



**MINUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON PROGRAM
INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION GROUP MEETING
JUNE 8 - 9, 2020
Virtual meeting via WebEX**

Welcome and meeting objectives

A meeting of the International Comparison Program (ICP) Inter-Agency Coordination Group (IACG) was held on June 8-9, 2020, via videoconference hosted by the World Bank.

The main objectives of the meeting were to discuss i) the ICP 2017 results release activities; ii) the ICP 2017 post-release activities; iii) the ICP 2017 datasets and other information; and iv) planning for the ICP 2021 cycle, as per the meeting agenda provided in Annex 1. The meeting participants are listed in Annex 2. The meeting presentation is available [here](#).

Nada Hamadeh, ICP Global Lead, World Bank, opened the meeting by congratulating all participants on the successful ICP 2017 cycle release, noting that this was a particularly challenging cycle, as it included revision of the 2011 results, production of the 2017 results, and estimation of the annual results between the reference years. She further noted that, in order to maintain the momentum of the Program, the ICP Global Office and the Regional Implementing Agencies are envisioning a series of post-release activities.

Session 01: ICP 2017 results release activities

Marko Rissanen, World Bank, presented the list of materials and activities that accompanied the release of the Global ICP 2017 results on May 19, 2020.

Subsequently, the ICP Regional Implementing Agencies, Ben Paul Mungyereza, African Development Bank (AfDB); Kaushal Joshi, Asian Development Bank (ADB); Andrey Kosarev, Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT); Claudia de Camino, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC); Majed Skaini, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA); Hakan Linden, Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat); and Pierre-Alain Pionnier, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), briefed the meeting on respective regional release plans and activities.

Agreements and conclusions

- The ICP Regional Implementing Agencies will keep the ICP Global Office informed of further regional ICP 2017 cycle releases, which will be subsequently featured on and linked through the [global ICP website](#).

Session 02: ICP 2017 results post-release activities

ICP Global Office presented the planned post-release activities, which include production of a visual compendium of PPPs and ICP data uses for policy making, a frequent [ICP blog series](#) and an [updated ICP eLearning](#) course. The importance of continued post-release activities was highlighted, in order to promote the use of PPPs and increase the visibility of the ICP as a continuing Program after the release of the ICP 2017 cycle results.

In addition, an anticipated forthcoming partnership with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Tufts University on food prices and nutrition was noted. The project aims to produce new price indexes to guide investments in agriculture and food markets for improved nutrition. The importance of such partnerships, which make use of the detailed price data beyond PPPs and produce specific indicators based on the ICP data, to the sustainability of the Program was highlighted.

Agreements and conclusions

- The ICP Global Office will circulate the ICP Visual Compendium outline to the ICP Regional Implementing Agencies for feedback and suggestions of regional and national uses for inclusion.
- The Regional Implementing Agencies are invited to suggest topics and contribute to the ICP Blog series. The ICP Global Office will provide editing and data visualizations support as needed.
- To ensure the sustainability of the ICP and the timeliness of its results the Global, Regional and National Agencies should actively seek out and share new data collection and processing technologies. This is particularly pertinent during the current global pandemic where traditional or in-person data collection has proved difficult or impossible.

Session 03: ICP 2017 datasets and other information

The Global Office reminded the Regional Implementing Agencies of a few pending metadata queries. The availability of selected metadata on the World Bank [ICP 2017 Cycle DataBank](#) was also noted. The Global Office clarified that the ICP 2017 Cycle DataBank includes revised 2011 and 2017 results, annual PPPs for 2012-16 at the previously agreed publication level, and imputed PPPs for non-benchmark economies for 2011 and 2017, together with interpolated PPPs for non-benchmark economies where extrapolation indices (consumer price indices and national accounts deflators) were available. Furthermore, it was noted that the published data in the ICP DataBank and World Bank's [World Development Indicators \(WDI\) DataBank](#) are subject to ICP Technical Advisory Group's (TAG) recommendations and availability of required data; the ICP Regional Implementing Agencies can produce and publish additional results to users, should the data availability exceed that of the WDI.

Agreements and conclusions

- The ICP Global Office will follow-up bilaterally on the pending metadata cases and queries on data and metadata inclusions for the ICP 2017 Cycle and WDI DataBanks.

Session 04: Planning of the ICP 2021 cycle

Marko Rissanen opened the discussion on state of the ICP 2021 cycle preparations covering anticipated country participation, necessary updates to operation materials, the overall timeline for the cycle, the envisaged regional survey schedules and funding sources.

