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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 2024/312 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.3/2025/1.



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 of 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. Accordingly, following the completion of the 2021 ICP cycle, the current cycle is being implemented for the reference year 2024.

2. The present report provides a comprehensive update on the activities undertaken from November 2023 to November 2024. It is organized in six sections as follows: release of 2021 cycle results; governance and coordination; ICP implementation; ICP 2024 risks and mitigation measures; research and innovations; knowledge, advocacy and uses; and conclusion.

II. Release of 2021 cycle results

3. The global ICP 2021 cycle results were published on 30 May 2024, and are available through the ICP website¹ and the World Bank databank.² They encompass PPPs, price level indexes, estimates of PPP-based GDP and expenditure components in aggregate terms for the 176 participating economies for the reference year 2021, revised results for the 178 participating economies for the reference year 2017, annual PPPs for six major expenditure headings for 2018 to 2020, and extrapolated GDP PPPs for 2022 and 2023. In addition, imputed results were released for 19 economies that did not participate in the 2021 ICP cycle and 17 economies that did not participate in the 2017 cycle. A new heading, “Total consumption expenditure”, was published, increasing the number of published headings to 45. Total consumption expenditure is the sum of the final consumption expenditure of households and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISHs), individual consumption expenditure by government, and collective consumption expenditure by government.

4. The dissemination materials³ published on the day of release by the World Bank included a press release; a blog entitled “New International Comparison Program data sheds light on global economy and living standards”; highlights of the main findings, with data visualizations; factsheets; and updated frequently asked questions. The regional agencies disseminated regional results, which are noted in section III.F of the present report.

¹ See <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/data>.

² See <https://databank.worldbank.org/source/icp-2021>.

³ See <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/data>.

III. Governance and coordination

A. Statistical Commission

5. The Statistical Commission is the ultimate stakeholder of ICP, and decides the frequency and operational modality of the Programme. The fifty-fifth session⁴ of the Commission was held from 27 February to 1 March 2024 and the report of the World Bank on ICP (E/CN.3/2024/28) was submitted to the Commission for information. The Commission welcomed the forthcoming release of the 2021 results, called upon stakeholders to ensure that the necessary resources were in place for future cycles and to commence the 2024 cycle without delay, noted the increasing use of PPPs and the proposal to produce more frequent results, and impressed upon agencies the need to incorporate the Programme into their regular statistical processes (see E/2024/24-E/CN.3/2024/36). Written statements⁵ in response to the report were received from Malaysia and Qatar.

B. Governing Board

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

7. At a meeting of the Governing Board, held on 25 February 2024,⁶ members noted the progress of the ICP 2021 cycle at the global and regional levels, plans for the release of the 2021 cycle results, and the launch of the 2024 cycle. Furthermore, the Board noted the desirability of global annual PPPs and plans to establish a task force to consider the methodology and timing of such an initiative without increasing the burden on implementing agencies. The Board also discussed the risks posed by insufficient funding to the continuity and sustainability of the Programme, the need for additional advocacy and fundraising, and the benefits of further integrating ICP activities into other statistical domains.

C. Technical Advisory Group

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

9. A meeting of the Group was held on 20 and 21 February 2024.⁷ Members were provided with an update on the 2021 cycle implementation, and the draft 2021 results, the draft revised 2017 results, the draft 2017–2021 PPP times series, and the draft 2021 non-benchmark country estimates.

10. The Group welcomed the mitigation of the risks associated with participation and the comparability of results, given the uncertainty faced at the beginning of the 2021 cycle due to economic and geopolitical challenges, and the good progress made in the final stages of that cycle. The Group also noted the limited impact of two necessary changes to the methodology, namely the linking of the Commonwealth of

⁴ See <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/unsc-sessions>.

⁵ See <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/unsc-sessions>.

⁶ See <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/gb-february-2024>.

⁷ See <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/tag-feb-2024>.

Independent States (CIS) region as the sixth core ICP region to estimate global PPPs, and a new approach for calculating regional housing PPPs in the Asia and the Pacific region. The Group remarked that those changes constituted a standardization and thus an improvement in the consistency of the applied ICP methodology. The Group reviewed the draft results, noted that they were reassuring overall and anticipated a further review once the results were finalized.

11. Another meeting of the Technical Advisory Group was held on 30 April 2024.⁸ Members reviewed the final results and forecasts of the ICP 2021 cycle and discussed plans for their release. The Group noted that the input data quality metrics had improved since the previous meeting, held in February 2024, and that they were at the level of, or partially exceeded, the final ICP 2017 results. Members also noted that the differences between previously extrapolated results and the 2021 benchmark results were reasonable and consistent with previous cycles. The Group concluded that extrapolated data for 2022 and 2023 could be published to meet users' needs.

