



### **PARIS21 CONSORTIUM MEETING**

A Concept Note was discussed by the PARIS21 Steering Committee at its meeting in November 2007. As reported in the record of the meeting:

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

After further consideration by the PARIS21 Secretariat following informal soundings in the margins of the PARIS21 Steering Committee and subsequent meetings, the attached Concept Note has been revised to respond to the points made. This has affected particularly the objectives and outputs, which are now more fully developed (paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Concept Note), and a more specific proposal is given for the background paper (paragraph 10-15 and Annex 1 of the Concept Note). Timing is proposed for mid-to-late 2009, possibly in November 2009, ten years after the launch of PARIS21.

**It is recommended that the Bureau and Steering Committee approve a PARIS21 Consortium meeting in mid-to-late 2009, based upon the attached revised Concept Note; and that either Tunisia or Senegal be invited to host the meeting and play a full part in preparations.**

#### **Planning and preparation**

Following approval by the Bureau and Steering Committee, a small group would be convened from within the partnership, including the host country and other Bureau members who were able to offer the time, to plan and prepare for the meeting. This group would agree upon the precise timing, venue, format, agenda, logistics, etc. while keeping the rest of the Bureau and Steering Committee regularly informed on progress. Preparatory meetings would be held by the group, for the most part virtually. It is envisaged that specific international and regional meetings and other events would be targeted to trail the meeting, including the UN Statistical Commission, Africa’s STATCOM meetings, the Accra Forum on Aid Effectiveness to be held in Ghana in September 2008, etc.



## PARIS21 Consortium Meeting – Concept Note

### Background

1. Experience from recent major international meetings such as the Third International Roundtable on Managing for Development Results in Hanoi and the OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge, and Policy in Istanbul has shown that clear progress has been made to bring statistical issues onto the development agenda. However, in country-level discussions related to development and poverty reduction, issues related to national statistical development are very often seen as a specific and separate field and do not therefore receive due attention.
2. Different actors are involved in statistical development such as statisticians, policy-makers, researchers, civil society at country level; staff from bilateral, regional and international donor agencies; statisticians and policy staff from international and specialised agencies, etc. — in other words, the PARIS21 partnership as a whole. These partners have to work more closely together. This has become particularly necessary in light of the initiative promoting a scaling up of support to national statistical systems and the approaching 2010 deadline to improve country statistics for monitoring development progress, for instance for the review of the Millennium Declaration.
3. To respond to this need, a PARIS21 Consortium meeting is proposed in November 2009, ten years after the launch of PARIS21. The most recent Consortium meeting was held in October 2002 in Paris, when the importance of statistics in policy-making and the role of PARIS21 in statistical capacity building were discussed and endorsed.

### Objectives and outputs

4. The **objectives** of the PARIS21 consortium meeting are for representatives of all actors and partners involved in the development of statistics to:
  - Consider the status of statistics in development and development cooperation
  - Agree on responsibilities, roles and constraints of the various PARIS21 partners
  - Agree on next steps and who will do what, including the future role of the PARIS21 consortium, to bridge the gap between availability and need
5. The specific **outputs** would be:
  - A statement on statistical development and the use of statistics in development, focusing on: progress since 1999; who is doing what and where; strengths and weaknesses both of capacity that has or has not been built, and capacity building approaches; and agreement on key challenges
  - Recommendations on what needs to be done to build and sustain statistical capacity - by whom and when, taking into account the resolutions of other initiatives, such as the Managing for Development Results agenda, the Paris Declaration, review of Millennium Declaration, etc.
  - A costed Action Plan
  - A renewed and/or revised mandate for PARIS21



## Format

6. The meeting would last for two and an half days with parallel sessions feeding into plenaries to ensure that the messages from different actors are presented to all participants. It would be accompanied by a market fair where countries and international institutions and initiatives could present their products through posters and booths.

## Participation

7. Up to 200 participants would be invited, balanced between those on the supply and demand sides for good statistics. Invitees would include senior policy makers (40) and senior statisticians (40) from developing countries as well as senior representatives from bilateral and multilateral donor agencies (40) and national, regional, and international statistical agencies (40) as well as senior representatives of academia, research institutes and foundations (40).

## Timing and Location

8. The PARIS21 Consortium meeting is proposed for mid-to-late 2009, ten years after the launch of PARIS21. The exact date will depend on the calendar of other large conferences. The meeting would be held in either Tunisia or Senegal.

## Content of Consortium

9. The meeting would focus on answering some key questions about:

- What is the status of statistical capacity building in developing countries ten years after the launch of PARIS21?
- What has been achieved and what lessons have been learnt?
- What does the Partnership still need to achieve?
- How do we move forward from here?
- What are the roles and responsibilities of PARIS21 partners?
- What is the way forward?

