



MINUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON PROGRAM INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION GROUP MEETING

OCTOBER 24 - 28, 2022

Hybrid meeting

Welcome and meeting objectives

A meeting of the International Comparison Program (ICP) Inter-Agency Coordination Group (IACG) was held from October 24 to 28, 2022, both virtually and in person in Washington, DC., at the World Bank headquarters.

The main objectives of the meeting were to discuss regional and global updates. The meeting participants are listed in Annex 2. In addition, the meeting agenda and public presentations are available [here](#).

Marko Rissanen, World Bank, opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees and noting that much of the meeting would focus on the first review of ICP 2021 prices and other data submitted to date. Nada Hamadeh, World Bank, asked the Group to share where the regions may need support at this crucial time in the cycle and to consider messages to convey to both the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) at its meeting in December 2022 and the United National Statistical Commission (UNSC) in the upcoming ICP report for the March 2023 session.

Regional updates on the ICP 2021 cycle implementation

The ICP Regional Implementing Agencies (RIAs)—Gregoire Mboya de Loubassou, African Development Bank (AfDB); Kaushal Joshi, Asian Development Bank (ADB); Andrey Kosarev, the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT); Claudia de Camino Ferrario, 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); Mihai-Iulian Gheorghe, Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat); and Daniel Sanchez Serra, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) —briefed the meeting on their respective ICP 2021 cycle activities.

Asia and Pacific

Kaushal Joshi [presented](#) the status of the ICP 2021 cycle in the Asia and Pacific region. With respect to the participation status in the ICP 2021 cycle, the total number of participating economies is 21. While 18 of these economies initiated their price survey activities in 2021, Lao PDR, India, and Pakistan initiated survey activities during in 2022. Overall, the household survey collection period has been extended to Q4, 2022. An enhanced ICP Asia Pacific Software Suite management tool has been released to countries, and a CAPI-ICP tool for household price collection is currently being piloted in three countries. Four regional

workshops have taken place since the previous IACG meeting in June 2022. Validation and review workshops are planned in the coming months. Risks and challenges remain similar to those reported at the last meeting, with fatigue from virtual meetings and unstable internet connections disrupting long validation workshops newly noted. The RIA will offer in-person meetings in 2023. The region's ICP [microsite](#) was updated in October 2022 for events, publications, and a new page for implementing agencies' information.

Commonwealth of Independent States

Andrey Kosarev [presented](#) the status of the ICP 2021 cycle in the CIS region. Nine economies are expected to participate in the ICP 2021 cycle. Non-household consumption surveys and data collections are ongoing as of November 2022 and all data are expected by the end of Q1 2023. All participating economies carried out the ICP survey on construction and civil engineering, while the GDP expenditure compilation is ongoing. Validation of data at the regional level is underway. A regional workshop planned for December 2022 will focus on methodological issues of GDP classification while one in May 2023 will discuss GDP expenditures. A country-level meeting with Tajikistan will discuss problematic consumer items and PPPs for household consumption basic headings. With regards to outreach, ICP learning exercises provided for students at the Higher School of Economics and Moscow State University are currently taking place and will continue to be developed further.

Eurostat–OECD PPP Program

Mihai-Iulian Gheorghe and Daniel Sanchez Serra [presented](#) the status of the Eurostat-OECD PPP Program. In terms of data releases, updated GDP PPPs for 2019, 2020, and 2021, as well as PPPs for final household consumption and actual individual consumption, will be released in December 2022. In March 2023, GDP PPP flash estimates for 2022 for the EU Member States will be released by Eurostat, while GDP PPP estimates will be released by the OECD. All survey and data collection activities are being carried out as per the set annual workplans. With regards to the ICP in Ukraine, Eurostat reports that the intention is to complete the 2021 round on time but that adaptations to the original plan will be necessary.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Claudia de Camino Ferrario [presented](#) the status of the ICP 2021 cycle in the Latin America and Caribbean region. Thirty-three economies are participating in the 2021 cycle. Guatemala is participating in the 2021 cycle with the support of UN-ECLAC. Full data sets are yet to be submitted by all economies, and in some cases, extrapolation using CPI data of 2019 and 2020 prices to 2021 has been carried out. Validation is currently taking place at the regional level. A technical meeting to be held in November 2022 will focus on the validation of household consumption data. Regional results and reports have been shared with users on a number of UN-ECLAC websites

