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**STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
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**UNSD/UNECE Regional Meeting on
Revision of Economic Classifications
(Geneva, 29 September-1 October 2004)**

REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. The Regional Meeting on Revision of Economic Classifications, organized jointly by UNSD and the UNECE, was held in Geneva from 29 September to 1 October 2004. It was attended by Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and United Kingdom. Representatives of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT), the International Labour Office (ILO), the Statistical Office of the European Community (Eurostat), and the World Trade Organization (WTO) also attended. The meeting focused on the revisions of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), the Central product Classification (CPC) and the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO).
2. The meeting adopted the provisional agenda.
3. Mr. Norbert Rainer (Statistics Austria) was elected Chairperson.

ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

4. The following substantive topics were discussed at the meeting on the basis of submitted papers and presentations:

- (a) Introduction to the International Family of Classifications;
- (b) ISIC, CPC 2002 update and ISIC, CPC 2007 revision;
- (c) ISIC 2007 Revision: Presentation of ISIC Rev.4 draft detail;
- (d) CPC 2007 Revision: Proposals for CPC ver.2 revision regarding concepts, structure, and detail;
- (e) Revision of the ISCO;
- (f) UN List of Industrial Products;
- (g) Cooperation in the field of classifications in the ECE region and future work;

5. The discussion was based on papers and presentations by the UNSD, the ILO and member countries.

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING

Recommended future work

6. The participants recommended that the following work be undertaken in the area of economic classifications:

- A further meeting be organized in 2006/2007. The meeting would deal mostly with issues related to the implementation of the revised activity and product classifications. The possibility to have this meeting jointly organized with Eurostat should be explored;
- Efforts should be made that the Russian versions of the revised ISIC and CPC are provided as soon as possible. All other related methodological materials and guidelines should also be made available in Russian;

- Training should be provided to the experts who will be involved in the implementation of the revised international classifications at the national level;
- Workshops on methodological issues and similar meetings on classifications and implementation of classifications were seen as highly desirable.

Discussion and main conclusions reached at the meeting

7. The following discussion points were raised by participants during the meeting:
- It should be considered if the detail under division *67 Scientific research and development* should be expanded (use of OECD – Frascati approach);
 - The possibility to subdivide government activities into central/regional/local should be considered;
 - The placement of event organizers should be reconsidered;
 - The order of detailed categories should be controlled, based on their importance (e.g. in division *65 Activities of holding companies; management and management consultancy activities*);
 - The definition and importance of *7320 Security system service activities* should be reconsidered regarding the monitoring of security systems;
 - Some titles and explanatory notes should be reviewed in order to ensure that different concepts become clearer (e.g. *5520 Cable and other subscription programming* vs. *5630 Cable and other subscription programming distribution*);
 - Concern was expressed about the level of detail in construction of buildings (difficulties in separating construction of residential from construction of non-residential buildings; the distinction may be left to the product classification);
 - The combining of *4491 Retail sale via mail order houses* and *4492 Retail sale via Internet* was recommended;
 - The treatment of veterinary activities should be reviewed, possibly considering a split for veterinary activity for farm animals and others;
 - The content of *5230 Beverage serving activities* should be reviewed and the title possibly reworded (related to the restriction to alcoholic beverages only in the draft);
 - Insufficient detail in reflecting different forms of non-store retail trade (through markets or stalls) was noted. This particular form of trade may be important for many countries;

- Difficulties in defining/separating natural and plantation forest were noted;
- It was noted that current divisions *96 Undifferentiated goods-producing activities of private households for own use* and *97 Undifferentiated service-producing activities of private households for own use* have not been used so far in national statistical programmes;
- It was stressed that the timetable for revision is very important and that translations also need to be produced on time.
