



4th ICP 2011 Executive Board Meeting

February 20, 2011, New York

Minutes of Meeting

The fourth meeting of the ICP 2011 Executive Board took place on February 20, 2011, at the Millennium UN Plata Hotel in New York City, as per the attached agenda. In attendance were the Board members as well as observers, as listed in the attached list of participants.

Welcome, opening remarks and introduction of new Chair

Paul Cheung welcomed Board members, with special greetings to the members who attended the meeting for the first time: Mohanna A. Al-Mohanna, General Director, Central Department of Statistics and Information of Saudi Arabia, and Louis Marc Ducharme, Acting Assistant Chief Statistician, Business and Trade Statistics, Statistics Canada. He introduced the new Executive Board Chair, Mr. Enrico Giovannini, President of the Italian Statistical Institute.

Shaïda Badiée, Director, World Bank Development Data Group, acknowledged the valuable contribution made by Oystein Olsen, former Executive Board Chair, on behalf of the members and briefed the Board on the agenda of the meeting.

Enrico Giovannini, Chair of the Executive Board, highlighted the important role that the ICP plays in an evolving global economy. He acknowledged the accomplishments of the ICP so far as well as the new challenges and opportunities that the program is facing.

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

The Chair invited members to adopt the agenda and the minutes for the third meeting of the Executive Board held in October 2010. The Board adopted the agenda without any changes. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved except for the suggestion that apologies from the members who did not attend should be mentioned.

Item 1: Progress in the implementation of the 2011 ICP

Michel Mouyelo-Katoula, ICP Global Manager, made a brief presentation to the Board on the status of the program. The current round of the ICP has made good progress in addressing measurement challenges and in managing risks. The very first statistics of this round, the number of participating countries, already involves such characteristics. The report to the UNSD states that 192 countries and economies are

participating. The enlisted countries, however, may change due to various reasons which may deter effective implementation of the ICP activities.

Early information provided by the regional coordinators shows that price collection started in January in 58 countries, 25 in Africa with possible slippage of Tunisia and Egypt, 23 in Asia and Pacific and 10 in CIS. Countries in Western Asia will start soon with some risk regarding the participation of Lebanon. The number of countries participating in the Pacific Islands is yet to be finalized, but to date 10 of the 15 countries approached so far have indicated they would take part in the region.

With regard to methodological issues, the Global Manager assured the Board that many improvements had been made after the TAG meeting in October 2010. For Machinery and Equipment, for example, countries will be able to start collecting prices sometime after May. The methodologies for other comparison resistant areas will be finalized during the next Technical Advisory Group meeting in April 2011.

A working group on National Accounts for the ICP (INAG) was established in December 2010 with the objective of ensuring that the ICP requirements related to breaking down GDP estimates into detailed expenditure values are effectively complied with by the countries participating in the ICP 2011. It was agreed in the first meeting of INAG, which was held in February 2011, that the scope of the working group will be limited to the core aspects of sound and reliable GDP estimates. A PPP computation task force (CoTaF) was established in October 2010 aiming at providing technical advice to the Global Office to ensure that PPPs are computed in a transparent manner, all computation procedures are fully documented, and ICP global results are thoroughly reviewed before PPP data are published by any region.

On capacity building, the Global Manager mentioned that the ICP E-learning course is expected to be ready by June 2011, while the ICP Book will be completed by early July 2011 with hardcopies being circulated at the end of the year. The ICP Book is intended for both users including international organizations and academia and producers of the ICP statistics.

