

Approval Process for the International Classification Standard for Administrative Data on Trafficking In Persons (ICS-TIP)

This document takes the International Classification Standard for Administrative Data on Trafficking In Persons (ICS-TIP) through the approval process of the UN Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications (CEISC) for the classification to become an international standard.

The process is applied by the UN Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications (hereinafter referred to as 'the CEISC') to follow and check against, when considering endorsing a classification for adoption by the UN Statistical Commission or a similar governing body, and for the classification to become a member of the International Family of Classifications.

The custodian/developer of the classification needs to comply with the requirements of three documents. These documents are the:

- Best Practice Guidelines for Developing International Statistical Classifications (as detailed in Section A of this document)
- Criteria to become a Member of the International Family of Classifications (as detailed in Section B of this document)
- Grading Criteria for International Statistical Classifications (as detailed in Section C of this document)

Based upon the application of this process the classification may/may not be endorse by the CEISC.

Final Recommendation

- (a) The International Classification Standard for Administrative Data on Trafficking In Persons (ICS-TIP) is recommended for approval by the UNCEISC as an international related classification.
- (b) The International Classification Standard for Administrative Data on Trafficking In Persons (ICS-TIP) is recommended for endorsement by the UN Statistical Commission
- (c) It is noted that the naming convention for the ICS-TIP needs to standardise with the nomenclature requirements of the International Family of Classifications, and other classifications of the UNODC.
- (d) It is noted that a maintenance and implementation plan is required but this does not preclude the recommendation to approve.

A. Does the classification meet the best practice requirements for developing an international statistical classification?

For a classification to be considered for membership of the International Family of Classifications, the classification must meet the best practice requirements. The following questions need to be answered and documented by the custodian or organisation seeking approval for the classification.

- **Does the classification have an identified custodian?**

The custodian is the United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

- **Is there a well-defined conceptual basis?**

The ICS-TIP, is based around the concept of trafficking in persons as per Article 3 of the United Nations Trafficking in Persons which states:

“For the purposes of this Protocol: (a) Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;

(b) The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) have been used;

(c) The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered "trafficking in persons" even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article;

(d) "Child" shall mean any person under eighteen years of age.

In line with the definition of trafficking in persons codified in the United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol, the concepts of forced labour, slavery and slave-like practices and forced marriage are defined in the classification as purposes of trafficking in persons.

- **Does the classification have a flat or hierarchic structure?**

The classification is a two level hierarchic classification derived from categories of the International Standard Classification for Crime Statistics (ICCS) and supported with disaggregating variables.

- **Is the classification proposed as an international reference classification or an international derived or related classification?**

ICS-TIP is built off the International Standard Classification for Crime Statistics (ICCS) and specifically maps to level 0204 ((Trafficking in persons). It also expands on ICCS by providing additional elements and further guidance for member states on how to collect and register data on trafficking in persons. It further places reliance on the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) Rev 4 – noting that this needs to be updated to ISIC Rev 5.

Whilst ICS-TIP is aimed at facilitating the exchange and comparability of statistics through the provision of common definitions supported by disaggregating variables, and whilst the classification standard has been developed through extensive international consultation, the classification itself does not meet the full definition of an ‘international reference classification’ and should be considered a derived classification.

- **Are the classification categories mutually exclusive?**

Yes

- **Is the classification exhaustive for all possible values of the variable which the classification represents?**

Yes - there are categories for ‘other’ and ‘unknown’

- **Is the classification statistically balanced?**

This is unclear as no data has been applied against the classification categories. Also, the structure may not be regarded as statistically balanced given the expansions for level two are not carried across the entire classification.

- **Is the classification statistically feasible? In other words, is it possible to effectively, accurately and consistently distinguish between the categories in the classification based on the information available.**

Yes, as it is derived from the ICCS.

- **Does the classification have clearly defined classification or statistical units?**

Yes – the classification unit in ICS-TIP is the TIP event, act or process as defined in the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

- Has consideration been given to time-series comparability?

This a new classification so this requirement is not necessary at this point.

Recommendation: The classification fundamentally meets the requirements listed above and can move to the next stage of the approval process.

B. Does the classification meet the criteria to become a member of the International Family of Classifications?

- **Is there a custodian for the classification?**

Yes

- **What is the primary use of the classification?**

The primary use of the classification is to enhance the quality of data collection and reporting by improving data harmonization and comparability based on standardized definitions.

- **What are the underlying concepts used in the classification?**

As per Article 3 of the United Nations Trafficking in Persons the concepts are:

(a) Trafficking in persons.

(b) The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons

(c) The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation

(d) "Child" shall mean any person under eighteen years.

- **What is the scope of the classification?**

The goal of the ICS-TIP is to standardize administrative data collection so governments can collect the same highly relevant indicators in the same way. ICS-TIP is also not intended to be used to identify victims or to determine which individuals should be counted as victims within national administrative recording systems.

- **What are the statistical units being measured?**

ICS-TIP does not measure statistical units but has the classification unit of the TIP event, act or process as defined in the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

- **How many classification levels are required?**

Two

- **Are the category names precise, unique and reflective of the category scope**

Yes

- **Is the classification code structure logical and sequential?**

Yes

- **Is the classification statistically balanced?**

This is unclear as no data has been applied against the classification categories. Also, the structure may not be regarded as statistically balanced given the expansions for level two are not carried across the entire classification.

- **Has there been a consultation process with users of the classification?**

Yes

- **Has the classification been tested?**

Yes

- **Are there correspondences between previous version and the current classification?**

This is the first version of the classification, so this is not applicable as ICS-TIP is derived from ICCS

- **Is there an implementation plan for the classification?**

No – not currently available.

- **Is there a maintenance schedule available?**

No – however the manual states the need for iterative revisions through consultation and that guidance will be sought from the revision processes for the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS)

- **How will the classification be disseminated?**

Electronically

Recommendation: The classification fundamentally meets the requirements listed above and can move to the next stage of the approval process.

C. Applying the grading criteria to ascertain the classification's status within the International Family of Classifications?

For the ICS-TIP to be considered for the next stage of the approval process it must have passed the criteria stage before entering the grading stage.

Is the classification to be considered as an international derived or related classification?

For a classification to be considered as an international derived or related classification it must comply with the following definitions.

Either:

“A derived classification is based upon the corresponding reference classification. The classification may be prepared by the rearrangement, aggregation or disaggregation of items from one or more reference classifications.”

or

“A related classification that provides a set of organized categories for the same variables(s) as the corresponding reference classifications, but for which the categories may only partially refer to those defined in the reference classifications or that may only be associated with the reference classification at specific levels of the structure.”

Recommendation: The classification fulfils the requirements of the definition for a related classification.