



**MINUTES OF THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON PROGRAM
INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION GROUP MEETING**

SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2018

WORLD BANK, WASHINGTON, DC

WELCOME AND MEETING OBJECTIVES

The sixth meeting of the International Comparison Program (ICP) Inter-Agency Coordination Group (IACG) was held on September 24-26, 2018, at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC.

The main objectives of the meeting were to discuss the i) status of global and regional activities and risks; ii) status and quality of data submissions; and iii) overall timeline, publication of results and data access, per the agenda provided in Annex 1. The meeting participants are listed in Annex 2.

Nada Hamadeh, ICP Global Lead, World Bank, opened the meeting by welcoming the meeting participants and noting the positive progress in implementing the ICP 2017 cycle and interim activities since the fifth IACG meeting. However, the timetable to produce ICP results for the reference year 2017, as well as purchasing power parity (PPP) timeseries, remains tight.

STATUS OF GLOBAL ACTIVITIES AND RISKS

Nada Hamadeh presented the status of country participation and regional survey schedules; global governance and coordination activities; outstanding risks; knowledge and outreach activities; and plans for dissemination of global ICP results. The related presentation is available [here](#).

Agreements and conclusions:

- The ICP Governing Board should be kept fully informed of any possible delay with the release of the ICP 2017 cycle results and PPP timeseries. For the time being, the release of the global headline figures for the reference year 2017 is foreseen, as planned, by the end of 2019. However, this requires that all regions finalize and submit their respective datasets and results per the jointly agreed timetable.
- The Regional Implementing Agencies (RIAs) are encouraged to support ICP outreach and knowledge efforts, for example, through contributing to the new [World Bank blog series on ICP](#). Furthermore, the RIAs should identify regional champions to advocate and support the ICP. Including the ICP in the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) should also be explored.
- Reporting on ICP data uses should distinguish between the use and uses of PPPs.

STATUS OF REGIONAL ACTIVITIES AND RISKS

The RIAs reported on the status of their ICP 2017 cycle and interim activities and related risks. The following presentations and interventions were made:

- Africa: Rees Mpfu, African Development Bank (AfDB) | [Presentation](#)
- Asia and the Pacific: Kaushal Joshi, Asian Development Bank (ADB) | [Presentation](#)
- CIS: Andrey Kosarev, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT) | [Presentation](#)
- Latin America and the Caribbean: Bruno Lana, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC) | [Presentation 1](#) | [Presentation 2](#)
- Western Asia: Majed Skaini, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA) | [Presentation](#)
- Eurostat-OECD PPP program: Paul Konijn, Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and Francette Koechlin, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The related summary report is available [here](#).

Agreements and conclusions:

- The RIAs should keep the Global Implementing Unit (GIU) fully informed of any possible changes in regional country participation, as well as any foreseen slippages with the regional timetables. All regional survey activities should be concluded during 2018, in order to ensure sufficient time for regional and global validation activities, prior to the foreseen release of the ICP 2017 cycle results by the end of 2019.
- The GIU and the RIAs should actively plan for the next ICP 2020 cycle. The GIU will update the global product lists. The RIAs will keep the GIU, and subsequently the ICP Governing Board, informed of their respective regional plans. It was noted that if a region plans to implement the rolling survey approach during the ICP 2020 cycle, it may require initiating the survey activities for the cycle already in 2019, and that might be tight.

STATUS OF REGIONAL DATA SUBMISSIONS

Marko Rissanen, World Bank, presented the current status of the regional data submissions and related inter-regional overlap statistics for the ICP 2017 cycle and interim activities. The related presentation is available [here](#).

Agreements and conclusions:

- In terms of inter-regional linking for the ICP 2017 data, no issues were identified with inter-regional overlap of household data; however, regional submissions for non-household data were limited at the moment; thus, a similar analysis was not possible for these headings. Furthermore, it was noted that the household consumption data submitted to date had not been aligned temporally yet, given the differences in regional survey schedules.
- Interim regional data for reference years 2015 and 2016 do not seem to allow for inter-regional linking at the item level because of poor overlap. However, regional results could be incorporated into global PPP timeseries, where applicable. For the time-being, Eurostat-OECD (2012-2016),

Western Asia (2012-2016) and CIS (2014) interim results should be incorporated into global PPP timeseries, while Africa and Asia interim results are still under review. If regional interim results are not incorporated into global PPP timeseries, the fixity of the interim regional results cannot be maintained.

