The Worldwide Governance Indicators, 2020 Update: 
Changes in Underlying Source Data and Calculations 

September 25, 2020

This note describes revisions to the source data relevant to the 2020 update of the Worldwide Governance Indicators, covering the period 1996-2019.

Changes in Data Sources

The WGI have included the Media Sustainability Index (MSI) produced by the International Research and Exchanges Board, a US-based NGO, as a component of Voice and Accountability since 2000. The 2019 update of MSI (referring to 2018) was the final update of MSI, which has been discontinued by IREX. From 2019 onwards this data source will no longer appear in the WGI.

This year we include the new Freedom of the Net index produced by Freedom House as a component of the Voice and Accountability indicator. This index covers 65 countries for 2019. This replaces the discontinued Freedom of the Press index that was included in the WGI between 1996 and 2017.

Revisions to Data From Previous Years

We have made the following minor revisions to the underlying source data for past years.

- **AFR:** Due to a formula error, data from the 2015/16 Round 6 of Afrobarometer for Algeria and Egypt were not used for Control of Corruption in 2017 and 2018, contrary to the normal WGI practice of using data from up to two previous years if current year data are not available. This has been corrected in the 2020 WGI update.

- **HUM:** At the time of the 2019 WGI update, data from the Political Terror Scale was only available through 2017, and so we used the 2017 data for 2017 and 2018. At the time of the 2020 WGI update, data from this source for 2018 is available. We use this data for 2018, and also carry it forward for 2019. This revision affects only the Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism indicator for 2018.

- **IRP:** The data from the African Electoral Index used in August of 2019 to populate data for 2018 has been revised as of August 2020. This change has minor effects on the Voice and Accountability indicator for some countries between 2016 and 2018.

- **OBI:** The Voice and Accountability indicator used data from the 2017 round of the Open Budget Index in 2016, 2017 and 2018. We inadvertently did not include data from 13 of the 115 countries included in OBI. This has been corrected in the current WGI update, and has minor effects on the Voice and Accountability index for these 13 countries in these three years.

- **PIA:** Because of a formula error, the World Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment data for Kosovo used for Regulatory Quality in 2018 inadvertently was for 2017. This has been corrected in the current version.
• **PRS:** Because of a formula error, the data from Political Risk Services used in the Regulatory Quality indicator for calendar year 2018 were from 2017. This has been corrected in the current version of the data.

• **WJP:** The World Justice Project revised its methodology for scoring its Factor 5.2 (Civil Conflict is Effectively Limited) for calendar years 2018 and 2019. This data revision has minor effects on the Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism indicator for 2018.

• **WMO:** This data source provides information from the IHS Markit World Economic Service”. This data source was previously known as “Global Insight Business Conditions and Risk Indicators”. The underlying data have not changed, but the updated name of the data source is now reflected in the WGI documentation.

Because of these revisions to data from previous years, this update of the entire WGI dataset supersedes previous versions for all years – as is the case with each annual update of the WGI. For reference, previous years’ versions of the full WGI dataset can be downloaded at [www.govindicators.org](http://www.govindicators.org) (Documentation tab, section on WGI data sources).

*For questions about the 2020 WGI Update, please contact Aart Kraay (akraay@worldbank.org).*