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Items for discussion and decision: International Comparison Programme


Note by the Secretary-General

The Commission will have before it a report prepared by the World Bank on behalf of the Executive Board of the International Comparison Programme on the status of preparations for the 2011 round of the programme. The report also includes a description of the institutional and partnership arrangements for the implementation of the programme at regional level as well as the overall timetable. The Commission may wish to review the progress with respect to the preparations for the 2011 round and to express its views on the work plan and the timetable. Points for discussion are included in paragraphs 52 and 53.

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I. Introduction

1. The International Comparison Programme (ICP) is a worldwide statistical initiative aimed to estimate Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) to be used as currency converters to compare the performance of economies around the world. The 2005 ICP was the largest ICP round to date, covering 146 economies from five geographic regions: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Commonwealth of Independent States, Latin America, and Western Asia, and the countries of the regular PPP programme managed by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat).

2. Following its successful completion of 2005 round, the United Nations Statistical Commission at its thirty-ninth session requested the World Bank to host the Global Office and take on the global programme coordination of the 2011 round, which the World Bank accepted. Following the Friends of the Chair evaluation of the ICP, the Statistical Commission at its fortieth session gave the final go ahead for the ICP 2011 round. Significant progress has been made in preparing for the 2011 round since the fortieth session of the Commission. During this period, the ICP governance structure was put in place: the hiring of the Global Manager completed in April 2009 and the new Global Office was established. The Executive Board, the Technical Advisory Group, and the regional coordinating bodies were set up and they held their first meetings in September-October 2009.
3. While the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme will leverage on the successful implementation of the 2005 round, its scope will be further extended.

4. This paper presents the status of the International Comparison Programme in terms of the implementation of the governance framework adopted by the fortieth session of the Statistical Commission, the objectives, and the time frame. The Programme will be designed to enhance the robustness of PPP estimates through greater adherence to the System of National Accounts, the improvement of price survey methodologies, and to encourage additional research activities. The paper also includes a brief review of the preparations in the various regions. The Commission may wish to comment on the preparations to date and the direction the Programme is taking to ensure its effectiveness and longer term sustainability.

II. Implementation of the governance framework and financial status

A. International Comparison Programme framework

5. The main elements of the 2011 ICP governance framework were endorsed by the Statistical Commission at its fortieth session, in February 2009. This framework was later expanded to serve as the reference document for the institutional set up of the Programme and the partnership arrangements between the Global Office and OECD-Eurostat as well the regional organisations who are expected to coordinate activities at regional level.
6. At its fortieth session, the Commission approved a governance structure that includes an ICP Executive Board, a Global Office led by a Global Manager, a Technical Advisory Group, and regional implementing agencies. It also confirmed that the World Bank will continue to host the Global Office of the International Comparison Programme. The role of these various bodies is detailed in the ICP governance framework which formalizes the status of the ICP Executive Board and the Technical Advisory Group and defines their respective terms of reference. The framework specifies the Global Office’s role and its reporting requirements to the Statistical Commission. It also provides the working relationship of the Global Office with the Development Data Group in the World Bank, and underlines the strengthened authority of the ICP Global Manager.

B. International Comparison Programme Executive Board

7. The ICP Executive Board held its first meeting for the ICP 2011 round on October 14, 2009, in Washington DC. It is set up as the primary decision-making and strategic body of the ICP and is ultimately accountable to the Statistical Commission for the implementation of the ICP round. It will provide annual status reports to the Commission. The membership of the ICP Executive Board was reviewed and approved by the Bureau of the Statistical Commission before invitations were sent out. The membership consists of representatives from key organizations involved with the ICP work: Eurostat, OECD, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the United Nations Statistics Division, and all regional coordinating agencies, as well as representatives of ICP participating countries, and countries providing assistance to the regional and global programmes. The composition of the Board aims
to reflect global diversity and the views of different stakeholder groups, as well as balance across the regions. Members represent their respective organizations.

