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**Proposed ICP Data Access and Archiving Policy
Frequently Asked Questions**

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1. What are ICP data and metadata?

ICP data and metadata include all the variables and information provided in Annex 1 and 2 of this document. ICP data and metadata are classified by the geographical level of interest: global, regional and country levels.

2. What is the ICP Data Access and Archiving Policy?

It is the official document containing the rules and guidelines for archiving and sharing ICP data and metadata.

3. Who prepares and approves the ICP Data Access and Archiving Policy?

The document is prepared by the ICP Global Unit in consultation with the Regional Implementing Agencies. Regional Implementing Agencies in turn discuss data access provisions with their countries. The document is approved and endorsed by the ICP Governing Board.

4. Who is the ICP Data Access and Archiving Policy aimed at?

The document is aimed at: (i) countries interested in learning how their ICP data and metadata are archived and safeguarded; and (ii) users seeking access to ICP data and metadata.

5. Who are the main users of ICP data and metadata?

The main users of ICP data and metadata are policy makers, researchers from international, regional and national agencies, as well as academic and research institutions, and the media.

6. What are the benefits of providing access to ICP data and metadata?

The ICP Data Access and Archiving Policy supports the objective of enhancing the transparency and relevance of the data and metadata produced by the ICP. In this sense, it promotes the increased research and innovation, methodological development and capacity building that comes from facilitating access to ICP data and metadata, while encouraging ongoing and future uses of ICP data.

7. What are published ICP data and metadata?

Published ICP data refer to purchasing power parities (PPPs), price level indexes (PLIs) and expenditure data for all countries at the agreed publication level, as decided by the ICP Governing

Board. Published ICP metadata refer to the broad description of ICP methodology included in the final report, as well as the footnotes to the published data.

8. How can users access published ICP data and metadata?

Published ICP data and metadata can be accessed via ICP publications and website.

9. What are unpublished ICP data and metadata?

Unpublished ICP data refer to PPPs, PLIs and expenditure data at various levels of detail below the agreed publication level for all countries. It also includes national and sub-national average price data at the item level and the underlying individual price observations (microdata) for all countries.

Unpublished ICP metadata refer to the survey frames, item lists, availability and importance indicators at the item level, measures of quality, and national accounts country practices. Brand information is anonymized prior to sharing item lists with authorized users.

10. What is meant by microdata?

Microdata refer to individual price observations at the item level for items priced from the global and regional lists.

11. What is meant by sub-national average prices?

Sub-national average prices refer to average prices of unique or mutually exclusive locations within a country. This may include, but is not limited to, average prices for the capital city, or for first-level administrative divisions *within* a country (e.g. states, provinces, etc.)

It must be noted that the stratification of countries by administrative division or geographical area will not always be comparable across countries as definitions and concepts may vary from one country to another.

12. How can users access unpublished ICP data and metadata?

Unpublished ICP data and metadata are never included in ICP publications nor released online. There are three ways users can access unpublished ICP data and metadata.

- a. Users interested in accessing global and/or regional unpublished ICP data and metadata (global and regional PPPs, PLIs, expenditure data, and average prices) may submit a formal data request addressed to the World Bank Global ICP Unit. Data will only be provided if approved by the World Bank Global ICP Unit.
- b. Users interested in accessing regional unpublished ICP data and metadata (regional PPPs, PLIs, expenditure data, and average prices) may contact the relevant Regional Implementing Agency for access. In this case, the Regional Implementing Agency follows the access policy

agreed by the ICP Governing Board. Access will only be provided if approved by the Regional Implementing Agency, and it does not require clearance from the World Bank Global ICP Unit.

- c. Users interested in accessing individual price observations (microdata) and supporting metadata must contact the country/countries in question directly. The World Bank Global ICP Unit and the Regional Implementing Agencies cannot provide access to individual price observations (microdata). Access will only be provided if approved by the country, and it does not require clearance from the World Bank Global ICP Unit nor the Regional Implementing Agencies.

13. Will gap-filled average price data and reference PPPs be provided to approved users?

Gap-filled average prices (calculated on the fly by the country-product-dummy (CPD) method) are not archived nor provided to approved users. In contrast, reference PPPs are provided to approved users, and the accompanying metadata would indicate which PPPs are reference PPPs.

14. If subnational average prices are shared with users, will anything be said about their reliability?

Yes. When making subnational average prices available, users will be cautioned that ICP survey frames aim at producing reliable national average prices, and not subnational average prices; thus, the quality of the subnational average prices is not optimal.

15. Would users granted access to unpublished ICP data be able to identify the respondent such as individual outlet or data collector?

