

UN Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications
25-28 October 2022 Meeting - New York, NY

Background Document to Session 3

Status of the revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC)

Introduction

1. This note presents an update on the revision process of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC).

2. In March 2021, following the recommendations of the UN Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications (UNCEISC), the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) recommended that ISIC Rev. 4 would be revised. A Task Team on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (TT-ISIC) was created by the UNCEISC, under the auspices of UNSC, for the revision of ISIC. The task team worked through a list of issues identified through a global consultation which took place in 2019 with countries and organizations. The TT-ISIC considered the revision processes of relevant regional classifications, such as the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE), the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), and the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC).

3. During 2021, the TT-ISIC worked on reviewing the broad structure of ISIC from the section level (alphabetic letters) to the group level (three-digit codes) and also conducted a global consultation prior to the submission to the UNSC. A description of the main changes introduced for the revised structure of ISIC are available at:

https://unstats.un.org/unsd/classifications/ISIC/Main_changes_in_ISIC_14_Jan_2022.pdf

4. In March 2022, the UNSC endorsed the proposed revised structure of ISIC and encouraged the task team to finalize the structure at the most detailed level (four-digit level) and its explanatory notes, taking into consideration the comments received during the global consultation.

5. During 2022, the TT-ISIC held seven virtual meetings and four focus meeting on specific sections to finalize the class structure of ISIC while taking into consideration the comments from the global consultation and updating, where necessary, the explanatory notes.

6. This note describes the current revised structure of ISIC that emerged from the discussion within the TT-ISIC, and the planned activities for the finalization of ISIC including a final round of global consultation in late 2022.

7. The UNCEISC is asked to take note of the work of the TT-ISIC and endorse the classification pending the resolution of the remaining issues and the outcome of the final global consultation.

Status of the revision process

8. The TT-ISIC held several meetings in 2022 to revise and finalize the class structure of ISIC. For each ISIC Section, the TT-ISIC looked at the feedback from the global consultation, considered the proposals for new classes and/or proposed changes to existing classes as well as suggestions for improving the explanatory notes.

9. The TT-ISIC discussed each Section of the revised ISIC. At the time of writing this note, a final structure for the class level seems to have emerged for all the Section except

Section D - Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (in particular, for Division 35)

Section E - Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (in particular, for Division 38)

Section L - Financial and insurance activities (in particular, Divisions 65 and 66)

10. During the finalization of the class structure of ISIC, some changes are proposed to the structure at the group level based on the input received during the consultation process.

Next steps for the finalization of the revised ISIC structure

11. The TT-ISIC discussed the next steps for the finalization of the revised ISIC. In particular, it is proposing the following timeline:

- By end of beginning of November 2022: resolve the outstanding issues and finalize the ISIC class structure
- Mid November - December 2022: conduct a global consultation on the revised final structure of ISIC
- By end of 2022: complete the review the explanatory notes of ISIC sections C, D, E, G, H, J, K, L, N, O, Q, R, S
- January 2023: seek the electronic approval of the UNCEISC upon review of the outcome of the global consultation and recommendation of the Bureau and Submission of the revised final structure of ISIC to the UNSC
- April 2023: complete the review the explanatory notes of ISIC sections A, B, F, I, P, M, T, U, V
- During 2023- finalize ISIC Introductory, Guidelines and alphabetical index

Questions for the Committee

12. The UN Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications is invited to:

1. Express its views on the process and planned activities for the finalization of ISIC
2. Provide a provisional endorsement of the process for the finalization of ISIC and submission of the draft structure of the revised ISIC to the UNSC