



4th Executive Board Meeting

New York, February 20, 2011

2011 ICP Progress Report

As of January 31, 2011

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this progress report is to provide the Executive Board with the overview of further preparatory activities conducted after the Board's October 2010 meeting for the implementation of the 2011 round of the ICP and a very early and tentative status of the regional programs at the beginning of 2011.
2. During the period between October 20, 2010 and January 31, 2011, the Global Office continued to give assistance to the regions, develop technical guidelines, survey material and instruments, and draft the new data access policy, as well as organize the meetings of the Regional Coordinators (RCs) and the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) that focused on methodological development, among others.
3. At the regional level, Regional Coordinators finalized their regional item lists, which include both regional and Global Core items, and in some regions, additional regional workshops and other meetings such as regional advisory meetings were held. Following this, some countries have started collecting prices for household consumption products in January 2011.
4. The body of the report comprises four parts: Governance and financial status (paragraphs 5-34); Progress in the preparatory activities (para. 35-47); Activities of the regional programmes (para. 48-69); and Data Access (para. 70-75). The latter topic is the only decision item, while the others are submitted for discussion and comments.

II. GOVERNANCE AND FINANCIAL STATUS

A. ICP TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (TAG) ACTIVITIES

5. Following the Board's decision of appointing Mr. Paul McCarthy as the new TAG Chair and renewing Mr. Fred Vogel's mandate as Deputy Chair, the fourth meeting of the TAG, from October 20-21, 2010, was chaired by the new chair and attended by TAG members and ICP Regional Coordinators as observers. The meeting discussed the proposals for pricing construction, equipment and education and the approaches to be adopted for productivity adjustments, aggregation and linking between regions.
6. The next TAG meeting will take place on April 18-19, 2011, at the World Bank in Washington DC. Regional Coordinators will be invited to attend as observers since their next meeting will be held at the World Bank on April 20-21, 2011.

B. REGIONAL COORDINATORS' MEETINGS

7. The third meeting of the Regional Coordinators held on October 21-22, 2010, brought together the ICP Regional Coordinators and other delegates from Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, Asia, West Asia, and CIS, as well as representatives from the Eurostat-OECD PPP Programme and members of the ICP Global Office team. The main objective of the meeting was to provide participants with additional knowledge about tools and methodologies to be used in the

implementation of the 2011 round and to take stock of the progress made in the preparation for the 2011 round.

8. The fifth meeting of the Regional Coordinators will take place on April 20-21, 2011, in Washington DC.

C. COUNTRY PARTICIPATION AND RELATED ISSUES

Number of participating countries

9. The ICP report submitted to the 2011 session of the UNSC reads that there are in total 192 countries/economies participating in the new round. This includes: 52 from Africa; 23 economies in Asia and Pacific; 15 Pacific Islands countries and territories; 9 countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States (including Russia that also participates in the OECD/Eurostat programme); 32 in Latin America and Caribbean (including Argentina, but excluding Chile and Mexico that will participate in this regional programme as observers); 47 in the OECD/Eurostat programme; 14 in Western Asia (including Sudan and Egypt that also participate in the Africa programme); as well as Georgia, Iran and Turkmenistan.

10. However, there is no certainty as yet about the actual tally, a better estimate of which will be known only after the second quarter of 2011 when the Global Office has received price data submission from the first quarter data collection. The final tally will be known when price data for countries/economies of the Pacific and Caribbean regions that would collect data in 2012 is received.

11. For the time being, based on a revised count made in some regions, the total number of countries and economies willing to participate is 200: 52 from Africa; 23 economies in Asia and Pacific; 15 Pacific Islands countries and territories; 10 countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States (including Russia that also participates in the OECD/Eurostat programme); 39 in Latin America and Caribbean (including 21 Caribbean countries as well as Argentina, but excluding Chile and Mexico that will participate in this regional programme as observers); 47 in the OECD/Eurostat programme; 14 in Western Asia (including Sudan and Egypt that also participate in the Africa programme); as well as Georgia, Iran and Turkmenistan.

12. In Latin America and the Caribbean for instance, the number is based on official responses provided by Latin American countries to ECLAC about their participation in the 2011 Round, as well as on the outcome of recent meetings held in the Caribbean. However, while all 21 countries in the Caribbean subregion have strongly expressed their willingness and commitment to participate in the 2011 Round, the ECLAC regional coordination office has still some reservations regarding the capacity of some of them to provide all necessary price and national accounts data in time. This notwithstanding, none can a priori be excluded from the ICP activities, not even Argentina that has not yet attended any of the regional technical meetings or reported on any preparatory work.

Five Categories of Special Participation Issues

13. Special participation issues are worth underlining for some of these countries that belong to five categories: (1) those not belonging to any of the regional coordinating agencies or whose regional coordination is not yet confirmed, herein referred to as singleton countries; (2) those expected to collect prices mainly in 2012; (3) those with dual participation; (4) those with extra pricing workload; and (5) those with the risk of not participating in ICP 2011.

Category 1 - Singleton countries: Georgia; Iran; Turkmenistan

Georgia

14. As previously reported, Georgia made a special agreement with the World Bank to participate in the ICP through a bilateral comparison with Armenia. Armenia will provide the link to the CIS comparison and the CIS comparison will provide the link to the Global comparison.

