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[A] - FOR APPROVAL
The PARIS21 Board meets once a year to discuss issues relating to the development and use of statistics generally and to review work programmes.

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<thead>
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<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14:00-14:10</td>
<td>I. Welcome Statement and Adoption of the Board Agenda</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:10 – 14:30</td>
<td>II. Documents for approval and discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:30 – 14:40</td>
<td>III. PARIS21 in 2019: selected highlights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:40 – 15:25</td>
<td>IV. How is COVID-19 affecting the PARIS21 community?</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:25 – 15:30</td>
<td>V. Conclusion and end of Board Meeting</td>
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08 APRIL 2020

UNLOCKING THE SDGS AS A SHARED RESULTS FRAMEWORK: FROM AMBITION TO ACTION
08 APRIL 2020, 14:00-15:00 CET

PARIS21 and the OECD are convening a webinar on “Unlocking the SDGs as a shared results framework: from ambition to action” to discuss the issue of SDG alignment and corresponding data production and use at the country level.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>14:00</td>
<td>Welcome and setting the scene</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:05-14:35</td>
<td>Panel presentations</td>
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<td>14:35-14:55</td>
<td>Discussion and Q&amp;A with the audience</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:55-15:00</td>
<td>Closing remarks</td>
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</table>

ADDRESSING COVID-19: HOW ARE NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES DOING?
08 APRIL 2020, 15:30-16:30 CET

PARIS21 is convening a webinar on “Addressing COVID-19: How are national statistical offices doing?” to hear from countries first-hand about the impact of COVID-19 on their activities and priorities.

<table>
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<tr>
<td>15:30 - 15:35</td>
<td>Welcome and setting the scene</td>
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<td>15:35 - 16:25</td>
<td>Panel discussion and Q&amp;A with the audience</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:25 - 16:30</td>
<td>Closing remarks</td>
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BOARD MEMBERSHIP & TERMS OF REFERENCE

FOR APPROVAL
## PARIS21 BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2020-2022

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<thead>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Representing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Italian Agency for Development Cooperation</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
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<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>Statistical Institute of Jamaica</td>
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<td>Jordan</td>
<td>Department of Statistics (DOS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Kenya National Bureau of Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>Statistics Korea</td>
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<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic</td>
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<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>Lao Statistics Bureau</td>
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<td>Malawi</td>
<td>National Statistics Office</td>
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<td>Mongolia</td>
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<td>Statistics Norway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>Dirección General de Estadística, Encuestas y Censos (DGEEC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>Philippine Statistics Authority</td>
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<td>Senegal</td>
<td>Agence National de la Statistique et de la démographie</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Statistics Sweden</td>
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<td>Switzerland</td>
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<td>Institut National des Statistiques</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Department for International Development</td>
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<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>Vanuatu National Statistics Office</td>
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<td>Multilateral</td>
<td>Regional Institution</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Commission DG DEVCO, Eurostat</td>
<td>Observatoire économique et statistique d’Afrique Subsaharienne (AFRISTAT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO)</td>
<td>African Union Commission (AUC)</td>
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<td>International Monetary Fund (IMF)</td>
<td>Andean Community (CAN)</td>
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<td>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)</td>
<td>Caribbean Community (CARICOM)</td>
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<td>UN Women</td>
<td>Pacific Community</td>
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<td>UN Development Programme (UNDP)</td>
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<td>The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)</td>
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<td>UN Statistics Division (UNSD)</td>
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<td>World Bank</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Commission</th>
<th>Foundation/NGO/Private</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC)</td>
<td>Centro de Pensamiento Estratégico Internacional (Cepei)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (UN ESCWA)</td>
<td>Flowminder</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)</td>
<td>Open Data Watch (ODW)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)</td>
<td>Royal Statistical Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)</td>
<td>World Data Lab</td>
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</table>

| Regional Development Bank | |
|---------------------------| |
| African Development Bank | |
| Caribbean Development Bank | |
| Inter-American Development Bank | |
| Islamic Development Bank | |
PARIS21 BOARD MEMBERS 2020-2022: TERMS OF REFERENCE

Board members have a responsibility to oversee the design and implementation of PARIS21’s work.

They are expected to be ‘champions’ of the aims of PARIS21 and advocate for and publicise PARIS21 activities within their constituencies. They will consult and report back to their constituencies about Board discussions and the work of PARIS21 more broadly.

The Board meets once a year to discuss general issues relating to the development and use of statistics, to review the strategic direction of PARIS21 and to review the medium-term operational work programme of the Secretariat, including the work of Task Teams and special initiatives. In particular, the Board is responsible for:

- Setting the strategic direction for PARIS21 and advising on how it is organised and coordinated based on expertise and experience
- Reviewing the work of PARIS21 as a whole and advising on priorities for future action
- Championing the aims of PARIS21 and advocating for and publicising PARIS21 activities within constituencies, including sharing outcomes of PARIS21 meetings and activities
- Using influence to advocate for the allocation of adequate resources both for the better availability and use of statistics in development and for PARIS21 activities
- Reviewing and advising on the Secretariat’s medium-term work programme, which includes the work of Task Teams and special initiatives
- Participating in Task Teams on various issues, on a voluntary basis
- Reviewing and providing inputs into the terms of reference and reports of the periodic evaluations of PARIS21
- Providing overall guidance to the Secretariat when appropriate

Developing country representation on the Board is determined by (sub) regional groupings. Developing country representatives are therefore expected to consult other countries in the (sub) regions, speak on their behalf and report back regarding any major developments of PARIS21.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP & TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR APPROVAL
## PARIS21 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2020-2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Representing</th>
<th>Entity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td></td>
<td>Global Affairs Canada, Statcan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
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<td>Department of Statistics (DOS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td></td>
<td>National Statistical Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Africa (April 2020)</td>
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<td>Statistics South Africa</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Multilateral</td>
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PARIS21 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2020-2022: TERMS OF REFERENCE

Between Board meetings the activities of the Partnership and Secretariat are guided and monitored by an Executive Committee with a small number of members selected by the Board. Where required, the Executive Committee may set up Task Teams to carry out specific tasks or to deliver specific outputs.

The role of the Executive Committee is to provide an accountability mechanism and guidance to the ongoing work of the Secretariat. In particular, it provides a policy direction to activities and is a decision-making body when required. Preference is generally given to decision-making by consensus, but if a vote is required, each member has one vote, decisions being made by a simple majority. The specific roles of the Executive Committee are:

- Championing the aims of PARIS21 and advocating for and publicising PARIS21 activities within their constituencies, including the sharing of outcomes from PARIS21 meetings and activities where relevant
- Using their influence to advocate for the allocation of adequate resources both for the better availability and use of statistics in development generally and for PARIS21 activities in particular
- Monitoring progress of the regular work programme of the Secretariat and reviewing the progress of Special Initiatives from time to time, subject to the special arrangements put in place for each such programme
- Reviewing and approving annual work programmes and budgets, annual reports and other important documents as required
- Reviewing and approving the agenda and papers for the annual Board meetings
- Reviewing the Secretariat’s budget situation on a regular basis
- Briefing and engaging with the Board throughout the year as necessary, to ensure effective consultation on key operational and administrative issues as they arise
- Participating in the appointment of the Manager of the PARIS21 Secretariat when required and in line with OECD arrangements
- Reviewing nominations for new Board members
- Communicating reports and decisions to the Board
- Contributing to fundraising efforts for the Secretariat
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SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

This progress report outlines the activities of PARIS21 in 2019 and is structured around the four pillars of PARIS21’s 2016-2020 strategy: Knowledge Sharing and Innovation Incubator, Advocacy, Co-ordination and Monitoring and Technical Support. While the activities were implemented and completed by PARIS21, the outputs are the fruits of partnership efforts and close collaboration with various entities. National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and other actors within National Statistical Systems (NSSs) remain the main partners of PARIS21, in collaboration with others such as regional institutions, development banks, commissions and institutions, bilateral donors, multilateral organisations, foundations and the private sector.

In 2019, PARIS21 directly engaged with 94 countries and hundreds of global, regional, country-level and local partners to make data more useful and to increase usage. PARIS21’s 2019 Programme of Work also supported 22 fragile states, 18 small island developing states (SIDS) and included 23 National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and Regional Strategies for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) related activities.

