

Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building

*Report of the Eighth Meeting
of the TFSCB Advisory Panel (AP)
(March 14 - 18, 2011)*

*The World Bank
March 28, 2011*

*Chandrakant A. Patel
Jean-Louis Bodin*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Advisory Panel (AP) was created to conduct a yearly technical review of Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) activities and report its findings and recommendations to the Consultative Group (CG) during its Annual Meeting. As decided at the Third Meeting of the Consultative Group (CG) of the TFSCB held in Paris on October 6, 2002 the AP consists of two “external advisors”.

The 8th AP meeting was held on March 14 – 18, 2011. In its report, the AP discusses again the issues concerning the future of the TFSCB it started to discuss during its 7th meeting (section II). Then the AP presents its views on the accessibility of the data to develop further the issues discussed and recommendations made on data dissemination in the report of its 7th meeting (section III). Some important questions regarding TFSCB operations are presented in the section IV of this report. Finally, recommendations are summarized in the section V. The Annex presents and analyzes the projects proposals received by the TFSCB Administration Unit since the 7th AP meeting (May 2010).

As regards the NSDS activities, the thrust and contents of the conclusions and recommendations for the future made in the World Bank publication *The Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building, Investing in Statistical Capacity* published in October 2010 are almost similar to those listed and recommended by the AP in the report of its 7th meeting. For Non-NSDS, SCB projects, the AP continues to maintain that in every round if possible a few sector-specific proposals on special topical statistical areas be considered provided they are to meet operational and policy needs or of innovative nature, and that there should be a balanced approach in the consideration of sector-specific projects.

The AP was somewhat disappointed to note that there was only one new pledge for financing TFSCB during the past twelve months and rather surprised when it was informed that the mood of the donors is to extend TFSCB III through 2015.

The previous AP report discussed the issues on data dissemination and recommended that these issues be highlighted with a firm emphasis on data integrity, transparency and credibility and be tried initially as a special window under the TFSCB. The AP continues to endorse and support that the “*Open Accessibility of Data*” is the most important and urgent need of the users and looked at the entire spectrum of dissemination, including its framework and dimensions.

In addition, the AP recommended to the DECDG to welcome, encourage and fund proposals on agricultural statistics; such proposals should be actively monitored for delivery of results oriented to food security. If over a couple of years this emerging activity shows potential for growth, it can be taken up as a candidate for a special window on agricultural statistics.

The AP also encouraged the presentation of innovative proposals on new and emerging data needs. It reiterates its former recommendations for case studies of model NSDS countries and post-evaluation.

In short, the AP proposes nine recommendations, the main ones are as follows:

- DECDG and PARIS21 are urged to carry out advocacy to promote openness and accessibility of data and encourage the preparation of project proposals for TFSCB funding on “Open Accessibility of Data” the contents of which should be consistent with the GDDS concerns on data integrity, accessibility of data by the public, and accessibility formats. For this purpose, the TFSCB should actively seek additional financing from the donors.
- The importance of agricultural statistics and production of sound indicators on food security have to be stressed. The DECDG should encourage projects on agricultural statistics and carry out advocacy for that purpose. It should examine alternative financing facilities or other Trust Funds within the WB to finance such projects and explore collaboration and co-financing.
- The NSDS design is expected to provide for comprehensiveness, integration, flexibility, harmonization, and effectiveness. Any new proposal on new or updated NSDS or related to its implementation should demonstrate flexibility to handle new and emerging needs. If there is no established standards, methodologies and techniques on topics relating to these emerging needs for application in the low income countries, proposals that are innovative in nature with wider impact should be considered for TFSCB support.
- Post-evaluations of countries’ NSDS work are necessary. DECDG and PARIS21 should collate and publish case-studies for selected model countries.

I – BACKGROUND.

1.1. Organization of the work of the AP

The AP was created to conduct a yearly technical review of TFSCB activities and report its findings and recommendations to the Consultative Group (CG) during its Annual Meeting. As decided at the Third Meeting of the Consultative Group (CG) of the TFSCB held in Paris on October 6, 2002 the Advisory Panel (AP) consists of two “external advisors”¹ who meet the Administrative Unit in charge of the management of the TFSCB once a year at the Headquarters of the World Bank. These meetings are organized some weeks before the meetings of the Consultative Group that are held in Paris, in parallel with the meetings of the Board of PARIS21, in order to present reports based on the most recent facts and findings.

The 8th meeting of the AP was organized from March 14 to 18, 2011.

The reports of the previous meetings are available on the World Bank Website.

¹ See the rationale behind this decision and the terms of the reference of the AP in the reports of the previous AP meetings.

