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INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATIONS: (A) INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION OF ALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES (ISIC) AND THE
CENTRAL PRODUCT CLASSIFICATION (CPC)

Egypt, Ghana, Japan, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
and United States of America: draft resolution

International economic classifications

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolution 4 (XV) adopted by the Statistical Commission at its
fifteenth session, in 1968,

Considering:

(a) The need for implementation of the programme on harmonization of
international economic classifications developed by different international
organizations,

(b) The importance of international data comparability for various statistics
classified according to kind of economic activity or goods and services,

(c) The need to maintain co-ordination among the International Standard
Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), the General Industrial
Classification of Economic Activities within the European Communities (NACE), the
Classification of Branches of the National Economy (CBNE) of the Council for Mutual
Economic Assistance, as well as co-ordination among the Harmonized Commodity
Description and Coding System (HS) of the Customs Co-operation Council, the
Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) and the new Central Product
Classification (CPC),

(d) The desirability of integrating different types of international economic classifications developed by different international organizations,

(e) The action taken by the Joint Working Group on World Level Classifications of the United Nations Statistical Office and the Statistical Office of the European Communities, by the United Nations Expert Group on Harmonization of Economic Classifications and by the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics to resolve the outstanding issues related to the third revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities and the development of the Central Product Classification,

(f) The proposed revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 2, 1/ as described in the report of the Secretary-General on the revision and harmonization of international economic classifications, 2/ to be known as the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 3,

(g) The proposed new Central Product Classification, as described in the report of the Secretary-General, 3/ to be known as the provisional Central Product Classification,

1. Recommends that Member States:

(a) Adopt the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 3, with such modifications as may be necessary to meet national requirements, without disturbing the framework of the classification; or

(b) Use, for purposes of international comparison, the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 3, in reporting data classified according to kind of economic activity; and

(c) Make use of the Central Product Classification as a provisional classification in order to gain experience in obtaining international comparability for data classified according to goods and services;

2. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To prepare a publication on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 3, together with indexes and

1/ International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 4/Rev.2 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.68.XVII.8).

2/ E/CN.3/1989/8.

3/ Ibid.

correlation tables between that Classification, the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS), the Standard International Trade Classification, 4/ Revision 3, 4/ and the provisional Central Product Classification, based on the provisional texts before the Statistical Commission at its twenty-fifth session 5/ and in light of the conclusions of the Commission;

(b) To prepare a provisional document on the Central Product Classification, together with the explanatory notes for the services part of the classification, based on the provisional text before the Statistical Commission at its twenty-fifth session 6/ and in light of the conclusions of the Commission;

(c) To publish and circulate the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 3, and the proposed Central Product Classification and to call them to the attention of States members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies.

4/ Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 3, Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 34/Rev.3 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XVII.12).

5/ PROVISIONAL ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/4/Rev.3 and Add.1 and Add.2.

6/ PROVISIONAL ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/77 and Add.1.