

# Initial Reflections for a HS Strategic Review in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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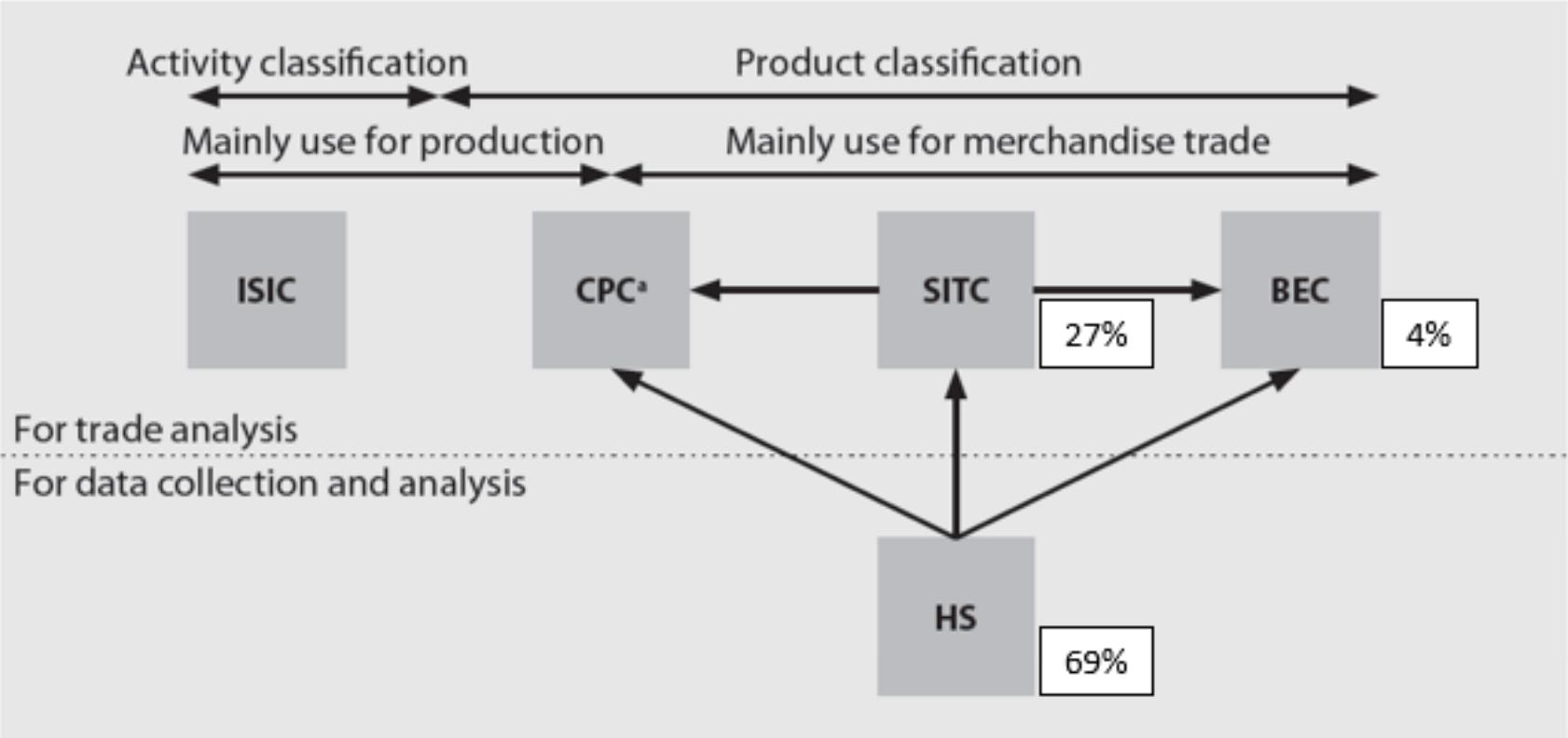
UNITED NATIONS STATISTICS DIVISION

# Outline

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- Relationship between Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) and other economic classifications, e.g. the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)
- Sustainable development perspective
- Insights from ad-hoc user survey of UN Comtrade database users
- Correspondences among classifications

# Relationship between HS and other economic classifications



a Includes services.

