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**Remarks of Morocco on the necessity of a revision or an update of the ISIC Rev.4**

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## **Remarks of Morocco on the necessity of a revision or an update of the ISIC Rev.4<sup>1</sup>**

### **1. Current state of the implementation of the International Standard Classification Type of Industries (ISIC Rev. 4)**

To insure international comparability of the data produced by the Moroccan system of official statistics, a Moroccan classificatory scheme guaranteeing a perfect harmony with the ISIC Rev.4. was elaborated. This scheme is called “Nomenclature Marocaine des activités économiques (NMA).”

Discussions about the revision of the Moroccan system of classification were began in 2008 and the adoption of the scheme referred to was approved via a decree in 2012. On the other hand, the consequent technical works of the adoption of a new revision began very early. These include the basculement of different statistical and administrative databases using the NMA to classify the statistical or administrative units. They also include the annual business survey, which, since 2008, has been used to classify the main activity of enterprises into two versions of NMA (1999 and 2010). It is worthy of mention that data of the 2014-population census will be disseminated according to the NMA2010.

In 2015, the information obtained through the business survey will be disseminated only according to the new version of classification.

The Moroccan classification by type of industry is integrated into its regional context, namely countries of the “Grand Maghreb”. The NMA has served as basis for the elaboration of the classification used at the level of the Grand Maghreb, which was first established time in 2012.

### **2. Remarks on the retail sales distinguished by sales channels**

The retail trade not in store (according to the group 479 of the ISIC Rev. 4) began to expand especially with the popularization of the use of the Internet and the increase of the use of smartphones by a very large number of the population. Trade via the Internet became usual

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especially among young people thanks to the appearance of companies specialized in this type of trade and to the adoption of this new means by certain companies which operate into the traditional mode (the retail trade in store).

The Moroccan classification was conceived to give priority to the sales chain over the nature of goods. The result of this methodological aspect has an impact onto the dissemination of retail data. Trade via the Internet will no more be a remarkable phenomenon; it will become more and more frequent in our life. Consequently, the current scheme of classification will not meet the needs of the data related to the nature of goods.

To answer specific needs of the national accounting, the annual business survey separates the turnover based on a group of products. This change in the schema of the annual survey has partly solved the problem.

The most practical suggestions include the following:

- The creation of a new trade division not in store which has a detailed structure and which assures the representation of the nature of goods.
- The abolition of the class of retail trade not in store and the restructuring of the trade so that it fits only the nature of goods. The need in information about the sales channels will be approached in the survey specific questions.

### **3. Remarks of Morocco on the necessity of revision based on the importance of certain economic activities**

This last part stresses the necessity to give more importance to classes which are not stated explicitly in the ISIC rev.4. For the Moroccan economy and for many countries, phosphate mining should be allotted a more important level classification.

Phosphate mining is included in Class 0891, mining of chemical and fertilizer minerals. Concerning NMA2010, we consider phosphate mining as a division. In the next update or revision, it is preferable to create a class of phosphates mining.