



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
13 December 2023

Original: English

Statistical Commission

Fifty-fifth session

New York, 27 February–1 March 2024

Item 5 (f) of the provisional agenda*

Items for information: International Comparison Programme

Report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2023/325 and past practices, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme, which is submitted to the Commission for information.

* [E/CN.3/2024/1](#).



Report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme

I. Introduction

1. The International Comparison Programme (ICP) was initiated in 1968 as a research project between the United Nations and the University of Pennsylvania, with financial contributions from the Ford Foundation and the World Bank; its aim was to set up a regular programme of purchasing power parity (PPP)-based comparisons of gross domestic product (GDP). Since then, ICP has evolved into one of the largest statistical partnerships in the world. At its forty-seventh session, in March 2016, the Statistical Commission instituted ICP as a permanent element of the global statistical programme, to be conducted on a three-year cycle. Pursuant to this, the next ICP cycle is scheduled for the reference year 2024.

2. The present report provides a comprehensive update on the activities undertaken from November 2022 to November 2023. It is organized in six sections as follows: governance and coordination; ICP implementation; ICP 2021 risks and mitigation measures; research and innovations; knowledge, advocacy and uses; and conclusion.

II. Governance and coordination

A. Statistical Commission

3. The Statistical Commission is the ultimate stakeholder of ICP, deciding the frequency and operational modality of the programme. The fifty-fourth session of the Commission¹ was held from 28 February to 3 March 2023 and the report² of the World Bank on ICP was submitted to the Commission for information. Written statements³ in response to the report were received from Indonesia, Malaysia and the International Monetary Fund.

B. Governing Board

4. The ICP Governing Board sets the policies that govern the production of PPPs, approves the programme's methodology and any methodological improvements, advocates to policymakers to ensure the ongoing inclusion of ICP in national statistical workprogrammes and supports ICP fundraising efforts.

5. A meeting of the Governing Board,⁴ at which members reviewed the progress of the ICP 2021 cycle at the global and regional levels, was held on 26 February 2023. The Board noted the progress made with the cycle despite disruptions due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the war in Ukraine and the resulting need to identify an approach to linking the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) regional results to the global results. The Board called for completing the ICP 2021 cycle activities in a timely manner and beginning preparations for the ICP 2024 cycle, noted the need to identify sustained funding for the programme and strengthen advocacy efforts and also noted the current and anticipated uses of PPPs. Furthermore, the Board noted the importance of ICP results and the participation benefits for national statistical offices in terms of strengthening both statistical

¹ See www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/unsc-sessions.

² E/CN.3/2023/25.

³ See www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/unsc-sessions.

⁴ See www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/gb-february-2023.

capacity and institutional knowledge in the areas of data collection and validation processes and economic statistics.

6. The next meeting will be held in late February 2024, in conjunction with the fifty-fifth session of the Statistical Commission.

C. Technical Advisory Group

7. The ICP Technical Advisory Group assures the methodological soundness and overall quality of the PPP estimates, ensures transparency of the PPP estimation process and supports the establishment of a permanent ICP with more frequent rounds.

8. A meeting of the Technical Advisory Group was held on 6 and 7 November 2023.⁵ Members were provided with an update on 2021 cycle implementation and plans for the release of results in 2024. The Group discussed preliminary 2021 results and the methods of calculating (a) revised 2017 results, (b) PPP time series for 2018–2020 and (c) 2021 results for non-benchmark economies.

9. The Technical Advisory Group reviewed progress on selected items of the ICP research agenda. With regard to the item entitled “Compilation of PPP time series”, the ICP Global Office noted the stability of the current programme and the demand from users for more frequent and more timely ICP results. It presented an initiative for producing global annual PPPs and forecasts by adopting an approach that would distribute and maintain the overall workload. The discussion was informed by the current annual PPP programmes in Western Asia, the European Union and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The Group supported the initiative and asked the Inter-Agency Coordination Group to draft a discussion paper on the approach and next steps.