1.2 Acknowledgments

The AP was provided with documents for review and discussions from project proposals submitted to the Internal Management Committee (IMC) of the TFSCB since the 6th meeting of the AP, in particular:

- the decisions taken by the IMC virtual meetings (from May 25, 2010 to January 10, 2011) for the NSDS proposals
- the minutes of the two Non NSDS proposals meetings (Spring 2010 and Fall 2010)
- the Grant Funding Requests for all proposals (with their Grant Financing Plans and Budget Tables)

It also received the World Bank publication *The Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building, Investing in Statistical Capacity*² (October 2010), which surveyed and reviewed the SCB activities carried out over last ten years and provided conclusions and recommendations for the future³.

The AP had comprehensive discussions with some members of the IMC in the World Bank: Grant Cameron (Manager, Development Data Group and Head of the TFSCB IMC), Misha Belkindas (predecessor of Grant Cameron), Grigory Kisunko (Eastern Europe and Central Asia Region), Carolina Diaz-Bonilla (Latin America and Caribbean Region), Manohar Sharma (East Asia and Pacific Region), Ed Bos and Antoine Simonpietri (Africa Region), Barbro Hexeberg, Olivier Dupriez, and Neil Fantom (DDG, DECDG). The AP also met with Mustafa Dinc and Naoko Watanabe of the TFSCB Administration Unit. These discussions were fruitful and served to look forward to the future of TFSCB after more than 10 years of operations supported by the decision-making process which is now well established and allows for rapid and efficient clearance of project proposals.

1.3 Content of the AP Report

In this report, the AP discusses again the issues concerning the future of the TFSCB it started to discuss during its 7th meeting (section II). Then the AP presents its views on the accessibility of the data to develop further the issues discussed and recommendations made on data dissemination in the report of its 7th meeting (section III). Some important questions regarding TFSCB operations are presented in the section III of this report. Finally, recommendations are summarized in the section IV. The Annex presents and analyzes the projects proposals received by the TFSCB Administration Unit since the 7th AP meeting (May 2010).

² hereafter referred to the Ten-Year TFSCB Report

³ see in particular the chapter *TFSCB to 2015 Beyond* on pages 29 and 30.

II. FUTURE OF THE TFSCB

The AP in its report of the 7th meeting (May 3-7, 2010) dealt at length with the *Future of TFSCB* and provided recommendations for TFSCB IV. The AP was somewhat disappointed to note that no serious efforts have been made since then either by the World Bank or PARIS21, with a concerted campaign for a revised mandate, to seek financing from donors for the proposed TFSCB IV⁴. The AP was rather surprised when it was informed that donors agreed to extend TFSCB III through 2015⁵.

As regards the NSDS activities, the thrust and contents of the conclusions and recommendations for the future⁶ presented in the Ten-Year Report are similar to those listed and recommended by the 7th AP report under *Ideal Option*⁷.

For Non-NSDS, SCB projects, the recommendation is to continue to allocate semiannually funds for national as well as regional and global projects as now, but the aim will be to ensure that these are better coordinated with the implementation of the national strategies. However, the AP continues to maintain that in every round if possible a few sector-specific proposals on special topical statistical areas be considered provided they are to meet operational and policy needs or of innovative nature. Moreover, the AP continues to maintain that there should be a balanced approach in the consideration of sector-specific projects. In this context, the AP has observed that in recent years the proposals funding social statistics have tapered.

The AP is satisfied that the TFSCB has now the mechanism, guidelines, and a ceiling on the percent of amount to be allocated to support the participation of statisticians and policy-makers from low income countries in important regional and international meetings⁸.

The Ten-Year TFSCB report recommends that the TFSCB guidelines will be amended to provide for monitoring and evaluation of supported projects especially in terms of outcomes and results. The AP looks forward to the revision of the guidelines to accommodate this initiative.

The Ten-Year TFSCB report broaches two new issues namely (i) demand for statistics within developing countries particularly for new data series and emerging data needs, and (ii) the ways in which data are disseminated and made available to users in its chapter on *TFSCB to 15 and Beyond*⁹. But in its chapter on *Conclusions and Recommendations*¹⁰ none of them have been addressed.

The report of the 7th AP meeting discussed at length the issues on data dissemination and made a recommendation¹¹ in the Executive Summary that the data dissemination issues be

⁴ Only one new pledge (from DFID) has been announced for the past twelve months.

⁵ During its 7th AP meeting, the prevailing assumption was that the TFSCB III expected to end in 2012 and a TFSCB IV would take turn with the TFSCB III..

⁶ see pages 35 and 36 of the Ten-Year Report.

⁷ see page 8 of the 7th AP report.

⁸ see also the Annex to this report.

⁹ see pages 29 and 30.

¹⁰ see pages 35 and 36.

¹¹ See the Executive Summary and the section IV of the report of the 7th meeting.

highlighted with a firm emphasis on data integrity, transparency and credibility and be tried initially as a special window under the TFSCB. The AP continues to endorse and support that the “*Open Accessibility of Data*” is the most important and urgent need of the users and makes recommendations that form the subject of the next section of the report.

