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**4th Expert Group Meeting on the revision and finalization of the
International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics (ICATUS)**

**New York, 28-30 June 2016
United Nations Headquarters Conference Room 9 in the Conference Building (CB)**

Recommendations*

Prepared by

United Nations Statistics Division

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**Recommendations of the
4th Expert Group Meeting on the revision and finalization of the
International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics (ICATUS),
New York, 28-30 June 2016**

1. The Expert Group welcomed the opportunity to review and finalize the International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics (ICATUS), and appreciated the work undertaken over the years to improve and simplify the classification since ICATUS was first discussed in 1997. In particular, the experts recognised the efforts that had been made to align ICATUS with the International Labour Organization (ILO) framework for work statistics adopted in 2013 by the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), as part of the Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization. Experts also noted that the timely finalization of ICATUS was an important input for monitoring progress made towards achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), including for target 5.4,[1] focusing on measuring and valuing unpaid domestic and caregiving services. They requested that the documentation for ICATUS should properly reflect the relevance of ICATUS for SDG monitoring.

2. The Expert Group acknowledged the importance of ICATUS as an umbrella classification "broadly" classifying time use activities, and applicable in both developed and developing countries. The Expert Group also welcomed ICATUS as a dissemination framework for time use statistics that are internationally comparable and relevant for both social and economic policies.

3. Experts emphasized the importance of time use surveys (TUS) to collect information on many policy concerns, and in particular on unpaid work, including unpaid economic activities for the production of services that are beyond the System of National Accounts (SNA) production boundary, and agreed on the importance of aligning ICATUS with the SNA.

4. Furthermore, recognising the advantage of time use surveys in capturing time spent on certain forms of work that may be missed or not properly measured in labour force surveys (LFS), the experts noted the importance of maintaining the connection between time use surveys and labour force surveys, by ensuring information on employment classified by occupation, industry and status in employment is collected in TUS background questionnaires. They noted that information collected in the time use diary could be used, where relevant, to refine and improve the quality of the employment information collected in the background questionnaire.

5. The Experts took note of the ILO's plans to report, by the end of 2016, on progress with methodological developments and pilot testing in selected countries related to the implementation of the 19th ICLS Resolution, and to develop a set of preliminary guidelines on distinguishing between employment and own use production work, in the context of LFS. The results of this work would inform the development of guidance on

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[1] Target 5.4: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

questions to be included in the TUS background questionnaire as well as specific recommendations on the contextual variables included in diaries.

6. The Experts stressed the importance of using consistent terminologies throughout the Classification and to ensure its alignment with existing international standards. Experts also requested more extensive metadata (explanatory notes) with clear definitions and multiple examples on how to classify activities.

Decisions related to Major Division 1: Employment and related activities

7. The Experts stressed the importance of capturing the time spent on activities in household employment in time use surveys and to properly highlight them in ICATUS through detailed groups. The Expert Group also agreed to use a less technical terminology in the classification of employment. As such the Group agreed on the following:
     a. Division 12 to be split into two divisions and renamed into:
        12 - "Employment in household enterprises to produce goods";
        13 - "Employment in households and household enterprises to provide services";

   The Experts agreed on additional changes that have been reflected in the version of ICATUS attached as Annex 3 to the report of the meeting.

8. It was noted that many of the detailed activity groups specified in Divisions 12 and 13 were aligned with relevant categories in the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC rev. 4). Experts agreed that this would promote coherence between time use statistics and statistics on employment and industrial production classified by economic activity, but that it could also result in misinterpretation by users of the statistics, as the activity of a worker at a particular point of time will frequently be different from the primary activity of the establishment where he or she works. It was important to stress this point in the ICATUS documentation, noting that the unit classified in time use statistics (the time use activity) was not the same as the economic units classified in employment and production statistics, typically the establishment.

9. It was pointed out by experts that due to the fact that time use surveys cannot properly capture the formality/informality of work, nor the legality of the production unit, any distinctions based on "formality/informality" or "registered/unregistered" status of economic units should be avoided in the terminology used in ICATUS.

Decisions related to Major Division 4: Unpaid Care work

10. The experts stressed the importance of distinguishing the care provided to children "aged 5 or under" from the care for children "between age 6 and 17", given the different intensity and type of care provided. To collect data that reflect such distinction, it was suggested to specify the two age groups in the contextual variable "with whom", as already recommended by Harmonised European Time Use Survey (HETUS) and selected countries.

11. The Experts took note that Division 42 (care for dependent adults) refers to caring activities for adults who suffer chronic physical or mental illness or any disabilities. It was suggested by the experts that caring for older persons should also be covered. In

contrast, Division 43 covers activities that are provided to other adult household members including those who are temporarily dependent (Group 431).