Besides global-level activities, the work of PARIS21 in 2019 directly impacted Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and Caribbean countries and regional entities. Engagement in Africa was highest and accounted for 28% of all activities (Figure 1). Engagement in the Asia and Pacific region accounted for 21%, and 18% of our activities took place in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) – an increase of 9% since 2018. This growth was due to an increased number of trainings and workshops in the LAC region, such as the “Trust in National Statistical Systems” regional workshop hosted in Bolivia.

Combining activities also increased efficiencies and value for money in terms of time and financial resources, particularly with multiple cross-cutting activities that had greater impact at the NSO and NSS levels, such as integrated ADAPT and gender statistics workshops in Senegal, Kyrgyz Republic and Egypt.
2019 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- All three of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of which PARIS21 is a custodian agency are prioritised as Tier 1 since 2019:
  - 17.18.2 Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
  - 17.18.3 Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding
  - 17.19.1 Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries

- PARIS21 became secretariat of the Bern Network on Financing Data for Development, a global alliance with over 140 members from aid and development agencies, NSOs, international organisations (IOs), private sector partnerships and civil societies. The Bern Network’s objective is to promote more and better financing for data so that sufficient data is available to support achievement of the SDGs. The Bern Network’s work is vital as, although PARIS21’s 2019 Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS) shows an increase in recent years in investment in data and statistics, current levels of funding are still only half of what they need to be to adequately support SDG monitoring.

- PARIS21 has continued to support the growth and sustainability of this crucial area through its Capacity Development 4.0 workstream to support low and middle-income countries, and 2019 saw the launch of the Statistical Capacity Monitor, a unique, interactive tool featuring a wide range of performance indicators designed to facilitate quick analyses.

- Gender continued to be a key focus for PARIS21 in 2019 and has been integrated across our workstreams, including ensuring that the gender statistics perspective has been fully integrated into NSDS workshops for NSS assessment, the PARIS21 Academy e-learning site, ADAPT and PRESS.

- PARIS21 focused on putting modernisation and innovation at the heart of the NSS in 2019. PARIS21 delivered a new module on “Managing Innovation” to its leadership training scheme for NSO management. Eight NSO Heads or Deputies were trained from the Asia and Pacific region, as well as 20 NSO Heads, Deputies or Directors from Africa. This work also included improving utility of data by providing training on data visualization. A training was held in Burkina Faso for 20 NSS staff to assist the use of statistics in policy decision making.

- PARIS21’s Advanced Data Planning Tool (ADAPT) was also updated in 2019 to include budgeting and costing features, as well as a gender module. The tool was employed by countries to help improve data gap assessments and to monitor data planning activities.

- With Partners for Review, PARIS21 published a landmark paper identifying factors that prevent countries from fully exploiting their data ecosystem. PARIS21 also worked to empower countries to use citizen-generated data, and carried out pilots in the Philippines to empower NSOs to use new data sources.

- PARIS21’s work on governance continued in 2019 through continued support to the Praia Group, were PARIS21 led the chapter on “Openness” in the Handbook which, once approved by the 51st United Nations Statistical Commission in 2020, will a major breakthrough for good data on governance.
• PARIS21 also completed a Country Report on Support to Statistics (CRESS) exercise in several countries, including Mongolia, to inform funding for new NSDS implementation. The CRESS aims to strengthen the NSO’s role in determining and planning for funding of statistical activities in general, and for the NSDS in particular.

• PARIS21 continued its NSDS outreach through regional trainings on NSDS and ADAPT in partnership with regional bodies, such as SIAP in the Asia and Pacific region and CARICOM in the Caribbean. PARIS21 also provided support to SIDS through participation in the UNOHRLLS-organised 2nd Meeting of the SIDS National Focal Points to present recommendations for monitoring the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs.

• PARIS21 worked to improve its outreach and communications efforts in 2019 throughout via increased social media engagement, innovations in event communication and external publications. Our three flagship events hosted in Paris – the Annual Meetings, Gender Experts meeting with UN Women and Cross-Regional Forum – were livestreamed for the first time to maximise global stakeholder engagement.

• PARIS21 became secretariat of the Bern Network on Financing Data for Development, a global alliance with over 140 members from aid and development agencies, NSOs, international organisations (IOs), private sector partnerships and

1. KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND INNOVATION INCUBATOR

1.1 IMPROVING NSS EFFICIENCY

PARIS21 is committed to supporting NSSs in improving their data dissemination practices, such as making data more understandable and promoting its use in evidence-based policy and decision making. PARIS21 continued this work on improving digital data dissemination with NSOs.

PARIS21 produced the draft version of the Data Flow Analysis Framework (DFAF) Guidelines, which PARIS21 piloted in Ghana. The OECD and UNICEF used the DFAF with Thailand’s NSO to conduct an analysis of data dissemination processes.

PARIS21 worked with Open Data Watch (ODW) to help improve availability and accessibility of statistical data by reinforcing the value of web-traffic data use in re-organising NSO websites and data portals using Google Analytics. Taking this partnership with ODW further, PARIS21 also guided the production of a working paper on the practice of data portals’ adherence to emerging best practices (data dissemination in the digital age).

As a member in the SDMX-SDG working group, PARIS21 also contributed to the development of the SDG Data Structure Definition, released officially in June 2019.
1.2 INTEGRATING INNOVATION IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS

In 2019, PARIS21 worked on further understanding and defining how innovation works in official data agencies, and it raised the need to capture the innovation management process strategically and holistically in NSOs, especially highlighting how innovation management goes beyond just technological or data innovations. PARIS21 further developed a draft two-part guidelines document on “Understanding Innovation Management in NSOs: Theory and Practice,” and presented the first-part—a conceptual framework—at the 5th International Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics at Kigali, Rwanda from 29 April - 3 May 2019. For the second part of the guidelines, two draft case studies from Mongolia and Ghana were developed. The case studies provide several innovative examples and practical stories of the innovation culture in different country contexts. Further work on refining the conceptual framework and developing case studies from other countries is planned for 2020.

The second Statistical Leadership Training and Innovation Seminar was conducted at the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNSIAP). This was done in close collaboration with the OECD’s Observatory of Public Sector Innovation for the Heads of NSOs in the Asia-Pacific region. During the workshop, participants examined innovation at three levels: system (what is the NSO’s role in the broader data ecosystem?), organisational (how well are NSOs positioned to allow innovation to thrive organisationally?) and individual (what is a leader’s specific role as a change agent to support and drive innovation?) Given the high demand expressed for this workshop, work will continue in 2020 and be adapted at the country level.

1.3 GUIDELINES & BEST PRACTICES ISSUED

NSDS Guidelines

PARIS21 has updated the NSDS Guidelines following the NSDS Guidelines Reference Group recommendations. The Reference Group, co-chaired by the UK Department for International Development (DfID) and PARIS21, comprises experts from countries and organisations from all regions and aims to guide the annual updates of the NSDS Guidelines. The Reference Group has collected and consolidated feedback from users ranging from NSOs, regional and international organisations and independent experts. Based on the feedback received, the NSDS Lifecycle was finalised and now serves as the navigating structure of the guidelines’ content and website. The content is clearer, more concise and more straightforward. A revamped NSDS Guidelines website will allow users interactive access and will be fully finalised in Q4 2020.

PRAIA Group

PARIS21 continued to be part of the Steering Committee of the PRAIA Group. PARIS21 also developed the chapter on openness in the Handbook on Governance Statistics, coordinated a meeting of members to discuss the progress of the Handbook and supported the design and implementation of a survey to collect feedback from NSOs and other relevant stakeholders during the Global Consultation begun by UNSC during December 2019.

The 46th United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2015 established the PRAIA Group. The mandate of the Group is to “contribute to establishing international standards and methods for the compilation of statistics on the major dimensions of governance,” and to help national statistical offices collect information on governance – including SDG 16. Preparation of Guidelines on Statistical Coordination
PARIS21 has prepared a document to serve as the foundation for elaborated guidelines on statistical coordination in the national statistical system. The document is based on insights from a survey conducted on coordination practices from around 50 countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific and LAC, as well as from documentation of select country experiences. The guidelines provide insights on the role of NSOs, the enforcement of coordination and emerging challenges, all pointing to the need to strengthen coordination in order to harness the challenges associated with a fast-evolving data landscape. The document likewise captures some of the innovative mechanisms adopted by countries to respond to new challenges in statistical coordination.