15. To kick start the implementation of the relevant activities, two World Bank consultants undertook a mission to the National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat) between November 29 and December 3, 2010. The mission was followed a week later by the visit of two statisticians from the Statistical Office of Armenia. The main outcomes derived from the two visits relate to price data collection to be carried out by the two countries, the list of products to be priced and the work on expenditure data.

16. Georgia will collect prices for consumer goods and services quarterly starting in March 2011. It has still to be decided whether prices for equipment goods and construction will be collected quarterly or mid-year. Compensation of employees will be collected mid-year. As prices will be collected in Tbilisi, those for consumer products will be adjusted to national prices with spatial coefficients. The coefficients for 2010 have already been calculated. While product specifications for consumer goods and services have been agreed, those for capital goods and government will be decided in the first quarter of 2011.

17. Concerning National Accounts activities, preparatory work on expenditure data will start in the first quarter of 2011. The user cost approach to imputed rentals will also be tested.

18. The next visit to Georgia by the World Bank consultants will be towards the end of February 2011. It is planned that statisticians from the Statistical Office of Armenia will be visiting Tbilisi at the same time.

Iran

19. The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran is expected to coordinate and implement the 2011 ICP activities in the country. A special arrangement is being sought with them, whereby Iran would participate in a bilateral comparison with Tajikistan or another country similar to the Georgia-Armenia bilateral exercise. At a recent meeting held in Tehran, the Central Bank discussed with the Global Manager the organizational arrangements and the timetable of Iran's implementation of the program. A workshop will be organised in March 2011 to train the national coordination team of Iran in the ICP requirements and methods. It's expected that the survey

framework and the list of products to be priced will be developed by end of March 2011, with a view to starting data collection in April.

Turkmenistan

20. While Turkmenistan has reaffirmed its willingness to participate in the current ICP round, there is no update as yet as to whether it will be in the CIS regional program or as a singleton country.

Category 2 - Countries that will collect prices in 2012: Caribbean and Pacific Islands

Caribbean Islands

21. UN-ECLAC is coordinating the ICP exercise in the Caribbean Islands, with support from CARICOM Secretariat. Following the launch of the program at a meeting held on July 24, 2010, in Barbados, the first technical meeting on National Accounts and Price Statistics took place in the Bahamas from November 29 to December 1, 2010. Caribbean Islands are expected to start data collection in the third quarter of 2011 or the first quarter of 2012.

Pacific Islands

22. The participation of Pacific countries in the 2011 ICP will require technical and financial support from Australia. AusAID is prepared to provide some financial support for the Pacific ICP as part of their regular program of assistance to the Pacific region, provided that it contributes to capacity building in the Pacific region. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) will provide technical assistance and also fulfil the role of Regional Coordinator for the Pacific as stated in their report to the Board (Annex 2). The report describes the Pacific region, defines the implementation plan and estimates the necessary budget. It concludes with a review of the key challenges and determinants of success.

Category 3 - Dual participation: Sudan and Egypt

23. The two countries participate in two regions under the coordination of the African Development Bank and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia respectively. In December 2010, a special meeting took place in Doha, Qatar, where the two regional coordinating agencies, the Global Office and the countries concerned agreed on coordination and technical mechanisms aimed at avoiding duplication of price survey and National Accounts work.

24. The agreed arrangements include the harmonization of the product list for the main survey; the price validation processes at country, regional and global level; the sharing of information and data between the countries; the role of the regional and the global coordinating agencies; the participation in regional workshops; data processing issues and the National Accounts requirements. Also, the parties agreed on specific processes related to the development of their item list, the transmission of survey data as well as other coordination aspects. As regards the latter, there will be one single national coordinating team in each of the two countries to avoid duplication of resources and work between the two regional programs.

Category 4 - Pricing of all Global Core Items: China

25. China has decided to price all 601 Global Core items, while the rest of the 23 participating economies in Asia would collect prices for about 390 Global Core List products. Additional core items priced by China National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) would not be included in the validation process at the regional level as no other country in the region would price them, and but will be utilized in the inter-regional linking in a global setup.

26. Two experts from the Global Office will travel to Kunming, Yunnan Province, China, in March, to train NBS trainers on the ICP-Kit software which is required to process the prices related to the additional global core items.

Category 5 – Risk of no participation

27. Argentina’s participation in the Latin America and the Caribbean has not been confirmed yet. Also, political risk may affect the participation of Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon and other countries in the Middle East.

Discussion Item.

The Executive Board is invited to review and comment on the country participation issues as reported above.

D. FINANCIAL STATUS AND FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES

28. The overall budget for the 2011 ICP at the global level remains around 14.5 million USD, as reported in October 2010. The total budget for the 2011 ICP including the regional programmes’ budget is estimated at around 37.0 million USD.

29. The 2011 ICP Multi-Donor Trust Fund was established in 2010 and has received so far contributions from IMF, the UK Department for International Development (DFID), and Norway’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Multi-Donor Trust Fund is funding global activities and providing grants to support regional programs where budget gaps exist, namely Latin America and the Caribbean, the CIS, and Western Asia.

