



## **Record of the Proceedings**

**Chairs: Pali Lehohla & Richard Manning**

*DAY ONE: Thursday, 16 November 2006*

### **I. Welcome Statement**

The donor representative co-chair Richard Manning welcomed participants and commented that this was a very important meeting for the Partnership as the renewed mandate and strengthened partnership will be discussed. He underscored the similarities between the Health Metrics Network (HMN) – for which he is a Board member – and PARIS21: both have created a considerable amount of demand for their work as well as interest in developing countries. The HMN recognises the intersection of its work with the broader statistical systems and the overall approach of statistical development. Countries (e.g. Uganda) have used HMN tools to help develop their NSDSs and, where HMN activities are successful, health can serve as an example to other sectors. We need to build on the synergies between these two initiatives.

### **II. Adoption of Agenda**

The chair asked for comments on the draft agenda, which was approved as proposed.

### **III. Renewed Mandate**

The Secretariat Manager presented the proposed renewed mandate (see document# *P21-SC2-06-RNW*), which takes into account the comments received on the paper on the future of PARIS21 presented at the last Steering Committee, discussions after the meeting with Steering Committee members, and comments received on the first draft which was circulated in October. The overall goal of PARIS21 — “to develop a culture of evidence-based policymaking and implementation which serves to improve governance and government effectiveness in reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)” — remains unchanged. Regarding outcomes, the role of data analysis should be strengthened. He noted the point made at the last Steering Committee meeting, that we need to distinguish between what the wider Partnership must do to help achieve the outcomes and what the Secretariat does to support this. He contended that the Steering Committee and PARIS21 donors have to take the responsibility of delivering the key outcomes of the Partnership. The Secretariat produces outputs to help the Partnership deliver the outcomes.

### ***Discussion***

Discussions on the renewed mandate focused on several issues, including co-ordination, managing for development results, dissemination practices and giving more thought to what the wider Partnership needs to do to achieve the partnership outcomes. Participants expressed their desire that PARIS21 help facilitate donor co-ordination of statistical support activities at the country level, perhaps through the mechanism of the UN country teams, and that the Secretariat include co-ordination as one of the outcomes in the logical framework. It was clarified that the Secretariat’s role is to provide the tools for this co-ordination, down to the country level: in effect, creating a country-led national PARIS21, through co-ordination across National Statistical Systems and co-ordination of donors, including putting statistics on the agenda of donor meetings in partner countries, in the context of country ownership and countries moving to implement their NSDSs. Guidance and good practice examples would be helpful for all. Several participants felt that the partnership outcome “countries and donors managing for results” should be the ultimate outcome and that the three others (“strengthened analysis and use of data,” “international statistical programmes and donor support fit



within countries' NSDS or similar national planning framework for statistics," and "strengthened national data available on the MDGs by 2010") should be intermediate outcomes that lead to the ultimate outcome. It was suggested that in the logical framework the "partnership purpose" and the second "partnership outcome" could be consolidated to clarify this distinction. There was broad agreement for the activities of the Secretariat as defined in the paper.

#### IV. Conclusions from Day One

The donor representative co-chair concluded that there was broad support for the renewed mandate but that the logical framework needs a little work. He recommended that a statement be crafted to outline the roles of the various communities then be endorsed by high-level parties in the respective organisations. The Secretariat will circulate a revised document and share it with the Steering Committee for approval. The developing country co-chair Pali Lehohla recommended that country ownership be reflected in the document.

It was agreed that the Secretariat, possibly in collaboration with the proposed Steering Committee Bureau, would revise the partnership paper and logical framework in light of the session's discussions. In particular, the intention will be to make explicit how the outcomes relate to one another, accord greater importance to donor co-ordination, emphasise that the focus is on national priorities, and be clearer in identifying the groups of stakeholders in the wider Partnership and what they need to do. The Eurostat representative volunteered to assist in this work.