**Friends of Chair - Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**

PARIS21 participated in the Friends of Chair - Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FOC-FPOS) virtual discussion meetings in 2019. PARIS21 provided input by sharing the findings on the UNFPOS 2018 survey with the Chair under the “Compliance” section of FPOS, and insights on the role of peer review in strengthening NSSs. PARIS21 also provided comments on the structure and content of the maturity model. The comments on the maturity model provided better insights into the different levels of compliance with each of the principles demonstrated by developing countries. PARIS21 provided comments on the application of the FPOS in use of non-official and non-traditional data sources.

**UN Handbook of Statistical Organisation**

PARIS21 provided input and reviewed the UN Handbook of Statistical Organisation, particularly the following chapters: Chapter V – National Statistical Office; Chapter VIII - Data Sources, Collection and Processing; Chapter X - Dissemination and User Communication; and Chapter XII - Human Resources Management and Development.

### 1.4 PARIS21 ACADEMY

In 2019, PARIS21 developed and launched the PARIS21 Academy (P21A), an e-learning platform aiming to supplement PARIS21’s outreach and capacity development efforts in as many countries as possible compared with direct onsite service delivery. The platform features relevant, interactive knowledge resources created or endorsed by PARIS21 with the objective of stimulating and maintaining a community of online learners, particularly from low- and middle-income countries, interested in statistics and data for development.
Currently, the PARIS21 Academy offers a self-paced online course on Data Planning with ADAPT, with the introductory track on “How ADAPT works” containing eight modules in which participants can learn how to get started with ADAPT, and can take assessment exercises to evaluate their understanding. The Academy also hosts PARIS21 webinars (often conducted in collaboration with other partners), podcasts and talks containing archived recordings of keynote speeches, panel discussions and expert presentations at PARIS21’s high-level events, such as the Cross-Regional Forum. Further tracks for the ADAPT course are planned to launch in 2020 and will be integrated in regional and country ADAPT trainings as part of blended-learning workshops. Additional courses will be launched in 2020, such as courses on “Communicating Gender Statistics” and “Data Visualization.”

To develop this new line of work, PARIS21 developed internal capacity in digital learning tools and methods through learning sessions and trainings conducted by the Centre for Innovation at Leiden University. PARIS21 developed a corporate resource base of tools, guidelines, workflow templates and other materials for e-learning-related projects. PARIS21 also participated in the UN GIST Task Team on e-learning, and worked bilaterally with other OECD directorates to exchange knowledge, sharing best practices in this area.

1.5 MEASURING USE OF DATA

Applying a methodology that was revised in 2019, PARIS21 continued to measure use of data by evaluating references to statistics in policy documents. The update include adapting the methodology to new trends in statistical development, such as the adoption of the SDG indicator framework and emerging alternative data sources.

In 2019, PARIS21 collaborated with partners to make the methodology relevant to specific sectors and domains. PARIS21 worked with FAO to expand the methodology to the food and agricultural sector, organising an expert meeting in Rome to bring together experts in food and agriculture policy, text mining and agricultural statistics to validate and improve the methodology. As part of the collaboration with UN Women, PARIS21 also expanded this methodology to include measurement of use of gender statistics in policy documents. The preliminary results were presented to a group of experts during the gender expert meeting in October. This was the first time PARIS21 introduced this methodology to a large group of participants from developing countries. The final results will be presented in 2020.

The methodology measures one of many dimension of a policy document’s quality. However, much more needs to be understood in terms of how data is used in the policy process itself. The analysis of how data is used in policy cycles is not fully conceptualised, and there is still a need to understand the levers behind better data use in different policy phases, contexts and sectors. PARIS21 began working on this agenda in 2019 and took stock of the literature and descriptive models that conceptualise this. This work will further grow in 2020.

2. ADVOCACY

2.1 GLOBAL ADVOCACY

2.1.1 BERN NETWORK

With the support of the Swiss government, PARIS21 finalised the feasibility study on the creation of a Global Financial Facility for Development Data in January 2019. PARIS21 finalised two working papers related to the topic.
• Discussion Paper 15: Mobilising Data for the SDGs considers options for systemic improvements in the global funding of data for the SDGs, including the rationale, scope and organisation of a “Data Acceleration Facility.”

• Discussion Paper 16: Improving National Statistical Systems – The Role of Peer Reviews provides an overview of NSS peer reviews and presents the mechanisms that ensure their transparency, accountability and effectiveness.

The Bern Network was founded as a multi-stakeholder collaboration of aid and development agencies, NSOs, ministries, private sector and civil society groups, aiming to advance the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data. Since January 2019, PARIS21 has acted as the Bern Network Secretariat. The network has held regular virtual meetings to discuss the objectives and to define strategies for improving financing towards the sector. A physical meeting took place in July 2019 in New York, in the margins of the United Nations’ High Level Political Forum, to present progress on the activities of the Network and to consolidate its working agenda.

From July to December 2019, the Bern Network Secretariat consolidated its work agenda of five main action areas for which commitments will be developed for the UN World Data Forum taking place in Bern, Switzerland in October 2020. This agenda was finalised and presented to partner countries, donors, bilateral and multilateral agencies and other stakeholders at an face-to-face meeting in December 2019 in Paris, in the margins of the 1st OECD DAC Data for Development workstream meeting. At the end of December 2019, the Bern Network Secretariat began organising the first thematic consultation with NSOs on the Bern Network’s action area on domestic resource mobilisation, scheduled for 14 January 2020 in Paris.

2.1.2 TRUST IN DATA

With the advent of new technologies in the current “post-truth” digital era characterised by competing numbers, disinformation campaigns and socio-political polarisation, PARIS21 has initiated the important discussion on trust in data and the role of NSSs in this debate. PARIS21’s advocacy on the issue was published as a response to the popular Financial Times piece on African data (“African Data are Better Than You Might Think”) and the OECD Observer Blog on “why statistical offices should hire a comedian.”
The annual PARIS21 2019 Cross-Regional Forum (CRF) was held on 28-29 October on the topic of “Building Trust in Data: What’s New for National Statistical Systems?” This built on the takeaways from the 2018 Annual Conference on “Truth in Numbers: The Role of Data in a World of Fact, Fiction and Everything in Between” and anchored discussions around developing trustworthy NSOs and their role in building and sustaining trust in the broader data ecosystem.

The above multi-stakeholder discussions resulted in recognition that fragmentation of the new information landscape provides a unique opportunity for NSSs to leverage their role as stewards of a trusted data ecosystem. The scale of the 2019 CRF was a first for a PARIS21 event: it was attended by 81 total participants, including 56 external participants and 25 participants from PARIS21. In another first, the event was also livestreamed both externally and on OECD TV. Over 600 viewers from 40 countries watched the livestream during the event, and over 1,200 total viewers have watched recordings of the livestream since the event.

In light of above developments, PARIS21 launched the PARIS21 2020 Trust Initiative at the 2019 CRF to support the design and funding of pilot activities in low- and middle-income countries to improve trust in official statistics and NSSs. The Initiative received over 50 proposals from various regions and from a diverse range of actors (i.e. NSOs, CSOs, IOs and academia). PARIS21 will continue work on the Initiative into 2020, including the selection of the final Trust Initiative proposals in consultation with an external selection panel, supporting the roll-out of their implementation and consolidating the lessons learned as case studies.

### 2.1.3 STATISTICAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OUTLOOK

In April 2019, PARIS21 published the first Statistical Capacity Development Outlook. The report aims to provide a global snapshot of the modern data ecosystem and the implications for national statistical systems. The Outlook offers a comprehensive assessment of the statistical capacity of countries in respect to planning, production, dissemination, use and investment, and takes stock of where countries are and what investments and strategies will be required to respond to the growing demands for more and better data.

The Outlook is a valuable contribution to key questions related to the present and future challenges of data production, notably the capacity of data providers. It assesses to what extent traditional data providers, the NSOs and line ministries, have the tools and mechanisms to meet and keep up with new demands for data. It also offers valuable insights into countries’ needs and priorities in developing statistical capacity beyond achieving the 2030 Agenda.

The Outlook is also complemented by the Statistical Capacity Monitor, a global platform of indicators on statistical capacity created by PARIS21 to support countries, development partners and service providers to understand where the capacity needs are and to tailor capacity development programmes in statistics to these needs. The Monitor aims to support greater alignment between the supply and demand of programmes, enhance coordination in the provision of capacity development and build on our collective knowledge of what capacity means.
2.1.4 PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL FORA

PARIS21 played a key role in a range of global fora during 2019, advocating for the centrality of data and statistics to sustainable development, raising the need for more and better funding of development data and giving voice to NSOs on the global stage.