30. However, the budget gap remains high, especially for regional programs, and fund-raising efforts are multiplying both at the global and regional level.

31. At the global level, the World Bank approached AUSAID to contribute to the Multi-Donor Trust Fund. Their preliminary response is positive.

32. At the regional level, in Western Asia, five countries were advised to apply to the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Statistical Capacity initiative (StatCap), namely Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Syria and Yemen. The ICP-Western Asia regional office at ESCWA guided the five countries to develop clear proposals and budget for the implementation of the 2011 ICP at the national level, and to apply online to seek funding from IsDB StatCap.

33. The ICP-Western Asia regional office at ESCWA is also preparing a report to the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) to thank the fund for its support in the 2005 ICP round and its contribution to the success of the last round, and to shed light on the final output and the usefulness of the results obtained. The report will also inform AFESD of the activities of the 2011 round and invite AFESD to contribute to the funding of the round in Western Asia.

34. In Asia, the IMF is preparing a capacity-building project, financed by Japan, for building the capacity of Asian countries in the areas of price statistics and national accounts.

III. PROGRESS IN THE PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES

A. ESTABLISHING WORKING GROUPS

ICP National Accounts Working Group

35. 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.

36. The work of the group will include reviewing of country/regional metadata reports on National Accounts, providing technical assistance to the regions/countries, and advising/assisting the Global Office in validating the expenditure data that will be provided by the countries.

37. The first INAG meeting was scheduled for February 16-17, 2011 in Washington, DC, to finalize its work program and prepare further guidelines to be followed by the countries.

PPP Computation Task Force

38. A PPP computation task force (CoTaF) was established in October 2010. Its main objectives are to provide 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.

39. The CoTaF met briefly at the fringe of the TAG meeting in October and will hold its first official meeting in April 2011 in Washington, DC.

B. CAPACITY BUILDING

Training workshops

40. As part of the preparatory activities, the Global Office provided support at regional technical workshops organized by ECLAC in the Caribbean sub-region, and ESCWA. It also facilitated a training session on the ICP-Kit for the African Development Bank trainers in early December 2010 and conducted two virtual training sessions to train the trainers in UN-ESCWA and UN-ECLAC. The Global Office will also facilitate training workshops in China on ICP kit in March 2011 and on ICP processes and PPP computation in May 2011.

ICP E-learning Course

41. The Global Office is preparing an ICP E-learning course, which is supposed to be launched in the second quarter of 2011. The course aims at providing trainees with the updated knowledge on ICP 2011 so that the results of the round will be properly understood and utilized. The ICP e-learning course is designed to cover the broad topics related to the ICP, including: ICP framework, National Accounts for the ICP, Price survey framework, Comparison resistant areas, Data validation, PPP calculation, and ICP software.

The ICP Book: Measuring the Size of the World Economy

42. The International Comparison Program (ICP) has not only become the largest international statistical program in the World, but also the most complex. While the ICP shares a conceptual framework with national statistical systems for the Consumer Price Index and National Accounts, it faces unique challenges in providing statistical methodology that can be carried out by countries differing in size and economic structure, the diversity of goods and services available, and their statistical capabilities.

43. Each round of the ICP has benefited from lessons learned from the past and the continuing development of the theory and practices involved to produce a global set of PPPs. While there is a rich set of methodology, each has strengths and weaknesses. More importantly, each set of methodology can produce results that differ from each other. Therefore, it is important that there be transparency about the choice of methods and their impact on the results.

44. The purpose of the ICP Book on Measuring the Size of the World Economy is to bring together a presentation of the methodology for international comparisons, the choices made for the 2005 ICP, the outcome of those choices, and how lessons learned are guiding the framework for ICP 2011. The book is providing a forward looking view of methodological developments. Several of the chapters have been the basis for discussions by the Technical Advisory Group and are leading to improved methods for the ICP 2011. The book is being authored by eminent statisticians and economists who so far include: Angus Deaton, Paul McCarthy, Erwin Diewert, Fred Vogel, David Roberts, Derek Blades, Alan Heston, the US Federal Reserve Bank, and the IMF. Some of these people have authored multiple chapters.

45. The book is being edited by the Global Office in the World Bank. The editing process requires several rounds of development, writing, review, and updating. The cooperation of the authors in this process has been greatly appreciated.

46. The chapters are being added to the ICP website as they are completed. Some provided the background for operational materials prepared for the regional comparisons. All are being used to develop training materials. The goal is to complete the book by mid-2011 so that data users can be informed of new methods and their expected impact before the 2011 results are published.

C. 2011 ICP TIMETABLE

47. The 2011 ICP timetable remains as reported to the Executive Board in October 2010 with few changes with regards to the timing of the governance meetings and the working groups

meetings. The meeting schedule has been modified to ensure that the Technical Advisory Group, Regional Coordinators, and Working Groups meetings take place in the fall before the Executive Board meetings. The updated timetable is attached in the Annex to this report.

IV. ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL PROGRAMS

48. Between October 20, 2010, and January 31, 2011, the regional coordinating agencies implemented additional preparatory activities as reported below.

