Organisation de Coopération et de Dévelopement Economiques
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

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Or. Eng.

DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE JOINT UN/OECD/WORLD BANK/IMF SENIOR EXPERT MEETING ON STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING

Held in Paris on 18-19 November 1999

The policy-related data needs in developing countries lead to a new consortium Partnerships in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21). To initiate statistical capacity building programmes in HIPC countries by the end of 2000. Develop Strategic Statistical Master Plans in support of policy frameworks/country strategies.

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REPORT OF THE JOINT UN/OECD/WORLD BANK/IMF SENIOR EXPERT MEETING ON STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING HELD IN PARIS ON 18-19 NOVEMBER 1999

A new international process – **PARIS 21** *– a* **Par***tnership* **I***n Statistics for development in the 21st Century - to Build Statistical Capacity as the Foundation for Effective Development Policies*

RESULTS

$\Rightarrow$ By the end of 2000 to initiate statistical capacity building programmes in HIPC countries qualifying for enhanced debt relief, as part of their Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and in other countries producing Comprehensive Development Frameworks and/or UN Development Assistance Frameworks.

$\Rightarrow$ To create a PARIS21 consortium to continue the dialogue of the meeting among organisers and participants to promote well co-ordinated, effective statistical initiatives at the national, regional and international levels and to provide an annual "state of progress" report to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

- Develop evidence-based culture for setting and monitoring policy.

- Develop well-managed statistical systems, utilising available resources effectively.

SUMMARY

1.   The meeting was the first of its kind, bringing together policymakers and statisticians from donor and partner countries. It was held under the auspices of the DAC/UN/World Bank/IMF partnership on development indicators in response to a call by ECOSOC for better co-ordination in the area of statistical capacity building.

2.   The meeting was attended by over a dozen high level statistical and policy officials from developing and transition countries, as well as senior representatives from the key UN organisations, the World Bank, the IMF, regional banks and bilateral donors (see Annex 1 - List of Participants). Participants heard about the problems faced by policymakers when statistics are outdated or inadequate, and by statisticians with limited resources and low status in government. The importance of data to support the Comprehensive Development Framework and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and ECOSOC's work on follow-up to the UN Conferences was explained.

3.   In a keynote speech, the UK Secretary of State for International Development set out a vision where progress towards the international development goals becomes central to national and international

political debate, supported by high quality up-to-date statistics as the basis for policymaking and for monitoring by Parliaments and civil society.

4.   Three case studies brought out (i) the role of the IMF's data standards to improve data timeliness and quality and hence transparency and accountability, (ii) regional co-operation to provide training and adopt common regional questionnaires, and (iii) long-term financing to achieve the complete overhaul of a statistical system to cope with the demands of a modern economy.

5.   The way forward was addressed via panel discussions on building capacity, more effective donor co-ordination and next steps. The main issues were: increasing awareness of policymakers to the role of data and the resources needed for statistics; the importance of balancing the long term need to build sustainable statistical capacity with the short term need for data; making better use of available resources through addressing the whole statistical system, not just national statistical offices; donors being responsive to national demands and priorities; and working through existing initiatives, such as the Poverty Reduction Strategies.

6.   A joint Press Release was issued at the end of the meeting.

STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

7.   The agenda for the meeting provided for a morning to raise awareness of the importance of the issues, three case studies to provide practical examples and panel discussions to address the way forward. This report is in two parts:

I.   *Meeting content* that follows the sequence of the agenda, setting the context in which the meeting took place and outlining the way the case studies and panel discussions were organised.

II.   *The Way Forward* that presents the wealth of practical observations and suggestions to emerge from the meeting, for follow up by the **PARIS21** Consortium through its task forces, under the three headings of implications mainly for policymakers, country statistical systems, and donors.

I.   MEETING CONTENT

8.   The scene was set by **opening speeches** from Uganda's Director of Economic Affairs and Nigeria's Director-General of the Federal Office of Statistics. They described the problems faced by policymakers when statistics are outdated or inadequate, and for the statistician the problems of supplying statistics with limited resources and low status in government.

