UNITED NATIONS
10TH GLOBAL FORUM
ON GENDER STATISTICS

1-3 OCTOBER 2025
TBILISI, GEORGIA

Time-use measurement in national labour force surveys

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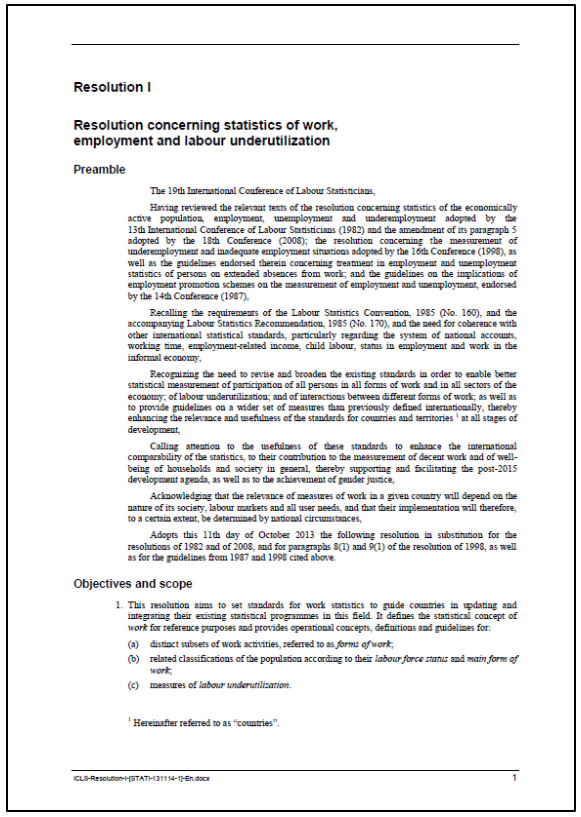
Relevant international standards and classification schemes



Resolution I

Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization

Preamble

The 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians,

Having reviewed the relevant texts of the resolution concerning statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment adopted by the 13th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (1982) and the amendment of its paragraph 5 adopted by the 18th Conference (2008); the resolution concerning the measurement of underemployment and inadequate employment situations adopted by the 16th Conference (1998), as well as the guidelines endorsed therein concerning treatment in employment and unemployment statistics of persons on extended absences from work; and the guidelines on the implications of employment promotion schemes on the measurement of employment and unemployment, endorsed by the 14th Conference (1987),

Recalling the requirements of the Labour Statistics Convention, 1985 (No. 160), and the accompanying Labour Statistics Recommendation, 1985 (No. 170), and the need for coherence with other international statistical standards, particularly regarding the system of national accounts, working time, employment-related income, child labour, status in employment and work in the informal economy,

Recognizing the need to revise and broaden the existing standards in order to enable better statistical measurement of participation of all persons in all forms of work and in all sectors of the economy; of labour underutilization; and of interactions between different forms of work; as well as to provide guidelines on a wider set of measures than previously defined internationally, thereby enhancing the relevance and usefulness of the standards for countries and territories [1] at all stages of development,

Calling attention to the usefulness of these standards to enhance the international comparability of the statistics, to their contribution to the measurement of decent work and of well-being of households and society in general, thereby supporting and facilitating the post-2015 development agenda, as well as to the achievement of gender justice,

Acknowledging that the relevance of measures of work in a given country will depend on the nature of its society, labour markets and all user needs, and that their implementation will therefore, to a certain extent, be determined by national circumstances,

Adopts this 11th day of October 2013 the following resolution in substitution for the resolutions of 1982 and of 2008, and for paragraphs 8(1) and 9(1) of the resolution of 1998, as well as for the guidelines from 1987 and 1998 cited above.

Objectives and scope

1. This resolution aims to set standards for work statistics to guide countries in updating and integrating their existing statistical programmes in this field. It defines the statistical concept of *work* for reference purposes and provides operational concepts, definitions and guidelines for:

(a) distinct subsets of work activities, referred to as *forms of work*;

(b) related classifications of the population according to their *labour force status* and *main form of work*;

(c) measures of *labour underutilization*.

[1] Hereinafter referred to as "countries".