12. In terms of further research, the Group requested the development of proposals related to various topics, including: (a) revisiting the approach to dual participation countries; (b) revisiting the approach to productivity adjustments; (c) revisiting the linking approach for education and healthcare; and (d) broader research on applied index numbers. It was agreed that a methodological task force would be set up for the 2024 cycle.

D. Inter-Agency Coordination Group

13. The ICP Inter-Agency Coordination Group collaborates on establishing timetables and workplans; develops common standards, methods and protocols; and coordinates the operational aspects of the Programme. The Coordination Group met on from 25 to 27 November 2024⁹ to discuss activities related to the release of the ICP 2021 results, the implementation of the ICP 2024 cycle, recent uses of ICP data and outreach activities, the ICP classification updates, upcoming governance and coordination activities, and approaches for producing annual ICP results.

E. Overall timetable

14. The commencement by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group of the ICP 2024 cycle activities in May 2023 was formally endorsed by the Commission at its fifty-fifth session in 2024. Global operational materials were finalized by December 2023. Price surveys and data collections are expected to be conducted throughout 2024 and 2025. The 2024 cycle results are expected to be released in 2027 and will include new PPPs for 2024, revised estimates for 2021, and extrapolated PPPs for 2025 and 2026. The ICP regional implementing agencies are striving to maintain and expand the number of economies participating in the 2024 ICP cycle, while global efforts, in collaboration with the Pacific Community, are being made to facilitate the participation of the Pacific island economies, which last participated in the 2011 cycle.

⁸ See <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/tag-apr-2024>.

⁹ See <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/iacg-nov-2024>.

F. Status of regional programmes and capacity-building activities

Africa

15. The African Development Bank is the regional implementing agency for Africa. The Bank's efforts in that regard are part of the overall objective of supporting African integration by producing high-quality, reliable data to facilitate decision-making.

16. The regional ICP 2021 results for 52 economies were finalized and integrated into the global results in May 2024. A regional summary report¹⁰ featuring data highlights was published on 10 June 2024. A full report is scheduled to be published in 2024.

17. A total of 54 economies are participating in the 2024 cycle. Technical assistance for Eritrea and Libya in relation to all ICP surveys will be provided to help those countries to graduate to the category of benchmark economies. The mobilization of sufficient resources for the 2024 cycle is still being explored as of November 2024 to ensure adequate funding for participating economies.

18. Preparations for the cycle started in July 2024 and will continue until December 2024. During this period, data collection tools will be tested and recalibrated on the basis of typical data-capturing processes and mechanisms using lessons drawn from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. That recalibration will ensure that the data collection mechanisms are well appraised to ensure both quality and consistency for the 2011, 2017, 2021 and 2024 PPP times series. Computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI) tools, web scraping and big data techniques will be used for data collection. Data are currently available for 2022 and 2023 and will be used in the 2024 cycle. Four regional workshops are planned for the 2024 cycle, with data validation and editing through webinars and in-person technical assistance.

19. In terms of outreach, the African Development Bank presented highlights of the ICP 2021 results at the session of the Economic Commission for Africa Statistical Commission for Africa (STATCOM-Africa), held in Addis Ababa in October 2024.

Asia and the Pacific

20. The Asian Development Bank is the implementing agency for the Asia and the Pacific region.

21. The regional ICP 2021 results for 21 economies were finalized by April 2024, and subsequently endorsed by the Regional Advisory Board and presented to the heads of national implementing agencies. The final results¹¹ were released on 30 May 2024, and the report entitled *2021 International Comparison Program for Asia and the Pacific: Purchasing Power Parities and Real Expenditures*¹² was published on 28 August 2024.

22. Regional housing PPPs for economies in the Asia and the Pacific region were estimated for the first time using a hybrid approach based on the standard ICP method for estimating housing PPPs using rental and volume data. That approach was used for the revised ICP 2017 results and the ICP 2021 results, at both the regional and global levels, and replaced the previously utilized reference volume approach. The hybrid approach was thoroughly analysed, simulated across indicators and scenarios,

¹⁰ See <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-releases-highlights-its-2021-purchasing-power-parities-report-71712#:~:text=The%202021%20ICP%20results%20show,representing%2018.9%25%20of%20global%20GDP>.

