Background

The PPP Computation Task Force (CoTaF) was established at its first meeting on October 20, 2010, in Washington DC.

The overall objective of the CoTaF is to support the Global Office in ensuring that the ICP results at regional and global levels are computed in full accordance with the methods recommended by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

The specific objectives are to (i) thoroughly review the ICP global results before PPP data are published by any region, to ensure that the computation methods are sound and that all procedures used are transparent and fully documented; and (ii) ensure the soundness, consistency, and transparency of the various processes related to the validation of input and output data, the imputation of missing input data and the estimation of results for non benchmark countries.

The tasks of the CoTaF members include providing inputs to and advice on the various technical aspects related to the objectives of the Task Force.

The tasks will include but not be limited to:

1. Translating TAG recommended methods on the computation of ICP within-region and inter-region results into practical and operational procedures to be strictly adhered to by the Regional Coordinators and the Global Office;

2. Helping the Global Office prepare a detailed documentation on these procedures;

3. Discussing any issues arising from the implementation of the established procedures and recommending the appropriate technical solutions. Any theoretical issues related to the PPP aggregation methods will be directed to the TAG;

4. Identifying PPP computation issues for which practical recommendations will be made to the Global Office and/or the regional coordinators;
5. Reviewing the regional and global PPP results against the backdrop of the established procedures and updating the computation documentation where applicable;

6. Advising the Global Office in developing the appropriate computation tools (software modules, EXCEL macros, SAS procedures, etc.) or using existing tools;

7. Assisting the Global Office in the computation of the Global results;

8. Providing technical assistance to the regional coordinators on the computation of their within-region results, on a need basis;

9. Preparing/reviewing detailed documentation on the ICP computation processes;

10. Reviewing the regional and global results of the 2011 round in relation to the 2005 results.

**Discussions and main conclusions of the third CoTaF Meeting**

The third CoTaF Meeting was held on October 4, 2011 after the sixth TAG meeting. The following points were discussed and agreed.

1. **Composition of the Task Force.** The Task Force agreed that four groups of experts will undertake the computation of global PPPs in parallel. The groups will be led by: (i) Alan Heston/ Bettina Aten, (ii) Robert Hill, (iii) Sergey Sergeev, and (iv) Yuri Dikhanov.

2. **Input & exchange of data.** All the groups will receive the same input data at the same time from the Global Office to ensure that the process of exchanging data is streamlined.

3. **Computation methods and results.** Each group will: (i) implement the PPP aggregation and linking methods prescribed by the Global Office; (ii) conduct experimental computations to test the methods; (iii) share their results (test, intermediary, or actual outputs) with the rest of the Task Force and the Global Office.

4. **Documentation.** All computation processes would be documented in a detailed, legible, and timely manner to ensure that the results can be replicated. David Roberts will consolidate all the documentation.

5. **Tools.** Each of the group will share their computation algorithms and tools with the rest of the Task Force and the Global Office.

6. **eScoop.** eScoop will be the communication platform for all Task Force members.