A. AFRICA

49. The first meeting of the Regional Advisory Board of the ICP-Africa 2011 was held in Cairo, Egypt on October 30, 2010, preceding the meeting of the African Symposium on Statistical Development.

50. An internal workshop on the 2009 ICP-Africa Data validation and PPP calculation was held on November 15-19, 2010, with the contribution of ICP Global Office staff members. The objectives of the workshop were to: (i) pursue the regional data validation, (ii) discuss problematic countries data, (iii) fine tune preliminary elementary PPPs, and (iv) generate canonical tables for the 2009 results.

51. The workshop on Training of Trainers on the ICP - Kit took place in Tunis on December 6-10, 2010. During the workshop, the overall framework for facilitating data collection and validation at national and regional levels through use of specifically tailored software for the ICP was presented by Global Office staff members.

52. The African Development Bank plans to hold a total of eight ICP workshops in 2011, four on Price Statistics and four on National Accounts.

B. ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

53. The second meeting of the ICP-Asia Regional Advisory Board was held in Beijing, China, on November 18, 2010. The main objective was to report on the progress of the implementation at regional and global levels, to discuss selected coordination aspects, to review ongoing activities, and present the 2011 ICP Asia Pacific Software Suite. The Regional Advisory Board plans to hold its third meeting on September 27, 2011.

54. A workshop on the Supply and Use Tables took place on January 24-28, 2011, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

55. ICP-Asia's work program remains as planned and all the participating countries have indicated they will commence price collection in January 2011.

C. COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

56. During the period from October 20, 2010, to January 15, 2011, the major activities carried out in the CIS region included regional meetings on the regional list of consumer items and issues pertaining to the computation of GDP estimates.

57. The meeting on the preparation of the regional list was held in Astana (Kazakhstan) on November 8-11. It was attended by statistical experts from: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, and a representative of CIS -STAT. The final regional list of consumer items includes a total of 2344 commodities-representatives.

58. The meeting on the problems of achieving reliability and comparability of GDP data in national currencies on the basis of SNA 1993 was held in Moscow from November 30 to December 2, 2010. It was jointly organized by CIS- STAT and Rosstat and attended by two experts from each CIS country responsible for national accounts and price statistics respectively.

59. Activities scheduled to be carried out in the first quarter of 2011 include: regional meetings on the development of the list of equipment goods; the preparation and analysis of the preliminary disaggregation of the 2008 GDP by basic headings.

60. All 10 CIS countries participating in the comparison started collecting price data in January 2011.

D. LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

61. Two workshops took place on November 23-25, 2010 in San Jose, Costa Rica. The first one, on the harmonization of National Accounts, had an objective of discussing with experts from Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Panama issues related to their national accounts activities. The second one, on the harmonization of CPI, was concurrently organized with the purpose of reviewing the Global Core List, initiating the development of a preliminary list of products for the region, and addressing methodologies for Housing and Health services.

62. The first 2011 ICP Technical Meeting on National Accounts and Price Statistics in the Caribbean was organized by Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC) and Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat in the Bahamas from November 29 to December 1, 2010. Delegates from 20 Caribbean countries participated in the meeting, in addition to delegates from the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank and the organizing agencies (UNECLAC and CARICOM), and a national accounts consultant. The meeting introduced the participants to the process of item list development using the SPD approach and the national accounts activities for the ICP.

63. A workshop was held on December 13-15, 2010, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with price statistics experts from Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Paraguay. The meeting aimed to analyze the representativeness of the Global Core List and to identify other major products to complete the proposed regional list of household consumption items for Latin America. Also a meeting was held with the authorities of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics' (IBGE) National

Accounts Department to present the information requirements of the 2011 Round and the role of national accounts activities in relation to government salaries and gross fixed capital formation.

64. A round of two review meetings, the first held in Panama City, Panama, on January 17-19, 2011, and the second in Santiago de Chile, Chile, on January 21-24, and technical agreements with 17 Latin American countries, produced a final regional list of products. This list represents a regional consensus on the composition and specifications of the regional basket of goods and services of household consumption expenditure, classifying each item by its importance in each country. In these meetings a schedule of activities was agreed for the first price surveys that will take place between February and March 2011.

E. WESTERN ASIA

65. The second regional workshop was held from October 4-7, 2010 in Amman, Jordan, focused on ensuring countries' readiness for 2011 activities.

66. The third regional ICP workshop for the 2011 round in Western Asia Region took place from January 26-28 2011 with the objective of reviewing the countries' survey frameworks and finalizing the regional item list. The workshop also included 2-day training on the ICP software Kit.

F. OECD - EUROSTAT

67. The price surveys in the Eurostat-OECD PPP program are running their normal course as was already reported to the Board in October 2010. The 2008 detailed benchmark PPPs covering 46 countries were released in December 2010. They are available on the OECD website where the results for 5 CIS countries linked via Russian Federation are also shown. Eurostat released the revised 2007, 2008 and 2009 PPPs in December 2010, according to their regular publication schedule.

