



## 2<sup>nd</sup> ICP 2011 Executive Board Meeting

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New York  
February 21, 2010

### Draft Minutes

The second meeting of the ICP 2011 Executive Board was held on Sunday 21 February 2010, at the Millennium UN Plaza Hotel, New York, from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM, as per the attached agenda. In attendance were Board members as well as observers, as listed in the attached list of participants.

#### Welcome & Opening Remarks

Oystein Olsen, Chair of the Executive Board, welcomed the participants, with special emphasis on the members attending the Board for the first time.

Shaida Badiee highlighted aspects of Governance activities undertaken since the first Executive Board meeting, including setting up the Global office and forming the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), and underlined that the World Bank submitted its report to the UNSC on the ICP objectives, governance and preparations for 2011.

The preparations included the organization of the second meeting of the TAG with the special purpose of advancing the research agenda on ten major issues aimed at improving the methodologies and technical procedures of the ICP surveys and compilations. The Global Office is also linking to the experts inside the Bank to learn from their expertise and stimulate the use of ICP data. ICP Global office has also started fund-raising, and an outreach strategy is underway.

Paul Cheung reminded the Board about the process of presentation of the ICP paper at the forthcoming UNSC session. He indicated that the paper is available in six languages.

#### Item 0: Adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes of last meeting

The Chair invited the meeting to comment on or approve the proposed agenda (paper 00.01) as well as the minutes of the first meeting of the Board (paper 00.03). As regards the latter, he reminded the Board that the minutes were circulated in October 2009 to all Board members and all comments received were properly accommodated in the text.

The Board adopted the agenda. Members approved the minutes, with the following changes:

- 1- Section B - Item10 on page 4 will be amended to indicate that the African Development Bank (AfDB) will coordinate the ICP activities for fifty-two African countries, and will mobilize resources for at least forty countries eligible to grant funding.
- 2- Section B - Item 3 on page 7 will be amended to indicate that, although poverty PPPs are not a requirement, regions should have the freedom to produce poverty PPPs, and that the AfDB will produce them in this ICP round.

Michel Mouyelo-Katoula recalled the main recommendations and decisions of the Board emanating from its first meeting and presented the follow up actions taken by the Global Office (paper 00.04).

### **Item 1: Progress in the preparations for the 2011 ICP**

Michel Mouyelo-Katoula made a brief presentation of the progress of preparatory activities, with emphasis on the Governance arrangements, Memoranda of Understanding, and steps taken to secure the participation of more countries than the previous round (paper 01.01). He provided the meeting with updates related to progress made since the ICP report to the UNSC was prepared (paper 01.03). The update included an account of the second meeting of the Technical Advisory Group and the work done in the National Accounts area. Nada Hamadeh presented information on the partnerships and collaboration mechanisms established by the Global Office to further advance some methodological improvements (paper 01.04).

On governance arrangements, the Chair reminded the Board that the first meeting made comments on the Governance Framework, which the Global Office has accommodated in the framework. The Chair invited the Board to approve the thus revised framework (paper 01.02). The Board approved the framework.

On country participation, the Board made the following remarks:

1. The number of countries participating in the LAC region would depend on available financing. On the participation of the possible fourteen Caribbean countries, it will also depend on their capacity.
2. Mexico will continue to participate in the OECD program, but will also participate as an observer in the ICP program in Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. Twenty-one countries will participate in Asia, with funding from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The participating economies from China are PRC, Macau - China, Hong Kong - China, and Taipei - China. Macau - China is not a member economy of the ADB and it will participate with its own funding. Iran is not a member of ADB also, and will need external financing.
4. Since China will be participating, there is no need to mention Macau's participation as it is part of China.
5. Five Pacific Islands may participate, but the situation is not clear yet.
6. Arrangements should be put in place for the double participation of Egypt and Sudan in Africa and Western Asia.
7. MOUs between the AfDB and the countries would not be needed for the 2011 round, because the ICP is a continuous activity in the Africa region.