10. A **background paper** would be commissioned to facilitate discussion, together with presentations by key speakers. The paper should not be too academic or didactic. It should aim to show what has and has not worked in statistical development and development cooperation. It should include statements such as: *“Ten years ago the PARIS21 partnership was launched to respond to the needs of development policy-makers and statisticians. What has been achieved, what have we learnt and where do we go from here?”* Quotes from those who participated in the November 1999 meeting would be sought to demonstrate the need felt in 1999 and where we are now (e.g. from Emmanuel Tumusiime, Permanent Secretary in Uganda’s Ministry of Economic Planning and Development in 1999, now Governor of the Bank of Uganda).

11. What has been achieved could trace the development of NSDSs, MAPS, scaling-up, etc. The background paper should say what PARIS21 has contributed and set out other major contributory factors such as the MDGs, Paris Declaration, results agenda, etc. This should take account of differing impacts in different regions. For instance countries in some regions (in Pacific, Caribbean,



and Asia) have not benefited directly as much as others (in Francophone Africa, Central America) but all regions have benefited indirectly.

12. The paper would be an opportunity to show who is doing what and where, and to highlight successes and lessons learnt in statistical capacity building and donor support. This should be based on case studies from several countries, spanning the regions, e.g. Vietnam, Mozambique, Tunisia, Niger, Uganda, Tanzania, Ghana. The contribution of various reform processes in the countries would be reviewed (e.g. the impact of semi-autonomous NSOs); as would different donor-supported approaches in the countries (e.g. AFRISTAT, twinning, etc.).

13. Key issues for the future would be set out in the background paper, together with ideas on how to move forward, which would be discussed by the Consortium meeting, in order to achieve the major output of the meeting: agreement on next steps and roles and responsibilities.

14. The paper would be organised around the following broad headings (see Annex 1 for more details):

- (1) Reference material on statistical development, outputs, constraints and usage
- (2) A review of what has been achieved over the past ten years, including the effects of global initiatives, such as PRSP and MDG, on the availability and improvements of statistics; and a review of who is doing what in statistical development, including different approaches to supporting statistical capacity building
- (3) A review of successes and lessons learnt, based on country case studies and identifying the strengths and weaknesses to contribute to a better understanding of what needs to be improved
- (4) Key issues to be addressed in the coming years, such as: (a) what will have a major influence over statistical development and availability of statistics, e.g. globalisation, new technologies, competition between official and non-governmental statistics; (b) how to strengthen support to statistical development, e.g. financially, technologically, sharing good practices; and (c) what are the priorities (actual or new) for statistical development, including concepts/methods, priority areas, user relations, etc.
- (5) Conclusions about what is working and why; what hasn't worked and why; and implications for the future
- (6) Next steps

15. The background paper would rely heavily on existing source materials from countries and development partners. To enrich the analysis and particularly the recommendations on future issues, interviews will be arranged with key players in the statistical and development fields. The paper would be a product of strong collaboration among PARIS21 partners who will be asked to prepare and present case study materials. A specific web site or part of the PARIS21 web site would be devoted to collecting and organising the documents and knowledge gathered for the report.

## **Agenda**

16. An outline agenda is attached in Annex 2.



## **Consultation processes**

17. The consultation processes would make full use of the PARIS21 partnership. Preparatory discussions and meetings would be organised in the framework of existing international and regional meetings - such as the UN Statistical Commission and Africa's STATCOM – and electronically to ensure that every aspect of statistical development (supply and demand sides of statistics) was taken into account, including the constraints and strengths of all actors. Outputs of the preparatory work would be included in the Background Paper. The meeting will include plenary and breakout sessions; priority will be given to an interactive and participatory approach with participants involved in the facilitation and moderating sessions. The final meeting statement will reflect the opinions and recommendations of participants.

## **Institutional arrangements**

18. A group of PARIS21 partners, including the host country, (Consortium Preparatory Group) would be formed to prepare the agenda and plan the overall logistics of the meeting. It would liaise with existing groups preparing other meetings, such as the Third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness to be held in Ghana in September 2008. The group would have access to public relations expertise to assist with preparations and presentation at the meeting.

## **Cost**

19. The cost would depend mainly on how many developing-country funded participants were invited. With 80 funded participants from developing countries (40 statisticians, 40 policy makers), the cost would be around 280,000€. Other invited participants will be expected to meet their own costs. Costs of the background paper, which will have many other uses, are not included in this figure.

## **Calendar**

20. The calendar of preparatory activities is the following:
- June 6, 2008: decision by the Steering Committee:
  - End of June : Establishment of the interim Consortium Preparatory Group (CPG): selection of the host country
  - September: Meeting of the full CPG: Final date, draft agenda, outline of the background paper, first logistics decision, calendar of preparatory activities



## **Annex 1. Outline for background paper**

### **(1) Setting the scene/ summary**

- Snap shot of availability of statistics; progress since 1999
- What is statistical capacity? (E.g. human resources, statistical infrastructure, sustainability, etc). What do we mean by statistical capacity building? How can we measure it?
- Who are the actors and inter-relationships: policy-makers and other users, producers, financial and technical donors, etc
- Introduction/summary to types of TA and financial assistance
- Introduction/summary to what seems to have worked and why; and what hasn't and why

