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DRAFT WORKING PAPER ON
COUNTRY CODES FOR USE IN PROCESSING
EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS

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The designations employed and the order of presentation in this paper do not imply the expression of any opinion concerning the legal status of any country or territory or delimitation of national or territorial frontiers.



COUNTRY CODES FOR USE IN PROCESSING
EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS

What is a Coding Scheme:

A coding scheme may be defined as a classification scheme, a means of identifying entities, ideas, etc. This definition implies a system - an organized pattern of thought. Such a system could relate to intellectual subjects as may be utilized in a library classification or to commodities, countries, etc.

The commonest codes utilize alphabetic or numeric characters though obviously other schemes could and undoubtedly are utilized, e.g. schemes based on colour, type of material, valence as in the physical sciences, etc. A numeric code refers to systems which assign numbers to the basic unit being classified, similarly alphabetic codes refer to the assignment of alphabetic characters, words, etc. to the basic unit. In addition, there are codes utilizing combined alpha-numeric characters.

Codes are useful for classifying intellectual subjects, physical entities, ideas, etc. uniquely so that the basic units are separately identifiable. A code would represent the simplest way of specifying a unit. In the specific case with which we are mainly involved, the basic unit is a geographical entity which may be a country or territory or, in a broader more accurate sense, the customs area of a country which is the appropriate unit for external trade statistics.

A coding scheme such as discussed here would provide one standardized element which would be useful in processing, (sorting, storing, etc.) of data and in transmitting data.

Approach to Coding Countries and Regions:

Generally speaking, the over-riding consideration is that the code should be appropriate to purpose, use, etc. Clearly, not only the purpose for which the classification is made but also the level of detail necessary must relate to the uses to which the

scheme will be put. In the case of a library, for example, one would have to answer the question whether the library is a general purpose one or a specialized one, whether the work is oriented towards providing information to the general public or to providing reference services for researchers.

Nomenclature is also extremely important in coding. Nomenclature should be universal and standardized and based on the most authoritative of sources. Later on in this paper examples of problems of incorrect nomenclature will be shown.

To turn more specifically to the question of country codes, it should be noted that frequently country data have to be aggregated into totals for regions, geographical areas, economic groupings, currency areas, etc. Problems arise when countries may belong to more than one of these groups. In this case also appropriateness of purpose is a pre-eminent criteria. Groupings should be meaningful and should have usefulness in the current and foreseeable periods. In practice choices may sometimes have to be made between various possible groupings but considerable flexibility is possible through the use of modern-day electronic data processing equipment.

Some Deficiencies with Existing Country Codes in the CARICOM Area:

1. Nomenclature (country names) needs to be revised and up-dated, e.g. French Cameroon, Nyasaland, San Salvador, Jamaica and dependencies, Northern Rhodesia et al.

2. Some countries, territories or customs areas are not included, e.g. Botswana and Lesotho (former protectorates of Republic of South Africa but now independent countries), Holy See, etc. Provision should be made for future trade with these countries.

3. Certain combined groups of territories need to be defined and each description should be mutually exclusive, e.g. British East Africa, French Equatorial Africa, Spanish West Africa, Portuguese East Africa. Of special relevance is the case of the Grenadines, part of which are under St. Vincent's jurisdiction and part under the jurisdiction of Grenada.

4. Some countries are listed separately and also as part of a group, e.g. Ivory Coast, Niger, etc. shown as part of "French countries not classified separately". In one case figures are shown for the Netherlands Antilles and also separately for Aruba and Curacao. In these cases, both the combined group and each constituent country are given the same code number.

The coding scheme should be both flexible and durable and should therefore minimize the use of broad groupings of countries, especially of independent states. In cases where it is considered desirable to have group-code components the countries should be given a different code from that assigned to the group. In the past, problems have arisen when individual ECCM member countries decided to show details of trade with one or other of these countries or territories and assign a code or utilize a form of nomenclature which have not been utilized by the other countries.

Annex I attached is basically an international country coding scheme (utilizing 3-digit numerical codes) which identifies territories, countries and/or customs areas of the world. ^{1/} Though the country and territory classification is virtually complete, recognition is taken of the fact that some countries may have special requirements. It will be noted that codes 900 - 999 have been reserved for such use. Note the use of 904 for "ships stores and bunkers". Note also the gaps in the numbering sequence which provides for future expansion of the list. In fact, expansion occurred during the interval between the publication of the two source documents and are reflected in the shorter intervals, of less than four units between certain code numbers.

