



2011 INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON PROGRAM

**2011 ICP DATA ACCESS AND ARCHIVING POLICY
GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES FOR DATA ACCESS**

ICP Global Office

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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to outline proposed objectives and guiding principles of the 2011 International Comparison Program (ICP) Data Access and Archiving Policy. The document also proposes a set of procedures for data archiving and access. Objectives, principles, and procedures are for the ICP Executive Board consideration.

II. CONTEXT

The ICP entails large price data collection and detailed national accounts expenditure data compilation for participating countries. The resulting ICP databases could support the statistical and analytical uses of policy makers and researchers at international, regional, and national agencies and ministries, as well as universities and research centres. This rich data set is an important contributor to the value of the ICP.

In the 2005 round, the Data Archive and Access Policy strongly limited access to detailed ICP data (i.e. data below the 155 basic heading level data for each country). 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.

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.

III. DATA ACCESS OBJECTIVES

The overall objective is as follows: *Data derived from the ICP should be utilized to the maximum extent possible for statistical and analytical purposes.* Specifically, the objective is to provide users with access to detailed data beyond what was accessible through the 2005 ICP as follows:

1. PPPs, Price Level Indexes (PLIs) and Expenditure data for all countries are published at the analytical level, with supporting metadata. The analytical level is the level of detail (i.e. *Aggregates, Categories, Groups, and Classes*) for which the Global Office, OECD, Eurostat and Regional Coordinating Agencies will agree to publish data in the 2011 ICP.

2. PPPs, PLIs and Expenditure data at various levels of detail below the published level (i.e. *Categories, Groups and Classes not included in 1 above, and Basic Headings*) for all countries are available to data users, with supporting metadata.
3. National Average Price data at the product level for items on the Global Core list for all countries - with appropriate sub-national disaggregation, measures of quality and supporting metadata - are available to data users, except when the confidentiality of respondents is jeopardized.
4. National Average Price data at the product level for regional items not on the Global Core list for all countries - with appropriate sub-national disaggregation, measures of quality and supporting metadata - are available to data users, except when the confidentiality of respondents is jeopardized.
5. Individual Price Observations with supporting metadata are available where permitted by the laws of individual countries, as long as the confidentiality of respondents is protected.

The availability of individual country data must respect legislation and policies that protect respondent confidentiality. This may place restrictions on public access of data, especially at finer levels of detail.

More information on the ICP classification and levels of disaggregation can be found in Annex 1. Annex 2 provides a pictorial description of the proposed data access and archiving for the 2011 ICP round and how it compares with the 2005 data access policy. Annexes 3 and 4 provide additional information on ICP datasets and the accompanying metadata respectively.

IV. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following Guiding Principles support the objective of greater data access:

1. **Appropriate use:** data should be made available for analytical, research, and statistical purposes. Users should not misuse the data by attempting to deduce underlying confidential data.
2. **Equality of Access:** ICP data is a public good and, thus, should be made available on an equal basis to anyone who wants to use it, in the same way that most national statistical offices make data available to users.
3. **Preservation of microdata confidentiality:** provision of data should be consistent with legal and other necessary arrangements that ensure the confidentiality of respondents.
4. **Transparency:** the principles and procedures for access to detailed ICP data, as well as the uses of these data, should be transparent and publicly available.

5. **Consistency:** the principles and procedures for data access should strive to be consistent across all regions and countries, with a view to promote equality in the treatment of all countries.
6. **Reciprocity:** reciprocity between participating countries should be established to the maximum extent possible. All participating countries are automatically considered as approved users of ICP data. Non-participating countries are not considered as approved users of ICP data, but may apply for access to these data following the procedures in Section VI.
7. **Reliability:** releases of ICP data should be accompanied by appropriate metadata, including metadata that describes the quality limitations of the data.
8. **Quality limitations:** users of ICP data should be informed of the quality limitations and they should agree that the data is still useful for their purposes.
9. **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 these data is lost through disaster or other reasons by a region or a country.
10. **Disclosure limitations:** users accessing detailed ICP data should only publish the detailed data when accompanied by a statement of the data's quality.
11. **Promotion of uses:** in order to promote the use of ICP data, users are encouraged to share their feedback and research findings with all stakeholders, consistent with the disclosure limitations in this policy.
12. **Limitations on users' findings:** indicators computed by users based on ICP data are not considered part of the official publication program of the ICP.
13. **Ease of access:** data access procedures should ensure a simple and expedited process for access to ICP data.