ICP 2021 country participation

Following the discussion, the anticipated country participation per region were deemed to be the following:

- *Africa*: 52 countries including, potentially, South Sudan and Libya, neither of which participated in the ICP 2017 cycle.
- *Asia and the Pacific*: 22 countries or economies as per the ICP 2017 cycle. In addition, it was noted that the participation of the Pacific Islands should be further revisited for the next ICP cycle.
- *Commonwealth of Independent States*: 10 countries including, potentially, new participants Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- *Latin America*: 13 countries, assuming that Paraguay will participate, as per the ICP 2017 cycle.
- *Caribbean*: the number of participation countries will be confirmed at a later stage.
- *Western Asia*: 15 countries, including, potentially, Lebanon, Libya and Tunisia, none of which participated in the Western Asia ICP 2017 cycle (Tunisia participated in the African comparison).
- *Eurostat-OECD*: 51 countries, including Georgia and Ukraine as special participants, as per the ICP 2017 cycle.
- In addition to Georgia and Ukraine, the participation status of the third ICP 2017 special participating country, the Islamic Republic of Iran, is to be confirmed at a later stage.

Agreements and conclusions

- The Regional Implementing Agencies will inform the ICP Global Office of support needed in maintaining and increasing country participation in the regional comparisons. For instance, the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) and/or ICP Governing Board could approach national Chief Statisticians in order to advocate for the Program and encourage participation in the ICP 2021 cycle.
- AfDB and UN-ESCWA will further discuss the status of dual-participating countries and the related coordination of activities.

ICP 2021 operational materials

ICP operational materials were updated for the anticipated, and then postponed, ICP 2020 cycle. Outstanding updates for the ICP 2021 cycle are therefore limited and will just cover updates to fast evolving technology products, as follows:

- Household consumption | Global Core List (GCL)
 - Updates: Household appliances (small & large), electronics, motor vehicles
- Housing rentals, Housing volume | GCLs + survey forms
 - No updates
- Private education | GCL + survey form
 - No updates

- Government compensation | GCL + survey form
 - No updates
- Machinery and equipment | GCL + survey form
 - Eurostat-OECD 2021 pre-survey list available in December 2020, final list available April 2021
- Construction and civil engineering | GCL + survey form
 - No updates

Agreements and conclusions

- The ICP Global Office will provide the Regional Implementing Agencies with the updated *household consumption* global core list in Q3, 2020. Only the models and related specifications, and if needed brands, of the existing fast evolving technology products will be updated, as necessary.
- Updating the *machinery and equipment* global core list is dependent on the availability of the respective Eurostat-OECD item list. However, the anticipated updates are likely to be limited to fast evolving technology products.
- Except for the *household consumption* and *machinery and equipment* no other global core list need be updated for the ICP 2021 cycle, unless clear errors or other issues are detected. However, regional feedback on all previously circulated ICP 2020 operational materials is welcomed.

ICP 2021 overall timeline and regional survey schedules

The overall ICP 2021 timeline was discussed, as provided below. It was noted that it is essential to publish the 2021 cycle results in a timelier fashion than in previous cycles, in order to maximize the value, relevance and use of ICP results. To this end, final data submission from the regions to the Global office should be no later than Q3, 2023, with global results published no later than Q4, 2023.

ICP 2021 Cycle	2020				2021				2022				2023			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Operational Materials			*													
Price surveys																
National accounts ¹																
Data submissions ²																F
IACG meetings		01	02		03		04		05		06		07		08	
Publication ³																

¹ rev2017, 2021, timeseries | ² ICP 2021 cycle data and timeseries | ³ rev2017, 2021, 2018-2020 annual PPPs
 * Excluding Machinery and Equipment

The respective preliminary regional survey schedules were discussed, as set out below.

AFRICA	ICP 2021 CYCLE			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Household Consumption (H)		H ¹		P
Private Education (P)		P ²		
Housing Rentals (R) and Volume (V)		R ³	V (2021)	
Government Compensation (G)		G (2020)	G (2021)	
Machinery (M)		M ²		
Construction (C)		C ²		
National Accounts Expenditures (E)	E	E	E	
CPIs, Deflators, Population and XRs	X	X	X	

¹ 4 quarters | ² mid-year | ³ bi-annual

ASIA AND PACIFIC	ICP 2021 CYCLE			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Household Consumption (H)		H ¹		P
Private Education (P)		P ²		
Housing Rentals (R) and Volume (V)		R ³ & V	V	
Government Compensation (G)		G	G	
Machinery (M)		M ²		
Construction (C)		C ²		
National Accounts Expenditures (E)	E	E	E	
CPIs, Deflators, Population and XRs	X	X	X	

¹ 4 quarters | ² mid-year | ³ bi-annual

COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES	ICP 2021 CYCLE			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Household Consumption (H)		H ¹		P
Private Education (P)		P ²		
Housing Rentals (R) and Volume (V)			V	
Government Compensation (G)			G	
Machinery (M)		M ²		
Construction (C)		C ²		
National Accounts Expenditures (E)	E	E	E	
CPIs, Deflators, Population and XRs	X	X	X	

