



UNITED NATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
STATISTICS DIVISION

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18 May 2011

**Meeting of the Expert Group on  
International Economic and  
Social Classifications  
New York, 18-20 May 2011**

**Provisional agenda**

Wednesday, 18 May 2011

08:45 Registration of participants

### Session 1: Opening

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09:30 Opening statement  
*Paul Cheung, UNSD*

09:45 Introduction of participants, adoption of agenda

10:00 Review of decisions and recommendations made at the previous meeting of the Expert Group

Documentation:

- Report of the Meeting of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications, New York, 1-4 September 2009 (ST/ESA/AC.190/4)

### Session 2: Organization and mandate of the Expert Group

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10:20 Proposal for new mandate and organizational structure of the Expert Group

The EG will discuss an updated mandate for the EG, its governing structure and operating procedures. A draft document has been prepared by a subgroup after the 2009 EGM. The EG is expected to review this document and finalize a proposal that will be submitted to the UN Statistical Commission in 2012.

Documentation:

- Update of the Mandate for the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications, EG working group (ST/ESA/AC.234/5)

11:05 Coffee break

### Session 3: Family of International Classifications

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11:20 Review of the Best practices guidelines and criteria for inclusion in the Family of International Classifications

The EG will review the draft of the revised Best practices document, providing guidance for countries/organizations in the development of new classifications and outlining criteria that need to be fulfilled for a classification to be recognized as a member of the Family of International Classifications.

Documentation:

- Best Practice Guidelines for Developing International Statistical Classifications, EG working group (ST/ESA/AC.234/6)

13:00 Lunch

**14:30 Review of the Family of International Classifications**

The EG will discuss the composition of the Family, necessary criteria necessary for classifications to be included and the categorization of classifications (within and outside of the Family). This will entail a review of the definitions of “reference”, “derived” and “related” classifications.

Documentation:

- Best Practice Guidelines for Developing International Statistical Classifications (ST/ESA/AC.234/6)
- A new template for the Family of International Classifications, UNSD (ST/ESA/AC.234/7)

**14:45 Review of terminology for revisions**

The EG will review a proposal for terminology of revisions/updates to classifications.

Documentation:

- ISIC and CPC Maintenance and Revision Policies, USA / Eurostat (ST/ESA/AC.234/8)

**15:30 Coffee break**

**15:45 Revision schedules for classifications**

The EG will discuss a proposal for harmonizing and coordinating revision schedules for classifications in the Family and beyond. Different needs, organizational constraints and mechanism need to be considered to decide what is feasible within the scope of the mandate of the Expert Group.

Documentation:

- Classification revision frame - Proposal for the family of UN economic and social classifications, INSEE, France (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/10)

**16:30 Assessment of implementation of international standard classifications in national statistical systems**

The EG will review an proposal for assessing the implementation of ISIC, CPC and other classifications, based on a revised template for describing national classifications. The EG will also review activities to support the implementation of the revised classifications and is expected to provide feedback on possible support activities.

Documentation:

- An updated template for assessing the implementation of national classifications, UNSD (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/11)
- Working Group on International Classifications for the ECLAC region, ECLAC (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/19)
- Revised activities classification (NAEMA Rév1) and revised products classification (NOPEMA Rév1) of AFRISTAT Member States, Afristat (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/24)

**17:30 Close**

**Session 4: Review of new classifications developments and/or revisions**

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In this session, the EG will discuss a number of classifications (either recently revised, under revision or proposed) that use the concept of products and as such have a natural relationship with the CPC. The EG is expected to provide feedback on these classifications, either by recommending them for inclusion in the Family or by providing recommendations for future changes to these classifications. Throughout, additional requirements should be noted and the need for a revision or update of the CPC at this time evaluated. At the end of this session the EG is expected to make a recommendation regarding the need for and timing of an update/revision of the CPC.

**09:30 Standard International Classification of Energy Products (SIEC)**

The EG will discuss the classification of energy product that is part of the International Recommendations for Energy Statistics (IRES), which were adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in 2011. The EG will review the characteristics of the classification and its links to other product classifications. The EG is expected to provide comments on the classification and consider its inclusion in the Family.