G. EARLY STATUS OF 2011 DATA COLLECTION

68. Early information provided by the regional coordinators shows that price collection started in January in 54 countries: 21 in Africa (Botswana; Burundi; Cote d'Ivoire; Gabon; Gambia, Ghana; Guinea-Bissau; Lesotho; Malawi; Mali; Mauritius; Namibia; Niger; Nigeria; Rwanda; Senegal; Seychelles; Swaziland; Uganda; Zambia; Zimbabwe); 23 in Asia and Pacific (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Hong Kong China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Macao China, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taipei China, Thailand, Viet Nam); and 10 in CIS (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan).

69. Apart from "Category 5" countries (Risk of no participation) as well as Caribbean and Pacific countries/economies, the other countries/economies are expected to start very soon as shown in the table below:

Table 1: Start of data collection

Regions/Groups of countries	Have started in January	Will start later, in the 1st quarter of 2011	Uncertainty about start date	Surveys will run mostly in 2012		Total Number of Countries
				Will start surveys in 4th quarter 2011	Will start surveys in 1st quarter 2012	
Africa	21	29	2 [Tunisia; Egypt]			52 ^a
Asia and the Pacific	23					23
CIS	10					10 ^b
Latin America		17	1 [Argentina]			18 ^c
Singleton (Georgia; Iran; Turkmenistan)		2	1 [Turkmen..]			3
Western Asia		12	2 [Egypt; Lebanon]			14 ^a
Caribbean				21		21
Pacific islands					15	15
Total Number of Countries	54	60	6	21	15	156 ^{de}

a = including Egypt and Sudan; b = including Russia; c = including Argentina; d = total number without repetitions is 153; e = excluding the 47 OECD-Eurostat countries.

Discussion Item.

The Executive Board is invited to comment on the progress of regional implementation and the early status of survey start.

V. DATA ACCESS AND ARCHIVING POLICY

A. BACKGROUND

70. In the 2005 round, the Data Archive and Access Policy strongly limited access to detailed PPP data (i.e. data below the 155 basic heading level data for each country) and components. For example, to access price data at the product level, users could only gain access in selected regions where memoranda of understanding between regional coordinating agencies and countries preventing data sharing had not been established. By the end of the 2005 round, it was clear that the user community would press for greater access to more detailed data in subsequent ICP rounds.

71. With these mounting demands for more detailed data, the ICP Executive Board agreed that the 2011 ICP should attempt to improve access to more detailed data while respecting confidentiality constraints and data quality limitations. To increase the quality and utility of the data collected, the 2011 ICP round will also focus on collecting, archiving, and providing access to metadata.

72. Following guidance from Board members at the October 2010 meeting, a critical first step is to seek Board agreement on the specific objectives of improved data access and archiving and the guiding principles to meet these objectives. These objectives and guiding principles must be acceptable to the vast majority of participating countries to ensure maximum compliance. The procedures and operational aspects will be submitted to the Board in the second stage for discussion and approval.

73. In line with the Board recommendation, the ICP Global Office prepared a paper entitled “2011 ICP Data Access and Archiving Policy - Stage I: Guiding Principles for Data Access” that outlines the proposed objectives of improved data access and archiving and the guiding principles to meet these objectives. The paper also describes the time line for developing the procedures, conditions and limitations for implementing these guiding principles. The paper is provided as a separate document.

B. DATA ACCESS GUIDING PRINCIPLES

74. In summary, the following Guiding Principles are proposed to support the objective of greater data access:

- i. **Appropriate use:** data should only be made available for analytical and statistical purposes.
- ii. **Preservation of microdata confidentiality:** provision of data should be consistent with legal and other necessary arrangements that ensure the confidentiality of country microdata.
- iii. **Transparency:** the principles and procedures for access to detailed ICP data, as well as the uses of this data, should be transparent and publicly available.
- iv. **Consistency:** the principles and procedures for data access should strive to be consistent across all regions and countries, to promote equality in the treatment of all countries and reciprocity between countries to the maximum extent possible.
- v. **Reliability:** releases of ICP data should be accompanied by appropriate metadata, including metadata that describes the quality limitations of the data.
- vi. **Quality limitations:** access to ICP data should be limited to users who are informed of the quality limitations and agree that the data is still useful for their purposes.

- vii. **Serviceability:** the ICP data should be archived to ensure it can be used to service future approved requests for access to data, it is available for possible use in future ICP rounds, and it is available as back-up in case this data is lost through disaster or other reasons by a region or a country.
- viii. **Disclosure limitations:** researchers accessing the detailed ICP data should ensure that their published results do not reveal directly or indirectly more detailed data than what the ICP has published.
- ix. **Ease of access:** data access procedures should ensure a simple and expedited process for access to ICP data.

Decision Item.

The Executive Board is invited to review and approve the proposed data access principles.