9.   The speaker from Uganda said that "Unfortunately we live in a world of infinite demands on finite resources. Government must therefore ask itself where the marginal dollar of expenditure will have maximum impact. In primary health, should we focus on outreach activities to inform society of the dangers of malaria and the measures we can take to avoid this illness, or should we rather increase expenditure on child immunisation programmes? In primary education, which is most beneficial to our children, more books or more teachers?"

10.   He illustrated the danger of governments relying on rumour and hearsay rather than good data to make policy. Inaccurate data on inflation rates coupled with strong rumours that despite economic growth there was no corresponding poverty reduction, nearly led to a detrimental reversal in government macro-economic policy. The rumours were untrue. The investment in household surveys paid off by showing, just in time, that there had been a dramatic reduction in poverty. And so policy was maintained. We need

to invest heavily in this area to tell us: Who are the poor? Where do they live? What are the major constraints that they face? And perhaps most important, What is the intervention that is most likely to alleviate their situation?

11.   The Nigerian speaker stressed the need to improve the image of and importance attached to statistics by being able to deliver a user-driven statistical service, drawing on administrative systems as fully as possible. But this would require a massive investment to provide the necessary equipment, attract, train and retain competent staff and rebuild the culture of record keeping.

12.   The international context was set by The World Bank representative, who explained the **Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF)**. The CDF was described as a development process that is country-driven and country-owned, informed by a participatory process involving all elements of society.   The CDF is supported by partners who need to shape their contributions to support the country's development programme. The framework is long-term, sustainable and holistic. The CDF matrix provides a mechanism for recording the country's objectives and summarising the activities of the development partners. The new **Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers** (PRSPs) will be prepared according to CDF principles. They start with the preparation by the country of a national development strategy representing the country's long-term vision. Data and indicators are required at every stage of the CDF process. The CDF and PRSP will thus increase the demand for statistics. It will be important for countries to develop an overall information strategy and their own strategies for building statistical capacity.

13.   The Director of the United Nation's **ECOSOC Bureau** set the meeting in its broader context of follow-up to the UN conferences and summits of the 1990s. These produced a powerful development agenda, but this needed more coherence. ECOSOC instigated a follow-up process for implementation by the responsible UN commissions within three main themes: employment and sustainable livelihoods; social services for all; and enabling environments. Clear goals and targets were identified for each of these areas. Improved co-ordination throughout the UN system is to be pursued through use of the Common Country Assessments, leading up to an integrated UN Development Assistance Framework. Recognising the importance of indicators and statistics to measure the achievement of conference goals, ECOSOC passed a resolution at its July 1999 meeting to promote (i) building of national statistical capacity, (ii) co-ordination in international programmes for statistics, and (iii) development of basic common indicators to reduce the reporting burden on governments when monitoring progress. This meeting was a key event in response to this initiative and ECOSOC would continue to address these issues on an annual basis.

14.   The UK Secretary of State for International Development gave the **keynote speech**. She set out a vision of a developing world where progress towards the international development goals becomes central to national and international political debate, supported by high quality up-to-date statistics as the basis for policymaking and monitoring by Parliaments and civil society.   She spoke of the need for the international community to work more closely together and ensure that our efforts are complementary and focus on assisting countries to develop sustainable systems for key statistics that meet their needs. She mentioned her strong commitment to increase aid effectiveness, using performance measures linked to the international development goals (IDGs). She noted that her aid budget depends on statistics to measure progress towards the IDGs.

15.   **Three case studies** were presented to the meeting. The first study covered Colombia's adoption of the **Special Data Dissemination Standard** (SDDS), through which data collection, co-ordination and dissemination standards are agreed between the country and the IMF. The presentations described the improvements in data timeliness and quality, which were derived from this standard, and the broader applicability of the GDDS to countries with less mature statistical systems. The SDDS ensures greater transparency of government and economic affairs. The South African discussant illustrated the benefits of the standards in an African context.

16.   The second case study described the example of **Regional Co-operation in Southern Africa**, where South African Development Community (SADC), with the support of Statistics Sweden, had set regional standards for national accounts, population censuses and other statistical series. The SADC scheme involved the production of regional training manuals, regional courses and the use of scarce technical co-operation resources at a regional rather than national level. The discussant described the regional approach offered by Afristat currently to West African and predominantly francophone countries, but whose membership was open to all African countries.