10. The Asian Development Bank updated the Group on its work on the research agenda item entitled “PPP and real expenditures for dwelling services” and the development of a hybrid approach to calculating regional PPPs and real expenditures for housing based on using both rental and volume data collected by national implementing agencies. The Technical Advisory Group endorsed the approach after comparing estimated 2021 results using the proposed and the alternative existing methodologies.

11. The Group concluded the meeting by discussing updates on the potential use of PPPs in the World Bank classifications of countries by income level and the use of the latest version (2018) of the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP) on the ICP classification of final expenditure on GDP.

D. Inter-Agency Coordination Group

12. The ICP Inter-Agency Coordination Group is the coordinating body that collaborates on establishing timetables and workplans; develops common standards, methods and protocols; and coordinates the operational aspects of the Programme.

13. The Coordination Group met from 15 to 18 May 2023.⁶ The Group discussed global and regional ICP updates, conducted data reviews and reviewed plans for the ICP 2024 cycle and the release of the ICP 2021 cycle results. In addition, the Group

⁵ See www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/tag-meetings.

⁶ See www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/iacg-may-2023.

discussed ICP PPP calculation tools and the feasibility of producing annual ICP results and forecasts.

14. The Coordination Group met again from 31 October to 3 November 2023.⁷ At the hybrid event, with members attending both online and in person, the Group discussed global and regional updates on 2021 cycle implementation, remaining governance activities, plans to release results and planning for the 2024 cycle. Attendees reviewed price data, national accounts expenditures and population and market exchange rates. The Group reviewed and discussed the operational materials for the ICP 2024 cycle.

III. ICP implementation

A. Overall timetable

15. The Inter-Agency Coordination Group launched ICP 2021 cycle activities in June 2020. The bulk of the required global operational materials was finalized by November 2020, while the remaining materials were finalized in early 2021. Price surveys and data collections were conducted mainly throughout 2021 and 2022, to accommodate those economies where data collection had been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Data validation was continuing as of November 2023 at the national, regional and global levels. The number of participating economies is similar to that for the previous ICP (2017) cycle. Preliminary results were discussed in November 2023.

16. ICP 2021 cycle results are scheduled to be released in early 2024. They will cover results for the reference year 2021, revised results for the reference year 2017 and annual PPPs for the years 2018 to 2020. A new heading entitled “Total consumption expenditure” will be published, increasing the number of published headings to 45. Total consumption expenditure is the sum of final consumption expenditure of households and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISHs), individual consumption expenditure by government and collective consumption expenditure by government.

17. Planning for the scheduled ICP 2024 cycle is under way, with the global, regional and national implementing agencies finalizing operational materials for the ICP surveys.

B. Status of regional programmes and capacity-building activities

Africa

18. The African Development Bank is the regional implementing agency for the Africa region. Fifty-two economies are participating in the ICP 2021 cycle, compared with the 2017 cycle, with capacity-building efforts in South Sudan and Somalia resulting in their participation as an additional two economies. Technical assistance has been extended to Libya and Eritrea.

19. Surveys were conducted from July 2022 to March 2023, following an assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on ICP processes and data collection. More than 731 socioeconomic variables for 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 were gathered as inputs for the PPP computation process. Validation of data is being finalized as of November 2023.

⁷ See www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/iacg-oct-2023.

20. Two regional data validation workshops were held in Kigali in January and June 2023. In addition to staff from national statistical offices, attendees from the following organizations were also present: African Union, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), West African Economic and Monetary Union, Economic Community of West African States, Southern African Development Community, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Economic Community of Central African States, Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique subsaharienne (AFRISTAT), École nationale supérieure de statistique et d'économie appliquée d'Abidjan (ENSEA), National Agency of Statistics and Demography (ANSD-Dakar), Institute of Demographic Training and Research (IFORD-Yaoundé), Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISAE-Makerere, Uganda), Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC-Dar es Salaam) and Institut sous-régional de statistique et d'économie appliquée (ISEA-Yaoundé). The African Development Bank met with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in April 2023 to discuss the quality of data on housing and with ECA and the African Union to discuss national accounts expenditures. Regional webinars on the data quality survey framework were held in January 2023, June 2023 and September 2023 for all participating economies. In September 2023, the African Development Bank and the World Bank jointly provided training and consultations for the computation of provincial- and city-level PPPs in South Africa in collaboration with Statistics South Africa. South African price statisticians and household survey specialists attended the workshop.

