



Final Record of the Proceedings

Chair: Shaida Badiie, World Bank

I. Opening Statement

1. The chair outlined that the day's meeting would cover progress in the Statistics for Results Facility; PARIS21, and the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building. With these mechanisms, the international community has a platform for scaling-up the funding of statistical capacity building; however, the number of donors supporting statistical development is disappointingly low.

II. Adoption of Agenda

2. The representative from South Africa requested that the global financial crisis be discussed at the end of the day's agenda. This proposal was agreed. The agenda was adopted without further modifications.

III. Statistics for Results Facility (SRF)

3. The World Bank representative recalled the six action areas in the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics and expectations from the Hanoi Roundtable on Managing for Development Results. Progress has been made and demonstrated in PARIS21's progress reports, but more investment is needed to ensure that National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs) are implemented. The SRF aims to facilitate the scaling up of investment through a system-wide approach, building on the types of national partnerships observed in, for instance, Mali and Tanzania, which will have a key role in raising resources at the national level. The SRF framework sets out key principles both for countries and donors based on the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. The SRF approach is complemented by a central fund to meet demonstrated financing gaps. In the pilot phase, five to six countries will be invited to apply to the SRF. So far, the UK and Netherlands have pledged around US\$140 million spread over a number of years. Other donors were encouraged to contribute, by leading or supporting national partnerships and/or by supporting the central fund and its administration unit. The World Bank representative advised that the SRF Trust Fund has now been established and said that this is one way for donors to deliver an increased, longer-term, and more predictable commitment to invest in implementing NSDSs. He noted that more predictability would help OECD statistical services to plan the provision of technical assistance.

Discussion

4. The representative of France cautioned that technical assistance is a bottleneck that has not so far responded to advocacy from OECD and PARIS21, and technical assistance needs to be well co-ordinated. The PARIS21 Secretariat Manager observed that statistical development faces greater funding constraints than development generally. As demonstrated by PRESS, most donors cannot predict their forward plans. He proposed a topic for the next PARIS21 seminar on funding of statistical capacity building from the donors' point of view. In support of SRF, besides continuing to work with countries on their NSDSs, the PARIS21 Secretariat plans to re-energise its work on costing of statistical activities; produce a concept paper on country partnerships, which will be available on the PARIS21 website; use OECD channels such as the High Level Meeting to discuss SRF with bilateral donors; and help countries wishing to apply to SRF as well as helping them to report on donor support for statistics in their countries. He noted that five replies were received to the letter about SRF which was sent to heads of development agencies on 27 May 2008 by the co-chairs of PARIS21, but so far no additional support has been offered.



5. The representative of Netherlands noted the greatly increased cost of implementing NSDSs compared with the design phases. Netherlands is supporting SRF because of the importance of evidence-based policy-making and results to aid effectiveness, for which the information currently available is still scattered and generally linked to projects. Country-based partnerships will drive statistical capacity building but a central initiative and central funding are also needed to help to initiate and support those partnerships. The UK representative noted the importance of statistical capacity building and UK, already the biggest bilateral funder of statistics in sub-Saharan Africa, plans to increase its funding. UK sees SRF as important because it is built on best practice of joint working which has produced better statistics in, for instance, Kenya and Tanzania. In addition to central support and funding of SRF, UK will apply the principles country-by-country and will also provide funding, working with other donors, at the country level. However, SRF will need to demonstrate success, by showing that it is making a difference in terms of improved statistics that are being used. The UK representative noted that this is part of the more general challenge to demonstrate success of investment in statistics in order to secure more funding.

6. The representative of Ghana was invited to inform the group about developments in her country. She said that the Ghana Statistical Development Plan (GSDP) took two years to develop, during which period the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) implemented an interim action plan for economic statistics and dissemination. First Government support was secured for the GSDP, and then that of development partners based on a rudimentary draft plan. A side meeting involving key policy makers and development partners was held to discuss the GSDP in the margins of the Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in September 2008. The representative of Ghana highlighted institutional reform as a key area for sustainability, including conditions of service and staff retention. GSS has offered to participate in Ghana's public service reform programme but its focus has been on institutions with the potential to be self-financing. But there is general agreement on reform of GSS and support for the GSDP. To implement the GSDP, the World Bank will act as the focal point for donor support. The World Bank country office will host a Trust Fund which it will manage jointly with the GSS. DFID will provide a technical adviser to help with management of the funds and implementation. Germany will provide technical advisers on database management and economic statistics. The representative of Ghana noted the importance of short-term training but said that GSS needs hands-on coaching and mentoring to secure sustainability. The GSDP will be launched on 21 November. An implementation plan will be developed by January 2009, when the technical assistance and funding will be in place.