V. PROCEDURES FOR DATA ARCHIVING

This section describes the proposed procedures for data archiving for the 2011 ICP Related Variables depicted in Annex 2.

1. PPPs, Price Level Indexes (PLIs) and Expenditure data for all countries are published at the analytical level (i.e. *Aggregates, Categories, Groups, and Classes*), with supporting metadata. They are archived by the World Bank Development Data Group and also by the Regional Coordinating Agencies.
2. PPPs, PLIs and Expenditure data at various levels of detail below the published level (i.e. *Categories, Groups and Classes not included in 1 above, and Basic Headings*)

for all countries, with supporting metadata, are archived by the World Bank Development Data Group and also by the relevant Regional Coordinating Agencies.

3. National Average Price data at the product level for items on the Global Core list for all countries, with appropriate sub-national disaggregation, measures of quality and supporting metadata, are archived by the World Bank Development Data Group and also by the relevant Regional Coordinating Agencies.
4. National Average Price data at the product level for regional items not on the Global Core list for all countries, with appropriate sub-national disaggregation, measures of quality and supporting metadata, are archived by the World Bank Development Data Group and also by the relevant Regional Coordinating Agencies.
5. Participating countries are responsible for archiving their Individual Price Observations with supporting metadata. However, some countries may request the World Bank Development Data Group and/or relevant Regional Coordinating Agencies to archive the Individual Price Observations because they do not have their own facilities to archive these data. If a country asks the World Bank Development Data Group and/or relevant Regional Coordinating Agencies to archive these data, the data should be encrypted and the country in question should hold the encryption key.

The data to be archived by the World Bank Development Data Group will be treated with confidentiality. The data will be archived in a secure database with limited access rights and administered by a designated data custodian¹. Access to the data (or any portions of the data) will be subject to the procedures specified in Section VI.

VI. PROCEDURES FOR DATA ACCESS

This section describes the proposed procedures for data access for the 2011 ICP Related Variables depicted in Annex 2.

1. PPPs, Price Level Indexes (PLIs) and Expenditure data for all countries at the analytical level, with supporting metadata, will be published in the ICP reports electronically and in paper format. They will also be available for download from an online database.
2. PPPs, PLIs and Expenditure data at various levels of detail below the published level for all countries, with supporting metadata, can be accessed by users through an application process addressed to the World Bank Development Data Group.
3. National Average Price data at the product level for items on the Global Core list for all countries, with appropriate sub-national disaggregation, measures of quality and

¹ The location of the database server will be discussed and agreed with the Regional Coordinators.

supporting metadata, can be accessed by users through an application process addressed to the World Bank Development Data Group, consistent with participating country confidentiality laws and processes. Countries should inform the relevant Regional Coordinators, who in turn will inform the Global Office, which average prices are considered confidential, and hence cannot be released.

4. National Average Price data at the product level for regional items not on the Global Core list for all countries, with appropriate sub-national disaggregation, measures of quality and supporting metadata, can be accessed by users through an application process addressed to the World Bank Development Data, consistent with participating country confidentiality laws and processes. Countries should inform the relevant Regional Coordinators, who in turn will inform the Global Office, which average prices are considered confidential, and hence cannot be released.
5. Access to Individual Price Observations with supporting metadata is restricted in general. However, users may address applications of access to these data directly to the countries in question.