C. Global management of the International Comparison Programme

8. Under the direction of the ICP Global Manager, the Global Office will carry out the day-to-day work required to implement the ICP at the international level. This includes the overall coordination and implementation of the ICP, the overall leadership and coordination to guide the regional ICP programmes and ensure that procedures and methods are comparable. The activities of the Global Office are financed mainly from the ICP Global Trust Fund following World Bank rules and regulations, and the internal World Bank budget.

9. The Global Manager is a World Bank staff reporting to the Director of the World Bank Development Data Group. On matters related to the execution and implementation of the ICP, its policies, priorities, and standards, the Global Manager will act within the directives provided by the Executive Board.

10. The ICP Technical Advisory Group held its first ICP 2011 meeting in October, 2009, in Washington DC, with the objective of discussing methodological issues aimed at ensuring the quality and reliability of the ICP 2011 results. The Technical Advisory Group stressed the need to build on lessons learned from the 2005 programme, resolved to provide technical guidance on the improvements and innovations envisioned in the new round, and agreed on the ICP research agenda.
D. Regional coordinating agencies

11. The ICP regional coordinators and representatives of the OECD-Eurostat PPP Programme met in Washington DC, in September, 2009. They agreed on the principles and ways of enhancing collaboration between the regions and the Global Office, set the objectives for the 2011 round, addressed the main methodological issues, identified the main work areas, reached understanding on data transmission and sharing, and reviewed the calendar of activities.

E. Financial status

12. The anticipated total cost to carry out the activities of the ICP 2011 round at the global level, which covers the Global Office costs and the support to some regional programmes, is estimated to be around 12 million USD. Targeted sources for funding include the World Bank budget, the interim ICP trust fund, an existing Islamic Development Bank trust fund, a new ICP trust fund, and pledges from donors. A strategy for fund raising is being followed and includes reaching out to key user and stakeholder agencies to seeking financial or in-kind contributions.

13. At the regional level, potential sources for funding include the contributions from the regional agencies’ budgets, trust funds housed and managed by regional agencies, and contributions from the participating countries.

III. Objectives of the 2011 ICP and time frame

14. As further elaborated hereunder, the main objectives of the 2011 ICP are to:

a. Broaden the scope of the programme;
b. Better address users’ needs;

c. Enhance the programme’s economic relevance by building on the assets of the previous round and through innovations and continuous improvements in ICP methodologies;

d. Enhance ICP-related statistical capacity building activities;

e. Increase data quality and reliability and make ICP a transparent process.

A. Scope of the 2011 round

15. The 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme will leverage on the successful implementation of the 2005 round which, based on a concerted effort by international and national statistical agencies, was better planned, managed and coordinated than previous rounds. The ICP Global Office will work to broaden the scope of the Programme, streamline quality assessment processes, improve the economic relevance of PPP statistics, ensure the sustainability of PPP deliveries, and enhance statistical capacity building activities related to the generation of ICP basic data with a specific focus on price statistics and the implementation of the System of National Accounts 1993/2008.

16. In addition to the 146 countries that participated in 2005 round, the Programme will plan to include additional countries from Africa, Latin America, and Western Asia as well as smaller countries from the Caribbean and Pacific Islands. All in all, the International Comparison Programme is expected to record about 170 participating countries.
B. Meeting user’s needs

17. A main objective of the programme is to effectively reach out to the users. An outreach strategy will address the specific needs of national users, regional and international organisations as well as the academia and the private sector. The users’ conference recommended by the fortieth session of the Statistical Commission will be organized around the World Statistics Day on or about October 20-21, 2010 as the apex event of the outreach programme. The conference is expected to bring together international organisations, national organisations, private multinationals and universities that are the major users of ICP statistics, as well as a wide variety of potential users interested in sectoral systems of collection, retrieval, management and analysis of data (prices, costs, expenditures) on global services and operations.

