



THIRD ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Effect to be given to the
recommendations of sectoral
and technical meetings**

**Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Labour
Statistics: Updating the International
Standard Classification of Occupations
(Geneva, 3–6 December 2007)**

1. In accordance with the decision taken by the Governing Body at its 298th Session in March 2007,¹ the Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Labour Statistics: Updating the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) was held from 3–6 December 2007. It was chaired by Mr Derek Bird (United Kingdom), with Ms Dixie Sommers (United States) as the Reporter.
2. Thirty-two experts on labour statistics were invited to the Meeting, 16 were nominated after consultation with Governments, eight nominated (only six attended) after consultation with the Employers' group and eight invited (only two attended) after consultation with the Workers' group of the Governing Body. Present at the meeting as observers were representatives from two countries, as well as representatives from the United Nations and its specialized agencies and from non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations.
3. The report of the Meeting is appended.²
4. The previous version of ISCO was adopted by the 14th International Conference of Labour Statisticians in 1987 and is known as ISCO-88. Work on updating ISCO-88 was mandated by a resolution of the 17th International Conference of Labour Statisticians in November 2003. In this resolution, endorsed by the Governing Body of the ILO at its 289th Session in March 2004³, the ILO was requested to update ISCO by late 2007 and convene a Tripartite Meeting of Experts to adopt the classification and make appropriate

¹ GB.298/17.

² MELS/2007/2.

³ GB.289/14.

recommendations to the Governing Body. The timing of completion of the work was required to allow for the updated classification, or national adaptations of it, to be available for use in the 2010 round of national population censuses.

5. The deliberations at the Meeting were based on a report ⁴ prepared by the Office, which included a draft updated ISCO, provided as an annex to that report. The Meeting of Experts evaluated and amended this draft updated ISCO.
6. The experts endorsed and adopted the amended classification and the concepts underpinning it and adopted a resolution to this effect. They recommended to the Governing Body that the system of major, sub-major, minor and unit groups shown in the annex to the resolution adopted by the Meeting be designated the International Standard Classification of Occupations, 2008 (ISCO-08).
7. They further resolved that, to facilitate international use and comparison of occupational information, each country should compile data that can be converted to the ISCO-08 system and should provide information to the ILO about classifications of occupations used for national purposes.
8. The experts noted and supported the plans for future work with ISCO, including plans to publish the updated classification and provide support for the adaptation of ISCO-08 for use in national and regional settings through the provision of manuals, training and technical assistance. They stressed the need for the Office to have a continuous capacity to update the classification, within the approved structure, to provide advice to countries on occupational classification, and to ensure effective and reliable use of occupation classification systems in statistical surveys as well as in administrative applications (e.g. in employment services and for the regulation of migration). The experts also called on the ILO to work with national bodies to translate ISCO-08 into other languages in addition to the three ILO working languages.
9. The text of the resolution and the updated classification are included in the Report of the Meeting ⁵ accompanying this paper.
10. ***The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues may wish to recommend that the Governing Body:***
 - (i) ***take note of the report of the Tripartite Meeting of Experts and its resolution concerning the updating and adoption of the International Standard Classification of Occupations;***
 - (ii) ***request the Director-General to consider the views expressed by the Meeting when drawing up proposals for future work of the Office; and***
 - (iii) ***authorize the Director-General to publish the International Standard Classification of Occupations, 2008.***

Geneva, 31 January 2008.

Point for decision: Paragraph 10.

⁴ MELS/2007/1.

⁵ MELS/2007/2.