

**PARIS21 Steering Committee Meeting  
13–14 November 2007***International Energy Agency Conference Center  
9 rue de la Fédération, 75015 Paris***Record of the Proceedings****Chair: Richard Manning, OECD/DAC***Tuesday, 13 November 2007***I. Welcome Statement**

The chair welcomed participants and recognised Professor Ben Kiregyera, newly appointed director of the African Centre for Statistics in the UNECA. The chair announced that co-chair Pali Lehohla could not attend the meetings due to cabinet pressures in South Africa but would be patched in via videoconference during the afternoon session. Ridha Ferchiou kindly agreed to chair the 14 November seminar in Mr. Lehohla's absence. The chair then announced that this would be his last Steering Committee meeting as co-chair, since he will be completing his term as Chair of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) at the end of this year. His successor Eckhard Deutscher will take the reins early next year.

**II. Adoption of Agenda**

The chair recommended that the forward work programme be addressed in the afternoon session after the discussions on the Consortium meeting, Metagora, co-operation between PARIS21 and the OECD World Forum, and the partner reporting system, which are all parts of the work programme. The agenda was adopted without further modification.

**III. Progress Report**

The PARIS21 Secretariat Manager outlined the progress of the Partnership since the last Steering Committee meeting in May 2007 (document# *P21-SC2-07-PROG*)<sup>1</sup>. He presented the example of Niger as an excellent case study for the scaling-up approach: PARIS21 assisted the country to design their National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and integrate it into the PRSP, accompanied the country at a donors consultative group meeting in Brussels, and helped produce a brochure outlining this experience. Regarding regional programmes, the Secretariat has contracted regional advisors in countries to implement PARIS21 work, and partnerships with regional organisations have been established and strengthened. Task teams have been quite active: the African Development Bank will print the guide developed by the Intersect team on mainstreaming sectoral statistics very soon in English and French, and the training team has developed a programme of work for its African sub-group. The Partner Reporting System on Statistical Development and the Virtual Statistical System teams will be discussed in the later points of the agenda. The Secretariat intends to launch a website reporting on country progress in designing and implementing NSDSs, building on the information that it has collected over recent months in collaboration with partners. Ultimately, the intention is to help the countries themselves report on their statistical development efforts. The wider PARIS21 partnership could assist countries in this endeavour. On advocacy, the Secretariat has launched a template leaflet on "Why *Country X* Needs Good Statistics". This has been a popular product with countries, in particular Gabon, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, and Zanzibar. Regarding management issues, the Steering Committee has held two Bureau meetings since the last May meeting, which have been very helpful for the Secretariat. In early 2009, the Secretariat will move back to the OECD's La Muette site which is likely to cause a minor disruption. He announced that the OECD Council has authorised the Secretariat to appoint nationals of OECD member countries ([www.oecd.org/membercountries](http://www.oecd.org/membercountries)) and nationals of countries eligible

<sup>1</sup> All documents can be downloaded from: [http://www.paris21.org/pages/about-paris21/paris21-governance/steering-committee/index.asp?id\\_event=563&tab=doc](http://www.paris21.org/pages/about-paris21/paris21-governance/steering-committee/index.asp?id_event=563&tab=doc)



to receive Official Development Assistance (ODA), as set out by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC List of ODA recipients - [www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist](http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist)). This development has already had a positive impact on recruitment for the Deputy Manager position, for which interviews will take place later this month. It is hoped that the position will be filled by the end of the year.

