

# Meeting of the Chief Statisticians of the UN System

Rome, 10 September 2014  
FAO Headquarters, Philippines Room, C-277  
14:00 – 17:30

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## Official country names and groupings – briefing on the M.49 Classification “Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use” (Item 6 of the provisional agenda)

The *Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use* (Series M, N.49/Rev.4) presents a list of names of countries or areas used as a common reference for statistical processing purposes by the Statistics Division of the UN Secretariat. Each country is assigned a unique three-digit numerical code by the Statistics Division and a three-digit alphabetical code by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The M.49 system was first developed in 1969 to facilitate information transmission and the standardization of material for data processing, and has since evolved as an international standard coding system. It is also being used for other purposes outside statistical compiling and computing applications. The countries and areas listed in the *Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use* are based on United Nations membership where member governments (and a few other UN observers and territorial entities under the jurisdiction of sovereign states) are providing data for statistical outputs of the Division.

The first list of *Areas Codes for Statistical Use* was printed in 1969, and revised in 1975, 1982, 1996 and 1999, the last major revision undertaken in all languages. Since then, regular updates and maintenance is posted both in English and French at the UN Statistics Division website at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49.htm>. The full listing of current country codes is presented in Annex 1.

### Management of the revision process:

In the case of the announcement/proclamation of a new sovereign nation or an official change of name or area nomenclature, the revision is governed by the respective General Assembly resolution. Country terminology is codified by the *United Nations Terminology Unit*. For other entities, including sub-national entities, terminology is determined in consultation with those member states that might have an interest in the matter. The consultations are lead by the UN Secretariat’s Office of Legal Affairs.

Regular updates and maintenance to the country names and three-digit numerical and alpha codes in the list of the *Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use* are made only when following situations occur:

1. An official change in the name of country or area, while its geographical coverage remains the same. This change is not usually accompanied by a change of the country’s numerical code, but possibly by a change in the ISO alphanumerical

code, e.g. in the case of Burkina Faso, previously listed as Upper Volta: Codes 854, HVO changed to 854, BFA.

2. A major change in the geographical coverage of a country or area. This is generally accompanied by a change in the name of the country and numerical code used for statistical purposes. Possible scenarios include:
  - a) Two countries merge into one sovereign state as in the case of (276) Germany formerly (278) German Democratic Republic and (280) the Federal Republic of Germany
  - b) A country may separate or dissolve as (890) the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia where its states declared independence to become for instance (070) Bosnia and Herzegovina, (191) Croatia, etc.
  - c) A country may secede or achieve independence or autonomy from another as in the situation of (084) Belize which was formerly part of (826) United Kingdom.
  - d) A sovereign country agrees and allows its autonomous entities or territories to provide their own data to the Statistics Division. For example (248) Aland Islands, a province of Finland. These entities can therefore apply for their own unique numerical code and M.49 inclusion, if they meet the following 2 criteria:
    - i. Agreement of the territory to provide standard statistical data for international use (e.g. response to the questionnaire of the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics)
    - ii. Clearance and official agreement with the member state that the territory provide separate statistics for international reporting.

### Partnership with ISO

The ISO is a non-governmental organization that promotes development of world standards with a view to facilitating international exchange of goods and services and to develop mutual co-operation in the sphere of intellectual, scientific, technological and economic activity. ISO assigns its codes according to its own very formal procedures. ISO 3166 *Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions* is a comprehensive and the most widely used standard solution for coding country names. In a special institutional and working arrangement with the UN Statistics Division, ISO 3166-1 publishes the three-digit numerical codes developed and maintained under the UN *Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistical Use* (Series M.49). Similarly the Statistics Division provides the alphabetical codes with its own listing for reference convenience. The two secretariats try to ensure consistency but neither set is fully inclusive of the other.

### Groupings of countries

The geographical regions and groupings of countries and areas included at the M.49 website are not comprehensive but only a selection which are or may be used in the

compilation of statistics. In order to ensure consistency in statistics and for convenience, each country or area is shown in one region only. The macro geographical regions are arranged to the extent possible according to continents. Within these groupings more detailed component geographical regions are shown. The current groupings used are reflected in Annex 2. Details on the countries included in each group can be found at the M.49 website at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49.htm>.

## Annex 1: Listing of country and area codes.

### Countries or areas, codes and abbreviations

#### Recent changes:

As of 25 October 2013, the country name "**Cabo Verde**" replaces this Member State's former name of Cape Verde (code 132).

