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**STATISTICAL COMMISSION and  
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**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
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**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

Joint ECE-WHO Meeting on Health Statistics  
(Rome, Italy, 14-16 October 1998)

SESSION IV: Progress towards implementation of ICD-10

**WHO LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF  
HEALTH-RELATED CLASSIFICATIONS**

Invited paper submitted by the NHS Centre for Coding & Classification <sup>1</sup>

**Summary**

The need for a long term strategy for ICD and related classification systems was identified at the 1989 Revision Conference and is built upon the recommendations from the Forty-third World Health Assembly in 1990 and consolidation through the Annual WHO Heads of Centre meeting.

The strategy was consolidated at the October 1997 Heads of Centres meeting and subsequently accepted by WHO.

A number of issues affecting the long-term strategy are identified, including:

- the family of classifications and the level of HST involvement in the development and maintenance of family members;

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<sup>1</sup> Prepared by Mrs. Ann G. Harding, Executive Director.

- the future of the core classification (the ICD-10) and its immediate derivatives in terms of periodic updating and ongoing maintenance and support;
- the promotion and expanded implementation of ICD-10 worldwide;
- the role of the WHO Collaborating Centres for the Classification of Diseases; and
- the resources required.

A plan of action until the year 2010 has been developed. It focuses on the three following main areas which are seen to be of high priority in the short term.

- promoting and implementing ICD-10;
- updating the ICD-10 (and related classifications and tools); and
- activities related to the family of classifications.

In addressing these areas, specific activities are identified for action and follow-up and the roles and responsibilities of HST, the Regional offices, and the Collaborating Centres are explored.

The current conference provides a forum for identification of the issues arising from this need.