21. In terms of data collection, computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI) tools, web scraping and big data techniques were used in some economies to price selected items for the surveys on household consumption, machinery and equipment, and construction. Preparations for the ICP 2024 cycle are under way, with item lists due to be finalized by end-January 2024.

Asia and the Pacific

22. The Asian Development Bank is the regional implementing agency for the Asia and Pacific region. Twenty-one economies are participating in the ICP 2021 cycle.

23. Most economies conducted price surveys in 2021. Surveys in some economies were delayed owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the data-collection period extended until the fourth quarter of 2022 to accommodate the completion of surveys in all economies. For prices collected in periods outside the reference year 2021, a standard method for extrapolation was utilized, employing tools developed by the Asian Development Bank to facilitate this process. Price survey data, national accounts expenditure data and required metadata questionnaires had been submitted by most economies as of November 2023 and the data validation process is in its final stages. Bilateral engagement with economies to address specific data quality issues is ongoing.

24. A series of regional training and data validation workshops have been conducted by the Asian Development Bank throughout the cycle. Owing to travel constraints, 19 regional workshops were conducted virtually from 2020 to 2022, while face-to-face regional workshops were held in May, June and July 2023 for the discussion of price validation of construction, machinery and equipment, household consumption, government compensation, housing and GDP expenditure data. Preliminary regional PPPs for the revised 2017 and 2021 results have been computed. Also noteworthy is the methodological research of the Asian Development Bank focused on developing a hybrid approach for estimating PPPs for dwelling services. This approach, which utilizes data collected from rental and volume approaches, has been endorsed by the ICP Technical Advisory Group.

25. The Asian Development Bank organized a group of experts meeting and a meeting of the Regional Advisory Board in October 2023 for review of data quality and regional ICP 2021 preliminary results and discussion of estimation methods, including the new methodology for housing. A technical evaluation and review workshop is scheduled for November 2023 with participating economies for discussion of the preliminary regional results for ICP 2021 and preparatory activities for the ICP 2024 cycle.

26. A computer-assisted personal interview tool for collecting prices of household consumption items is being finalized and will be piloted in Fiji and Mongolia in November 2023. Furthermore, a web scraping tool for price collection is being developed. An online survey tool was deployed in September 2023 to elicit feedback from economies on the household product list proposed for the ICP 2024 cycle.

27. In terms of outreach, the regional ICP website⁸ is continually updated. The 2023 edition of the Asian Development Bank flagship statistical publication, entitled *Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific*,⁹ includes an extensive section on the impact of ICP in the region, highlighting the critical role that participating economies play in implementing the Programme. The release of the regional ICP 2021 report is tentatively scheduled for April 2024 and the regional results and database will be disseminated through the Asian Development Bank website, social media platforms and other channels. The Asian Development Bank will encourage participating economies to develop brief country reports and organize their own dissemination events.

Commonwealth of Independent States

28. The Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT) is the regional implementing agency for the CIS region. Nine economies are participating in the ICP 2021 cycle. CIS-STAT is providing support to Turkmenistan in anticipation of its participation in future ICP cycles.

29. The majority of the ICP 2021 cycle price surveys were completed in 2021, with validation at the regional level completed and data submitted to the Global Office in 2023. The survey for construction was produced using two approaches: the regional resource-technological models approach and the ICP construction and civil engineering approach. The validation of data for the resource-technological models approach was completed in April 2023; data validation on construction and civil engineering was under way as of November 2023. Metadata questionnaires were submitted to the Global Office in May 2023.

30. Regional PPPs have been computed for all survey categories and PPPs for national accounts expenditures will be finalized by the end of 2023.

