

## United Nations Statistical Commission

### Fifty-third session

Item 3 (r) of the provisional agenda

#### Items for discussion and decision: International Comparison Programme

#### Document E/CN.3/2022/22 – Report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme

*Statement provided by:*

Equatorial Guinea

*Statement:*

Equatorial Guinea would like to express on behalf of the Africa Group a contribution to the subject matter.

We take note of efforts and activities undertaken at the global, regional and national levels with regard to the 2021 comparison cycle of the Programme. Following the release of the ICP 2017 cycle results in May 2020 (for the Global Report) and June 2020 for the Regional report, Africa has further endorsed the postponement of the ICP for the reference year 2020 to reference year 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic; AfDB and Countries are making progress with data collection and various capacity development for the ICP 2021 cycle. A series of guidance notes has been released to assist countries with price collection and expenditure weights compilation during the ongoing pandemic.

Two methodological guides advising countries on (a) how to achieve synergies between consumer price index (CPI) and ICP production processes; and (b) how to compile purchasing power parity (PPPs) at the subnational level were published in July 2021. In addition, a guide to the use of PPPs and other ICP data in policymaking across the socioeconomic spectrum was published in June 2021. AfDB as Regional Implementing Agency (RIA) carried out a series of meetings with all countries covering training on ICP data requirements and data collection and validation during COVID-19 between July 2020 and September 2021. In the framework of the preparation for ICP 2021 Round, AfDB launched an “ICP-Pilot” Exercise” from August to December 2020 to appraise Operational impacts on all NSOs during the lockdown, gather usual ICP data requirements (Prices and Expenditures), update countries on new methods to collect prices and new Survey framework. AfDB, jointly with UNECA Africa Center for Statistics and Afristat organized in 2020 two virtual webinars on prices data collection challenges amid pandemic circumstances. Further meetings were later planned with countries where ICP staff changed due to passed away of ICP expert or administrative changes.

AfDB is supporting funding of ICP through the African Development Fund non-concessional window under its Statistical Capacity-Building Programme, Phase V. That Programme is being implemented by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) in the 37 non-concessional (lower-income) countries that are eligible for the African Development Fund resources. However, the 13 middle-income countries (concessional and non-eligible for Fund resources) are facing insufficient funding and mitigation measures are therefore being sought.

The Africa group:

-Takes note of the release of the advocacy publication and two methodological guides for countries on the consumer price index and International Comparison Programme integration and the production of subnational purchasing power parities.

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- Encourages stakeholders to advocate more generally at the level of national high authorities for statistics so that it has the appropriate resources to fulfil its missions, in particular activities related to the ICP. For intermediate countries, find a way to also create a Support Fund to finance some ICP activities like it is the case for low-income countries.
- Encourages the World Bank with the help of international organizations to organize advocacy with high national authorities in order to show the interest of the ICP in the conduct of public policies.
- Encourages the promotion of the publication entitled Purchasing Power Parities for Policy Making: A Visual Guide to Using Data from the International Comparison Programme to ICP stakeholders, policymakers and other users

*Submitted on:*

2/17/2022