United Nations Statistical Commission: PARIS21 had a significant presence at the 50th UN Statistical Commission, hosting or participating in seven side events. One such event presented a beta version of the PARIS21 Statistical Capacity Monitor, the online platform featuring existing and innovative indicators on statistical capacity and capacity development. PARIS21 also held regional meetings of PARIS21 partner countries, as well as a roundtable meeting of SIDS. PARIS21 also held its first 2019 Executive Committee in the margins of the UN Statistical Commission.

High-Level Political Forum: PARIS21, as the secretariat of the Bern Network on Financing Data for Development, together with the Swiss Government convened an informal breakfast meeting at the High-Level Political Forum to discuss “Investing in Data to Achieve the SDGs and Leave No One Behind” and to introduce the work of the Bern Network. The event was so popular that extra chairs had to be found for the participants, a testament to the urgent need for a rapid scaling-up of funding for more and better development data.

9th Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group of the SDG Indicators: Hosted by UNESCWA in Beirut, Lebanon, the IAEG-SDGs aims to develop an indicator framework for the monitoring of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda at the global level and to support its implementation.

PARIS21 also participated in the 14th meeting of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB), on May 2019 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Partners for Review Meetings: At the May 2019 Partners for Review Meeting (P4R), PARIS21 conducted a workshop on citizen-generated data (CGD) which enabled peer-to-peer dialogue on CGD and validated key aspects of CGD for the discussion paper together with the Colombia Statistics Department, Mexico’s National Statistics and Geography Institute and the Oaxaca Population Department. During the fall meeting, PARIS21 and P4R published a landmark “Launch of National SDG Review: Data Challenges and Opportunities” report that identifies the factors preventing countries from fully exploiting their data ecosystem and proposes solutions for strengthening statistical capacities in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda.
PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL FORA

Africa

PARIS21 contributed to a seminar organised by INSEE in July 2019, on “Regards croisés sur la gouvernance de la statistique publique en Afrique.” More than 16 Director-Generals of NSOs or Deputies from Africa attended the seminar. PARIS21 gave a presentation titled, “The NSDS Process as a Governance Tool for Official Statistics and National Statistical System.”

PARIS21 participated in the 40th AFRISTAT Annual Meeting on September 2019. In attendance were 21 Director-Generals from AFRISTAT member countries as well as representatives from statistics schools in the region, BCEAO, BCEAC and INSEE.

PARIS21 participated in the 13th session of the Committee of Director-Generals of National Statistics Offices (CoDG) meeting organised by the African Union Commission (AUC). Participants included 30 AUC member states, 11 African continental and regional organisations, five statistical technical assistance centres and training schools, two UN agencies, 10 non-African organisations and other IOs. PARIS21 raised awareness of its activities on the development of statistics and met the Director-Generals of National Statistical Offices and other key partners present at the CoDG meeting. PARIS21 also presented its new approach to capacity development, Capacity Development 4.0 (CD4.0), during the session on “Managing Data: New Capacity Requirements” organised by ISI-IFC during the High Level Meeting on Data Governance.

PARIS21 participated in the European Commission’s Sub-Saharan Africa Seminar on Budget Support in Brussels on September 2019 to advocate for investments in statistical systems and availability of quality data.

PARIS21 contributed to a seminar on sharing experiences in African regional statistical capacity development organised by EUROSTAT in October 2019 in Brussels. The discussions reflected on the advantages and disadvantages of the activities and approaches to statistical capacity development and proposed possible solutions. PARIS21 emphasized the importance of introducing new approaches to capacity development (i.e. CD4.0) for an inclusive capacity development framework for statistical development.

Latin America and Caribbean (LAC)

PARIS21 organised a regional workshop on Trust in National Statistical Systems in collaboration with UNECLAC and funding for the participation of five countries by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), hosted and coordinated by the Bolivia NSO. This collaboration demonstrated a prime example of institutional partnership. This event brought together 17 LAC NSOs while strengthening cooperation with UNECLAC, the Andine Community and the IDB.

PARIS21 supported CARICOM’s 30th Regional Census Coordinating Committee Meeting held in Trinidad and Tobago in July 2019. This approach generated greater harmonisation of the census results, knowledge sharing, adoption of best practices, functional and technical cooperation, cost-saving through the availability of regional public goods and regional training. PARIS21 also supported the 44th Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians Meeting on the implementation of the CARICOM RSDS.
Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

PARIS21 co-organised with the UNDESA SIDS Unit, CARICOM, the Pacific Community and UNOHRLLS the 2nd round table meeting of SIDS on the sidelines of the UN Statistical Commission. The meeting served as forum to foster exchange of knowledge and to present statistical developments in SIDS. Information shared related to the ongoing Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) in SIDS, the mid-term review of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, First Pacific Sustainable Report 2018 and the RSDS in CARICOM.

PARIS21 attended the SIDS National Focal Points (NFPs) Meeting titled “Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in Coherence with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs” in July 2019 in Praia, Cabo Verde. PARIS21 shared a presentation on monitoring the Samoa Pathway and the SDGs, as well as contributed to the evaluation of the UNOHRLLS.

2.2 COUNTRY LEVEL ADVOCACY

2.2.1 POLITICAL FORUMS AND OTHER COUNTRY ENGAGEMENTS

Engaging with countries to support various political forums and user-producer events to promote the importance of statistics in evidence-informed decisions and policies, PARIS21 co-sponsored the Caribbean Community’s 3rd High Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics: Investing in Statistics to Build Resilience and to Achieve Sustainable Economic Growth and Development in February 2019 in St. George’s, Grenada. The Forum aimed to promote the implementation of the strategic framework of the CARICOM RSDS, which was formulated with support from PARIS21, to ensure that Caribbean Heads of Governments will commit to operationalising the CARICOM RSDS 2018-2030.

PARIS21 pursued advocacy events that encouraged innovation in NSSs such as one co-organised with the Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics on data science, in celebration of World Statistics Day. The Data Matters Festival highlighted the importance of partnerships between government, academia, civil society and the private sector in the use of data science to contribute to measuring SDGs and improving decision making in all sectors.

As part of its SIDS advocacy program to facilitate NSO engagement in regional and global statistical discussions to contribute to strengthening their NSS, PARIS21 supported the participation of two Caribbean Heads of NSOs to participate in the Regional Census Coordinating Committee Meeting to share their census operation practices aimed at improving production and dissemination of data for development. Likewise, PARIS21 presented the relevance of data planning and the use of ADAPT in censuses in the Caribbean.

PARIS21 continued its work on the statistical schools survey in Africa that focused on students’ views of the training they received, the statistician profession and its role in the economic and social development of their country. The results showed that the young statisticians’ choices of career were driven primarily by income, which put NSOs in a
less competitive position. The respondents also indicated their concerns about the lack of courses on big data, programming and other technologies.

2.2.2 LEVERAGING CITIZEN-GENERATED DATA

PARIS21 supported operationalisation of the use CGD for official reporting in the Philippines and conducted various workshops to discuss and validate conceptual aspects of CGD with multiple stakeholder groups.

PARIS21 and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) embarked on a project on CGD for official reporting to enable the use of CGD by PSA, and to document the process in a CGD Country Case Study. As part of this project, PARIS21 and PSA co-organised a launching workshop with 13 civil society organisations and a dissemination forum on CGD. The workshop generated the following outputs: an inventory of data gaps that may be potentially addressed by CGD, quality measures to assess the viability of CGD for use in official reporting in the country and knowledge among civil society and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) on CGD applications in SDG official reporting. The dissemination forum released the initial results of the Country Case Study on CGD to address data gaps in SDGs, and it strengthened the coordination mechanism between the PSA and civil society organizations (CSOs)/NGOs by consolidating a CGD Task Team.

CGD workshops were conducted with statisticians, CSOs, government representatives, academia and the private sector in international conferences organised in Mexico, Paris and Vietnam. These workshops enabled a structured discussion among different actors, peer-to-peer dialogue on CGD and validated the governing aspects of CGD. PARIS21 used inputs from these workshops to complement its research on CGD and to strengthen the modalities of engagement for PARIS21.

Likewise, PARIS21 and Partners for Review launched a paper that identifies the factors preventing countries from fully exploiting their data ecosystem and proposes solutions to strengthening statistical capacities to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The report received positive feedback through social media from organisations such as UNICEF, and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) published an article about the paper.