### ***Discussion***

Discussion revolved around several topics, most notably partner collaboration, advocacy, and reporting on country progress in NSDS and on Partnership progress in supporting countries. Participants highlighted the need for improved collaboration among partners, particularly in Africa where a statistical co-ordination mechanism was just launched in September involving ECA, AfDB and AU. PARIS21 was encouraged to participate in this collaboration. Although there certainly has been progress in co-ordination, its visibility is low. Participants also emphasised the need for increased efforts in advocacy to donors (the upcoming OECD Senior Level Meeting represents an excellent opportunity) and to developing country data users and producers (including those in sector line ministries). As one step towards improved advocacy, the chair called on the Secretariat to report back to the Steering Committee's developing country representatives on the results of the 15 November meeting on scaling up. For those countries not yet on board with the PARIS21 agenda, the dialogue can be energised around the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. Participants considered the proposal of launching an International Statistics Day to build global support for statistics. The UNSD representative commented that a series of informal meetings on this topic have already been organised and that such an event will be proposed by the end of 2009. Several participants underscored the need for the PARIS21 progress reports to give details not only on the Secretariat's activities but also on those of the entire Partnership, focusing more on development outcomes. It was noted that the Inter-Agency and Expert Group meeting on MDG Indicators reports on how much data is modelled rather than measured and that this information can serve as an important indicator of PARIS21 success. The PARIS21 logical framework also includes indicators of the PARIS21 partnership's progress. The chair called on the Secretariat to produce annual outcome-focused partnership progress reports along the lines of the logframe; these reports would also be a useful input for the proposed Consortium meeting.

### **IV. Progress of the Virtual Statistical System**

The World Bank representative presented the progress of the Virtual Statistical System (VSS) task team (document# *P21-SC2-07-VSS*), whose aim is to develop a web-based portal for developing countries to access knowledge on statistical systems from a variety of sources, using a common format. The basic structure of the portal has been designed and a mock-up of the portal prepared by the Development Gateway Foundation. The proposed work plan includes: (a) reviewing and discussing existing documentation; (b) engaging statistical agencies of developing countries as well as UNSD; (c) agreeing on the scope of the VSS; and (d) completing work on the design of the portal. The scope of work involves three options: (1) a pure portal providing a way to organise links to other web-based resources; (2) a "rough guide" to official statistics work, with broad descriptions of subjects and activities but based on an underlying portal with links to other web-based resources; or (3) a more comprehensive website, including original material written for use by developing countries. He asked the Steering Committee for decisions on the proposed work plan; the enlargement of the task team to include additional agencies and countries; and the allocation of PARIS21 Secretariat resources to support the work plan.

### ***Discussion***

Participants were largely in agreement with the objectives and value of the VSS, but some participants felt that the proposal was a little premature and that it required further consultation with all stakeholders. Several participants expressed concern over the manageability and sustainability of the system and the need to avoid fragmentation of this information into too many websites. It was agreed that the UNSD should be central to the development of this system, in very close collaboration with all international organisations and developing and developed countries. The chair suggested that the Secretariat allocate at least modest



resources at this stage to assist the task team to develop an expanded, fuller proposal at the next Steering Committee. A portal need not be commissioned immediately. A face-to-face meeting will be organised before May 2008 to facilitate further consultations.

## **V. Proposal for a Consortium Meeting**

The Secretariat Manager presented a proposal for the Consortium meeting (document# *P21-SC2-07-CONS*). The last such event was held in 2002, and since then the Partnership has established the NSDS objective, a major turning point in PARIS21's activities. The different actors that must collaborate in order to build statistical capacity hail from different backgrounds with different goals and timetables. And yet, they rarely meet to discuss statistical development issues. Major meetings in the recent past (e.g., the Hanoi Roundtable on Managing for Development Results, the OECD World Forum on Measuring Progress held in Istanbul) have only gathered together a small part of the international statistical system, while major statistical meetings do not generally involve the international development community. The Manager argued that a meeting is needed to bring all relevant stakeholders together to discuss how to push statistical development forward at the country level in support of better development outcomes. The output for such a meeting would be marching orders for all actors.

### ***Discussion***

There was general agreement among participants that a Consortium meeting, if done properly, would be useful to the Partnership and that PARIS21's good momentum makes the timing just about right. Participants raised concerns regarding the exact timing, objectives, and outputs for the meeting. The chair called on the Secretariat to expand consultations on the proposal to ensure that the outputs of a Consortium meeting are clearly defined and the agenda is attractive enough to a senior audience of policymakers and statistical managers. A revised proposal addressing the timing, location, and core outputs of the meeting will be presented to the Bureau for decision before the next Steering Committee meeting. It is expected that a Consortium meeting would be best organised for 2009. Tunisia offered to host the meeting.

