

Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (IWGPS)
Minutes of meeting - Draft
14 October 2024

The Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (IWGPS) met online on 14 April 2024, to discuss the updated TORs, the report to the UNSC 2025, the work progress of the UN-CEBD Task Team on Scanner Data, share information, etc, as per the meeting agenda provided in Annex 1. The meeting was chaired by Valentina Stoevska (ILO).

Attendance

- Ani Todorova (Eurostat)
- Svetoslava Pavlova (Eurostat)
- Valentina Stoevska, International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Jamila Boteva, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Carsten Boldsen, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- Federico Polidoro (World Bank)

Also in attendance, for Agenda item 1:

- Tanya Flower (UK ONS),
- Serge Goussev (Stat Canada)
- Vladimir Goncalves (UN Regional Hub for Big Data in Brazil)

Excused:

- Brian Graf, International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- Benoit Arnaud (OECD)
- Marko Rissanen (World Bank).

1 Update on the progress of the UN-CEBD Task Team on Scanner Data

Tanya Flower, Serge Goussev, Federico Polidoro and Vladimir Gonçalves Miranda, as members of the Steering Group of the UN-CEBD Task Team on Scanner Data provided a comprehensive overview of the UNTT past and future activities, including the e-handbook, classification guidelines, training material and the incoming architecture survey.

IWGPS congratulated the UNTT on the work done and offered to assist in promoting the use of UNTT deliverables. The following action points were agreed upon:

- IWGPS will include a link to the e-handbook (<https://unstats.un.org/wiki/display/GWGSD/Handbook+on+utilising+new+data+sources+in+the+production+of+consumer+price+statistics>) on its website and promote it in relevant bilateral conversations.
- UNTT and IWGPS will collaborate on producing a mailing list for future communications and to send out the CPI system architecture survey on how countries are setting up their IT infrastructure in order to be able to incorporate alternative data sources into consumer price statistics (using UNECE's CPI mailing list, UNSD's list of chief statisticians, UN regional hubs, and possibly World Bank and IMF resources).
- UNTT will notify IWGPS of updated training materials, and wider mailing list (once initialised):

- UNTT will send draft CPI system architecture survey questions to IWGPS for review and feedback before sending out to the wider mailing list;
- UNTT to review options for a session at the Meeting of Group of Experts on CPI (28-30 April 2025) and provide draft proposal to Carsten.

Federico Polidoro (Work Bank) will serve as a focal point for communication between the IWGPS and UN TT Steering Group.

2 Updated TORs for IWGPS

The current TORs are from 2011. Several suggestions for updating it have already been made.

The TORs will need to be finalised and submitted for endorsement to the UNSC in 2025, together with the report of the ISWGP.

It was agreed that the clean version of draft TORs, will be circulated for final comments by 18 Oct. 2024.

The final version of the TORs should be submitted, together with the IWGPS report to UNSC 2025, to the UNSD by 21st of Nov. 2024, at latest.

3 Report to the UNSC 2025

The last IWGPS report to the UNSC was in 2022 and covered the activities during the period 2020-2021. The chair was informed by UNSD that the report from the IWGPS will be included on the agenda of the 2025 UNSC, as an item for discussion and decision. The commission will be invited to comment on the work of the IWGPS and to endorse the proposed updated terms of reference. The IWGPS report should be submitted to the UNSD by 21st of Nov. 2024, at latest.

It was agreed that:

- Valentina will circulate a copy of the IWGPS report to the UNSC 2022
- Valentina will circulate a template for the report to the UNSC 2025
- All IWGPS members will submit their contributions to the report as soon as possible, but no later than 10 Nov. 2024.
- Valentina will consolidate the input and submit the report to UNSD ahead of the due date.

4 Member Updates or Announcements

Carsten informed that the Voorburg Group on Services Statistics is working to incorporate comments from IWGPS in the papers on using CPIs for producing PPIs and merging them into one framework document. The Group aims to have the framework document ready by end 2025.

Brian Graf (IMF) will provide an update on the CPI Theory publication at a later date.

5 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled for spring 2025, unless an earlier meeting is necessary.

Annex 1:**AGENDA**

1. Update on the progress of the UN Task Team on the use of Alternative Data Sources (ADS)
2. Updated TORs for IWGPS
3. Report to the 2025 session of UNSC
4. Any update or announcements from members
5. Next meeting