Updated 1-Feb	ANNEX I: ICP 2011 TIMETABLE	2011											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	MANAGEMENT, FUND RAISING, AND ADVOCACY												
1.1	Planning and monitoring progress (with Regional Coordinators)												
1.2	Budget monitoring, fund raising activities, and grants to regions												
1.3	Global outreach activities												
1.4	Building partnerships with programs and organizations												
1.5	Mobilizing experts in various fields/ Maintaining a database of experts												
2	MEETINGS												
2.1	Executive Board												
2.2	Regional Coordinators												
2.3	Technical Advisory Group												
2.4	National Account Working Group (INAG)												
2.5	PPP Computation Task Force (CoTaF)												
2.6	Regional Workshops												
3	CAPACITY BUILDING, DOCUMENTATION, QUALITY AND SOFTWARE												
3.1	Global capacity building activities												
3.2	Quality Assessment Framework/ Checklists formulation and implementation												
3.3	ICP Book and documentation of PPP computations												
3.4	Software development, deployment, and support												
4	METHODOLOGY												
4.1	✓ National Accounts												
4.2	✓ Survey Frameworks & Importance												
4.3	✓ Housing												
4.4	✓ Government												
4.5	Equipment												
4.6	Construction												
4.7	Education												
4.8	Health												
4.9	Aggregation & Linking Issues												
4.10	Extrapolating PPPs & Estimation of PPPs												
4.11	Sub-National PPPs												
4.12	PPP-based poverty analysis												
4.13	✓ Financial Services, Exports & Imports, & Net Purchases Abroad												
4.14	✓ Other areas (energy, water, transport, etc)												
5	PRICE SURVEY PREPARATIONS												
5.1	✓ Global core product lists (HHC and other GDP components)												
5.2	Amalgamated product lists												
5.3	✓ Survey design												
5.4	Price survey data collection forms												
6	PRICE DATA COLLECTION, VALIDATION AND TRANSMISSION												
6.1	Pre-survey (for Equipment and machinery / Construction)												
6.2	Data collection												
6.3	Data validation (intra-country, regional and global)												
6.4	Calculation of National Annual Average												
6.5	Transmission of final validated price data to the GO												
7	NATIONAL ACCOUNTS IMPLEMENTATION FOR ICP												
7.1	Compilation of GDP expenditures												
7.2	Transmission of preliminary major aggregates for latest year to the Global Office												
7.3	Transmission of preliminary basic headings for 2011 to the Global Office												
7.4	Validation of preliminary GDP expenditures												
7.5	Transmission of final major aggregates for 2011 to the Global Office												
7.6	Transmission of final basic headings for 2011 to the Global Office												
7.7	Reconciliation of inconsistencies, if any												
8	PREPARATION OF REGIONAL AND GLOBAL RESULTS												
8.1	Calculation & validation of preliminary PPPs												
8.2	Computation and publication of final PPPs												
8.2.1	ICP-Africa												
8.2.2	ICP-Asia												
8.2.3	ICP-CIS												
8.2.4	ICP-LAC												
8.2.5	ICP-Caribbean												
8.2.6	ICP-Western Asia												
8.2.7	OECD/Eurostat PPP program results												
8.3	Global results computation												
8.4	2011 ICP results released												
8.5	Preparation and publication of final ICP report												

- GO timeline
- Regionally set timeline
- Completed items

Updated 1-Feb	ANNEX I: ICP 2011 TIMETABLE	2012											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	MANAGEMENT, FUND RAISING, AND ADVOCACY												
1.1	Planning and monitoring progress (with Regional Coordinators)												
1.2	Budget monitoring, fund raising activities, and grants to regions												
1.3	Global outreach activities												
1.4	Building partnerships with programs and organizations												
1.5	Mobilizing experts in various fields/ Maintaining a database of experts												
2	MEETINGS												
2.1	Executive Board												
2.2	Regional Coordinators												
2.3	Technical Advisory Group												
2.4	National Account Working Group (INAG)												
2.5	PPP Computation Task Force (CoTaF)												
2.6	Regional Workshops												
3	CAPACITY BUILDING, DOCUMENTATION, QUALITY AND SOFTWARE												
3.1	Global capacity building activities												
3.2	Quality Assessment Framework/ Checklists formulation and implementation												
3.3	ICP Book and documentation of PPP computations												
3.4	Software development, deployment, and support												
4	METHODOLOGY												
4.1	✓ National Accounts												
4.2	✓ Survey Frameworks & Importance												
4.3	✓ Housing												
4.4	✓ Government												
4.5	Equipment												
4.6	Construction												
4.7	Education												
4.8	Health												
4.9	Aggregation & Linking Issues												
4.10	Extrapolating PPPs & Estimation of PPPs												
4.11	Sub-National PPPs												
4.12	PPP-based poverty analysis												
4.13	✓ Financial Services, Exports & Imports, & Net Purchases Abroad												
4.14	✓ Other areas (energy, water, transport, etc)												
5	PRICE SURVEY PREPARATIONS												
5.1	✓ Global core product lists (HHC and other GDP components)												
5.2	Amalgamated product lists												
5.3	✓ Survey design												
5.4	Price survey data collection forms												
6	PRICE DATA COLLECTION, VALIDATION AND TRANSMISSION												
6.1	Pre-survey (for Equipment and machinery / Construction)												
6.2	Data collection												
6.3	Data validation (intra-country, regional and global)												
6.4	Calculation of National Annual Average												
6.5	Transmission of final validated price data to the GO												
7	NATIONAL ACCOUNTS IMPLEMENTATION FOR ICP												
7.1	Compilation of GDP expenditures												
7.2	Transmission of preliminary major aggregates for latest year to the Global Office												
7.3	Transmission of preliminary basic headings for 2011 to the Global Office												
7.4	Validation of preliminary GDP expenditures												
7.5	Transmission of final major aggregates for 2011 to the Global Office												
7.6	Transmission of final basic headings for 2011 to the Global Office												
7.7	Reconciliation of inconsistencies, if any												
8	PREPARATION OF REGIONAL AND GLOBAL RESULTS												
8.1	Calculation & validation of preliminary PPPs												
8.2	Computation and publication of final PPPs												
8.2.1	ICP-Africa												
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Updated 1-Feb	ANNEX I: ICP 2011 TIMETABLE	2013												2014		
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1	MANAGEMENT, FUND RAISING, AND ADVOCACY															
1.1	Planning and monitoring progress (with Regional Coordinators)															
1.2	Budget monitoring, fund raising activities, and grants to regions															
1.3	Global outreach activities															
1.4	Building partnerships with programs and organizations															
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3.1	Global capacity building activities															
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3.3	ICP Book and documentation of PPP computations															
3.4	Software development, deployment, and support															
4	METHODOLOGY															
4.1	✓ National Accounts															
4.2	✓ Survey Frameworks & Importance															
4.3	✓ Housing															
4.4	✓ Government															
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4.7	Education															
4.8	Health															
4.9	Aggregation & Linking Issues															
4.10	Extrapolating PPPs & Estimation of PPPs															
4.11	Sub-National PPPs															
4.12	PPP-based poverty analysis															
4.13	✓ Financial Services, Exports & Imports, & Net Purchases Abroad															
4.14	✓ Other areas (energy, water, transport, etc)															
5	PRICE SURVEY PREPARATIONS															
5.1	✓ Global core product lists (HHC and other GDP components)															
5.2	Amalgamated product lists															
5.3	✓ Survey design															
5.4	Price survey data collection forms															
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6.1	Pre-survey (for Equipment and machinery / Construction)															
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- GO timeline
- Regionally set timeline
- Completed items