¹¹ See <https://www.adb.org/what-we-do/data/icp> and <https://icp.adb.org/>.

¹² See <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/992941/2021-icp-asia-pacific-summary-report.pdf>.

sufficiently tested, and considered to be an improvement on the previous methodology and to enhance standardization. It was therefore endorsed for implementation by the ICP Technical Advisory Group and the Regional Advisory Board for Asia and the Pacific.

23. A total of 22 economies are participating in the ICP 2024 cycle, with the addition of Timor-Leste to the 2021 roster. Product lists and operational guidelines for ICP surveys have been updated for the cycle, and the ICP Asia-Pacific software suite has also been refined on the basis of insights from ICP 2021 to streamline data handling processes at the economy level. Fiji and Mongolia are piloting a CAPI tool for collecting household consumption data, using an application developed by the Asian Development Bank. Surveys commenced in 2024 in most economies. Some economies faced delays due to competing national priorities and other constraints; as a result, surveys in those economies will commence later than planned. Price data validation has been initiated for selected economies by the Bank as of November 2024 and will continue to be conducted extensively throughout 2025.

24. In terms of capacity-building, the Asian Development Bank provided in-person training to the National Institute of Statistics of Timor-Leste in December 2023 and online training to statistical agencies from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan and Thailand in March 2024. In July 2024, two face-to-face regional workshops were held to review ICP 2024 progress, and to discuss product lists and operations for the surveys on construction, and machinery and equipment. A further mission to the Lao People's Democratic Republic is planned in 2024, and to Timor-Leste in early 2025, while a series of regional data validation and training workshops are scheduled for 2025.

Commonwealth of Independent States

25. The Interstate Statistical Committee of CIS (CIS-STAT) is the implementing agency for the CIS region.

26. The regional ICP 2021 results for nine economies were submitted to the ICP Global Office in February 2024 and made available on the CIS-STAT website. The report entitled *2021 International Comparison Based on Purchasing Power Parities and 2017 Revised Results*¹³ was published in October 2024 and is available on the CIS-STAT website along with the corresponding datasets. As the Russian Federation did not participate in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) comparison for the 2021 cycle, the CIS region was linked to the global set of results for the first time through the standard global core list approach, in the same way as other ICP regions.

27. Eight economies are participating in the ICP 2024 cycle, one fewer than in the previous cycle, as the Republic of Moldova is now participating in the Eurostat-OECD programme. CIS-STAT is providing support to Turkmenistan in anticipation of its participation in future ICP cycles. CIS-STAT is carrying out the work on the CIS ICP in accordance with decisions of the Council of Heads of CIS National Statistical Offices. At its meetings of 29 May and 3 October 2024, the Council discussed the implementation of the Programme in the region. The Council decided to publish extrapolated annual PPPs at the levels of GDP and actual individual consumption.

28. After discussions with the national implementing agencies, CIS-STAT finalized the regional list of items to be surveyed, consisting of regional and global core list

¹³ See https://new.cisstat.org/documents/20143/974857/2021_ICP_2017_revised_results.pdf/94fa195e-e739-0345-9fdb-aa3620007de6?t=1729858767060.

items. Data collection was carried out in 2024, and price data is scheduled to be submitted to CIS-STAT for inter-country validation in the first quarter of 2025.

29. Two methods were used simultaneously for the construction survey conducted for the ICP 2021 cycle. The first method involved the resource-technology model used in previous CIS comparisons, and the second involved the input approach developed by the Global Office. The input approach is expected to be utilized for the regional comparison in the ICP 2024 cycle.

30. A regional workshop was held in November 2023 in Tashkent to discuss the household consumption item list, and another regional workshop was held in May 2024 in Bishkek to discuss the machinery and equipment items list. A further regional workshop is planned for December 2024 in Dushanbe to discuss the other surveys. Bilateral meetings with national implementing agencies are also conducted, as needed, to discuss specific topics.

31. With regard to outreach, ICP learning exercises have been provided for students at the Higher School of Economics of the Russian Federation and at Lomonosov Moscow State University, and will continue to be developed further.

Latin America and the Caribbean

32. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is the implementing agency for the Latin American and Caribbean region.

33. The regional ICP 2021 cycle results for the 32 participating economies were finalized in the first quarter of 2024 and shared with national implementing agencies in March 2024. Bonaire and the British Virgin Islands participated at the level of household consumption. A regional press release,¹⁴ accompanying the release of the global ICP 2021 results, was published in May 2024. A summary of the main results for Latin America and the Caribbean for the 2021 cycle will be published in the last quarter of 2024, and a publication on the methodological aspects, the statistical series and the main results of the implementation of the 2021 cycle in region is expected in the first half of 2025.

