

## Partner Reporting System on Statistical Development

### Task Team Meeting, May 18, 2007 – Minutes

1. The Task Team on the Partner Reporting System on Statistical Development met for the third time on May 18, 2007 at the offices of the PARIS21 Secretariat. Participants to the meeting were: Morag Ottens of Eurostat, Jean-François Divay of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Petteri Baer of UNECE, Valérie Gaveau of OECD, and Antoine Simonpietri, Marc Tocatlian, and Adriana De Leva (chairperson) of PARIS21. Comments on the discussion documents were sent by Naoko Watanabe (World Bank) and Phil Cockerill and Lynn Forrest of DFID. The discussion documents, namely the agenda, the classification of statistical areas, the classification of financial and non-financial support (2 versions) and a draft proposal for the design and development of the reporting system, were sent to Team members prior to the meeting.

2. In addition to the documents distributed before the meeting, the Task Team also discussed the note sent by Morag Ottens on the proposed database being set up by Eurostat. The meeting reached the following agreements:

- **rationale for the reporting system:** The Hanoi meeting on Managing for Results in February 2007 and the follow-up meeting in Washington during the IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings, called for a “scaling-up” of support to statistical development. In light of this, the Steering Committee meeting of May 2007 supported the development of a monitoring system on scaling-up efforts for statistics by the end of 2007. To meet this request, which falls into the mandate of the Task Team, the meeting agreed that **a draft proposal of a partner reporting system on statistical development be presented at the CCSA meeting in Madrid on September 11-12, 2007 and at the PARIS21 Bureau meeting, also in September.**
- **classification of statistical areas:** The meeting agreed that **the questionnaire of the reporting system request information by main headings (Attachment 1), with the possibility of providing more details (Attachment 2).** In this regard, however, the meeting highlighted that it is often easier to report on the “details” than a general category. Petteri Baer will review the explanatory note to the classification in order to reflect the perspective of recipient countries and to give more detail under the heading “general training” (section 5.4) by mid-June 2007.
- **classification of financial and non-financial support:** It was noted that the terminology presented in the “OECD version” of the classification is still under discussion. The Task Team thus focused its discussion on the version based on the Note on Financial and Non-Financial Support, presented at its February 2007 meeting. Its comments are reflected in the attached **revised classification.** Each member of the Task Team agreed to use an activity from their institution to test the applicability of this version. It was also agreed that the explanatory note to the classification would be reviewed to take into account the perspective of recipient countries.
- **classification of future support activities:** The meeting agreed that the questionnaire request information on the following areas for future activities: **(i) the status of the activity; (ii) its geographical scope; (iii) the statistical areas to be covered; and (iv)**

**its expected period.** Information on commitment levels would be excluded due to the difficulty of having this information and/or its sensitivity.

- **questionnaire:** Based on the above agreed-upon classifications, Morag Ottens will draw up a draft questionnaire by mid-June 2007, to be discussed at the next meeting of the Task Team.
- **proposed Eurostat database:** The Task Team recommended that Eurostat continue to develop its database, focusing on EC activities to support statistical development, including information from country delegations.
- **launching the process for Africa:** Eurostat and PARIS21 will work jointly to update the information for Africa to be presented at the FASDEV meeting, expected to take place in spring 2008. Eurostat will have the lead for reporting on EC activities, and sending questionnaires to EC country members, while the PARIS21 Secretariat will handle other countries, international, regional and sub-regional institutions, foundations, and others. It was agreed that these **exercises could be launched once the CCSA and PARIS21 Bureau approve the draft proposal on the reporting system in September 2007** (see above).
- **draft proposal on the reporting system:** In addition to the points outlined in the distributed draft proposal, the Task Team recommended that the following elements be included/clarified in the proposal:
  - **objectives:**
    - to improve donor collaboration on statistical development, especially for the funding of NSDS;
    - to identify statistical areas receiving little/no support;
    - to monitor trends in support of statistics;
    - to allow recipient countries to monitor and follow-up donors' support to statistical development.
  - **audience of the system:** statisticians and policy-makers of recipient countries and development partners
  - **source of information:**
    - development partners: (i) encourage each partner to set up/improve own reporting system; (ii) rely on questionnaire for partners without reporting system; (iii) use existing systems, e.g., CRS, to identify support to statistical development
    - recipient countries: support countries to develop own mechanism to monitor partner support in the framework of NSDS funding (e.g., AFRISTAT's request to PARIS21 for francophone countries);
  - **output of reporting system:** in the first phase, the output would be (i) a database that would be on a "read-only" basis; and (ii) a report on the results for the general public
  - **quality control of data:** a small advisory group could be envisaged to review the information collected (mainly to check for duplication), verify with partners and

recipient countries, and cross-check with information from the Creditor Reporting System

- **accessibility of database of reporting system:** to make the database accessible to the public, each partner should give its approval
  - **high-level commitment:** to ensure a strong response to the request for information, it was suggested that a letter from the co-chairs of PARIS21 be sent to heads of partner agencies in charge of statistics and development cooperation, advocating the importance of reporting on support to statistics and requesting cooperation in responding to the questionnaire. Identifying the relevant contact person in partner agencies is critical.
  - **development of web-accessible database:** for the moment, tone down this activity, focus on user-friendly database
  - **questionnaire:** provide an explanatory note to fill out the questionnaire and a contact point (“tie-line”) to respond to any questions
- **work program:** The meeting agreed to the following program:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Date</b>
Feasibility note on CRS	P21 Consultant	Mid-June 2007
Draft questionnaire	Ottens	June 15, 2007
Revised explanatory note on the classification of statistical areas	Baer	June 20, 2007
Revised explanatory note on the classification of financial and non-financial support	De Leva	June 15, 2007
Draft proposal to Task Team	De Leva	June 15, 2007
Next meeting of Task Team	TT	June 25, 2007
Draft proposal to CCSA/PARIS21 Bureau	De Leva	August 28, 2007
<b>IF PROPOSAL APPROVED</b>		
Reporting exercise on Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● data collection and processing</li> <li>● verification of results</li> <li>● data analysis and report</li> </ul>	Eurostat for EC; P21 for other partners	Mid-Sept-Dec 07 Jan 08 Feb 08
Transfer data of LRE to user-friendly software	P21	Sept 07
Results of Africa exercises to FASDEV	Eurostat/P21	Mar 08 (tentative)