C. Building on the assets of the 2005 ICP round

18. The 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme will build on the main assets earned from the previous round, with improvements where necessary. These are: (i) the lists of products from household consumption, health, education, government compensation, as well as machinery and equipment, used in the price surveys; (ii) the list of specifications developed to link the regions into the global comparison; (iii) the knowledge base containing the ICP Handbook that provides the theoretical and methodological framework for the ICP, the ICP Operational Manual which supplements the Handbook, as well as various research papers on a wide spectrum of ICP issues; (iv) a family of software tools that were developed to rationalize, automate and streamline various ICP processes; (v) policies on data confidentiality, access by researchers (procedures were agreed upon to maintain data
confidentiality, yet also provide researchers with access to unpublished data for more in-depth analysis); and (vi) capacity building in terms of experience gained by the global, regional, and national organizations on collecting, validating and processing prices.

D. Improvements and innovations

19. Innovations and improvements are being developed to further the attainment of the five key objectives of the 2011 ICP.

20. The main innovations are: (i) the development of a comprehensive outreach strategy; (ii) the preparation and implementation of an ICP quality assurance framework; (iii) the elaboration of a statistical capacity building strategy; (iv) the preparation and publishing of an ICP book titled “Measuring the Size of the World Economy”; (v) the development of a national accounts framework for ICP that will be implemented using specifically defined guidelines of activities; (vi) a system of economic validation of price and expenditure data that will be implemented together with statistical validation methods that proved effective in 2005; (vii) a new method to compute global PPPs; and (viii) continuous improvements in ICP methodologies.

21. Improvements will mainly relate to survey frameworks and instruments for price surveys on the main household consumption products, education and health services, compensation of government employees, and machinery and equipment. The survey framework for household consumption prices will be reviewed to enhance the quality and consistency of household survey data, better delineate urban and rural areas wherever applicable, improve spatial pricing and geo-referencing sampled outlets. A “core set of data” required for poverty purposes will be identified and included in the
relevant price surveys. Moreover, the method to link the regions and the OECD-Eurostat PPPs into global results will change from the ring approach used in 2005, to a core list approach whereby all countries will be requested to include a common set of products in their list of products to be surveyed. The research agenda recommended by the ICP Technical Advisory Group should also result in additional improvements of survey, validation and computation processes.

22. In addition to the above, the issue of consistency in time and space analysis of PPPs will be furthered in the ICP 2011. Pilot exercises are underway in Asia and Africa using 2005 prices as benchmark and compiling PPPs for 2009 on the basis of a reduced version of the 2005 list of products.

E. Statistical capacity building

23. ICP experiences in the 2005 round were fruitful and successful in most regions, as the results of the ICP provided a crucial information base for research in comparative analysis and policymaking in relevant economic areas. They also served as capacity building platforms in the areas of prices and national accounts statistics. It is expected that more substantial benefits will be derived from the 2011 exercise by mainstreaming ICP activities through national strategies aimed at enhancing the infrastructure of national statistical systems. Other capacity building activities will include the development of training modules, the organisation of training sessions at regional and country level on the various ICP methods, as well as partnership with universities and statistical training centres in each region in the world, with a view to ensuring that ICP theory and methods are included in their curricula. Also, a book on PPP theory, methodologies and computation processes will be prepared and the ICP
website is being revamped to better serve as a repository of ICP knowledge resources and a research window.

F.  Time frame

24. The International Comparison Programme’s timetable spans from 2009 to 2013 and is comprised of four main stages. The first stage includes administrative and institutional arrangements. It started with the implementation of the recommendations of the fortieth session of the Statistical Commission about the governance framework (hiring of the Global Manager; establishing the Global Office at the World Bank; initiating partnership with OECD and Eurostat; securing country participation as well as regional coordination arrangements; forming the Technical Advisory Group and the Executive Board; fund raising and advocacy for the programme). While fund raising and advocacy efforts will run across the programme’s lifespan, the other activities in this stage are expected to be completed around March 2010.

25. The second stage relates to methodological preparations for the various components of the programme. This started in April 2009 and will be broadly completed by end of June 2010, with nonetheless some pilot surveys scheduled for the last half of 2010.