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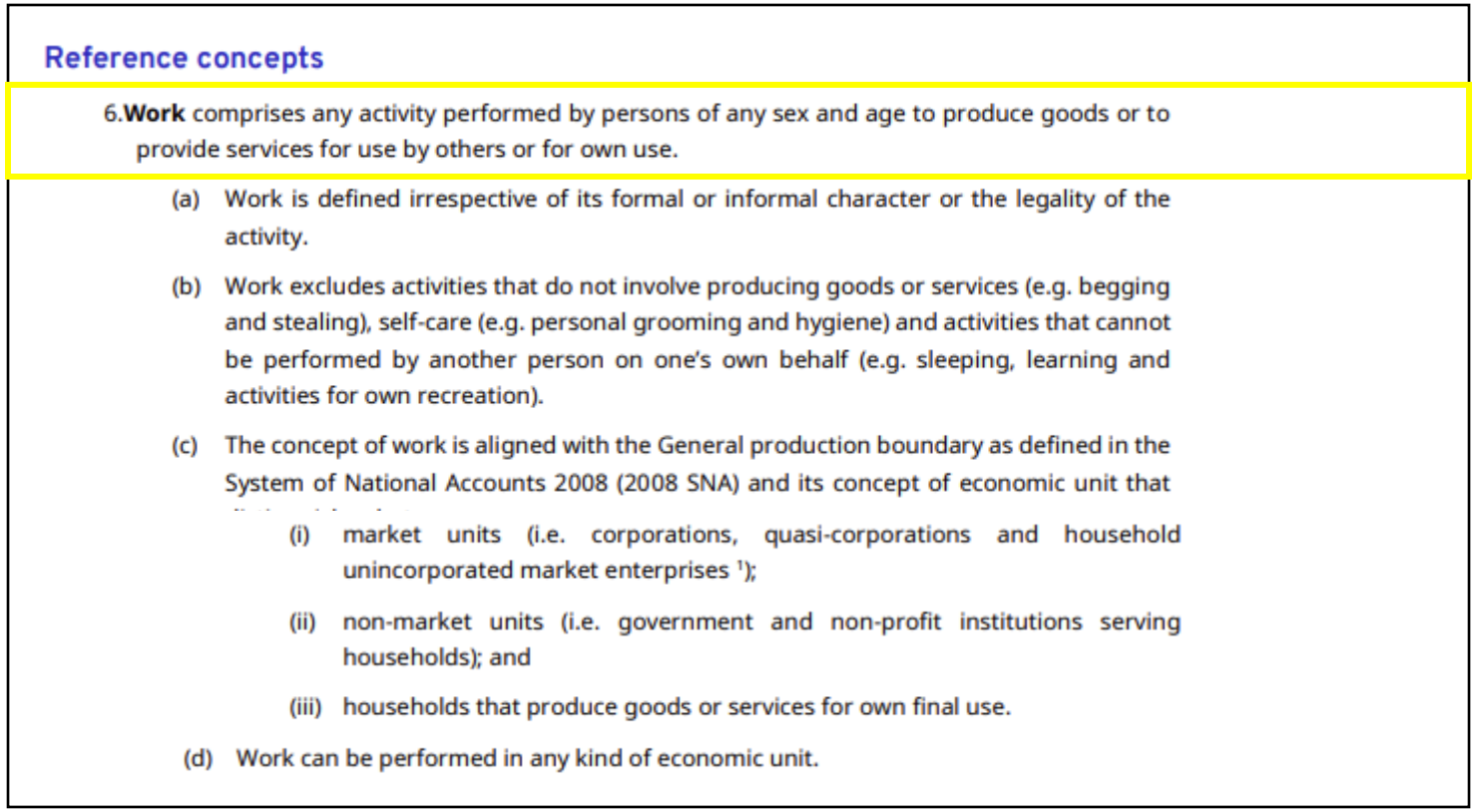

Reference concepts

6. **Work** comprises any activity performed by persons of any sex and age to produce goods or to provide services for use by others or for own use.

(a) Work is defined irrespective of its formal or informal character or the legality of the activity.

(b) Work excludes activities that do not involve producing goods or services (e.g. begging and stealing), self-care (e.g. personal grooming and hygiene) and activities that cannot be performed by another person on one's own behalf (e.g. sleeping, learning and activities for own recreation).

(c) The concept of work is aligned with the General production boundary as defined in the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA) and its concept of economic unit that

(i) market units (i.e. corporations, quasi-corporations and household unincorporated market enterprises [1]);

(ii) non-market units (i.e. government and non-profit institutions serving households); and

(iii) households that produce goods or services for own final use.