^{1/} See: United Nations Standard Country Code, Series M. No. 49 (Sales No. E.70.XVII.13) and Series M. No. 49 Rev. 1 (Sales No. E.75.XVII.8) published by the U.N. Statistical Office.

This basic classification can be extended to produce a scheme for grouping countries into areas, regions, continents, etc. Such a classification is provided in Annex II attached. Essentially a 2-digit prefix is attached to the left of the 3-digit country code, indicating two successively higher levels of groupings of countries into regions, continents, etc. These broader groupings are shown below:

REGIONAL CODES

	<u>Code</u>
World	00000
Africa	10000
Northern Africa	11000
Other Africa	19000
North America	20000
CARICOM	30000
ECCM	31000
OTHER CARICOM	32000
Other America	40000
LAFTA	41000
CACM	42000
Caribbean n.e.s.	43000
Other America, n.e.s. - Panama, Panama Canal, etc.	49000
Asia	50000
Middle East	51000
Centrally Planned Economies of Asia	53000
Other Asia	59000
Europe	60000
EEC	61000
EFTA	62000
Centrally Planned Economies of Europe, incl. USSR	63000
Other Europe	69000
Oceania and the Pacific Islands	70000
Miscellaneous	90000
Areas n.e.s.	90896
Not Specified	90898
Free Zones	90900
Ships Stores and Bunkers	90904
Special Categories	90908

Further aggregations may be obtained if desired but may be difficult to accommodate especially in terms of computer storage unless a special coding programme is written. It is considered that the more important regions of interest to the area have been included.

Partly because of the desire to reduce the pressure on computer storage space, the system of using suffixes to designate component parts of a customs area, country, etc. as contained in the international recommendations is not being suggested. Instead separate country codes, as in the case of Aruba and Curacao or 2-digit sub-regional codes as in the case of the ECCM are being utilized.

Some Concluding Remarks:

Use of the United Nations international recommendations as the basis for a country and regional coding system for use in the East Caribbean Common Market Countries seems quite justifiable. The over-riding reason is the superiority of this system to most of the others presently in use in this area.

Furthermore the United Nations by virtue of its role in international affairs is kept informed by the 145 member countries themselves of changes in official country nomenclature, of changes in political status of countries and of formation of political and economic groupings. Consequently, the U.N. Standard Country Code satisfies the needs for mutually exclusive country and group definitions, for up-to-date nomenclature, for flexibility and for inclusiveness.

It should be noted too, that the standard code would be efficient in practice because of its inclusiveness and since for example, the code could be used without need of typing or printing verbal descriptions and be recognized internationally. Note also the scheme for combining countries into regional and economic groupings. These features mean that groupings could be made

automatically by machine thus saving time of Statistical Officers. Nearly all countries and territories of the world report external trade and other statistical data to the U.N. Statistical Office. Use of the Standard Country Code facilitates the transmission of data.

ANNEX I

NUMERICAL CODE FOR COUNTRY OR AREA

<u>Numerical Code</u>	<u>Country or Area</u>	<u>Numerical Code</u>	<u>Country or Area</u>
004	Afghanistan	096	Brunei
008	Albania	100	Bulgaria
012	Algeria	104	Burma
016	American Samoa	108	Burundi
020	Andorra	112	Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
024	Angola	116	Cambodia
028	Antigua	124	Canada
032	Argentina	128	Canton and Enderbury Islands
036	Australia	132	Cape Verde Islands
040	Austria	136	Cayman Islands
044	Bahamas	140	Central African Republic
048	Bahrain	148	Chad
050	Bangladesh	152	Chile
052	Barbados	156	China
056*	Belgium	162	Christmas Island (Australia)
084	Belize	166	Cocos (Keeling) Islands
060	Bermuda	170	Colombia
064	Bhutan	174	Comoro Islands
068	Bolivia	178	Congo
072	Botswana	184	Cook Islands
074	Bouvet Island	188	Costa Rica
076	Brazil	192	Cuba
080	British Antarctic Territory	196	Cyprus
086	British Indian Ocean Territory	200	Czechoslovakia
090	British Solomon Islands	204	Dahomey
092	British Virgin Islands	208	Denmark
		212	Dominica

* See the note at the end of the annex.