The recommendations formulated in the report of the 7th AP meeting were made in the context of TFSCB IV the realisation of which is no longer on the agenda. The AP nevertheless believes that this need must be targeted by the TFSCB III, which is expected to be extended through 2015.

III. OPEN ACCESSIBILITY OF DATA

In several developing and transition countries all the available data are frequently not accessible openly to the users. This lack of accessibility is often due to political pressures or administrative regulations that censor or alter data, or violate the rules on the extent and timing of the release of data. Adequate legislations and NSDS prepared with all stakeholders may be tools to prevent from attacks and pressures. The advocacy role of PARIS21 is fundamental in this pursuit.

But, even in the absence of such pressures, we can observe restrictions in the accessibility of the data because lack of appropriate formats, websites, and portals. In some countries a wealth of data are available but are not accessible to the users because either they do not get tabulated in the usable format or do not get released on time through current and modern tool of dissemination. The TFSCB could analyze the reports of those NSDS countries where the strategies have been implemented to find out what instruments have been used effectively to improve data accessibility. In addition the DQAF and metadata for GDDS (or SDDS) countries could provide information on the status of dissemination for the indicators covered by the GDDS framework.

The AP looked at the entire spectrum of dissemination, including its framework and dimensions. Almost all the initiatives on dissemination give impression that they are to be designed and implemented by the authorities, while open accessibility of data seems to be demand-oriented, geared to meeting the needs of users who are also the stakeholders. The AP therefore came to the conclusion that TFSCB III with its limited resources and time span could focus on “*Openness and Accessibility of Data*” because such a strategy could:

- meet urgent and priority needs of the users
- deliver results to exhibit value for money in a visible form by making the available data accessible
- provide open access addressing wider data needs and a wider range of satisfied users
- be implemented in a relatively short-term

Amount of resources required for funding individual project proposals could fit into the TFSCB Guidelines.

The outcomes of the GDDS Project - Phase II¹², and in particular its 3rd objective (making meta data available in order to improve the transparency of the data) could certainly be useful to prepare the terms of reference of such project proposals.

The contents of the project proposals on “Open Accessibility of Data” could be suggested as following three modules to be consistent with the GDDS: (i) Data Integrity; (ii) Accessibility to Data by the Public; and (iii) Accessibility Formats.

(i) Data Integrity:

The proposed module could target:

- Improvement in terms and conditions under which data are compiled and disseminated
- Improving transparency by identification of internal Government access to data before release
- Improving openness through identification on the authoritative commentary on the occasion of the release
- Provision of information about revisions and advance notice of major changes in methodology.

The SCB activities carried out under this module will target changes in policy and underlying procedures that will enhance data openness, integrity and accessibility and thereby transparency and credibility of data. Most importantly, such initiatives will enhance confidence of the users in the institutions that compile statistics.

The pace and the range of changes taking place in the policy and procedures during implementation can be monitored and the results could be evaluated from the impact on the users.

(ii) Accessibility to the Data by Public:

This module can target:

- Simultaneous accessibility of data to the public irrespective of the media/format they use for retrieval
- Advance release calendars.

Measures initiated for both of these activities could be identified in terms of products and the progress in generating products could equally be monitored. The electronic and physical release calendar will evidently be the valuable product for the money invested. The broader obvious impact would be the improvement in the discipline and efficiency of the compiling agencies and staff morale as the results of their efforts will be made widely accessible with a lot of detailed data.

¹² The GDDS Project Phase II, "Modules for Strengthening Statistics", was initiated in September 2006 as collaboration among 17 Anglophone African countries plus Mozambique. The DFID (UK) has provided the funding and broad oversight, while the IMF and World Bank are executing a technical assistance program to help these 18 client countries build statistical capacity consistent with their national priorities. The project is designed within the framework of the GDDS, with the IMF covering macroeconomic and financial statistics and the World Bank covering socio-demographic statistics.

(iii) Accessibility Formats:

This module will cover SCB on the formats of data accessibility. The instruments or media used for providing accessibility should be open equally and simultaneously to all the users. The software available should provide efficient and usable tabulations of data aggregates and disaggregates without breaching confidentiality that are ready to be used all the time for analysis and informed decision-making.

The formats for accessibility would be identifiable products such as website, publications, press releases, electronic bulletins, micro-data, meta-data including documents on methodology and compilation, etc. Progress in creating or improving them and their coverage could be easily monitored.