The Board expressed its satisfaction with the current status of survey start in 58 countries. During the discussions, comments were made on country participation, National Accounts, Technical Advisory Group, and the ICP book. The Executive Board noted that:

- Argentina will not be participating in this round as they have not participated in the ICP activities to date.
- On South Sudan, decision is to be made on whether they will participate in this round or in the next.
- Lebanon officially withdrew from the program due to lack in resources, with a slim possibility of joining again.
- Details on the INAG recommendations need to be provided to the Board.
- The Board members should be invited to attend TAG meeting as observers, if they so wish.
- Translation of the ICP Book into various languages would facilitate outreach activities.
- As recommended by the INAG, regional workshops on national accounts should take place with all countries' participation;
- Material implications of a country's pricing more Global Core items than the other countries in their region should be assessed in TAG and a note should be submitted by the Global Office to the Board.
- It would be concerned at any proposals to construct country GDP estimates for ICP purposes that were different from the official figures published by national statistical authorities.

Decisions:

Country Participation

1. The next interim report to the Board due in June 2011 should include an update on the actual and any foreseeable impact of the circumstances in Africa and Western Asia on the relevant country participation and regional coordination, as well as a contingency plan for countries that cannot implement the program at full GDP level.
2. The scope of country participation in the ICP 2011 should henceforth be measured not only in terms of the number of countries/economies, but also in terms of the relevant population sizes.

National Accounts

3. The Global Office is urged to inform the Board of the current INAG membership.
4. The Global Office should submit to the Board, by April 2011, an INAG report on the critical policy issue of the impact of GDP exhaustiveness and SNA-compliant approaches of treating some expenditure areas on countries' GDP levels, given that the ICP 2005 requirement of using exclusively official GDP figures should be carried over for ICP 2011.
5. The Board urges the Global Office to ensure that coordination is established and synergies are explored between the ICP program (including the work of INAG) and the Inter-secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA), regarding different levels of GDP depending on the use of the SNA 1993 vs. the SNA 2008.

Technical Advisory Group

6. The Board requests the TAG to submit by May 2011, through the Global Office, a technical note on any material impacts of a country's pricing more Global Core items than the other countries in their region.
7. The global linking method to be applied in the current round should be presented to the Board by May 2011, for decision.
8. Any other TAG recommendations on major methodological innovations should first be referred to the Board for decision, on a non-objection basis, before being relayed to the countries for implementation.

ICP Book

9. The ICP book should include an executive summary for policy and non-technical audience and its table of content should be submitted to the Board for review.

Grant Cameron, Manager, World Bank Development Data Group, reported on fund-raising efforts undertaken by the Global Office and the current funding situation. He mentioned the likelihood of an AUSAID contribution and highlighted additional fund-raising efforts in Western Asia.

Board members noted that:

- Additional advocacy material and activities related to use of data generated through the ICP program at the country and regional level as well poverty PPPs (for the Africa region) need to be strengthened as they would support fund-raising efforts.
- The ICP Book can be used for advocacy efforts. Board members are invited to provide comments not only on contents but on the language used to ensure that it supports advocacy.
- As part of a capacity-building program financed by Japan, IMF will be working with many countries in the Asia/Pacific region on capacity building regarding the implementation of the System of National Accounts and the International Comparison Program.

Item 2: 2011 ICP Data Access Principles

The Chair highlighted recent trends in regulations and policies toward more openness in providing users and policy-makers with data. The ICP is the largest international statistical operation in the world and is therefore facing strong pressure from global communities to make its work, process, and data more accessible and transparent.

Nada Hamadeh, Statistical Officer, ICP Global Office, made a presentation on the Guiding Principles for Data Access as part of the work on the 2011 ICP Data Access and Archiving Policy. Developing the 2011 Data Access and Archiving Policy comprises two stages. In the first stage, the specific objectives and the guiding principles to meet these objectives are being outlined. The second stage will focus on specifying the procedures and operational aspects. The proposed objectives of improved data access and archiving (Annex 3), the guiding principles to meet the objectives, and the timeline were introduced to the Board.