#### *DAY TWO: Friday, 17 November 2006*

The OECD Deputy Secretary-General Kiyo Akasaka opened the morning session of the second day. He commented that, as head of the OECD's Development Cluster, he has seen the crucial role that statistics play in all development areas. All development partners need good statistics: developing countries need good statistics to design, monitor, and evaluate their development and poverty reduction policies, and donors need good statistics to design, monitor, and evaluate their aid programmes. Statistical development must therefore been seen as an integral part of the overall development agenda. He expressed his hope that the PARIS21 community will be able to help in addressing the development challenges in the future. He closed by saying that the OECD is proud to host PARIS21 and very happy that the PARIS21 mandate was renewed in yesterday's session.

#### V. A Strengthened Partnership

The Secretariat Manager presented the proposed modalities for a strengthened partnership (see document# *P21-SC2-06-PART*). He urged partners to scale-up their participation in PARIS21 activities in order to achieve our common goals. He then presented discussion points to stimulate a brainstorming session on strengthening the partnership. These discussion points included:

- **Change in behaviour:** Information exchange is a starting point. We must scale-up advocacy efforts within our institutions. (*What advocacy activities could be undertaken as a group or by individual donors to promote statistical development? Who would be the target audience?*)
- **Broader notion of partnership:** As well as statisticians and policy-makers in developing and developed countries and development agencies, our partners should also include economists, project/programme managers, and analysts; and donors not actively involved in the PARIS21 agenda. (*How do we identify and reach out to these persons/agencies in order to broaden and deepen the work of PARIS21?*)



- **Common approach and strategy:** Sharing of initiatives – such as guidelines by Eurostat for staff of EC delegations and courses, e-learning course proposed by WB – could reduce costs and ensure harmonisation. The task team on Reporting System on Partner Support to Statistical Development (to continue the work of the Light Reporting Exercise) is another example. (*What other efforts could be undertaken to collaborate further on a common approach and strategy? How can we develop a shared international strategy for statistical development in partner countries?*)
- **Reporting on promotion of partnership:** *What can PARIS21 Steering Committee members do to promote statistical development in their own institutions (e.g., the review of country strategies to ensure mention/support to statistical development, training for staff, presentations to management/staff, funding support)? Have there been any positive effects from their efforts? Should monitoring indicators be set by/for each institution?*
- **Evaluation of PARIS21:** future evaluations of the Secretariat could be extended to a sample of members. (*Should performance indicators be developed? If so, should they be identified by each partner or should generic ones be proposed?*)

### **Discussion**

General agreement was expressed for the broad strategy. The IMF representative proposed elements of partnership components, which are reproduced in the annex to the present document. Discussions on strengthening this partnership revolved mainly around the following issues: how to change behaviour, building on the PARIS21 “brand name” as a change agent, country-level co-ordination, articulation of national demands for support, advocacy to donor institutions’ operational people, the next PARIS21 evaluation, and a high-level statement on PARIS21 principles.

Participants echoed from the previous day’s discussions the important role that PARIS21 should play in facilitating co-ordination of statistical development activities at the country level. This attempt to “nationalise” the partnership should aim to reinforce the dialogue between donors and countries and to form alliances locally to synergise efforts. The NSDS should be an important mechanism through which support can be channelled and co-ordination achieved. Co-ordination should be led by the beneficiary country but the donor community also needs to emphasise co-ordination (e.g., working through the donor focal points in countries and building on the UN Development Group’s support for PARIS21 by working with UN country teams to drive change at the country level). The Third Roundtable on Managing for Development Results in Hanoi is an opportunity to engage with UN Resident Co-ordinators (working with UNSD).

Paris Declaration principles dictate that countries should be in the driver’s seat of all development interventions. Some participants urged developing countries to express their needs for behaviour change: stating what they want from donor organisations and what they want to stop in order to help them with regard to NSDS design and implementation and other statistical development activities. A mechanism for feeding these demand-side needs back into the Partnership is of critical importance. An updated list of consultants would also help countries, as this is a bottleneck.

