

**PROPOSAL FOR CREATION OF
A TECHNICAL SUBGROUP
OF THE UN EXPERT GROUP
ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CLASSIFICATIONS**

The UN Statistical Commission in March 1999 gave an extensive **mandate**¹ to the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications as the central coordinating body for implementing a proposed work program on ISIC/CPC:

- Elaboration of 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;
- Elaboration of practical proposals to bring about convergence of existing international and multinational classifications including a strategic plan for the future development and relationship of activity classifications, particularly discussing the further convergence of ISIC, NACE, NAICS and ANZSIC
- Reviewing the underlying theoretical principles of the classifications
- Elaboration of a detailed action plan for future revision of ISIC and CPC.
- Elaboration of a detailed action plan for further implementation 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 the explanatory notes in the services sector of ISIC;
- Elaboration of a revision of ISIC, for completion in 2007;
- Elaboration of a revision of CPC, for completion in 2002;

Past experience especially from the Voorburg Group shows that the tasks given to the Expert Group by the Statistical Commission warrant the creation of a Technical Subgroup of the Expert Group to help the Expert Group in the drafting of proposals for revisions and in the preparation of documents for discussion by the Expert Group.

Based on experience the Technical Subgroup should be a fairly small group composed of experts in classification development work whose respective organizations are prepared to put at their disposition the necessary resources on the pattern of the CPC Subgroup of the Voorburg Group.

Members of the present CPC subgroup of the Voorburg Group have indicated their willingness to participate.

The Technical Subgroup should

- organize collection of proposals for updates/revisions of ISIC/CPC
- draft proposals for updates/revisions of ISIC/CPC
- elaborate rulings on interpretation of the current ISIC/CPC
- assist the UNSD in the preparation of any other document to be submitted to the Expert Group as part of the mandate on ISIC/CPC from the UN Statistical Committee

¹ (a) report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications (E/CN.3/1999/17),

(b) note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics (E/CN.3/1999/18),

(c) report of the Secretary-General on evaluation of progress in the implementation of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 3, and the Central Product Classification, Version 1.0 (E/CN.3/1999/16)

and background documents entitled "Standard statistical classifications: Basic principles", "Preamble: International Family of Economic and Social Classifications" and "Proposed future work programme of the Classification Subgroup of the Voorburg Group on the Central Product Classification".

The Technical Subgroup should carry out its tasks through

- Technical Subgroup Meetings
- Piggy-backing of other meetings
- use of the Virtual Expert Group, the www discussion forum for the Technical Subgroup which permits it to continue to work between its physical meetings
- e-mail

In order to ensure the maximum of input the Technical Subgroup should draw on national, regional and international user experience captured through the UN Classification Hot-line, the UN registry and the proposed Virtual Classification Forum as well as through international statistical working groups such as the Voorburg Group