Summary: Seminar on New Approaches to Capacity Development; Marketplace; and Break-Out Group Discussion

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This document contains a summary of the 2017 PARIS21 Annual Meetings and presents the main results from the seminar "New Approaches to Capacity Development", the Marketplace and Break-out Group Discussion. The minutes from the Board Meeting, which took place on April 6th, are available on the website.

Background on Capacity Development

The UN Secretary General's Independent Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) speaks of the data revolution as an "explosion" in the volume and production of data matched by a "growing demand for data from all parts of society" (IEAG, 2014). This expansion of the data ecosystem is disruptive as it requires a radical shift in attention to new capacities to deal with the plethora of new, unstructured data sources and demands from new actors and data users (NGOs, civil society and citizens).

The first UN World Data Forum in Cape Town, earlier this year, saw a total of nine sessions on the thematic area of "New approaches to capacity development for better data." While this message showed that the capacity of national data ecosystems is high on the international agenda, it was also a call for all actors to rethink current approaches to capacity development.

I. **Introduction: New Approaches to Capacity Development | 5 April**

Dr. The Right Hon. Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada, opened the session with a keynote address testifying to the importance of statistics for policy makers. He argued that the absence of reliable statistics was dangerous for policy making, as it meant that plans and programmes had to be based on guesswork. The Prime Minister defended statistics as a key asset of democracy, creating transparency and enabling citizens to check what their governments are doing.

Mr. Stephan Klingebiel, from the German Development Institute, presented the main pillars of Capacity Development 4.0 (CD 4.0). He started by exposing the two constraining factors that keep many countries from accessing the benefits of the data revolution: capacities and funding. Mr. Klingebiel presented the building blocks of this new concept of Capacity Development: shifting the narrative from technical aspects to accountability; adopting a political economy perspective acknowledging that not all actors are in favour of better data; linking data to overall development discussions; shifting aid modalities to basket funding and result based aid. To illustrate his point, he used the example of Kenya NBS' Program-for-Results.

Mr. Aboubacar Beye (Senegal) and Mr. Neil Jackson (United Kingdom) provided comments on the first interventions and defined their main takeaways. They both endorsed the idea of Capacity Development 4.0 and recognised the need for data to be used at a political level. They also mentioned the opportunity of the SDGs within a larger political climate, Big Data and more efficient aid effectiveness processes.

The second session of the morning was kicked-off by Mr. Stefaan Verhulst from the GovLab at New York University who provided a producer perspective by presenting on *Access to New Data Sources for Statistics*. He listed the various ways engaging with the corporate sector could bring added value to NSOs, as well as the incentives for the private sector to share their data. Mr. Verhulst then provided recommendations to pave the way forward and accelerate the potential value of new data sources for official statistics.

To understand capacity development from a user perspective, Ms. Desiree Timmet presented on Statistics South Africa's Maths4Stats project. The project aims at enhancing the level of statistical literacy amongst school learners, ensures the new statistics syllabus are relevant to the country, and helps educators develop basic statistical skills. Maths4stats co-ordinators handle workshops at all levels of primary school and university, and provide a platform for the teaching of statistics using local data, in order to bring the world of statistics to the classroom. With these local-level interventions, the project's long term goal is to strengthen statistical expertise within South Africa.

Reacting to the two examples, Ms. Haishan Fu, Director of the World Bank's Development Data Group, presented her thoughts on New Approaches to Capacity Development. First, she stressed the need to consider what kind of infrastructure we need to support new data sources, and to enforce businesses that generate new kinds of data. Second, she mentioned that the perspective should be enlarged, from supporting the National Statistical Systems, to supporting data ecosystems. She recommended that NSSs and the private sector should work together to figure out future frameworks and regulation, for example on the issue of data ownership. Lastly, she emphasised the importance of considering the user side by training users to improve overall data literacy.