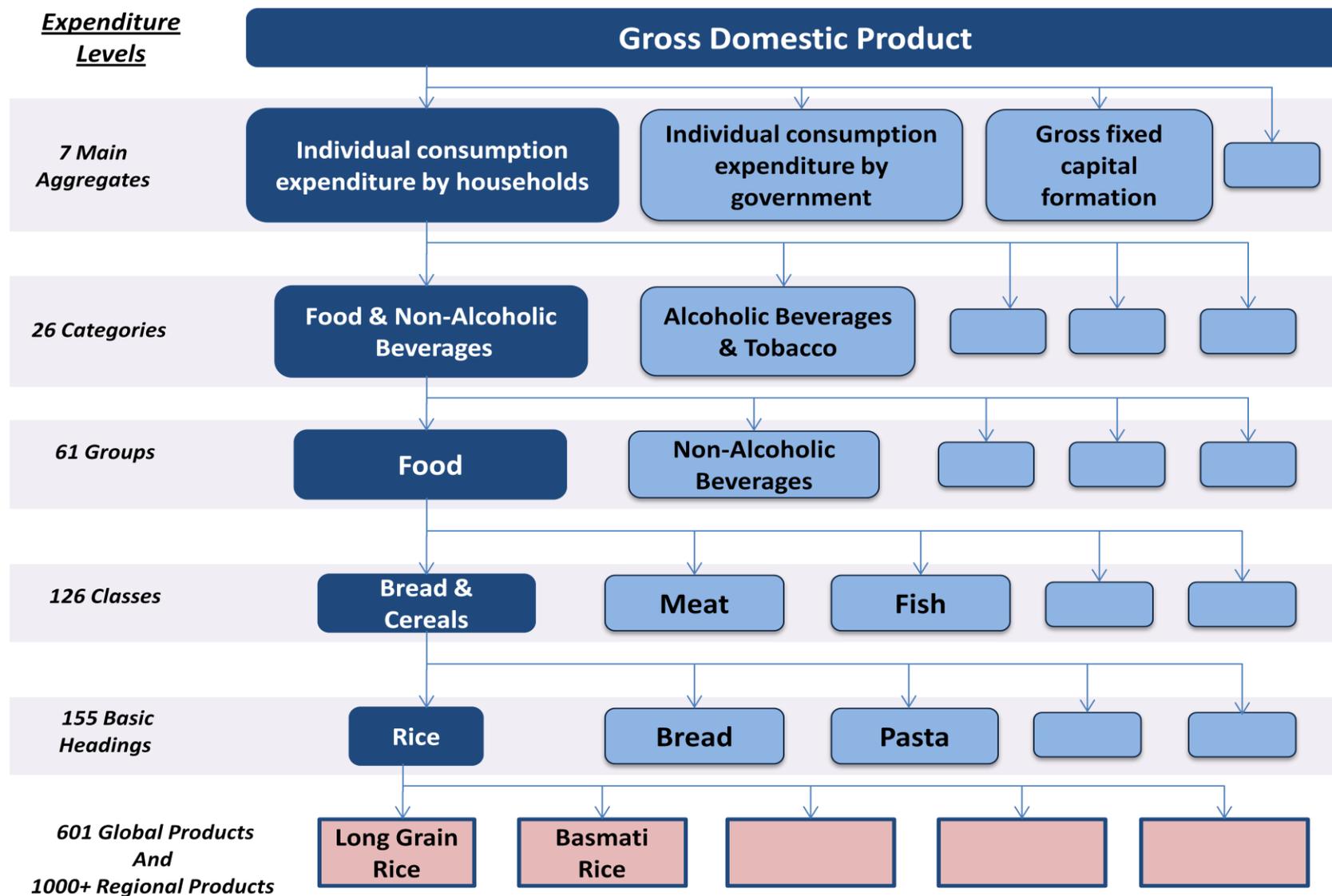
Applying for access to ICP Related Variables 2, 3 and 4 above is initiated by the user(s) with a written and signed application addressed to the Director of the Development Data Group at the World Bank. An outline of the information required in this application is shown in Annex 5.

The Director of the Development Data Group, with advice from the ICP Global Office, makes decisions on whether to approve requests, in line with the access policy agreed by the Executive Board. The Director may also seek other expert advice before making a final decision on applications.