3. CO-ORDINATION & MONITORING

3.1 STAKEHOLDER CO-ORDINATION

PARIS21 continued to promote the development of statistics through the provision of technical guidance, expertise and engagement with different stakeholders at the global, regional and country levels. In 2019, as part of the NSDS and RSDS processes, PARIS21 convened over 1 000 data producers and users.

PARIS21 continued to support the development of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) and funded the participation of four countries (Kenya, Cameroon, Comoros and Gambia) in the Fifth Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration under the theme “Innovative Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System: Foundation for Legal Identity management” in Zambia in October 2019.

PARIS21 also contributed in the evaluation of two partner institutions: the UNSIAP in preparation for their new biennium strategy, and UNOHRLLS, by invitation of Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) of the Inspection and Evaluation Division (IED) of the UN, to assess their effectiveness in facilitating partnerships, conducting advocacy activities and linking the SAMOA Pathway to national and regional processes.
Further, PARIS21 contributed to the drafting of the OECD Multi-Dimensional Country Review of the Dominican Republic and El Salvador, specifically regarding the status of the NSS http://www.oecd.org/development/mdcr/).

3.2 NSDS/RSDS

3.2.1 NSDS STATUS GLOBAL MONITORING

The 2019 PARIS21 NSDS Status Report provides an overview of countries that have engaged in the NSDS development process. The status of NSDS covers International Development Association (IDA) borrower countries, Least Developed Countries (LDC), Low- and Lower-Middle Income Countries and some Upper Middle Income Countries (in order to report on the whole of the African continent). The report’s key findings include:

- Among the 71 IDA countries that responded, 55 are currently implementing or designing their NSDS.
- In Africa, 34 of the 37 IDA countries are designing or implementing a NSDS.
- In the Asia-Pacific region, 19 of the 25 IDA countries are designing or implementing a NSDS.
- In Least Developed, Low- and Lower-Middle Income Countries, 23 of 29 countries are implementing or designing their NSDS.
- Of the 100 countries covered by the report, 12 countries are without a strategy and are not currently planning one.

During its missions in countries – especially for NSDS design, mid-term review or final evaluation – PARIS21 collects information that is useful to identify the country’s priority needs and to systematically expand its NSO database. The information collected from the NSO provides as much information as possible on NSO status and informs the Statistical Capacity Monitor. This information allows PARIS21 to improve the preparation of its Programme of Work and contributes to optimising PARIS21’s limited resources while managing the large demand for country support.

3.2.2 NSDS/RSDS SUPPORT PROVIDED

PARIS21 supported countries and regional economic communities to develop their NSDS in Africa, Asia-Pacific and LAC. The NSDS development process contributed to enhancing the NSS coordination by bringing national data ecosystem stakeholders (data users and producers/providers) to the same table to discuss their strategic data priorities and identify data and capacity gaps. The NSDS has also been used as a national statistical framework for mobilising and aligning internal and external support to statistics.

In 2019, PARIS21 supported the NSDS design for Malawi, Senegal, Mozambique, Puntland State of Somalia, and the revision of NSDS of Burundi. The NSDS of Senegal integrated gender statistics, and it used ADAPT to identify gender data gaps. Furthermore, PARIS21 conducted an NSDS mid-term review for Burundi, a final NSDS evaluation for Vanuatu, Lesotho, Mali, Comoros, Dominican Republic, Honduras, and Paraguay using the PARIS21 NSDS evaluation tool. As a result of the evaluations, Mali has used the recommendations from the NSDS evaluation in the development of its most recently completed NSDS, while Burundi has revised its current NSDS to align with the new national development plan as well as regional and 2030 Agenda data needs. The Dominican Republic, Honduras and Paraguay engaged in designing new NSDSs in 2019. Lesotho and Vanuatu requested support to develop their NSDS in 2020. PARIS21 also collaborated with UNESCAP in the review of the Sri Lanka NSS, focusing specifically on sector statistics in preparation for the development of its NSDS, and organised dissemination and promotion of the NSDS in Bolivia and Ecuador.
PARIS21 was involved in the review, preparation and dissemination of RSDS in COMESA, Arab Region, and the Caribbean. The COMESA Committee on Statistical Matters adopted the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation of the regional statistical system conducted in November 2019, and recommended follow-up actions. PARIS21 also provided support and technical guidance to the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) in the development of its new strategy for 2020-2030, which was approved by its board in November 2019. The CD4.0 Framework and the Cape Town Global Action Plan (CT-GAP) served as basis for the development of this strategy. PARIS21 likewise provided support to CARICOM in organising the High-Level Forum on Statistics to disseminate the RSDS 2018-2030, and to promote increased funding for its implementation.

To strengthen its partnership with key regional actors on the African continent, PARIS21 worked jointly with UNECA, AfDB, AUC and AFRISTAT to coordinate support and methodologies, as well as to avoid duplication. This allowed mainstreaming of the Strategy for the Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA2) in NSDS, and effective use of the NSDS Guidelines in the NSDS process.

PARIS21 continued its NSDS outreach through regional trainings on NSDS and ADAPT in partnership with regional bodies such as SIAP in the Asia-Pacific and CARICOM in the Caribbean. The trainings focused on the strategic planning process, aligning it with national policy frameworks and the SDGs, modernising the NSDS to consider strategic areas related to administrative data, alternative data sources, open data, managing innovations, subnational statistics, gender statistics and expanding the NSDS to take into account the changing data ecosystem. A total of 19 countries benefitted from the regional trainings on NSDS and ADAPT. In Latin America, PARIS21 supported a regional training workshop in El Salvador of all countries in the region to review NSDS status. PARIS21 supported user needs workshops in the Dominican Republic and Paraguay on user-driven statistical planning, production and dissemination.

3.3 SDG MONITORING

After the adoption of the SDG indicator framework, PARIS21 became the custodian of three SDG indicators:

- 17.8.2 “Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics”
- 17.18.3 “Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding”
- 17.19.1 “Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries”

Starting from one indicator at Tier III and one indicator at Tier II, PARIS21 managed to have all three indicators upgraded to Tier I by October 2019. All three indicators submitted in 2019 were selected by the Secretary-General’s report on SDGs, and indicator 17.18.3 was among six indicators of Goal 17 to be featured in the SDG “glossy” report. PARIS21’s reporting shows that 111 countries had national statistical legislation that was compliant with the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, up from 71 countries in 2017. The largest regional grouping of these countries is North America and Europe, representing more than 36% of all compliant countries. 31 countries have advanced from having no statistical legislation that complies with the UN Fundamental Principles to adopting one by 2018 (figure 2).

Northern America and Europe lead other regions, followed by Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia. The progress is also encouraging in LDCs (six countries), SIDS (four countries) and LLDCs (four countries). While progress is substantial, more
countries will need to put in place solid and politically backed statistical legalisation that allow the national statistical system to operate in a transparent and independent manner.

PARIS21’s reporting also shows that 129 countries were implementing a national statistical plan, up from 102 countries in 2017. The regions where the most statistical plans were under implementation include Northern America, Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa – representing 27.1% each of the total implementing countries. However, among the regions with statistical plans under implementation, Sub-Saharan Africa has the lowest percentage of fully funded plans, with only 22.9% compared to 94.3% in North America and Europe.

Progress has been slow for indicator 17.18.3, with only 11 countries advancing from not having a plan under implementation and fully funded to having one since 2016 (figure 2). Although target 17.18 specifically called for more attention to LDCs and SIDS, each of these groups has only one country advancing. Insufficient funding for NSDS could partly explain the fact that half of SDG indicators are Tier I indicators. International co-operation must focus on increasing funding for statistical planning to ensure SDG data collection.

3.4 STATISTICAL CAPACITY MONITOR

PARIS21 launched the Statistical Capacity Monitor in April 2019 as one key deliverable under its workstream on measuring statistical capacity. The Statistical Capacity Monitor is an online platform featuring around 100 performance indicators on statistical capacity development. It describes trends on statistical capacity worldwide, as well as development efforts at the country and thematic levels. The platform presents indicators developed by PARIS21 and other partner institutions with the aim to provide a better understanding of the recent developments on statistical capacity. Naturally, this includes a wide selection of indicators from the World Bank. However, the PARIS21 Statistical Capacity Monitor attempts to complement the concepts measured with a variety of specific, often NSO-based performance indicators.
The platform provides indicators on statistical capacity at the national and regional levels for countries where data is available. The data is presented in five categories: planning, production, dissemination, use and investment. This taxonomy is similar to what is known in statistical circles as the Statistics Value Chain (OECD, 2017). Moreover, all indicators are classified according to one of the 46 capabilities defined in the CD4.0 conceptual matrix. The structure ensures that indicators are developed and targeted to cover a holistic view on statistical capacity development. Most of the indicators have an annual periodicity.