## **VI. Metagora**

The Manager of the Metagora Co-ordination Team presented the project's progress (document# *P21-SC2-07-META*), commenting that tomorrow's seminar will include a more substantive presentation. Metagora has conducted household surveys throughout the world over the past few years. The results have been very promising and are serving as a basis for policy dialogue and reform. This exercise of obtaining nationally based indicators builds statistical capacity, which links it closely to PARIS21 objectives. The Co-ordination Team would like to integrate their work within the mainstream of the international statistical community and therefore proposes to prepare a report for the 2009 UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) showing the lines of work for measuring governance. If the UNSC finds this work valuable, a city group could perhaps be formed. Moreover, in line with its Terms of Reference, Metagora is working hard with a network of national Human Rights Institutions to incorporate proper statistical methods in their working tools and to mainstream evidence-based monitoring within the international human rights community. While the project's results have already garnered it international recognition, funding remains a critical issue. The Metagora Steering Group has requested that the Co-ordination Team launch an aggressive funding campaign to fill the gap.

### ***Discussion***

Participants considered the relevance of Metagora work, the funding issue, the role of the Metagora Steering Group relative to the PARIS21 Steering Committee, and the appropriateness of the PARIS21 Secretariat continuing to host the Metagora project. The representatives from countries in which Metagora has conducted activities (the Philippines and South Africa) expressed strong support for the project and its continued relationship with PARIS21. The developing country co-chair commented that the measurement of governance is an issue that will stay with the international statistical community for a very long time. The



OECD representative echoed this assessment, pointing out that monitoring MDG8 involves measuring governance. While several representatives considered Metagora and PARIS21 work complementary on the grounds that they both help countries develop statistical capacity, others felt that PARIS21 should disassociate itself on the grounds that Metagora distracts the Partnership from its core work. The Secretariat Manager assured participants that Metagora's presence within the Secretariat does not significantly divert Secretariat staff time from its core activities. The Committee agreed that Metagora could pursue fundraising efforts and submit a document to the UNSC in 2009. The UNSD representative proposed to host a side meeting at the February 2008 session of the UNSC to prepare for Metagora's 2009 intervention. He argued that the focus of Metagora work should be on the governance aspect rather than human rights and democracy. The chair concluded that the PARIS21 Secretariat will continue to host the Metagora project, if sufficient funding is renewed, until mid 2009. At that time, its future relationship with PARIS21 should be reviewed, including in light of any decisions taken by the UNSC on the basis of the Metagora document submitted at the 2009 session. Meanwhile, Metagora management should send the 2007–2010 Program of Work, already agreed by the Metagora Steering Committee, to the PARIS21 Steering Committee for any advice the latter might wish to give. The Metagora Steering Committee could consider alternative institutional arrangements at any time.

## **VII. Co-operation between PARIS21 & OECD Global Project**

The OECD representative presented a proposal (document# *P21-SC2-07-GLOB*) that there be greater synergies between PARIS21 and the OECD Global Project on "Measuring the Progress of Societies". He proposed that the two initiatives work together to better define the OECD project as there could be benefits on both sides, in particular on advocacy. He then proposed that PARIS21 be part of the Advisory Board in charge of Global Project preparations.

### ***Discussion***

Many participants backed the OECD representative's proposal, while some expressed their concern that the Global Project could be diverting developing countries' attention from the more important, core indicators to the higher level indicators on progress. There was a hesitancy to allow PARIS21 to become an official partner of the Global Project. The Secretariat Manager felt that such collaboration would have positive consequences for PARIS21 objectives and would not significantly divert Secretariat staff time from pursuing these objectives. The chair concluded that the committee noted the potential for synergies with the Global Project. At the same time, the Committee wished to avoid diverting PARIS21 resources from its core activities. The Committee decided that PARIS21 should be prepared to collaborate with the Global Project at country or regional level where this is consistent with its core mandate. Given the similar constituencies involved in PARIS21 and in the Global Project the committee felt that the participation of PARIS21 in the Advisory Board is not necessary at this stage, also considering that the OECD is hosting both initiatives and therefore a full co-ordination can be easily achieved through informal consultations.