On the National Accounts work within the context of the ICP, the Chair welcomed the efforts of integrating works on national accounts and price statistics, and highlighted its importance in the context of the ICP. The Board:

1. Recommended that the national accounts framework for ICP should rather be referred to as "National Accounts Guidelines for the Implementation of ICP".
2. Noted that ICP has become routine work in Africa.
3. Acknowledged that the collaboration with ICP is high on the agenda of the Working Group on National Accounts. The Working Group is ready to support the ICP at any time.
4. Concluded that very few countries will actually be able to use SNA 2008 in the ICP 2011 round because the new SNA will not be implemented by 2011. Thus, the overall starting point for the 2011 round will have to be the SNA 1993.

The meeting was informed that the National Accounts materials will be submitted to the Regional

Coordinators and the TAG for discussion and approval; however regions are free to adopt their own methods to generate National Accounts data. The suggested national accounts materials can be used as a guide, but are not a substitute for countries' work on national accounts where this work is already carried out in compliance with ICP requirements under the framework of the SNA 1993/2008. The Executive Board will be informed of the results of the discussion with the TAG and the Regional Coordinators.

The Board was also informed that the preparation of item lists has started in most regions, and that regional coordinators are expected to report in April this year on their review of the Global Core list and the progress of preparation of their respective regional lists. Whereas this process will be led by price experts, input from National Accountants may be provided.

On the TAG research agenda and related partnerships, Board members:

1. Iterated their trust in the TAG work and judgment, but expressed their concern that the TAG agenda is very ambitious and that it is tackling some very difficult areas. It was therefore underlined that, though the importance of improving ICP methodologies was recognized, this should be done within the agreed timeline.
2. Reminded that the Board will meet again in October 2010; therefore mechanisms should be in place in the meanwhile to report to and get consultation from the Board on the recommendations on national accounts, research, and the collaborations on methodological improvements.
3. Requested that the ICP Global Office considers the magnitude of demands to be put on the countries to collect data, and asked that the work be prioritized in order not to overburden the countries.
4. Indicated that countries should be consulted through the Regional Coordinators to ensure the feasibility of the proposed new methods.
5. Suggested that data associated with new methodologies be piloted first.
6. Explained that difficult areas need good professionals and experts that have a good understanding of the ICP and the areas in question. These experts need to come up with feasible methods by the suggested deadlines.
7. Highlighted the importance of reaching out to users and not looking at producers only.

The Board was informed that the ICP governance framework indicates that the TAG should evaluate new methodologies and should advise the Global Office, which in turn informs the Executive Board. The mechanism for consulting countries is through the Regional Coordinators. All methodologies directly relevant for data collection will be finalized by June 2010, plus or minus two months. New methodologies will be first piloted in some countries to test if countries can do the associated data collection. TAG experts, who are knowledgeable of country situation, will also study and discuss the soundness and feasibility of these methods. Regional Coordinators will also review the methodologies to examine feasibility and discuss implementation.

The Board was assured that new methodologies will not affect the SNA framework or go beyond the boundaries of the statistical work of the countries. Experts have made good progress in some of the areas and that the TAG approved their work and the Regional Coordinators will review the work in April 2010. The Global Office and Regional Coordinators will make sure countries can implement these methods and will guide them into how to implement methods without additional burden or confusion.

The Chair summarized indicating the importance of having a balance between methodological improvements and research, timeline, and operational considerations. He stressed that initiatives towards researchers should take place continuously. The deadline for the new methodologies is June 2010, plus or minus two months. The governance structure of the ICP will govern this work. Results

will be presented in October to the Board. If needed, the Board can be consulted in the meanwhile. The research agenda areas will affect neither the National Accounts work nor the National Accounts figures. If any new methodology affects the SNA, then the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts will be consulted.

## **Item 2: Progress with Outreach, Data Quality, Data Access and Capacity Building**

Michel Mouyelo-Katoula introduced the concept note on outreach strategy (paper 02.01) and the concept note on capacity building strategy (02.04). Nada Hamadeh introduced the ICP Quality Assurance Framework (paper 02.02), a substantially improved version from the draft that was submitted to the Board at its first meeting. She underlined how the Board's recommendation on the operationalization of the Framework will be implemented through checklists that are being finalized. She also introduced the new principles of the proposed 2011 ICP Data Access Policy (paper 02.03).