Decisions related to Major Division 5: Unpaid volunteer, trainee and other unpaid work

12. The Experts acknowledged the importance of time use surveys in capturing data on volunteering, activities usually not collected by labour force surveys. The Experts pointed out that the wording/labels used in the draft for volunteering under division 51 and 52 referred to both the activities performed as a volunteer and to the entity benefiting from the volunteering. They requested simplification of the labels and content of the categories, by focusing on the activities only, stressing that the beneficiary/ies will be identified through the contextual variable "for whom".

13. They also took note that ICATUS Major Division 5 covers all the work activities not classified under major divisions 1 to 4 and includes unpaid volunteering, unpaid trainee and unpaid compulsory work (Division 54). It was suggested by the Group to rename the Division as "Other unpaid work activities" and to include the reference to compulsory unpaid work activities in the metadata. The name of Major Division 5 was similarly modified.

14. Experts discussed the classification of unpaid work performed "for related family members", not living in the same household as the beneficiary. There was a discussion about whether, for example, the provision of care for children by grandparents who do not live in the same household should be considered as "volunteering". Some argued against considering care from grandparents as volunteering because grandparents are sometimes considered as "family" members. According to the 19th ICLS, this type of work should not be considered "volunteering" and as such it was proposed to include it under major divisions 3 and 4. Experts pointed out the lack of an internationally-agreed definition of "families" and requested to reflect this in the metadata and to also specify in the metadata that care provided by extended family members such as grandparents should not be considered as volunteering.

Decisions related to Major Division 6 to 9: Personal activities

15. The Experts agreed:
    a. To avoid using terminology such as "non-productive" when referring to activities falling outside the SNA general production boundary and to rather call them "personal activities" given that certain activities such as education contribute to human capital and are productive;
    b. To separate "extra-curricular activities" from Group 611 (school/university attendance) and create a new Group under 61;
    c. To delete the reference to waiting from the codes label throughout the classification and to explain in the metadata that "waiting" time should be coded together with the main activity associated with the waiting;
    d. To delete groups 714 (negative social activities – arguing, conflicts, fights) and 715 (begging) as it would be very unlikely to have people reporting time spent on these two types of activities;
    e. To rename Major Division 8 into "Culture, leisure, mass-media and sports practices".

       f.   To delete the mention to "related courses" in all groups under division 82 and to clarify in the metadata that "courses" should be classified under learning rather than under leisure.

       g.   To move activities associated with "reflecting, resting, relaxing" from major division 9 to major division 8 (as Division 85), and to collapse all groups under division 85 into one.

16. There was a discussion on whether "paid tutoring services" should be separated from doing homework in Group 630. Privately paid tutoring services that are outside of formal schooling are prevalent in many countries and considered important. However, some experts expressed concerns about this proposal given the difficulty in capturing this information as the respondent might be reporting "taking classes" or "studying" rather than specifying that the course was provided by a private tutor. UNSD agreed to seek guidance from UNESCO and to report back to the group.

17. The experts agreed that time use surveys are a good instrument for collecting information on the use of information and communication technology (ICT), particularly if additional information on the purpose/activity using ICT is available. As a consequence, the group recommended adding a contextual variable on the use of ICT while undertaking each activity carried out in a 24H period. The Experts agreed that until diary instruments can be sufficiently developed to distinguish internet use from non-internet use in connection with the activity, it is preferable to include a contextual variable identifying use of an ICT "device" only. Furthermore, the group discouraged the use of a specific activity code in ICATUS as this would probably only include residual time passed using ICT that cannot be properly classified elsewhere and requested to delete Group 844.

18. The experts agreed that time spent on social media should be classified with the activity (or purpose) for which time is spent on. For example, if a person is shopping via social media, the activity should be classified as shopping.

19. Regarding the recording of travel time, experts noted the importance of gathering information on purpose for travel and mode of transportation and agreed to keep travel time with each major activity, as currently classified in ICATUS.

Decisions related to future work of UNSD on ICATUS and time use statistics

20. The Experts supported the proposed activities to finalise ICATUS (as described in the Report of this meeting) and to revise the UNSD publication *Guide to Producing Statistics on Time-Use: Measuring Paid and Unpaid Work,* reflecting the revisions introduced in ICATUS. More specifically, the experts requested that the guidelines should

       a.   Emphasize the importance of using diaries to collect time use statistics

       b.   Provide good practices on improving response rate to time use surveys.

       c.   Provide guidance on how time use surveys could be aligned with work statistics through the use of consistent harmonized concepts and classifications.