## **VIII. Partner Reporting System on Statistical Development**

The Secretariat presented progress on the work of the Task Team on setting up a Partner Reporting System on Statistical Development (PRESS), under document# *P21-SC2-07-PRESS*. Recent outputs of the team include a review of existing partner reporting systems, a classification of statistical activities, and a typology of financial and non-financial partner support to statistics. The team also commissioned a study on the suitability of using the OECD's Creditor Reporting System (CRS) to extract information on support to statistical development. In September 2007, the European Commission launched a reporting exercise to collect information on support provided by European states to African recipient countries. In June 2007, AFRISTAT requested PARIS21 assistance to establish a partner reporting mechanism in each of its member states. To this end, AFRISTAT piloted a reporting exercise in each of its member states and provided training for setting up a reporting mechanism for staff of each statistical office; the final results of this exercise will be distributed by end-2007. The Secretariat then requested the Steering Committee's agreement



that (1) the PRESS draws on information contained in the CRS for reporting on the statistical support activities of OECD-DAC bilateral countries; (2) in collaboration with CRS staff and the DAC Working Party on Statistics, help enhance this data by collecting additional information from partners not covered by the CRS; (3) invite partners to share textual, and where possible financial, information on their planned statistical programmes and activities; and (4) support recipient countries to incorporate a reporting mechanism to manage and monitor partner support to statistical development, as part of their overall budget management as they implement their NSDS.

### ***Discussion***

Discussion raised the issues of the relationship between the CRS and the proposed PRESS. Although the task team proposes to use the CRS for OECD-DAC bilateral countries, the chair felt that further discussion is necessary within the OECD-DCD on making maximum use of the CRS, recognising that the system has its limits and that a complementary exercise for partners not covered by the CRS will be necessary. Since the Task Team also reports to the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA), it will be necessary for interested parties to meet prior to the February 2008 CCSA to address these issues. The Committee therefore decided to defer its decision on this item. A meeting will be held with the DAC Chair in the first half of January 2008 to clarify any issues related to a partner reporting system, after which the Steering Committee might review.

## **IX. Forward Work Programme**

The Secretariat Manager presented the proposed forward work programme (document# *P21-SC2-07-WKPG*). He requested support from international organisations to develop knowledge and methodological guidance and support from all partners to deliver results on the ground in countries.

### ***Discussion***

The Committee agreed to the proposed activities in the work programme, requesting that greater emphasis be placed on work at the country level and that opportunities for the Partnership to intervene (and not just the Secretariat) be explored to the fullest.

## **X. Overview of Decisions Taken**

The chair provided an overview of the decisions taken, which are presented in the table in Annex I.



**Chair: Ridha Ferchiou, Tunisia**

*Wednesday, 14 November 2007*

*Morning Session*

#### **XI. Opening Statement & General Presentation on PARIS21**

The Secretariat Manager outlined the objectives of the seminar: to present the satellite programmes and Metagora and to deliver a general presentation on PARIS21 to country representatives attending the Inter-Agency and Expert Group meetings. He then delivered a brief presentation on PARIS21, including its goals, activities, methods of working, and future lines of work.

#### **XII. General Presentation on Satellite Programmes**

The World Bank representative presented the origin and role of the two PARIS21 satellite programmes. In 2004, the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS) recommended the establishment of an International Household Survey Network (IHSN) and the increased accessibility of data, which would become the objective of the Accelerated Data Program (ADP). He then outlined the role and composition of the MAPS Advisory Board, which reviews and guides the two satellite programmes, among other initiatives within the MAPS programme.

