

**Inter-Secretariat Working Group Price Statistics (IWGPS)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 18, 2018**

**Attendance**

- Paul Konijn (Eurostat)
- Jarko Pasanen (Eurostat)
- Robert Dippelsman (IMF)
- Margarida Martins (IMF)
- Anne-Sophie Fraise (OECD)
- Francette Koechlin (OECD)
- Pierre-Alain Pionnier (OECD)
- Carsten Boldsen (UNECE)
- Nada Hamadeh (World Bank, Chair)
- Yuri Dikhanov (World Bank)

**Agenda**

- 1. Paris meeting agenda**
- 2. Guidelines for the discussion during the meeting**
- 3. Other topics**

**Agenda item 1: Paris meeting agenda**

The current agenda for the IWGPS meeting on the CPI Manual (Paris, October 29-30, 2018) includes discussions by chapter, and approximately 45 minutes are assigned for each chapter. Comments on the agenda were received from UNECE and incorporated (a discussion on research agenda and other content was included, and the discussion on chapter 1 was moved to the second day of the meeting).

*Agreements and conclusions:*

- An additional session to be included in the agenda, to discuss the status of the publication on theory and concepts, and the references included in the publication on compilation practices;
- IMF to circulate the revised agenda;
- IWGPS members agreed on the content of the agenda and time assigned for each topic, noting that there is a need to be flexible (if less time is needed for a chapter, the discussion may continue with the next topic), but considering that the available time is limited.

**Agenda item 2: Guidelines for the discussion during the meeting**

The IMF suggested to start the presentation of each chapter by a short summary of the comments received and the feedback from the authors, to be provided by the editor of the manual (Brian Graf). After this short summary, the discussion for each chapter could be led by the IWGPS members that provided comments on that chapter, and the discussion would be opened to all members.

The agenda starts with the chapters with more substantial changes, and each day will end with a summary of the key issues discussed.

As limited time is available to discuss each chapter, the discussion may continue by email after the meeting, including the authors, if needed.

In the end of the second day of the meeting, IWGPS members will decide if the publication on compilation practices is ready to submit for endorsement, after the technical editorial work is completed.

Minute taking will be a very extensive work, as the conclusions will be transmitted to the authors of the chapters. This work can be distributed among the different IWGPS members.

*Agreements and conclusions:*

- IWGPS members agreed with the guidelines for the discussion;
- IMF to inquire if feedback from authors on the comments is available to circulate to IWGPS members before the meeting;
- IMF to circulate proposal to distribute the work of minute taking.

**Agenda item 3: Other topics**

**a) Timeline for endorsement**

After consulting UNSD, the IMF informed that February 15, 2019 is the deadline to submit a white cover version of the manual to be presented as a background document for the 2019 UNSD. The IWGPS members noted that this version would have to include the technical editing work, and that all issues should be solved by December 1, 2018, to post the draft manual for formal consultation of countries. After the formal consultation, there would be a short period for the last review by IWGPS members. For the report to the commission, an annotation needs to be submitted by November 7 and the report by December 5, 2018.

**b) Research Agenda**

IWGPS members discussed the inclusion of a research agenda in the updated manual, as an annex in the publication on compilation practices, to be submitted for endorsement. The objective of the research agenda would be to provide a direction for the future discussions and research on cross-cutting topics.

**c) Publication on theory and concepts**

IMF informed that the chapters for the publication on theory and concepts are not expected to be concluded in the current timeline. IWGPS members expressed concerns on the references to the theory and on the absence of theoretical grounds on the publication on compilation practices. IWGPS members noted that a summary of relevant theory on the chapters of the publication on compilation practices might be needed.

*Agreements and conclusions:*

- IMF to circulate an updated timeline for endorsement;
- IWGPS members agreed on including a research agenda in the updated manual;
- IMF to ask the TEG to provide a plan for the research agenda, having as starting point the document circulated by UNECE, including the author and format, to be further discussed during the upcoming meeting in Paris;
- IWGPS members to provide comments on the draft research agenda circulated by UNECE and any further suggestions;
- IWGPS members agreed to further discuss the publication on theory and concept during the upcoming meeting. The discussion on the references on theory should be done for each chapter, and for the organizational issues on the session included for this purpose;
- IMF to inquire about the status of the chapters of the publication on theory and the current plan concerning the references to theory to be included in the publication on compilation practices;

- IWGPS members to provide a list of participants to OECD.