34. A total of 34 economies are participating in the 2024 cycle, consisting of 14 economies from Latin America and 20 from the Caribbean. The regional list of items to be priced for the cycle and the submission schedule for survey data, national accounts and complementary information were finalized, and countries began to collect information and deliver it to ECLAC in the second quarter of 2024, with data validation under way as of November 2024.

35. ECLAC began to use a modern PPP production system based on the cloud and the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) initiative, with the intention of piloting the system with a number of countries.

36. With regard to capacity-building, ECLAC has provided selected national implementing agencies with technical assistance on consumer price indices and other price indicators. Furthermore, expert meetings and workshops covering price collection mechanisms, validation systems and information validation processes have been conducted, as well as an October 2024 workshop for participants from the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Paraguay, organized by the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile and ECLAC, on the consumer price index and its integration with respect to ICP.

37. Regarding outreach, a presentation on the status of the ICP 2021 cycle, the use of ICP results and their relevance to policymaking was made at the August 2024

¹⁴ See <https://www.cepal.org/en/news/latin-america-and-caribbean-represent-73-global-gdp>.

meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. A similar presentation was provided at a regional seminar on national accounts in September 2024 and at subregional meetings organized by the Central American Monetary Council and Central American national statistical offices.

Western Asia

38. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is the implementing agency for the Arab region.

39. The regional results from the ICP 2021 cycle for 16 economies were finalized in May 2024. A comprehensive report containing analysis of both regional and global results is due to be published in December 2024 and will include a revised regional time series for PPPs from 2017 to 2020, as well as preliminary PPP results for 2022 and 2023.

40. The 16 economies participating in the ICP 2024 cycle have received updated ICP survey materials prepared by ESCWA. As of November 2024, the participating economies are in the process of submitting intra-country validated survey data for 2024, focusing primarily on household consumption data for the first two quarters of that year.

41. A new modern cloud- and SDMX-based PPP production system, currently consisting of an item list management tool and a data entry tool, is being introduced to improve the efficiency of data collection and validation, and, ultimately, PPP calculation. The tools were initially piloted with the 2024 household consumption survey, with plans to expand their use with all ICP surveys. In addition, in the context of building countries' capacities, ESCWA has been exploring automation to modernize price data extraction processes using innovative techniques and technologies.

42. To support national capacity-building, a workshop was held in February 2024 to facilitate the possible integration of Yemen into ICP. The workshop comprised an introduction to, and training on, all ICP surveys and the importance of producing sustainable temporal and spatial price indices. In addition, regular virtual workshops are being conducted to assist participating countries in managing ICP survey requirements. Furthermore, an intra-regional validation of household consumption price data for the first and second quarters of 2024 has been scheduled for early 2025.

43. In terms of outreach, ESCWA organized a regional meeting in December 2023 to discuss the critical role of PPPs in understanding economic disparities and addressing the impacts of price changes on poverty and food accessibility.¹⁵

Eurostat and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

44. Eurostat and OECD execute a regular programme to produce annual PPP estimates in accordance with a well-established timetable into which surveys for the ICP 2021 cycle have been integrated. A total of 51 economies participated in the 2021 cycle, 48 as part of the Eurostat-OECD programme and 3 with special participation status. A specific ICP survey on construction was conducted by 11 Eurostat economies, Georgia, Ukraine and the United States of America. Selected metadata were submitted to the Global Office in the third quarter of 2024. The results from the ICP 2021 cycle were released on 30 May 2024 by Eurostat through a news article¹⁶

¹⁵ See <https://www.unescwa.org/events/impact-price-fluctuations-sdgs>.

¹⁶ See [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/w/ddn-20240530-2#:~:text=The%20International%20Comparison%20Program%20\(ICP,about%2018.9%25%20of%20world%20GDP](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/w/ddn-20240530-2#:~:text=The%20International%20Comparison%20Program%20(ICP,about%2018.9%25%20of%20world%20GDP).

and a “Statistics explained” article.¹⁷ On the same day, OECD published a statistics news release¹⁸ on the results. Kosovo participated at the level of household consumption only and was excluded from the ICP 2021 results in both regional and world totals to ensure consistency in the ICP 2021 tables.

45. Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine are participating in the ICP 2024 cycle through the Eurostat-OECD PPP programme. Georgia and Ukraine participated through that programme in two previous ICP cycles (2017 and 2021), while the Republic of Moldova is participating for the first time in 2024. The three countries are expected to participate in most aspects of the regular Eurostat survey cycle and to provide data in line with the Eurostat workplan. It is anticipated that Kosovo will participate at the level of household consumption again. The Organisation has started talks with Peru on integrating the country into the OECD programme after the ICP 2024 cycle.

46. The draft European Commission regulation on the adjustment of the list of basic headings used for PPPs¹⁹ was endorsed by the PPP working group at its meeting on 15 and 16 November 2023, and by the group of directors of macroeconomic statistics of the European Union in December 2023. The draft regulation will be adopted in 2024 to implement the 2018 version of the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose. It is expected that the new regulation will be applied from September 2025. OECD sent a proposal regarding an updated list of basic headings used for PPPs based on the 2018 Classification to non-European countries for approval.

47. In terms of outreach, in March 2024, the preliminary GDP PPP estimates for 2023 for States members of the European Union were released by Eurostat, while the GDP PPP estimates for OECD economies were released by OECD. The GDP PPPs for 2023, as well as the PPPs for household consumption and actual individual consumption, were released in June 2024, and a complete set of PPPs will be released in December 2024.

48. The revised Eurostat-OECD Methodological Manual on Purchasing Power Parities²⁰ was published in July 2024.

G. New operational materials and tools

49. The ICP Global Office finalized and distributed the ICP 2024 item lists, in collaboration with regional and national implementing agencies. A cloud-based online item list management tool was utilized to build the item lists in an efficient, collaborative and transparent manner. In the ICP 2024 item lists, new global core items based on the ICP 2021 regional item lists are introduced, as well as necessary revisions to the item specifications, particularly for fast-evolving technology items. Furthermore, selected regions have started to pilot new PPP production tools, as detailed in section III.F of the present report.

¹⁷ See https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Purchasing_power_parities_in_Europe_and_the_world.

¹⁸ See <https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/data/insights/statistical-releases/2024/5/PPP-ICP2021-EN.pdf>.

¹⁹ See https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=pi_com%3AAres%282024%292302539.

²⁰ See https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/eurostat-oecd-methodological-manual-on-purchasing-power-parities-2023-edition_c9829192-en.html.

IV. ICP 2024 risks and mitigation measures

50. The ICP 2021 cycle was beset by a range of challenges, as set out in the report of the World Bank on ICP, submitted to the Statistical Commission at its fifty-fifth session (E/CN.3/2024/28). Mitigation measures were employed, and the cycle's successful completion was testament to the resilience and dedication of the implementing agencies, which navigated unprecedented obstacles to jointly deliver the invaluable ICP results.

51. The ICP 2024 cycle faces significant funding challenges, which may jeopardize core processes across the Programme. Previous donors have yet to commit to providing further funding or have withdrawn support. Furthermore, as a result of competing priorities in national and regional implementing agencies, necessary resources have in some instances been redirected away from ICP activities. Lastly, several ICP regions are exposed to geopolitical risks. In order to mitigate the challenges, potential donors have been approached to fund statistical production; capacity-building; research, innovation and knowledge; strategic planning, programme management and partnerships; and promotion and outreach. Furthermore, the global, regional and national implementing agencies are working to integrate further ICP data collection and validation processes into core statistical work and promote the capacity-building advantages of established ICP best practices.

V. Research and innovations

52. The purpose of the ICP research agenda²¹ is to examine and assess the methodology underlying ICP and guide the Programme's research activities and methodological development. The agenda comprises 13 topics²² that together focus on: building consistent PPP time series; improving PPP reliability and quality; addressing areas that are difficult to measure, 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 to undertake relevant research. As of November 2024, those task forces and teams²³ have addressed 10 of the 13 topics.

53. The standard ICP methodology was maintained during the three most recent ICP cycles (2011, 2017 and 2021). However, the Technical Advisory Group has endorsed a number of proposed changes, after considering sufficient testing and research regarding those changes' effects on results. First, in ICP 2021, the CIS region was linked through the standard global core list approach, unlike in the 2011 and 2017 cycles, when the region was linked through the Russian Federation, which participated in both the OECD and CIS comparisons. For ICP 2017, the results for the Russian Federation are based on the OECD comparison, and for ICP 2021, they are based on the CIS comparison and linked to the global comparison via the standard global core list approach, in the same way as other economies in the CIS region. Second, the Asia and the Pacific region moved to the standard ICP approach for estimating housing PPPs based on rental and volume data during the ICP 2021 cycle.²⁴ The standard approach was utilized for the revised ICP 2017 results and the ICP 2021 results, at both the regional and global levels, instead of the previously utilized

²¹ See <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/research>.

