



**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 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.

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, Classes, 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 disaggregation, measures of quality and supporting metadata - are available to data users, except when the confidentiality of data providers 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 disaggregation, measures of quality and supporting metadata - are available to data users, except when the confidentiality of data providers is jeopardized.
5. Individual Price Observations with supporting metadata are available where permitted by the laws of individual countries as long as confidentiality of data providers is protected.

More information on the ICP classification and levels of disaggregation can be found in Annex 1. Annex 2 provides a pictorial description of the data access objectives 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 only be made available for analytical, research, and statistical purposes.
2. **Preservation of microdata confidentiality:** provision of data should be consistent with legal and other necessary arrangements that ensure the confidentiality of data providers.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **Reciprocity:** reciprocity between participating countries should be established to the maximum extent possible, and all participating countries are automatically considered as approved users of ICP data.
6. **Reliability:** releases of ICP data should be accompanied by appropriate metadata, including metadata that describes the quality limitations of the data.
7. **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.

8. **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.
9. **Disclosure limitations:** users 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.
10. **Promotion of uses:** the feedback and research findings of the users of ICP data should be shared with all stakeholders to promote the uses of ICP data.
11. **Limitations on users' findings:** indicators computed by users based on ICP data are not considered official statistics.
12. **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, 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 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 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 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 this data.

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 custodian<sup>1</sup>. 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 in paper format and electronically. 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 disaggregation, measures of quality and supporting metadata, can be accessed by users through an application process addressed to the World Bank Development Data Group.
4. National Average Price data at the product level for regional items not on the global core list for all countries, with appropriate disaggregation, measures of quality and supporting metadata, can be accessed by users through an application process addressed to the World Bank Development Data.
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, based on advice from the ICP Global Office, makes decisions on whether to approve requests after consultation with the relevant Regional Coordinating Agencies. The Director may also seek other expert advice before making a final decision on applications.

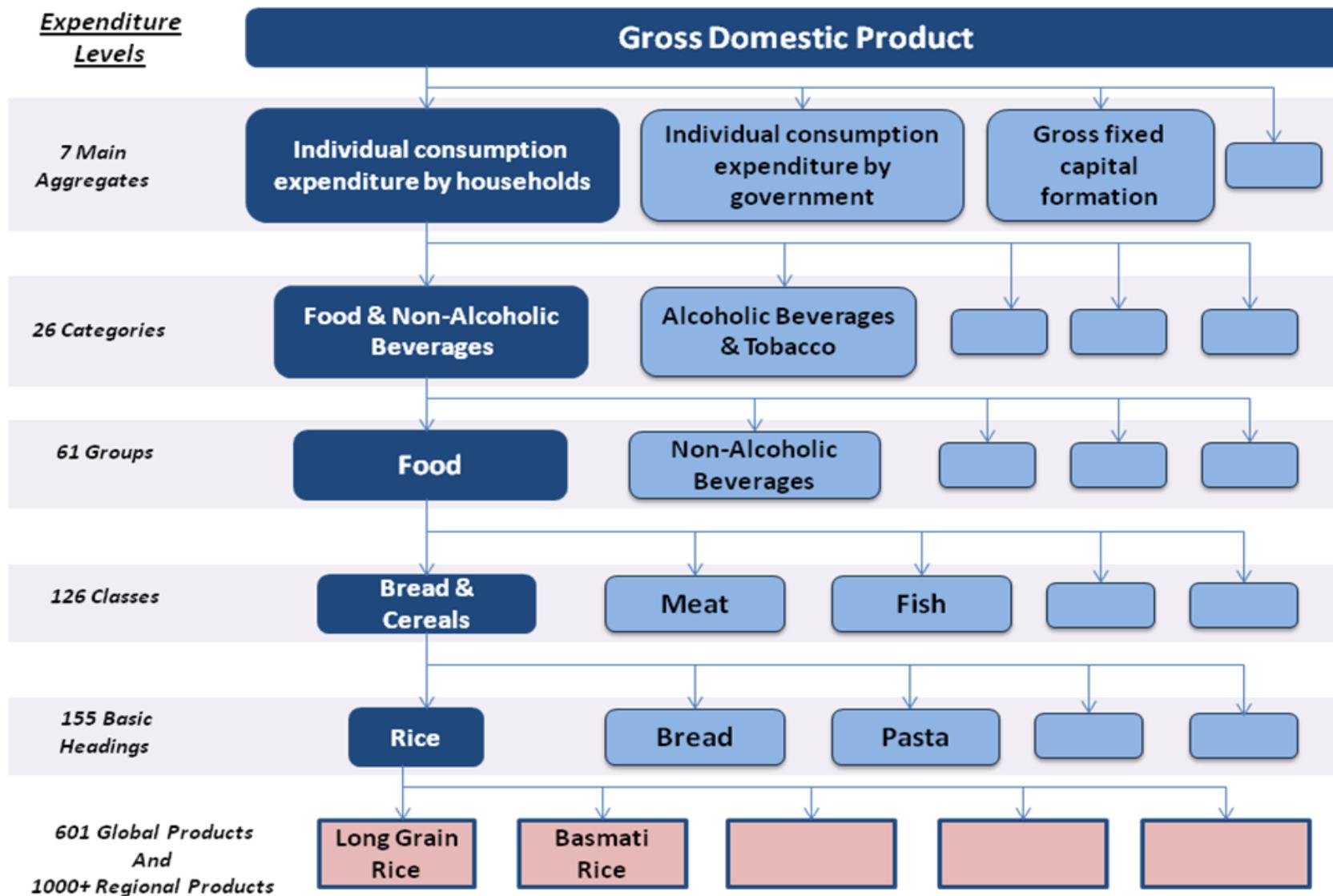
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<sup>1</sup> The location of the database server will be discussed and agreed with the Regional Coordinators.

