

Statistical Commission
Fifty-second session
1–3 and 5 March 2021
Item 3(k) of the provisional agenda

Background document
Available in English only

Items for discussion and decision: International statistical classifications

Terms of Reference for the Task Team on CPC (TT-CPC)

Prepared by the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications

Terms of Reference for the Task Team on CPC (TT-CPC)

Draft submitted to the Statistical Commission at its 52nd session

Background

1. At the 2017 meeting of the UN Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications¹ discussion took place on whether there were sufficient issues to warrant a revision of the Central Product Classification (CPC). The Expert Group noted that whilst there had been minimal issues presented to the Classifications Hotline, or through the Discussion Forum, potential changes in the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) may impact on CPC definitions. An assessment, at that time, was not undertaken as in-depth discussion of ISIC changes and the approved guidance on intermediaries was needed. It was also noted that these items may not constitute sufficient need for a CPC change, particularly with pending HS 2022 and SIEC revisions that may provide substantive input for a review/change of the goods part of the CPC. Therefore, the Expert Group decided to wait until this information was available before recommending that a review occur.
2. Consequently, the Expert Group in November 2020 considered a report from the Technical Sub-Group (TSG-ISIC) which outlined the investigation and analysis of issues raised in relation to the suitability of the current International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) Rev.4. Many of the issues raised and assessed in that process identified the need to also consider a revision of the Central Product Classification (CPC).
3. In accordance with the decision of the UN Statistical Commission at its 52nd Session to initiate the revision of the Central Product Classification (CPC), a Task Team on CPC (TT-CPC) is formed to conduct the revision of CPC. This note presents the draft terms of reference of the TT-CPC of the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications (UNCEISC). The TT-CPC therefore reports to the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications (UNCEISC).

Scope of Work

4. The TT-CPC will carry out the following tasks:
 - (a) Assess the proposed solutions to issues raised as presented in the TSG-ISIC report² to the Expert Group for relevance and impact on CPC and identify any further issues for resolution.
 - (b) Work with UNSD to enable global consultation with countries and relevant international and regional organizations on those issues to take place.
 - (c) Assess changes to the Harmonised System 2022 for impact on CPC.
 - (d) Analyse the result of the consultation and develop a draft structure for CPC V3.0 including definitional text and guidance notes.
 - (e) Circulate the proposed draft structure and content of a revised CPC to the UNCEISC for review.
 - (f) Revise the draft CPC based on UNCEISC feedback.
 - (g) Circulate revised draft CPC for a final global consultation and finalization.
 - (h) Develop correspondences to CPC Ver.2, HS2022, ISIC and BEC.

¹ The Expert Group on International Statistical Classification changed its name to United Nations Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classification in 2021

² We will include the reference to the document later

- (i) Finalise the revised CPC and present with a report to the UNCEISC for endorsement.

Composition of the TT-CPC

5. The composition of the TT-CPC will comprise not only members of the UNCEISC but also members from other relevant task teams , committees of experts, and relevant international organisations as appropriate to ensure complementarity between programs and to advance an integrated statistics approach in the broader area of economic statistics.

6. Expressions of interest from UNCEISC members for active participation in the TT-CPC will be sought.

7. The TT-CPC currently consist of the following members:

- Mr. Franklin Assoumou Ndong (Canada)
- Mr. Avneet Kaur (India)
- Ms. Ana Franco (Eurostat)
- Mr. Claude Macchi (Eurostat)
- Mr. Andrew Hancock (New Zealand)
- Mr. Thomas Alexander (IMF)
- Mr. Jorrit Zwijnenburg (OECD)
- Mr. John Mitchell (OECD)
- Mr. Ivo Havinga (UNSD)
- Ms. Ilaria di Matteo (UNSD)
- Mr. Zhiyuan Qian (UNSD)

8. UNSD serves as the Secretariat of the TT-CPC.

Organisation of work

9. The TT-CPC will communicate through email, wiki and virtual meetings. A physical meeting is not proposed at this time, but, depending on circumstance, this may be reconsidered at a later stage.

Timeline

- Mar 2021 – UNSC mandates the revision of CPC
- Apr-Nov 2021 – conduct a global consultation to collect issues with the classification and review results of that consultation
- Dec 2021 – Develop a complete draft structure of the revised CPC
- Jan 2022 onwards – Revise and finalize explanatory notes and correspondences, circulate the finalized classification for global consultation and submit for approval process of the revised Central Product Classification
- Mar 2023 – adoption of the revised CPC by the UNSC.