



Second Annual Progress Report
Draft for discussion at the Consortium Meeting, 4-5 October 2001, Paris

The PARIS21 Consortium is a unique partnership of national, regional and international statisticians, policy makers, development professionals and other users of statistics, including civil society. It has been established as a global forum and network to promote, influence and facilitate statistical capacity building activities and the better use of statistics. PARIS21 is not itself an operational agency. It acts as a catalyst, building on existing work and processes. It currently has nearly 600 members. It has a Secretariat of six people, based at the OECD-DAC in Paris, and annual expenditure of US \$1.5 to 2 million. Its work is guided by an annual Consortium meeting and a Steering Committee of representatives of developing countries, donors and international organisations. The Consortium is co-chaired by a member of the UNSC Bureau and the Chair of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee.

Background

The first annual progress report of PARIS21 was presented to the UN Statistical Commission on 8 March 2001 (See E/CN.3/2001/24). It covered the background; objectives; work programme; management, governance and reporting; and next steps for the Consortium. It invited members of the Statistical Commission to discuss: how PARIS21 can best meet the objectives of the Economic and Social Council Resolution 1999/55 on mobilising resources and co-ordinating efforts to support national statistical capacity building in developing countries; how to involve the Commission in its meetings and governance; and how to use the annual report to exchange information and promote co-ordination.

The note of the meeting records: "**Many members of the Commission voiced strong support for the initiative and its objective of strengthening co-operation for statistical capacity-building. The Commission noted the need for further discussions on the work programme, structure, financing and location of PARIS21. In this connection, some delegations suggested that the integration of the tasks of PARIS21 into the United Nations system be investigated.**"

The issues noted for further discussion helped to prompt a "Friends of the PARIS21 Chair" process, which reported to the PARIS21 Interim Steering Committee (ISC) in June 2001. The ISC agreed on the goals and modalities of PARIS21 and on light governance arrangements, separate from the governance of Trust Funds that finance PARIS21 inspired activities. It agreed that the Secretariat remain in Paris for the foreseeable future, but with closer links to the UN. It asked for the task teams to be put on a firmer footing with reports, plans and budgets put to Steering Committee and annual Consortium meetings. It agreed the work programme and financing plans for 2001 to 2003. And it agreed that the PARIS21 process would be evaluated in 2003, with an interim review in 2002. A paper on behalf of developing country members of PARIS21 noted the strengths of PARIS21 to be its wide stakeholder involvement, equal voice for all members, and neutral secretariat.

This report provides an update on the activities of the Consortium, its future work programme, financing, organisation and evaluation.

Activities

Since its foundation in November 1999, PARIS21 has presented at a number of international meetings and thereby gathered much support for increased attention to sustainable, holistic approaches to building statistical capacity. Specific activities in the year to end October 2001 include: two sub-regional workshops—covering 20 countries in the SADC region and East Africa and the Great Horn; a follow-up workshop in Zambia; a one-day workshop at the UN Economic Commission for Africa covering some 40 countries; and a number of task team meetings on advocacy, indicators of statistical capacity, statistical strategic planning, and population censuses. These are covered briefly below.

Workshops

Southern African Development Community

Some 130 people - data users and government statisticians from the 13 SADC countries and bi- and multi-lateral donors - attended this first full workshop in December 2000. Each country team produced a plan of action drawing on plenary and country group sessions. These are already being used in the region to influence policy makers, for example exploring data gaps in major ministries. The meeting noted that the process of producing poverty reduction strategies was encouraging strategic planning for statistical activities involving users and producers. Participants resolved: a) to increase knowledge sharing between SADC countries, focusing on information strategies, the PRSP process and training programmes; b) to assist SADC countries to implement their plans of action through regional co-ordination and harmonisation in poverty monitoring; and c) to hold a follow-up technical workshop - organised by SADC and the World Bank Trust Fund - to focus on progress with information strategies linked to PRSPs.

The workshop has already resulted in increased south-south co-operation, through exchange visits, work to build a regional pool of technical expertise and a SADC best practice Website. In April 2001, Eurostat funded a follow-up workshop in Zambia to strengthen dialogue between the major users of statistics in the Zambian PRSP. This recommended shared databases, improving key macro-economic data, greater capacity for poverty analysis, a strategy for the whole statistical system, and better linkages throughout government and with civil society on poverty monitoring and evaluation.