# Sustainable development perspective

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Major issues:

- **Globalization of production arrangements** would benefit from details in the end-use of goods such as in intermediate (specialized and generic product), capital or consumption goods.
- **Technology** focusing on the high-technology content in traded goods would
  - Facilitate a measure of a country technological advancement
  - Link with the end-use of product such as the use of capital goods in industrial production
  - Reduce the misclassification in high-tech products and bilateral asymmetries
- **Sustainability** focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) framework would warrant further details in specific environmentally related content embedded in goods and trade in environmental goods building on reference list available from statistical agencies.

# Insights from ad-hoc user survey of UN Comtrade database users

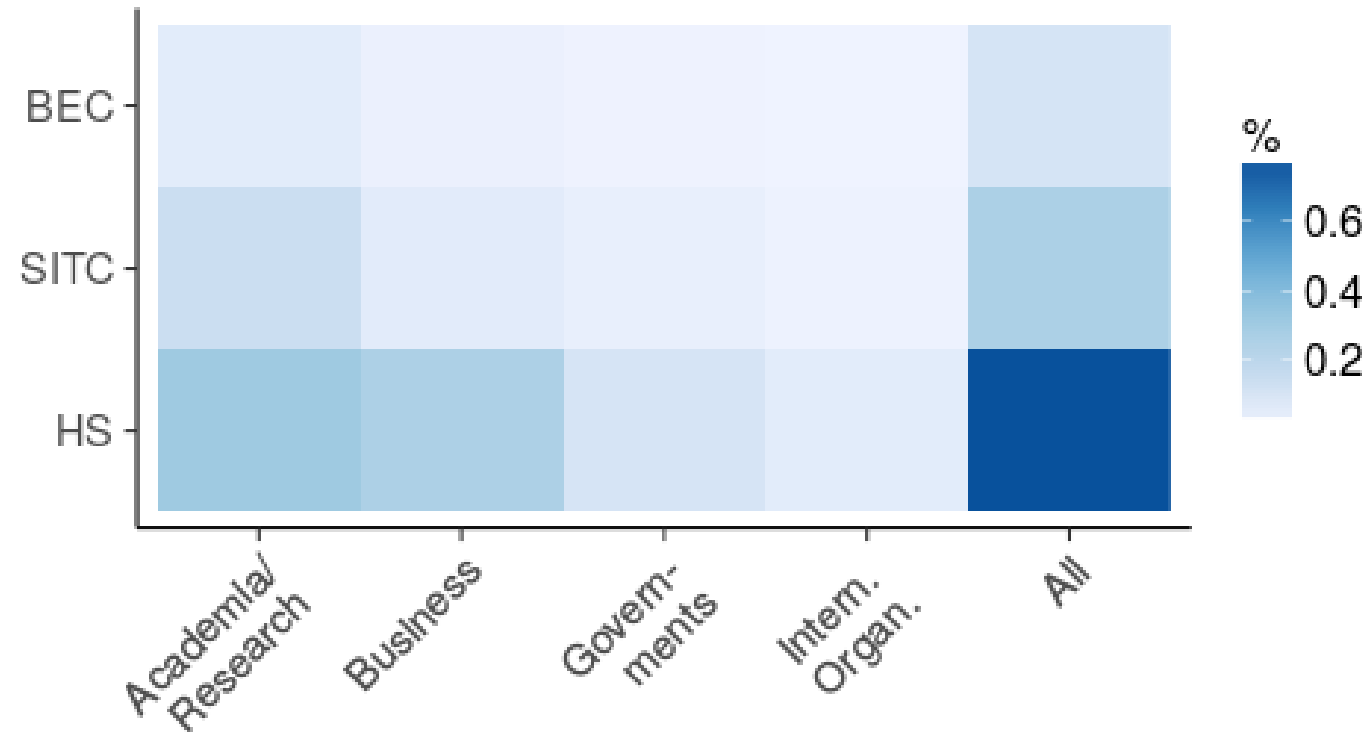


Figure: Users profile: Proportion of used classification crossed with affiliation in %

