

Advance notification of a change to the XML data structure

This is to notify users of the XML data that there will be an update to the XML data structure starting with the July 2023 publication. This update includes the introduction of a new column that will reflect the PTA entitlement date. The details of the new column (the tag, description, and an example) are highlighted in the Annex.

This change is being implemented to enhance the functionality and relevance of the XML data structure. By including the PTA entitlement date into the XML data, users will be able to efficiently incorporate PTA-related processes into their workflows. To ensure a smooth transition, it is crucial that you update your systems and processes accordingly to accommodate the new column. We understand that implementing such changes may present challenges unique to your situation. If you envisage any difficulties, we kindly request that you inform us in advance. We are committed to working with you to find the best possible solutions and ensure a successful integration.

XML Tag	Description	Example
dsid	Duty station ID used by ICSC	<dsid>AFG001</dsid>
asofdate	Date which the ICSC circular will be effective. (The same date applies for all duty stations)	<asofdate>1/Sep/2017</asofdate>
country	Name of country where the duty station is located. If there are more UN offices located in different cities or areas, this field will be repeated for all the cities or areas.	<country>Afghanistan</country>
originalcount	Name of country where the duty station is located. If there are more UN offices located in different cities or areas in the country, this field will include the name of the city or the areas too.	<originalcount>Austria</originalcount> <originalcount>USA, Washington DC</originalcount> <originalcount>USA, New York</originalcount>
exch	Latest UN Operational Rate of Exchange	<exch>25.55</exch>
Index	Post Adjustment Index (PAI)	<Index>118.2</Index>
Multiplier	Post Adjustment Multiplier (PAM)	<Multiplier>18.2</Multiplier>

change	This field indicates whether or not the Post Adjustment Multiplier (PAM) has changed from the previous value. A change in multiplier in the duty station is indicated by "Y" or this field is left blank if there is no change in multiplier.	<change>Y</change> <change/> (When not applicable)
eff_date	Date on which the Post Adjustment Multiplier is effective from.	<eff_date>1/Sep/2017</eff_date>
reason	This field is left blank for duty stations that do not have a change in multiplier. When not blank it indicates the reason for the change for duty stations with new multiplier.	<reason>ER</reason> <reason/> (When not applicable) <i>The following are the possible values that can appear in this tag:</i> FMR - Four Month Review ER - Exchange Rate H - Housing Survey PP - Place to Place Survey IM - Interim Multiplier GCM - Gap Closure Measure FPR - Five percent rule TMR - Twelve Months rule OMR - One Month rule TPR - Ten Point rule A - Assimilated to another duty station L - Linked through intercity coefficient MM - Margin Management <i>Additional codes might be added upon need.</i>
with	Rental Threshold for staff members with Spouse/Single Parent Allowance	<with>35</with>
without	Rental Threshold for staff members without Spouse/Single Parent Allowance	<without>37</without>
t_change	This tag indicates whether or not the rental threshold has changed from the previous value. A change in threshold is indicated by "Y" or this tag is left blank if there is no change in threshold.	<t_change>Y</t_change> <t_change/> (When not applicable)
t_eff_date	Effective date for the rental thresholds.	<t_eff_date>1/Sep/2017</ t_eff_date >
DS_GROUP	Duty Station grouping used by ICSC	<DS_GROUP>1</DS_GROUP> <i>The following are the possible values that can appear in this tag</i> 1 - Group I duty station 2 - Group II duty station

PTAllow	<p>Personal Transitional Allowance (PTA) in additional multiplier points. (Numeric PTA value or blank if not applicable)</p> <p>This tag will provide the value of the Personal Transitional Allowance in additional multiplier points due to existing staff at duty stations subject to the implementation of negative survey results.</p>	<p><PTAllow>5.2</PTAllow> <PTAllow/> (When not applicable)</p>
PTA_Orig_date	<p>Date on which the current PTA cycle was introduced for the first time. (blank if not applicable)</p>	<p><PTA_Orig_date>1/Nov/2016</PTA_Orig_date> <PTA_Orig_date/> (When not applicable)</p>
PTA_Eff_date	<p>Date on which application of the PTA is effective. Subsequent revisions of PTA amounts are done periodically after its introduction, gradually reducing the amount until it phases out. This date changes whenever the PTA amount of a duty station is revised. Therefore a duty station will typically have one origination date for the application of PTA and possibly multiple effective dates with gradually decreasing PTA amounts.</p>	<p><PTA_Eff_date>1/Feb/2017</PTA_Eff_date> <PTA_Eff_date/> (When not applicable)</p>
PTA_Entitle_date*	<p>The date in this column determines staff eligibility for the PTA. Staff must have been onboarded at the duty station before this date to be entitled to the PTA. This date is set to the 1st day of the month following the implementation month of the survey except for PTAs that existed during the period of Covid-19 special measure whose entitlement date is set to 1 March 2023.</p>	<p><PTA_Entitle_date>30/Nov/2016</PTA_Entitle_date> <PTA_Entitle_date/> (When not applicable)</p>
W40_FLAG	<p>This field indicates whether or not a duty station is waived from the 40% cap applied on rental subsidy calculation. If it has the value "True", then the waiver is in effect. (<i>Raising the cap of rent for rental subsidy calculation from 40% to 90%</i>). If the tagged value is "False" it means that the normal cap of 40% of rent for rental subsidy calculation applies.</p>	<p><W40_FLAG>True</W40_FLAG> <W40_FLAG>False</W40_FLAG> (When not applicable)</p>
W40_Eff_date	<p>Effective date of the W40 flag</p>	<p><W40_Eff_date>1/Mar/2017</W40_Eff_date></p>

***data field added starting with July 2023 publication**