Western Asia

Majed Skaini [presented](#) the status of the ICP 2021 cycle in the Western Asia region. Seventeen economies are participating in the regional programme. GDP expenditure compilation for 2021 is currently taking place. Validation is ongoing, with a regional validation workshop planned for January 2023. A capacity-building workshop in November 2022 will be held for national statistical office staff in the United Arab Emirates on the implementation of ICP price surveys, the compilation of expenditure data, and the improvement of price statistics, to support personnel changes in their ICP team. With regards to outreach,

a special session on the ICP in the Arab region will take place at the Statistical Committee meeting in November 2022 to raise awareness on the importance of PPPs and their evolving uses. UN-ESCWA has published 2021 PPP regional forecasts. Final 2021 PPPs based on actual data will be computed during 2023, and preliminary 2022 PPPs will also be computed. Furthermore, PPPs for 2017 and the interim years of 2018, 2019, and 2020 will be updated.

Africa

Gregoire Mboya de Loubassou presented the status of the ICP 2021 cycle in the Africa region. Regarding country participation, all 50 countries from the ICP 2017 cycle are participating in the ICP 2021 cycle, while technical assistance is being provided to Eritrea, Libya, Somalia, and South Sudan in preparation for full future participation. Implementing the ICP 2021 cycle has been challenging due to financial difficulties, particularly in the 37 African Development Fund (ADF) countries, but these issues have now been largely resolved. COMESA is supporting coordination of activities in the 37 ADF countries, while the 13 middle-income countries (MIC) are directly coordinated by the AfDB. Initial validation is currently taking place at the regional level, with preliminary price data slated for submission to the Global Office by end-November 2022. A data validation workshop is scheduled for February 2023.

Global updates on the ICP 2021 cycle implementation

The ICP Global Office [presented](#) global updates. The IACG assessed that the publication of results by end-2023 was feasible. Results will include revised 2017 and 2021 results and a time-series for 2018 to 2020, while feasibility of calculating results beyond the ICP reference year 2021 will be assessed. The frequency of the TAG and Governing Board meetings will increase in 2023 to incorporate discussion of the finalization of results and dissemination plans. The TAG will review draft results in Spring/Summer and semi-final results in Fall.

On production, it was noted that price surveys had been extended until the end of 2022 to accommodate delayed collection start dates in a few countries. With regards to future data submissions, it was noted that a Q1 2023 data submissions is required for Spring/Summer IACG and TAG meetings, while a Q3 data submission is required for Fall/Winter IACG and TAG meetings.

On the current status of data submissions, most countries had submitted data on household consumption. However, a smaller proportion of countries had submitted data from the special surveys. The Global Office reminded the Group of the need to check forms prior to submission and shared a list of types of observed errors with the Group and how to correct them.

With regards to outreach activities and announcements, it was noted that the [IACG's article](#) for the Statistical Journal of the International Association for Official Statistics' special issue on statistical collaboration and international statistics was published on September 20, 2022. The issue and article are free to disseminate. The World Bank supported its release through a tweet. An [article on PPPs](#), including their appropriate use, was published on the World Development Indicators platform on July 13, 2022.

Further to the May 2022 announcement on the update of the international poverty lines to 2017 PPPs, the [new data](#) on poverty headcounts and rates were published on September 14, 2022, followed by the October 2022 publication of the World Bank report [Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2022: Correcting Course](#).

The [Food Prices for Nutrition Datahub](#), which uses ICP data on prices and expenditures to provide metrics on diet cost and affordability, was launched in July 2022. Data are available through the World Bank's [databank](#). The indicators and data are relevant to the topical food security challenges currently being addressed globally. The Food Prices for Nutrition project has established a permanent program with the FAO in this regard, and the data appeared in the multiagency report [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022](#), published in July 2022.

The global ICP [website](#) was revamped and relaunched in September 2022 and uses the World Bank's new templates, which promote ease-of-use and accessibility. It was also noted that the World Bank was looking into using PPPs in its income classifications and RIAs are comment on the proposal.

ICP 2021 cycle results and outputs

The Group agreed to a new "Total consumption" heading, which will be added for the 2021 and revised 2017 results. In addition, the aggregation mapping will be revised for the "Household consumption HHC+NPISH, without housing" heading. The feasibility of calculating results beyond ICP 2021 cycle references year will be further assessed.