Several donor representatives expressed the need to target PARIS21 advocacy efforts to the operational people in their organisations. Support for statistics from aid agency leaders has largely already been secured within these institutions, as they have all signed up to the results agenda. The statisticians of course also support statistical development; however, it is at the operational level that the message has not been fully received, particularly by country programme managers. Participants therefore urged that advocacy materials and interventions be produced / undertaken to target this group, showing that PARIS21 has a shared agenda with them, as part of targeted messages to all stakeholder groups in the partnership. It was noted that because individuals change posts it is necessary to repeat this exercise often; and to engage with regional and sub-regional organisations. The donor representative co-chair noted the need to engage data users such as Foundations in the partnership.



The chair recommended that deliberations should begin soon on how and what the Partnership will evaluate in 2009. In this regard, the French representative recommended indicators to evaluate national ownership and adherence to partnership principles. The Eurostat representative recommended performance indicators on communication effectiveness at the country level, since communication is how partnership is strengthened. The OECD representative suggested indicators on budgetary allocations for statistics and statistical capacity indicators on the availability of nationally produced data to international quality standards.

To address many of the issues raised above, the chair recommended the drafting of a high-level statement of principles, which would map out our shared vision and be circulated to all country offices so that the entire donor community gets the message. Participants supported the idea and recommended crafting it to ensure a commitment on the part of donors to use country-owned data, to link results back to the MDGs, to respect the expressed needs of developing countries with regard to technical and financial assistance as articulated in their NSDSs, and to co-ordinate their interventions with other donors. The statement could set out the PARIS21 vision and principles; include practical proposals to extend the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics through to 2010; and recognise the role PARIS21 plays in the results agenda. The statement could be an output from the Hanoi Roundtable and could even feed back into the UNSC meeting for further endorsement. This proposal was well received, and the Secretariat was tasked with producing a first draft. It will be translated into the various languages and may need to be adapted by PARIS21 contacts to suit the culture of different organisations.

## **VI. Work Programme 2007**

The Secretariat Manager presented the proposed PARIS21 work programme covering November 2006 to June 2007. The Secretariat will develop a full programme for 2007–2008 for the next Steering Committee. He highlighted a few activities of special interest: disseminating the knowledge base, facilitating peer reviews, and producing advocacy materials for use in donor organisations. For the next Steering Committee and the Hanoi Roundtable, the Secretariat will report on NSDS status. He proposed to close the Rural and Agricultural Statistics task team, as its activities are coming to completion, and to revitalise the training task team in collaboration with France. He closed his presentation by proposing that the next Steering Committee take place from 25–26 April 2007 and that the format consist of (1) a full-day meeting on the 2007–2008 work programme, (2) a half-day seminar on the satellite programmes, including Metagora, and (3) a half-day session on donor and TFSCB issues.

### ***Discussion***

Several participants commented on the key challenge of supporting strategy implementation, while recognising that some countries are still at the design phase and therefore cannot be neglected. The East African and African Development Bank representatives both underscored the need for quality reviews of NSDSs, including through the facilitation of peer reviews. Other participants mentioned communication, resource mobilisation, and advocacy to country policymakers as areas to be included in the work programme. The French representative proposed studies on the informal economy and administrative data and urged the use of statistical capacity building indicators. Many participants requested that the work programme include the activities of the satellite programmes, which the IMF representative found to be an integral part of the Secretariat's core programme. The UNSD representative announced that the UN Development Group will organise a meeting on DevInfo and data dissemination in Singapore that clashes with the proposed dates for the next Steering Committee.

