

**United Nations Statistical Commission**

**Fifty-second session**

1–3 and 5 March 2021

Item 3 (k) of the provisional agenda

**Items for discussion and decision: international statistical classifications**

**Document E/CN.3/2021/15 – Report of the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications**

*Statement provided by:*

National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus

*Statement:*

(a) We support the revision (updating) of the current version of the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC), taking into account the results of the global consultation, the need to include new, important activities in ISIC.

Belstat took active part in the global consultation on ISIC in 2019, having prepared a generalized position from the Republic of Belarus which took into account the proposals of government bodies (organizations) on the need to revise ISIC, the frequency of its updating (once every 10 years), the problematic issues that need to be addressed in the new version of the classification.

We consider it necessary to harmonize the timing of submission of the new ISIC version (according to the schedule of ISIC revision in the *Terms of Reference of the Task Team on ISIC*, it is planned to submit the new version of the classification to the Statistical Commission in 2023; the *Report of the Expert Group* gives a different date of submitting the new version of the classification to the Statistical Commission – 2022).

We **do not support** the next update of ISIC in 2025. Despite the importance of ISIC harmonization with international statistical standards of the system of economic statistics, we consider it inadmissible to update the classification in two years due to difficulties with its implementation.

(b) We support the revision of the current version of the Central Product Classification (CPC) with simultaneous revision of the ISIC, the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS), the Standard International Energy Classification (SIEC) and their interlinking (harmonization).

(c) We support the revision of the mandate and operational functions of the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications, including its renaming as the "United Nations Committee of Experts on International Statistical Classifications".

(d) We support the work done by the Expert Group and the planned activities on international statistical classifications.

Furthermore, after the adoption by the Statistical Commission of new versions of international statistical classifications we propose that they are officially translated into Russian and other official United Nations languages and training seminars on new versions of international statistical classifications are organized for national statistical offices at the international (regional) level.

Submitted on:

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