II. New Approaches to Capacity Development – Moving towards implementation (Roundtable Discussion) | 5 April

The roundtable discussion focused on changes and continuities for the implementation of CD 4.0. The participants included Shaida Badiee (Open Data Watch) as moderator and Mathilde Damgé (Le Monde), Catalina Covacevich (OECD), Jose Antonio MEJIA-GUERRA (IADB), Cristina Pereira de Sa (Eurostat) and Judith Randel (Development Initiatives) as discussants. The salient points included the need to: incentivise local production of data; educate populations on their ability to detect reliable information; fund interventions that contribute to building capacities; learn from best practices and examples through such work as the EU's co-ordinated approach to country assessments or OECD's PISA assessment test.

III. Flash Presentations & Marketplace | 5 April

Twelve flash presentations and a Marketplace were organised to share various projects, initiatives and tools being implemented by partners. The following 12 projects were presented:

1. **Department of Statistics – Jordan:** The 2015 Population and Housing Census incorporated new technology and practices, establishing a new benchmark for the MENA region. Jordan is sharing its acquired knowledge by creating guidelines and through staff exchanges between statistics departments of other countries, such as Egypt, Palestine, Sudan and Saudi Arabia.
2. **AFDB:** Under the umbrella of the second Strategy for the Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA II), the AfDB will use 8 principles for statistical capacity development, as a mirror to the high 5 of the World Bank to improve co-ordination between NSOs and supra-national frameworks.
3. **EUROSTAT:** The European Neighbourhood Policy – East countries (ENP-East) works with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova. The statistical co-operation policy aims to promote European and international standards and increase the comparability of data through a

series of seminars, trainings, exchanges and institutional support.

4. **UNECA**: The African Statistical Development Indicators (ASDIs) is a tool to measure the progress of African National Statistical Systems (NSS) in four dimensions: institutional framework, capacities, relevance and quality standards and effective dissemination and use. By assessing strengths and weaknesses of NSS, it provides an opportunity to make appropriate decisions – including policy interventions.

5. **UNPFA:** Because of security reasons, no census was conducted in Afghanistan after 1979. To estimate current population counts for the country, population density mapping was applied. It is an innovative approach that combines GIS data with available survey data to estimate population counts on a 100m x 100m grid. The project was done in collaboration with the Afghan Statistics Organization and Flowminder.

6. **IMF:** Data Dissemination 2.0 is a tool for countries to publish reports using data from various sources in SDMX (e.g. NSO, Central Bank). The data is then accessible by various users such as the IMF and other IFIs. In this way it contributes to lowering the reporting burden of NSOs.

7. **IEA:** The Energy Training and Capacity Building Programme aims to establish ongoing working relationships with participating countries to improve the quality of data on energy production and consumption, and enhance co-operation between national agencies and IEA for better policies.

8. **Data-Pop Alliance & Orange:** OPAL is a socio-technological platform that seeks to enable the use of 'big data' held by private companies for public good in a privacy preserving, commercially sensible, stable, scalable and sustainable manner. The vision is to strengthen the accuracy, timeliness and reliability of key development indicators and relevant statistics for an array of users.

9. **Le Monde:** Décodex is a tool that allows users to check the reliability of the sources they are reading. The aim is to increase citizens' awareness and capacity to critically reflect on the information they have access to, and avoid the propagation of rumours or deformations of reality.

10. **Flowminder:** The WorldPop program aims to collaborate with LMICs to integrate census data with GIS and mobile data to update information on population characteristics, leveraging on the constant update of these two sources.

11. **OECD:** The Statistical Information System Collaboration Community is a group of organisations co-developing statistical software with the vision to provide a more open, innovative and industrialised data dissemination. It is an open source model with a core of lead members who ensure financial sustainability while avoiding centralisation.

12. **PARIS21:** The Platform for Innovations in Statistics (PISTA) is a tool that matches statistical capacity challenges to innovative solutions. It aims to increase the adoption of new approaches to data collection and processing amongst other state-of-the-art solutions for National Statistics Systems. It will also serve as a repository of data on statistical capacity for each country.

IV. **Cape Town Global Action Plan (CTGAP) and capacity development | 5 April**

Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Director of UNSD, provided updates on the Cape Town Global Action Plan (CTGAP) following the 48th Session of the UN Statistical Commission. The CTGAP follows a long line of previous plans including MOS, MAPS and BAPS that have all provided an organisational framework in which to work from. The CTGAP will now move to the UNGA as a resolution. Mr. Schweinfest mentioned that PARIS21 has the credentials to play a role within the CTGAP roll-out, by bringing a systems (NSDS) approach to the table, providing a demand-driven voice from developing countries

and connecting new data developments.