The SCB efforts for this module could be technical advice and training on the design, data contents, formats, software and outputs. In this connection, formats should provide for making use of the data that have been collected but that have not been fully processed and tabulated for users. New ways of improving accessibility by reducing lags between data collection and publication be proposed and implemented under SCB. Countries pursuing this module under TFSCB should be encouraged and supported to make use of new tools especially those developed by the World Bank's International Household Survey Network and Accelerated Data Program (ADP). Moreover, measures on releasing micro-data could also be proposed under this module for funding under the TFSCB and possibly be implemented in collaboration with and co financing by the ADP¹³.

Taking all the modules together, they in total could substantially contribute to improvement and accessibility with guaranteed results. Some of the results would be visible, identifiable and accessible to users not only within individual developing countries but also globally. The Paris21, who is monitoring the use of data in low income countries, could be asked to identify the impact of such measures that are implemented by individual countries through TFSCB financing.

Proposed Action:

The TFSCB should seriously consider establishment of *Open and Access Data* as a priority area similar to the creation of NSDS and its implementation. For this purpose, TFSCB should actively seek additional financing from the donors for extended TFSCB. The Paris21 and the World Bank should actively carry out advocacy to promote openness and accessibility of data¹⁴. Under TFSCB III proposals on *Open and Accessible Data* should be invited and encouraged. Financing of proposals could be considered flexibly for approval – just like NSDS proposals. The AP feels that this activity has potential to grow under the banner of TFSCB and may warrant creation of TFSCB IV to focus and promote it.

¹³ See the World Bank's International Household Survey Network document, Dissemination of Microdata Files, Principles, Procedures, and Practices, by Olivier Dupriez and Ernie Boyko.

¹⁴ In fact this is preaching what the World Bank practices. The World Bank has open (data freely available), accessible (data easy to use and reuse), and searchable (data easy to find) database on its website.

IV. SOME OTHER QUESTIONS

4.1. Current and Usable Indicators on Food Security

Currently, TFSCB approves proposals on agricultural statistics under the non-NSDS window for sector-specific projects. Projects on agricultural statistics funded in this manner are hardly a few e.g. TFSCB supported FAO Workshop on Strengthening of Food and Agricultural Statistics in 2001 and FAO Project on Strengthening of Agricultural Statistics for Poverty Reduction and Food Security in Rural Africa in 2003. The TFSCB also funded the participation in an international conference (satellite in Maputo, Mozambique of the 2009 ISI Session) and at the beginning of this year, the funding of a global plan to implement the global strategy to improve agricultural statistics approved during the conference in Maputo.

Most importantly, food shortages and consequent rising food prices have raised world over concern on food security and alarm on potential spread and enhancement of hunger and poverty. Therefore, food security has become a priority area among the concerns of the Bank. To deal with policy and issues on food security nationally and globally quality and extensive agricultural statistics are required. Traditionally the formal responsibility for agricultural statistics lies with FAO But the gravity of food situation may impact the Bank more than FAO as it has direct responsibility for poverty and hunger. Currently there is no direct MDG on agricultural statistics or food in particular.

The DECDG may not wish to consider now establishing a new Trust Fund for Agricultural Statistics but it may wish to get additional funding under TFSCB III to finance proposals on agricultural statistics. The DECDG should examine what are the other financing facilities or Trust Funds within the World Bank to finance agricultural statistics and possibly actively collaborate with them in processing and financing requests on:

- Selected FAO activities on food statistics
- Regional proposals on agricultural statistics
- Sector-specific national projects on agricultural statistics.

The DECDG should therefore welcome and encourage (in writing and in meetings) and also carry out advocacy for that purpose. Proposals on Agricultural Statistics received under the TFSCB umbrella should be approved for funding after due scrutiny and they should be actively monitored for delivery of results oriented to food security. If over a couple of years this emerging activity shows potential for growth, it can be taken up as a candidate for a special window on agricultural statistics within TFSCB IV or for making a case for a separate Trust Fund.

4.2. New and Emerging Data Needs

The Ten-Year Report identified in its chapter on *2015 and Beyond* that the developing countries have new data needs for their developmental purposes as well as those emerging from changing economic and social circumstances not only within the countries but also at the global level e.g. energy and food prices. The AP looked into this issue and reiterated that the NSDS design should provide as envisaged for comprehensiveness, integration, flexibility, harmonization, and effectiveness. Any new proposal on new NSDS (including its updating) or related to its implementation e.g. action plan and its budgeting should therefore demonstrate flexibility to handle new and emerging data needs. If there are no established standards, methodologies and techniques on topics relating to these emerging needs for application in the low income countries, proposals that are innovative in nature with wider impact should be considered for TFSCB support.