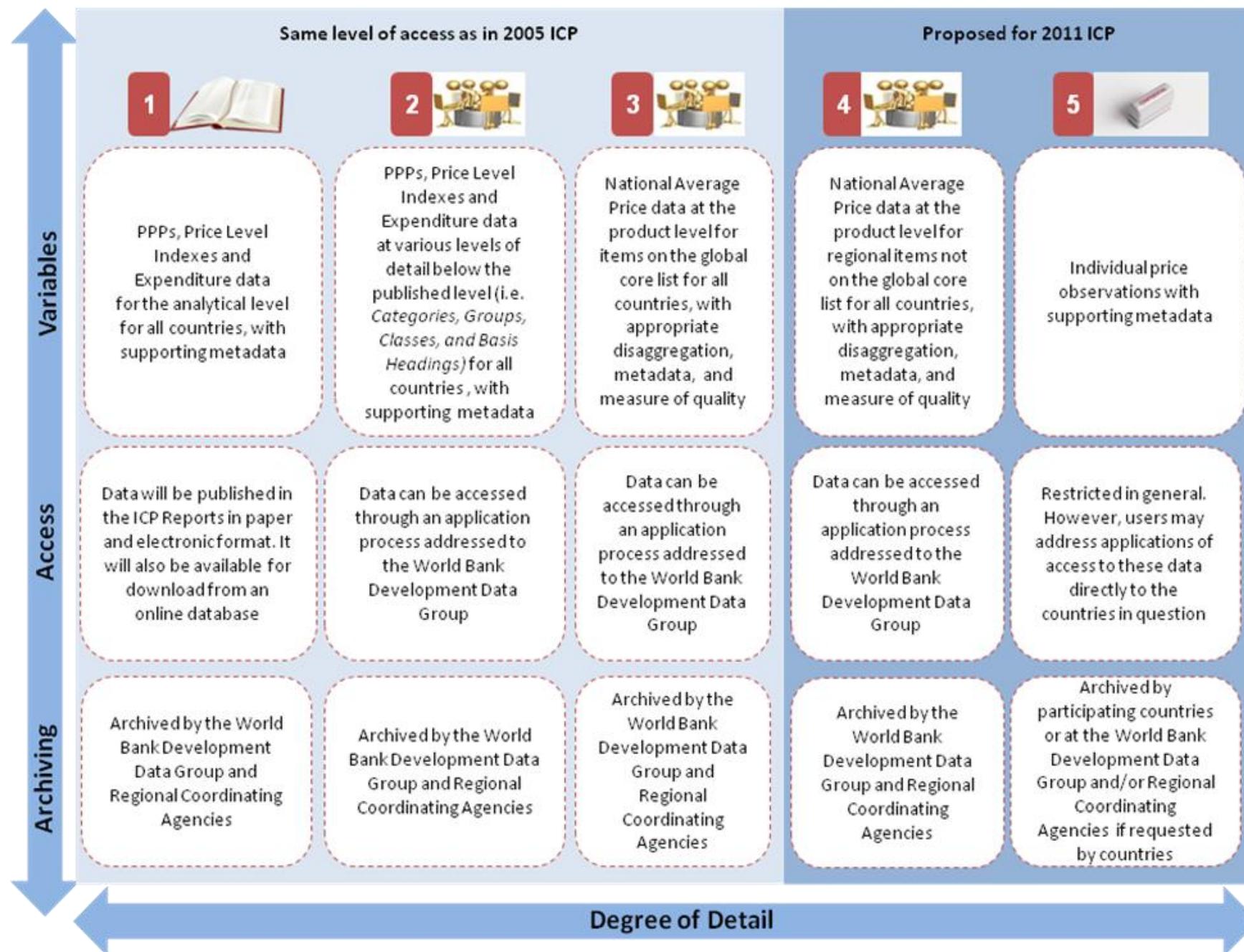
Each Regional Coordinating Agency must provide a contact person and a deputy for purposes of communication related to data access requests. When Regional Coordinating Agencies are consulted for a data access request, they will have ten working days to respond to each access request. A non response will be considered to be approval of the request. Regional Coordinating Agencies should notify the World Bank Development Data Group within the time frame if they need more time to evaluate a specific request.

There is a need to efficiently provide regular feedback to countries that are impacted by ICP data access requests. For that purpose, the World Bank Development Data Group will prepare a log of all requests received, and shares it with the countries through the Regional Coordinating Agencies on an annual basis.

**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 product lists for housing, health, education, government, equipment, and construction.
- c. Disaggregated 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. Metadata 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 product lists for housing, health, education, government, equipment, and construction.
- c. Disaggregated 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. Metadata 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
8. Methodologies used for housing
9. Methodology used for machinery and equipment

## ANNEX 5. APPLICATION FOR DATA ACCESS AND STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Date:

From:

To: Shaida Baidee, Director  
Development Data Group  
The World Bank

**Subject: Request for access to unpublished data (PPPs, PLIs, expenditures data, prices, and quantities) and metadata from the 2011 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 the use of those results or micro data.

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

- a. Define the data and countries or regions 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 confidentiality.** The responsible senior manager of the organization sponsoring the researcher must include a signed declaration of confidentiality stating that:

- a. The data will be used only for statistical purposes, and the results of the research will either be published or made available upon request.
- b. The data will never be disseminated in the public domain in any form and will not be provided to third parties.
- c. The results of the research will be published only at the aggregate level as established for the ICP global publication unless permission has been granted to publish in greater detail. For that purpose, the version of the research to be published should be provided to the World Bank prior to publication to verify compliance.

d. The calculations and documentation underlying the research will be provided to the World Bank if requested.

e. Non compliance to these rules will exclude the requesting organization from any further access to detailed information.