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**Meeting of the Expert Group on
International Statistical Classifications
New York, 6-8 September 2017**

**Report of the Working Group on International Classifications (GTIC) of the
Statistical Conference of the Americas**

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BACKGROUND

The initiative to form the Working Group on International Classifications (GTCl, by its Spanish acronym) emerged in the “Regional Seminar on the Exchange of Experiences on Classifications and Nomenclatures”, held at the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC) premises, at Santiago de Chile on December 13th-14th, 2010, which was organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE-Population Division) together with the SCA/ECLAC Census Group with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The objective of the Seminar was to present the situation of the countries of the region in the preparation of the population censuses, regarding the application of classifiers of economic activity, occupation and education classifications, and to advance in the processes of harmonization through the exchange of experiences and identification of cooperation and complementarity areas in terms of classifications.

Among the lines of action was the creation of the GTCl of the SCA, whose Technical Secretariat was the ECLAC. The Division of Statistics and Economic Projections (DEPE-ECLAC) agreed to prepare the terms of reference and guidelines for a work plan for consideration and approval at the meeting of the Executive Committee.

GROUP GOALS

General objective

The general objective of the GTCl is to support the countries of the region in adopting or adapting the new versions of the international classifications, in order to contribute to the development of official statistics in the various statistical programs.

Specific objectives

1. Identify and promote regional and subregional cooperation activities to strengthen the capacities of member countries in the processes of adopting international classifications.
2. Exchange and compile experiences, knowledge and good practices related to the implementation of international classifications.
3. Report on a permanent basis about the progress in terms of new revisions of the international classifications, mainly towards carrying out economic and population censuses, and the operations of change in the base year of the national accounts which are being performed by the countries, as well as for the proper management of business registers.
4. Promote the creation of inter-institutional platforms for collaboration, coordination and integration of regional initiatives in terms of international classifications at the level of country blocs.
5. Give priority to the Spanish translation of international classifications texts, thus enabling the timely adoption in the countries of the region.
6. Negotiate the necessary resources to hold meetings of this Working Group, in order to promote the use and dissemination of economic and social classifications.

7. Promote the creation of a network of experts in international classifications, enabling the countries to rely on communication tools and updates on classifications.

GTCI MEMBERS AND ORGANIZATION

The group is integrated by the representatives of the 22 National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of the countries listed below:

Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The group is formed by a Committee and working Subcommittees:

GTCI Steering Committee

Chile (Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas, INE), Lorena Quitral Díaz
Costa Rica (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos, INEC), Llocelin Reyes
Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (DEPE-ECLAC) as
Technical Secretariat, Alejandra Ovalle
International Labor Organization (ILO), David Hunter
United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Ralf Becker
México (Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía, INEGI) as coordinator, Eva Castillo Navarrete.

Besides the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is represented.

Subcommittees

The subcommittees are formed by representatives of the different NSOs, who develop specific activities according to the group's needs, for instance:

Training Subcommittee

Subcommittee for the translation of the CPC

Subcommittee for the review of the translation of ISCO-08

Subcommittee for the translation of the Implementation Guide for ISIC Rev. 4

WORK PROGRAM

The group carries out its activities in accordance with biennial work programs that are reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee of SCA-ECLAC.

FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS HELD

From year 2012 to the date the following face-to-face meetings have been held:

	PLACE	DATE
I	Santiago de Chile	September 10th-12th, 2012
II	Aguascalientes, Mexico	June 17th-20th, 2013
III	Bogota, Colombia	August 4th-7th, 2014
IV	San Jose de Costa Rica	August 24th-28th, 2015
V	City of Panama, Panama	August 8th-12th, 2016
VI	Havana, Cuba	September 25th-29th, 2017 (forthcoming)

It is important to note considerable communication between members is established and activities are followed up using the e-mail and the GTCI forum as means of communication.

PRODUCTS GENERATED SINCE THE CREATION OF THE GTCI UNTIL THE YEAR 2017

Below is a list of the most outstanding activities and products generated since the creation of the group, which are followed up to their conclusion.

Forum

1. The Electronic Forum of the GTCI was developed, which actively works as a tool for the discussion on classification issues, allowing members to clear their doubts in the group's regular meetings. The Forum was developed by the ECLAC.

Online Survey

2. The ECLAC implemented two Online Surveys on International Classifications in Latin America, regarding the adoption or adaptation of international classifications, in 2011 and 2016.

