

International Statistical Classifications Sprint: Summary of the first webinar

The first webinar, organized by the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians and the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications, explored the role of statistical classifications as foundational building blocks for data integration, for relevant, sound, trusted and quality statistics. Here are the main outcomes of the webinar:

- Important for all countries to **recognize the key role statistical standards, classifications in particular, play in data integration for official statistics**. As well as continuously demonstrating of the use of statistical classification for integrated statistics, including by sharing best practices.
- Important for all countries to **invest in statistical standards (classifications in particular) by allocating appropriate resources** (including dedicated and permanent staff) to support the development, maintenance, dissemination, implementation and interoperability of statistical classifications and other related standards.
- Important for statistical organizations to **continue maintaining and developing staff with statistical skills and competencies in statistical classifications** and related standards management.
- Important to seriously consider **adopting metadata-driven approaches** to transform and harmonize practices, leverage, and operationalize statistical standards within the design and sampling-collection, processing, analysis, and dissemination of economic statistics.
- Important to recognize that **embedding statistical classifications in administrative and legal frameworks**, while **provide some advantages** in terms opening the use of these classifications for non-statistical purposes, it **also comes with serious challenges in terms of governance and the capacity to make changes to the classification** in an agile and more regular way, and it also **tends to complicate and extend revision and implementation periods or cycles**.
- Important to **provide necessary support to countries and regional organizations (particularly in developing countries) in the development, maintenance, and implementation of statistical classifications** (including when they are adopting international standards).
- Important to **make sure statistical classifications are revised regularly and continuously**, to reflect more rapid changes in the economy, society, and the environment, while considering new methods and practices (including evergreening) and working in an agile and responsible way, for statistical classifications system to continue to be relevant.
- Important to continue providing **accurate or up-to-date information on the international family of classifications**.