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**Meeting of the Expert Group on
International Economic and
Social Classifications
New York, 1-4 September 2009**

Review of the Companion Guide for ISIC and CPC

UNSD

1. At its last meeting, the Expert Group discussed the development of documentation to complement the publications of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and the Central Product Classification (CPC) to assist users inside and outside of the national statistical offices in the implementation and understanding of these classifications.

2. The preparation of a User's Guide, as one of these documents, has been mentioned at previous meetings as one follow-up action to the development of ISIC and CPC. The content and focus of this document has been discussed over time by the Technical Subgroup of the Expert Group. The intent of the Guide is to explain the structure of the classifications and their rationale in more detail, as well as to discuss applications and examples of specific areas where activities of ISIC and products of the CPC are linked in non-trivial ways. This characterizes the document as a supplementary document to the ISIC and CPC publications rather than a guide focused only on the use of the classifications. Based on this understanding the document has been renamed from User's Guide to Companion Guide to ISIC and CPC. At the meeting in 2007, the Expert Group agreed to the proposed outline of the structure of the Guide, as proposed by the Technical Subgroup.

3. Due to existing commitments by many members of the Technical Subgroup, the drafting of the Guide has not progressed as fast as expected. At present, not all parts of the Guide are available. However, the main parts of interest, i.e. those that illustrate the key content of the Guide, have been prepared and are available for review by the Expert Group.

4. These key components cover in particular:

- The chapter on General criteria for the application of ISIC (chapter 3.1)
- The chapter showing a detailed description of the ISIC Rev.4 structure, including scope, boundaries, other structure options, product issues and special remarks for each ISIC section and division (chapter 3.3)
- The chapter showing a detailed description of the CPC Ver.2 structure (similar to the above) (chapter 4.3)
- The chapter illustrating special relationships between ISIC and CPC in selected areas (usually related to new or revised concepts) (chapter 5)
- The chapter on special applications of ISIC and CPC

5. At current, 132 out of the 203 components of the Companion Guide have been completed, covering 300 of an estimated 385 pages of the publication (78 per cent). It is expected that the drafting of the Guide will be completed within the next two months, taking other commitments into account.

6. The Draft *Companion Guide to ISIC and CPC* is submitted as Background document AC.190-Bk.1.

7. The Expert Group is invited to provide feedback on the Companion Guide and discuss the following questions:

- a) Does the Expert Group agree in principle with the draft text, in particular in the abovementioned key components?
- b) Does the Expert Group recommend additional topics to be included in chapters 5 and 6 of the Companion Guide?
- c) How can an adequate review process for the Companion Guide be organized? Who can participate in such a process?