

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:

National Statistical Office, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Government of India

Statement:

1. The National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India takes note of the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme and the activities undertaken by the World Bank in 2021 at the global, regional, and national levels with regards the International Comparison Programme (ICP) 2021 comparison cycle.
2. It acknowledges the proactive engagement of World Bank and Regional Implementing Agencies with national economies on the unprecedented data challenges presented by the pandemic. In the wake of 1st and then 2nd wave of COVID 19 in India and around the world during latter half of 2020 and first half of 2021, NSO, MoSPI, Government of India had expressed concerns to the World Bank regarding conduct of this programme, principally for the reasons of the reliability and robustness of the results of proposed ICP 2021 cycle, primarily owing to the non-availability of quality and sufficient data (prices as well as weights) globally, but also on account of the diverse timelines followed by the participating economies for the surveys.
3. It appreciates the response by the World Bank in response to India's considered position, assuring us that Technical Advisory Group (TAG) would review the overall quality of the price and national account expenditure data and examine the metadata being collected for the cycle. Once the preliminary 2021 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) estimates are available, the TAG will assess the quality of these results and underlying input data to make recommendations to the ICP Governing Board with respect to decision regarding their use and limitations, including whether the outputs should be considered as official or research results.
4. In view of the above developments, NSO, MoSPI, Government of India has agreed to participate in the ICP 2021 cycle in the calendar year 2022 with a caveat that the data and subsequent outcomes of ICP 2021 must be treated as a very critical research exercise only and may not be used for any policy formulation, interpretation or extrapolation. The Price Survey will be conducted over the calendar year 2022.

Submitted on:

2/17/2022

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