31. A regional workshop was held in June 2023 to review expenditure and price data, proposals for the ICP 2024 cycle household consumption items list and approaches to estimating annual PPPs. In addition, technical assistance meetings were held with ICP staff in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in September 2023, and high-level bilateral meetings with the national statistics offices of Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan were conducted in July and August 2023, respectively, for discussion of the long-term strategy for ICP in the region. At a May 2023 meeting in Kazakhstan, the Council of Heads of CIS national statistical offices approved the status of the ICP 2021 cycle and the commencement of the ICP 2024 cycle was given. At a follow-up meeting of the Council in the Russian Federation in September 2023, it was agreed that annual PPPs at the level of GDP and actual individual consumption will be published. The

⁸ See <https://icp.adb.org/overview>.

⁹ See www.adb.org/publications/key-indicators-asia-and-pacific-2023.

introduction of rolling surveys was discussed. A scheduled November 2023 meeting in Uzbekistan will focus on preparations for the ICP 2024 cycle.

32. With regard to outreach, ICP learning exercises provided for students at the Higher School of Economics and Lomonosov Moscow State University are currently taking place and their further development will continue.

Latin America and the Caribbean

33. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is the regional implementing agency for the Latin America and the Caribbean region. Thirty-two economies, 13 from Latin America and 19 from the Caribbean, are participating in the 2021 cycle.

34. The majority of household consumption price surveys were conducted in 2021, although some surveys were conducted in 2019 and 2020, with the data being subsequently extrapolated to 2021. Non-household surveys were also conducted in 2021 but in some economies price collection was extended into 2022 and 2023 owing to staffing and resource impacts arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. As of November 2023, some economies had yet to submit a complete set of data for non-household surveys and national accounts expenditures.

35. Preliminary PPP estimates at the basic heading level have been computed for household surveys, private education surveys and housing rental surveys. The incorporation of validated data from non-household surveys and expenditures is under way. The revision of 2017 results is also under way. ECLAC has been contacting countries bilaterally to gather the missing data points and address any issues detected during regional and global validation efforts.

36. Preparations for the ICP 2024 cycle are under way with a survey of economies on items to be included or excluded. The revised ICP 2024 item list will be used to address challenges encountered by some economies in pricing a sufficient number of items per basic heading.

37. In April 2023, ECLAC and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) organized a joint webinar on prices under the fourteenth tranche of the Development Account, entitled “Innovation and integration of statistical operations (DA-14)”. During the period between July and December 2023, additional technical meetings were held on data validation.

38. With regard to outreach, a presentation on the status of the ICP 2021 cycle and the use made of ICP results and their relevance to policymaking was made at the September 2023 meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. A similar presentation was organized at a national accounts regional seminar in October 2023.

Western Asia

39. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia is the regional implementing agency for the Arab region. Sixteen economies are participating in the regional programme.

40. Data were collected primarily in 2021, with some economies extending collection into 2022 and data being backcasted to 2021 using detailed-level consumer price indexes. Results of some of the non-household surveys are being collected on an annual basis. Some updates were made at the end of October 2023 after review and collaboration with the African Development Bank with respect to consistency in data of dual participating economies and after assessment of outstanding issues undertaken with some economies. Expenditure data were received from most economies, while

ESCWA provided estimates for missing economies. Data validation and verification will be finalized in 2023.

41. Revised regional annual PPPs for 2017 to 2020, preliminary PPPs for 2021 and 2022 and forecasted PPPs for 2023 will be computed in November 2023, with a final time series computed and released in December 2023.

42. As regards regional activities, ESCWA conducted a regional webinar in April 2023, entitled “Prices: innovation and integration of statistical operations”, focusing on the integration of ICP with the CPI and the introduction of innovative data-collection tools and sources. ESCWA also conducted a regional workshop in May 2023 for the discussion of the revision of household and non-household consumption price surveys and validation and treatment of 2021 and 2022 price data for the computation of PPPs. Another meeting will be held in December 2023 on the impact of PPP and price fluctuations on socioeconomic indicators and Sustainable Development Goals and the release of regional PPP results.

43. Subnational PPP estimates were computed for Oman at the household consumption level for the year 2022 for 11 governorates.

44. Preparations for the ICP 2024 cycle will commence in 2024. Libya and Yemen are expected to participate in discussions, while inclusion of other potential participants is planned.

