Record of the Meeting of the PARIS21 Interim Steering Committee
held on 14 June 2001 at UNECE Geneva

Present
A list of Participants is attached.

Apologies
Hasan Abu-Libdeh  
Paul Cheung  
Lamine Diop  
Pieter Dorst  
Tadashi Kageyama  
Carlo Malaguerra

Summary and Action Points
1. The meeting agreed on the goals and modalities of PARIS21 and on light governance arrangements that will be separate from the governance of Trust Funds set up to finance PARIS21 inspired activities. There was recognition of the need for greater national government commitment and less dependence on external funding. The Secretariat will remain in Paris for the foreseeable future but there will be closer links to the UN. Task teams will be put on a firmer footing with report, plans and budgets put to Steering Committee and annual Consortium meetings. The process will be evaluated in 2003, with an interim review in 2002.

2. Specific action points:
   - Seek nominations for the Steering Committee to take over at the Consortium Meeting in October (paragraph 6)
   - Improve targeting of information circulation from contacts database (paragraph 9)
   - Evaluation sub-group to select indicators to evaluate PARIS21 process (paragraph 11)
   - Task Teams to produce report, forward work plan and budget for October 2002 Consortium meeting (paragraph 12)
   - Classify activities and expenditure by goal in next budget and work plan (paragraph 20)
   - Circulate draft Agenda for Consortium Meeting for agreement by ISC (paragraph 22).

Introduction
3. The two chairmen opened the meeting by welcoming participants. Mr Hammond noted that the success of the PARIS21 initiative would be measured by the degree to which lasting statistical capacity was built. The focus on development outcomes, for which the initiative is key to providing the capacity to produce the data, remained a priority for the DAC.

4. Professor Kiregyera opened the discussion by presenting paper PAR/SC(2001)2: PARIS21: A Developing Countries’ Perspective. The Presentation emphasised the optimism from developing
countries that surrounded the PARIS21 initiative. Previous initiatives had failed due to lack of government commitment to resource statistical systems, were too often donor-driven and failed to build sustainable long-term capacity. PARIS21 was not bureaucratic and could be successful as a result of 4 key factors:

- Wider stakeholder involvement
- Equal voice for all members
- Secretariat can act as "honest broker"
- Location within OECD enhances neutrality.

PARIS21 should concentrate on advocacy, the dissemination of good practice, knowledge sharing, co-ordination, and promoting ownership by developing countries. The Committee welcomed the paper as a useful presentation of developing country views. In response to questions, Professor Kiregyera noted that the paper represented a cross-section of views, including francophone, following consultations and showed the importance of the advocacy products, to convince politicians to resource statistics.

Towards a Consensus

5. Mr Williams (PARIS21 Secretariat) presented the results of the "Friends of the Chair" process which aimed to put the initiative on a firmer footing and to clarify a number of issues which had arisen as a result of the last meeting of the ISC. The meeting endorsed PAR/SC(2001)1: PARIS21 Goals, Principles and Modalities. It was agreed to focus on the results of PARIS21, with a formal evaluation process and more emphasis on results at the country level. A working group was established to recommend the evaluation criteria that should be used (see paragraph 9).

6. The meeting discussed PAR/SC(2001)3 Governance: Role of a Steering Committee or Bureau. There were discussions on the merit of a Bureau versus a Steering Committee. It was accepted that whilst a Bureau would be a lighter structure, the larger Steering Committee would accommodate a wider range of stakeholders. It was therefore accepted to continue with a Steering Committee. The wider Consortium would be contacted by e-mail to suggest nominations for the Steering Committee. The Interim Steering Committee would select from these nominations, balancing geographical and linguistic representation from developing and transition countries. The selection would be put to the October Consortium meeting with a proposer and seconder for each nominee. The Steering Committee would include a mix of statisticians and policy-makers from international organisations (UN, EC, IMF, OECD and World Bank), from 6 donor countries and from 6 partner countries. The aim was for better linkages between the statistical and development communities within the revised governance structure. Mr Giovannini and Mr Suarez de Miguel noted that it was particularly important to ensure effective involvement of the statistical community at all stages of the initiative. There was some discussion of the role of the different categories of the 560 members of the Consortium in its governance. It was noted that some members represented their agency/organisation and others were individual members ("friends of Paris21"). The Chair suggested the need to be pragmatic and build on the institutional representation that already forms the ISC.

7. PAR/SC(2001)4: Role of Trust Funds, Bilateral Programmes, etc. on the relationship between PARIS21 partners was included principally as an information item. The committee endorsed the point that in order for PARIS21 to be effective it needed to make best use of available resources in whatever form they come.

required within the next year if the present level of activity is to be sustained. The next meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Trust Fund would be prior to the Consortium Meeting on 2 October in Paris. The World Bank is to consider the possibility of including representatives of developing countries in the management structure of the Fund.

9. PAR/SC(2001)6: Secretariat - Role (mandate) and Structure looked at the future role and composition of the secretariat. The Committee agreed that the selection panel for the post of manager would be composed of representatives from UNSD, World Bank, OECD and developing countries. Mr. Yves Franchet (Director of Eurostat) would chair the panel. The selection panel is provisionally scheduled for the final week of July 2001. Mr Hammond also noted that the secretariat would work to improve and better target their information circulation, through better use of the contacts database it held.