# Insights from ad-hoc user survey of UN Comtrade database users

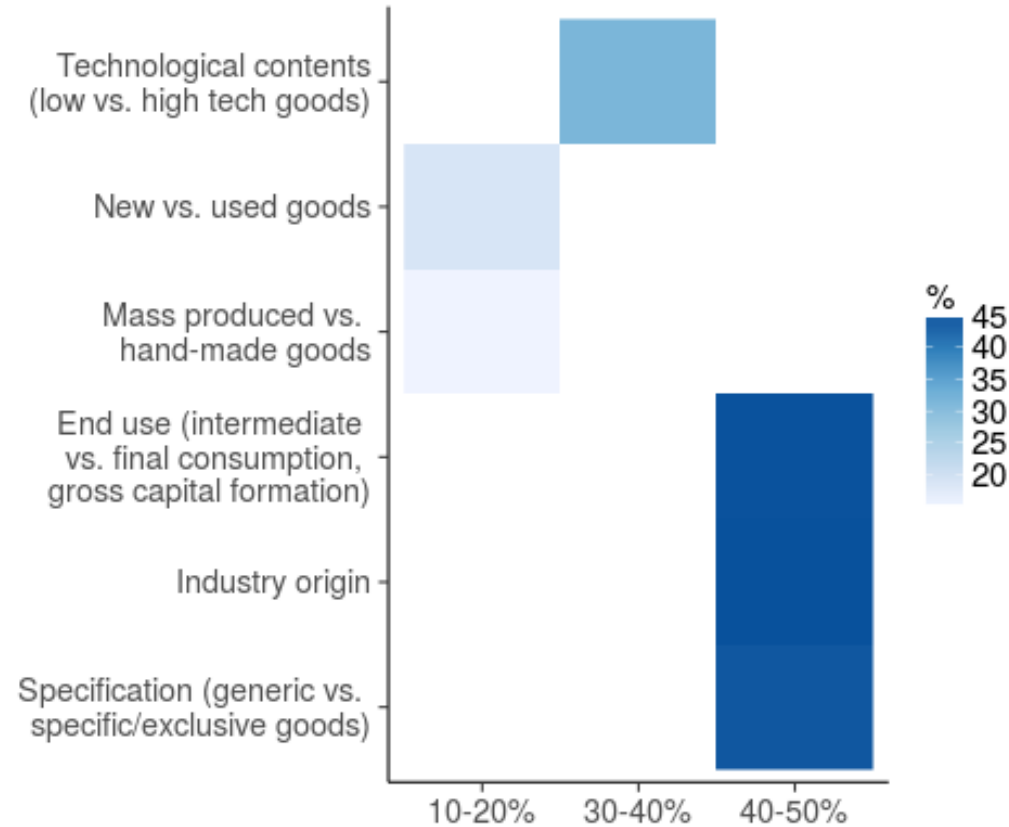


Figure: Additional HS classification criteria demanded by users in %

# Correspondences among classifications

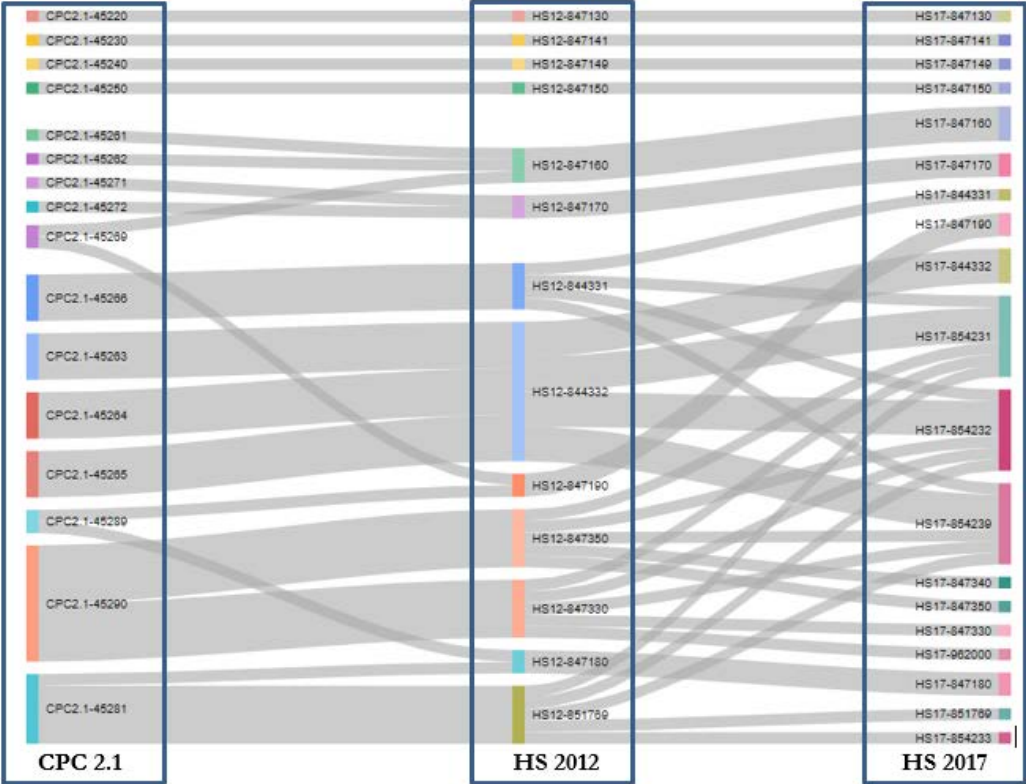


Figure: Correlations between CPC 2.1 Group 452 “Computing machinery and parts and accessories thereof” and HS 2012/2017