The members expressed their views on the proposed objectives and principles, noting the following:

- Objectives 1-3 and 5 seems to be agreeable, except in the case where national policy explicitly prevents it, but Objective 4 for regional items needs to be discussed with all the member states within a region. Metadata should also be left to member states to decide considering their confidentiality regulations.
- On Principle 6, participating countries should automatically be declared as users.
- On Principle 7, the policy needs to indicate how the data will be archived once the Global Office is dissolved at the end of the round.
- In many instances, the purpose of obtaining access to ICP data is to conduct studies aside from what has been done in the ICP. Thus, Principle 8 should be revisited as it currently limits such uses.
- Broader consultation with countries may be needed before the Board endorses the policy.
- The 2011 Data Access Policy needs to be open to a level equivalent to that of the 2005 round at least.

As per his request, the statement made by Mr. Ma Jiantang, Commissioner, National Bureau of Statistics of China, is recorded in the minutes as Annex 4.

Decisions:

10. The overall process of developing the data access policy will entail two iterations whereby: (i) the Global Office will review the current version of the data access principles against the recommendations and suggestions set forth in this meeting, encouraging Board members to provide additional comments (if any) by 11 March; (ii) by June 2011, a new version of principles and a very first draft of procedures will be prepared and circulated to the Board for written comments.
11. At its October 2011 meeting, the Board will discuss and strive to reach an agreement on both principles and procedures.

Item 3: Progress reports from OECD/Eurostat and ICP regional implementing agencies

All major updates on regional implementation status were included in the overall report to the Board. However, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) further reported that advocacy activities are planned as part of the upcoming March 2011 conference, and that they will review the status of price collection in May 2011. The national accounts workshop will take place in either May or June 2011. Lastly, the ADB representative thanked TAG members in anticipation of their undertaking a review of the impact of countries pricing more items from the global list than were being priced by other countries in their region.

Item 4: Concluding remarks

Enrico Giovannini and Shaida Badiie made concluding remarks. The next Executive Board meeting will take place in October 2011, as a full-day meeting. The exact date will be decided through email exchanges between Board members.

Annex 1

Agenda

4th ICP 2011 Executive Board Meeting

February 20, 2011, New York

09:00-09:30	Check-in & Breakfast
09:30-10:00	Welcome, opening remarks and introduction of new Chair Adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes of last meeting
10:00-11:00	Progress in the implementation of the 2011 ICP <i>Global Office status report on governance and organizational issues, special participation issues, start of the 2011 field activities, working groups, capacity building activities at global and regional level, outreach activities, updated work plan, budget situation, and fund-raising</i>
11:00-11:15	Coffee Break
11:15-12:15	2011 ICP Data Access Principles <i>Presentation of 2011 ICP Data Access Principles, for Board endorsement</i>
12:15-12:45	Progress reports from OECD/Eurostat and ICP regional implementing agencies <i>PPP program (OECD and Eurostat)</i> <i>Africa (African Development bank)</i> <i>Asia (Asian Development bank)</i> <i>CIS (CIS-STAT and Rosstat)</i> <i>LAC (UN-ECLAC)</i> <i>Pacific Islands (Australian Bureau of Statistics)</i> <i>Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)</i>
12:45 -13:00	Concluding remarks

Annex 2

List of Participants 4th ICP 2011 Executive Board Meeting February 20, 2011, New York

Participant	Organization	Status
Giovannini, Enrico	The National Institute of Statistics, Italy	Chair
Al-Mohanna, Mohanna A.	CDSI, Saudi Arabia	Member
Anant, T.C.A.	India Statistics Office	Member
Badiee, Shaida	World Bank DECDG	Member
Becarria, Luis	UN-ECLAC	Member
Brooks, Douglas	Asian Development Bank	Representing the Chief Economist
Burgi-Schmelz, Adelheid	International Monetary Fund	Member
Cheung, Paul	UN Statistics Division	Member
Ducharme, Louis Marc	Statistics Canada	Member
Durand, Martine	OECD	Member
Egorenko, Sergey	Rosstat	Representing Alexander Surinov
Everaers, Pieter	Eurostat	Member
Ewing, Ian	Australia Bureau of Statistics	Representing Brian Pink
Fall, Babakar	Sénégal Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie	Member
Lehohla, Pali	Statistics South Africa	Member
Ljones, Olav	Statistics Norway	Representing Hans Henrik Scheel
Lufumpa, Charles	African Development Bank	Member
Ma, Jiantang	NBS, China	Member
Male-Mukasa, John B.	Uganda Bureau of Statistics	Member
Nunes, Eduardo Pereira	IBGE, Brazil	Member
Riecan, Juraj	UN-ESCWA	Member
Sojo, Eduardo	INEGI, Mexico	Member
Sokolin, Vladimir	CIS-STAT	Member
Tranap, Alain	INSEE France	Representing Jean-Philippe Cotis
Wallman, Katherine	United States OMB	Member