4.3. Case Studies of Model NSDS Countries and Post-Evaluation

In its Report of the 7th Meeting, the AP recommended post-evaluation of projects. The Ten-Year Report now provides an overall survey, evaluation, conclusions and recommendations for the future. However, in order to provide feedback to countries, post-evaluation of countries' NSDS work is required. The AP was informed some regional organizations have carried out or initiated studies on the post-evaluation of NSDS design, action plan and implementation. Moreover, a wealth of documentation on individual countries' experience on NSDS is now available. The AP recommends that case studies for selected model countries be prepared on the basis of ex-post evaluation. DECDG or PARIS21 can collate and publish such case studies, at least one for each region, on their websites. These case studies would be a valuable feedback for training and future updating of NSDS and their action plans for implementation.

In addition, the AP reiterates the recommendation it made in the report of its 7th meeting: a study should be conducted to understand why some NSDS have never been finalized or, when finalized, never been adopted or validated by the national authorities and propose measures to avoid such a situation in the future.

V. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS¹⁵

- 1) The TFSCB grants should continue to focus on the preparation and implementation of NSDS, and be reviewed and approved immediately on the first-come first-served basis. For Non-NSDS, the IMC should continue to allocate semiannually funds with the aim to ensure that these are better coordinated with the implementation of national strategies.
- 2) It is important to maintain a good balance between project proposals on social and economic statistics, and increase the number of projects in the domain of environmental statistics¹⁶.

¹⁵ This includes recommendations coming from the update of the survey of the recent project proposals presented in the Annex or from the report of the previous meetings.

¹⁶ Reiteration of the recommendation nr. 6 of the report of the 7th meeting.

- 3) TFSCB Guidelines should be revised and completed to provide for monitoring and evaluation of supported projects especially in terms of outcomes and results.
- 4) DECDG and PARIS21 are urged to carry out advocacy to promote openness and accessibility of data and encourage the preparation of project proposals for TFSCB funding on “Open Accessibility of Data” the contents of which should be consistent with the GDDS concerns on data integrity, accessibility of data by the public, and accessibility formats. These measures targeted at dissemination policy procedures and instruments could deliver visible results reflecting value for TFSCB investment. For that purpose, the TFSCB should actively seek additional financing from the donors.
- 5) The importance of agricultural statistics and production of sound indicators on food security have to be stressed. The DECDG should encourage projects on agricultural statistics and carry out advocacy for that purpose. It should examine alternative financing facilities or other Trust Funds within the WB to finance such projects and explore collaboration and co-financing.
- 6) The NSDS design is expected to provide for comprehensiveness, integration, flexibility, harmonization, and effectiveness. Any new proposal on new or updated NSDS or related to its implementation should demonstrate flexibility to handle new and emerging needs. If there is no established standards, methodologies and techniques on topics relating to these emerging needs for application in the low income countries, proposals that are innovative in nature with wider impact should be considered for TFSCB support.
- 7) Post-evaluations of countries’ NSDS work are necessary. DECDG and PARIS21 should collate and publish case-studies for selected model countries (at least one for each region).
- 8) Specific making decision-making rules for the consideration of proposals presented by the World Bank units or by the secretariat of PARIS21 should be prepared and submitted to the Donors’ Committee¹⁷.
- 9) Proposals submitted by NGOs should be properly monitored and unless such a proposal contributes to statistical capacity building or to its promotion, it should be rejected. On another hand, NGOs’ proposals conducive to promotion of national statistical capacity building and generate demand for statistics should be considered carefully¹⁸.

¹⁷ Reiteration of the recommendation nr. 7 of the report of the 6th AP meeting (2009).

¹⁸ Reiteration of the recommendations of the reports of the AP 6th meeting (nr. 10) and of the 7th meeting (nr. 9).

ANNEX

UPDATE OF THE SURVEY OF THE RECENT PROJECT PROPOSALS RECEIVED BY THE TFSCB ADMINISTRATION UNIT

Since its 7th meeting held in May, 2010, the AP was provided with 29 documents on proposals received for funding by the TFSCB Administration Unit. Seven proposals were submitted through the NSDS Window, but one was a proposal facilitating participation in international conferences; it is shown separately in the table below. Nine proposals were submitted through the Non NSDS Spring 2010 Window, and eight through the Non NSDS Fall 2010 Window. 24 proposals (82.8 %) were approved or conditionally approved. All the proposals submitted through the NSDS Windows were approved. The budget allocated for the 24 approved or conditionally approved proposals was \$ 5.52 million (compared to \$ 11.78 million between April 2008 and April 2010). The trend of expenses is constant.

Windows	Approved or conditionally approved	Rejected. Revision required	Reject ^d	TOTAL	Percent. approved
NSDS Window <i>incl. "Conference Window"</i>	7 <i>1</i>	-	-	7 <i>1</i>	100
Non NSDS Spring 2010 Window	9	1	-	10	90
Non NSDS Fall 2010 Window	8	1	3	12	75

As noted in the reports of their 6th and 7th meetings, the AP observed some recent developments in the geographical and topical distribution of the proposals received by the IMC as well as in the breakdown between NSDS and Non NSDS projects.

