UNITED NATIONS, ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

UNITED NATIONS, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS,
STATISTICS DIVISION

**Regional Workshop on
International Statistical Classifications**

20-22 May 2025
Santiago, Chile

I. Background & Rationale

International statistical classifications are an essential component of the statistical infrastructure. They ensure the quality and relevance of statistics and their comparability across time and domains, e.g., output, trade, employment, balances, etc. International classifications are also essential to guarantee international comparability, and therefore to monitor global trends and phenomena in a reliable manner. In an increasingly interconnected world, classifications can play an important role for the integration of statistics across domains as long as the underlying concepts are clearly identified and, to the extent possible, linked. The revision and maintenance of classifications requires continuous and dedicated efforts to ensure that they reflect the reality and support sound policymaking and informed decisions.

The Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications (UNCEISC, "The Committee") serves as the central coordinating body for current and future work on all international statistical classifications. It plays a key role in preserving the coherence of the International Family of Classifications (IFC) and in supporting the adoption of best practices in the development of international statistical classifications. UNCEISC is a country-led intergovernmental body, comprising senior experts with proven experience in international classifications from Member States and international organizations. Within each area of its work programme, the Committee undertakes specific activities by establishing task teams as needed, and engaging with existing Expert Committees, city groups and/or other expert groups to carry out its activities.

This workshop will address specific questions that have arisen in implementation efforts in countries to provide conceptual guidance, in particular regarding recent revisions to the primary industry and product classifications, the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC Rev. 5) and the Central Product Classification (CPC Ver. 3.0). Updates to other classifications such as the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP 2018), the Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG) and the Standard International Energy Products Classification (SIEC) will also be reviewed.

II. Main Objectives

Expanding upon the workshops and trainings on classifications conducted in the Economic Commission for Latin America And The Caribbean (ECLAC) region by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) from 2012 to 2017, and updated to account for revised versions of several significant classifications, this regional workshop aims to help participants acquire knowledge and skills to deepens their understanding on the principles and

methodology on international classifications. Furthermore, it will address new developments, including visions for the modernization of classifications and statistical systems. Additionally, the workshop aims to create a platform that encourages participants engage in peer learning and share country experiences in the development and implementation of classifications, the main challenges and successes encountered by countries, and new developments in this area.

III. About the Workshop

This workshop is jointly organized by ECLAC and UNSD. The 3-day, **hybrid virtual and in-person** training will be held from 20 to 22 May 2025, at the ECLAC Headquarters in Santiago, Chile. It will be conducted in English with simultaneous interpretation in Spanish provided by ECLAC.

IV. Target Audience

The workshop is designed for mid-level statisticians from national statistical offices whose main responsibilities include the provision or compilation of data utilizing international, regional or national statistical classifications.

V. Target Countries (by invitation only):

The provisional list of proposed countries to be funded by UNSD is as follows:
Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Santa Lucia and Uruguay.

VI. Learning Outcomes

By the end of the foundational workshop, participants will be able to:

a) Describe the main concepts and best practices of classifications, and their important role for producing economic statistics

b) Understand changes and developments in the recent updates to the primary industry and product classifications, ISIC Rev. 5 and CPC Ver 3.0, as well as other relevant classifications

c) Recognize the challenges in implementing classification revisions across the statistical system

d) Share national and regional experiences on classifications and gain insights into collaborating with NSO colleagues to enhance the country's classification and statistical systems

e) Assess new developments and emerging topics in classifications

VII.   Workshop Design and Content

The workshop is comprised of twelve sessions, country presentations, discussions and group exercises to address issues relevant for classifications and to assist countries to identify areas for improvements for their work in implementing classifications.