

[Final] Minutes of the 2017 PARIS21 Board Meeting



Photos available on flickr: <http://bit.ly/2pdCc09>

On 6 April 2017, PARIS21 held its Annual Board Meeting in Paris, bringing together representatives from 24 countries, 17 international and regional institutions and 3 civil society organisations/foundations/private sector. All documents and presentations are available for download on the [PARIS21 website](#). Results from the satisfaction survey are available in the Annex.

Content

- 1) Board Meeting Minutes [DRAFT]
- 2) Annex: Satisfaction Survey Results

1. Board Meeting Minutes [DRAFT]

Chair: Ms. Lisa Bersales, Philippines

I. Welcome Statement

Ms. Bersales welcomed the participants and asked for the Board members to approve the agenda.

Decision: The agenda was unanimously adopted

II. Update on work in 2016

Report on Executive Committee Meetings

The Chair of the Executive Committee summarised the results and outputs from the two Executive Committee Meetings since the 2016 Board Meeting.

Annual PARIS21 Progress Report (2016)

The PARIS21 Secretariat presented the 2016 Progress Report along the 4 pillars of the approved Strategy (Knowledge-Sharing and Innovation Incubator, Advocacy, Co-ordination & Monitoring and Technical Support). Highlights of PARIS21's work in 2016 include:

- 40 countries were directly engaged in 2016
- 91 countries were reached through regional activities
- The following activities were highlighted under the four pillars of the PARIS21 strategy:
 - Knowledge-Sharing and Innovation Incubator
 - Improving NSS Efficiency with Big Data
 - Data Visualization Workshops
 - Cross Regional Fora in SIDS & Subnational Statistical Systems
 - Arab Forum on the Data Revolution
 - Advocacy
 - High Level Forum in Laos on NSDS development
 - Forum on financing mechanisms in Comoros
 - Involvement in various Global Fora such as the IAEG and World Data Forum
 - Co-ordination & Monitoring
 - NSS Peer Reviews
 - Support to NSDS and RSDS
 - CRESS and PRESS
 - Global monitoring of SDG indicators 17.18.3 and 17.19.1
 - Technical Support
 - Selective NSDS support
 - Legacy Microdata support
 - Support to Statistics Laws
 - ADAPT implementation and pilots

Success Stories (2016)

The Secretariat and members from the Board presented three Success Stories from 2016. The aim of the presentations was to highlight the various activities and the impact they had on countries and partners. The following three activities were presented:

- Leadership Training in Africa
- Exploring Big Data for Official Statistics in the Philippines
- Monitoring NSDS progress in the Andean Community

Methodologies for BAPS Indicators

As Chair of the Busan Action Plan for Statistics (BAPS) Task Team, Mr. Kenneth Bambrick (United Kingdom) presented updates on the BAPS indicators. (As the Secretariat for the BAPS, PARIS21 collects data to measure progress towards these global indicators and reports on their progress to its Board on an annual basis.) Mr. Bambrick presented the following:

- Progress on the BAPS indicators (as monitored by PARIS21):
 - 2 of the 3 BAPS outcome indicators were achieved
 - 2 of the 5 BAPS output indicators were achieved
- A review of the mapping between the CTGAP and the BAPS
- Three new BAPS indicators were reported
 - Statistical development and data gaps in global summits
 - Statistical Literacy
 - Quality of the NSDS

Discussion

Before opening the floor to discussion, Ms. Bersales read a statement from the Maldives. As the newest member of the Board, the Maldives thanked PARIS21 for their work in the region and highlighted some of the specific challenges of its subregion.

The participants focused their comments on the importance of capacity development and its overall link to the SDGs. Participants thanked PARIS21 for their work and engagement at the national and regional levels: Vanuatu and CARICOM appreciated PARIS21's work in hosting a cross-regional forum on SIDS; Ecuador, Grenada and Somalia thanked PARIS21 for support with their new statistical laws; and multiple organisations and countries commended PARIS21 on developing leadership training for the heads of NSOs and pointed to its relevance within the theme of capacity development.