ICP 2021 cycle productivity adjustment approach

The Global Office presented the calculation of regional productivity adjustment factors (PAFs) and the impact of updating the underlying data using the latest version of the Penn World Tables (PWT 10.0). It was recalled that the ICP 2017 PAFs were estimated based on PWT version 9.1, but in 2021 version 10.0 was published, which includes revisions to the 2017 data used to calculate PAFs. It was noted that the overall impact of these revisions is minimal at the GDP level, but it is necessary to further assess the impact at all expenditure levels. Therefore, it was agreed that Regional Productivity Adjustment Factor (PAF) templates, populated with Penn World Tables (PWT) versions 9.1 and 10 data, will be shared with the Group, together with an accompanying note. However, it was noted that a further review of PWT data and source notes on major changes is needed.

Data review: Revised ICP 2017 results

The Global Office presented the revision of the previous benchmark year results. The necessity of revising 2017 results was confirmed by comparing the original and updated data for 2017. The Global Office also provided information on known national accounts rebasing exercises after the release of original 2017 results, which indicates changes in expenditure weights in PPP calculation. Changes due to data sources, as well as changes in participation between ICP 2017 and ICP 2021, were also discussed.

Data review: Prices

The Global Office provided a review of global validation objectives. It was emphasized that regional data submitted for global validation need not be final or complete and that initiating global validation early allows for detecting any issues with data submissions. Global validation has commenced for five regions,

with the remainder (Africa) expected in November 2022. The Global Office identified the key issues to be addressed by each RIA, and all validation materials were circulated after the meeting. Validation continues at all levels as part of the iterative process, and Phase III data submissions are expected in quarter 1, 2023. Global quality assessment so far indicates good initial data coverage, quality, and consistency with the previous cycle.

Data review: Other data

The Global Office presented auxiliary data required for the ICP, including population and exchange rates. RIAs were reminded to provide data in units, not multiples, and to provide the agreed full set of metadata on population, including country data source, to assess whether census population data were used. In addition, RIAs were requested to provide the full metadata on exchange rates and ensure countries provided the data source used.

The Global Office presented current findings of parallel exchange rate activities related to data for *World Development Indicators* purposes. RIAs confirmed that they would continue to monitor situations where there are any potential issues to see if any impact arises for ICP purposes.

Data review: National Accounts

The Global Office provided a summary of submission status, reporting issues with submissions, and initial data validation, regarding national accounts expenditures. A review of differences in expenditure weights between 2019 and 2020 of selected countries revealed some typical patterns of changes in expenditure structure due to the pandemic outbreak. Following the findings, even though detailed expenditures for 2021 were not expected to be available, it was recommended to start validating time series expenditure data to review the impacts of the pandemic. The importance of recording country-specific metadata on any special data treatments for the pandemic period was also emphasized.

Risk Assessment

The Global Office summed up the risks to the 2021 cycle. In terms of methodology, an alternative method of linking the CIS region to the global results is needed while the revised 2017 results will incorporate new and revised input data and potentially the retrospective addition of economies. In terms of participation, some economies have delayed or reduced data collection exercises and hence monitoring and advocacy efforts by the implementing agencies and governing bodies will help to mitigate this. In terms of quality, the 2021 cycle faces additional challenges, namely: differences in survey implementation schedules within and between regions; extensive use of extrapolation and backcasting because of different schedules; reliability of extrapolation indices; and quality of expenditure weights. Mitigation efforts include early global validation, an emphasis on expenditure data validation, asking TAG for technical guidance on addressing quality challenges, and TAG assessment and interpretation of results and recommendations for use. Risks to the publication of results by end-2023 include the extension of survey schedules into 2022 and the need for additional quality assurance measures. The IACG will actively monitor the production schedule to mitigate these risks.

Planning for future governance meetings

The next meeting of the TAG will be held on December 7 – 8, 2022. Items considered for the TAG agenda include the following items: an update on the ICP 2021 cycle; the impact of the war in Ukraine on the 2021 cycle of the ICP; COVID-19 and Eurostat-OECD PPP results for 2019, 2020, and 2021; ICP Research Agenda items (Compilation of PPP Time Series: Revising previous benchmark results and estimating PPPs beyond current benchmark year; PPPs and Real Expenditures for Dwelling Services: Compiling housing PPPs and real expenditures in Asia and Pacific; Fine Tuning Global Linking Procedures; and Exploring Innovations in Technology and Data Sources for PPP Measurement); new uses and applications of ICP PPPs and data (utility-consistent and nutritionally-adequate food poverty lines; using PPPs in World Bank income classifications; and using PPPs in the World Bank’s Changing Wealth of Nations. In addition, it was suggested that parallel exchange rates be discussed at that TAG meeting.