17.   The third case study involved a presentation of the **Russian World Bank Project**. Participants heard how the entire Russian statistical system was being overhauled and modernised to cope with the current needs of the economy, the population, the scientific and business community. The programme was designed to develop a long-term programme of statistical reconstruction over a 15-year period using a World Bank loan. To fully modernise a whole statistical system, including the statistics office, the customs office, Ministry of Finance, regional government, etc. required a long period.

18.   Panel led discussions were used to address *Building Capacity in Developing Countries*. Over lunch the discussion groups covered the following topics; Short-term data needs versus Long-term capacity building; Co-ordination of User Needs and Managing User Demands; Institutional Co-operation; Increasing the Awareness of Policymakers; Better Resource Utilisation; Regional Co-ordination and Building Capacity in Country. The reports back to the plenary session followed remarkably common themes and recommendations, which are covered below under *The Way Forward.*

19.   In addressing *More Effective Donor Co-ordination*, the representative of UNSD gave a useful summary of the problems, which had been discussed earlier in the meeting, and suggested some signposts for possible ways forward.   In funding statements, the IMF and World Bank both stressed that the demands for assistance from their organisations far outstripped the available resources. They noted that improved co-operation between bilateral and multilateral agencies would be required to develop an integrated statistical co-operation programme with any hope of increasing available resources, which were currently a tiny part of the total aid budget. In the **panel-led discussion** the panellists concluded that there was a need for country-owned master plans and for statistical offices to co-ordinate the activities in the plans. Donors needed to be more flexible in their reporting arrangements and more responsive to demand-driven country needs, rather than those of donor headquarters.

20.   In the final panel session on *Next Steps*, the joint organisers plus Nigeria and the UK set out their agendas for follow-up to the meeting, which is covered in more detail below under *The Way Forward*. They noted that development indicators were becoming a key part of the process of development. There was need for a common international framework, which makes sense of the alphabet soup of initiatives. To this end the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) is working on a partnerships handbook in the DAC. In the context of **PARIS21**, we could explore partnerships specific to meeting the statistical needs of policymakers and statisticians, move to joint appraisals, joint evaluations and joint action. The National Human Development Reports (NHDR) might be the vehicle to show what is needed at the national level. It was recommended that rather than creating a new instrument, a public document such as the NHDR could promote public debate and lead to action.

21.   In **summing up**, the Chairman noted the need for partnerships in the fight against poverty and suggested:

   1)   Work through the current initiatives (PRSP/CDF/UNDAF) to produce a country-specific, country-owned and country-produced integrated framework for development to identify the statistical requirements of such frameworks, both to set the objectives and monitor progress. This

would require work at the institutional level to improve co-operation in statistics. There would need to be a joint document which explains what this means in practice.

2)   To use a consortium approach to foster co-operation as partners in a major enterprise to address global information requirements and develop statistics as a global public good. There was a need to co-ordinate policies and to pool statistical needs.

22.   The joint Chairmen agreed to send a letter to the heads of statistical offices in all countries and the heads of aid agencies reporting on the meeting and setting out proposals for task forces to continue the work. The outcome was presented in a press release issued before the close of the meeting and a short report would be available to the forthcoming DAC Partnership Forum and Senior Level Meeting. The report of the meeting would be tabled at the February UN Statistical Commission and a report made to ECOSOC, which has agreed to take this process forward.

23.   The Secretariat announced that a **PARIS21** Website address – www.paris21.org – had been reserved. The Website would include:

- Paris 21 Press Release
- Background notes about the purpose of the initiative to increase statistical capacity in developing countries
- Meeting report from 18-19 November 1999
- Papers presented at the meeting
- Task force agendas, papers and minutes
- Maps showing current statistical availability
- Standards and guidelines
- Links to statistical organisations
- Availability of technical co-operation in statistics

II.   THE WAY FORWARD

1.   Implications mainly for developing country policymakers

a)   *Develop a Strategic Statistical Master Plan (SSMP) in tandem with their national development framework (e.g. CDF/CCA, PRSP etc.)*

24.   The panel on "More effective donor co-ordination" concluded that a statistical master plan was required which was related to national strategic priorities. The Palestinian delegate reminded the meeting that, as the major stakeholder, the recipient of aid is indispensable and should be in the driving seat in the development of any plan. Donor co-ordination required convergence of reporting systems and standards with common modalities for monitoring the output from the entire statistical system. The Malawi delegate instanced one country where 2,000 reports per year were called for by the donor agencies.

