ICP Executive Board Meeting  
Proceedings and Actions Taken  
June 11, 2004  
Paris, France

1. Participants:
   - Dennis Trewin, Australian Bureau of Statistics and Chair
   - Shaida Baidee, World Bank
   - Enrico Giovannini, OECD
   - Bart Meganck, Eurostat
   - Vladimir Sokolin, Russian Federation on Statistics
   - Hubert Escaith, Economic Commission Latin America
   - Colin Mowl, Office for National Statistics, UK
   - Charles Lufumpa, African Development Bank
   - Mikhail Korolev, Statistics Committee, Commonwealth of Independent States
   - Andrey Kosarev, Bureau of Economic Analysis
   - Misha Belkindas, World Bank
   - Fred Vogel, World Bank
   - Yonas Biru, World Bank

2. Time table for price collection. The timetable provided in the status report was reviewed. It was noted that all regions were poised to begin price collection for food, clothing, and footwear by October 1, 2004. Concern was expressed whether all regions would be able to begin pricing the full product list for consumption by that time. The response was that the Global Office would identify, in consultation with the regions, items with the most price volatility to ensure that price collection for those items begins in October. Besides food, clothing and footwear, prices for energy items are likely to fall into this category. The TAG should be asked to assess whether collection over 3 quarters will be sufficient in cases where full annual data collection is not possible.

3. The Board restated the policy that preliminary PPPs would be prepared using 2004 expenditure weights and final PPPs using 2005 weights. That means that the reference period for the prices will be calendar year 2005.

4. The Global Office was requested to update the Executive Board on the timetable at the end of July.
5. **ICP Tool Pack.** The Board was provided a detailed report on the testing and evaluation effort that also included independent testing carried out by four national statistical offices and one regional coordinating agency. This report is an annex to the status report presented to the Board. The system has successfully been installed in a number of locations. Where difficulties with installation have occurred, enhancements have been made to the system to address the problems. The system is also being translated into the 5 UN languages. All language versions, with the exception of Russian, are expected to be delivered by June 23, 2004. The Board was pleased with the progress made and requested a status report after the regional coordinators have been trained in its use. The Global Office was encouraged to prepare a training plan for new staff in the regional and national coordination offices. It is to be noted that initial training in the use of the Tool Pack has already taken place in Asia (May ’04). The Board recommended that the Global Office maintain a log of questions/problems encountered in the use of the Tool Pack. The Chairman said that “despite the best of planning, there will undoubtedly be installation problems as well as problems with the operating system. As far as possible, these should be avoided through improvements to the operating system in light of the tests and through effective training. However, support or help desk type arrangements would be essential for addressing those problems that do emerge.”

6. **Budget and funding overview.** The Board noted with pleasure that the program has sufficient funds to carry it through July 2005 with sufficient funds to complete most of the price collection. It was suggested that the Global Office prepare a status report for the Chair of the Executive Board to send to the donors to update them on the program.

7. **The Ring Comparison.** The status report presented by the Global Office showed that the African region wished to add Cameroon to the list of countries participating in the Ring Comparison so that all regions are represented and that Singapore has declined to participate in the Asian region Ring Comparison. The Board approved these changes along with the program of work presented in the status report.

8. **Policy for inter-country data analysis.** The Board was provided a review of the various data analysis tables the countries and regions will be reviewing. The Board encourages all countries, in the spirit of data transparency, to submit the price observations to the regional coordinator. Nevertheless, there may be some confidentiality concerns. The Global office is providing advice to the regional coordinators about how to deal with confidentiality requirements. The Board recommended that at the very least, participating countries should provide average product prices along with minimum and maximum prices, the variance coefficient and the number of observations. The Global Office was advised to ensure that every country is fully aware of the data review process at the regional level which involves each country reviewing preliminary PPPs and average prices at the basic heading level for all other countries in their region. The Board
recommended the Global Office coordinate its data sharing and data dissemination procedures with the OECD and Eurostat.

9. **Advocacy.** The Board recommended a three tiered approach to the advocacy effort extending from the international to national to local levels. The three tiers were:

   - Advocacy material that national statistical offices can use to persuade governments and others of the importance of the ICP
   - Material that could be used for media releases at the national level
   - Material that could be used for global media.

   It was suggested the advocacy materials include the OECD/Eurostat participation. It was also suggested materials be prepared for inclusion in the September edition of the OECD newsletter. It was also recommended that the best timing for media activity would be late September/early October when data collection commences. The CIS delegates informed the Board that they have organized a press conference in Moscow with the objective of creating awareness and publicizing the program. The Board encouraged other regions to do the same. The OECD offered to provide assistance. Finally, it was suggested that the Chairs of the Executive Board and the TAG send articles to print media with a global reach.

10. **Poverty.** The Executive Board endorsed the Poverty Advisory Group’s recommendations as summarized in the status report. The Global Office was encouraged to continue the work on unit values in the pilot countries.

11. **Other.** The Executive Board endorsed the progress being made on the other issues in the status report including the ICP Handbook, the Operational Manual and the Technical Advisory Group. It was suggested that the Chair send a letter to the Technical Advisory Group expressing the Board’s appreciation for its valuable contribution and to invite the Chair, Alan Heston to the next Board meeting.

12. **Next meeting.** It was tentatively agreed that the next meeting of the Executive Board would be on 25 February 2005, in Washington D.C.

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