Region	Number of proposals	Number of accepted proposals
Africa	9	7
LAC	6	5
MENA	1	1
South Asia	2	2
East Asia & Pacific	3	3
Eastern Europe & Central Asia	4	3
Global ¹⁹	4	3

¹⁹ This includes some proposals aiming at facilitating the participation in international conferences.

During its 7th meeting, the AP supported the 4th recommendation of the evaluation report and proposed to adjust the ceiling of the grants to 500,000 US dollars (corresponding to an inflation rate of 2.25 % per year since 2000). Only two proposals presented a request above the former ceiling of 400,000 US dollars:

- Georgia (preparatory work for the 2013 population census) but the proposal was approved with a reduced amount of 250,000 dollars instead of 500,000;
- Djibouti (capacity building) proposal (seeking 480,000 dollars) was rejected.

The amounts of the grants for all the proposals accepted or conditionally approved were therefore under the former ceiling of 400,000 dollars²⁰.

Since the report of its 6th meeting, the AP classifies the proposals received by the TFSCB Administration Unit into six non-homogeneous²¹ categories:

1. NSDS proposals (5 new proposals - received since the 6th AP meeting – are identified in this category)
2. Country proposals concerning the implementation of NSDS (3 new proposals identified in this category)
3. Country proposals concerning topical activities (6 new proposals identified in this category)
4. Regional proposals made by multilateral institutions (5 new proposals identified in this category)
5. Proposals made by NGOs (no new proposal identified in this category)
6. Proposals aiming at facilitating the participation of statisticians from developing countries in international conferences, seminars or workshops (7 new proposals identified in this category).

The statistics at the end of each section are presented with a reminder of the ones presented in the report of the 7th meeting.

2. 1. NSDS proposals (5 new proposals)

There was a slight acceleration in the number of NSDS proposals received by the IMC (4 during March 2008 through October 2009, 5 during October 2009 through April 2010). The percentage of the budget allocated for these proposals is 14.6 % for the consolidated period covered by both the 6th and 7th meetings, against only 10.7 % for the period covered by the 6th meeting.

During its 6th meeting, the AP welcomed the initiative taken by PARIS21 to distribute a brochure on “NSDS Status in IDA and Lower and Middle Income Countries” in May 2009. This brochure was updated in February 2010 and November 2010. According to this updated brochure, only 20.3 % of the IDA and low and middle income countries have no strategy (the

²⁰ 4 proposals were presented with a budget between 390,000 and 400,000 dollars.

²¹ The three first categories are depending on the content of the proposals; the three last ones are depending on the different institutions (other than bilateral) having made the proposal.

figure was 25.6 % in May 2009 and 21.5 % in February 2010). Efforts should continue to be made by PARIS21 and the WB to encourage the remaining countries to prepare NSDS²².

Window	Proposal	Region	Decision	Budget Allocated in US dollars
NSDS Window ²³	Laos – Updating the SMP	East Asia & Pacific	Approved	80,000
	Philippines – Improving the Formulation of the Statistical Development Program	East Asia & Pacific	Approved	150,000
	Congo - NSDS	Africa	Approved	133,651
	Bangladesh -	South Asia	Approved	139,061
Non NSDS Spring 2010 Window	Namibia – Strategy Update and Capacity Building	Africa	Approved (with revision)	391,500
TOTAL				894,212
<i>17.2 % of the presented proposals</i>				
<i>20.8 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved</i>				
<i>16.2 % of the budget allocated</i>				
<u>Reminder: Consolidated statistics (6th and 7th AP meetings)</u>				
<i>13.5 % of the presented proposals</i>				
<i>17.0 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved</i>				
<i>14.4 % of the budget allocated</i>				

The proportion of NSDS proposals is more important than previously observed. However the percentage of the budget allocated to NSDS is still far from the one recommended by previous AP reports or the 2009 evaluation report. All the proposals (except one) concern fragile countries, which meets one of the recommendation of the Board of PARIS21.

In its previous meetings, the AP noted that countries that have still failed to prepare NSDS are concentrated in some sub-regions, namely: Africa: Central Africa; East Asia and Pacific: Pacific islands; Eastern Europe and Central Asia: Balkans, Central Asia; Latin America and Caribbean: Caribbean islands, South Cone and; Middle East and Northern Africa: Gulf countries. One out of the five proposals listed above (Congo) concerns one of these sub-regions.

²² See the recommendation nr. 1 of the report of the 6th AP meeting.

²³ Two proposals (Georgia – NSDS and Kazakhstan – Update of the SMP) were also submitted in 2010, but were scrutinized in the survey made in the 7th AP report. They are not repeated in this report.

2. 2. Country proposals concerning the implementation of NSDS (4 new proposals)

Proposals suggested here present methods on implementing validated NSDS but also focusing on the enhancement of NSDS through advocacy, evaluation, etc.