25.   The master plan would be a long-term strategy. Norway suggested 5-10 years, while noting that an annual action plan would also be required. The delegate from Laos reminded us that in a changing world, systems and master plans must be overhauled regularly to respond to rapid economic and social change. There was also a need to build in mechanisms for phasing out donors by means of an exit strategy. South Africa and Côte d'Ivoire suggested that a master plan was essential to avoid gaps and overlaps, and to identify statistical priorities in line with government priorities. The master plan enabled a more balanced development approach to be taken; both basic series and "sexy" projects would be included. Donors would

have to accept that they cannot always achieve what they, or their masters back home want. There was agreement that what was required was a programmed approach, not a project approach.

26.　　Most countries had a multiplicity of data producing agencies, with no agency doing it well. This resulted in gaps and duplications. Columbia had stated how the SDDS had resolved this problem by co-ordinating the entire macro-economic data system. The GDDS, which was more applicable to countries with less mature statistical systems, had the potential to be developed to perform a similar function in co-ordinating the statistical system within a country.

b)　　Assess institutional systems and resource requirements to efficiently manage scarce resources. Human resource issues (including salaries, supply of qualified staff for statistical and analytical work, training, etc.) to be central to the SSMP.

27.　　The IMF representative spoke of the need for Central Statistical Organisations (CSOs) to be put back as the co-ordinator of statistical programmes. Retrenchment had affected CSOs, and at the policy level there was a need for adequate budgetary provision. There were skill shortages and staff losses to the private sector. The lunch discussion groups stressed the need to retain and attract human capital in the statistical services, as this was what statistical capacity is about.

28.　　Developing country partners spoke of the constrained resources available for statistics. The problem of the aid dependency syndrome was clearly identified by the delegate from the Asian Development Bank. The budget for statistical activities was often divided into two parts, the country funded part and the donor funded part. The regular budget was often barely enough to cover salaries; the remainder was funded by external donor agencies mainly to run surveys. Data collection in many countries was now completely donor dependent. It had not been made clear that countries could not depend on donors for data collection. This had to be reversed and would only happen with strong donor co-operation.

29.　　The cycle of marginalisation of statistical systems was a common theme throughout the meeting. The last two decades had concentrated on short-term solutions to data shortages. The lack of data to inform immediate policy problems led to programmes of special surveys, often expensive to run and generally externally funded. These special surveys by-passed the regular data collection activities of National Statistical Institutes.　This by-passing of government systems led to the loss of existing capabilities and further data scarcity, and in the longer term, the death of government record keeping as mentioned by the Nigerian Delegate. The Afristat delegate reminded the meeting that the problem was not a new one. Short-term solutions had been the order of the day to resources problems (human and financial) for some time. The meeting agreed that peri-annual programmes were required, supported by financial and well-trained human resources.

c)　　Incorporation of funding for the Strategic Statistical Master Plan in medium-term expenditure frameworks by Ministries of Finance.

30.　　Uganda said that Africa must stop looking at donors to provide statistics. Medium term-expenditure plans must include statistics, and not rely on projects funded by donors. Afristat felt that time and the appropriate means were needed for developing countries to develop capacity. They currently had difficulty providing funds.　There must be a new foundation for building statistical capacity. The presentation from Statistics Norway on twinning arrangements spoke of the need to fund recurrent costs in the short term in order to provide policymakers with statistics, and to create the initial demand as a pump-priming operation.

31.　　The South African example showed the importance of effective resource allocation. The delegate said "If you don't have enough resources you have to consider efficient resource use and good value for money across government. For every Rand spent are we getting value for money? Medium term budgets were introduced for the statistical office. These allowed us to see that we had omitted the census and an income survey. We are only able to budget if we really understand what the Statistics Office are doing, and what their needs are. This means an audit and improved understanding between budgeting and data delivery. A representative from the Ministry of Finance sits on the Statistics Council, this aids understanding and planning beyond a 3 year period".