Eurostat and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

45. Forty-eight economies are participating in the Eurostat-OECD PPP programme for the ICP 2021 cycle. Of those, 36 economies are coordinated by Eurostat, while 12 are coordinated by OECD. Georgia and Ukraine, which are participating in the ICP 2021 cycle, are linked to the global comparison through the Eurostat comparison. The Russian Federation is not participating in the OECD comparison for the ICP 2021 cycle.

46. Surveys for the ICP 2021 cycle were integrated into the established regular programme of Eurostat and OECD for producing annual PPP estimates. A specific ICP survey on construction was conducted by 11 Eurostat economies, Georgia, Ukraine and the United States of America. Validation of outstanding data will be completed by the end of November 2023. Selected metadata will be submitted to the Global Office by early 2024.

47. Annual PPPs and expenditures have been submitted to the Global Office for most economies, while 2017 and 2021 estimates are available for Ukraine and Georgia. Data for 2020 and 2021 will be revised in December 2023. Data for 2019 for non-European economies will be recalculated owing to a correction to PPPs for health.

48. Eurostat country meetings on the consumer goods surveys were held in March and September 2023. OECD programme participants met in May 2023 and a joint Eurostat-OECD PPP workshop was held in May 2023. Attendees at the Eurostat PPP Working Group meeting, held in November 2023, discussed a draft European Commission regulation regarding an adjustment to the list of basic headings used for PPPs, which will be adopted in 2024 to implement the new version of the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (2018).

49. In terms of outreach, in March 2023 GDP PPP flash estimates for 2022 for European Union member States were released by Eurostat, while GDP PPP estimates for OECD economies were released by OECD. A complete set of preliminary GDP PPPs for 2022 as well as PPPs for household consumption and actual individual consumption will be released in December 2023. The revised *Eurostat-OECD*

Methodological Manual on Purchasing Power Parities will be published by the end of 2023.

C. New operational materials and tools

50. In preparation for the ICP 2024 cycle, the ICP Global Office, in collaboration with regional and national implementing agencies, developed the ICP 2024 item lists. An online item list management tool was utilized to build the item lists in an efficient, collaborative and transparent manner. The ICP 2024 item lists introduce new global core items, based on the ICP 2021 regional item lists, as well as necessary revisions to the item specifications, particularly for fast evolving technology items.

IV. ICP 2021 risks and mitigation measures

51. The ICP 2017 cycle has been beset by a number of challenges. The impact of global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the crisis in the Middle East disrupted many statistical exercises. National statistical offices around the globe varied in their ability to carry out ICP processes in a timely manner. To ensure that the global results refer to a sufficiently common period and are of good quality, the survey period was extended into 2022 and some extrapolation and backcasting have been applied to data collected in the non-benchmark years.

52. The decision to delay the cycle from 2020 to 2021 so as to mitigate the impact of the lockdowns arising from the pandemic resulted in the allocation by many agencies of ICP resources to national census operations and other competing priorities. Moreover, travel restrictions during the period prevented the realization of crucial in-person workshops and technical assistance missions for capacity-building. The retention of institutional knowledge was further stymied by the turnover of key staff. To mitigate this, virtual meetings were conducted, guidelines designed to address issues related to this extraordinary period were circulated to implementing agencies and efforts were made to engage and assist those economies facing significant issues. For some economies without sufficient capacity, the bulk of the data processing was conducted by regional agency staff, who were themselves stretched with respect to their responsibilities.

53. As the Russian Federation is no longer a dual participant of both CIS and OECD comparisons, the CIS regional results will be linked to the global comparison in the same manner as for other regions, based on the global core list approach.

54. The postponement of data collection, validation and processing at the national level has led to delays in the compilation of regional and global results. Despite this, the number of countries participating in the ICP 2021 cycle is comparable to the number participating in the (previous) ICP 2017 cycle. Final ICP 2021 cycle results are scheduled to be released in early 2024.

V. Research and innovations

55. The purpose of the ICP research agenda¹⁰ is to examine and assess the methodology underlying ICP and guide the Programme's research activities and methodological development. The agenda comprises 13 topics¹¹ which together focus on: building consistent PPP time series; improving PPP reliability and quality;

¹⁰ See www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/research.