<u>Numerical Code</u>	<u>Country or Area</u>	<u>Numerical Code</u>	<u>Country or Area</u>
214	Dominican Republic	312	Guadeloupe
216	Dronning Maud Land	316	Guam
218	Ecuador	320	Guatemala
818	Egypt	324	Guinea
222	El Salvador	624	Guinea-Bissau
226	Equatorial Guinea	328	Guyana
230	Ethiopia	332	Haiti
234	Faeroe Islands	334	Heard and McDonald Islands
238	Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	336	Holy See
242	Fiji	340	Honduras
246	Finland	344	Hong Kong
250*	France	348	Hungary
254	French Guiana	352	Iceland
258	French Polynesia	356	India
260	French Southern and Antarctic Territories	360	Indonesia
262	French Territory of the Afars and the Issas	364	Iran
		368	Iraq
		372	Ireland
266	Gabon	376	Israel
270	Gambia	380*	Italy
274	Gaza Strip (Palestine)	384	Ivory Coast
		388	Jamaica
278	German Democratic Republic	392	Japan
		396	Johnston Island
280	Germany, Federal Republic of	400	Jordan
288	Ghana	404	Kenya
292	Gibraltar	408	Korea, Democratic People's Republic of
296	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	410	Korea, Republic of
300	Greece	414	Kuwait
304	Greenland	418	Laos
308	Grenada	422	Lebanon

* See the note at the end of the annex.

<u>Numerical Code</u>	<u>Country or Area</u>	<u>Numerical Code</u>	<u>Country or Area</u>
426	Lesotho	558	Nicaragua
430	Liberia	562	Niger
434	Libyan Arab Republic	566	Nigeria
438	Liechtenstein	570	Niue Island
442	Luxembourg	574	Norfolk Island
446	Macau	578*	Norway
450	Madagascar	512	Oman
454	Malawi	582	Pacific Islands (Trust Territory)
458	Malasia	586	Pakistan
462	Maldives	590	Panama (excluding Canal Zone)
466	Mali	592	Panama Canal Zone
470	Malta	598	Papua New Guinea
474	Martinique	600	Paraguay
478	Mauritania	604	Peru
480	Mauritius	608	Philippines
484	Mexico	612	Pitcairn Island
488	Midway Islands	616	Poland
492	Monaco	620	Portugal
496	Mongolia	626	Portuguese Timor
500	Montserrat	630	Puerto Rico
504	Morocco	634	Qatar
508	Mozambique	638	Réunion
516	Namibia	642	Romania
520	Nauru	646	Rwanda
524	Nepal	654	St. Helena
528	Netherlands	658	St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla
532	Netherlands Antilles	662	St. Lucia
536	Neutral Zone	666	St. Pierre and Miquelon
540	New Caledonia	670	St. Vincent
548	New Hebrides	674	San Marino
554	New Zealand		

* See the note at the end of the annex.

<u>Numerical Code</u>	<u>Country or Area</u>	<u>Numerical Code</u>	<u>Country or Area</u>
678	São Tomé and Príncipe	796	Turks and Caicos Islands
682	Saudi Arabia	800	Uganda
686	Senegal	804	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
690	Seychelles	810	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
694	Sierra Leone	784	United Arab Emirates
702	Singapore	826	United Kingdom
706	Somalia	120	United Republic of Cameroon
710*	South Africa	834	United Republic of Tanzania
868	South Viet-Nam, Republic of	840*	United States of America
716	Southern Rhodesia	849	United States Miscellaneous Pacific Islands
724*	Spain	850	United States Virgin Islands
732	Spanish Sahara	854	Upper Volta
144	Sri Lanka	858	Uruguay
736	Sudan	862	Venezuela
740	Surinam	866	Viet-Nam, Democratic Republic of
744	Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands	872	Wake Island
748	Swaziland	876	Wallis and Futuna Islands
752	Sweden	882	Western Samoa
756*	Switzerland	886	Yemen
760	Syrian Arab Republic	720	Yemen, Democratic
764	Thailand	890	Yugoslavia
768	Togo	130	Zaire
772	Tokelau Islands	894	Zambia
776	Tongo	896	Areas not elsewhere specified
780	Trinidad and Tobago	898	Not specified
788	Tunisia		
792	Turkey		

* See the note at the end of the annex.