East Africa and the Great Horn

Following a short preparatory workshop on African Statistics Day in November 2000, there was a full workshop in July 2001 involving 106 participants from 7 countries, sub-regional organisations, donor and international organisations. Each country team developed a plan of action, and most proposed to hold national stakeholders' workshops. The workshop found that key to effective programmes of action were: a) advocacy, including for censuses - with input from PARIS21 and donors; b) sharing experience in the sub-region through networks and south-south co-operation; c) continuing user dialogue; d) better donor co-ordination; e) dissemination and media strategies; and e) local area and community level data.

UNECA Committee on Development Information (CODI)

Taking advantage of some 40 heads of African Statistics offices being in Addis Ababa to discuss follow-up to the Addis Ababa Plan of Action, PARIS21 held a one-day workshop in September 2001 entitled "Strengthening Statistical Capacity for Poverty Monitoring". This helped to broaden the PARIS21 message by sharing the best practices identified at the sub-regional workshops with a wider audience. There was enthusiasm with the process and a strong desire to seize the initiative to improve statistical capacity in Africa, in particular by sharing early experiences of using the impetus of PRSPs to improve

dialogue with users. The meeting noted: a) the importance of adopting poverty monitoring plans agreed by all stakeholders, with external assistance to promote the dialogue; b) the need for strategic statistical plans to be jointly developed by all stakeholders including planners, civil society, donors and the international community; and c) generation of community level statistics was eased through cost-sharing, for example when local authorities funded the field costs of surveys in their locality.

Task Teams

Advocacy

The task team has - <to be completed from the team report and discussion at the Consortium Meeting>.

Indicators of Statistical Capacity

The task team has - <to be completed from the team report and discussion at the Consortium Meeting>.

Sequenced Information Strategies

The task team has - <to be completed from the team report and discussion at the Consortium Meeting>.

Census

The task team has - <to be completed from the team report and discussion at the Consortium Meeting>.

Agricultural & Rural Statistics

The task team has - <to be completed from the team report and discussion at the Consortium Meeting>.

Website

PARIS21 makes extensive use of its Website (www.paris21.org) as a communication and publicity tool. The site is being developed to provide most materials in English, French and Spanish and to provide space for pages relating to sub-regions following the initial workshops. Its potential to act as a forum for information exchange on statistical capacity building activities will be piloted in late 2001 and early 2002. The site maintains links to other relevant statistical sites.

Future Work: Broadening and deepening

The future work of the Consortium will concentrate on three main areas: a) broadening the coverage of the initiative to areas beyond anglophone Africa; b) deepening the work already started by encouraging bilateral donors and Trust Funds to assist countries with the action plans developed at the sub-regional workshops; and c) completing and disseminating the materials resulting from the task team work.

The plans for further sub-regional "launch" workshops are given in Figure 1 below. The programme is for two more workshops in 2001, six in 2002, and two in 2003. The workshops will follow the successful pattern of those for SADC and East Africa and the Great Horn, with continual feedback of lessons into subsequent workshops.

The initial workshops are followed by a period of 18 months of follow-up to foster action at the national level. In the main this is organised by countries and sub-regional organisations and funded by Trust Funds and bilateral donors. PARIS21 assists with materials and resource people as appropriate.

The programmes to complete the tasks are covered above. The main outputs expected in 2002 and 2003 are as follows: <to be completed after discussion at the Consortium Meeting>.

Figure 1

Actual and Planned sub-Regional Workshops: 2000 - 2003

	2000				2001				2002				2003			
	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4			
Southern Africa	Regional workshop (SADC)															
East Africa & Great Horn				Regional workshop (Uganda)												
Central & South America			Preparation ECLAC		Andean Regional event		Regional event (Caribbean)		Regional event (Central)							
CIS/CEE Countries					Regional SIS/MISP seminar											
Asia & Pacific								Regional event		Regional Event			Regional Event			
Central & West Africa						West Africa regional event	Central Africa regional event									
Arab States								Regional event								

Financing

As of the end of September 2001, PARIS21 had received US \$2.9 million in voluntary contributions or contributions in kind through secondments. Of this, US \$1.4 million has been spent on regional workshops, task team activities, meetings, and staff, as summarised in Table 1. The balance has been committed to salary costs for four staff/secondees until late 2003 and activities to the end of 2001.

