifications (IFC) and the implementation of the Classification of Statistical Activities (CSA); the Bureau is to review and bring back to UNCEISC.
5. Custodians of classifications were encouraged to send updated metadata to the UNSD, if needed, in order to update the IFC website.

#### **Session 3. Review of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC)**

6. The Committee:
  - a. approved the explanatory notes of ISIC Rev. 5 for general release;
  - b. approved the introductory text for ISIC Rev. 5, with editing and some minor changes to be addressed before the 2024 United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) meeting.

7. The recommended implementation plan will be brought for discussion at the 2024 UNSC. The correspondence table, research agenda and alphabetical index will also be finalized.

## **Summary of Day 2**

### **Session 4. Statistical Classifications Sprint**

8. The first webinar of the International Statistical Classifications Sprint, “Statistical Classifications: A Foundational Building Block for Data Integration,” was held on the morning of 25 October. The Committee took note of the classification sprints and re-iterated the importance of investing in classification work as a foundation for data integration both inside and outside the National Statistics Offices (NSOs).

### **Session 5. Modernization of classifications**

9. The Committee:
  - a. took note of the work undertaken by UNSD, Statistics Canada, WHO and the EU on the classification modernization process;
  - b. reiterated the importance of the strategy for revision cycles and dynamic updating processes;
  - c. was updated on the best practices for developing new classifications; the review of the coding system for classifications, code numbering and criteria for defining titles, the development of semantic web, and the advancement on the UNCEISC research agenda to advance the modernization process;
  - d. was encouraged to provide feedback on the proposed UNCEISC research agenda.

### **Session 6. Review and approval of classifications - CEP**

10. The Classification of environmental purposes (CEP) successfully completed the approval process and is endorsed by the Committee for submission to the UNSC in March 2024. It will also be added to the IFC.
11. The Committee stressed the importance of the dynamic feedback loop for the implementation and update process of CEP, and the alignment/embedding of CEP and COFOG.

### **Session 7. Review and approval of other classifications – IUCN-GET**

12. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Global Ecosystem Typology (GET) successfully completed the approval process and is endorsed by the Committee for submission to the UNSC in March 2024. It will also be added to the IFC.

### **Session 3. (cont.) - ISIC Implementation Plan**

13. The Committee:

- a. approved the establishment of the standing task team of the ISIC (STT-ISIC) and its ToR, to carry on the work of the previous TT-ISIC as of this date;
- b. agreed with the content and element of the draft implementation plan, while stressing the importance on linking the revision process with the implementation. Adjustment will be made to the timeline based on the feedback received by the Committee;
- c. recommended the ISIC Rev.5 implementation plan for discussion at the upcoming UNSC meeting.

### **Summary of Day 3**

#### **Session 8. Revision of the Central Product Classification**

14. The Committee:

- a. provisionally approved the CPC v3.0 structure;
- b. agreed to circulate the CPC structure for global consultation in early November; based on the results of the global consultation process, CPC v.3.0 may subject to changes;
- c. agreed that the final CPC v3.0 will be signed off by the UNCEISC Bureau prior to the 2024 UNSC meeting, and will be submitted as a background document together with results of the global consultation;
- d. agreed to extend the task team on CPC (TT-CPC) through September 2024 to complete the introductory text and explanatory notes; the final CPC v3.0, including the structure, introductory text and explanatory notes, will be submitted at the planned UNCEISC virtual meeting in September 2024 and taken to the UNSC for discussion in 2025;
- e. recommended that the proposed standing task team of ISIC and proposed standing task team of CPC to be combined (into the STT-ISIC/CPC) following the disbanding of the TT-CPC; and tasked the Bureau to finalize the consolidated ToR and establish the combined task team.

#### **Session 9. Revision of the Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG)**

15. The Committee:

- a. took note of the update of the COFOG revision process;
- b. emphasized the importance of coordinating with the update process of other macroeconomic standards, including Government Finance Statistics (GFS) and the SEEA Central Framework;
- c. recommended the revision timeline to be developed considering the update process of other international standard processes; UNCEISC will also take part in update process of the GFS and SEEA Central Framework by being a member of the respective committee/working group for the update of the GFS and SEEA Central Framework.

16. The next steps include confirmation of the task team Chair, establishment of the task team, initiation of the revision process and finalization of the timeline.

17. A discussion on the status with the COPP and COPNI classifications will be made following consultation with UNSD National Accounts experts as part of the COFOG revision process.

#### **Session 10. Revision of the Standard International Classification of Energy Products (SIEC)**

18. The Committee took note of the progress in the revision process of SIEC and the results of the global consultation on the list of issues for consideration.