- Given that several regions are conducting surveys in 2018, in addition to the current ICP cycle reference year 2017, the RIAs might consider estimating regional results for both 2017 and 2018. The results for 2018 could be further incorporated into global PPP timeseries.
- The feasibility of identifying additional overlap between the regional and global core list items will be assessed by the RIAs, through a review of regional and global core list item definitions.

DATA REVIEW: PRICES

The GIU presented a first quality assessment of the ICP 2017 cycle household consumption price data.

Agreements and conclusions:

- The RIAs and GIU agreed to share the i) global Quaranta Tables and other validation tables; ii) global core list item average price visualizations (expressed in United States Dollars); iii) and global basic heading price level index (PLI) visualizations for both intra- and inter-regional quality review and assurance.
- The RIAs and National Implementing Agencies (NIAs) will review the regional and national datasets per the findings of the global data quality assessment. It was noted that the starting position for the global validation is notably better than during the 2011 round of ICP; however, the current datasets do still contain several obvious outliers.
- Regional and global item reference units and quantities should be reviewed for any possible discrepancies; to this end, the GIU will request the RIAs to provide their reference quantities and units, and respective adjustments from regional to global units and quantities.
- The datasets for dual-participation countries, namely Egypt, Morocco, the Russian Federation and Sudan, should be reviewed for any possible discrepancies; to this end, GIU will provide the respective RIAs with a comparison of submitted datasets.
- A few countries exhibit unusual PLIs due to uncertainties with the reported market exchange rates; the GIU and ICP Task Forces should support the RIAs in determining the most appropriate exchange rates to use for ICP purposes.

DATA REVIEW: REGIONAL LINKING FACTORS AND COMPARABILITY OVER TIME

Yuri Dikhanov, World Bank, presented an initial assessment of temporal comparability between the 2011 and 2017 household consumption data.

Agreements and conclusions:

- Comparability of ICP results over time is extremely important for various uses of PPPs; hence, the efforts to ensure temporal, in addition to spatial, comparability should be continued. To this end, formulating an approach to estimate PPP timeseries is of great importance. In addition, the recalculation of the ICP 2011 results, based on revised expenditures, prices and classification, will be needed.

DATA REVIEW: CPIs

William Vigil-Oliver, World Bank, presented a review of data availability and coverage of the consumer price index (CPI) data being compiled to support building the global PPP timeseries. The presentation also touched on the assessments and checks being carried out by the [Task Team on Data Quality Assurance for the PPP Time Series](#). The related presentation is available [here](#).

It was reminded that the data requirements for the PPP timeseries include not only CPIs, but also national accounts expenditures, deflators, population, and exchange rates. A review of these datasets reporting responsibility by region was also carried out. Furthermore, the RIAs were reminded of the biannual submission schedule for these datasets, which was agreed at the second IACG Meeting.

Agreements and conclusions:

- The GIU will follow-up with the RIAs for updates/confirmations regarding possible data gaps, reporting errors, or inconsistencies.
- In terms of the PPP timeseries country data reporting responsibilities by the RIAs, the following was confirmed and agreed:
 - The AfDB will report data for 50 countries, including (when possible) Eritrea, Somalia and South Sudan. They will not report data for Egypt, Sudan and Morocco, which will be only be reported by UN-ESCWA.
 - The ADB will report data for 22 countries. They will not report data for Macao.
 - The CIS-STAT will report data for 8 countries, including Russia.
 - Eurostat and the OECD will report data for Colombia, Costa Rica, Georgia and Ukraine. They will not report data for Russia, which will only be reported by CIS.
 - The UN-ECLAC will report data for 37 countries, including Argentina and Guyana. They will not report data for Cuba nor Venezuela.
 - The UN-ESCWA will report data for 12 countries, including Morocco. They will not report data for Libya, Syria or Yemen.
 - The GIU will report data for Iran.
- It was also agreed that RIAs will continue to report PPP time series data at the most detailed level available for the countries under their responsibility.
- The GIU will continue to assess the status and quality of the CPI indices under the framework of the *Task Team on Data Quality Assurance for the PPP Time Series*.