#### **XIII. Presentation on the International Household Survey (IHSN)**

The PARIS21 Secretariat presented the mission of the IHSN<sup>2</sup>, which is to foster the improvement of the availability, accessibility, and quality of survey data in developing countries and to encourage their analysis and use by national and international development decision-makers, the research community, and other stakeholders. The IHSN has two primary objectives: (1) to promote the better use of survey microdata and (2) to improve future surveys. The better use of data objective involves the following activities: the development of a Microdata Management Toolkit, the production of IHSN guidelines, and the maintenance of a central survey catalogue. Improving the quality of future surveys involves three focal areas: timing and sequencing (part of NSDS); comparability (over-time, across countries) and consistency across data sources; and reliability (use of improved methods). The IHSN has developed or is in the process of developing three tools to be implemented by the Accelerated Data Programme; namely, the Microdata Management Toolkit (mentioned above), a question bank, and the Survey Quality Assessment Framework.

#### **XIV. Presentation on the Accelerated Data Programme (ADP) in Pilot Countries**

The PARIS21 Secretariat presented the rationale behind the establishment of the ADP<sup>3</sup>. Three main issues led to its creation: (1) existing data are not always fully used; (2) methods and concepts are not harmonised; and (3) the scope, timeliness, and frequency of surveys are not optimal. The ADP's primary goal is therefore to strengthen country capacity in producing statistical data from household surveys relevant for policy design, monitoring and evaluation. To achieve this goal, the ADP undertakes the following three tasks:

1. Documentation, preservation, and dissemination of existing survey microdata.
2. Analysis of existing survey data and assessment of the past survey programmes.
3. Development of improved survey programme and data collection.

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<sup>2</sup> For more information on the IHSN, consult: <http://www.surveynetwork.org>

<sup>3</sup> For more information on the ADP, consult: <http://www.surveynetwork.org/adp/>



A combination of these tasks has been carried out in 24 pilot countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. A further seven countries have expressed interest in participating in ADP activities. Task1 could be made global if additional resources were made available. Task2 will be piloted in 2008, and Task3 will remain limited to specific countries where obvious gaps are to be addressed. Lessons learned so far include:

- Microdata production is huge and ‘hidden’.
- Microdata dissemination is limited and mostly ad-hoc.
- There is a high demand from countries for technical tools, policy guidelines, and training.
- The ADP can have a major impact on quality of future surveys.
- The ADP needs to work with data users.
- The ADP is not expensive and is feasible.
- The constraints on country staff time remains an issue.

## **XV. Country Presentations on the ADP**

### *Uganda*

A representative from the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) outlined ADP support in building a national data archive in his country. One of the strategic objectives of the country’s Plan for National Statistical Development is to improve data management and dissemination. The ADP has been instrumental in efforts to achieve this goal. The representative outlined current progress in implementing ADP assistance, which includes the organisation of a national training workshop, the documentation of data sets within UBOS, improvement of the UBOS website, establishment of a microdata lab accessible by partners, development of a microdata access policy, and development of the national data archive.

### *Cameroon*

The Cameroonian representative presented his country’s experience in implementing ADP activities, their relevance to the country, and current progress. He commented that, with a highly decentralised statistical system, Cameroon requires standardisation and harmonisation of statistical operations. The ADP has helped them address this issue, by organising a national training workshop on the use of the IHSN toolkit, the design of a work programme covering the entire national statistical system (NSS), the development of an inventory of statistical activities in the country, and the documentation and dissemination of existing data. The country will resume the design of its NSDS in 2008 and hopes to have an interim strategy by next year and the final NSDS in 2009.

### *Niger*

The Niger representative outlined his country’s experiences in implementing ADP activities. These activities include the archiving and dissemination of survey data and the conduct of new surveys. The country’s benefits in implementing the ADP programme include strengthened co-ordination within the NSS, increased interest in the archived data across the different NSS bodies, greater exposure to new survey technologies, and the carrying out of a household survey with instantaneous availability of data. He noted that the country has just adopted an NSDS, which integrates ADP activities over the next five years.