26. The third stage consists in undertaking national accounts activities (from mid-2010 to the end of the third quarter of 2013) and conducting price surveys. The main price survey on household goods and services will take place in all the countries throughout 2011, except for small countries, which, following a recommendation from the Statistical Commission at its fortieth session, will collect prices in 2012. Other price surveys (education, health, compensation of government employees, equipment, and
construction) will be carried out concomitantly with the compilation of relevant expenditures data, from early 2011 to end of 2012.

27. The fourth stage includes the preparation of preliminary and final reports by regional coordinating offices and the Global Office. It is expected that the final global results will be obtained in December 2013, with the electronic and physical reports being released about 2-6 months later.

IV. Compliance with the System of National Accounts

A. Designing the national accounts framework for ICP

28. The System of National Accounts is, by the nature of the ICP, the reference framework for the determination of PPPs. This entails specifying the detailed ICP requirements for national accounts data, the major uses of these data and possible methods of estimating detailed data for those countries that do not compile their accounts at the level required for the ICP. These requirements will be useful to all the countries, whether they are implementing the System of National Accounts for the first time, improving their national accounts, upgrading the coverage of their accounts (particularly producing expenditure-based gross domestic product (GDP) estimates for the first time), or reviewing their national accounts to meet all the standards of the System of National Accounts 1993. The Global Office is developing the above in the form of an ICP-related national accounts framework, under which expenditure values will be compiled. Relevant series of sequenced activities are being defined, which national accountants in ICP participating countries where national accounts systems are not highly developed will carry out to compile detailed GDP expenditures
consistently with prices collected in ICP surveys. It is worth underlining that the 2011 ICP will use the System of National Accounts 1993 because the vast majority of countries will still be implementing this version of the system in 2011. The sequenced activities mentioned above will be customized according to whether a particular country is still using an older version or has already migrated to the System of National Accounts 2008.

B. Consistency between GDP expenditures and survey prices

29. The dual approach of, on the one hand, using national accounts to review surveyed prices, and on the other hand, reviewing expenditures values in the light of these prices, is meant to increase the quality and reliability of both types of data. Relevant dual validation processes will be described in the ICP quality assurance framework being developed by the Global Office.

V. Price survey methodologies and research agenda

A. Linking the regions: the core list approach

30. Learning lessons from the previous ICP round, the ICP 2011 will depart from the ring method that was used to link PPPs from the OECD-Eurostat programme with ICP regional PPPs into global PPPs. A core list approach will be implemented instead. A core list of products will be included in each regional list as well as in the lists for OECD-Eurostat surveys. This will facilitate the process of linking the regions and the OECD-Eurostat programme to the world. The proposed process for building the core list and the regional lists is iterative and involves close collaboration between the Global Office, regional coordinators, OECD-Eurostat, and the countries. There will
be a core list for each type of price data collection. As was already recommended and implemented in 2005, the Structured Product Description (SPD) approach will be used to describe the products to be included in the lists.

B. Education and health services

31. The International Comparison Programme is investigating a methodology that will cover private and public education and health services within the ICP framework. For this, new partnerships are being sought with targeted departments in the World Bank and external organisations that can provide technical advice. While seeking to pursue research in these areas, the ICP Global Office will improve on the survey instruments related to the methods used for the 2005 round. The relevant processes for deriving PPPs for education will be examined by national accounts experts in order to ensure consistency between expenditures and prices.

C. Gross capital formation

32. The ICP 2005 methodology related to machinery and equipment will be implemented with significant improvements: a core list of items will be developed; the 2005 specifications will be revised to provide an updated list for 2011; the Global Office will ensure bridging between the OECD-Eurostat and the ICP lists; a component costs method will be used as a price validation tool for machinery and equipment. As for construction and civil engineering, a review of existing methods is being carried out with a view to improving data collection in the countries and the linking with OECD-Eurostat and the Commonwealth of Independent States.
D. Research agenda

33. The list of methodological areas that require specific research studies includes: the treatment of owner-occupied housing, the treatment of financial services, the measurement of government outputs, problems associated with the review of survey frameworks, the treatment of exports and imports, the adjustment of household consumption data for net purchases abroad, the representativity problem, the aggregation of global PPPs, the price averaging process, PPP-based poverty analysis, the back-casting methodology in terms of handling PPP revisions.