DATA REVIEW: GDP EXPENDITURES

Mizuki Yamanaka, World Bank, presented a summary of data availability, data comparisons and observed issues regarding the GDP expenditure timeseries data. The related presentation is available [here](#).

Agreements and conclusions:

- The GIU will follow-up with the RIAs for updates/confirmations regarding possible data gaps, reporting errors, or inconsistencies.
- Review of metadata is crucial for the assessment of the GDP expenditure timeseries; to this end, the submission of the ICP National Accounts Country Practices Questionnaire is pivotal.

- In order to improve consistency of data, it was agreed to follow the ICP 2017 classification for all expenditure submissions; to this end, the GIU will revise the submissions form(s) and share them with RIAs in November 2018.

Inyoung Song, World Bank, presented a proposed validation process for the 2017 GDP expenditures. The presentation reviewed different types of expenditure validation and compilation approaches; reviewed 2011 global validation tools; and discussed proposed 2017 global validation approaches and tools. The related presentation is available [here](#).

Michel Mouyelo-Katoula, on behalf of the AfDB, further presented GDP expenditure validation procedures in Africa. The related presentation is available [here](#).

Agreements and conclusions:

- The RIAs should encourage the NIAs to conduct national-level expenditure validation, in addition to regional-level validation conducted by the RIAs.
- The GIU will conduct global-level validation using the proposed intra- and inter-country validation tools and share the respective findings with the RIAs.
- The GIU will share the 2017 global validation tools in November 2018.

DATA REVIEW: DEFLATORS

Maurice Nsabimana, World Bank, presented a summary of data availability and observed issues regarding the GDP deflators timeseries data. The related presentation is available [here](#).

Agreements and conclusions:

- The GIU will follow-up with the RIAs for updates/confirmations regarding possible data gaps, reporting errors, or inconsistencies.
- It was noted that few countries reported detailed deflator timeseries data below main aggregates.
- The RIAs will remind NIAs to provide the required basic metadata along with the deflator timeseries data.

DATA REVIEW: POPULATION

Mizuki Yamanaka, presented a summary of data availability, data comparisons and observed issues regarding the population timeseries data. The related presentation is available [here](#).

Agreements and conclusions:

- The GIU will follow-up with the RIAs for updates/confirmations regarding possible data gaps, reporting errors, or inconsistencies.
- Population data should be accompanied with respective metadata, in order to ensure the applicability of the reported data. To this end, the GIU will revise data submission formats to include a section to report the required population metadata and share them with RIAs in November 2018.

DATA REVIEW: EXCHANGE RATES

Mizuki Yamanaka presented a summary of data availability, data comparisons and observed issues regarding the exchange rate timeseries. The related presentation is available [here](#).

Agreements and conclusions:

- GIU will follow-up with the RIAs for updates/confirmations regarding possible data gaps, reporting errors, or inconsistencies.
- Furthermore, the GIU and RIAs will regularly monitor specific cases that need particular attention.

SNA METADATA REVIEW

Maurice Nsabimana presented findings from the current availability of published national accounts metadata that support ICP data validation. The related presentation is available [here](#) and the related document [here](#).

The presentation reviewed key metadata on GDP compilation practices in 217 economies, covering:

- System of national accounts (SNA) vintages (1968, 1993, 2008)
- Availability of GDP by expenditure data
- Methodological revisions (transition to SNA 1993 or 2008)
- Benchmark/base year updates

It was concluded that meaningful and timely metadata documenting methodology of compiling national accounts in participating economies are needed.

Agreements and conclusions:

- The RIAs will remind countries to thoroughly complete:
 - Basic metadata provided in ICP data submission forms (mandatory)
 - ICP National Accounts Country Practices Questionnaire (mandatory)
 - MORES, if used within the region (optional)
- The GIU will share its findings of current national accounts metadata availability, for information, in October 2018.