As of December 2012, the designation of "**State of Palestine**" replaces "Occupied Palestinian Territory" (code 275).

As of July of 2011:

**South Sudan** (9/07/11- **728**  
**Sudan** (9/07/11- **729** Refers to the new Sudan, now excluding the southern part.  
**Sudan** (12/11/56-8/07/11) **736** Old code "retired" to be used for historical/statistical analysis.

(listing in alphabetical order) a/

Numerical code	Country or area name	ISO ALPHA-3 code
004	Afghanistan	AFG
248	Åland Islands	ALA
008	Albania	ALB
012	Algeria	DZA
016	American Samoa	ASM
020	Andorra	AND
024	Angola	AGO
660	Anguilla	AIA
028	Antigua and Barbuda	ATG
032	Argentina	ARG
051	Armenia	ARM
533	Aruba	ABW
036	Australia	AUS
040	Austria	AUT
031	Azerbaijan	AZE
044	Bahamas	BHS
048	Bahrain	BHR
050	Bangladesh	BGD
052	Barbados	BRB
112	Belarus	BLR
056	Belgium	BEL
084	Belize	BLZ
204	Benin	BEN
060	Bermuda	BMU
064	Bhutan	BTN
068	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	BOL
535	Bonaire, Saint Eustatius and Saba	BES
070	Bosnia and Herzegovina	BIH
072	Botswana	BWA
076	Brazil	BRA
092	British Virgin Islands	VGB

<b>Numerical code</b>	<b>Country or area name</b>	<b>ISO ALPHA-3 code</b>
096	Brunei Darussalam	BRN
100	Bulgaria	BGR
854	Burkina Faso	BFA
108	Burundi	BDI
132	Cabo Verde	CPV
116	Cambodia	KHM
120	Cameroon	CMR
124	Canada	CAN
136	Cayman Islands	CYM
140	Central African Republic	CAF
148	Chad	TCD
830	Channel Islands	
152	Chile	CHL
156	China	CHN
344	China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region	HKG
446	China, Macao Special Administrative Region	MAC
170	Colombia	COL
174	Comoros	COM
178	Congo	COG
184	Cook Islands	COK
188	Costa Rica	CRI
384	Côte d'Ivoire	CIV
191	Croatia	HRV
192	Cuba	CUB
531	Curaçao	CUW
196	Cyprus	CYP
203	Czech Republic	CZE
408	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PRK
180	Democratic Republic of the Congo	COD
208	Denmark	DNK
262	Djibouti	DJI
212	Dominica	DMA
214	Dominican Republic	DOM
218	Ecuador	ECU
818	Egypt	EGY
222	El Salvador	SLV
226	Equatorial Guinea	GNQ
232	Eritrea	ERI
233	Estonia	EST
231	Ethiopia	ETH
234	Faeroe Islands	FRO
238	Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	FLK
242	Fiji	FJI
246	Finland	FIN
250	France	FRA
254	French Guiana	GUF
258	French Polynesia	PYF
266	Gabon	GAB
270	Gambia	GMB
268	Georgia	GEO
276	Germany	DEU

<b>Numerical code</b>	<b>Country or area name</b>	<b>ISO ALPHA-3 code</b>
288	Ghana	GHA
292	Gibraltar	GIB
300	Greece	GRC
304	Greenland	GRL
308	Grenada	GRD
312	Guadeloupe	GLP
316	Guam	GUM
320	Guatemala	GTM
831	Guernsey	GGY
324	Guinea	GIN
624	Guinea-Bissau	GNB
328	Guyana	GUY
332	Haiti	HTI
336	Holy See	VAT
340	Honduras	HND
348	Hungary	HUN
352	Iceland	ISL
356	India	IND
360	Indonesia	IDN
364	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	IRN
368	Iraq	IRQ
372	Ireland	IRL
833	Isle of Man	IMN
376	Israel	ISR
380	Italy	ITA
388	Jamaica	JAM
392	Japan	JPN
832	Jersey	JEY
400	Jordan	JOR
398	Kazakhstan	KAZ
404	Kenya	KEN
296	Kiribati	KIR
414	Kuwait	KWT
417	Kyrgyzstan	KGZ
418	Lao People's Democratic Republic	LAO
428	Latvia	LVA
422	Lebanon	LBN
426	Lesotho	LSO
430	Liberia	LBR
434	Libya	LBY
438	Liechtenstein	LIE
440	Lithuania	LTU
442	Luxembourg	LUX
450	Madagascar	MDG
454	Malawi	MWI
458	Malaysia	MYS
462	Maldives	MDV
466	Mali	MLI
470	Malta	MLT
584	Marshall Islands	MHL
474	Martinique	MTQ