III. Secretariat Programme of Work and Budget (2017)

The PARIS21 Secretariat presented the 2017 Programme of Work, aimed at leveraging best practices and implementing innovative approaches for the SDGs. The activities are specifically planned to:

- Assist countries in planning, producing and disseminating data for the SDGs
- Improve co-ordinated actions within national statistical systems

- Serve as a knowledge hub to share information on new and emerging developments in the context of Statistical Capacity Development 4.0

The PARIS21 Secretariat developed a flexible work programme that takes into account the specific timetable of countries and regional organisations and the additional requests of countries from Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and Caribbean regions throughout the year. It proposes to provide support to 50 countries, including 19 fragile states and 9 SIDS countries, along the four pillars of the PARIS21 strategy. Some of the activities to be organised in 2017 include leadership training for NSO Director Generals to better manage changes related to the SDGs; journalists training to further develop skills in accessing and using statistics; NSDS and RSDS development, including continuous updating of the NSDS Guidelines; data visualization training to enhance the use of statistics; NSS peer reviews; and SDG reporting on two indicators – national statistical plans and resources for statistical capacity, as well as collecting information on a third indicator – statistical legislation. A number of analytical and conceptual activities will be undertaken specifically on the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data (CTGAP), use of statistics and data literacy, and Capacity Development 4.0.

The 2017 budget expenditure stands at 4.16 M EUR and the current available funding is sufficient for the baseline programme of work taking into account the expected contributions for the year. However, it is critical to build up and secure funding for 2019 onwards to ensure continued support to countries particularly as SDG monitoring and reporting will be in full swing. The Secretariat is working towards boosting its multi-annual unearmarked funding by broadening its donor base and exploring new funding modalities. It calls on partner-donors to help fill-in the funding gap.

Website + Logo

The Secretariat presented the proposed revamp of the website and logo that would allow PARIS21 to better showcase its work, facilitate interface navigation to improve the structure of the site, and create user friendly pages that provides up-front relevant information to users.

Task Team on Capacity Development 4.0

The Secretariat presented its proposal to establish a Task Team on Statistical Capacity Development 4.0 with the objective of developing a conceptual and analytical framework for CD 4.0; proposing concrete activities for implementation at various levels and new funding modalities while building strong linkages to the CTGAP.

Participants supported the creation of a Task Team on CD 4.0 and several participants, voiced their interest in becoming members of the Task Team. They will be contacted shortly to express their interest for one of the three thematic subgroups.

PARIS21 Innovations

The Secretariat presented the different innovation activities it will be engaging in 2017 as part of its pillar on Knowledge-Sharing and Innovation Incubator. A number of innovations are incorporated in country and regional activities such as on CRESS reporting, data visualization toolkit, and leadership

training. A specific topic on innovations will likewise be included in the annual update on NSDS Guidelines. More importantly, three key innovations will be implemented throughout the year, including the Platform for Innovation in Statistics (PISTA); Open Assessment Repository (OAR); and the Advanced Data Planning Tool (ADAPT).

Discussion

The Board commended the Secretariat for its 2017 work programme which continues to support developing countries, particularly fragile states and small island developing states (SIDS). Board members highlighted the following items where the Secretariat has had significant impact:

- ensuring the visibility of statistics in national, regional and global discussions
- quickly responding to countries' needs
- creating strong partnerships with regional partners
- proactively developing relevant tools such as ADAPT that help fill gaps related to the SDGs
- providing guidance in processes that transform and develop national statistical systems such as peer reviews
- providing support in NSDS and RSDS preparation
- updating statistical laws
- co-ordinating NSS-wide strategies and activities
- expanding support to heads of statistical agencies by improving leadership and management skills

No comments were made to the proposed budget, however, several members raised concerns on the sustainability of long term funding, which would allow for more advanced planning of the work programme in the coming years. It was suggested that the Secretariat maintain fundraising efforts as a high priority action to ensure that funding for the 2018 and 2019 work programme is secured. Some members, like Senegal, offered their active support in raising funds and some further ideas were exchanged amongst members to diversify and broaden the resource base.

Participants thanked the Secretariat for the quality of the material provided and the level of transparency in presenting the programme of work and budget.

Decision: The Programme of Work and Budget 2017 and the creation of a Task Team on Capacity Development 4.0 were approved by the Board.

