

**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**

<i>Statement provided by:</i> Finland	
<i>Statement:</i> <p>Finland appreciates the activities of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) and fully recognize the importance of the results as a tool for better economic analysis and policymaking. We are looking forward to the new ICP2021 results which will be crucial to assess the global economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, not to forget monitoring the progress and recovery of it.</p> <p>There is growing use of ICP data, as presented in the recent publication Purchasing Price Parities (PPPs) for Policy Making: A Visual Guide to Using Data from the ICP. Most recently, ICP food prices were used to calculate the cost and affordability of healthy diets, as published in the SOFI 2021 report.</p> <p>Finally, we call upon countries to continue to incorporate ICP into their regular statistical work programs. To facilitate that, two guides were recently published: a Guide to the Integration of CPI and ICP Production Activities and a Guide to the Compilation of Subnational PPPs.</p> <p>Based on our experience we can state that the European Comparison Programme and ICP have benefitted significantly from their close collaboration and opportunities to learn from each other. The survey processes of both programs have been standardized and merged considerably over the past years resulting in more reliable statistics and better understanding of price/volume comparisons at the global level.</p> <p>In Europe, we have also benefitted from the effective coordination and sharing of the best practices in modernizing the methodology and production like the use of transaction data as well as web-scraping.</p>	
<i>Submitted on:</i>	2/18/2022