On the outreach strategy, Board members made the following comments:

1. The outreach strategy should not be over-ambitious and should have clear targets and indicators of progress.
2. The objectives should be extended beyond the ICP, and the resource mobilization element should be stressed to ensure that the program is sustainable.
3. The strategy should be supplemented with concrete steps, measures, and timetable.
4. The suggested budget for the outreach to users is too low.
5. The importance of the outreach strategy for the program was stressed. Nevertheless, considerations need to be given to the sensitivity of program.

On the capacity building strategy, the following points were made:

1. The paper needs to stress the importance of sustainable data sources in price and national accounts.
2. The capacity-building strategy should be supplemented with concrete steps, measures, and timetable.

On the ICP quality assurance framework (ICP-QAF), members:

1. Welcomed the fact that the ICP-QAF uses the same dimensions of quality as the IMF Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF).
2. Indicated the importance of tightening the focus of the QAF.
3. Indicated that at the heart of the quality of the ICP is the quality of source data.

On the 2011 ICP data access policy, the following discussion took place:

1. A point of clarification was raised regarding the archiving of micro data at the ICP Global Office, and the feasibility of such arrangement.
2. The data access policy should be decided early on in the program because it may have an effect on the MOUs to be signed with countries, and because it will be difficult to ask some countries to participate if they are unsure about data access
3. Regional Coordinators would need to contact countries before commenting on the policy. Nevertheless, they will promote openness of access to the countries.
4. Two principles that need to be followed; the first is ensuring the participation of as many countries; the second is to respect the confidentiality laws of each country.
5. The main building blocks in the ICP are countries, thus their laws should be respected to encourage their participation in the program.
6. Basically, the principle of confidentiality refers to micro data.

7. Some members disagreed with the suggestion to provide different levels of access among different communities, and stressed that what is releasable should be releasable to all.
8. The data access policy should be based on principles to be agreed upon ahead of time. The policy should not depend on the situation in few countries.
9. The data access policy should be agreed upon before the users' conference in October 2010, and the Board should agree on a mechanism to go forward between March and October 2010 to agree on the data access policy. A suggestion is to have a working group from the Board review the data access policy.
10. The ICP received a lot of criticism from donors in the 2005 round because country data was not available to them. The goal in 2011 should be to have wider data access and openness. The discussion paper proposes different options. The Board should examine these options and decide on the data access policy.

The Chair summarized the discussions noting the importance of developing a set of principles to govern data access. Country laws will need to be considered, thus Regional Coordinators should consult their countries. The decision on data access policy needs to be made before October 2010. The Chair will consult with the ICP Global Office on the mechanism to go forward.

### **Item 3: Work Plan and Budget**

Michel Mouyelo-Katoula presented the revised ICP timetable (paper 03.01), which shows the timelines for: Management, Fund Raising, and Advocacy; Meetings; Methodology; Price Survey Preparations; Price Data Collection, Validation and Transmission; National Accounts Implementation for ICP; Capacity Building, Quality and Software; as well as Preparation of regional and global results. Misha Belkindas presented the tentative budget and the proposed strategy for fund raising (paper 03.02), and informed the Board about steps taken so far and the way forward.

On the timetable and the budget, members:

1. Wondered why the national accounts work within the context of the ICP is a continuous work stretching until mid 2013. The Board was informed that national accountants should repeat the work done in 2005 ICP for 2006-2011, for consistency sake. Some methods recommended in SNA suggest that data collection takes place as soon as possible to know the problems faced by the countries, and to help countries find necessary means for resolving the problems.
2. Indicated that the figures in the suggested budget should include additional funding for outreach and capacity-building.
3. Stressed the need to help countries in their efforts to get funds for ICP because NSOs need the support of their Ministry of Finance to obtain funding.
4. Suggested that Regional Coordinators send formal written notes to the Ministers of Finance in countries to support NSOs' ICP budget requests.

### **Item 4: Progress reports from OECD/Eurostat and ICP regional implementing agencies**

Pieter Everaers reported on the progress made with the OECD and Eurostat PPP program (paper 04.01). The strict timetable needs to be effectively taken into account in the Global timetable, for instance, the Global Core list should be agreed upon in readiness for relevant OECD-Eurostat surveys.

Charles Lufumpa reported on the progress in Africa (paper 04.02), underlining that AfDB has secured funding until the end of 2010 and will seek to raise funds for the forty African countries eligible for grant funding whereas loans and donor funding will be required for the other countries.