The platform aims at reaching all actors involved or in need of statistical capacity development:

As not all the indicators on this framework exist today, the platform provides the flexibility to integrate new indicators as they are developed by PARIS21 or other partners. UNESCAP is using the indicators of the Statistical Capacity Monitor for their M&E framework to track their advancement on the 2030 Agenda.

3.5 COUNTRY REPORT ON SUPPORT TO STATISTICS

PARIS21 continued to develop the methodology for the Country Report on Support to Statistics (CRESS), and provided support to selected countries in its implementation. CRESS aims to document and report on the current financing made available to NSS by type of sources and types of financing (i.e. domestic, external, grant, loans, government budget) and future funding requirements. It helps countries analyse their funding priorities for statistics and to predict funding gaps. The final CRESS report is an important advocacy tool to promote the harmonisation of internal and external support for statistics. The country exercise can validate and monitor the extent of statistics financing by development partners provided by PRESS.

The CRESS in Mongolia implemented several innovations in the process. The methodology included a module on how the agencies in the NSS fund their SDG monitoring activities, consultation on financing instrument used by donors and how domestic resources were mobilised in the NSS. For the first time, it also reaches out to private sector organisations and civil society organisations who contributes to the data process in the NSS. The data collection for the CRESS in Mongolia reached a historical high, with more than 90% of agencies and more than 70% of development partners responding to the questionnaire.

PARIS21 also supported the Mauritania NSO in finalising and launching its first CRESS to identify all the funding of the NSS by the government and development partners over the period 2015-2018, and to collect funding intentions for 2018-2021. The CRESS study took place in a context of continuous decline in the statistical capacity indicator for Mauritania. The aim is to improve funding for the NSS, to increase investment in statistics, to create the conditions for better coordination between stakeholders and for evidence-based advocacy for statistics. PARIS21 also supported Zambia in finalising and validating its CRESS report. It also supported the Lao Statistics Bureau in organising a CRESS workshop in December 2019, and supported its initiative to produce a report in 2020.
3.6 PARTNER REPORT ON SUPPORT TO STATISTICS

Started in 2008, the PARIS21 Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS) is the most comprehensive global analysis of donor financial flows to data and statistics. It provides a full picture of international support to statistics and covers the commitments received by all countries. Over the years, PRESS results have been referenced in the Financial Times, the Development Co-operation Report 2017 and in high-profile articles on development. After the adoption of the SDG indicator framework, PRESS data were also used as an official data source for SDG indicator 17.19.1: “Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries.”

The PRESS 2019 highlights an increase in investments to statistics largely driven by the adoption of the SDGs monitoring framework, but notes that current levels are still only half of what they need to be to support SDG monitoring. Official development assistance (ODA) to data and statistics reached USD 689 million, representing an increase from 0.33% to 0.34% of total development support. While the increase in funding is encouraging, global results remain insufficient and far behind the estimated target (0.7% of ODA) for the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data (CTGAP) (PARIS21, 2019a).

PRESS 2019 also reveals that an increasing share of projects target gender statistics as a component. Around 11% of commitments to statistics from bilateral donors between 2015 and 2017 targeted gender data, comparing to a mere 3% in 2010 to 2012. Nonetheless, the development community needs to work together to sustain this trend. Currently, only 14 of the 54 gender-specific SDG indicators.

Based on its experience in funding to data through PRESS, PARIS21 proposed to improve the purpose code on statistical capacity development approved by the Working Party on Development Finance Statistics (WP-STAT) of the Development Assistant Committee (DAC) in 2019. This change will be implemented in the Credit Reporting System (CRS) by 2021, and it will increase the accuracy in monitoring aid flows to statistics and facilitate coordination among donors.

In recent years, requests for improving the timeliness of PRESS emerged from several donors. The constantly changing landscape of development financing and statistical capacity development requires information with much less lag than PRESS, which has a delay of 20 months. A tool must be developed to help partners plan activities and improve coordination. This need was addressed by PARIS21 in its 2019 annual meeting with the introduction of a new product called EPRESS that will provide readers with PRESS-like information in a much more timely fashion. By December 2019, PARIS21 identified alternative data sources, developed new methodologies and produced preliminary results for EPRESS. The product will provide three types of new information: disbursements of current reported projects extending into the future, a so-called nowcast with 80%-90% accuracy to reflect recent projects with a lag of six months minimum and a forecast that covers about 60% of future funding to statistics at the global level.
4. TECHNICAL SUPPORT

4.1 IMPROVING DATA PLANNING

PARIS21 further supported the software development of the Advanced Data Planning Tool (ADAPT) in 2019. ADAPT is a consultative tool that brings together development stakeholders to promote evidence in policy design and monitoring. A version 1.2 of the tool, containing additional features such as a budgeting and costing module for data plan activities, launched in April 2019. The gender module, which caters to specific gender data gap issues, was developed subsequently. The improved software helped countries to both assess data gaps (including assessments with a focus on gender-specific data) and monitor data plan activities without hurdles.

In Egypt (7-9 October 2019), Senegal (5-9 August 2019) and Kyrgyzstan (23-27 September 2019), the gender module of ADAPT was introduced with the objective of mainstreaming gender activities in NSDS. ADAPT was also presented during the UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics in May 2019, OECD Experts Meeting on Gender Budgeting in September 2019 and in a joint PARIS21-UN Women Experts Meeting on Supporting Gender Statistics in October 2019.

PARIS21 initiated work on new architecture for ADAPT based on application programming interface (APIs) and micro-services. In addition to being architecturally sound, this will improve user interaction with the tool and how users experience the tool's interface.

PARIS21 also developed training materials for ADAPT such as an e-learning course, a user manual and exercises on ADAPT in multiple languages.

Trainings on ADAPT extended to partners such as UNSD and UNITAR, as well as to additional countries. This includes two back-to-back regional trainings in Addis Ababa with UNECA for NSOs and Planning Commission representatives. The Anglophone workshop (held from 5-7 June 2019) included Ethiopia, Ghana, Zambia, Egypt, Malawi, Liberia, Gambia, Kenya and Uganda. The Francophone workshop (held from 10-12 June 2019) included Senegal, Cote d’Ivoire, Niger, Cameroun, Burkina Faso, Sao Tome, Morocco, Mali, Djibouti and Cape Verde.

As a follow-up to the ADAPT regional training, a national training in ADAPT was organised in Senegal in August 2019 during the NSDS assessment and helped to identify gender data gaps, as well as to integrate gender statistics as a strategic pillar. ADAPT training was also conducted in the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Guatemala (in collaboration with GIZ), Ecuador and Paraguay.

PARIS21 also organised a regional training workshop for countries in the Asia-Pacific region in partnership with UN SIAP in Chiba, Japan (11-14 November 2019). In Latin America, ADAPT training took place in the Dominican Republic (21-24 May 2019), Ecuador (5-9 August 2019) and Paraguay (4-8 November 2019). In addition to fact-to-face training workshops, PARIS21 also organised online webinars to support existing users of ADAPT.

4.2 MAKING DATA UNDERSTANDABLE

PARIS21 developed a comprehensive package on data visualization in English and French. The package explores both the theory and practice of data visualization. PARIS21 also translated the data visualization portion of the package into an e-learning course to be hosted on the PARIS21 Academy (see section 1.4).
Training workshops were organised by PARIS21 at regional and national levels to improve data visualization and communication. In Asia-Pacific, the first regional data visualization training was organised in partnership with UN SIAP and the Asian Development Bank, benefitting senior statisticians and information management officers from 13 countries: Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Vanuatu, and Vietnam. In Africa, a training workshop on data visualization was organised in Burkina Faso in September 2019 in collaboration with the national statistics office (Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie – INSD). 20 participants from the NSS were trained.

Additionally, a training workshop on data, journalism and data storytelling was organised in Rwanda in collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR). Participants including 30 journalists from various national media platforms attended the five-day training workshop, during which participants were trained on not only how to communicate data effectively, but also how to produce engaging, evidence-based stories using data.

### 4.3 SUPPORTING NSS LEADERSHIP, INNOVATION & HR REFORMS

PARIS21 organised regional trainings on statistical leadership in Africa and Asia-Pacific, introducing the management of innovations in statistics. It also covered the use of new data sources for official statistics, SDG issues at the country level which impact statistical systems, horizontal and vertical engagement (i.e. with ministers/high level political figures, media), working with external parties (especially private data providers as new players in the data ecosystem) and new skills for leaders to better handle and implement change management.