Projected expenditure is some US \$3.4 million to the end of 2003. Most of this (US \$2.9 million) is to fund regional workshops, follow-up activities to promote country-level action, work of task teams, and cost of the annual and steering committee meetings. The balance is contributions in kind through further secondments (US \$0.4 million) and publicity and materials (US \$0.1 million). Of this US \$3.4 million, some US \$1.7 million is in hand or has already been offered, leaving a funding requirement of US \$1.7 million. <To be updated after the donors’ meeting on 3 October>.

Organisation

The Interim Steering Committee, at its meeting in June 2001, decided that the Secretariat should be strengthened from four staff - two secondees and two assistants - to six. It agreed to the addition of a third secondee and a full-time manager, selected by a panel of members of the ISC and recruited through international advertising. The new manager, who has wide experience of statistical capacity within the World Bank and Africa, will take up appointment in mid-November. The selection process also led to the funding and appointment of a half-time consultant to help organise and represent PARIS21 in regional workshops and international events. <Update after Consortium meeting>.

The ISC also agreed that it would be premature to move the Secretariat from Paris to the United Nations in New York at this stage of its existence. Stronger United Nations’ involvement in PARIS21 is already evident, with three active representatives on the Steering Committee - the Chair of UNSC, and representatives of UNSD and UNDP - and co-operation on indicator sets and reporting on progress towards development goals. The structure and location of the Secretariat will be considered along with the duration of the initiative in the review scheduled for 2003.

Table 1: PARIS21 Statement of Income and Expenditure 1999 to 2003 ¹

<i>As at 27 September 2001</i>	Direct Funding US \$'000 ²	Funding through Secretariat US \$'000 ²	Total US \$'000 ²
Income to end September 2001	871	2,058	2,929
Expenditure to end September 2001	535	881	1,415
Regional Workshops and follow-up	195	233	427
Task Teams - meetings and consultancy		196	196
Participation in other meetings & Travel		64	64
Consortium & Steering Committee Meetings		233	233
Salary Costs	340	138	478
Other - printing, translation, etc.		16	16
Committed expenditure - Salary costs for 2 years	336	552	888
Balance available for future work		626	626
Projected Expenditure Oct 2001 - Dec 2003	910	2,531	3,441
Secondees	440		440
Workshops, Task Teams and follow-up	470	2,450	2,920
Other - printing, translation, etc.		81	81
Funding offers as at end September 2001	455	673	1,128
Additional funding requirement	455	1,232	1,687

NOTES ¹ Excluding the costs of full time PARIS21 Co-ordinators in agencies. The World Bank have appointed one and the UNDP are considering doing so.

² Converted to Dollars at end September 2001 rates

Evaluation

The ISC agreed that PARIS21 should be reviewed in full in 2003, with an interim review in 2002. The review will be related to the goals of PARIS21 which include increased political support for statistics, integration of strategies for the production, analysis and use of statistics into national development strategies, a more effective user-producer dialogue, and improved collaboration between all partners. The evaluation will measure outcomes directly under the control of the initiative - such as effective funding and implementation of the work plan and use of outputs from task teams - as well as broader ones - such as greater commitment by developing countries to better statistics and by donors to better co-ordinated statistical capacity building efforts. <to be updated after the October Steering Committee discussion of the evaluation criteria.

Questions for Statistical Commission - <suggestions to be discussed at the Consortium and Steering Committee meetings>

How might the Commission involve itself even more in the work of PARIS21?

How can the work programme of PARIS21 be further tailored to meet ECOSOC's call for more attention to statistical capacity building and better co-ordination between agencies? And should PARIS21 play a role in ECOSOC's call for co-ordination and harmonisation of development indicators?

What, if any, other information would the Commission and ECOSOC like to see in these annual reports?