## **VII. PARIS21 Governance**

The Secretariat Manager presented the proposed governance arrangements (see document# *P21-SC2-06-GOV*), which respond to feedback made at the last Steering Committee plus the results of the last evaluation and separate discussions with several Committee members. He presented a few suggestions on how to



achieve a better balance of participation in the Committee, particularly from policymakers. He then presented a proposal for a Steering Committee Bureau, whose functions would be to:

- Act as a sounding board for the Secretariat and help guide its management and, more generally, the conduct of the Partnership's work programme between Steering Committee meetings
- Make decisions regarding the organisation and format of Committee meetings
- Advise on (or advise on and approve) any major decisions about changes to budget allocations, subject to OECD rules
- Advise on (or advise on and approve) major human resources issues such as the recruitment or extension of key staff, subject to OECD rules

The composition of the Bureau was proposed as follows: the DAC chair (representing the donor community), the partner country chair (representing developing countries), a developing country representative from another region or language group, representatives from the two biggest bilateral contributors to the PARIS21 budget, and representatives from two international institutions. The Secretariat Manager then presented the proposed structure of the Secretariat, including the creation of a post for a Deputy Manager and two new staff members for the satellite programmes (International Household Survey Network – IHSN; Accelerated Data Programme in Pilot Countries – ADP).

### *Discussion*

Discussions on the governance arrangements focused mostly on Steering Committee composition, the Consortium meeting, the terms of reference (TORs) for the proposed Steering Committee Bureau and Deputy Secretariat Manager position, and the Metagora project.

A main concern among participants was the dearth of policymakers on the Steering Committee. The subregions of the Pacific and Caribbean were also tagged as gaps in representation. While it would be desirable to have more policy people represented, it was recognised that a balance must be struck between equal representation and continuity of members. One solution proposed to strengthen the dialogue with policymakers was to extend the Steering Committee meetings by one day to organise special sessions with policymakers. Another solution offered was to organise a Consortium meeting, perhaps in the margins of the Fourth International Roundtable or the 2008 UN Statistical Commission meeting. It was agreed that the Secretariat, perhaps in collaboration with the Bureau, would review the feasibility of a Consortium meeting after the Hanoi Roundtable.

The proposal for a Bureau to support the Secretariat between Steering Committee meetings was unanimously agreed, but a few questions were raised. Participants felt that the full Steering Committee (and not the Bureau) should be responsible for approving the work programme. It was further agreed that the Bureau should “advise on” rather than “advise on and approve” major decisions about changes to budget allocations or human resources issues. Participants also approved the inclusion of an additional developing country representative on the proposed Bureau composition (raising the total to eight members). The term for Bureau membership was set at two years. The UNSD, Eurostat, and World Bank volunteered to be members of the Bureau. Following discussion it was decided to hold two Steering Committee meetings in 2007 but this would be reviewed for future years after the Bureau has become established. The proposal of creating a post for a Deputy Secretariat Manager was also agreed by general consensus. Several Steering Committee members requested that the TORs for the Deputy include more managerial responsibilities to free up the Manager's time for more policy-related activities and the UK representative advised that the competencies required should not be too specific in order to cast the net as wide as possible for good candidates. The IMF representative said that the Secretariat should aim for more diversity, previously not possible due to OECD rules. It was also requested that the Secretariat organigramme be revised to more clearly show the internal reporting hierarchy. The chair asked the Secretariat to revise Annexes I and II of the governance arrangements paper and share it with the Steering Committee for clearance by written procedure.