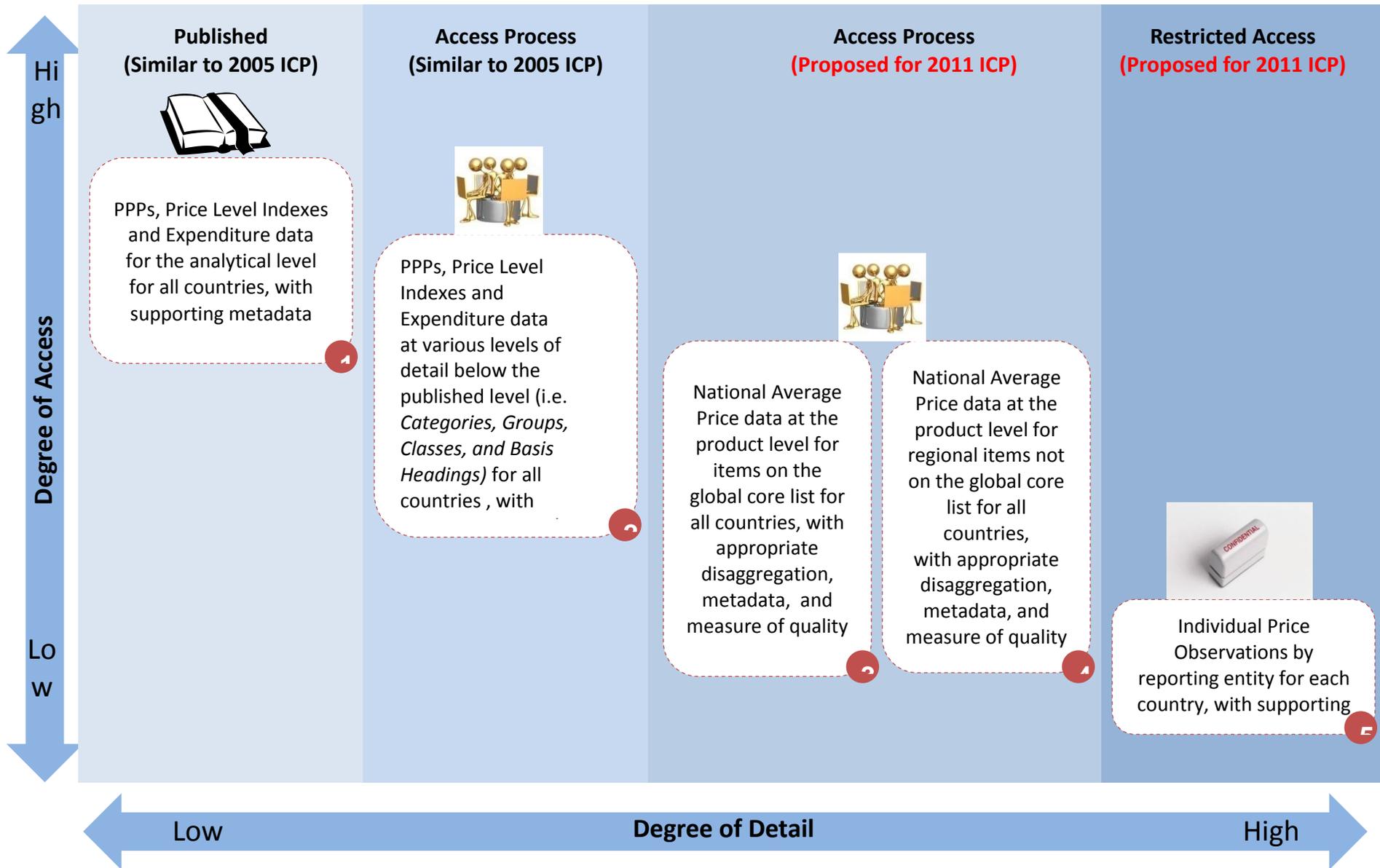
Participant	Organization	Status
Antonova, Youlia	UN Statistics Division	Observer
Chinganya, Oliver	African Development Bank	Observer
Edwards, Rob	UN Statistics Division	Observer
Jianwu, Wen	NBS China	Observer
Kosarev, Andrey	CIS-STAT	Observer
Nshimyumuremyi, Adalbert	African Development Bank	Observer
Ortega, Alberto	INEGI, Mexico	Observer
Roberto, Monducci	The National Institute of Statistics, Italy	Observer
Savio, Giovanni	UN-ESCWA	Observer
Schreyer, Paul	OECD	Observer
Palanyandy, Chellam	Asian Development Bank	Observer
Wei, Di	NBS, China	Observer
Wei-qun, Du	NBS, China	Observer

