



**Regional Coordinators Meeting
Minutes of the Eighth Meeting
February 22, 2013
New York, NY**

Contents

Opening Remarks	2
Session I. Global status report and overview of ICP data and metadata submission.....	2
Session II. Regional Status Reports.....	3
Session III. Next steps to Spring 2013 meetings	5
Session IV. Review of ICP notes/material prepared based on Executive Board decisions.....	5
Summary of Meeting Decisions	6
Annex 1. Agenda	7
Annex 2. List of Participants.....	7

Opening Remarks

The 8th Meeting of the 2011 ICP Regional Coordinators was held on February 22, 2013 at the United Nations in New York, NY. The meeting was organized in five sessions: I. Global status report and overview of ICP data and metadata submission; II. Regional Status Reports; III. Review of ICP notes/material prepared based on Executive Board decisions; and IV. Next steps to Spring 2013 meetings.

In attendance were the Regional Coordinators (RCs) from Africa, Asia, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Eurostat-OECD, Latin America, Western Asia, and Georgia, as well as staff and consultants of the ICP Global Office, as listed in Annex 2. The meeting was chaired by Michel Mouyelo-Katoula, ICP Global Manager.

Michel welcomed the RCs and participants and emphasized the importance of this critical meeting in the 2011 Round of the ICP. Michel stressed that since data submissions were late and scarce, it was not possible for the Global Office (GO) to conduct proper testing of the aggregation and linking methods. Thus, the meeting would not involve a review of preliminary results.

Session I. Global status report and overview of ICP data and metadata submission

Michel provided a brief status report on the implementation of the 2011 round of the ICP. The presentation covered the following aspects: meeting objectives; implementation of the Executive Board decisions; ICP report to the 44th session of the UNSC; data and metadata submission status; risk assessment; and the preparation of the 2011 ICP Global Report.

Meeting objectives

The following objectives were proposed: (i) to review and discuss the notes on high-level ICP missions, enhancing the comparability of the ICP 2005 and 2011 results, testing the impact of different methods and weights for importance indicators on the ICP 2011 results, and ICP Validation steps, which the Executive Board has requested the Global Office to prepare; and (ii) to review the status of data submission and confirm a strong commitment to the way forward. The RCs agreed to the proposed meeting objectives.

Implementation of Executive Board Decisions

The following files were circulated per the Board's decisions: note high-level missions; note on enhancing the comparability of the ICP 2005 and 2011 results; technical note on testing the impact of different methods and weights for importance indicators on the ICP 2011 results; and a flowchart of validation steps. Michel explained that the GO also prepared a note on linking and a draft revision policy, which will be circulated to RCs once they are approved by the TAG.

ICP Report to the 44th Session of the UNSC

Michel announced that the Executive Board will propose to the UNSC that a Friend of the Chair group should be established for the 2011 ICP.

Data and Metadata Submission

Michel presented a summary of Household Consumption main survey and Special Survey data submission as well as National Accounts data submission by region as per below table.

Mizuki Yamanaka presented the country level data submission status to ensure that the situation in each region was up to date.

Household Consumption Main Survey and Special Surveys - Status of Data Submission

Region	Main HHC Survey	Special Surveys							Participation
	National Annual Averages	Housing - Rental	Housing - Quantity	Water	Private Education	Compensation of Gov. Employee	Machinery & Equipment	Construction	
Africa	50	Jun'13	Jun'13	Jun'13	Jun'13	Jun'13	Jun'13	Jun'13	50
Asia-Pacific	23	Apr'13	Apr'13	n/a	n/a	Apr'13	Apr'13	Apr'13	23
CIS	9	n/a	9	n/a	9	Feb'13	9	Feb'13	9
Latin America	17	13	Feb'13	n/a	16	16	17	14	17
Western Asia	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Caribbean	18	7	8	11	8	2	1	2	21
Pacific Islands	Oct'13	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	21
Iran	1	1	1	1	1	Mar'13	1	1	1
Georgia	Feb'13	n/a	Feb'13	n/a	n/a	Feb'13	Feb'13	Feb'13	1
ICP Regions	130	33	30	24	46	30	40	29	155
EUROSTAT-OECD	47	n/a	30	n/a	n/a	47	47	5	47
(Dual Participation)	(3)	-	(1)	-	-	-	(1)	-	(4)
Grand Total	174	33	59	24	46	77	86	34	198

Risk Assessment

Michel reviewed the potential risks and respective preventive measures relating to the following: data quality; metadata completeness and quality; timeline; and funding. He emphasized that if Special Surveys data for some countries are not received on time or results are not plausible, the results for the countries in question will be limited to Household Consumption only. To ensure PPPs are published by December 2013, imputations will have to be made by the GO should the need arise.

2011 ICP Global Report

Michel credited David Roberts for his efforts on the 2011 ICP Global Report preparation and announced that a Wiki page was created as an outcome of the 7th Regional Coordinators meeting to allow for collaboration, comments and suggestions.