Ms. Magaly Paredes, Ecuador, then provided comments on the CTGAP from a country perspective and as a member of the HLG-PCCB. Ms. Paredes explained that the country's NSS still has many challenges to overcome including the need to strengthen institutional framework. She emphasised the role of NSOs as the main co-ordinator within the NSS and as a strategic ally to external actors. Ms. Paredes then discussed how PARIS21 should ensure alignment between BAPS and CTGAP indicators as they play a strong role in strengthening statistical capacity.

Mr. Benjamin Rothen, Switzerland, discussed how the CTGAP is a political framework and communication tool for the statistics community to leverage. For PARIS21, Mr. Rothen shared his thoughts on how PARIS21 could have a role in contributing to the implementation of the CTGAP due to its experience with indicators.

The Board recognised PARIS21's positive contribution in the global statistical system and its leadership in rallying support for and elevating interests and needs of national statistical systems and called for PARIS21's strong role in the CTGAP, in particular in the area of capacity development.

V. **Summary of Day 1 by Ms. Martine Durand (OECD) | 5 April**

Ms. Martine Durand, OECD, started her concluding summary by emphasising the need to start implementation activities, including data collection, to achieve the SDGs. Policymakers have SDG indicator measurement on their radar and now is the opportune time to grab their attention. Moving to Capacity Development 4.0, Ms. Durand highlighted the importance of engaging with all stakeholders in the data ecosystem, using new data sources and building capacity across ministries. Despite these new developments, she stressed the need to align actions with the priorities of countries, using a "fit for purpose" methodology.

Ms. Durand finished her remarks by supporting PARIS21's possible role within the CTGAP thanks to its comparative advantage of having previously monitored the BAPS logframe.

VI. **Break-out Group Discussion | 6 April**

During the Break-out Group Session, members separated into 5 working groups to discuss the following questions in more detail: role of bilateral donors; role of users; role of producers; role of international/regional agencies; and role of assessment frameworks. Each group reported on their discussions through three main topics: identified challenges; proposed strategy and actions (short-to-medium term and medium-to-long term); and mode of implementation and effective partnership arrangements.

The following table presents a summary of findings, as put forward by the group rapporteurs. Full PowerPoint presentations are available online: http://www.paris21.org/annual-meetings-2017

Topic	Identified Challenges	Proposed Strategies (short to medium and medium to long term)	Implementation methods
Role of Bilateral Donors	- Little knowledge about statistics and no visible champions in the (DAC) donor community - Support to statistics disguised in evaluation efforts -> not easy to disentangle	- Transparency of funding stream - Investigate impact/value of statistics & return on statistical investment	- National co-ordination mechanism (CRESS) - Use SDG 17 for alignment amongst donors - Marketing the value of statistics - Reduce overheads & fees
Role of Users	- Ability to understand and use data - Data security and privacy	Build statistical literacy (with targeted interventions)	Creating a virtuous cycle for strong co-ordination
Role of Producers	- Need to organise and plan the work of the NSS - Need to manage and prioritise demands - Need to maintain robust traditional sources while bringing new sources for faster release and analysis	- Define and prioritise the users - Create funding strategy - Partner with new actors - Create process for user feedback	- Task Team: guidelines to regulate the relationship between new data sources producers and NSOs - Leadership training to develop competences in a changing environment
Role of International/Regional Agencies	- Co-ordination amongst international organisations - Positioning the NSO within the National Statistical System	- Put statistics in a broader picture for the country in the development effort (System approach) - Strong focus on the users	Design a concrete strategy
Role of Assessment Frameworks	- Link between capacity assessment and quality assurance framework - Selecting methodology – when? how? who?	- NSO to lead the design of the assessment - Integrating into NSDS (targeted inputs or investments)	- Phase 1 of Open Assessment Repository and Review - Defining the Core (or generic) Module - Looking into specific processes (e.g., GAMSO Mapping) - Needs-based assessment