

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-second session

1–3 and 5 March 2021

Information items 3(b) and 4 (a) – 4 (k)

<i>Statement provided by:</i> Statistics Austria	
<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Item 4(e) International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2021/22)</i>
<i>Statement:</i> <p>Statistics Austria has supported the ICP 2017 activities as Co-Chair of the Governing Board, alongside India, and congratulates the ICP for its successful steps towards a permanent worldwide statistical programme as instituted by the 47th UNSC in March 2016. 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”). Moreover, the results of ICP 2017 and ICP 2021 will be crucial for assessing the impact of Covid-19 on the size and structure of the world’s economies and regions.</p> <p>Now more than ever, the ICP as a permanent global statistical programme will require all countries to improve capacity building and secure sustainable funding. In the light of the already on-going ICP 2021 activities, any administrative and funding burdens need to be addressed by countries and implementing agencies without any delay.</p> <p>The pandemic has had an impact on the availability of items to price, the number of price observations to collect and the ability to conduct in-person price collection, based on the experience of the economies for CPI data collection. Also, some economies in the region are expecting budget cuts for statistical activities to address pandemic-related issues. Nevertheless, alternative methods of collection by telephone and email, from websites and administrative sources and in neighbourhood shops may be applied to support on-going ICP data collection and mitigate risks of discontinuing the ICP 2021 activities.</p> <p>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 on-going 2021 round a success story which serves people around the world.</p>	
Submitted on:	2/19/2021