Documentation:

- The Standard International Energy Product Classification (SIEC) and its relationship with the Central product Classification (CPC), UNSD (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/14)

**11:15 Coffee break**

**11:30 Classifications for food and agriculture statistics and resulting proposals for CPC**

Documentation:

- CPC Ver.2 Review and Harmonization with Food and Agriculture Statistics in FAO, FAO (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/15)

**13:00 Lunch**

**14:30 Classifications related to international trade statistics and new data needs**

Following recommendation at the last EG meeting, the EG will review a document outlining uses of the BEC and proposals for revision (in terms of scope and structure). The EG is expected to provide guidance on further steps. The EG will also review the link between the revised Extended balance of Payments Services Classification (EBOPS) and the CPC. In addition, the EG will review a proposal for the creation of a classification of business functions.

All three proposals are linked to the CPC.

Documentation:

- Revision of the Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC), UNSD / OECD (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/25)

- The draft EBOPS - CPC correspondence table, UNSD (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/27)

- International Classification of Business Functions, UNSD (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/28)

**16:00 Coffee break**

**16:15 Revision of the Harmonized System for 2007 and its impact on the CPC**

Documentation:

- Impact of the HS 2012 amendments on CPC Version 2, UNSD (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/16)
- Comments on the Impact of the HS 2012 on CPC Ver. 2, Philippines (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/30)

**17:00 The need for a revision or update of the CPC**

The EG is expected to decide whether a revision or update of the CPC is necessary, based on the outcomes of the previous discussions. The EG is expected to provide guidance on the scope of the revision/update, the sources to be considered, its timing and the proper mechanism to carry out the technical work required.

**17:30 Close**

**Friday, 20 May 2011**

**Session 4+5: Review of new classifications developments and/or revisions; Management of classifications**

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**09:30 Classification of Statistical Activities**

The EG will discuss the Classification of Statistical Activities, which is maintained by ECE and the Conference of European Statisticians. This classification gains wider acceptance and is used also in the context of SDMX. The EG is expected to provide comments on the classification and consider its inclusion in the Family.

Documentation:

- Management of the Classification of Statistical Activities, ECE (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/9)
- Classification of Statistical Activities - Proposed Revisions, Canada (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/13)
- Standard Classification of Statistical Activities: A New Zealand Perspective, Statistics New Zealand (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/26)

**10:45 Coffee break**

**11:00 Communication with users**

The EG will discuss options for strengthening its communication with users, including main users within the statistical community and users in academia, industry etc. that may not be fully aware of the role of statistical classifications. Outreach activities should increase the recognition of classifications among data users and inform developers of national classifications about international standards, updates/corrections, developments and timelines. Options for improving the collaboration with national stakeholders during revision processes will also be discussed. A key component will be modern IT options.

Documentation:

- Options for communication with users, New Zealand (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/18)
- Outreach mechanisms employed in the development of ICD-11, WHO (presentation)
- Overview of the UNSD Classifications website (presentation)

**12:00 Updates on other classifications under revision**

The EG will have status reports on the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) and the ICT trade and ICT product classifications/aggregates developed by the OECD.

The EG will also be provided with information on the Classification of Environmental Activities, which is being developed within the context of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). The EG is expected to provide feedback on these classifications.

Documentation:

- ISCED 2011: Current Status and next steps, UNESCO-UIS (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/17)
- Measuring trends in ICT trade: From HS2002 To HS2007 / ICT product definition OECD (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/23)

**13:00 Lunch**

**14:30 Updates on other classifications under revision (cont.)**

Documentation:

- Classification of Environmental Activities (CEA) - Information paper, UNSD (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/29)

**15:15 Classifications Management Systems**

The EG will discuss options for effective management of classifications, including options for standardized data exchange protocols.

Documentation:

- Classifications Management System used in New Zealand (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/21)
- Data formats for exchanging classifications, UNSD (ST/ESA/STAT/AC.234/22)

**16:00 Coffee break**

**Session 6: Future work**

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**16:15 Future work**

The EG will discuss the future work programme for the period 2011-2013 and beyond. In this session, elements of the discussion on the EG's mandate and organization will be reviewed in light of the discussions on selected classifications held during this meeting. The EG is expected to finalize proposals for the revised mandate, the revised Best Practices document and a work programme, which can be submitted to the UN Statistical Commission at its session in February 2012.

**17:00 Closing**