Spanish translations

3. The Spanish translation of the *Implementation Guide for International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC rev.4)*, was carried out and it was published in the GTCI forum in English and Spanish. The translation is the

outcome of the work carried out by the Subcommittee for the translation of the implementation Guide for ISIC Rev 4, formed by Argentina, Chile, Mexico and Saint Lucia.

4. The Spanish translation of the detailed structure and explanatory notes of the Central Product Classification (CPC) Ver. 2 was developed and it is posted on the UN website as a preliminary version. The translation is the outcome of the work carried out by the subcommittee for the translation of the CPC, formed by Chile, Colombia and Peru, with the support of the UNSD and INEGI (GTCI Coordination) during the process of the translation.
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/cr/registry/regcst.asp?cl=25&Lq=3>
5. Mexico translated the Central Product Classification (CPC) Ver. 2, from its cover to part 1.
6. The review of the translation of the International Standard Classifications of Occupations (ISCO-08) was carried out by the Subcommittee for the review of the ISCO, composed by Honduras, Mexico and Panama. The Spanish translation is about to be released by the ILO.
7. Mexico made the translation of the Broad Economic Categories (BEC) Rev. 5 Classification, as a support for the Spanish translation of the final English version.
8. Mexico translated the following documents for the knowledge of the NSO about the discussion of these topics in other classifications forums:
 - Report on issues encountered with ISIC Rev.4.
 - Conclusions of the Technical Subgroup meeting, 14-16 October 2014.
 - The Recording of Factoryless Goods Production in National and International Accounts.
 - Appropriateness of retail sales distinguished by sales channels.
 - Classification on holdings companies and head offices according to NACE Rev.2 (Presentation).
 - Classification on holdings companies and head offices according to NACE Rev.2 (Paper).
 - Issue paper on Classifying Factoryless Good Producers.

The Spanish translation of the documents noted above is an essential tool to support countries in the adoption or adaptation of the classifications.

List of agricultural products of the CPC Ver. 2

The Group has the list of agricultural products of the CPC Ver. 2 that are known with different names in the different NSOs but are the same product. The scientific names were added. The list will continue being complemented.

This is an indispensable tool to support the countries in the adoption or adaptation of the product classification. The work is a result of the Subcommittee for the translation of the CPC, integrated by Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Peru.

Horizontal collaborations

- Colombia advised Uruguay for the implementation of the CPC Ver. 2.
- Colombia advised Costa Rica for the adaptation of the CPC Ver. 2.1.
- Paraguay supported Peru for the translation of the ISCO.
- Paraguay informed about the horizontal collaboration with Brazil, since the latter country lent mobile capture devices and shared coding manuals, which include many examples to ensure as much as possible the automated and assisted coding.
- Mexico advised Ecuador with regard to the automated coding system.
- El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Mexico held a remote meeting (using Webex) to share experiences on automated and assisted coding systems in support of Nicaragua.

Likewise, the manuals or documents on the automated and assisted coding system were shared with the NSOs in order to begin their study and seek horizontal collaborations that support the development of such coding systems.

Scripts for ISCO and ISIC

- The proposal for the technical script of the ISCO will be presented at the VI meeting of the GTCI, so that the ILO develops the Spanish video that support the training of the NSOs. The script was developed by Costa Rica.
- The proposal for the technical script of the ISIC will be presented at the VI meeting of the GTCI, so that the UNSD develops the Spanish video that support the training of the NSOs. The script was developed by Mexico.

CONCLUSIONS

The GTCI is composed by a Steering Committee and Subcommittees formed by the different NSOs. The meetings are not conferences, they are not divided into sessions or workgroups, all the work is held at the same space. The face-to-face meetings of GTCI are very productive, without them it would not be possible to more precisely learn the needs of the countries of the region on the support they require for the adoption or adaptation of international classifications, they have “value added” because only then can all the elements set out by the NSOs be gathered and considered altogether, in order to determine, plan and carry out actions that effectively support them in the adoption or adaptation of international classifications. The questions and answers sessions enrich the knowledge allowing to ensure a better interpretation and application of the classifications. The following results are foreseen: strengthen the communication to support the adoption of international classifications in the countries of the region; improve the regional coordination for the production of economic and social statistics in the Latin America and Caribbean countries; achieve greater comparability in the statistics of the region; adopt the international classifications in their different reviews; form a network of experts from the

region in international classifications, and have international classifications that consider the needs of the countries of the region.