32.　　There must be close interaction between policymakers ("the clients") and statisticians ("the suppliers"), with policymakers fully involved in statistical design. It was important that line ministry policymakers own the statistics, participate in the design of systems and have confidence in the data provided. An interest in the culture of record keeping could be re-established within ministries to provide some of the data currently reliant on statistical surveys.

33.　　The opening speech from the head of the Nigerian Federal Bureau of Statistics stressed the importance of reviving the use of data from administrative systems. He described the culture of record keeping as "completely dead". Policymakers mistrust samples and they may not believe the results of surveys where they have not been involved in the design and implementation. They had greater trust in data produced from systems in their own sector ministries. Management Information Systems (MIS) were cheaper and more effective in the longer run, and most of all contributed to government transparency. He estimated that MIS systems could provide up to 50% of statistical needs.

34.　　Government commitment was required. Policymakers needed to realise that the cost of providing data was cheap when compared with the policy mistakes incurred by making poor policy decisions. The Ugandan representative spoke of statistics as the "eyes" of policymakers. The Malawi delegate mentioned that data users must be involved in the whole process if they are to accept the validity of the data. Greater data transparency also lead to better investment flows, as shown in the Colombian case study. The South African discussant on the GDDS/SDDS case study showed how better data was needed as South Africa emerged into the international financial community. Data improved ratings, allowed for understanding of the dynamics of the economy and was the key for sound policy formulation and implementation.

d)　　An integrated, coherent statistical service will be required. This often means strengthening horizontal links and promoting networks to allow an efficient system to emerge, and to avoid the duplication of statistical tasks.

35.　　The IMF delegate spoke of the needs for close horizontal communication between institutions. Often in developing countries links were solely vertical, with co-operation just taking place at the top. The meeting heard that the UNDAF and CCA process allows for these horizontal links to be made. The GDDS/SDDS approach involved the appointment of a co-ordinator whose task is to avoid the duplication of statistical tasks by all agencies involved in producing statistics. The meeting felt that the proper role of the statistics office was to co-ordinate the entire statistical system, by utilising both professional and technical standards, and with the support of enabling legislation and Statistical Commissions. Many delegates stressed the need for consistent, independent data. The participation of NGOs, civil society and universities aided this process. Use of data by policymakers generally exposed their weaknesses and an open dialogue between users and producers was essential.

36.   The Nigerian delegate spoke of the need to compel all sector programmes to include an element for statistical monitoring. This component would run alongside the main programme, to evaluate, to monitor and to plan. He felt that to persuade governments to listen, donors must also stress this in sector projects. In referring to the recent emergence of local and community based sector projects he stressed the difficulty of building statistics using the bottom-up approach and this difficulty needed to be reflected in a coherent statistical approach when designing such projects.

2.   Implications mainly for developing country statisticians

a)   *S**trategic Statistical Master Plans should not be shopping lists. They should be based on strategic policy frameworks, in which needs have been assessed and priorities clearly defined*.

37.   The discussion group on **Building Capacity in Country** developed some suggestions for progress in this area. The first requirement was a full "Needs Assessment" which would be developed alongside national strategic development frameworks. The Needs Assessment should be a participatory process which included all stakeholders, national users - both public and private - and international partners. This would lead to a "Master Plan", which would incorporate long-term plans with some immediate short-term goals. The country would carry out co-ordination of this plan. Donors offering technical co-operation for all statistical services would need to fit into it. Co-ordination not compromise would be the theme. Gaps in basic statistical needs and duplication could be identified in this process. The process should also establish the resource requirements, both human and financial, and lead to the setting of statistical priorities within the resource limitations. Master Plans needed to be realistic.

b)   *Independent statistical commissions, professional standards and enabling legislation are key prerequisites*.

38.   The meeting heard from South Africa that the Statistics Council co-ordinated demand for statistics from all spheres of government, business and the wider community. Interrelationships enhance statistical quality. Governments may abuse power, so there needed to be broad representation on the Council. The Palestinian delegate urged statisticians to share early results with the Cabinet, but not at the expense of the autonomy of statistics.