IV. Update on Current Activities

Update on NSDS Guidelines

As Chair of the NSDS Expert Reference Group (ERG), Statistics Canada, represented by Ms. Cara Williams, presented a historical overview of the NSDS Guidelines since 2004, and reminded participants of the annual update process. Statistics Canada then highlighted the changes made to the Guidelines: the addition of two new chapters on key emerging issues for NSDSs and data dissemination, and updates on the following chapters: the introduction of the concept of versions in

“NSDS Guidelines update process and the Guidelines 2.3”; further guidance to accommodate the unique context and needs of Small Islands Developing States; additional recommendations on Subnational Strategies for the Development of Statistics; the latest developments of the Advanced Data Planning Tool (ADAPT) to plan and cost NSDSs; additions in the chapter on the 2030 Agenda to reflect the latest work undertaken by the international community; the revision of the chapter “Open Data” to guide governments that wish to better integrate the open data aspects in their NSDS; and additional guidance and good practices in the section on the Data Revolution.

Making Every Woman and Girl Count (MEWGC) project

Mr. Papa Seck (UN Women) presented the planned collaborative activities between PARIS21 and UN Women to strengthen the integration of gender in national and regional statistical strategies, in the framework of the MEWGC project. The objectives of the project are to enable a supportive and well-co-ordinated policy environment to ensure gender-responsive localisation and effective monitoring of the SDGs; to support the production of quality, comparable and regular gender statistics; and to improve accessibility and use of gender statistics. The collaboration between PARIS21 and UN Women will be implemented at the national, regional and global levels and will build on existing tools and methodologies developed and supported by PARIS21. The project, which will last from 2017-2020, will include 5 major activities:

1. Support co-ordination and planning of gender statistics through a Gender Module in NSDS/RSDS, and a gender gap analysis
2. Support data production for SDGs by identifying bottlenecks in NSS assessments and propose relevant solutions
3. Support gender statistics dissemination through user-producer dialogue, workshops and data visualization
4. Report on the use and value of gender data
5. Report on the financial support to gender statistics

Mr. Seck also presented the budget of the project, which amounts to USD 2.6 million.

Discussion

On NSDSs, Australia requested an update on the NSDS implementation in the Pacific, and IADB expressed some concerns about the fact that NSDS implementation may not be possible if not backed by sufficient financial support.

Regarding the MEWGC project, members shared examples of their own work on gender issues which could benefit the implementation of this project and expressed support for the PARIS21 and UN Women project.

Decision: The PARIS21 Board endorsed the proposed activities between PARIS21 and UN Women.

V. PARIS21 and GPSDD

Based on a question raised by UNECA on how they should engage in an upcoming High Level Meeting on Data and Statistics in Nairobi organised by the Global Partnership on Sustainable Development (GPSDD), several Board members took the floor to reflect on the overall relation between the two partnerships. In the discussion, several items were raised: GPSDD's role regarding country engagement should be clarified; GPSDD's work should complement PARIS21's country engagement with the NSO/NSS (through activities such as Big Data); donors should help in aligning both roles as the issue of crowding out of funds could arise. The GPSDD can help to bring in new partners to the table such the private sector and can also support PARIS21 in raising funds – a clarification of its specific role in country work is needed to ensure that both partners can work together to best serve the interest of countries.