¹ 4 quarters | ² mid-year | ³ bi-annual

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARRIBEAN	ICP 2021 CYCLE			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Household Consumption (H)	1/3 H ¹	1/3 H ¹	1/3 H ¹	P
Private Education (P)		P ²		
Housing Rentals (R) and Volume (V)		R	V	
Government Compensation (G)			G	
Machinery (M)		M ²		
Construction (C)		C ²		
National Accounts Expenditures (E)	E	E	E	
CPIs, Deflators, Population and XRs	X	X	X	

¹ 4 quarters | ² mid-year | ³ bi-annual

WESTERN ASIA	ICP 2021 CYCLE			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Household Consumption (H)		H ^{1*}		P**
Private Education (P)	P ²	P ²	P ²	
Housing Rentals (R) and Volume (V)	R ³ & V	R ³ & V	R ³ & V	
Government Compensation (G)	G	G	G	
Machinery (M)	M ²	M ²	M ²	
Construction (C)	C ²	C ²	C ²	
National Accounts Expenditures (E)	E	E	E	
CPIs, Deflators, Population and XRs	X	X	X	

¹ 4 quarters | ² mid-year | ³ bi-annual

* Selected headings surveyed annually | ** Annual results

EUROSTAT-OECD	ICP 2021 CYCLE			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Household Consumption (H)	1/3 H ¹	1/3 H ¹	1/3 H ¹	P*
Private Education (P)				
Housing Rentals (R) and Volume (V)	R & V	R & V	R & V	
Government Compensation (G)	G	G	G	
Machinery (M)		M		
Construction (C)	C ²	C ²	C ²	
National Accounts Expenditures (E)	E	E	E	
CPIs, Deflators, Population and XRs	X	X	X	

¹ 2 surveys per year | ² ICP survey 2021 | * Annual results

Agreements and conclusions

- The overall timeline and regional survey schedules were agreed to be feasible. However, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic should be closely monitored and potential alterations to the timeline and survey schedules should be introduced swiftly, in order to realize the publication of the results in Q4, 2023.

ICP 2021 funding

The ICP Global Office and Regional Implementing Agencies reviewed the status of funding for the ICP 2021 cycle. At the global level, it was noted that the World Bank has increased its funding contribution to cover most of the coordination costs, while limited residual funding from the ICP Multi-Donor Trust Funds (MDTF) and its regional grants will be used for launching the ICP 2021 cycle. It was noted that the ICP MDTF will be extended, to allow for respective extensions of the regional grants. Additional fundraising will be attempted, but it is anticipated to be difficult to obtain additional funds, as donor funding is rerouted to support responses to pandemic-related impacts. It was also noted that donors are mainly interested in the use and applications of data and associated research rather than production of PPPs.

At the regional and national level funding for the ICP 2021 cycle is largely secured, although funding realities differs between the regions to a certain extent.

Agreements and conclusions

- In order to ensure sustainability of the Program, PPP production is expected to be integrated into national, regional and global work programs.
- The ICP Global Office will keep the Regional Implementing Agencies informed with the progress on extending the ICP MDTF.
- United Nations (UN) agencies should further attempt to obtain funding from the UN development account; the ICP Global Office can support the application process, as needed.

Any other business

The next Inter-Agency Coordination Group (IACG) meeting will be held, virtually, in Q3 2020.

Annex 1: Meeting Agenda

Day 1, Monday, June 8, 2020

Session 01 ICP 2017 results release activities:

- **Global release (Global Office)**
- **Regional release (Regional Agencies)**

Session 02 ICP 2017 post-release activities:

- **Compendium of PPP uses (Global Office)**
- **Working with users (Global Office and Regional Agencies)**

Session 03 ICP 2017 datasets:

- **Outstanding ICP 2017 metadata submissions (Global Office)**

Day 2, Tuesday, June 9, 2020

Session 04 Planning of the ICP 2021 cycle (Global Office and Regional Agencies):

- **Anticipated country participation**
- **Survey schedules**
- **Operational materials**
- **Timeline**
- **Funding**

Session 05 Any other business (Global Office and Regional Agencies)

Annex 2: List of participants

African Development Bank (AfDB)

- Ben Paul Mungyereza
- Michel Mouyelo-Katoula
- Gregoire Mboya Deloubassou
- Symphorien Tabo
- Charles Sessede

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- Kaushal Joshi
- Criselda H. De Dios
- Mel Lorenzo

Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT)

- Andrey Kosarev
- Valerica Accibas

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

- Pierre-Alain Pionnier
- Sophie Bournot

Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat)

- Marjanca Gasic
- Paulus Konijn
- Hakan Linden

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC)

- Claudia de Camino
- Maria Paz Collinao
- Martha Tovar

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

- Majed Skaini

World Bank

- Nada Hamadeh
- Anthony Gomes
- Yuri Dikhanov
- Marko Rissanen
- Inyoung Song
- Mizuki Yamanaka
- William Vigil-Oliver
- Maurice Nsabimana
- Edie Purdie
- Rui Costa
- Nancy Kebe

Observer(s)

- David Roberts (Independent Expert)