# Correspondences among classifications

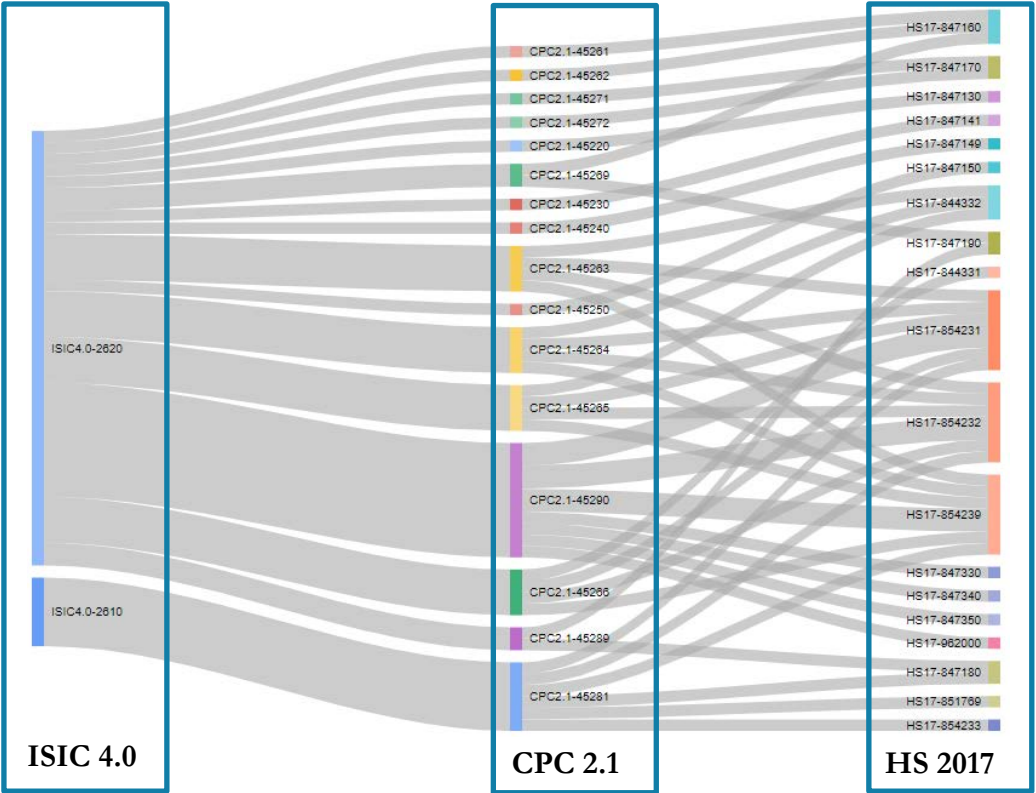


Figure: Correlations between CPC 2.1 Group 452 “Computing machinery and parts and accessories thereof” and ISIC 4.0 and HS 2017



# Correspondences among classifications

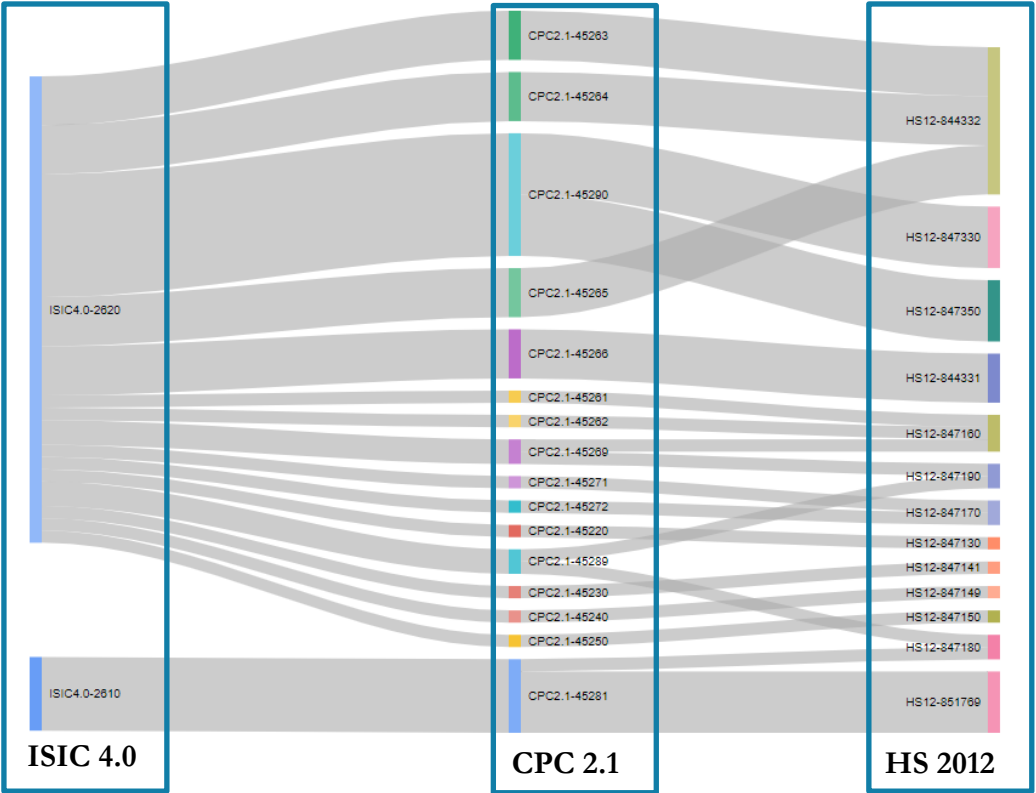


Figure: Correlations between CPC 2.1 Group 452 “Computing machinery and parts and accessories thereof” and ISIC 4.0 and HS 2012

# Conclusions

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- HS has not only a unique role in the analysis of **trade statistics** but also of **socio-economic and environmental statistics**
- HS Strategic Review has the potential to advance the broader measures of economic progress and performance
- Future HS classification could provide additional detail for measuring **global value chains, technological innovation** and **sustainable development**
- Proposed structural changes outside the regular HS amendment cycle would benefit from a **close collaboration with the statistical community**