



UNITED NATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
STATISTICS DIVISION

ESA/STAT/AC.190/Bk.3  
(15 November 1999)

**Meeting of the Expert Group  
on International Economic and Social Classifications  
New York, 15-17 November 1999**

**Mandate and Organization of the Expert Group on International  
Economic and Social Classifications**

United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)

1. At its 30<sup>th</sup> session on 1-5 March 1999 the United Nations Statistical Commission recommended that the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications be the central coordinating body for implementing the work programme<sup>1</sup> on classifications proposed at the same meeting.
2. The United Nations Statistics Division will continue to be the convener the Expert Group. The Statistics Division will continue to invite representatives from International Organizations, developed and developing countries to ensure participation of experts, custodians and major users of international economic and social classifications, as well as proper regional representation in all classification matters.
3. The decisions and recommendations of the Expert Group will be presented to the United Nations Statistical Commission through the report of the Secretary General on Economic and Social Classifications, prepared by the Classifications Section of the United Nations Statistics Division.
4. The Expert Group will discuss current and future work on those classifications that are members of the International Family of Economic and Social Classifications, as set out in the Preamble<sup>2</sup>.
5. The Expert Group will continue to work on a strategy for orchestration and timing of revisions for a core group of international and multinational classifications, including but not limited to activity and product classifications.
6. The tasks of the Expert Group include classifications revisions, review of underlying principles and practical proposals to bring about the convergence of existing international and multinational classifications.
7. The Expert Group will discuss requirements imposed on classifications arising from statistical and non-statistical applications of the classifications to establish long-term strategies for their further development. These applications include censuses and surveys in areas applicable to these classifications, analytical work requiring linkages of classifications, as well as requirements for policy decisions.
8. The Expert Group will decide whether certain technical, analytical or exploratory tasks should be carried out by a suitable subgroup of the Expert Group. If the creation of a subgroup is warranted, the Expert Group will specify the goals and, if applicable, life-span of these subgroups. The subgroups should report back to the Expert Group for evaluation of their tasks and approval of their findings or decisions.

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<sup>1</sup> See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No.4 (E/1999/24), Chapter VII. (Document can be accessed at [www.un.org/esa/coordination/ecosoc/doc99-24.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ecosoc/doc99-24.htm))

<sup>2</sup> ESA/STAT/AC.63/18.

9. The Expert Group and its subgroups can invite guest experts to discuss topics that require a more specialized knowledge in certain areas, without making these guests permanent members of the Expert Group.
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### **Current work programme**

1. Current tasks of the Expert Group, as set out in the recommendations and identified in previous meetings of the Expert Group, include:
  - A Glossary on Classification Terms.
  - Elaboration of an action plan for further implementation of ISIC and CPC
  - Elaboration of an action plan for future revisions of ISIC and CPC
  - Work on improving the existing supporting materials for ISIC and CPC, such as
    - revision of the introduction of ISIC,
    - revision of explanatory notes in the services sector of ISIC,
    - an alphabetical index for ISIC Rev.3,
    - preparation of training materials for ISIC and CPC.
  - Work on an update of the services part of the CPC for submission to the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2001
  - Work on a revised version of ISIC for possible completion in 2007.