Several Steering Committee members expressed their support for Metagora's work and its continued integration within the PARIS21 Secretariat. The developing country co-chair urged that the PARIS21 Partnership engage itself more with Metagora's work to ensure that the measurement of the important issues of democracy, human rights, and governance is done right. The French representative specified that the objective is to move towards international standards for governance and human rights indicators and to help countries build statistical capacity in these areas. One participant suggested that in due time the UN Statistical Commission should discuss and decide whether statistical data and indicators on governance and human rights issues can be developed within the framework or with the support of official statistics. It was recognised that Metagora deals with sensitive issues, and one participant proposed that its association to PARIS21 be downplayed. The Manager of the Metagora Co-ordination Team commented that while Metagora is developing as an inherent part of PARIS21, tangibly acting and advocating for enhanced statistical capacities in the pilot countries, nevertheless the project is intended to facilitate rather than complicate the work and lives of others. The chair concluded that, while there are different views on the subject of Metagora, it was generally agreed that it would continue to reside within the structure of the PARIS21 Secretariat. He recommended that a carefully articulated proposal be worked out to outline the role of the PARIS21 Steering Committee in Metagora work, since the project has its own Steering Committee. These issues will have to be addressed in the Memorandum of Understanding that the Secretariat is drafting with the OECD. The Metagora issue opened the discussion on the satellite programmes in general and the criteria for their integration into the Secretariat. The IMF representative suggested that the IHSN and ADP satellite programmes were close to the core work of the PARIS21 Secretariat but questioned if Metagora, which was formally established under a Task Team on Tools and Methods, satisfied the first three criteria listed as bullet points under paragraph 32 of the governance paper (document# *P21-SC2-06-GOV*). The United Kingdom representative recommended adding a criterion that a satellite programme not represent any negative impact on the ability of the Secretariat to manage it.

### **VIII. Funding issues**

The Secretariat Manager presented the PARIS21 funding situation and proposed expenditure until July 2007. He commented that a more precise picture of the financial situation will be made available when the Secretariat produces the work programme for the next Steering Committee meeting. He proposed that the next Committee meeting include a half-day session on donor issues and the TFSCB.

### **IX. Overview of Decisions Taken**

The chair provided an overview of the decisions taken over the two-day meeting. These decisions are presented in the table below.



#	Decision for the Steering Committee
1	<p><b>Does the Committee agree to the renewed mandate proposed in document# P21-SC2-06-RNW?</b></p> <p>The renewed mandate proposed in the document is generally agreed. The partnership goal and Secretariat activities were agreed. The Secretariat is asked to redraft the text to reflect the comments from the Steering Committee's discussion, notably the need to emphasise that the focus is on country priorities and to refine the partnership purpose, outcomes and outputs in the logical framework. This revised version will be reviewed by the Steering Committee Bureau then approved by the Steering Committee.</p>
2	<p><b>Does the Committee agree to the strengthened partnership modalities proposed in document# P21-SC2-06-PART?</b></p> <p>In collaboration with the Steering Committee Bureau (then later approved by the full Committee), the Secretariat will redraft the partnership modalities, taking into account the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy to the operational level within organisations. Getting statistics included in development dialogue. How? High-level statement and improving day-to-day communications. Making best use of Hanoi. Thoughts on tools for promoting PARIS21 spirit at country level</li> <li>• Bringing PARIS21 spirit to the country level: e.g., through UN country teams / donor co-ordination arrangements, but with countries in control. Countries to articulate what they want and what they don't want.</li> <li>• Using NSDS as the co-ordination tool at country level</li> <li>• Address demand side, involving other users and more country / regional representation (Steering Committee membership)</li> <li>• Secretariat to articulate practical actions for this (in collaboration with Steering Committee Bureau)</li> </ul>
3	<p><b>Does the Committee agree to the forward Work Programme for the period November 2006 to June 2007, as proposed in document# P21-SC2-06-WKPG?</b></p> <p>There was an overall agreement, with emphasis placed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer reviews</li> <li>• Advocacy to developing country policymakers</li> <li>• Implementation challenges</li> <li>• Resource mobilisation</li> <li>• Satellite programme activities should be included</li> <li>• Studies on informal sector and administrative data</li> <li>• Implementation of statistical capacity building indicators</li> <li>• Need for big effort by PARIS21 in lead-up to Hanoi</li> </ul>
4	<p><b>Does the Committee agree to the governance arrangements proposed in document# P21-SC2-06-GOV?</b></p> <p>The arrangements were generally agreed. Changes were proposed to Annex I &amp; II of the document. Enlargement of the Steering Committee was not viewed as necessary at this point, but a plenary</p>



