

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 ISIC (TT-ISIC)

Prepared by the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications

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

Draft submitted to the Statistical Commission at its 52nd session

Background

1. The Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications 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.
2. The TSG-ISIC had been asked to carry out the following tasks:
 - (a) Reassess the issues presented in ESA/STAT/AC.315/4 – Final Report Meeting of the Technical Subgroup for the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) and ESA/STAT/AC.340-BK10 – Do current issues require a revision of ISIC? for relevance and impacting a revision of ISIC.
 - (b) Assess issues raised in the NACE and NAICS proposals for relevance and impact for influencing a revision of ISIC
 - (c) Consolidate a list of issues from 1 and 2 above, and work with UNSD to enable global consultation on those issues to take place
 - (d) Analyse the results of the consultation and identify issues for which ‘case law’ could provide resolution.
 - (e) Analyse the extent of the remaining issues which could not be solved by case law and, if they are significant, make proposals of change in the present version of ISIC and, if necessary, recommend to the Expert Group on International Statistical Classification that a revision of ISIC take place.
3. The global consultation was undertaken in 2019 and the issues identified in that consultation were consolidated with the other known issues for the TSG-ISIC to assess. The TSG-ISIC undertook a series of virtual meetings during 2020 along with the use of a discussion wiki hosted by UNSD to discuss and scope the scale of the issues before it. The scale of the issues also highlighted issues for the Central Product Classification (CPC) resulting in a recommendation for CPC to be revised. Given the scale of issues before it and the scope of change required, the TSG-ISIC recommended a comprehensive revision of ISIC which was endorsed by the Expert Group on International Statistical Classification¹ in November 2020.
4. In accordance with the decision of the UN Statistical Commission at its 52nd Session to initiate the revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 4, a Task Team on ISIC (TT-ISIC) is formed to conduct the revision of ISIC. This note presents the draft terms of reference of the TT-ISIC of the Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications (UNCEISC). The TT-ISIC therefore reports to the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications (UNCEISC)

Scope of Work

5. The TT-ISIC will carry out the following tasks:

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

- (a) Agree on solutions for each issue raised in the TSG-ISIC report, 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 and solutions identified in Task 1 above to take place.
- (c) Analyse the result of the consultation and develop a draft structure for ISIC Rev 5 including definitional text and guidance notes
- (d) Circulate the proposed draft structure and content of ISIC to the UNCEISC for review
- (e) Revise the draft ISIC based on UNCEISC feedback
- (f) Circulate revised draft ISIC for a final global consultation and finalization
- (g) Develop correspondences to ISIC Rev.4, CPC Ver.2, and develop a coding index
- (h) Finalise the revised ISIC and present with a report to the UNCEISC for endorsement

Composition of the TT-ISIC

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

7. Expressions of interest from other UNCEISC members for active participation in the TT-ISIC will be sought.

8. The TT-ISIC currently consists of the following members:

- Mr. Franklin Assoumou Ndong (Canada), Chair of the TT-ISIC
- Mr. Francisco de Souza Marta (Brazil)
- Mr. Wei Ran (China)
- Ms. Clotilde Masson (France)
- Mr. Anthony Kofi Krakah (Ghana)
- Mr. Shinji Ueda (Japan)
- Mr. Abdelkader Choqiri (Morocco)
- Mr. Andrew Hancock (New Zealand)
- Ms. Severa Belista De Costo (Philippines)
- Ms. Cindia Duc Sfez (Switzerland)
- Mr. Oliver Gallusser (Switzerland)
- Ms. Fay Dorsett (USA)
- Mr. Andrew Kanutin (ECB)
- Ms. Ana Franco (Eurostat)
- Mr. Claude Macchi (Eurostat)
- Ms. Lara Badre (ILO)
- Ms. Francien Berry (IMF)
- Ms. Jennifer Ribarsky (IMF)
- Mr. John Mitchell (OECD)
- Mr. Jorrit Zwijnenburg (OECD)
- Mr. Hermanus Smith (UNSD)
- Mr. Ivo Havinga (UNSD)
- Ms. Ilaria di Matteo (UNSD)
- Mr. Zhiyuan Qian (UNSD)

UNSD serves as the Secretariat of the TT-ISIC.

Organisation of work

9. The TT-ISIC will mainly 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 ISIC
- Apr-Nov 2021 – finalize the list of proposal changes; conduct and review results of a global consultation
- Dec 2021 – Develop a complete draft structure of the revised ISIC
- Jan 2022-Dec 2022 – Finalize explanatory notes, correspondences to ISIC Rev.4, CPC Ver.2, and a coding index; circulate the finalized classification for global consultation and submit for approval process of the revised International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC)
- Dec 2022 – submission of the revised ISIC for adoption by the UNSC in March 2023.