### **(2) What has been achieved since 1999?**

- NSDSs, MAPS, scaling-up, etc
- MDGs, Paris Declaration, results agenda, etc.
- Differing impacts in different regions
- Who is doing what and where (donors)

### **(3) Where we are now: current status, successes and lessons learnt**

- Highlight successes and lessons learnt in statistical capacity building and donor support.
- Summaries of country case studies from several countries, spanning the regions, including (e.g.):
  - Reform processes (e.g. reviewing the impact of semi-autonomous NSOs)
  - Donor approaches in the countries (e.g. AFRISTAT, twinning, etc.)
  - Experiences of recipients of TA for statistical capacity building
  - Comparisons, lessons from other sectors?
- Review of strengths and weaknesses

### **(4) Key issues for the future**

- What will have a major influence over statistical development and availability of statistics (globalisation, new technologies, competition between official and non-governmental statistics, etc?)
- How best to strengthen support to statistical development (financially, technologically, sharing good practices, etc.)
- What are the priorities (actual or new) for statistical development (concepts/methods, priority areas, user relations, etc.)

### **(5) Conclusions (what is working and why; and what hasn't and why) and implications:**

- Reinforcement of the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness (as applied to statistics), e.g. importance of:
  - Strategic approach with country ownership, leadership and commitment
  - Coordination and collaboration
  - Continuity, long-term engagement, assured funding from donors
  - Donor programmes integrated into country policy processes and aligned with country procedures
  - Quality and reliability of technical assistance



**(6) Proposed next steps (e.g.):**

- Build on the best of what exists and is in progress, e.g.:
- Scaling-up, system-wide approach, based on early experiences
- An AFRISTAT for other regions?
- An earmarked fund for Statistical Capacity Building within IDA?
- Other



## Annex 2. Draft Agenda

### First Day

#### Registration

1. Welcome address by the host country representative (at ministerial level)
2. Objectives of the Consortium meeting, by one of the Co chairs of PARIS21
3. Key note speeches (15 min x2)  
Two well recognised persons will introduce the theme of statistics in development, and the role of PARIS21 (*such as for instance Richard Manning, Trevor Manuel*).
4. Setting the scene: overall situation, what has been achieved, where we are now, success and lessons learnt. (45 min to 1hr). The document of reference is the Background Paper. The presenter(s) will be selected for his/her talents of communication and will use advanced technology presentations.

#### Panel of discussants (8 to 10 minutes each):

- from developing country statistical system (CSO manager or chairman of statistics national council)
- from developing country policy maker (minister of finance or sector ministry)
- from donor representative (bilateral or multilateral)
- from international statistical community (UNSD or CCSA representative)
- from analysis and research centres
- outsider (not from the partnership)

#### Discussions

5. Key issues for the future  
The key issues will be selected by the Consortium Preparatory Group among those discussed in the Background Paper. Among them:
  - What will have a major influence over statistical development and availability of statistics (globalisation, new technologies, competition between official and non-governmental statistics, globalisation, etc.)
  - How best to strengthen support to statistical development (financially, technologically, sharing good practices, etc.)
  - NSDS approach
  - What are the priorities (actual or new) for statistical development (concepts/methods, priority areas, user relations, etc.)
  - What are the new uses of statistics for good governance and accountability, globalisation, etc.

The presenter will be selected according to the topic chosen.

#### Discussions



6. Presentation of the market fair

The market fair will allow countries to present the situation in their countries highlighting the successes in data production and data use in poster form or other form of presentation. Advocacy material could be presented and disseminated. The technical and financial partners will also be asked to present in poster form their role in statistical development and their use of statistics as well as the last developments in statistical methodologies. Awards will be presented to the best posters.

Cocktail

**Second Day**

The second day will be broken down into two parts:

7. Discussion on selected topics by groups in the morning, and
8. Plenary discussions on the reports of the groups, and recommendations in the afternoon. As we expect around 200 people, 6 to 10 groups will be created. For each group a chair and rapporteur will be nominated. It is expected that the group will report in the afternoon on the topic discussed with a potential recommendation for the final statement. The list of topics to be discussed will be finalised by the Consortium Preparatory Group. They could be selected among the following:

*Use of statistics/demand for statistics*

- The use of statistics in PRSP, sector policy, and MDG objectives
- Statistics and good governance
- The Accelerated Data Program

*Statistics development*

- NSDS approach: what works , what does not work
- Funding statistical development
- Sector statistics and integrated approach
- Statistical development time scale
- Capacity building and training

*Supporting statistical development*

- Paris Declaration and support to statistics development
- Role of international programs, IHSN
- Experiences of recipients of TA for statistical capacity building
- Role of PARIS21 partnership

**Third Day (morning)**

9. The third day will start at 10:00 to allow the team to finalise the statement of the Consortium meeting.  
The Statement will include:



- A common understanding of the statistical development issues and the way to address them.
- The definition of the role and responsibility of every group of actors in statistical development: statisticians (national and international), policy makers (developing countries and donors); researchers; press, etc.
- The evolution of the role of PARIS21

The results of the awards for the Fair will be presented.

**Third Day (afternoon): Meeting of the Steering Committee**