



MINUTES OF THE 3RD ICP INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION GROUP MEETING

MARCH 5, 2017

NEW YORK, USA

WELCOME AND MEETING OBJECTIVES

The third meeting of the International Comparison Program (ICP) Inter-Agency Coordination Group (IACG) was held in New York on March 5, 2017, in conjunction with the 48th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC).

The main objectives of the meeting were to provide updates on regional and global ICP activities and related risk assessment, as well as plan for the next IACG meeting, as per the agenda provided in Annex 1. The meeting was attended by the representatives from the African Development Bank (AfDB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC) and the World Bank. In addition, representatives from the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) attended the meeting as observers. The list of participants is provided in Annex 2. The meeting was organized and chaired by the World Bank's Global ICP Unit.

Nada Hamadeh, ICP Global Lead (World Bank), welcomed the participants. Grant Cameron, Manager (World Bank), noted the good progress made on the launch of the ICP 2017 cycle implementation since the last IACG meeting.

BRIEF UPDATE ON REGIONAL ACTIVITIES AND RISKS

The Regional Implementing Agencies¹ (RIAs) provided a brief overview of the regional activities and plans for the implementation of ICP 2017 cycle, focusing especially on the updates on the ICP 2017 cycle country participation and survey schedule, status of the regional items lists and operational material,

¹ *Fessou Emesan Lawson* for the African Development Bank; *Kaushal Joshi* and *Rana Hasan* for the Asian Development Bank; *Andrey Kosarev* for the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States; *Giovanni Savio* and *Pascual Gerstenfeld* for the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; *Majed Skaini* for the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; *Paul Schreyer* for the Economic Co-operation and Development; and *Pieter Everaers* for the Statistical Office of the European Union.

capacity-building workshops and technical assistance, outreach activities, plans for the finalization and release of interim regional results, and regional risks.

All ICP regions have launched the ICP 2017 cycle activities, while Eurostat and OECD are conducting their respective regular programs. Prices and related data for the ICP 2017 cycle will be collected during 2016, 2017 and 2018, while national accounts activities and data validation will be carried out throughout the cycle. The noted risks mainly relate to country participation, timetable slippage, and availability of human and financial resources. On country participation, activities to link Georgia and Ukraine to the Eurostat comparison have been initiated. Efforts are also underway in various regions to include Argentina, Guyana, Iran, Libya, Somalia, South Sudan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. On the release of the interim results, CIS-STAT noted that the CIS results for 2014 will be published in the second quarter of 2017. Furthermore, interim results for 2015 and 2016 for Asia and the Pacific and 2016 for Western Asia are foreseen to be published during the first quarter of 2018.

BRIEF UPDATE ON GLOBAL ACTIVITIES AND RISK ASSESSMENT

The Global ICP Unit briefed the participants on the latest global activities, risks and global timetable. On governance activities, the ICP Governing Board held its first meeting on November 15, 2016. The Board endorsed the ICP governance framework, established the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), and discussed preparations for the ICP 2017 cycle. The TAG is scheduled to hold its first meeting on May 24, 2017 to discuss the ICP research agenda and establish Task Forces. On operational activities, the finalization of most operational materials for the ICP 2017 cycle was noted, as well as the support to regional activities and workshops. On research, technical, knowledge and outreach activities, selected ICP-related seminars and papers were highlighted, together with the launch of the new ICP website, finalization of a video tutorial on understanding ICP results, and publication of a leaflet on purchasing power parity (PPP) fundamentals. The noted risks mainly related to country participation, timetable, data quality, consistency and access, and availability of human and financial resources. The global timetable envisages having the results for the 2017 cycle ready in December 2019, while PPP time series covering 2012-2016 are expected to be published by the end of 2018.

An analysis of the global core list (GCL) item overlap and an assessment of extrapolation data was presented. On GCL overlap, all regions meet the minimum requirements for linking; however, a few basic headings were identified as potentially problematic due to a low number of overlapping items. In addition, additional efforts are needed to ensure coherent interpretation of the various brand types on the GCL across the regions. On extrapolation data, all RIAs have now provided data for their respective regions; however, gaps persist at more detailed levels.

PLANNING FOR THE NEXT INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION GROUP MEETING

The participants were briefed on the plans for the next IACG meeting. The meeting is proposed to be held during the 4th week of October 2017 in Washington, DC, and divided into two parts. The first part would be attended by the IACG agencies, and would discuss updates on progress, globally and regionally, validation of the GCL item prices across regions, and risk assessment and mitigation measures. The second part would be attended by the IACG agencies and 15-20 countries to discuss country perception of the quality of the GCL items across regions. It was agreed to continue via email the discussion on the selection the countries to be invited to the meeting.



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MILLENNIUM HOTEL, NEW YORK

<i>09:30 – 09:45</i>	Welcome and meeting objectives
<i>09:45 – 11:15</i>	Brief update on regional activities and risks (15 minutes per region) <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Updates on ICP 2017 country participation and survey schedule– Status of 2017 regional items lists and operational material– Workshops, capacity-building and outreach activities– Submission schedule for interim and 2017 data [incl. extrapolation data]– Finalization and release of interim regional results– Update to ICP 2011 results, if any– Regional risk assessment
<i>11:15 – 12:00</i>	Brief update on global activities and risk assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Overview of latest global activities– Analysis of GCL item overlap for linking– Assessment of extrapolation data– Global timetable– Overall risk assessment
<i>12:00 – 12:30</i>	Planning for the next Inter-Agency Coordination Group meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Timing and location– Format– Invitees

Annex 2: List of Participants

Name	Organization
Fessou Emesan Lawson	African Development Bank (AfDB)
Rana Hasan	Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Kaushal Joshi	Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Louis-Marc Ducharme	International Monetary Fund (IMF)
Andrey Kosarev	Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT)
Paul Schreyer	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Pieter Everaers	Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat)
Majed Skaini	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)
Pascual Gerstenfeld	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC)
Giovanni Savio	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC)
Ivo Havinga	United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
Herman Smith	United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
Grant Cameron	World Bank
Nada Hamadeh	World Bank
Marko Rissanen	World Bank
Christelle Kouame	World Bank