* In international trade statistics, the codes listed below are being used by the United Nations Statistical Office to relate to customs areas. These usually cover more than one country or area, for which no separate external trade data are compiled.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Coverage of customs area</u>
Belgium	056	Belgium, Luxembourg
France	250	France, Monaco
Italy	380	Italy, San Marino
Norway	578	Norway, Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands
South Africa	710	South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland
Spain	724	Spain, Spanish North Africa
Switzerland	756	Switzerland, Liechtenstein
United States	840	USA, Puerto Rico



ANNEX II

COUNTRY CLASSIFICATION FOR EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS

World	00 000
Centrally Planned Economies	08 000
Miscellaneous	09 000
Africa	10 000
North Africa	11 000
Algeria	11 012
Libyan Arab Republic	11 434
Morocco	11 504
Spanish Sahara	11 732
Sudan	11 736
Tunisia	11 788
Egypt	11 818
North Africa n.e.s.	11 896
Other Africa	19 000
Angola	19 024
Botswana	19 072
British Indian Ocean Territory	19 086
Burundi	19 108
Cape Verde Islands	19 132
Central African Republic	19 140
Chad	19 148
Comoro Islands	19 174
Congo	19 178
Zaire ^{1/}	19 180
Dahomey	19 204
Equatorial Guinea	19 226
Ethiopia	19 230
French Southern and Antarctic Territories	19 260
French Territory of the Afars and Issas	19 262
Gabon	19 266
Gambia	19 270

^{1/} Formerly Democratic Republic of Congo.

Ghana	19 288
Guinea	19 324
Guinea-Bissau ^{2/}	19 624
Ivory Coast	19 384
Kenya	19 404
Lesotho	19 426
Liberia	19 430
Madagascar	19 450
Malawi	19 454
Mali	19 466
Mauritania	19 478
Mauritius	19 480
Mozambique	19 508
Namibia	19 516
Niger	19 562
Nigeria	19 566
Réunion	19 638
Rwanda	19 646
St. Helena	19 654
São Tomé and Príncipe	19 678
Senegal	19 686
Seychelles	19 690
Sierra Leone	19 694
Somalia	19 706
Southern Rhodesia	19 716
Swaziland	19 748
Togo	19 768
Uganda	19 800
United Republic of Cameroon ^{3/}	19 120
United Republic of Tanzania ^{4/}	19 834
Upper Volta	19 854
Zambia	19 894
Other Africa n.e.s.	19 896

^{2/} Formerly Portuguese Guinea.

^{3/} Formerly Cameroon.

^{4/} For trade reported separately for Tanganyika and Zanzibar-Pemba, the following codes may be used, respectively: 762, 895.

North America	20 000
Canada	21 124
United States of America	21 840
Bermuda	21 050
Greenland	21 304
St. Pierre and Miquelon	21 666
CARICOM	30 000
ECCM Countries	31 000
Antigua	31 028
Dominica	31 212
Grenada	31 308
Montserrat	31 509
St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla	31 658
St. Lucia	31 662
St. Vincent	31 670
Other CARICOM Countries	32 000
Barbados	32 052
Belize ^{5/}	32 084
Guyana	32 328
Jamaica	32 388
Trinidad and Tobago	32 780
Other America	40 000
Latin American Free Trade Association (LAFTA)	41 000
Argentina	41 032
Bolivia	41 068
Brazil	41 076
Chile	41 152
Colombia	41 170
Ecuador	41 218
Mexico	41 484
Paraguay	41 600
Peru	41 604
Uruguay	41 858

^{5/} Formerly British Honduras.

Venezuela	44 862
LAFTA n.e.s.	41 896
Central American Common Market (CACM)	42 000
Costa Rica	42 188
El Salvador	42 222
Guatemala	42 320
Honduras	42 340
Nicaragua	42 558
CACM n.e.s.	42 896
Other Caribbean	43 000
Aruba	43 034
Bahamas	43 044
Bonaire	43 070
British Virgin Islands	43 092
Cayman Islands	43 136
Cuba	43 192
Curacao	43 194
Dominican Republic	43 214
Guadeloupe	43 312
Haiti	43 332
Martinique	43 474
Netherlands Antilles ^{6/}	43 532
Puerto Rico	43 630
Saba	43 658
St. Eustatius	43 653
St. Maartin (Dutch)	43 664
Turks and Caicos Islands	43 796
United States Virgin Islands	43 850
Other Caribbean n.e.s.	43 896
Other America n.e.s.	49 000
British Antarctic Territory	49 080
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	49 238

^{6/} Comprising Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, St. Eustatius, and the Dutch part of the island of St. Maartin. For trade reported separately for the component islands see the following codes under "Other Caribbean":- 43 034, -070, -194, -651, -653, -664