David Brooks highlighted ICP activities undertaken by the Asian Development Bank in the Asia-

Pacific region (paper 04.03), and informed the Board that the formal launching of the ICP 2011 will take place in April-May 2010, to be preceded by a launching technical meeting mid March 2010. He further indicated that ADB has secured 1.5 million USD out of the total 3.2 USD needed for the 2011 round. ADB welcomes Australian Bureau of Statistics' help with the Pacific Island.

Andrey Kosarev reviewed the progress made in the CIS region (paper 04.04), underlining that the regional coordinating agency will be CIS-STAT, with ROSSTAT acting as partner institution in coordinating the region. Informal confirmation of country participation was received from nine countries, and the situation is unclear for two. The CIS region will be linked to OECD through Russia as a bridge country. Then Eurostat-OECD-CIS will be linked to the other regions using the Core List approach.

Luis Beccaria highlighted the activities undertaken by UN-ECLAC in Latin America and the Caribbean (paper 04.05), informing that talks are underway with CARICOM to help in the coordination of the Caribbean where exploratory missions are planned to examine their capacity to participate. He stressed the challenging issue of funding which requires the help of the World Bank to approach donors.

Juraj Riecan summarized the progress in Western Asia (paper 04.06), pointing the Board to the big challenge of securing necessary funding for the ICP activities and to support some countries in data collection.

Commenting on the regional reports, the Executive Board commended the progress made between its first two meetings and further concluded that:

1. More efforts are needed for capacity-building and training.
2. Challenges for capacity building are high in Africa, thus, more work will be required.
3. Countries need to establish their budgets for the ICP work, and most NSOs will need to finalize and present their budget document towards the middle of 2010. Thus, it is crucial that formal invitations are sent to the countries as soon as possible.
4. Linking CIS to OECD through Russia is proposed to avoid having two results for Russia.
5. Data transmission was an issue in 2005, but it will be crucial for 2011 because the ICP Global Office will need average prices for the Global Core list to link the regions.

#### **Item 5: other business and concluding remarks**

Shaida Badiee conveyed TAG's requests to have a seat on the Executive Board and to allow younger experts to join the TAG as observers, to ensure proper generation renewal.

The Board agreed to the second request and noted the necessity to also include observers from Southern Countries on the TAG. However, on the first request, the Board expressed its preference for inviting the Chairman of the TAG to attend the Executive Board when needed.

The Chair summarized the discussions and decisions of the Board as follows:

1. The Board endorsed the ICP Governance Framework.
2. Board members discussed the research agenda and related work.
3. On data access, the Board endorsed the broad strategy but made points on how processes should be made. The Global Office will consult the countries, through the Regional Coordinators. Then, the Chair would circulate to the Board the findings from this consultation process along with the draft data access policy. The issues of data access should be clarified before the EB October meeting of 2010.
4. On outreach and capacity-building, the Board underlined that these strategies should be developed on regional basis.

5. The Board discussed the work plan and budget of the program.

The next meeting will take place on October 18, 2010 in Washington, DC. It will be followed by the Users Conference on October 19-20, 2010, and the World Statistics Day on October 20, 2010.



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### Agenda

- 09:00-09:30*            **Check-in & Coffee**
- 09:30-09:45*            **Welcome & Opening Remarks**
- 09:45-10:00*            **Adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes of last meeting**
- 10:00-11:00*            **Progress in the preparations for the 2011 ICP**  
*Governance arrangements and Memoranda of Understanding; Country participation; Report to the UNSC; Research agenda and Related Partnership*
- 11:00-11:30*            **Progress with Outreach, Data Quality, Data Access and Capacity Building**  
*Outreach strategy; ICP Quality Assurance Framework; Data access policy; Capacity building strategy*
- 11:30-12:00*            **Work Plan and Budget**  
*Work Plan and Timetable; Budget and Funding*
- 12:00-13:30*            **Progress reports from OECD/Eurostat and ICP regional implementing agencies**  
*PPP program (OECD and Eurostat)*  
*Africa (African Development bank)*  
*Asia (Asian Development bank)*  
*CIS (CIS Secretariat and Rosstat)*  
*LAC (UN-ECLAC)*  
*Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)*
- 13:30 – 14:00*            **Discussion and Concluding Remarks**



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### List of participants

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