VI. Data management and quality assurance

A. Data processing resources

34. For the 2011, a suite of software modules will be identified and developed where necessary. This will include software modules developed at regional and global levels, such as the PCT developed in Asia, the SEMPER in Africa and CIS’s tools, as well as the Eurostat tool for SPD. The Global Office will enlist the support of all major stakeholders inside the World Bank and in regional and sub-regional coordinating agencies, and build consensus on the nature and role of the software tools to be designed.

B. Quality assurance

35. A three-tier ICP Quality Assurance Framework (ICP-QAF) is being developed. The first component is comprised of a body of principles that ICP operations at the country, regional, and global levels should adhere to.
36. The second component is a three-level check list to evaluate the quality of ICP work in countries, regional offices, and the Global Office, in terms of their adherence to the quality principles and the recommended processes. The aim of this framework is to introduce rigor, structure, and a common language in the assessment of the quality of microeconomic data and aggregated results. At the national level, the price collection framework should ensure that prices collected are suitable for the calculation of annual national average prices consistent with national accounts. At the regional level, the recording system should ensure the comparability of national annual prices across the countries and the adherence to accepted procedures. At the global level, the elaboration of a global core item list for each price survey is expected to streamline and improve the computation process of global results.

37. All critical processes will be documented as part of the third component of the ICP-QAF. The documentation will include the calculation of national annual average prices, the intra-country and inter-country validation of prices and expenditure values, the specific validation of the prices of core items, the computation of regional linking factors, and the aggregation of regional PPPs into global results. The third component will also include an inventory of best practices and guidelines for ICP data validation.

VII. Regional programmes

A. Africa

38. The African programme will be coordinated by the African Development Bank that has secured the participation of 52 countries (4 more than in 2005). As part of the preparations for field activities, the item list, data collection manuals and data
validation tools will be reviewed in 2010. Preparatory work will also cover survey instruments and survey frameworks.

39. As it is envisaged to conduct the ICP-Africa 2011 on the basis of sub-regional economic groupings. The item list will be reviewed and updated to take into consideration new products, the implementation structure of the programme and lessons learned from the 2005 round. These lessons will also help review data collection manuals, especially by laying emphasis on the synergy between consumer price indexes (CPI) and ICP.

40. There will be a need for data validation tools to be reviewed and improved. This includes the software developed by the African Development Bank for 2005, SEMPER, which will be used for data entry, processing and intra country data validation, for the main price survey. Data collectors and supervisors will be trained on the various survey instruments and other preparatory activities will be conducted in the third quarter of 2010 so that data collection can start in January 2011 in compliance with the Global ICP data collection programme.

41. Survey Frameworks - For each participating country, a survey framework will be elaborated in compliance with the global ICP requirements.

B. Asia and the Pacific

42. The preparations for the ICP 2011 round will be initiated after the memorandum of understanding between the Asian Development Bank and the ICP Global Office has been put in place and funding has been secured. A draft memorandum of understanding is being reviewed. The ICP-Asia programme is expected to have the
same governance structure as in ICP 2005 round comprising a regional advisory board, memorandum of understanding with participating countries, a national implementing agency, and a national coordinator. Myanmar is expected to join the 23 countries that participated in 2005. The 24 country list includes Iran that is not an Asian Development Bank developing member country and for which financing must be secured from another source than the Asian Development Bank. In 2005, Iran was financed by the World Bank through the United Nations Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

43. Specific fund raising efforts must be undertaken for the Pacific islands (with the exception of Fiji) to be able to participate in this round. Expanding the work to the Pacific islands is important but there are practical problems including the geographic distance, countries’ low ICP expertise and statistical capacity, and financial, human and technical constraints.