### *Nigeria*

The Nigerian representative delivered a brief on the ADP in his country. After a pilot application of the Microdata Management Toolkit using two large Nigerian surveys, a workshop was held in July 2007 to train more than 20 further staff in the toolkit’s use so that results from more surveys could be archived and published. With ADP support, Nigeria carried out an inventory of micro-level data available in 15 different



national institutions. The inventory revealed that survey and census microdata with metadata are not managed, often scattered, lost or not documented. The national agencies rarely have access to or ownership of the micro- and metadata resulting from consultant-led surveys and censuses. The ADP is helping Nigeria address these issues.

### ***Discussion***

Participants welcomed the results of the two satellite programmes, particularly in light of the short time in which a small Secretariat has been implementing its work programme. Participants asked about the sustainability of resources allocated to the programmes. The World Bank representative answered that funding was most likely secure until 2010, and the United Kingdom representative commented that the DFID secondment should continue for at least another two years. Several participants requested that invitations to additional countries be extended to participate in the programmes, including to other Afristat member states and Arab States. The Dutch representative asked if these programmes assist in archiving and disseminating administrative data as well. The Secretariat confirmed that the toolkit can indeed be used for administrative data, as has already been done in Mali and Niger. The chair closed by commenting that the two programmes provided excellent tools by which official statisticians can fulfil their responsibility to report data to their countries, a responsibility that is superior to that of reporting to their ministers. The availability and dissemination of data is a critical issue, and these two satellite programmes are instrumental in addressing it.

### **XVI. Metagora**

The Metagora Co-ordination Team Manager presented the project's current progress and the way forward<sup>4</sup>. He outlined Metagora's role in assisting PARIS21 to achieve its goal of improving governance and government effectiveness. Many international bodies (UN treaty bodies, UN-HCHR, UNDP, OECD DAC, EU, and NEPAD) have also called on the need for indicators for measuring governance, human rights, and democracy. He presented the following lessons learnt from the project's work:

- Measuring human rights and democratic governance is technically feasible and politically relevant.
- Indicators can be produced that are relevant and useful for political decision and action.
- Quantitative and qualitative information can and should interrelate to properly inform assessment of human rights and democratic governance.
- Evidence-based assessment produces indicators that add significant value to the work of national human rights institutions, civil society, and policy actors.
- National Statistical Offices (NSOs) can be efficiently involved in evidence-based assessment of human rights and democratic governance.
- Indicators must be related to specific public policies and programmes; provide a framework for holding identifiable government authorities to account; allow citizens to address the specific human rights issues of target populations; and serve as a basis for democratic dialogue, policy design, and decision-making processes.
- To be sustainable, indicators and measuring tools must be nationally based and owned; be based on strictly independent and robust professional practices; enjoy a broad social and political legitimacy, and be authoritatively institutionalised.

The second phase of Metagora will build on the lessons of the pilot phase. Activities will include consolidating the working methods, replicating and extending the pilot experiences, enhancing the policy impact of the activities, further enriching the methodology, extending operations to developed countries, mainstreaming measurement of democratic governance within the international statistical system, and handing over the lessons and tools to the international community. The Metagora Manager closed by

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<sup>4</sup> For more information on Metagora, consult: <http://www.metagora.org>



emphasising that involving an NSO in the measurement of human rights and/or democratic governance must in no way endanger the development of the national statistical system.

### ***Discussion***

Discussion raised the issues of comparability across countries, the measurement of the rule of law, and the means by which Metagora work could be mainstreamed on the international level. The Secretariat responded that at this stage comparability is difficult as these issues are quite specific to each country and Metagora's highest priority is to enhance the policy impact, at the national level, of proper measurement of human rights and democratic governance; that the rule of law must be more thoroughly addressed in the second phase of the project; and that one of the means by which Metagora work can be mainstreamed is through its online knowledge base.

