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**COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN
AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (COMESA)**

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**COMESA REGULATIONS CONCERNING
STATISTICS DERIVED FROM THE HARMONISED
CONSUMER PRICE INDICES**

**THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE COMMON
MARKET OF EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA
(COMESA),**

Having regard to Article 140 of the Treaty establishing COMESA through which Member States made an undertaking to cooperate in the field of statistics in order to create an enabling environment for up-to-date reliable, harmonized and comparable statistical data on various sectors of economic activity, through the harmonization and adoption of common methodologies concepts and definitions to be used in collecting and compiling statistics;

Having regard to COMESA Regulation No [xx] of [date] concerning the establishment of harmonized consumer price indices (HCPIs) in Member States;

Having regard to existing COMESA Member States' legislation on statistics and the confidentiality clauses therein;

HEREBY ADOPTS THESE REGULATIONS:

**Article 1
Citation**

These Regulations shall be cited as the COMESA Regulations Concerning Sampling for the Harmonized Consumer Price Indices (HCPI).

**Article 2
Definitions**

In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:

“Dimension” means one of the main aspects of a good or service which may have an influence on its price;

“Harmonized Consumer Price Indices (HCPI)” means the comparable consumer price indices compiled by each Member State;

“Member States” means COMESA Member States;

“Non-probability sampling” means the deliberate, non-random, selection of a sample of units, such as outlets or products, based on the knowledge or judgment of the person responsible;

“Probability sampling” means the random selection of a sample of units, such as outlets or products such as outlets or products, in such a way that each unit in the universe of such units has a known, non-zero, probability of selection;

“Secretariat” means the COMESA Secretariat;

“stratum” means one of a group of relatively homogeneous populations within a particular dimension of a good or service;

“Target sample” means the set of prices of goods and services which a Member State plans to obtain for the production of the HCPI from a particular point in time[date], or plans at some subsequent date, in order to meet the comparability requirements laid down in the [Framework Regulations];

“Universe” means the entire set of units being sampled;

“Outlet-type” means a set of outlets which have strongly marked and readily defined similarities in terms of physical characteristics, the range of products they sell, and their legal status., e.g. shops which are individually owned or which are part of a chain or group.

Article 3 Objective

The objective of these Regulations is to ensure a harmonized approach to the procedures used in sampling for the HCPI to meet the comparability criteria set out in Article 5 of the Framework Regulations.

Article 4 Sampling methods

1. Member States shall use appropriate methods of probability sampling where it is practicable to do so.
2. Member States shall use non-probability methods using one or more of the techniques set out in these Regulations, or other techniques which meet

the comparability criteria set out in Article 5 of the Framework Regulations where probability sampling methods are not practicable

3. Member States shall use a combination of probability sampling and non-probability sampling methods depending on the availability of information.

Article 5 Sample construction

1. Member States shall stratify a sample based on the following dimensions:
 - (a) Geographic;
 - (b) Outlet;
 - (c) Product; and
 - (d) Time.
2. Each Member State shall establish a target sample for the HCPI, which shall be representative of the consumption of the reference population in that Member State.
3. The target sample referred to in paragraph 2 shall comprise a matrix of numbers relating to the target sample sizes in all the sample dimensions listed in paragraph 1.
4. Each Member State shall propose to the Secretariat an appropriate sample design

reflecting size and composition based on the economic structures within each Member State.

5. Member States shall make the details of the sample design referred to in paragraph 4 publicly accessible.

Article 6 Sample replenishment

1. Member States shall, at the time of the general re-basing of the HCPI, review and replenish the sample strata in accordance with Article 4 of the Regulations on Weights, Product Sample and Item Substitution in order to maintain its representativeness.
2. Member States shall review the product sample annually in accordance with Article 8 of the Regulations on Weights, Product Sample and Item Substitution.
3. Where factors affecting the stratum appear likely to have a significant effect on the HCPI, Member States shall make changes within any stratum of the sample.

Article 7 Sample variance

Where practicable, Member States shall optimise the sample size and design to minimise the variance of the HCPI.

Article 8 Geographic sampling

1. Member States shall design the geographic dimension of the sample of prices to provide a national sample which is representative of household expenditure in the country as a whole.
2. The sample of prices collected in each Member State shall cover, as a minimum, all those regions of the country in which the total value of household expenditure, as a proportion of total national household expenditure, is large enough to have a potentially significant effect on the national HCPI: provided that a Member State may exclude a region where its exclusion would have no effect on the national HCPI at the published level of significance.
3. Where probability sampling is used for the geographic dimension of the sample, the sampling frame shall be related to a measure of regional household expenditure, or as estimated using data obtained from other statistical or administrative sources.

Article 9 Outlet sampling

1. Member States shall design the outlet dimension of the sample of prices to provide a national sample which is representative of household expenditure in the country as a whole.

2. Member States shall select Outlet types to be covered in the HCPI sample in accordance with Articles 3 and 4 of the Regulations on Outlets.
3. Member States shall select individual outlets in accordance with Article 3(2) of the Regulations on Outlets.

Article 10
Product sampling

1. Member States shall design the product dimension of the sample of prices to provide a national sample which is representative of household expenditure in the country as a whole.
2. Member States shall cover each of the product categories listed in Annex 1 of the Regulations on Product Coverage in the sample of prices collected, which account for more than one part in a thousand of total expenditure covered by the HCPI.
3. Member States shall, within each product category, determine the selection of items for inclusion in the price sample in accordance with Article 7 of the Regulations on Weights, Product Sample and Item Substitution.

Article 11
Time sampling

Member States shall design the time dimension of the sample of prices to provide a national sample in accordance with Article 5 of the Regulations on Price Collection, which:

- (a) is representative of household expenditure; and
- (b) ensures the comparability of prices between successive months.

Article 12
Quality Control

Member States shall provide to the Secretariat information sufficient to evaluate compliance with the procedures laid down in Articles 4 to 11.

Article 13
Amendments

1. Any proposals for the amendment of these Regulations shall be submitted to the Secretary General in writing who shall, within 30 days of its receipt, communicate it to the Member States.
2. The Member States which wish to comment on the proposals shall do so within 90 days from the date of the dispatch of the proposals by the Secretary General.
3. After the expiration of the period prescribed under paragraph 2, the Secretary-General shall submit

the proposals and any comments thereon received from the Member States to Council through the Committee on Legal Affairs.

4. Any amendment to these Regulations shall be adopted by Council and shall enter into force upon publication in the Official Gazette of the Common Market.

Article 14 **Entry into force**

These Regulations shall enter into force on the date of publication in the Official Gazette of the Common Market.

Done and adopted at the Thirty First Meeting of the COMESA Council of Ministers held at Kampala, Uganda on 20 November 2012.

[Signature]
Chairperson
COMESA Council of Ministers