

BACKGROUND DOCUMENT
For E/CN.3/1999/18
12 February 1999

STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Thirtieth session
New York, 1-5 March 1999
Item 8 of the provisional agenda *

PROPOSED FUTURE WORK PROGRAM OF THE CLASSIFICATION SUB-GROUP
OF THE VOORBURG GROUP ON THE CENTRAL PRODUCT CLASSIFICATION

* E/CN.3/1999/1.

Recognising the central role of the CPC in the System of National Accounts and the Balance of Payments, the need to maintain its relevance for economic statistics and the virtue of managing the timing of revision of classifications so that derived and related systems do not get out of step, it is proposed that

an update of the CPC be undertaken for presentation to the meeting of the United Nations Statistical Commission to be held in 2001

the update continue to be concerned with the detail of the CPC rather than its structure.

particular attention be given to the following :

More detailed explanation of the relationship of the Central Product Classification to the System of National Accounts (SNA93) and the Balance of Payments (BPM 5), in the introduction.

Making such changes to the detail of the services part of the classification as may be regarded as necessary, in the light of proposals made by the Voorburg Group and other users of the CPC, as well as work undertaken by Eurostat or the US, Canada and Mexico, on related product classifications such as the CPA and the North American Initiative to create a product classification, including improved representation of intangible products, telecommunications and information technology products, and non-marketed products.

Updating the goods part of the classification in the light of proposed revisions to the Harmonised System for 2002

4. the possibility of bringing about greater harmonisation between the goods classifications in use within the United Nations Statistical System continue to be investigated.
5. a review of the suitability of the structure of the CPC, for analysing data relating to production and international trade, be started, so that changes to the structure of the goods and services parts of the classification might be considered for 2007.