Cameron, Grant	World Bank DECDG	Secretariat
Mouyelo-Katoula, Michel	ICP Global Office, World Bank	Secretariat
Belkindas, Misha	World Bank DECDG	Secretariat
Hamadeh, Nada	ICP Global Office, World Bank	Secretariat
Lee, Min Ji	ICP Global Office, World Bank	Secretariat
Abels, Miglena	ICP Global Office, World Bank	Secretariat

Sincere apologies for not attending received from:

Participant	Organization	Status
Matheson, Jil	United Kingdom, Office for National Statistics	Member

Annex 3: Summary of Proposed Data Access for 2011 ICP Related Variables



Annex 4:

2011 ICP, Fourth Meeting of the Executive Board, 20 February 2011

Statement by Mr. Ma Jiantang, Commissioner,

National Bureau of Statistics of China

Mr. Chairman,

I appreciate the great efforts made by GO to work out ICP Data Access Policy and Guiding Principles. However, I want to frankly voice some different opinions. The opinions are made at this meeting due to two reasons: The first is that the Chinese representative did not participate in the last meeting as the flight was cancelled, and the other is that China's full participation in this round for the first time is so important for China that we have to express our concerns.

I have been wondering what the final purpose is for the developing countries including China to participate in the ICP with such great human, material and financial inputs, and what the final purpose is for the Chinese Government to spend about 10 million US dollars on the execution of this programme. I think that the fundamental objective in this regard is to fulfill a specific obligation: To provide the ICP GO with the basic data needed to estimate PPPs globally, whereas it might not be our objective to provide detailed information for other international organizations and researchers. One point that should be emphasized is that the data collected from the programme are the properties of the individual participating countries and therefore subject to the laws and regulations of those individual countries.

In addition, many developing countries, including China, estimate production-based GDP. If the expenditure-base GDP estimated from this programme is published, the two data sets will most probably conflict with each other. We shall avoid this kind of confusing outcomes.

On the basis of the above considerations, we believe that we must follow a basic principle of the general consensus among the participating countries with regard to the users' access to the detailed data from the ICP. This principle is also a prerequisite for the data access. Any international organizations, countries, research institutions or individuals, who want to have access to the detailed data, must have an agreement from the participating countries.

Mr. Chairman, I like to emphasize my point again: I do not mean that China does not want to provide more detailed data, and I mean instead that any access to the detailed data must have an earlier consent from the participating countries. The above is China's official stand. I request your permission to keep it in the records of this meeting.

Thank you.