French Guiana	49 254
Panama, excluding Canal Zone	49 590
Panama Canal Zone	49 592
Surinam	49 740
Other n.e.s.	49 896
Asia	50 000
Middle East	51 000
Bahrain	51 048
Cyprus	51 196
Iran	51 364
Iraq	51 368
Israel	51 376
Jordan	51 400
Kuwait	51 414
Lebanon	51 422
Oman ^{7/}	51 512
Neutral Zone	51 536
Qatar	51 634
Saudi Arabia	51 682
Yemen, Democratic ^{8/}	51 720
Syrian Arab Republic ^{9/}	51 760
United Arab Emirates ^{10/}	51 784
Turkey	51 792
Yemen	51 886
Middle East n.e.s.	51 896
Centrally Planned Economies	53 000
China	53 156
Korea, Democratic People's Republic of ^{11/}	53 408
Mongolia	53 496

^{7/} Formerly Muscat and Oman.

^{8/} Formerly Southern Yemen.

^{9/} Formerly Syria.

^{10/} Formerly Trucial Oman.

^{11/} Formerly North Korea.

Viet Nam, Democratic Republic of ^{12/}	53 866
Asia C.P.E. n.e.s.	53 896
Other Asia	59 000
Afghanistan	59 004
Bangladesh ^{13/}	59 059
Bhutan	59 064
Brunei	59 096
Burma	59 104
Cambodia	59 116
Sri Lanka	59 144
China (Taiwan)	59 158
Hong Kong	59 344
India	59 356
Indonesia	59 360
Japan	59 392
Korea, Republic of	59 410
Laos	59 418
Macau	59 446
Malaysia ^{14/}	59 458
Maldives	59 462
Nepal	59 524
Pakistan	59 586
Philippines	59 608
Portuguese Timor	59 626
Ryukyu Islands	59 650
Sikkim	59 698
Singapore	59 702
Thailand	59 764
South Viet Nam, Republic of	59 868
Other Asia n.e.s.	59 896

^{12/} Comprising the former North Viet Nam and Republic of Viet Nam (South Viet Nam).

^{13/} Formerly East Pakistan, i.e. part of Pakistan coded 586.

^{14/} For trade reported separately for West Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak the following codes may be used, respectively: 880, 652, 680.

Europe, including USSR	60 000
European Economic Community (EEC)	61 000
Belgium	61 036
Denmark	61 258
France	61 250
Germany, Federal Republic of	61 280
Ireland	61 372
Italy	61 380
Netherlands	61 528
United Kingdom	61 826
European Free Trade Association (EFTA)	62 000
Austria	62 040
Faeroe Islands	62 234
Finland	62 246
Norway	62 578
Portugal	62 620
Sweden	62 752
Switzerland	62 756
Centrally Planned Economies	63 000
Albania	63 008
Bulgaria	63 100
Czechoslovakia	63 200
Germany, Democratic Republic	63 278
Hungary	63 348
Poland	63 616
Romania	63 642
USSR	68 810
Europe C.P.E. n.e.s.	63 896
Other Europe	69 000
Andorra	69 020
Gibraltar	69 292
Greece	69 300
Iceland	69 352
Malta	69 470
Spain	69 724
Yugoslavia	69 890
Other Europe n.e.s.	69 696

Oceania and the Pacific Islands	70 000
American Samoa	71 016
Australia	71 036
British Solomon Islands	71 090
Christmas Island (Australia)	71 162
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	71 166
Cook Islands	71 184
Fiji	71 242
French Polynesia	71 258
Gilbert and Ellice Islands	71 296
Guam	71 316
Midway Islands	71 488
Nauru	71 520
New Caledonia	71 540
New Guinea (Trust Territory)	71 544
New Hebrides	71 548
New Zealand	71 554
Niue Island	71 570
Norfolk Island	71 574
Pacific Islands (Trust Territory)	71 582
Papua New Guinea ^{15/}	71 598
Pitcairn Island	71 612
Tokelau Islands	71 772
Tonga	71 776
Wake Island	71 872
Wallis and Futuna Islands	71 876
Western Samoa	71 882
Other Oceania n.e.s.	71 896
Miscellaneous	90 000
Areas n.e.s.	90 896
Not Specified	90 898
Free Zones	90 900
Ships Stores and Bunkers	90 904
Special Categories	90 908

^{15/} Apparently a merger of New Guinea Trust Territory and Papua.