



MINUTES OF THE INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION GROUP PRINCIPALS MEETING

MARCH 4, 2018

NEW YORK, USA

WELCOME AND MEETING OBJECTIVES

The meeting of the International Comparison Program (ICP) Inter-Agency Coordination Group (IACG) Principals was held in New York on March 4, 2018, in conjunction with the 49th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC). The main objective of the meeting was to provide updates on global and regional ICP activities and related risk assessment, as per the agenda provided in Annex 1.

The meeting was organized by the World Bank and attended by representatives from the African Development Bank (AfDB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), United Kingdom Department for International Development, (DFID), 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 United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

Haishan Fu, World Bank, opened the meeting by welcoming the participants and noting that 2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the ICP. She also noted that, since the 2017 cycle constitutes the start of the permanent ICP program, it is important to ensure the success of this cycle in order to put the program on a solid footing.

BRIEF GLOBAL AND REGIONAL UPDATES

Nada Hamadeh, World Bank, provided a brief global update, covering the status of global activities, timetable and publication schedule, knowledge materials, outreach efforts and purchasing power parity (PPP)-use highlights. The related presentation is available [here](#).

Charles Lufumpa, AfDB; Kaushal Joshi, ADB; Andrey Kosarev, CIS-STAT; Giovanni Savio and Pascual Gerstenfeld, UN-ECLAC; Philomen Harrison, CARICOM; Juraj Riecan, UN-ESCWA; Martine Durand, OECD; and Silke Stapel, Eurostat provided brief regional updates, covering the status of country participation, regional activities, timetable and publication schedule, as well as challenges faced, mitigation measures taken and outstanding risks.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION OF OUTSTANDING RISKS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

A round table discussion on outstanding risks covered the following risks and related mitigation measures: i) timetable risks; ii) quality risks; iii) funding risks; iv) participation risks; and v) administrative challenges. The related presentation is available [here](#).

MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

The following main conclusions and decisions were reached:

- All ICP regions have launched the activities of the 2017 cycle; however, delays in initiating activities in two regions pose timetable, coverage and quality risks for the program. These risks are serious impediments to a successful cycle and to the effective transformation of the ICP into a permanent program.
- To be able to publish the global results by the end of 2019, as planned, it is paramount that country and regional activities, including scheduled surveys and planned workshops, are being carried out without further delays.
- Furthermore, in order to ensure the quality of the global results, regional implementing agencies should follow the agreed data submission schedules, allowing for the global validation activities to be carried out in a timely manner. In this regard, all regional implementing agencies should submit to the Global ICP Unit all available data collected for the interim and 2017 cycle by end of July 2018.
- The IACG at its upcoming meeting in March 2018 should carefully review the progress and devise an action plan to ensure that the ICP 2017 cycle is being implemented per the agreed timetable.
- The ICP Governing Board should be provided with a clear update on the action plan, progress, and outstanding risks by the end of August 2018, ahead of its next meeting in October 2018.

Annex 1: Meeting Agenda

Meeting of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group Principals

March 4, 2018

Landmark Conference Room, Millennium Hotel

1 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017

Agenda

09:30 – 09:40	Welcome
09:40 – 10:00	Brief global update <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Status of global activities, timetable and publication schedule– Knowledge materials, outreach efforts and uses highlights
10:00 – 11:20	Brief regional updates (15 minutes per region) <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Status of country participation, regional activities, timetable and publication schedule– Challenges faced, measures taken and outstanding risks
11:20 – 12:00	Round table discussion of outstanding risks and mitigation measures

Annex 2: List of Participants

Name	Organization
Charles Lufumpa	African Development Bank (AfDB)
Michel Mouyelo-Katoula	African Development Bank (AfDB)
Kaushal Joshi	Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Philomen Harrison	Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
Louis-Marc Ducharme	International Monetary Fund (IMF)
Andrey Kosarev	Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT)
Neil Jackson	United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)
Martine Durand	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Silke Stapel	Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat)
Juraj Riecan	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)
Michael Smedes	United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
Haishan Fu	World Bank
Grant Cameron	World Bank
Nada Hamadeh	World Bank
Marko Rissanen	World Bank
Inyoung Song	World Bank
Christelle Kouame	World Bank