#### **Session 11. International Classification on Violence Against Children (ICVAC); Alternative Care for Children**

19. The Committee:

- a. took note of the implementation plan for ICVAC;
- b. supported the initiative by UNICEF to develop a new classification on alternative care for children; UNCEISC will also take part in the update process of the alternative care for children by being a member of the committee/working group for the ICVAC development process.

#### **Summary of Day 4**

#### **Session 12. Updates on other classifications**

20. The Committee took note of updates on a number of other classifications, namely:

- a. the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), tentatively planned to be updated in 2025, and to align with HS in 2028;
- b. the Classification of Business Functions (CBF), which is to be implemented. Feedback received will determine when the next revision will be considered;
- c. the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO), currently undergoing a revision to be completed in time for the 2030 round of housing and population censuses.

#### **Session 13. Way forward on the regular revision cycle for ISIC and CPC**

21. The Committee continued discussion on implementing a regular revision process for ISIC and CPC, and provisionally agreed on a 5-year cycle for both classifications.

22. The Bureau and the standing task team on ISIC and CPC will be tasked with developing the proposed stages and milestones for implementing a regular revision cycle for ISIC and CPC.

#### **Session 14. Future work and closing remarks**

23. The Committee reviewed the conclusions from the meeting, discussed preparation of the meeting reports, and provided feedback to the Secretariat. Suggestions to provide documentation on the meeting website as early as possible were gratefully acknowledged.

24. The following countries and organizations have expressed interested in joining the

- a. **TT- Best Practice:** Australia, Canada, Ireland, Morocco, New Zealand, South Africa, Eurostat, FAO
- b. **STT on ISIC and CPC:** Brazil, France, Ghana, Morocco, India, South Africa, South Korea, United States, Eurostat, FAO
- c. **TT-COFOG:** Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, Eurostat, FAO, IMF

### **Annex I: Action Items**

	<b>Action item</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Mandate and Governance of UNCEISC</b>		
1.1	Update mandate document and send to Committee	UNSD	
1.2	Schedule virtual meeting for May 2024	UNSD	
<b>2</b>	<b>Review of the International Family of Classifications (IFC)</b>		
2.1	Establish membership of Task Team on Best Practices	UNSD / Bureau	
2.2	Send updated metadata to UNSD in order to update the IFC website, if needed	Custodians of any classification(s)	
<b>3</b>	<b>Review of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC)</b>		
3.1	Finalize editing of ISIC Rev. 5 introductory text	UNSD	
3.2	Finalize ISIC Rev. 5 correspondence table, research agenda and alphabetical index	TT-ISIC / Franklin / Stats Canada	
3.3	Finalize ISIC Rev. 5 implementation plan	UNSD	
3.4	Submit final ISIC Rev. 5 introductory text, structure, explanatory notes, correspondence table, research agenda, alphabetical index and implementation plan to 2024 UNSC	UNSD / TT-ISIC	
3.5	Establish membership of Standing Task Team on ISIC (STT-ISIC)	UNSD / Bureau	
<b>5</b>	<b>Modernization of classifications</b>		
5.1	Provide feedback on the proposed UNCEISC research agenda	UNCEISC	
<b>6</b>	<b>Review and approval of classifications (CEP)</b>		
6.1	Add CEP to International Family of Classifications website	UNSD	
<b>7</b>	<b>Review and approval of other classifications (IUCN-GET)</b>		
7.1	Add IUCN-GET to International Family of Classifications website	UNSD	
<b>8</b>	<b>Revision of the Central Product Classification (CPC)</b>		
8.1	Draft and circulate global consultation on CPC Ver 3.0 final structure in early November	UNSD	

8.2	Implement changes, if any, based on results of global consultation	UNSD / TT-CPC	
8.3	Submit introductory text, structure, explanatory notes to UNCEISC meeting in September 2024	UNSD / TT-CPC	
<b>9</b>	<b>Revision of the Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG)</b>		
9.1	Confirm Chair of Task Team	UNSD	
9.2	Establish membership of Task Team on COFOG revision (TT-COFOG)	UNSD / UNCEISC	
9.3	Initiate revision process and complete timeline	TT-COFOG	
9.4	Explore the status of the COPP and COPNI classifications as part of the COFOG revision process	UNSD / UNCEISC	
<b>13</b>	<b>Way forward on the regular revision cycle for ISIC and CPC</b>		
13.1	The Bureau and the standing task team on ISIC and CPC will be tasked with developing the proposed stages and milestones for implementing a regular revision cycle for ISIC and CPC.	Bureau / STT-ISIC	