44. Australia is willing to help the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank to encourage Pacific islands to participate. A plan will be developed accordingly. For it to be effective there is a need for a sound conceptual approach, and the agreement and collaboration of individual country statistical offices. Also, some provision must be made for additional expert resources on the ground in each participating Pacific country to support and assist in data gathering as well as to provide a sound grasp of the state of local national accounts’ quality and coverage and assist the countries implement the ICP related national accounts framework being developed by the Global Office.
45. Another important aspect in country participation is the upswing in the scope of China’s participation. Whereas only eleven cities from China participated in the 2005 round of the ICP, in the 2011 round, the Commissioner of the National Bureau of Statistics has informed the ICP Executive Board that China’s coverage will be nationwide.

C. Commonwealth of Independent States

46. The Meeting of Heads of Statistical Agencies of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries held in Moscow on November 23, 2009, has recommended to national statistical authorities of CIS countries to take part in the new 2011 ICP global round. The CIS Interstate Statistical Committee will perform the functions of the regional coordinator for the 2011 ICP round in the CIS region and advise the ICP Global Office accordingly. The Russian Federal State Statistics Service - Rosstat will act as a partner institution in coordinating the programme in the CIS region. The CIS Interstate Statistical Committee and the Rosstat will design a draft work programme describing the participation of the CIS region.

D. Latin America and the Caribbean

47. The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) will coordinate ICP activities in Latin America and the Caribbean, providing overall regional coordination and technical support. In the 2011 round, ECLAC is planning to extend the ICP country coverage to 20 Latin American countries and 14 Caribbean countries. They are also establishing a strategy to deal with countries in the region that are members of the OECD group, namely Mexico and Chile. The 2011 ICP round has been widely discussed in regional and sub-
regional forums, and although countries have not been formally invited, there is a very strong interest in participating. The ICP activities in Latin America and the Caribbean will be organized in three sub-regions: South America, Central America (including non-English speaking Caribbean countries) and the Caribbean. For the latter, support from CARICOM and other sub-regional agencies is being arranged.

48. Two main challenges are worth underlining for the 2011 ICP in Latin America and the Caribbean. Firstly, there is a possible conflict between the ICP survey period and housing and population censuses timetables in the Caribbean. It is therefore agreed that any country that cannot implement the two programmes concomitantly, will defer their ICP surveys to 2012. Proper linking methods will be applied to link their data to other countries’ data. Secondly, uncertainty regarding funding and putting in place an effective strategy to deal with the dual participation of Chile and Mexico is yet to be resolved.

E. Western Asia

49. All 14 member countries of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) are planning and have showed willingness to participate in the 2011 round of the ICP. This includes two countries - Egypt and Sudan - that participate also in the Africa programme. Countries’ recommendation is to maintain the existence of a Regional Executive Board as it proved to be a crucial element in the success of the regional implementation of the 2005 round. Also, it gives the countries stronger ownership and eases the adoption of the programme as part of their regular work programme. In the 2011 ICP round, the ESCWA regional office is assessing the option of dividing the region into two sub-regional groups where more focus can be
shed on data collection, validation and consistency at the sub-regional level. Preparation has already started subsequent to the final approval for including the ICP implementation within the biennium Work plan of ESCWA (2010-2011), which the ESCWA Statistical Committee has approved in its meeting in October 2008. A preparatory meeting with the World Bank and the Islamic Development Bank took place in July 2009 following a previous meeting that ESCWA held with the Islamic Development Bank in June 2009.

50. The main challenge is primarily securing sufficient funds to implement the programme at the regional level, as well as the availability of sufficient resources and technical expertise at the national level to be dedicated to ICP tasks. ESCWA is already contributing human resources and necessary logistics for the coordination of the programme. Funding is to be sought from potential donors.

