

United Nations  Nations Unies

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Dear Sir/Madam,

During a first worldwide consultation in 2012 which was conducted by the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications a large number of countries and international organisations supported the proposal to conduct a revision of the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP) to ensure that it continues to provide an adequate tool for the recording of households' consumption expenditures. As a result, in 2016 the UN Statistical Commission asked the Expert Group to start a full revision of COICOP.

At its meeting in March 2016 the Expert Group's Technical Subgroup for COICOP (TSG-COICOP) drafted a first proposal for a new revised structure of COICOP. During that meeting the TSG also agreed that a broad participation in the revision process is a crucial factor for its success and that all countries should be given the opportunity to comment on the new draft structure.

An online questionnaire has been developed asking for concrete feedback on the draft revised classification. I would welcome a response from you by **15 October 2016** using our online questionnaire:

<https://goo.gl/forms/mpybyIG5q7qfD8jK2>

Your responses will be reviewed by the Technical Subgroup, who will then finalise the new revised COICOP classification for adoption by the Expert Group and by the UN Statistical Commission.

The questionnaire solicits feedback on a range of topics including:

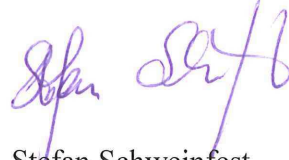
- General conceptual and structural issues
- Cross-cutting issues
- Feedback on specific proposals for a new structure of COICOP
- Feedback on the preferred solution for some specific issues where the TSG-COICOP came up with various possible alternatives

Guidelines on how to use the questionnaire are included in the online questionnaire itself. Furthermore, documents are attached to this email explaining the proposed changes, presenting the new structure and the explanatory notes, and providing correspondence tables between the old COICOP and the new proposed COICOP. In addition, a PDF version of the full questionnaire is provided as a quick reference to the actual online questionnaire.

This questionnaire is your opportunity to participate in this process and we hope that you use it to help shape the future international standard classifications.

If you have any questions regarding this consultation, please do not hesitate to contact us via the UNSD classification hotline (E-mail: [CHL@un.org](mailto:CHL@un.org) ).

Yours sincerely,



Stefan Schweinfest  
Director

United Nations Statistics Division/DESA