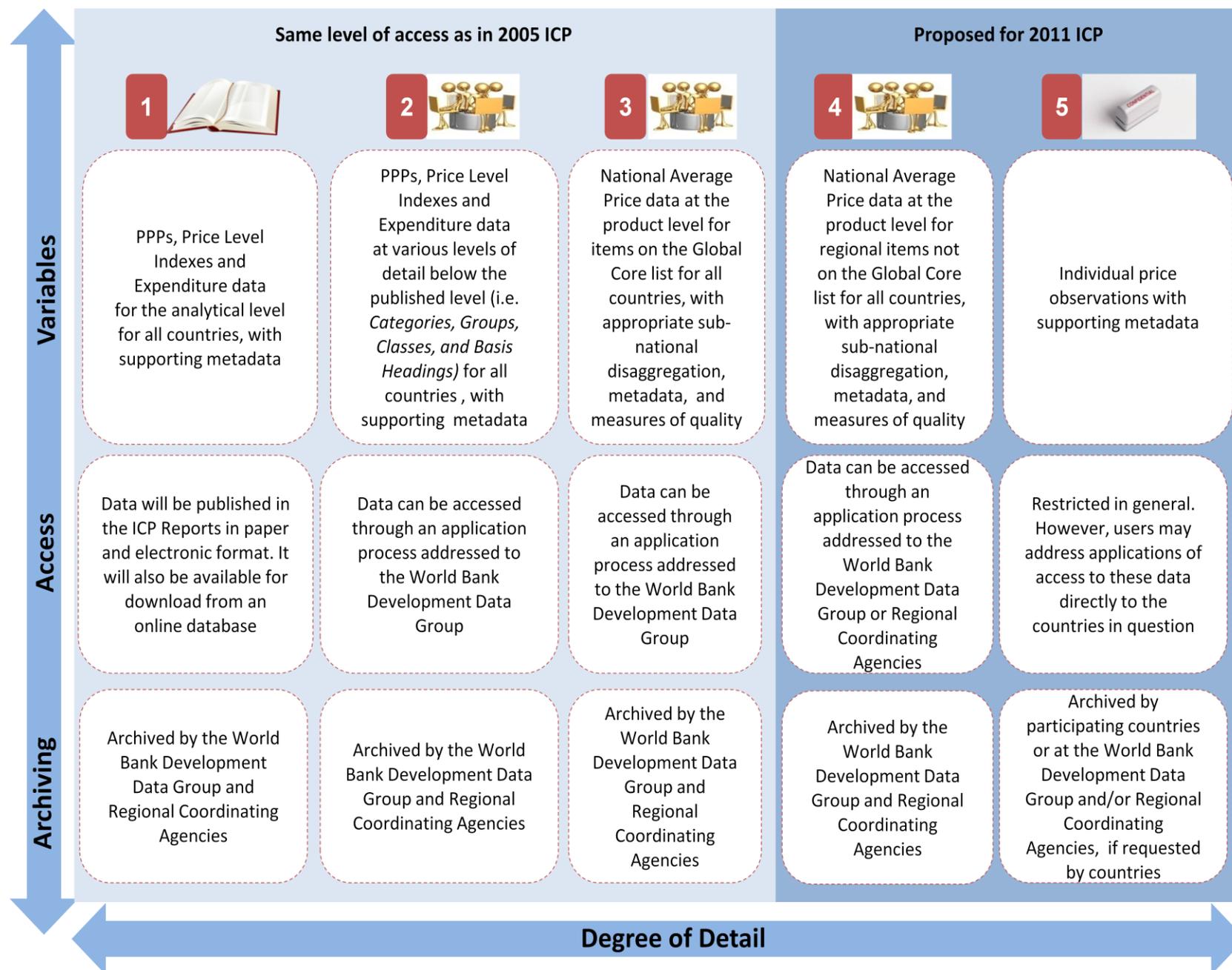
Alternatively, users may approach Regional Coordinating Agencies for access to regional data (regional PPPs, expenditure data, and average prices). In this case, Regional Coordinating Agencies follow the access policy agreed by the Executive Board. This release of regional data does not require clearance from the Development Data Group.

A central repository of all access requests will be established. The World Bank Development Data Group and the Regional Coordinating Agencies will log every request for access and its outcome in this repository. To ensure complete transparency, countries will have access to this central repository.

ANNEX 1. ICP CLASSIFICATION OF FINAL EXPENDITURE ON GDP



ANNEX 2. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED DATA ARCHIVING AND ACCESS FOR 2011 ICP RELATED VARIABLES



ANNEX 3. FURTHER DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN ICP DATASETS

A. Global Data

- a. Individual price observations at the product level (microdata) for the products on the Global Core list with identifiers for type of outlet, and urban/rural designation.
- b. National annual average prices for the products on the Global Core list. These include the prices for consumer goods and services from the Global Core list plus the price or quantity data for the Global Core lists for housing, health, education, government, equipment, and construction.
- c. Disaggregated sub-national annual average prices (according to agreed levels of disaggregation such as urban/rural or capital city vs. other geographical regions).
- d. PPPs, PLIs and expenditure data for the unpublished categories and basic headings for all countries.
- e. PPPs, PLIs and expenditure data at the agreed analytical level for all countries.
- f. Population data and exchange rates for all countries (they are the same as the population data and exchange rates under Regional data below).
- g. Measures of quality including estimates for the coefficients of variation.

