Update on statistical classifications

ISIC Rev.4

- Meeting of the Technical Subgroup on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (TSG-ISIC) in New York 18-20 June 2019 discussed several issues with ISIC

- the TSG-ISIC concluded that these issues cannot be addressed within the current structure of ISIC. However, the extent of the changes to ISIC can be assessed only after a global consultation

- A global assessment was launched on 13 September 2019 to countries, international regional organizations and relevant expert groups

- Based on the results of the global assessment, the TSG ISIC will prepare a report to the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications containing recommendations on the extent of the revision of ISIC

Initial list of issues

- Internet retail sales and e-Commerce sales
- Intermediaries in service activities
- Audio and video content distribution
- The distinction between wholesale and retail trade
- Factoryless goods producers (FGPs)
- Technology and the application of new technology
- Statistical units

The full summary report of the meeting of the TSG-ISIC is available online at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/classifications/ExpertGroup/TSG-ISIC2019/Summary_Report_TSG-ISIC_2019.pdf

Classification of Business Functions

- The classification of business function is being develop to better capture and reflect the organization of business functions within a multinational enterprise

- Building on the experience of the Eurostat International Sourcing Survey

- It is expected that
    - an expert group will be organized in the first half of 2020
    - global consultation on the business function classification
    - Submission to the Expert Group on International Classification for their endorsement
    - expected to be finalized towards the end of 2020

Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS)

- WCO Conference on the Future of the Harmonized System was held 2-3 May 2018

- Identified some factors that need to be considered in the revision of HS, such as globalisation and the rise of Global Value Chains and intermediate goods, and others

- Formulated a project to further examine potential areas of change for HS

- A follow-up WCO Committee meeting took place 23-26 September 2019 to take the review forward

Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC)

- 5th revision of the Classification by Broad Economic Categories was endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2016 for use as an international statistical classification

- The BEC Rev. 5 was published in 2018 and is available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/classifications/bec.asp

Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)

- UNSD is in the process of circulating a proposal to undertake a 5th revision of the SITC in collaboration with the WCO in preparation of the forthcoming 2022 edition of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS 2022)

The AEG is invited to

- take note of the ongoing work on these classifications

Thank you