No. The ICP data does not provide any information that leads to the identification of the respondent. In the case where an average price is based on individual observations from one outlet only, the average price will not be shared with users. Countries should inform Regional Implementing Agencies, who in turn should inform the World Bank Global ICP Unit, which average prices fall under this category.

16. Can anyone request and access unpublished ICP data and metadata through the World Bank?

Anyone can request access, but not everyone is granted access. ICP data and metadata are safeguarded by the World Bank Global ICP Unit through a meticulous evaluation of each formal data request to ensure that it meets all the needed requirements. The World Bank Global ICP Unit makes decisions on whether to approve requests, in line with the ICP Data Access and Archiving Policy approved by the ICP Governing Board.

17. If a user is granted access to unpublished ICP data and metadata provided, will s/he be provided with all available unpublished ICP data and metadata?

No. Users will receive the exact variables and information for the countries of interest only, as included in their formal data request.

18. What must be included in the formal data request submission?

An outline of the information required in the formal data request is shown in Annex 6 of the ICP Data Access and Archiving Policy. Examples of some of the information requested from users are details on the research plan, information on the intended use of the requested data and information on the project and data dissemination plans, if any.

In addition, all formal data requests must be accompanied by a signed declaration of use stating that users will not misuse the data in anyway. The signature required is that of the responsible senior manager, head of department or dean of the organization sponsoring the user. Noncompliance with this declaration will exclude the requesting organization and/or user from any further access to unpublished ICP data.

Users must also commit to sharing their findings with the World Bank Global ICP Unit, who in turn post the finalized papers/reports on the ICP website, for the wider consumption of ICP stakeholders and user community.

Annex 1. ICP Data

A. Global Data

1. Global PPPs, PLIs and expenditure data disseminated at the publication level for all countries.
2. Global PPPs, PLIs and expenditure data at various levels of detail below the publication level for all countries.
3. National annual average prices for items on the Global Core Lists¹ for all countries.
4. Disaggregated sub-national annual average prices for items on the Global Core Lists for all countries.
5. Population and exchange rate data for all countries.

B. Regional Data

1. Regional PPPs, PLIs and expenditure data disseminated at the publication level for countries in each region.
2. Regional PPPs, PLIs and expenditure data at various levels of detail below the publication level for countries in each region.
3. National annual average prices for items on the Regional Lists² for countries in each region.
4. Disaggregated sub-national annual average prices for items on the Regional Lists for countries in each region.
5. Population and exchange rate data for countries in each region.

C. Country Data

1. National annual average prices for items priced from the Regional Lists and Global Core Lists.
2. Disaggregated sub-national annual average prices for items priced from the Regional Lists and Global Core Lists.
3. Individual price observations at the item level (microdata) for items priced from the Regional Lists and Global Core Lists with identifiers for the type of outlet, location, and urban/rural designation.
4. Population and exchange rate data.

¹ These include the Global Core Lists for consumer goods and services, housing, government, machinery and equipment, and construction.

² These include the Regional Lists for consumer goods and services, housing, government, machinery and equipment, and construction. These lists include items from the Global Core Lists selected for pricing in each region.

Annex 2. ICP Metadata

A. Global Metadata

1. A broad description of ICP methodology, including a description of methodologies for consumer goods and services, housing, government, machinery and equipment, and construction, as well as the methodology for linking regional results and imputing PPPs for non-participating economies.
2. Global Core Lists, with supporting item descriptions.
3. The matrix of availability of price data for each item on the Global Core Lists for all countries.
4. The matrix of importance for consumer goods and services on the Global Core Lists for all countries.
5. Measures of quality including the number of individual price observations and coefficients of variation for Global Core List items for all countries.
6. A table showing the global reference PPPs.
7. National accounts reporting forms and related country practice questionnaires for all countries.
8. Survey framework questionnaires for all countries.

B. Regional Metadata

1. A broad description of ICP methodology implemented in each region, including the method implemented for housing.
2. Regional Lists, with supporting item descriptions.
3. The matrix of availability of price data for each item on the Regional Lists for all countries.
4. The matrix of importance for consumer goods and services on the Regional Lists for all countries.
5. Measures of quality including the number or individual price observations and coefficients of variation for items on the Regional Lists for countries in each region.
6. A table showing the regional reference PPPs.
7. National accounts reporting forms and related country practice questionnaires for countries in each region.
8. Survey framework questionnaires for countries in each region.

9. Country Metadata

1. Detailed national survey framework for the ICP.
2. A table showing items for which prices were collected and quarters in which prices were collected.
3. Estimation method for national average prices, especially when the price survey was not spatially representative.

4. Price indices used to adjust prices collected temporally, when the price survey did not cover the whole reference year.
5. Methodology for deriving expenditure data.