The 54th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) will take place from February 28 to March 3, 2023. The ICP report to the UNSC (for information only) will be drafted based on inputs from IACG received in this October 2022 meeting and in follow-up dialogue. In addition, RIAs will be sent regional paragraphs to review. The next ICP Governing Board meeting will coincide with the UNSC session.

Any other business

In closing, Nada Hamadeh emphasized that the IACG should approach the World Bank, Governing Board, and UNSC if further help was needed in completing the cycle, noting that the members of the UNSC had agreed to conduct this cycle.

Annex 1: Meeting Agenda

DAY 1: MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2022

- 09:00 – 09:10 am** **Opening remarks**
- 09:10 – 10:30 am** **Regional updates on the ICP 2021 cycle implementation**
- Country participation
 - Implementation status
 - Survey status
 - Expenditure compilation status
 - Data submission status
 - Data validation status
 - PPP estimation status (ICP 2021 and revised ICP 2017)
 - Recent and forthcoming workshops and meetings
 - Outreach activities and announcements
- 10:30 – 10:45 am** **Break**
- 10:45 – 12:00 pm** **Regional updates on the ICP 2021 cycle implementation (Cont'd)**

DAY 2: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2022

- 09:00 – 10:30 am** **Global updates on the ICP 2021 cycle implementation**
- Overall ICP 2021 cycle timetable and production roadmap
 - Operational material and guidance
 - Data submission status
 - Risk assessment
 - Outreach activities and announcements
- 10:30 – 10:45 am** **Break**
- 10:45 – 11:00 am** **Global updates on the ICP 2021 cycle implementation (Cont'd)**
- 11:00 – 12:00 pm** **ICP 2021 cycle results and outputs**
- Classification to be used
 - Headings to be released
 - Years to be covered
 - Retrospective inclusion of countries

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022

- 09:00 – 10:00 am** **ICP 2021 cycle productivity adjustment approach**

10:00 – 10:30 am **Data review: Revised ICP 2017 results**

10:30 – 10:45 am **Break**

10:45 – 12:00 pm **Data review: Prices**

DAY 4: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2022

09:00 – 10:30 am **Data review: Prices**

10:30 – 10:45 am **Break**

10:45 – 12:00 pm **Data review: Other data**

DAY 5: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2022

09:00 – 10:30 am **Data review: National Accounts**

10:30 – 10:45 am **Break**

10:45 – 11:30 am **Planning for the December 2022 ICP Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting, March 2023 United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) 54th Session, and March 2023 ICP Governing Board meeting**

11:30 – 12:00 pm **Any other business and closing**

Annex 2: List of participants

African Development Bank (AfDB)

- Ben Paul Mungyereza (by videoconference)
- Gregoire Mboya de Loubassou (in-person)
- Charles Sessede (by videoconference)
- Symphorien Ndang Tabo (by videoconference)

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- Kaushal Joshi (in-person)
- Criselda H. De Dios (in-person)

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

- Andrey Kosarev (by videoconference)
- Valerica Accibas (by videoconference)

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

- Daniel Sanchez Serra (by videoconference)
- Sophie Bournot (by videoconference)

Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat)

- Mihai-Iulian Gheorghe (by videoconference)
- Eleonora-Maria Dumitrascu (by videoconference)

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

- Claudia de Camino Ferrario (by videoconference)
- Lady Infante (by videoconference)
- Ernestina Perez (by videoconference)

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

- Majed Skaini (in-person)

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- Brian Graf (by videoconference)

World Bank

- Nada Hamadeh (in-person)
- Marko Rissanen (in-person)
- Edie Purdie (in-person)
- Giovanni Tonutti (in-person)
- Maurice Nsabimana (in-person)
- Mizuki Yamanaka (in-person)
- Nancy Kebe (in-person)
- Rui Costa (in-person)
- Yan Bai (by videoconference)
- Yuri Dikhanov (in-person)