²² See <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/research#2>.

²³ See <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/taskforces>.

²⁴ See <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/992941/2021-icp-asia-pacific-summary-report.pdf>.

reference volume approach. Furthermore, for the first time, extrapolated GDP PPPs beyond the most recent ICP benchmark year for 2022 and 2023 for 185 countries were published. The extrapolated PPPs were produced following the standard extrapolation approach²⁵ employed by the World Bank in the World Development Indicators database, that is, by applying available data on relative inflation to the ICP 2021 PPPs. In addition, the available 2022 and 2023 PPPs for Eurostat and OECD countries were utilized.

54. In terms of further research, various topics are being considered, including: (a) revisiting the approach to dual participation countries; (b) revisiting the approach to productivity adjustments; (c) revisiting the linking approach for education and healthcare; and (d) broader research on applied index numbers.

55. Furthermore, the annual production of ICP global PPPs is being considered. At the moment, annual PPPs are released by the Eurostat-OECD and Western Asia implementing agencies. Further research is under way to assess the feasibility of using PPPs for the World Bank classification of countries by income.

VI. Knowledge, advocacy and uses

56. Enrolment in the e-learning course²⁶ on the fundamentals of PPPs has continued to expand since the course was officially released in March 2018. Over 1,500 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 Commission include the blogs entitled “New International Comparison Program data sheds light on the global economy and living standards”,²⁷ published on 30 May 2024, and “Uneven recovery post-COVID: healthy diets remain out of reach for many in lower-income economies”,²⁸ published on 24 July 2024. A knowledge brief entitled “Purchasing power parities (PPPs): a new overview of available datasets and their differences” was published on 12 October 2023, with an accompanying blog.²⁹ In a blog entitled “What do the revised 2017 Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) mean for global poverty?”,³⁰ the impact of the revised 2017 PPPs was assessed and efforts to assess the 2021 PPPs for poverty measurements were noted.

58. A comprehensive online training course³¹ on the construction of diet cost and affordability indicators was launched in July 2023. Those indicators, known as the food prices for nutrition³² indicators, draw extensively on ICP data. The indicators and data are relevant to the food security challenges currently being addressed globally. The ICP 2024 data and results were used in the United Nations publication

²⁵ See <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/665452-how-do-you-extrapolate-the-ppp-conversion-factors#:~:text=The%20method%20we%20use%20is,to%20the%20benchmark%20PPP%20estimates.>

²⁶ See <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/e-learning>.

²⁷ See <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/new-international-comparison-program-data-sheds-light-on-global->

https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/uneven-recovery-post-covid--healthy-diets-remain-out-of-reach-fo?_

²⁹ See https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/purchasing-power-parities-ppps-new-overview-available-datasets-and-their-differences?_

³⁰ See <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/what-do-the-revised-2017-purchasing-power-parities--ppps--mean-f>.

³¹ See <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/foodpricesfornutrition-eLearning>.

³² See <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/foodpricesfornutrition>.

entitled *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024*, issued in July 2024.³³

59. The global ICP website³⁴ 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.³⁵ The listing includes three articles published in *The Economist*.³⁶

VII. Conclusion

60. The release of the ICP 2021 results in May 2024 provided an essential tool for policymakers, analysts and researchers, allowing them to examine in detail cross-country comparisons of prices, expenditures, output and material well-being. Updates of key development indicators that rely on global PPPs are being carried out. The ICP 2024 cycle is under way; the number of participating economies is expected to be similar to the previous cycle. However, funding and resource issues remain, as well as disruption from ongoing conflicts. As a result, implementing agencies are encouraged to integrate ICP processes with other statistical activities.

61. The PPP estimation methodology used in successive cycles is stable and well documented, assuring the comparability of results between the ICP 2021 cycle and the two previous cycles, namely, 2017 and 2011. 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 in order to produce results annually.

VIII. Action to be taken by the Statistical Commission

62. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

³³ See <https://www.fao.org/publications/sofi/en/>.

³⁴ See <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp>.

³⁵ See <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/icp/brief/newsletter>.

³⁶ See <https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2024/06/06/why-global-gdp-might-be-7trn-bigger-than-everyone-thought>, <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2024/07/04/the-worlds-richest-countries-in-2024> and <https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2024/08/07/the-big-mac-index-where-to-buy-a-cheap-hamburger>.