In Africa, the fifth regional training on Statistical Leadership was organised in Senegal in December 2019 with logistical support from the Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie (ANSD). Among those trained were 20 NSO leaders from Benin, Burundi, Comoros, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Madagascar, Niger, Senegal, Chad, Togo, Tunisia, Botswana, Egypt, Gambia, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, South Soudan, Zimbabwe, Sao Tome y Principe and AFRISTAT. ONS UK also attended as an observer with the objective of sharing the work ONS is already doing related to leadership trainings in NSO’s for middle managers. In Asia-Pacific, the third Statistical Leadership training for Heads of NSOs was organised in Japan in partnership with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific targeting eight NSO leaders from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Maldives, Myanmar, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

### 4.4 ENHANCING STATISTICAL LAWS

PARIS21 continued its background study on statistical legislation in various regions in order to have an in-depth look at areas that need improvement to ensure full compliance with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, while also taking into account the new environment that affects NSSs and NSOs. The study will inform the preparation of practical guidance to countries PARIS21 is engaging with to provide information on what needs to be considered in the review and revision/updating of a statistical law (or preparation of a statistical law for few countries still without such legislation) given the rapidly changing and evolving statistical ecosystem.
5. MAINSTREAMING GENDER STATISTICS

5.1 ADVOCACY

In addition to expanding work on gender at the country level, PARIS21 engaged in a number of regional and global events pertaining to gender statistics in 2019. Under its partnership with UN Women’s “Making Every Woman and Girl Count” (“Women Count”) programme, PARIS21 participated in Steering Committee meetings (March 2019), Mid-term Review (November, 2019) and a special side event at the 50th UN Statistical Commission titled “Effecting a Radical Shift in Gender Statistics Development: What Roles Can Chief Statisticians Play?” Outreach to other UN bodies included opportunities to share knowledge and to showcase ongoing work in PARIS21’s emerging gender statistics portfolio. PARIS21 presented a draft of the new assessment framework for gender statistics and its plans for the gender statistics e-learning module (see Section 4.3) during the UNECE Work Session in Switzerland (May 2019) on “Institutional Mechanisms to Support Gender Statistics.” PARIS21 also presented activities on gender during the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics at the 13th annual meeting organised in New York (November, 2019) by the UN Statistics Division (UNSD). Findings from the 2018 PRESS were also featured during the conference in “The State of Gender Data Financing – Early Findings,” a new report from ODW and Data2X. In September 2019, PARIS21 presented its approach to bridging gender data gaps at the OECD Experts Meeting on Gender Budgeting in Paris, and took part in the GovLab and Data2X “100 questions initiative.” PARIS21 is also a member of UNECE Task Force on Communicating Gender Statistics.

5.2 TECHNICAL SUPPORT

At the regional level, PARIS21 participated in a Regional Workshop with UNECA, AfDB, UN Women and Data2X on “Improving Availability and Coordination Mechanisms of Gender Statistics in Africa through Improved Capacity, Strong Gender Data Network and the Development of the Minimal Set of Gender Statistics in Africa” in Accra, Ghana (November, 2019). The workshop presented an opportunity to feature PARIS21’s work on gender mainstreaming in the NSDS and other relevant activities in statistical capacity development to the African Expert Group on Gender Statistics.

PARIS21 designed and published Assessing Data and Statistical Capacity Gaps for Better Gender Statistics, a new framework and guidelines for gender statistics assessments. The document leverages PARIS21’s existing tools, including ADAPT and CD4.0, to outline methodological steps, key stakeholders and the practical support required to assess the state of gender statistics at the national level. The framework and guidelines were developed iteratively in consultation with a multi-stakeholder Expert Review Group, which included representatives from NSOs, IOs, think tanks and advocacy groups. PARIS21 officially launched the framework during an Experts Meeting on Supporting Production and Measuring Use of Gender Statistics held at the OECD in Paris on October 1-2 2019.

Using the assessment framework and guidelines, PARIS21 launched pilot assessments in five countries under UN Women’s “Women Count” programme (including the Dominican Republic, Maldives, Senegal, Egypt and Kyrgyz Republic) to mainstream gender in NSDS. Pilot countries were selected based on the following criteria: “pathfinder” status in the “Women Count” programme, forthcoming NSDS design cycles, diversifying regional distribution and country readiness and capacity.
Early results from the assessment pilots indicated significant opportunities for policy influence and operational impact in NSSs for gender. In Maldives, following engagement in workshops and consultations for the assessment process, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services (MGFSS) are working to formalise arrangements for a permanent working group for gender statistics and have noted significant improvements in coordination and dialogue between the two agencies. In the case of Senegal, the Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie (ANSD) adopted the recommendations and findings of the assessment in the design of their third NSDS (approved December 2019), which includes a dedicated strategic pillar for gender statistics.

To further expand awareness of the assessment tool outside the country pilots, PARIS21 partnered with the UN Women Regional Office for West and Central Africa to host a regional training workshop on Implementation of National Assessments of Gender Statistics Systems’ in Dakar, Senegal from 26-28 November. Representatives from six countries attended the three-day session, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Capo Verde, Cote d’Ivoire, and Central African Republic. In addition to facilitating cross-national dialogue and peer-learning, the training sessions included an introduction to key concepts in gender statistics and the various aspects and protocols for implementing the assessment framework.

In addition to activities at the national and regional levels, PARIS21 also made significant progress in integrating gender into ongoing research and programming. In particular, the 2019 PRESS report included a new section on gender statistics, revealing the current landscape of financing for gender-related activities in statistics. PARIS21 is also developing content for a new e-learning course on communicating gender statistics, which is expected to launch on the PARIS21 Academy in early 2020.
## 6. PARTNERSHIPS

### 6.1 COUNTRIES

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<th>Sub-Saharan Africa</th>
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7. OVERALL MANAGEMENT

7.1 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEETINGS

On 3 April 2019, PARIS21 held its Annual Board Meeting in Paris, France, bringing together representatives from 30 countries, 17 international and regional institutions and 7 civil society organisations, foundations or private sector representatives.

The Annual Meeting included a one-day conference on “Society in a Data-driven World: Ensuring that No One is Left Behind.” During the event, more than 80 conference participants from around the world explored the disruptions caused by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, as well as their impact on trust in data and the opportunities and challenges caused by the spread of data-driven technologies. PARIS21, via the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu, provided particular emphasis on the needs of the Global South within the data revolution.
During the closed portion of the meeting, PARIS21 presented highlights from its 2018 programme of work, as well as sharing the 2019 work programme and budget for Board approval.

During the meeting, Board members broke into five workshop groups to discuss different statistical capacity development activities, including:

- Statistical literacy – participants acknowledged enablers in effective statistical literacy and committed to developing small projects on measuring and improving statistical literacy in countries
- Costing statistics – participants looked at how to cost statistics and statistical activities and agreed to test the costing module in ADAPT and establish a costing task team
- Citizen-generated data – participants explored potential frameworks for NSO engagement with CGD and agreed to produce a discussion paper on CGD, a workshop in the Philippines and to produce country case studies
- 2021-2025 Strategy – participants looked at the short- and long-term context in which PARIS21 operates and provided recommendations on the preparation of the new strategy
- CD4.0 Guidelines – participants clarified the main components of CD4.0 implementation and agreed to finalise the first draft of the CD4.0 Guidelines and collect examples to be included

PARIS21 also held two Executive Committee meetings in 2019 during which members discussed strategic aspects of PARIS21’s Programme of Work, budget and strategy. The latter of the two meetings also provided an opportunity for Executive Committee members to provide strategic guidance on PARIS21’s draft 2021-2025 Strategy.

### 7.2 COMMUNICATIONS

PARIS21 improved its outreach and communications efforts throughout 2019 via increased social media engagement, innovations in event communication and external publications.

In 2019, PARIS21 made several improvements in the quality and volume of its event communications and coverage, including cohesive branding of event materials, pre-event promotion via social media and post-event communications products. Multimedia event coverage increased with video interviews, “live-tweeting” and open-access digital photo albums. Greening efforts were incorporated into PARIS21’s event communications strategy with the decision to distribute publications via branded PARIS21 USB drives in order to reduce printing and waste.