F. Special participation issues

51. There are some country participation issues known so far that are under considerations. Two special participation issues can be pinpointed to the Statistical Commission to provide an example as steps are already underway to address these issues. The first one concerns countries such as Iran that do not belong to any of the regional coordinating agencies. As in 2005, an ad-hoc solution must be explored between the countries concerned, the Global Office, and a regional coordinating office likely to host them on an exceptional basis. The same is true for Georgia which used to belong to the CIS region and participate in the ICP there. With Georgia leaving the CIS a special place should be found for Georgia to participate. The second issue relates to dual participation, as is the case for Chile, Mexico, Sudan and Egypt.
As regards Sudan and Egypt, it is proposed that the African Development Bank, ESCWA and the Global Office develop a mechanism to avoid duplication of resources, efforts and data sets. Data provided by the two countries should serve both the African and the Western Asian regional programmes. As for Chile and Mexico, the decision rests with the countries concerned.

VIII. Points for discussion

52. The Commission is requested to review and comment on:
   a. The objectives of the 2011 round;
   b. The new orientations and the envisioned innovations and improvements;
   c. The issues related to country participation;
   d. The status of preparations so far.

53. The Commission is also requested to provide further guidance on the work plan and the timetable.
Annexes

I. International Comparison Programme Executive Board members

Norway, Statistics Norway, Director General (*Chair*)

African Development Bank, Statistics Department, Director

Asian Development Bank, Economics and Research Department, Chief Economist

Australia, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Statistician

Brazil, Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), President

Canada, Statistics Canada, Chief Statistician of Canada

**China, National Bureau of Statistics, Commissioner**

Commonwealth of Independent States, Interstate Statistical Committee, Chairman

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Statistics and Economic Projections Division, Director

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Statistics Division, Chief

Eurostat, Statistical Office of the European Communities, External cooperation, communication and key indicators, Director

France, INSEE, Director General

India, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Chief Statistician

International Monetary Fund, Statistics Department, Director

Mexico, National Institute for Statistics and Geography (INEGI), President

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Statistics Directorate, Chief Statistician
Russian Federation, Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat), Head

Saudi Arabia, Central Department of Statistics and Information, Director General

Senegal, National Agency for Statistics and Demography (ANSD), Director General

South Africa, Statistics South Africa, Statistician General

Uganda, Uganda Bureau of Statistics, Executive Director

United Kingdom, Office for National Statistics, National Statistician

United Nations, Statistics Division, Director

United States, Office of Management and Budget, Chief Statistician

World Bank, Development Data Group, Director
II. International Comparison Programme Technical Advisory Group members

Erwin Diewert, Professor of Economics, University of British Colombia, *Chair*

Fred Vogel, Consultant, World Bank, *Deputy Chair*

Alan Heston, Professor, Centre for International Comparison, University of Pennsylvania

Angus Deaton, Professor of Economics and International Affairs, Princeton University

Bart Van Ark, Chief Economist, The Conference Board

Francette Koechlin, Statistics Directorate, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Jim Thomas, Bureau of Labor Statistics, USA

Kim Zieschang, Statistics Department, International Monetary Fund

Louis Marc Ducharme, Statistics Canada

Tom Langer, Statistics Norway

Luigi Biggeri, University of Florence

Martin Ravallion, Director of Research, World Bank

Michel Mouyelo-Katoula, *ICP Global Manager*

Mick Silver, Statistics Department, International Monetary Fund

Paul Konijn, Eurostat

Paul McCarthy, Consultant, World Bank

Prasada Rao, Professor of Economics, University of Queensland

Sergey Sergeev, Statistics Austria
III. International Comparison Programme regional coordinating agencies representatives and OECD-Eurostat representatives

Abdoulaye Adam, African Development Bank
Luc Mbong Mbong, African Development Bank
Chellam Palayandy, Asian Development Bank
Youri Ivanov, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States
Luis Gonzalez, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Ernestina Perez, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Sylvan Roberts, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Giovanni Savio, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
Majed Skaini, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
Paul Konijn, Eurostat
Francette Koechlin, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
Vasily Kouznetsov, Russian Federal State Statistics Service, Rosstat