B. Regional Data

- a. Individual price observations at the product level (microdata) with identifiers for type of outlet, and urban/rural designation.
- b. National annual average prices used to compute basic heading purchasing power parities (PPPs) in each of the regional programs. These include the prices for consumer goods and services from the regional product lists (which includes items selected from the Global Core list) plus the price or quantity data for the Global Core lists for housing, health, education, government, equipment, and construction.
- c. Disaggregated sub-national annual average prices (according to agreed levels of disaggregation such as urban/rural or capital city vs. other geographical regions).
- d. PPPs, PLIs and expenditure data for the unpublished categories and basic headings.
- e. PPPs, PLIs and expenditure data at the agreed analytical level.
- f. Population data and exchange rates.
- g. Measures of quality including estimates for the coefficients of variation.

ANNEX 4. ICP METADATA

A. At the global level

1. Broad description of the ICP methodology, including description of methodologies for comparison resistant areas
2. Global product lists, with supporting descriptions, grouped by basic headings
3. Table showing which countries collected price data for particular global products
4. Matrix of importance of Global Core items for all countries
5. National Accounts reporting forms and related instruction notes
6. Table showing which countries collected direct prices for machinery and equipment and/or implemented the alternative approach of the Price Factor Method
7. PPPs which were imputed and the source of the reference PPPs
8. The relative weight of reference PPPs basic headings in the total GDP for each country

B. At the regional level

1. Regional product lists, with supporting descriptions, grouped by basic headings
2. Table showing which countries collected price data for particular regional products
3. Table showing which countries provided other basic data for basic headings for which such data were required
4. Table showing which countries implemented the proposed three methods for housing
5. Table showing which countries provided expenditure data for the different basic headings
6. PPPs which were imputed and the source of the reference PPPs
7. The relative weight of reference PPPs basic headings in the total GDP for each country

C. At the national level

1. Table showing products for which price data were collected
2. Sample framework for ICP
3. Quarters for which prices were collected

4. Estimation method for national average prices (especially when price survey was not spatially representative)
5. Price indices used to adjust prices collected to the entire year 2011, when the price survey did not exactly cover the year 2011
6. Imputations used in lieu of data collection
7. Methodology for deriving expenditure data and related questionnaires
8. Methodology used for housing
9. Methodology used for gross fixed capital formation

ANNEX 5. APPLICATION FOR DATA ACCESS AND STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Date:

From:

To: Director

Development Data Group

The World Bank

Subject: Request for access to unpublished data and metadata from the 2011 Round of the International Comparison Program.

The following sections outline information which must accompany any request for access to **unpublished data and metadata** and define the limitations to their use.

A. Written proposal. Users must submit a written proposal to the World Bank Development Data Group that includes the following information:

- a. Data, countries, and metadata for which access is requested.
- b. Detailed project description including: the context of the research proposal; the state of the literature on the topic; statement of expected benefits to ICP global comparisons and/or ICP regional comparisons; and expected results, intended use, and dissemination plans.
- c. Brief curriculum vitae of the researchers involved in the research.

B. Declaration of use. The responsible senior manager of the organization sponsoring the researcher must include a signed declaration stating that:

- a. Users will not misuse the data by attempting to deduce underlying confidential data.
- b. Users were informed of the quality limitations and they agree that the data is still useful for their purposes.
- c. Users accessing detailed ICP data will only publish the detailed data when accompanied by a statement of the data's quality.

- d. In order to promote the use of ICP data, users will share their feedback and research findings with the World Bank Development Data Group.
- e. The calculations and documentation underlying the research will be provided to the World Bank Development Data Group, if requested.
- f. Users are aware that indicators computed by them based on ICP data are not considered part of the official publication program of the ICP.
- g. Non compliance with this declaration will exclude the requesting organization from any further access to detailed ICP data.