39.   Both the SADC and Russian case studies stressed the need for a legal framework in which to operate. The Swiss delegate emphasised that statistics offices needed to be an independent, credible authority, which cannot be questioned, and which utilise UN and IMF standards and methodologies. UNESCO stressed the need for professional standards and professional bodies, while the independent role of the universities in carrying out statistical analysis was found to be valuable in Uganda.

c)   *Continuous development of appropriate cost-effective methodologies, by a process of constant search and exchange of good practice.*

40.   The meeting heard from the SADC case study of the way in which scarce training and technical co-operation was being utilised at a regional level. It was noted that there was a lot of assistance to individual countries, but little co-ordination, and projects were not sustainable. Technical co-operation resources are now used for training at a regional level. Countries may call on advisers for short-term assistance, but long-term advisers were not thought to be cost-effective. Similarly questionnaires, manuals and standards were being harmonised at a regional level.

3.   **Implications mainly for donors**

a)   *Respond to all countries wishing to develop statistical systems.*

41.   The meeting heard about some huge initiatives, including the complete overhaul of a statistical service, as in the Russian Federation. The role of the PRSP/CDF and CCA to define policy needs and the SDDS and GDDS to develop statistical standards were also explained during the meeting. The World Bank, IMF and ECOSOC representatives mentioned that there was a move to co-ordinate programmes in an initial batch of 30 countries. The UK representative was concerned that large significant countries might be left out.

b)   *Work towards greater understanding of the importance of evidence-based policymaking*.

42.   ECOSOC emphasised that the message needs to be taken to the UN political level. Statistical capacity and indicators have a broad-based political agenda. There is a need to make sense out of the alphabet soup and co-ordinate all our activities. If co-ordination is the key, then there is a need for a globalised approach. With the many agencies involved, a global consortium or partnership approach suggested itself. This co-ordination was needed across the range of sectors and at the level of country representatives.

43.   This suggestion was echoed the Nigerian delegate in the *Next Steps* panel. He urged the meeting to ensure the mobilisation of top people in developing countries. He felt that development partners and people at the regional level were best placed to do this. ECOWAS should have strong responsibility to mobilise ministers, who are members of ECA, to recognise the role of statistics. "I want to stress the point that aid policy must tick along with a statistical component in all projects".

c)   *Work towards incorporating data requirements within the Strategic Statistical Master Plan.*

44.   The tension between short-term needs and long-term capacity building was discussed in one of the lunch groups on the second day. Quick fixes may be necessary in the short-term. But a long-term Strategic Statistical Master Plan, with shared national and international objectives was required, with National Statistical Offices as the custodian. Donor sponsored statistical surveys (notably by multilateral agencies) should be phased out, as such surveys created a vicious cycle of marginalisation of regular series.

d)   *Consider statistical capacity and the need to help build sustainable statistical systems when setting development indicators and monitoring the effectiveness of development programmes*.

45.   The Malawi delegate called for OECD to document best practices for donors. He asked for a consensus to be reached on guidelines to optimise and harmonise statistical capacity building. This suggestion was echoed by UNSD, who suggested that a task force should find out what works, document it and publicise it as a model for good statistical capacity building. The success stories in technical co-operation need to be published, to encourage donors to contribute more and to avoid bad practice. There is a need to consider what factors are correlated with success stories. In the same UNSD presentation we were asked to consider what a good statistic is, and what it would take to fill the data gaps.

e)   ***Improve co-ordination procedures***

46.   Switzerland mentioned the operational aspects of co-ordination, noting that there are no criteria for co-operation between agencies which are appropriate for the complexity of statistical work. Dialogue was missing at a more concrete level. OECD-DAC could give guidance on protocol between co-operation agencies in statistics.   One donor being late can put an end to a co-operative programme. We need an initiative at the operational level between agencies to manage the situation between donors on statistical co-operation. Both the World Bank and IMF representatives spoke of the need for co-operation with other donors. Funding for statistical capacity was unlikely to grow significantly in either organisation, and demands for assistance far exceeded supply. This indicated an opportunity to rethink co-operation between multilateral and bilateral agencies.

47.   UNFPA suggested that there were two kinds of co-ordination: co-ordination at the normative level and co-ordination at the operational level. There was a pressing need for the main actors at the operational level to get together to develop a memorandum of understanding to be applied at the country level. This should involve all the different multilateral agencies concerned with poverty reduction, and should bring in the regional banks and bilateral donors. We were told that Namibia in its Human Development Report made the point that they were tired of donors undermining and competing with one another.

f)   ***Support national and regional training programmes for statistical professionals***.