ANNEX II

Participation of Pacific Island Countries or Territories in the ICP 2011

A report submitted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics

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Participation of Pacific Island Countries or Territories in the ICP 2011

I. Purpose

1. The purpose of this document is to provide an update on the participation of Pacific Island countries or territories (Pacific countries) in the 2011 International Comparison Program (ICP), and the role Australia will play in supporting this participation.

II. Snapshot of the Pacific region

2. The 22 Pacific countries comprising the Pacific region include 5 from Melanesia (PNG, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), 7 from Micronesia (Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and 9 from Polynesia (Samoa , American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, Wallis and Fortuna, Tokelau, Niue and French Polynesia) together with the Pitcairn Islands. All 22 Pacific countries have access to the statistics and demography program of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), and 15 have access to the of the IMF PFTAC statistics program.

3. France and the US have special relationships with 6 of the 7 Pacific countries that are not members of the PFTAC. French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna (France) and Guam, American Samoa and Northern Mariana Islands (the US) are either non self governing territories or self governing territories in free association with a metropolitan power.

4. Fiji has one of the more developed economies in the Pacific region. It is the only Pacific country participating in the the Asia/Pacific region 2011 ICP, and is proposed as the link country for the Pacific ICP.

5. PNG has by far the largest population at around 7 million, but has limited statistical capacity relative to size. The Solomon Islands similarly has limited statistical capacity relative to size. Samoa and Vanuatu are among the more statistically advanced countries within the region. The remaining countries have populations of around 100,000 or less, have limited statistical capacity, and a number have the disadvantage of populations thinly spread over a large area. Pitcairn Island, with a population of around 50, may well be too small to participate in the ICP.

6. New Zealand has a special relationship with Niue, Tokelau and the Cook Islands.

III. Background to the Pacific ICP

7. During planning for the 2011 ICP, the World Bank raised the lack of Pacific countries participation in the 2005 ICP (only Fiji participated). They asked the ABS to assess the feasibility of a simplified methodology that would enable their participation in the 2011 ICP, and identify the required resources. The Blackburn report was prepared in response. The report recommends limited participation, in which tier 1 countries (with greater statistical capacity)

price around 100 items and tier 2 countries (with lesser statistical capacity) price around 10 items. Data collection should be lagged one year and take place in calendar 2012. The Pacific ICP would not attempt to produce volume estimates for GDP, and expenditure estimates would be limited to household consumption derived from the most recent Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES).

8. The ICP Executive Board endorsed this approach at its meeting in October 2010.

9. Australia is a member of both the ICP Executive Board and the Asia/Pacific ICP Regional Advisory Board. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is the regional coordinator for the Asia/Pacific ICP. While Fiji will participate as a full member in their program, the ADB has advised that they do not have the capacity to assist with the conduct of a special program for the remaining Pacific countries.

