

## Statement by Statistics Austria

### **51st Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission: Agenda Item 3(g): International Comparison Programme**

Austria would like to thank the World Bank for the report on the International Comparison Programme (Doknr E/CN.3/2020/11). We highly appreciate the important work done and fully support the objectives of the Programme.

Within the ICP Governance structure, Austria has supported the oversight of all ICP 2017 activities as Co-Chair of the Governing Board, alongside India. We believe that the ICP 2017 results will be of high quality and that ICP data will continue to be utilized for a multitude of analyses at the global, regional and national levels. The ICP delivers substantial data to monitor the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular for goal 1 “No Poverty” PPPs are used to set the international poverty line”.

All in all, the ICP should continue its successful path towards a permanent worldwide statistical programme as instituted by the 47th UNSC in March 2016. The switch to a three-year cycle is key to assure the change from a one-time “snapshot” created by each solitary benchmark into a time series-like environment. Therefore, the ICP as a permanent global statistical programme will require all countries to improve capacity building and secure sustainable funding. In light of the already on-going ICP 2020 activities, we suggest that any administrative and funding burdens need to be addressed by countries and implementing agencies without any delay.

Along with the global publication of ICP 2017 data by the World Bank in April 2020, we recommend that ICP stakeholders, including the national implementing agencies, reach out and demonstrate the value of ICP data to policymakers and other important users and donors, and accelerate and coordinate outreach effort.

Once again, we wish to thank everyone involved in the ICP for their relentless efforts to carry out the largest statistical program in the world and for their contribution to make the ICP 2017 and the coming 2020 round a success story which serves people around the world.