(d) Work can be performed in any kind of economic unit.

Source: Resolution 1, 19th ICLS (2013, page 3, paragraph 6)

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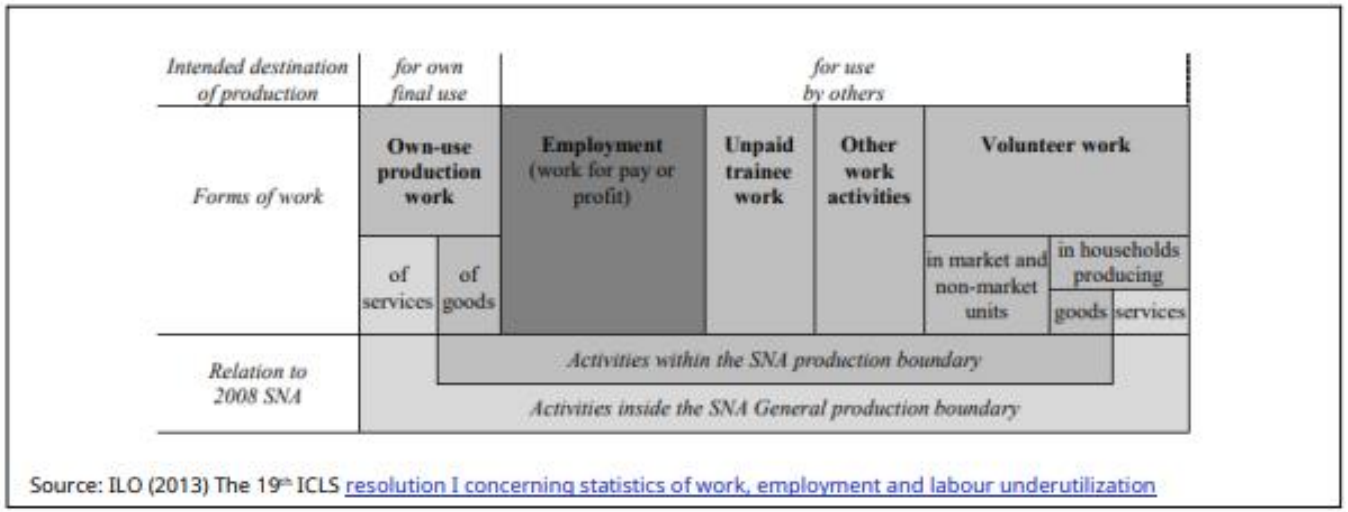
Relevant international standards and classification schemes



Source: ILO (2013) The 19th ICLS resolution I concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization

Resolution I of the 19th ICLS specifies five separate and mutually exclusive forms of work – care work can be performed as any form or work – the form of work is determined by the destination of the resulting goods or services – and the role of remuneration. It brings own-use provision of services work – unpaid domestic and care work - within scope of official statistics for the first time.

This framework provides a foundation for the delineation of care work – and the characteristics of those who perform it – within each form of work, as well as for monitoring and mapping shifts in the distribution and volume of care work undertaken across different forms of work.

Source: Resolution 1, 19th ICLS (2013, page 3, paragraph 6)

Relevant international standards and classification schemes

ICATUS Major Divisions
1 Employment and related activities
2 Production of goods for own final use
3 Unpaid domestic services for household and family members
4 Unpaid caregiving services for household and family members
5 Unpaid volunteer, trainee, and other unpaid work
6 Learning
7 Socializing and communication, community participation, and religious practice
8 Culture, leisure, mass media and sports practices
9 Self-care and maintenance