7. The representative of Norway said that his country is considering very positively support to SRF both by providing funds to the Facility and support to the administrative unit. Based on their experiences of working in developing countries, Norway has noted a lack of liaison between producers and users of statistics, which they expect SRF to address and prioritise in addition to donor co-ordination which they have observed is a challenge in the statistics field. In response to a question from Norway about co-operation with multi-donor Trust Funds in Afghanistan and Sudan to promote statistical capacity building, the World Bank representative confirmed that the World Bank uses all financing instruments available to a country. The Trust Fund for Sudan, which is managed by the World Bank, was used to support Sudan's population census; while Afghanistan has used the TFSCB, linked to support from other donors, to develop its strategic plans and the Trust Fund for Afghanistan will be asked to contribute to implementation.

8. The Canadian representative proposed that, now that there are more NSDSs in place, there is a need to revise the MAPS estimate for how much new money is required each year to support statistical capacity building; and she requested better reporting from PRESS about funding being provided for NSDSs. Commitments made at the Accra HLF to country-level partnerships and funding mean that less money is available for global initiatives. The Canadian representative said that her challenge is to persuade colleagues and she looks forward to the development of tools for better understanding, for instance of the dialogue with sectoral ministries and of the position of NSOs in public sector reform. She welcomed the World Bank's e-learning modules.



9. The representative of the African Development Bank (AfDB) advised that AfDB and its partners plan to set aside around US\$42 million over two years for the implementation of NSDSs in all African countries. Governance and programme management will follow the model used successfully for the International Comparison Program (ICP). If the money is shown to be well spent it can be followed by another two-year programme. Achievements in NSDS implementation need to be demonstrated. In addition, other parts of AfDB support specific country and sub-regional programmes for statistical capacity building. The AfDB Board has requested a paper within one year on what development effectiveness really means in terms of how progress and achievements can be shown using statistics. If this can be demonstrated additional resources could be forthcoming from AfDB and the other multilateral development banks.

10. The Eurostat representative highlighted the need for donors to communicate well about who is doing what, where and how much in order to avoid duplication, especially where it appeared that a large amount of money had to be spent within a relatively short period and in one geographical area in order to secure further funds in the future. AfDB and the World Bank sought to reassure her on this point. Pledges so far are nowhere near sufficient to meet the US \$120 million of new money needed each year, either globally or in Africa. The arrangements for implementation of international programmes such as TFSCB, MAPS, and ICP are tried and tested and the governing bodies have overlapping membership.

11. In summarising the discussion, the chair noted the importance of demonstrating success and results from SRF, for which the Logframe, the World Bank's Bulletin Board, and PARIS21 progress reports will all be helpful. She noted the importance of raising the profile of leadership and statistical products, which both should be part of the success criteria. SRF will bring together ideas and build on the various models that have been tried and experiences of, for instance Ghana and Mali, twinning arrangements, ICP, and the TFSCB.

IV. PARIS21 Funding and Donor Issues

12. The Secretariat Manager outlined the PARIS21 Secretariat financial situation. The following donors have committed funds to PARIS21 for the future work programme:

- *Belgium* will contribute 200k euros in the 2009–10 biennium.
- *Canada* has agreed to transfer the remaining Metagora money to the PARIS21 Secretariat.
- The *European Commission* will contribute 150k euros.
- *Finland* has contributed 100k euros.
- *Greece* has given 200k euros and will continue in the next biennium.
- *Ireland* will continue to support at similar levels as in the past.
- The Secretariat is exploring possibilities with *Japan*.
- *Spain* will contribute 1M euros over the next four years.
- *Switzerland* will continue its regular support.
- The *United Kingdom* will contribute at a very high level until at least 2012.
- The *World Bank* will continue to fund the NSDS, IHSN, and ADP programmes.

13. Estimated disbursement comes to 3.95 M euros in 2009 and 3.4 M euros in 2010. The Secretariat Manager pointed out that these figures do not however reflect evaluation disbursement in 2009. With the balance from 2008 and the income outlined above, the 2009 budget will have a surplus of 890k euros and the 2010 budget a shortfall of 1.4 M euros.

