Statistical Commission
Fifty-sixth session
4 - 7 March 2025
Item 3(o) of the provisional agenda
Items for discussion and decision: international statistical classifications

Background document
Available in English only

Terms of Reference for the
Task Team on Best Practice and the International Family of Classifications

Prepared by the
Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications

vi. Review the existing criteria to become a member of the international family of classifications, and update if necessary, and document.

vii. Review the approval process noting modernised approaches, technological changes and advances in classification theory, and redraft if necessary.

viii. Propose whether there needs to be different criteria and approaches for analytical and statistical classifications.

ix. Review whether a ratings-based system such as the grading criteria is the best approach, or whether a principles-based approached combined with an assessment checklist would be better, taking account of the work by Eurostat.

Outputs

5. The expected output from the TT-BPaIFC is:
   i. A paper proposing a process and methodology for maintaining the international family of classifications, including an indicator on the status of each member classification, for review by the CEISC.
   ii. An updated international family of classifications mapped into the CSA V2.0 structure, for review by the CEISC.
   iii. A paper proposing whether there needs to be different criteria and approaches for analytical and statistical classifications, for review by the CEISC.
   iv. Revised documents, as necessary, on the:
      • Grading criteria
      • Best practice guidelines
      • Criteria to become a member of the international family of classifications.
      • Approval process/checklist

Membership

6. The TT-BPaIFC shall be composed of the following members:
   • Australia (co-chair)
   • Canada (co-chair)
   • Brazil
   • China
   • Colombia
   • Italy

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Review the Criteria to become a member of the international family of classifications referencing changes proposed in previous tasks, and redraft if necessary.
Review revised documents for consistency and undertake holistic review to determine whether the documentation can be combined or not and make a recommendation accordingly.
Update approval process/checklist document for CEISC Bureau review
Provide recommendations and all revised documents for the UNCEISC Bureau to review.
Finalise recommendations and outcomes paper for UNCEISC approval.

Governance

5. The TT-BPaIFC reports to the UNCEISC. The UNCEISC will report the results of the TT-BPaIFC to the United Nations Statistical Commission.

6. The composition of the TT-BPaIFC will comprise not only members of the UNCEISC but is also open to members from other relevant task teams of the UNCEISC, other committees of experts, and classification experts from countries or international organisations as appropriate.

7. Expressions of interest from other UNCEISC members for active participation in the TT-BPaIFC will be sought.

8. The TT-BPaIFC will be chaired by Mr. Andrew Hancock (New Zealand), with the Business Statistics Section of UNSD serving as Secretariat of the TT-BPaIFC

Organisation of work

9. The TT-BPaIFC will communicate through email, wiki and virtual meetings. A physical meeting is not proposed at this time, but, depending on circumstance, this may be reconsidered at a later stage.