<b>Numerical code</b>	<b>Country or area name</b>	<b>ISO ALPHA-3 code</b>
478	Mauritania	MRT
480	Mauritius	MUS
175	Mayotte	MYT
484	Mexico	MEX
583	Micronesia (Federated States of)	FSM
492	Monaco	MCO
496	Mongolia	MNG
499	Montenegro	MNE
500	Montserrat	MSR
504	Morocco	MAR
508	Mozambique	MOZ
104	Myanmar	MMR
516	Namibia	NAM
520	Nauru	NRU
524	Nepal	NPL
528	Netherlands	NLD
540	New Caledonia	NCL
554	New Zealand	NZL
558	Nicaragua	NIC
562	Niger	NER
566	Nigeria	NGA
570	Niue	NIU
574	Norfolk Island	NFK
580	Northern Mariana Islands	MNP
578	Norway	NOR
512	Oman	OMN
586	Pakistan	PAK
585	Palau	PLW
591	Panama	PAN
598	Papua New Guinea	PNG
600	Paraguay	PRY
604	Peru	PER
608	Philippines	PHL
612	Pitcairn	PCN
616	Poland	POL
620	Portugal	PRT
630	Puerto Rico	PRI
634	Qatar	QAT
410	Republic of Korea	KOR
498	Republic of Moldova	MDA
638	Réunion	REU
642	Romania	ROU
643	Russian Federation	RUS
646	Rwanda	RWA
652	Saint-Barthélemy	BLM
654	Saint Helena	SHN
659	Saint Kitts and Nevis	KNA
662	Saint Lucia	LCA
663	Saint-Martin (French part)	MAF
666	Saint Pierre and Miquelon	SPM
670	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	VCT

<b>Numerical code</b>	<b>Country or area name</b>	<b>ISO ALPHA-3 code</b>
882	Samoa	WSM
674	San Marino	SMR
678	Sao Tome and Principe	STP
680	Sark	
682	Saudi Arabia	SAU
686	Senegal	SEN
688	Serbia	SRB
690	Seychelles	SYC
694	Sierra Leone	SLE
702	Singapore	SGP
534	Sint Maarten (Dutch part)	SXM
703	Slovakia	SVK
705	Slovenia	SVN
090	Solomon Islands	SLB
706	Somalia	SOM
710	South Africa	ZAF
728	South Sudan	SSD
724	Spain	ESP
144	Sri Lanka	LKA
275	State of Palestine	PSE
729	Sudan	SDN
740	Suriname	SUR
744	Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands	SJM
748	Swaziland	SWZ
752	Sweden	SWE
756	Switzerland	CHE
760	Syrian Arab Republic	SYR
762	Tajikistan	TJK
764	Thailand	THA
807	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	MKD
626	Timor-Leste	TLS
768	Togo	TGO
772	Tokelau	TKL
776	Tonga	TON
780	Trinidad and Tobago	TTO
788	Tunisia	TUN
792	Turkey	TUR
795	Turkmenistan	TKM
796	Turks and Caicos Islands	TCA
798	Tuvalu	TUV
800	Uganda	UGA
804	Ukraine	UKR
784	United Arab Emirates	ARE
826	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	GBR
834	United Republic of Tanzania	TZA
840	United States of America	USA
850	United States Virgin Islands	VIR
858	Uruguay	URY
860	Uzbekistan	UZB
548	Vanuatu	VUT
862	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	VEN



<b>Numerical code</b>	<b>Country or area name</b>	<b>ISO ALPHA-3 code</b>
704	Viet Nam	VNM
876	Wallis and Futuna Islands	WLF
732	Western Sahara	ESH
887	Yemen	YEM
894	Zambia	ZMB
716	Zimbabwe	ZWE

a/ The designations employed and the presentation of country or area names in this list do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The user of any particular dataset should consult the dataset documentation to determine the exact coverage of statistics for the country or area entities in the dataset. Various datasets may or may not include coverage of outlying and overseas areas, depending on the type of data and source.