Session II. Regional Status Reports

Each Regional Coordinator presented their regional status report highlighting the progress and data submission of Household Consumption, Special Surveys, and National Accounts data, as well as metadata including the survey framework questionnaire and QAF checklists. RCs also confirmed the upcoming activities/workshops for their region.

Africa

The ICP-Africa Regional Coordinator from the African Development Bank (AfDB) reported that validation of Household Consumption data has continued both through desk work as well as iteratively with countries to resolve some of the issues. To this effect a validation workshop is scheduled in March 2013 when survey framework information will be collected from countries. Missions to problematic countries have taken place and there are plans to schedule additional missions to follow up on household consumption and Special Survey issues as appropriate. The

picture on Special Surveys will be clearer after the AfDB retreat to be held a week after the 8th RC meeting. The Regional Coordinator indicated that the revised Household Consumption data based on the retreat by the ICP Regional Coordination team in early February could be submitted a week after the eighth regional coordinator's meeting and another set at the beginning of April. However, Special Survey validated data will only be submitted in June although unvalidated data for some of the countries can be submitted by the end March. This is to allow the validation workshops scheduled in March and April to be conducted, as well as the follow-up mission to selected countries. A workshop on Special Surveys for the English-speaking countries will be held in March and the one for French-speaking countries in April, a regional workshop is expected in May 2013. Metadata and other national accounts requirements will only be provided in June.

Asia

The ICP-Asia Regional Coordinator from the Asian Development Bank reported that both household and non-household surveys are on track except for the gaps in submission of rental and quantity data for three island countries. Household Consumption data is intended to be finalized during the upcoming workshop in March 2013. Intra- and inter-country quarterly and annual validation was done while temporal validation vis-a-vis the 2005 and 2011 ICP data and CPI data is underway. In addressing issues arising from the latter validation, missions were conducted in PRC and Hong Kong China, followed by in Indonesia, Brunei and Mongolia. A mission is being planned to Malaysia, prior to the March workshop.

Compensation data remains to be properly assessed, but indications of productivity adjustments are necessary at the regional level. Efforts have been made to collate labor and capital information to calculate productivity adjustment factors. A request has been made to the GO, for the labor and capital data to be put together by the GO consultants working on productivity adjustments to ensure consistency in the input data. In regards to National Accounts, all countries have submitted their preliminary GDP data for 2011. However, some countries data is on fiscal year basis, and they have yet to submit it on calendar year basis. The Quality assessment for National Accounts was completed by all countries, but the Exhaustiveness questionnaire has to be pursued, even though this was discussed during past workshops. The Survey framework information as requested by the GO is available in a different format, although not all countries provided all the information desired. The regional results are expected to be published in November 2013, which will include 2005 revisions.

Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

The ICP-CIS Regional Coordinator from CIS-STAT confirmed that estimates of National Accounts breakdown will be completed by the end of March 2013 and they will provide required metadata questionnaires.

Eurostat-OECD

The Coordinators for the Eurostat-OECD PPP program, informed the participants that preliminary PPPs are being computed for 2011. Revised data is to be sent by November 2013. Construction data for some OECD countries will be sent soon.

Georgia

The ICP-Georgia Regional Coordinator reported that QAF checklists and survey framework questionnaire have been submitted. MORES, Household Consumption, and Special Surveys data will be submitted by the end February 2013. The next mission is scheduled for April 2013 and final data can be expected by the end of June from Georgia and Armenia.

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

The ICP-LAC Regional Coordinator from UN-ECLAC briefed the participants that Household Consumption data will be submitted by the end of March for 16 countries, except for Cuba where data is still being validated. Special Survey data should be finalized by the end of March and a National Accounts meeting is scheduled for the beginning of March to finalize National Accounts data.

In respect to the Caribbean, the Regional Coordinator noted that Guyana is out; Turks and Caicos are late; while St. Martin and the Caribbean Netherlands may submit data. The Household Consumption data will be finalized by the end of March 2013. Final National Accounts and Special Survey data will be submitted by the end of June 2013.

Western Asia

The ICP-Western Asia Regional Coordinator from UN-ESCWA confirmed that, as was shown in the presented table, all the data including Household Consumption data and all Special Surveys had already been submitted to the GO. However, given that a comprehensive regional validation workshop was conducted right before the RC meeting, subsequent to which countries were all requested to revise their data for all surveys based on the workshop's outcome, remarks and highlights, the regional coordinator stated that an updated set of data will be submitted by the beginning of March for Household Consumption and by the end of March for Special Surveys. National Accounts data will be submitted after the National Accounts workshop which is planned to be held in April in order to improve the quality and soundness of the expenditure weights data. The survey framework questionnaire was circulated to countries and the QAF checklist is to be circulated again. Western Asia noted that help might be required in generating the final report.