Window	Proposal	Region	Decision	Budget Allocated in US dollars
Non NSDS	Cape Verde - SCB	Africa	Approved with revision	287,600
Spring 2010 Window	Egypt – Technical Support to SCB	Middle East and Northern Africa	Approved	260,850
Non NSDS Fall 2010 Window	Bhutan	South Asia	Approved	300,000
	Djibouti	Africa	Rejected (re-submission welcomed)	
TOTAL				848,450
<i>13.8 % of the presented proposals</i>				
<i>12.5 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved</i>				
<i>15.4 % of the budget allocated</i>				
<u>Reminder: Consolidated statistics (6th and 7th AP meetings)</u>				
<i>20.3 % of the presented proposals</i>				
<i>20.8 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved</i>				
<i>26.5 % of the budget allocated</i>				

The number of proposals aimed at implementing NSDS continues to dramatically decrease even though the AP (and also the 2009 evaluation report) has been drawing its attention to the importance of such projects.

2. 3. Country proposals concerning topical activities (11 new proposals)

Proposals presented in this section relate to specific statistical topics complementing the preparation or the implementation of NSDS:

Window	Proposal	Region	Decision	Budget Allocated in US dollars
Non NSDS Spring 2010 Window	Burkina Faso – Household Living Condition Survey 2009 - 2010	Africa	Approved with revision ²⁴	205,700
	Armenia – Preparatory Work for the 2011 Population Census	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Conditionally approved	100,000
	Mexico – Collective Bargaining Statistics in Local Jurisdictions	Latin America and Caribbean	Rejected Revised proposal welcomed	
	Nicaragua – Strengthening Vital Statistics’ System	Latin America and Caribbean	Approved with revision	398,000
	Peru – Improving Vital Statistics	Latin American and Caribbean	Conditionally approved	250,000
	Colombia – Building Foundations for Longitudinal Surveys	Latin American and Caribbean	Conditionally approved	166,500
Non NSDS Fall 2010 Window	Mexico – Labor Statistics at Local Level	Latin American and Caribbean	Conditionally approved	267,600
	Liberia – NA and Price Statistics	Africa	Conditionally approved	400,000
	Belarus - LFS	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Conditionally approved	315,268
	Georgia - Preparatory Work for the 2013 Population Census	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Conditionally approved	250,000
	Papua New Guinea – TA to Data Analysis	East Asia & Pacific	Approved	140,000
TOTAL				2,195,068
<i>37.9 % of the presented proposals</i>				
<i>41.7 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved</i>				
<i>39.8 % of the budget allocated</i>				
<u>Consolidated statistics (6th and 7th AP meetings)</u>				
<i>20.3 % of the presented proposals</i>				
<i>13.2 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved</i>				
<i>15.7 % of the budget allocated</i>				

²⁴ This project was rejected during the Fall Window meeting of the IMC and a revision was proposed.

During its previous meetings, the AP noted that financing “topical proposals” may be an interesting and valuable complement to the NSDS, provided that such proposals have been made in countries having adopted and validated a NSDS, which was the case for all the proposals made under this heading.

The AP also recommended *maintaining a good balance between project proposals on social and economic statistics, and increasing the number of projects in the domain of environmental statistics*. This recommendation deserves to be reiterated.

2. 4. Regional proposals made by inter-governmental institutions (6 new proposals)

Proposals presented in this section refer to regional proposals made by inter-governmental institutions (regional or multilateral):

Window	Proposal	Region	Decision	Budget Allocated in US dollars
NSDS Window	WB - Plan to Implement the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural Statistics	World	Approved	181,500
	SICA (Central America Integration System) - Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics	Latin America and Caribbean	Approved	183,000
Non NSDS Spring 2010 Window	UNECA/ACS – Support to the Implementation of the RSFS	Africa	Approved (with revision).	380,000
Non NSDS Fall 2010 Window	EAC (East African Community) – Regional Statistics Development Plan	Africa	Conditionally Approved ²⁵	375,650
	CIS – Improving International Migration Statistics in Central Asia	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Rejected	
	SESRIC (Economic Research Center of the Conference of Islamic Countries) – Training activities and Statistical Conferences	World ²⁶	Rejected	
TOTAL				1,120,150
<i>20.7 % of the presented proposals</i>				
<i>16.7 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved</i>				
<i>20.3 % of the budget allocated</i>				
<u>Consolidated statistics (6th and 7th AP meetings)</u>				
<i>25.0 % of the presented proposals</i>				
<i>27.4 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved</i>				
<i>34.5 % of the budget allocated</i>				

²⁵ This proposal was conditionally approved. The TTL was requested to revise the proposals so as to remove some components. So the final budget is still to be determined. The amount indicated here is provisional (amount indicated in the request).

