

## Note on Communication within PARIS21 Governance Structures

### Communication between Board Members and their Communities

As agreed in the PARIS21 governance arrangements for the period 2010–14, *“Board members and alternates [are] ... expected to be ‘champions’ of the aims of PARIS21 and advocate for and publicise PARIS21 activities within their constituencies. They will consult and report back to their constituencies about Board discussions and the work of the Partnership more broadly.”*

The purpose of the present note is to propose ways in which (i) Board members can consult with and report back to the communities they represent and (ii) the Secretariat can facilitate such communication. The Secretariat proposes to speak of “communities” rather than “constituencies” since Board members are not expected to speak on behalf of a group of countries or institutions, but rather are identified as members for their personal experience. While the Secretariat does indeed maintain a list of country groupings from which developing country Board members are identified, these groupings invariably present geographical and linguistic difficulties. The list is perhaps best left simply as a tool for identifying Board members.

It is recognised that the aforementioned communities are not restricted to statisticians. In fact, the governance arrangements call for members who are statisticians to be backed up by alternates from the data user community and vice versa. Therefore, in addition to data producers, Board members are expected to solicit the views of, and report back to, relevant data users in their countries/regions/institutions (e.g., PRSP co-ordinators, finance ministers, aid programme designers). In countries where national (country–donor) partnerships have been established, the sitting chair of such a body would be a logical point person with whom developing country Board members should establish communications. But such communication should not be limited by national borders.

It is proposed that Board members:

- **consult with and report back to their user–producer communities in-country or within their institutions** about Board discussions.
- **consult with and report back to their international colleagues/counterparts** in regional meetings such as CENTROESTAD (the statistical commission of SICA), the League of Arab States Permanent Technical Statistics Commission, Afristat Steering Committee meetings, the Africa Symposium on Statistical Development, the ASEAN Heads of Statistics Offices Meeting (AHSOM), or other relevant (sub)regional bodies/meetings. Data users on the Board would consult with their colleagues in regional meetings such as high-level political gatherings (e.g., réunions des ministres des finances de la Zone franc).
- **comment on draft papers and reports and participate in subgroups** such as the Executive Committee and task teams on particular issues when appropriate.
- **use their influence wherever possible to advocate** for the allocation of adequate resources both for the better availability and use of statistics in development generally and for PARIS21 activities in particular.
- **participate in certain PARIS21 initiatives** such as reporting on NSDS progress and implementation of the Dakar Declaration on the Development of Statistics.

The PARIS21 Secretariat proposes to facilitate the above by:

- Maintaining an updated list of names / e-mail addresses of heads of statistical offices in countries and contacts in bilateral, regional, and international institutions supporting statistics. The user community in countries and regions is so wide and ill-defined that such a list would be too difficult to maintain. However, perhaps World Bank and IMF lists of PRSP co-ordinators could act as a proxy.
- Preparing and sharing minutes from Board and Executive Committee meetings.
- Preparing “executive summaries” of Board and Executive Committee meetings which Board members can communicate to their respective communities.
- Preparing draft presentations for regional/international meetings.
- Providing any additional information on PARIS21 issues, as necessary.

### **Communication between the Executive Committee and the Board**

As agreed in the [PARIS21 governance arrangements for the period 2010–14](#), the Executive Committee is called on to “communicate reports and decisions to the Board.” This reporting could take several forms:

- Sharing Executive Committee agendas with Board members for comment prior to the meetings;
- Circulating the minutes from Executive Committee meetings to Board members; and/or
- Making brief statements at Board meetings summarising all items discussed and decisions made by the Executive Committee since the previous Board meeting.

The Board is requested to consider in what form it would prefer the Executive Committee report back to it.