OVERALL TIMELINE, PUBLICATION, DATA NEEDS AND ACCESS

Nada Hamadeh presented the overall ICP 2017 timeline, publication plans, data needs for quality assurance and data access policies. The related presentation is available [here](#) and documents [here](#) [Timetable], [here](#) [Criteria for publication], [here](#) [Data needs for quality assurance], [here](#) [Data access FAQs] and [here](#) [Background document on ICP Data Access Policy].

Agreements and conclusions:

- The agreed next regional submission deadline for the ICP 2017 cycle data is end-January 2019; this allows for a virtual review of the datasets prior the seventh IACG meeting, scheduled for April 2019. The submitted data should cover all ICP 2017 cycle household and non-household surveys, detailed national accounts expenditures for 2017 or latest available year, as well as datasets for

PPP timeseries, namely, CPIs, deflators, national accounts expenditures, population and exchange rates.

- The GIU will circulate updated ICP 2017 timetables to RIAs, including the planned governance activities.
- In order to streamline the data submission from RIAs to GIU, the data submission forms will be updated and harmonized to follow the ICP 2017 classification, then circulated to RIAs in November 2018.
- The RIAs should continue the effort to provide GIU with capital/main city average prices, in order to enable further assessment of inter-regional linking factors.
- The ICP 2017 and PPP timeseries publication level will be assessed according to the agreed criteria for publication.

ANNEX 1: MEETING AGENDA

Monday, September 24, 2018

- 09:00 – 09:15 Welcome and meeting objectives
- 09:15 – 10:00 Status of global activities and risks
- 10:00 – 12:00 Status of regional activities and risks [20 minutes for each region]
- 12:00 – 12:30 Status of regional data submissions
- 12:30 – 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 – 17:00 Data review: Prices
 - ICP 2017 price data

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

- 09:00 – 12:30 Data review: Prices
 - ICP 2017 price data
- 12:30 – 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 – 15:30 Data review: Prices
 - Interim price data
- 15:30 – 16:30 Data review: Regional linking factors and comparability over time
- 16:30 – 17:00 Data review: CPIs [*Joint session with the Task Team on Data Quality Assurance*]
 - CPI time series

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

- 09:00 – 10:00 Data review: GDP expenditures [*Joint session with the Task Team on Data Quality Assurance*]
 - Interim GDP expenditures time series
 - Proposed 2017 GDP expenditures validation process
- 10:00 – 10:20 Data review: Deflators [*Joint session with the Task Team on Data Quality Assurance*]
 - Deflators time series
- 10:20 – 10:40 Data review: Population [*Joint session with the Task Team on Data Quality Assurance*]
 - Population time series
- 10:40 – 11:00 Data review: Exchange rates [*Joint session with the Task Team on Data Quality Assurance*]
 - Exchange rates time series
- 11:00 – 11:30 SNA metadata review: Current availability and findings [*Joint session with the Task Team on Data Quality Assurance*]
- 11:30 – 12:30 Overall timeline, publication, data needs and access
- 12:30 – 14:00 Lunch hosted by the World Bank

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

African Development Bank (AfDB)

- Ben Paul Mungyereza
- Gregoire Mboya Deloubassou
- Rees Mpofu
- Michel Mouyelo-Katoula

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- Kaushal Joshi
- Stefan Schipper

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- Gregory Max Henri Legoff
- Robert J. Dippelsman
- Vanda Guerreiro

Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT)

- Andrey Kosarev
- Valerica Accibas

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

- Francette Koechlin

Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat)

- Paul Konijn

Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom

- Marina Wright
- Sharne bailey

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC)

- Giovanni Savio
- Bruno Lana
- Maria Paz Collinao

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)

- Majed Skaini

United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD)

- Michael Smedes

University of Pennsylvania

- Alan Heston

World Bank Consultants

- Brian Graaf
- David Roberts
- Sergey Sergeev

World Bank Global ICP Unit and Development Data Group

- Nada Hamadeh
- Yuri Dikhanov
- Bala Bhaskar Naidu Kalimili
- Marko Olavi Rissanen
- Mizuki Yamanaka
- Maurice Nsabimana
- William Vigil-Oliver
- Inyoung Song
- Elizabeth Purdie
- Christelle Kouame