²⁶ In fact, the regions covered are those where there are countries belonging to the Islamic Conference (MENA, EECA, SA, EAP)

Two project proposals were accepted through the NSDS Window. The first one (global strategy to improve agricultural statistics) was accepted through this Window (which means only a virtual meeting) even if the links with the FAO activities and the the recommendations of the UN Statistical Commission are not well demonstrated. The AP recognizes that the second project proposal presented under the NSDS Window meets one recommendation of this 6th meeting, that regional strategies should be proposed in addition to NSDS, in particular in the regions or sub-regions where many countries are small or islands.

The other approved project proposals are aiming at proposing or strengthening regional or sub-regional strategies and were welcomed by the AP.

2. 5. Proposals made by NGOs (1 new proposal)

Window	Proposal	Region	Decision	Budget Allocated in US dollars
Non NSDS Fall 2010 Window	FARA (Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa) – Strengthening Capacity on Post Harvest Loss Statistics for Cereals in Sub-Saharan Africa	Africa	Rejected	
TOTAL				0
<i>3.4 % of the presented proposals</i>				
<i>0 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved</i>				
<i>0 % of the budget allocated</i>				
<u>Consolidated statistics (6th and 7th AP meetings)</u>				
<i>5.4 % of the presented proposals</i>				
<i>0 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved</i>				
<i>0 % of the budget allocated</i>				

The AP recalls its previous recommendations that proposals submitted by NGOs should aim at promoting national statistical capacity building and creating the demand for statistics should be considered carefully. It was not the case of the rejected proposal that was presented by a British reserch center with no contribution to statistical capacity building. Nevertheless the topic of this proposal is critical to the developing countries, in particular in Sub-saharan Africa, and deserves some consideration.

2. 6. Facilitating participation in international conferences (2 new proposals)

Requests submitted by organizers of international conferences or seminars to facilitate developing countries' participation in these events are discussed in this section:

Window	Proposal	Region	Decision	Budget Allocated in US dollars
NSDS Window (conferences)	ISI – Support for Developing Countries Participation in Conferences	Global	Approved	370,000
Non NSDS Fall 2010 Window	GUS (Poland) – ISI Satellite Conference on Improving Statistical Systems Worldwide	Global	Approved	88,000
TOTAL				458,000
<i>6.8 % of the presented proposals</i>				
<i>8.3 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved</i>				
<i>8.3 % of the budget allocated</i>				
<u>Consolidated statistics (6th and 7th AP meetings)</u>				
<i>15.5 % of the presented proposals</i>				
<i>21.7 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved</i>				
<i>9.0 % of the budget allocated</i>				

The budget allocated is now within the limits recommended in the report of the 7th meeting (10 %).

During its previous sessions, the AP recognized that funding participation of statisticians from developing countries to international conferences or seminars through the TFSCB can contribute to international co-operation by encouraging the participation of developing countries in the dialogue on the development of policy, framework, standards and methodologies on statistics. There is merit in funding such participation provided there is an effective contribution by the sponsored participants in the development of standards, methodologies and innovations in statistics and they become vehicles for knowledge transfer to the developing countries.

The AP therefore welcomed the decisions taken by the IMC during its 2010 Fall meeting on the principles, the budget allocation, the event selection process and the administrative process (see table below). The TFSCB Guidelines and Procedures will be revised to reflect the above changes.

The project proposal presented by the ISI is nearly consistent with these decisions. The AP welcomes the proposition containing a global plan covering the two calendar years 2011 – 2012 but it would have been possible to discuss and accept the earlier specified proposal through the Non-NSDS Fall Window according to the selection process decided by the IMC.

Principles

- Requests for support from countries will no longer be considered. Only the requests from conference organizations will be accepted.
- IDA countries and speakers/presenters will have priority.
- More participants per event and fewer events per year will be supported.
- Participants will submit a back-to-office report using a new format developed by the Administration Unit.

Allocation

- In line with the recommendation of the Advisory Panel, up to 10% of the total allocation of TFSCB, which amounts to about USD 1.1 million, will be allocated for future support to conference participation for the period 2011-12. This amount will be adjusted with additional donor contributions.
- USD 1.1 million will be allocated to:
 - o recurrent events (2 sessions of the United Nations Statistical Commission): USD 200,000
 - o foreseen events: USD 700,000
 - o unforeseen events: USD 200,000

Selection process

Events are selected through semi-annual calls for proposals (key partners will be informed) and from requests which come in outside the windows that are deemed priority by the IMC.

Administrative process

- Recurrent events will be funded through the existing Workshops & Seminars project
- Other events will be handled internally with support from country offices or by recipients through grant agreements. Outsourcing is possible if there is a firm recommended by the General Service Department in the country where the conference is organized.