2. Satisfaction Survey Results

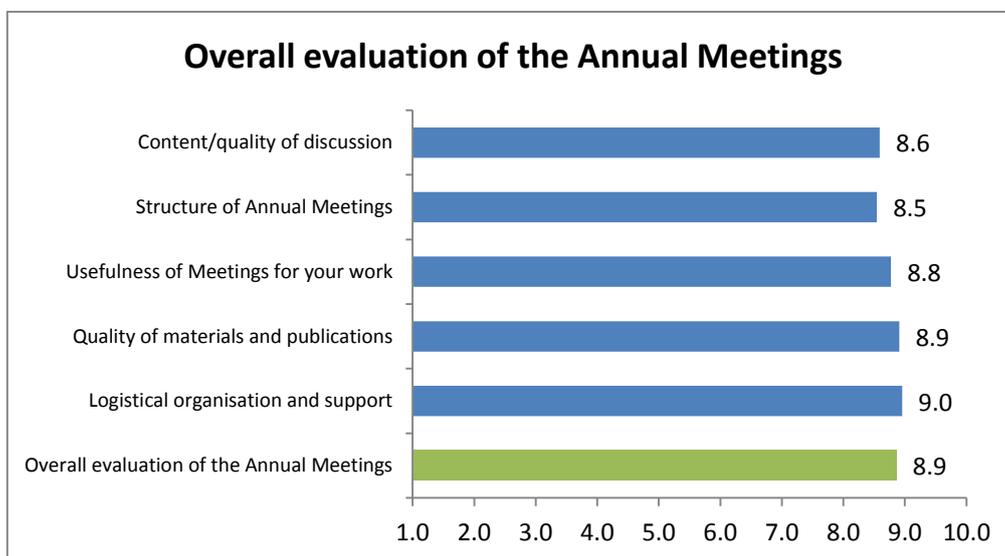
Summary of the Results

Below is a summary of the responses received in the Satisfaction Survey. For each question, respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction on a scale from 1 to 10, 10 being the highest level of satisfaction. 31 people out of 76 participants filled out the form on day 1 while 23 people out of 59 participants filled out the form on day 2, representing a 40% and 38% response rate, respectively. The average score for the Annual Board Meetings is 8.9 – which indicates an overall high satisfaction level of those who responded.

Session 2 of the Board Meeting received the highest rating amongst the four individual sessions. Participants also appreciated the logistical organisation and support provided by PARIS21. Looking at the results for each individual meeting, the lowest scores were given to “length of discussion/ interactive time”.

Based on the below analysis, key takeaways include providing more time for discussion and break-out group organisation.

Figure 1. Average score for overall evaluation of the 2016 Annual Meetings
[from 1 (very low) to 10 (very high)]



Top scores (excluding the overall evaluation of the sessions and seminars)



Bottom scores (excluding the overall evaluation of the sessions and seminars)



Average scores by Session and Seminar

Figure 2. Average score for PARIS21 Seminar – 5 April 2017
[from 1 (very low) to 10 (very high)]

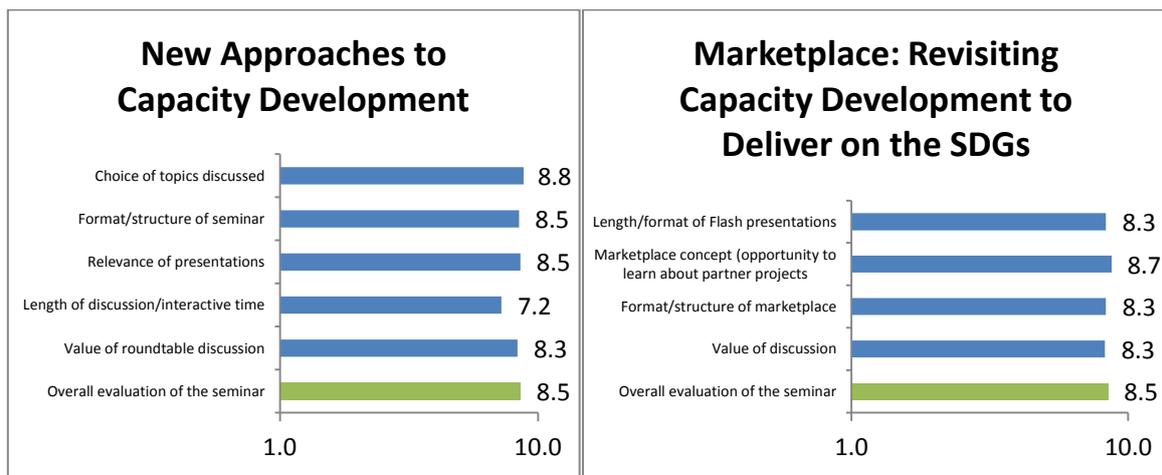


Figure 3. Average score for the Board Meeting – 6 April 2017
[from 1 (very low) to 10 (very high)]