**Chair: Rob Swinkels, Netherlands**

***Wednesday, 14 November 2007  
Afternoon Session***

### **XVII. Presentation on NSDS**

The PARIS21 Secretariat and the UNECA representative presented the NSDS approach. The NSDS addresses data limitations, prioritises the use of resources, looks across the whole national statistical system, integrates statistics within policy processes, co-ordinates donor support, provides a robust framework and action plan for statistical capacity building, and acts as a catalyst for change to build confidence and break the vicious cycle of under-funding, under-production, and under-use of statistics. The strategy design process is as important as the strategy itself, for it builds political commitment to statistical development and promotes co-ordination among stakeholders. The presenters encouraged adopting a bottom-up approach to strategy design; that is, designing sector strategies first that lead up to a system-wide strategy. Strategies must of course be translated into a detailed implementation or action plan. The process is intended to foster change, which can imply that there will be winners and losers. This change must be properly managed, which requires leadership and management capacity.

### ***Discussion***

The World Bank representative asked how the NSDS process can be applied to post-conflict and fragile states. The UNECA representative evoked the example of Zimbabwe in which this issue was addressed by helping the NSO to attain autonomy. To assist donors in determining where to allocate their funds, the Canadian representative requested that a list of indicators be produced on the readiness of countries to launch an NSDS.

### **XVIII. Accessing UN Statistical Information**

The UNSD representative presented a new service of the UN of "bringing information to the world." The service is free of charge and freely accessible over the Internet, although it requires a username and password. The objective is to organise international databases to allow searchability and open access, promote national data dissemination, and build a global data dissemination infrastructure. In the future, the UNSD hopes to include real time data in this service. This exercise requires additional funding, and the UNSD is currently on a fund-raising campaign. Feedback from the service's 5,000 current users has so far been very positive. Interested users make access the site (<http://data.un.org>) with the username "tester" and password "unsdtest".

### **XIX. MDG Portal**



The United Kingdom representative delivered a presentation on accessing and using data for donor needs. DFID draws on many different sources for the data they use (e.g., DAC, UN, WDI, countries) and therefore considered the idea of consolidating the data in a single portal. She acknowledged that there are issues surrounding standards, definitions, and classifications. This portal is intended to contain not just indicators but also distributions, microdata, project data, expenditure data, outputs, etc. The expected benefits include:

- Better and more timely data analysis for policy and country offices;
- More comprehensive analyses, using international data in conjunction with e.g. DFID expenditure;
- Time saving in data extraction and presentation;
- Easy and appropriate use by less-informed users including an enhanced awareness of the quality of the data for the end-user;
- Help resolve discrepancies between data sources;
- Coherence of the data used across DFID;
- Information about the data known to selected individuals is not lost; and
- Automation of routine processes and reports.

A soft launch of the portal is expected within a month.

## **XX. World Bank Funding Mechanisms for Statistics**

The World Bank representative presented Bank mechanisms for funding statistical work, the main options of which are loans, trust funds and other grants, and analytic and advisory activities. The Bank's standard lending products can be used for statistical capacity improvement either as a stand-alone statistics project, a statistical component in a wider or sector-specific lending operation, or a statistical capacity improvement in a "development policy loan" (for example those used to support implementation of PRSPs). The STATCAP is a specific Bank financial product for statistics designed to support NSDS implementation. Regarding trust funds and other grants, the Bank manages the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), the Institutional Development Fund which may provide small grants for institutional capacity building, and special trust funds for specific projects such as the General Data Dissemination System in Anglophone Africa. The TFSCB is designed to be complementary to the work of PARIS21. Sixty percent of TFSCB funds are used to help countries to design an NSDS. Other non-NSDS projects can be awarded up to US\$ 400k for general statistical capacity building activities. The NSDS window is non-competitive, whereas non-NSDS proposals are competitive and are judged against other projects. The representative then offered some practical suggestions for countries to improve their chances to secure Bank funds:

- Design plans that are realistic, prioritised, and a part of wider planning processes.
- Demonstrate a commitment to improve data access and dissemination and to adopt good statistical practices.
- Institute donor co-ordination and information sharing mechanisms.
- Include the Ministry of Finance in dialogue.

## **XXI. Closing Remarks**

The chair closed the session by calling on the Partnership to reflect further on how to measure progress in NSDS and capacity building and to work together to provide access to data from various sources.