48.   Lack of human resources was mentioned by a number of partner countries. The Nigerian delegate mentioned that overseas training was usually a passport to leaving Nigeria. Others mentioned the competition for trained staff from the private sector. UNSD suggested documenting all the regional and international training and educational courses available for statistical development.

g)   ***Review in country, with the national statisticians, all data estimates which donors produce before release.***

49.   The meeting heard from the Malawi delegate that donors often used data to produce their own estimates which had not been shared with country policymakers. He described a situation of a donor coming to his office with statistics that he had not seen before, and being told "sorry we forgot to show these to you". There is a need for full consultation with the country statisticians before data is released.

ANNEX 1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

SENIOR EXPERT MEETING ON STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING
Paris World Bank Office

18-19 NOVEMBER 1999

JOINT CHAIRMEN

Mr. Guest Charumbira Government Statistician *Chairman of the UN Statistics*
  Central Statistics Office *Commission*
  Gaborone, Botswana

M. Jean-Claude Faure OECD *Chairman of the Development Assistance*
  Paris, France *Committee*

PARTNER COUNTRY PARTICIPANTS

CHINA **Mr. Wu pibin** State Development & Planning
  Commission

COTE D'IVOIRE **M. Oumar Diarra** Conseil d'Administration

COLOMBIA **Dr. M. Urrutia Montoya** Banco de la Republica

INDIA **Mr. G. R. Patwardhan** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

LAOS **M. Bounthavy Sisouphanthong** Centre national de statistiques, CEP

MALAWI **Mr. Mapopa Chipeta** National Economic Council

MAURITANIA **M. Saadna Ould Baheida** Office Nationale de Statistique

NIGERIA **Dr. O.O. Ajayi** Federal Office of Statistics

PALESTINE **Dr. Hasan Abu-Libdeh** Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

RUSSIAN FEDERATION **Mr. Vladimir Sokolin** Russian Statistical Agency

SOUTH AFRICA **Mr. Elias Masilela** Department of Finance

| UGANDA | Mr. Keith Muhakanizi | Ministry of Finance |

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	Mr. Peter L. Joyce	Statistics Department

INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

| | M. Jean-Louis Bodin | President |

INTER AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

| | Mr. Žiga Voduŝek | Special Office in Europe |

SADC COMMITTEE OF CENTRAL/RESERVE BANK GOVERNORS

| | Mr. Anton Casteleijn | South African Reserve Bank |

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ECA	Dr. George Alibaruho	Office of the Executive Secretary
	Ms. Awa Thiongane	Development Information Services Division
ECE	Mr. Darryl Rhoades	Statistics Division
ECLAC	Mr. Pedro Sáinz	Statistics and Economic Projects Division
ESCWA	Mr. Hazem El-Beblawi	Executive Secretary
FAO	Mr. Hiek Som	Economic and Social Department
ECOSOC	Ambassador Dr. Makarim Wibisono	Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the UN
	Dr. Sarbuland Khan	Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs

	Ms. Prianti Gagarin Djatmiko-Singgih	Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the UN
ILO	Mr. Igor Chernyshev	Bureau of Statistics
UNFPA	Mr. Richard Leete	Technical and Policy Division
UNESCO	Prof. Denise Lievesley	Unesco Institute for Statistics
	Mr. Doug Lynd	Unesco Institute for Statistics
UNSD	Mr. Willem de Vries	Deputy Director
	Mr. Stefan Schweinfest	Head of Indicators Unit
WORLD BANK	Ms. Shaida Badiee	Development Data Group
	Mr. Misha Belkindas	Senior Statistician
	Mr. Timothy Marchant	Human Resources Division - Technical Department
	Mr. Chris Scott	Poverty Reduction and Economic Management (PREMPO)
	Mr. Eric V. Swanson	Development Data Group

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AUSTRALIA	Mr. Brian Doyle	Australian Bureau of Statistics
	Ms. Jennifer Baxter	AusAID
CANADA	Mr. Scott Wade	Permanent Delegation
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