10. PAR/SC(2001)7: Issues for the Future set out 3 key issues for the future of the PARIS21 initiative. They were location of the secretariat, the duration of the initiative and the operation of the task teams. There was a diverse range of views on the issue of location, with some donors believing that developing countries would be better represented if the initiative was sited within the UN system. However the developing country representatives preferred the OECD location, for convenience and responsiveness. It was agreed that the secretariat should remain housed in OECD for the next 2-3 years, and that one aspect of the 2003 evaluation would be to consider future location.

11. There were different views on the duration of the initiative. Professor Kiregyera emphasised that the PARIS21 process could not be rushed. However all agreed that the process required specific, measurable, achievable, timebound goals. A subgroup of the Steering Committee comprising France, Germany, IMF, Kyrgyz Republic, OECD, Uganda, UK, UNDP and World Bank would work to elaborate some indicators to be used in the evaluation process of PARIS21, scheduled for 2002 (Interim evaluation) and 2003 (Final evaluation).

12. For the task teams, the Committee noted that for success, they needed enthusiastic participants, leadership by a person within an organisation with a relevant mandate and time available, a clear work programme and a budget. It was agreed that brief guidelines should be provided to Convenors on the minimum requirements expected of a task team. It was noted that task teams needed to be consulted so that their work plans could be integrated within the budgeting and reporting cycle for the PARIS21 initiative. A report on the activities of each task team should normally be presented at each Steering Committee meeting. It was agreed that the next Consortium meeting in October should be presented with a report, forward work plan and budget for each task team.

13. The work of the advocacy task team was explained by Mr Eele and received widespread welcome. Ms. Laliberté introduced the work of the task team on indicators of statistical capacity building, which had recently had its first meeting. The approach is to start from elements readily available and to gradually build up. The IMF Data Quality Assessment Framework was selected as the methodology from which the indicators would be identified.

14. Mr. Leete (UNFPA) said that the Census Task Team was important to UNFPA and had been endorsed by the last Consortium meeting. He described how important the task team was for resource mobilisation and advocacy. A second African meeting of the task team was planned for later in 2001.

15. Mr Pommier noted that smaller regional SIS task teams could be the most appropriate way of taking forward the work of that team. He added that the work of the task team should be less diagnostic and linked to real activity in country.

16. Work on Poverty Monitoring indicators was being carried out within other fora and it was felt that members should be encouraged to participate in those initiatives, rather than create new task teams.
17. The Committee recognised the importance of agriculture statistics, particularly to many developing countries and asked to be kept informed of progress by FAO and World Bank in setting up a virtual group on the subject. If the work of this task team is to be included in the future programme, then a firm proposal should be made available by the October Consortium meeting for a decision. It was noted that the contact details of the task team members had been forward to FAO, who proposed to include the African members in their activities.

18. The Committee noted that information exchange was an important core activity that should be a permanent task of all members, rather than requiring a task team. The World Bank were thanked for their work on developing a web-based information exchange tool and encouraged to continue with the work and where possible expand its coverage to include other agencies. The OECD and the World Bank would continue to develop the information exchange.

19. The remaining task teams had either completed their assignments or would remain dormant.

20. PAR/SC(2001)8: PARIS21 Work Plan and Financing Plan - 2001 - 2003 and PAR/SC(2001)9: PARIS21 Financing Proposal - a summary document for donors to use when seeking approval funds for PARIS21 were presented. Members thanked the secretariat for the papers and thought that they were useful tools to demonstrate the cost and activities of PARIS21. Members asked that future presentations of budget and work plan be refined to classify activities and expenditure by goal. The funding proposal would be discussed in detail at the donors meeting scheduled to take place prior to the Consortium meeting.

21. Professor Kiregyera presented some lessons for PARIS21 from the Addis Plan of Action. They included a need for PARIS21 to help statisticians be policy relevant and ensure that they had a range of tools for advocacy. He pointed out that leadership and human resource development was a vital pre-requisite for capacity building. The sub-regional organisations are the key entry-point for rolling out any new initiative.

22. PAR/SC(2001)10: Annual Consortium Meeting 4-5 October, 2001: Purpose, Participation and Agenda Items. An early draft agenda was presented. Suggestions for other topics included a presentation by Kyrgyzstan, a session for the new PARIS21 manager to set out his/her vision, an opportunity to spell out what is expected of donors, policy-makers and statisticians for the success of PARIS21. There was a consensus that there must be enough on the agenda to appeal to each constituency within PARIS21, but there must not be too many presentations. In addition, it was felt that there should be some emphasis placed on national examples and experiences.

Any other Business

23. Members were asked to note the following calendar dates.

- 2 October: Meeting of the Steering Committee of the World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building, OECD, PARIS
- 3 October: PARIS21 Interim Steering Committee (a.m.), Donor meeting (p.m.), OECD Paris
- 4-5 October: Annual PARIS21 Consortium meeting, OECD, PARIS

24. Mr Suarez de Miguel noted that the Human Rights Observatory project, part of the follow-up to Montreux conference, was expected to launch in November.

25. Members thanked Mr Garonna and the ECE for hosting the meeting and Mr Williams for his work in the "Friends of the Chair" process.
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PARIS21 ISC Meeting
14 June 2001, Geneva

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