Minutes of the 4th ICP Inter-Agency Coordination Group Meeting
October 23–25, 2017
World Bank, Washington, DC

Welcome and Meeting Objectives

The fourth meeting of the International Comparison Program (ICP) Inter-Agency Coordination Group (IACG) was held on October 23-25, 2017 at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC.

The main objectives of the meeting were to discuss the i) status of interim activities and 2017 cycle and risk assessment; ii) data access, publication of results, and uses; iii) country and regional feedback on ICP 2017 operational materials; iv) data for interim years; v) eLearning, and vi) data processing and IT solutions, as per the agenda provided in Annex 1. In addition, side meetings on the participation of Colombia and Costa Rica, and dual participating countries, were held in conjunction with the IACG meeting. The meeting participants are listed in Annex 2.

Haishan Fu, Director, World Bank, opened the meeting by welcoming the participants and highlighting the key role the IACG plays in implementing the ICP. Nada Hamadeh, ICP Global Lead, World Bank, emphasized the urgency to ensure that all regions and countries are collecting data per the agreed timetable. She also stressed the joint responsibility of producing the global ICP results, and the need to share data among regional and global implementing agencies to ensure the quality of PPP estimates.

SESSION I: STATUS OF INTERIM ACTIVITIES AND 2017 CYCLE AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Status of activities, overall timetable, and risks

The following presentations and interventions were made:

- Status of global activities, overall timetable, and risks: Global ICP Unit (GIU), World Bank
- Status of regional activities and risks: Regional Implementing Agencies (RIAs)
  - Africa (African Development Bank)
  - Asia and the Pacific (Asian Development Bank)
  - Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT)
  - Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC)
  - Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)
  - Eurostat and OECD

Agreements and conclusions:

- RIAs will keep GIU informed on the status of regional activities, including planned regional workshops and detailed survey schedules.
- GIU will provide RIAs with an overall timetable, including detailed data submission schedules.

SESSION II: DATA ACCESS, PUBLICATION OF RESULTS, AND USES

Data needs for quality assurance, publication of ICP results, and data access policy

An overview of data needs for quality assurance, publication of ICP results, and data access policy was presented.

Agreements and conclusions:

- Publication of ICP results
  - The publication level for the forthcoming ICP results will be extended.
  - Eurostat and OECD will provide a brief write-up on the criteria for the current publication level followed by their respective organizations; the write-up will support further IACG discussions on extending the global ICP publication level.
- Quality assurance
  - RIAs will request countries to provide capital city average prices for quality assurance purposes.
  - GIU will provide RIAs with a write-up on data needs for quality assurance for sharing with their participating countries.
- Data access
  - RIAs will request countries to provide sub-national average prices for data access on voluntary basis.
  - GIU will provide RIAs with a write-up on researcher data access for sharing with their participating countries.

Uses of PPPs and ICP Data

A summary of various purchasing power parity (PPP) and ICP data uses was presented.

Agreements and conclusions:

- RIAs will keep GIU informed of latest regional and national PPP and ICP data uses for listing on the global ICP website.

SESSION III: COUNTRY AND REGIONAL FEEDBACK ON ICP 2017 OPERATIONAL MATERIALS

Summary of feedback on ICP 2017 operational materials

A summary of feedback received on the ICP 2017 cycle operational materials was presented.

Agreements and conclusions:

- The special survey forms will not be revised for the ongoing ICP 2017 cycle; however, GIU will draft a supporting note covering the following:
  - Machinery and Equipment survey form: clarifications on missing information on price type coding, and references to European norms included in some item specifications, especially for motor vehicles emission standards.
  - Construction and Civil Engineering form: clarifications on the mislabeling of a few entered data points in the database sheet, and the sorting of items not per the item code.

- GIU will contact Eurostat consultants for potential support with the ICP gross fixed capital formation surveys and data validation.

SESSION IV: DATA FOR INTERIM YEARS

Availability of Global Core average prices for interim years

A summary of availability of Global Core List (GCL) average prices for interim years was presented.

Agreements and conclusions:

- RIAs will review the availability and correctness of the submitted data.
- GIU will review the regional item lists to potentially identify "new" global overlap items, especially for motor vehicle basic headings.
- An in-depth review of the GCL data for interim years will be provided at the forthcoming 5th IACG meeting in early 2018.

Availability of extrapolation data for interim years

A summary of availability of extrapolation data for interim years was presented.

Agreements and conclusions:

- GIU and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will coordinate efforts to validate price indices and expenditures for extrapolation.
- The potential need to recalculate the global ICP 2011 results will be investigated by the PPP Compilation and Computation Task Force.
- Special cases for reporting of extrapolation data were agreed per the tables provided in the presentation slides.

Regional results and extrapolation data for interim years: Availability, comparability, and challenges faced

The following presentations and interventions were made:

- Africa (African Development Bank)
- Asia and the Pacific (Asian Development Bank)
- Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT)
- Latin America and Caribbean (UN-ECLAC)
- Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)

Agreements and conclusions:

- RIAs will continue their efforts to provide data required for building the global PPP time-series, focusing on years from 2011 onwards.