## Annex I: Overview of Decisions Taken

#	Decision for the Steering Committee
1	<p>Does the Committee agree with the proposed activities in the PARIS21 work programme for 2007–2008, as outlined in <i>P21-SC2-07-WKPG</i>, subject to 15 November 2007 discussions of PARIS21’s role in relation to MAPS Advisory Board conclusions and the scaling-up initiative?</p> <p><i>The Committee agreed to the proposed activities in the work programme, requesting that greater emphasis be placed on work at the country level and that opportunities for the Partnership to intervene (and not just the Secretariat) be explored to the fullest.</i></p>
2	<p>Does the Committee agree with (1) the proposed work plan of the Virtual Statistical System Task Team, as outlined in <i>P21-SC2-07-VSS</i>, (2) the enlargement of the team to include representatives of developing countries from different regions, and (3) the allocation of resources from the PARIS21 Secretariat budget to support the work plan of the team?</p> <p><i>The Committee asked that the Secretariat allocate modest resources to develop an expanded proposal for the next Steering Committee meeting, which would involve consultations with UNSD, other bilateral and multilateral partners, and developed and developing country statistical agency representatives at a face-to-face meeting. The management and sustainability of the VSS must be further defined.</i></p>
3	<p>Does the Committee agree with the proposals for a Consortium meeting in late 2008 (<i>P21-SC2-07-CONS</i>)?</p> <p><i>The Committee invited the Secretariat to expand consultations on this proposal to ensure that the outputs of a Consortium meeting are clearly defined and the agenda is attractive enough to a senior audience of policymakers and statistical managers. A revised proposal addressing the timing, location, and core outputs of the meeting will be presented to the Bureau for decision before the next Steering Committee meeting. It is expected that a Consortium meeting would be best organised for 2009.</i></p>
4	<p>Does the Committee agree that (1) the Metagora project will continue to be implemented within the framework of PARIS21; (2) the Metagora Co-ordination team will intensify its fundraising efforts during the next couple of months; and (3) a Metagora project document will be presented to the UN Statistical Commission for discussion in 2009?</p> <p><i>The Committee decided that the Metagora project, if sufficient funding is renewed, should remain within the PARIS21 Secretariat until mid 2009. At that time, its future relationship with PARIS21 should be reviewed, including in light of any decisions taken by the UN Statistical Commission on the basis of a document to be submitted at its 2009 session. Meanwhile, Metagora management should send the 2007–2010 Programme of Work agreed by the Metagora Steering Committee to the PARIS21 Steering Committee for any advice the latter might wish to give. The Metagora Steering Committee could consider alternative institutional arrangements at any time.</i></p>
5	<p>Does the Committee agree that PARIS21 and the OECD’s Global Project should improve its collaboration, as outlined in the paper <i>P21-SC2-07-GLOB</i>?</p> <p><i>The committee noted the potential for synergies with the OECD Global Project. At the same time, the Committee wished to avoid diverting PARIS21 resources from its core mandate. The Committee decided that PARIS21 should be prepared to collaborate with the Global Project at country or regional level where this is consistent with its core mandate and, in the opinion of the Secretariat Manager, this collaboration would have positive consequences for PARIS21 objectives and would not significantly</i></p>



#	Decision for the Steering Committee
	<i>divert PARIS21 staff time from pursuing these objectives.</i>
6	<p>Does the Committee agree with the approach proposed in the “Partner Reporting System on Statistical Development” document (P21-SC2-07-PRESS)?</p> <p><i>The Committee decided to defer its decision on this item. A meeting will be held in the first half of January 2008 to sort out issues related to the various donor reporting systems, after which the Steering Committee might review.</i></p>
7	<p>Does the Committee agree to hold the next Steering Committee on 28–29 May 2008 in Paris? Does the Committee agree to the proposed format of (1) a full-day meeting on PARIS21, and (2) a half-day meeting on funding issues, including the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building?</p> <p><i>The Committee agreed to hold the next Steering Committee meeting on 28-29 May 2008 in Paris, with a full day on PARIS21 issues and a half day on funding issues.</i></p>