#	Decision for the Steering Committee
	<p>Consortium-style meeting could be held in 2008 to engage more partners, in particular policymakers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Agree to establish a Steering Committee Bureau?</b></li> </ul> <p>Agreed. Current volunteers include UNSD, World Bank, and Eurostat. The Secretariat will identify the remaining members in consultation with the co-chairs. The number of developing country representatives will be increased by one. (After the meeting, it was agreed by the co-chairs to increase by one the number of biggest contributors to the PARIS21 budget.) The term of membership will be for two years. The Secretariat will draft new TORs to be circulated for approval by written procedure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Agree to the proposed reorganisation of the structure of the Secretariat, including creation of a position of Deputy to the Secretariat Manager?</b></li> </ul> <p>General consensus. Some changes to organigramme and Deputy Manager TORs were proposed and will be reviewed by the Bureau.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Agree to the Secretariat hosting phase II of Metagora?</b></li> </ul> <p>Generally agreed. The Secretariat will do some work on clarifying the relationship between the PARIS21 Secretariat and Metagora, including in the MOU with the OECD.</p>
5	<p><b>Does the Committee endorse the establishment of a task team on “Reporting System on Donor Support to Statistical Activities” as requested by the CCSA and described in document# P21-SC2-06-LRE?</b></p> <p>This point was endorsed. It was recommended that this work link to existing DAC systems.</p>
6	<p><b>Does the Committee agree to hold the next Steering Committee from 25–26 April 2007 in Paris? Does the Committee agree to the proposed format of (1) a full-day meeting on the 2007–2008 work programme, (2) a half-day seminar on the satellite programmes and Metagora, and (3) a half-day session on donor and TFSCB issues?</b></p> <p>The dates proposed conflict with some UN meetings in Singapore. The Secretariat is asked to propose new dates. Two meetings will be held for 2007 (the second of which could be held back-to-back with the November 2007 Inter-Agency and Expert Group meeting on monitoring the MDGs in Paris). The number of meetings for 2008 and beyond will be reviewed at a later time. The Bureau will review the format of the next meeting.</p>



## Annex: Elements of Partnership Components

<b><i>Developing Countries</i></b>	<u>Policy Makers</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment</li> <li>• Using statistics in managing for results</li> <li>• Fund statistical development</li> <li>• Providing supportive institutional arrangements</li> <li>• Coordination and reporting</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>	<u>Statisticians</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment</li> <li>• Propose a vision and strategy to develop statistics following high professional standards</li> <li>• Agree to follow through on technical advice and self help</li> <li>• Advocacy</li> <li>• Coordination and reporting</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>
<b><i>Developed Countries (OECD countries)</i></b>	<u>Policy Makers</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment</li> <li>• Using statistics in managing for results</li> <li>• Include statistical development in the aid policy agenda and dialogue, including training of staff</li> <li>• Provide funding to statistical development</li> <li>• Coordination and reporting</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>	<u>Statisticians</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment</li> <li>• Support developing countries (e.g. twinning, technical assistance, etc.)</li> <li>• Provide resources (people, methodologies, materials, advice, etc.)</li> <li>• Advocacy</li> <li>• Coordination and reporting</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>
<b><i>International / Regional organizations</i></b>	<u>Policy Makers</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment</li> <li>• Using statistics in managing for results</li> <li>• Include statistical development in the aid policy agenda and dialogue, including training of staff and advocacy</li> <li>• Provide funding to statistical development</li> <li>• Coordination and reporting</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>	<u>Statisticians</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment</li> <li>• Developing and disseminating standards, methods, etc.</li> <li>• Support developing countries: technical assistance, thematic programs, etc.</li> <li>• Advocacy</li> <li>• Coordination and reporting</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>
<b><i>Other partners Foundations, Research Centers, Private Sector, etc.</i></b>		

### **PARTNERSHIP AS A WHOLE**

*Shared vision (Hanoi?)*

*Coordinate and collaborate*

*Reporting*