SESSION V: E-LEARNING

PPP E-Learning Course

A preview of the PPP E-Learning course was provided by the GIU. The course is currently in the final development stage and will be available for both internal and external audiences through the World Bank Group's Open Learning Campus.

Agreements and conclusions:

- GIU will contact RIAs for provision of their respective organizations' logos, which will be displayed in the E-Learning course.
- GIU will inform RIAs on the availability of the PPP E-Learning course and the process to deliver it.

SESSION VI: DATA PROCESSING AND IT SOLUTIONS

Overall ICP tools landscape and data and metadata submission forms

An overview of ICP tools landscape and data and metadata submission forms was presented.

Agreements and conclusions:

- GIU will continue to support both single- and multi-country submission forms introduced for the interim ICP activities.
- GIU will circulate the finalized ICP 2017 survey forms to RIAs.

New IT solutions for item list management and data validation

An overview of the Eurostat PPP production system and its current adaptation for ICP usage was presented.

Agreements and conclusions:

- The Item List Management Tool (ILMT) and Validation Tool (VT) will be piloted by GIU and RIAs to collaboratively build the global core lists and validate global core prices efficiently.

ANNEX 1: MEETING AGENDA

Monday, October 23, 2017

08:30 – 09:00	***Breakfast***
Session I	**Status of Interim Activities and 2017 Cycle and Risk Assessment**
09:00 – 10:00	Status of global activities, overall timetable, and risks, *Nada Hamadeh*
10:00 – 12:30	Status of regional activities and risks – Africa, *Fessou Lawson* – Asia, *Kaushal Joshi* – CIS, *Andrey Kosarev* – LAC, *Federico Dorin* – Western Asia, *Majed Skaini* – EU-OECD, *Marjanca Gasic, and Francette Koechlin*
12:30 – 14:00	***Lunch***
Session II	**Data Access, Publication of Results, and Uses**
14:00 – 15:30	Data needs for quality assurance, publication of ICP results, and data access policy, *Nada Hamadeh*
15:30 – 16:00	Uses of PPPs and ICP Data, Hanan AbuShanab
16:00 – 17:00	Side meeting on Colombia and Costa Rica [*OECD, ECLAC, and WB*]

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

08:30 – 09:00	***Breakfast***
Session III	**Country and Regional Feedback on ICP 2017 Operational Materials**
09:00 – 10:00	Summary of feedback on ICP 2017 operational materials, *Hanan AbuShanab*
Session IV	**Data for Interim Years**
10:00 – 10:30	Availability of Global Core average prices for interim years, *Marko Rissanen*
10:30 – 11:30	Availability of extrapolation data for interim years, *Mizuki Yamanaka*
11:30 – 12:30	Regional results and extrapolation data for interim years: Availability, comparability, and challenges faced – Africa, *Fessou Lawson* – Asia, *Kaushal Joshi* – CIS, *Andrey Kosarev*
12:30 – 14:00	***Lunch***
14:00 – 15:00	Regional results and extrapolation data for interim years: Availability, comparability, and challenges faced – LAC, *Federico Dorin* – Western Asia, *Majed Skaini* – EU-OECD, *Marjanca Gasic, and Francette Koechlin*
Session V	**E-Learning**
15:00 – 16:00	PPP E-Learning Course, Inyoung Song
16:00 – 17:00	Side meeting on Dual Participating Countries [*AFDB, ESCWA, and WB*]

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

08:30 – 09:00	***Breakfast***
Session VI	**Data Processing and IT Solutions**
09:00 – 10:00	Overall ICP tools landscape and data and metadata submission forms, *Maurice Nsabimana*
10:00 – 12:00	New IT solutions for item list management and data validation, *Agilis*
12:00 – 14:00	***Lunch Hosted by the World Bank***

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

African Development Bank (AfDB)
- Fessou Emesan Lawson
- Gregoire Mboya Deloubassou
- Rees Mpofu
- Anouar Chaouch

Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Kaushal Joshi

International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- Niall O'Hanlon
- Margarida Martins

Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT)
- Andrey Kosarev
- Valerica Accibas

Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat)
- Marjanca Gasic

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Francette Koechlin

Russian Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat)
- Vasily Kuznetsov

Statistics Austria
- Sergey Sergeev

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC)
- Federico Dorin
- Maria Paz Collinao

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)
- Majed Skaini

World Bank
- Haishan Fu
- Grant Cameron
- Nada Hamadeh
- Yuri Dikhanov
- Marko Olavi Rissanen
- Mizuki Yamanaka
- Maurice Nsabimana
- William Vigil-Oliver
- Inyoung Song

- Hanan AbuShanab
- Christelle Kouame

Agilis SA

- Gregory Farmakis
- Maria Glossioti
- Anais Santourian