Session III. Next steps to Spring 2013 meetings

Timetable of upcoming activities

Nada Hamadeh, Senior Statistician, briefed the participants on the major milestones and governance meetings for 2013, and presented the metadata questionnaires. They include: Survey Framework Questionnaire; Quality Assurance Checklist; and National Accounts metadata questionnaires. RCs discussed the timeline and agreed on the table below

Major Milestones and Governance Meetings for 2013

March	Submission of semi-final price data for all regions (Household Consumption and Special Surveys) Submission of preliminary 2011/ revised 2005 National Accounts data
May	8th Technical Advisory Group and 9th Regional Coordinators meetings
June	Submission of final data for all regions (Household Consumption, Special Surveys and National Accounts) Preparation of the Interim Report to the Executive Board
September	9th Technical Advisory Group and 10th Regional Coordinators meetings
October	Potential revision of final 2011 data and metadata, in response to comments by the TAG and RCs
November	9th Executive Board meeting Preparation of the Report to the 45th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission
December	Release of 2011 Global PPPs and results

Session IV. Review of ICP notes/material prepared based on Executive Board decisions

Note on Enhancing the Comparability of the ICP 2005 and 2011 Results

Nada reviewed the note on “Enhancing the Comparability of the ICP 2005 and 2011 Results,” including the following items: changes to 2005 input data; methodological changes; revision principles; steps to revise PPPs; and steps to assess the impact of methodological changes. She clarified that the approach would mostly rely with the GO and would not require additional efforts on

the part of the RCs or countries. However, updated 2005 National data should come from countries or be reviewed and cleared by the countries themselves.

Note on High-Level ICP Missions

Nada presented the note on high-level missions and covered the following matters: triggers; objective; mission statement; and mission organization. Thorough discussion led to agreement that if a country chooses not to revise data at the conclusion of the high-level mission, the RC and the GO reserve the right to document these inconsistencies in footnotes in their 2011 ICP final regional and global reports. They also reserve the right not to include the prices of all products priced by countries in the final PPP computation, if these prices are deemed to be “outliers”.

Note on testing the impact of different methods and weights for importance indicators on the ICP 2011 results

Michel provided background information on the note on importance. Mizuki explained the findings from the importance sensitivity test and analyses. He noted that the findings are based on preliminary data. RCs decided that tests need to be re-run with the latest data before a conclusion can be made. New findings are to be discussed at the next RC meeting in May 2013.

Summary of Meeting Decisions

In the final meeting session, Michel summarized the main decisions of the 8th Regional Coordinators meeting, as follows:

- The GO will focus primarily on BH PPPs and quarterly /annual averages for global core prices. For validation purposes, national annual averages of non-core items are also needed.
- RCs need to send to the GO all the data they have available by the end of March 2013, to ensure that the Validation Expert Group/ Computation Task Force have enough time to process the data and produce preliminary results for discussion at the TAG/RC meetings in May 2013.
- The overall timetable as shown under Section III above was decided upon during the 8th RC meeting as a feasible action plan.
- In cases where Special Surveys data for some countries are not received on time or results are not plausible, the results for the countries in question will be limited to Household Consumption only, which would be a step back from ICP 2005. To ensure PPPs are published by December 2013, imputations will have to be made by the GO should the need arise.
- High-level ICP missions will be conducted to economically large countries where inconsistencies in the data remain after the data validation process is concluded.
- The RC and the GO reserve the right to document any inconsistencies in footnotes in the 2011 ICP final regional and global reports if a country chooses not to revise data at the conclusion of a high-level mission.
- The approach for enhancing the comparability of the ICP 2005 and 2011 results will be implemented by the Global Office and will not require additional efforts on the part of the RCs or countries. However, updated 2005 National data should come from countries or be reviewed and cleared by the countries themselves.
- A draft revision policy will be circulated to the TAG to discuss at their May meetings. The revision policy will be then shared with the Executive Board.
- Further testing is necessary to determine the weights to be used in the CPD-weighted method, once better data is available.

Annex 1. Agenda

February 22, 2013

08:30-09:00	<i>Check-in</i>
09:00-09:15	Welcome and opening remarks
09:15-10:45	Global status report and overview of ICP data and metadata submission
10:45-11:00	<i>Coffee</i>
11:00-12:30	Regional Status Reports
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00-15:45	Regional Status Reports (continued)
15:45 – 16:15	Next steps to Spring 2013 meetings
16:15– 16:30	<i>Coffee</i>
16:30 – 17:30	Review of ICP notes/material prepared based on Executive Board decisions

Annex 2. List of Participants

	Name	Organization
Regional Coordinators		
1	Chinganya, Oliver	African Development Bank
2	Koechlin, Francette	OECD
3	Konijn, Paulus (Paul)	Eurostat
4	Kosarev, Andrey	CIS-Stat
5	Kuznetsov, Vasily	ROSSTAT
6	Palanyandy, Chellam	Asian Development Bank
7	Roberts, David	World Bank Consultant
8	Savio, Giovanni	UN-ECLAC
9	Skaini, Majed	UN-ESCWA
ICP Global Office		
10	Mouyelo-Katoula, Michel	ICP Global Manager, World Bank
11	Hamadeh, Nada	Senior Statistician, World Bank
12	Yamanaka, Mizuki	Consultant, World Bank
13	Brannon, Morgan	Consultant, World Bank