¹¹ See www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/research#2.

addressing difficult-to-measure areas, such as housing; strengthening the alignment between PPPs and national statistical programmes; advocating broader uses and applications of PPPs; and exploring innovations in technology and new sources. The Technical Advisory Group establishes task forces and teams whose function is to undertake relevant research. As of November 2023, those task forces and teams¹² have addressed 10 of the 13 topics. The report on the most recent Group meeting, noted above, addresses decisions and endorsements made on housing and takes note of the initiative aimed at estimating annual global PPPs.

VI. Knowledge, advocacy and uses

56. The PPP eLearning course¹³ on the fundamentals of PPPs has continued to expand its enrolment since having been officially released in March 2018. Over 1,000 participants have accessed the course to date, in order to learn about PPP concepts, data requirements, methodology, calculation and uses.

57. World Bank data blogs on ICP and the use of its data published since the previous report to the Statistical Commission include the blogs entitled “How much do countries spend on education, and how do the price levels of education compare?” three charts from the International Comparison Program”,¹⁴ published in January 2023; “Demystifying ICP purchasing power parity calculations using Python: global results”,¹⁵ published in March 2023; and “Over 3.1 billion people could not afford a healthy diet in 2021 – an increase of 134 million since the start of COVID-19”,¹⁶ published in July 2023.

58. A comprehensive online training course¹⁷ on the construction of diet cost and affordability indicators was launched in July 2023. These food prices for nutrition¹⁸ indicators draw extensively on ICP data. The indicators and data are relevant to the topical food security challenges currently being addressed globally and were used in the United Nations publication entitled *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023*, issued in July 2023.¹⁹

59. The global ICP website²⁰ provides access to a listing of uses of ICP data, outreach events and other advocacy material, which is also included in the periodic ICP Highlights newsletter.²¹

VII. Conclusion

60. The imminent release of the ICP 2021 results in early 2024 will provide an essential tool for policymakers, analysts and researchers, allowing them to examine in detail the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on cross-country comparisons of

¹² See www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/taskforces.

¹³ See www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/e-learning.

¹⁴ See <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/how-much-do-countries-spend-education-and-how-do-price-levels-education-compare-three>.

¹⁵ See <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/demystifying-icp-purchasing-power-parity-calculations-using-python-global-results>.

¹⁶ See <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/over-31-billion-people-could-not-afford-healthy-diet-2021-increase-134-million-start-covid>.

¹⁷ See www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/foodpricesfornutrition-eLearning.

¹⁸ See www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/foodpricesfornutrition.

¹⁹ See www.fao.org/publications/sofi/en/.

²⁰ See www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp.

²¹ See www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/newsletter.

prices, expenditures, output and material well-being. As the 2021 cycle draws to a close, preparations are under way for the commencement of the 2024 cycle.

61. The 2021 cycle has been beset by challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the crisis in the Middle East. While these challenges have affected the participating economies and regional comparisons to different extents, common issues include disruption of data collection and statistical processes, with other statistical exercises taking precedence over those of ICP and resources and staff deployed elsewhere; an inability to deliver consistent in-person training and workshops; and a reduction in institutional knowledge. Nonetheless, efforts have been made to integrate ICP with other statistical processes, such as consumer price indexes and national accounts compilation; and new methods of data collection, such as recording of scanner data and web scraping, have been used to further streamline the roll-out of activities at the national level.

62. The PPP estimation methodology used in successive cycles has stabilized and is well documented, assuring the comparability of results between the ICP 2021 cycle and the (previous) ICP 2017 cycle. Users are increasingly demanding more frequent and more timely ICP data and results as PPPs are being applied in more socioeconomic analyses and are becoming associated with more administrative uses. To that end, the programme is seeking to evolve into one in which ICP results are produced on an annual basis.

63. In this regard, we seek the support of the Commission to encourage stakeholders to ensure that ICP remains a priority for national programmes and that sufficient resources are devoted to it so that the 2024 cycle and its continued longevity as a permanent element of the global statistical programme are not jeopardized.

VIII. Action to be taken by the Statistical Commission

64. **The Commission is invited to take note of the present report.**