V. TFSCB Funding and Donor Issues

14. The World Bank representative outlined progress of the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB). The TFSCB's purpose is to strengthen national capacities. It has invested over US\$25M in over 138



countries and attracted US\$30M from other sources. TFSCB management was asked to allocate 50–60 percent to support the preparation of NSDSs. The application procedure has been simplified and the fee structure modified. TFSCB II and III have approved 37 NSDS projects, 38 statistical capacity building projects, and 8 projects supporting the participation of statisticians in major international meetings. TFSCB III has received contributions from Canada, Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. The donor base is shrinking, but their individual contributions are increasing. He commented that the TFSCB remains successful with a high level of demand. With increased resources, the level of commitment and disbursement will in turn increase. Since PARIS21's emphasis is shifting from NSDS design to implementation, the TFSCB needs to consider how to realign itself to support this process better. The TFSCB must also contemplate how to co-ordinate with the SRF. An independent evaluation is planned for early 2009 to be co-ordinated with the PARIS21 evaluation. He recommended that TFSCB only report to the Steering Committee once per year and asked participants at which meeting they would prefer the reports be presented.

Discussion

15. Discussion focused primarily on fine-tuning the TFSCB to respond to current realities. The representative from South Africa called on the TFSCB to consider the mechanisms for supporting fragile states. The World Bank representative responded that the TFSCB is well placed to support countries in such situations and that the newly formed PARIS21 reflection group on the topic can provide guidance on how to support them more efficiently. The Dutch representative recommended further reflection on how to navigate the transition from NSDS design to implementation, including co-ordinating with the SRF. The Canadian representative asked whether the TFSCB still needs the same level of funding now that most countries are well ahead in the design of their NSDSs. The World Bank representative advised that there have been insufficient funds available in the TFSCB for other statistical capacity building projects and TFSCB can support aspects of implementation pending availability of more substantial funding. The PARIS21 Secretariat Manager noted that NSDS is a process, with design followed by quality review, revision and further development; and TFSCB can provide immediate funding for these purposes. The design of subsequent NSDSs should be included in the implementation plan of initial NSDSs. The UK representative called on the PARIS21 Secretariat to facilitate the two evaluations early next year and commented that the community of donors must better co-ordinate the funding of statisticians at major meetings. Participants supported the presentation of TFSCB reports at the Autumn meetings of the Steering Committee.

16. At the end of the discussion, the World Bank representative spoke about the upcoming new ICP round and the need of the World Bank to establish a Global ICP trust fund. He alerted donors that the Bank will soon approach them requesting to support the next ICP round.

VI. Global Economic Crisis

17. The representative from South Africa commented that almost every financial crisis over the past few years has been the result of data deficiency. The 1990s financial crises in Mexico and Asia led to the creation of the SDDS and GDDS, which have been very helpful mechanisms for countries. The director of the UNSD has circulated a note regarding a possible UNSC resolution on the global economic crisis. This issue will be raised immediately before the 2009 UNSC in a special meeting. The representative from South Africa called on participants to actively participate in this debate. This crisis is being discussed without the input of statisticians, yet measurement falls squarely on the shoulders of statisticians. The international statistical community needs to consider the role of statisticians in helping manage the global crisis.

VII. Closing Remarks

18. The chair closed by giving an overview of the day's discussions. The SRF was welcomed as an important initiative. Its priorities for the future include: providing a balance in terms of co-ordination,



highlighting success and results including some of the important products that will emerge, showing the link between inputs and outputs, focusing on support to fragile states, and providing technical assistance which must be planned well in advance. She thanked the work of DFID to develop an SRF logical framework.

19. Regarding PARIS21, participants were reassured that there is enough funding for 2009, but there will be a gap of 1.4M euros for 2010. The Secretariat asked for some flexibility in funding periods.

20. On the TFSCB, an independent evaluation will go forward in co-ordination with the PARIS21 evaluation. Participants prefer an Autumn meeting for reporting on donor issues. The Netherlands had made a good suggestion that we reflect on the transition from design to implementation. The BBS can be instrumental in developing a transition planning mechanism. We need guidelines on participation of statisticians. France suggested that the African Capacity Building Foundation be invited to the next donors meeting to present their funding gap. PARIS21 could be a good go-between.