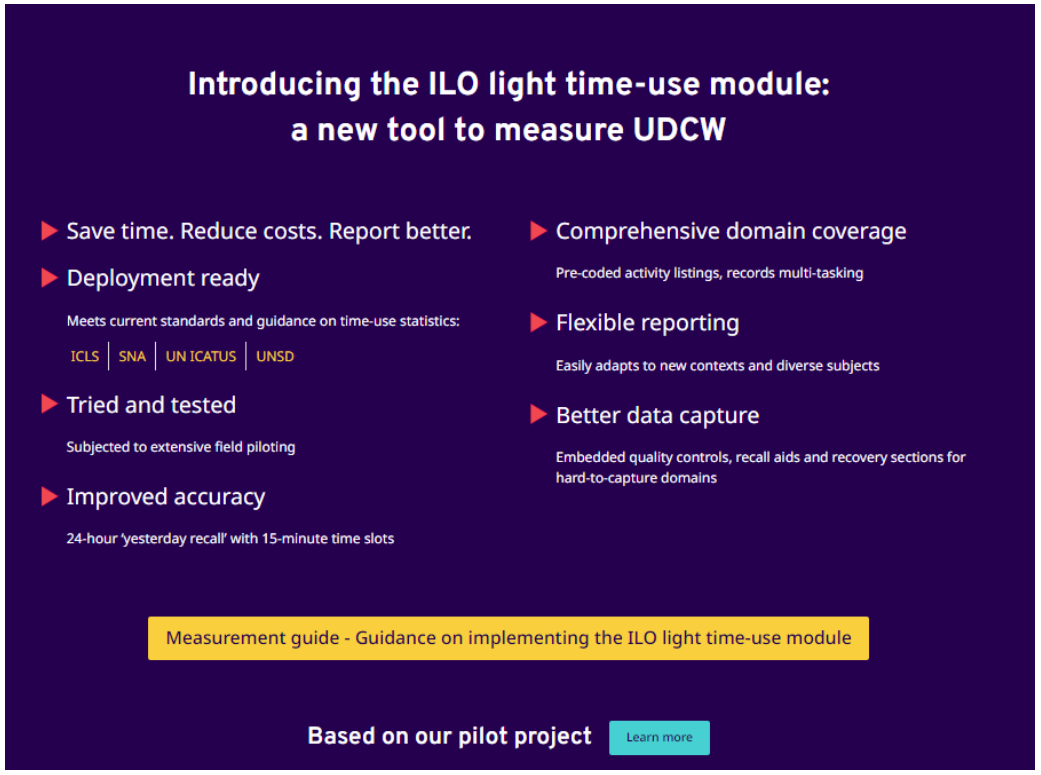
ICATUS-16 - *the international classification of activities for time-use statistics* - is a three-level hierarchically organised classification scheme with 9 *major divisions* (one digit), disaggregated across 56 *divisions* (two-digit), and 165 *groups* (three digit), with 53 three-digit groups for OPS work alone.

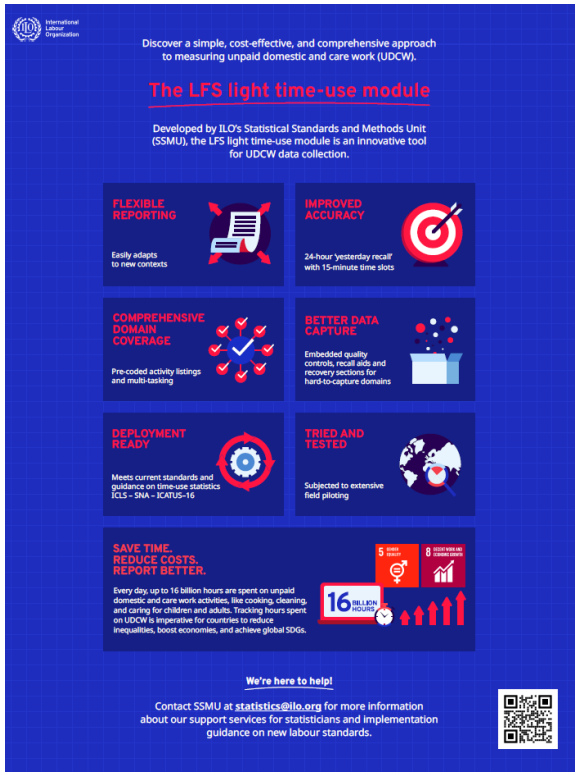
The scheme is harmonised to the **UN SNA** - *UN System of National Accounts* - production boundary and general production boundary, and to the **19th ICLS forms of work framework**.