IV. Support for Pacific ICP involvement

10. The participation of Pacific countries in the 2011 ICP will require technical and financial support from Australia. AusAID is prepared to provide some financial support for the Pacific ICP as part of their regular program of assistance to the Pacific region, provided that it contributes to capacity building in the Pacific region. Assuming that appropriate financial support is in place, the ABS will provide technical assistance and also fulfil the role of Regional Coordinator for the Pacific.

11. We plan to discuss support for the 6 Pacific countries that have a special relationship with the relevant statistical authorities in France and the United States-

12. New Zealand has offered to incorporate technical assistance for the participation of Niue, Tokelau, Cook Islands into their regular program of technical assistance to these countries, but has indicated that they are not in a position to offer additional financial support.

V. Implementation plan

13. The ABS has prepared an implementation plan, with a timetable and associated costings. The key steps in the implementation plan are (1) obtaining the agreement of Pacific countries to participate, and the agreement of Fiji to participate as the link country, (2) finalising items in the Pacific Product List, together with Structured Product Descriptions for these items, (3) the development of sampling strategies for each country, (4) the development of validation tools and spreadsheets for data capture, (5) the development of training and workshop materials, (6) the conduct of two workshops in 2011 designed to prepare participants for data collection, (7) data collection in 2012 (prices will be collected by Pacific countries' staff, though technical assistance/field auditing will be provided as required, and (8) the conduct of two further workshops subsequent to data collection, together with data analysis, presentation and documentation.

14. Implementation will commence in February 2011 and be completed in September 2013.

VI. Budget

15. The ABS implementation team will comprise an experienced manager who will serve as project manager and Regional Coordinator (full time for 32 months), a senior statistical officer who will provide technical expertise (full time for 32 months) and a junior statistical officer who will provide technical support (part time for 29 months). Costing according to the ABS NPP template is \$796,000. The ABS will also employ a former senior ABS National Accounts manager, Keith Blackburn, as an external consultant to provide expert assistance at key points in the project, with an estimated cost of \$66,000.

16. The implementation plan involves 4 workshops of 2 days each assuming that these can be timed to coincide with existing SPC workshops. Travel and accommodation costs for 15 PIC and 2 ABS staff are estimated at \$160,000. In addition, the ABS will provide in-country assistance for each Pacific country during price collection. Travel and accommodation costs for 30 trips and 90 days are estimated at \$65,000. The additional costs of fulfilling the role of Regional Coordinator are likely to be small apart from estimated costs of \$72,000 for travel to 6 scheduled Regional Coordinator's meetings in Washington. However there is likely to be some potential to combine these meetings with other business.

17. Total budget is estimated at \$1,160,000.

VII. Update on implementation

18. The ABS has formally offered to fulfil the role of Regional Coordinator for the Pacific. The Australian Statistician has written to the heads of all Pacific statistical offices inviting their participation in the 2011 ICP on the basis set out in the Blackburn report, and with appropriate technical and financial support. A special letter has been sent to Fiji inviting their participation as the link country for the Pacific. At this point we are awaiting replies.

19. For a number of countries the level of participation is dependent on completion of their HIES and CPI rebasing during 2011. At this stage we envisage that Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu will participate as tier 1 countries. It is not certain whether PNG and Solomon Islands will participate on a tier 1 or tier 2 basis. The remaining countries are likely to participate on a tier 2 basis if they accept the invitation to participate.

20. The ABS has prepared a preliminary Pacific Product List (PPL) using the draft Pacific list prepared for the (aborted) 2005 Pacific ICP, the 2011 Global Core List and CPI product lists for several countries. We are waiting for a full set of CPI lists, including that from Fiji, before finalising the PPL.

21. The ABS recognises and relies on the central role of the SPC in coordinating the provision of technical assistance to the Pacific region, and will meet with the SPC in Australia in late February to discuss the implementation of the ICP Pacific program. The ABS will seek SPC endorsement of the proposal to include the ICP Pacific in the Pacific statistical program, and attempt to ensure that Pacific ICP workshops are timed to coincide with scheduled SPC workshops for the region.

22. We are currently negotiating with AusAID on the funding they are prepared to devote to the Pacific ICP as part of their regular program of assistance to the Pacific region. We expect a decision before the end of February. We may also need to look to other donors to assist in funding the Pacific ICP.

VIII. Key challenges/determinants of success

23. Success will be measured in terms of capacity building as well as successful participation in the 2011 ICP. Capacity building can be achieved by integrating ICP requirements into classifications, systems and other methodologies used for HIES, CPI, National Accounts and Government Finance statistics. This should increase the capacity to engage more fully in future ICP rounds.

24. Given its proposed role as the link country, the participation of Fiji is central. The participation of other large countries such as PNG and the Solomon islands is also important, though as noted, dependent on the status of other statistical work.

25. The PPL needs to be completed as soon as possible to ensure that ICP requirements can be incorporated into CPI methodologies and systems development. The PPL should be designed to maximise overlap with existing CPI product lists and minimise the marginal cost of pricing additional ICP items. Given Fiji's proposed role as the link country it is essential that the PPL uses current Fiji product list details.

26. Successful workshops will be very important. An important objective of the workshops will be to establish good working relationships with participating countries, and with the SPC. Maintaining such relationships will require continuity of relevant personnel in the ABS.