ICATUS-16 provides **a scheme** for the classification of **all activities performed by persons** (regional schemes are also available – increasingly harmonised to ICATUS, e.g., HETUS (Europe), CAUTAL (Latin America and the Caribbean)

It offers an internationally agreed scheme for the classification, measurement, and mapping of **own-use provision of services / unpaid domestic and care work.**

Data sources: Time-use measurement and care work





[Statistical standards and methods - ILOSTAT]

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Data sources: Time-use measurement and care work

❖ **Features of the OPS light time-use module for attachment to labour force surveys (LFS)**

- The LFS add-on modules measure OPS within a **full accounting of daily time-use**, to guard against known measurement issues encountered when data collection is restricted by domain(s)
- Recommended topics for data collection using the LFS add-on module include:

❖ Time use activities (comprehensive domain coverage, aligned to ICATUS-16)

➢ *Recommended, but optional for countries: Simultaneous activities (comprehensive domain coverage)*

❖ Timing, sequencing, and duration of activities in minutes and hours

❖ Contextual information (conditioned by activity)

✓ Location / travel purpose
✓ Co-presence
✓ Beneficiary type
✓ Market orientation

➢ *Guidance included for additional context items:* ICT use, affect / wellbeing, mode of transport

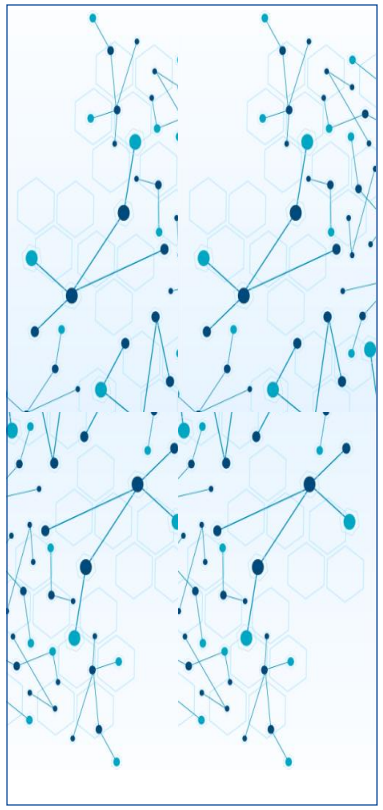
❖Direct questions on passive/supervisory care for household and family members

Data sources: Time-use measurement and care work

❖ Overarching considerations for the modular approach

- ❑ **National LFS offer a number of advantages for modular time use:**
  - ✓ Relatively large sample sizes, characterised by rigorous sampling, and data collection methodologies ensure the representativeness of the data and minimise threats to data quality
  - ✓ Established protocols for secure data collection, transfer, and storage, and timely release
- ❑ However, the attachment of the light time-use module may require non-trivial modifications to LFS field operations, the extent of which will vary according to the standard practices for LFS in each country
  - ○ Modifications may impact timelines and resource needs - sufficient lead time should be allowed for planning

Data to policy: Time-use measurement and care work



- Policies to address barriers to education, labour force participation, decent work, and inequalities in earnings and asset ownership
- Social protection and social welfare policies and budgets
- Infrastructure development, public services and utilities provisioning
- Key input into national policy and budget plans for education, healthcare, and transport
- Key inputs into national care policies and plans – and *comprehensive care systems*
- More comprehensive national accounts – including the scale and contours of shifts from household to market-based service provision (and vice versa)
- Innovative accounting approaches, such as national time transfer accounts (NTTA)

Data to policy: Time-use measurement and care work

- **SDG Indicators and time-use data**

SDG 1: Data on relationships between economic poverty and time poverty (as part of multi-dimensional poverty analysis)

SDG3: Data on the intra-household and intra-familial provision of healthcare (the majority of healthcare – most of which is provided by women)

SDG 4: Data on the intra-household and intra-familial provision of early years education …and the barriers to education imposed by unequal OPS burdens

SDGs 5, 8, 10: Data on relationships between gendered divisions of labour (paid and unpaid work) - expressed as and through - broader gender-based inequalities

SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11: Data on the relationship between service provision (e.g., potable water, electricity, transport infrastructure) on unpaid domestic and care work time

Data to policy: Time-use measurement and care work

❖ **Fostering policy uptake of time use data on own use provision of services**

Time use data that is demand-driven (rather than supply-driven) is more likely to be used in public policies and programs.

Time use data that is high quality (unbiased, rigorous, relevant, timely, actionable, easy to understand and easy to explain is more likely to be used

Effective communication and a clear dissemination strategy are vital – as is stakeholder engagement – nationally, regionally, internationally

A broader evidence-based culture nurtures the use of time use data to develop policy and monitor progress

But timing is also important (Data produced and reported at the start of an elected government is more likely to influence policy than data that is reported at the end of the government)

Context matters - Locally relevant policy issues influence the way TU data is analysed and utilised.

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Thank you, გმადლობთ

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