PARIS21 also began livestreaming major events in 2019, including a livestream of the 2019 Cross-Regional Forum which received 1 209 total views from over 40 countries.

PARIS21 expanded its social media presence with increased engagement on two primary platforms: Twitter and LinkedIn. The PARIS21 Twitter profile grew drastically in 2019, gaining approximately 15 700 followers (an increase of 680%). Tweets earned 1.4 million total impressions throughout the year.

A PARIS21 company page on LinkedIn was launched to reach professional audiences who may not be active on other social media platforms. By the end of the year, the PARIS21 page had gained 348 followers and earned 7 400 total impressions on its posts.

Engagement with the PARIS21 website continued to increase steadily, with the number of total visits increasing by 9.5% from 37 284 in 2018 to 40 811 in 2019. The total number of users increased by 18.4% from 21 480 in 2018 to 25 439 in 2019.
2019 A YEAR IN REVIEW
PARIS21 promotes the better use and production of statistics

MORE & BETTER DEVELOPMENT DATA
The Bern Network, a new global alliance promoting more and better financing for development data, grew to 140 members in 2019.

In 2019, PARIS21 engaged with:
94 countries
22 fragile states
18 SIDS
And supported 23 NSDS and RSDS

AGENDA 2030
PARIS21 is a custodian agency for three SDGs, all of which are now Tier 1 priorities. Our tools like ADAPT, country workshops and trainings are helping national statistical offices (NSOs) strengthen their SDG reporting.

"PRESS 2019 reminds us that quality data, while it may not always grab the headlines, must underpin development policy. To get that quality data, we need to improve the basic building blocks of data systems." - Thomas Gass, Ambassador, Assistant Director General, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

ACCELERATING ADVOCACY
During 2019, we launched livestreaming during our flagship events to maximise outreach and engagement. We also grew our Twitter audience by 500%. The 2019 edition of PARIS21’s Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS) shows an increase in recent years in investment in data and statistics, but current levels are still only half of what they need to be to support SDG monitoring.

2019 CROSS-REGIONAL FORUM
The forum brought more than 50 experts from around the globe together to discuss trust in official statistics. We also launched our 2020 Trust Initiative to improve trust in NSS data in low-capacity countries.

"We can be confident that what comes out of today’s event is really going to make a difference and help us produce those trusted statistics that will lead to better decisions and, ultimately, better lives." - John Pullinger, President of International Association of Official Statistics (IAOS) and former UK National Statistician

A LONG-TERM VISION FOR THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
We worked with partners and national stakeholders to support the NSDS process in the Dominican Republic. For the first time, the country has a long-term vision for statistical development fully aligned with the national development plan.

Scan the QR codes with your phone or tablet to access interviews, podcasts and other content, or visit bit.ly/p21yearinreview for more!
NSDS
PARIS21 supported 23 NSDS or RSDS in 2019. In Vanuatu, we reviewed the implementation of the NSDS 2016-2020 to assess alignment with the National Sustainable Development Plan 2030.

CD 4.0 PILOT
A South-South collaboration between the Bolivia and Dominican Republic national statistical offices was piloted to develop a strategy for coordinating funding and international assistance.

STATISTICAL CAPACITY MONITOR
As part of its Capacity Development 4.0 workflow, PARIS21 launched the Statistical Capacity Monitor, a unique online tool featuring a wide range of performance indicators for national statistical offices.

“\textit{I have been working for 40 years in a national statistical office, and I never had this type of training. I learned a lot.}”
- South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics Director Isaiah Chol at statistical leadership training, Senegal

ADAPT 2.0
A new costing module has been added to the Advanced Data Planning Tool to support costing and budgeting of data plans, including NSDS. The module was introduced with current users and in regional ADAPT trainings in Africa and Asia.

CRESS IN MONGOLIA
A CRESS exercise was conducted in Mongolia to inform funding for a new NSDS implementation and to strengthen the coordinating role of the NSO.

DATAVIZ IN BURKINA FASO
We trained 20 NSS staff from Burkina Faso in data visualization, giving them skills to produce more user-friendly and audience-appropriate reports.

SENEGAL GENDER ASSESSMENT
A gender assessment was conducted with 40 stakeholders in order to inform the design of Senegal’s third NSDS. 25 Senegalese staff were trained in ADAPT. As a result the NSDS specifically includes a component on gender for the first time.

MAINSTREAMING GENDER ACROSS ALL OF OUR WORK
The gender statistics perspective has been fully integrated into the NSDS workshops for the NSS assessment, the PARIS21 Academy, ADAPT and our flagship PRESS report. We also held a gender experts meeting in partnership with UN Women to strengthen national statistical systems to produce quality gender statistics aligned with national priorities and Agenda 2030.

PRAIA GROUP
We contributed a chapter on “Openness” to the Praia Group on Governance Statistics’s handbook and hosted several expert meetings. The handbook is a major breakthrough for good data on governance.

STATISTICAL LEADERSHIP
PARIS21 delivered a new module, Managing Innovation, as part of our leadership training for NSO management. This training took place in Japan for eight statistical leaders from Asia-Pacific. Another statistical leadership training took place in Africa for 20 senior African officials.

CITIZEN-GENERATED DATA
With Partners for Review, we launched a landmark paper that identifies factors preventing countries from fully exploiting their data ecosystem. It shows a need to improve transparency capacities at the organisational level which contribute to building trust between traditional and new actors in the data ecosystem.
The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) promotes the better use and production of statistics throughout the developing world. Since its establishment in 1999, PARIS21 has successfully developed a worldwide network of statisticians, policy makers, analysts, and development practitioners committed to evidence-based decision making. With the main objective to achieve national and international development goals and reduce poverty in low- and middle-income countries, PARIS21 facilitates statistical capacity development, advocates for the integration of reliable data in decision making, and coordinates donor support to statistics.
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TOGETHER, WE CAN ACHIEVE BETTER DATA FOR ALL  14
The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) helps governments acquire the skills, technology and funding necessary to produce better data for their sustainable development.

The period of this strategy—2021-2025—is a pivotal one. During these five years, the world will experience an acceleration of the data revolution, brought about by increasing digitalisation. We will also pass the halfway point of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with significantly greater action needed to ensure that we “leave no-one behind”.

We must do everything that we can to prepare countries to meet these challenges.

Despite considerable progress, many low-income countries still lack basic quality data and the statistical capabilities to reap the benefits of the new data era. This needs to change, now. We must build solid statistical systems that can provide high quality “public good data” on topics that matter for all citizens in every country, tomorrow and beyond 2030.

Data and statistics provide the foundations upon which decision-makers set priorities, target policies and investments, make informed choices to advance sustainable development, and monitor and evaluate progress. Having access to, and knowing how to use, sources of robust, timely and relevant data enables hospitals and schools to be built in the areas that need them most, skills training programmes to be targeted to those occupations in greatest demand, and business and economic growth to be stimulated. More broadly, it enables the full political and economic participation of the whole population, including women and girls and marginalised groups.

Now, more than ever, the world needs an organisation that can help to close the national statistics gap, helping every country develop the strong statistical system necessary to advance sustainable development.

That organisation is PARIS21.

Together with our partners, we will continue to provide NSOs, planning and finance ministries, civil society organisations and others with the tools and training to undertake long-term planning, and arm them with the knowledge and capacity to build robust, inclusive statistical systems capable of producing timely and high-quality data and analysis that capture the diversity of the population. We will advocate at the highest levels for the continued relevance of national statistics and ensure that they become more prominent on the development agenda, and we will catalyse greater funding for statistics among the donor community to close critical data gaps.

We will also help develop data ecosystems that are open and transparent, and ensure that their benefits are available to all, including women and girls. Within this ecosystem, the NSO will enrich national statistics and SDG reporting by drawing on a variety of data sources. Journalists and civil society organisations will be able to access, analyse and communicate official statistics to inform, educate and enrich public dialogue and hold governments and others to account. Private sector companies will share data for the public good, and lend their expertise and innovation to advance statistics for sustainable development, inclusiveness and gender equality.
We will champion the case for data and statistics at the heart of policymaking through communications campaigns that highlight real-world successes, rebuild trust in the science and practice of statistics, and foster peer learning. We will also help national statistics offices communicate better, making their products and services more relatable and useable by their target audiences.

Finally, we will ensure that sustainable development leaves no-one behind by ensuring that everyone—especially least-developed countries and fragile states—is able to produce and use data and statistics to understand the scope of the challenges, particularly for women, girls and vulnerable populations, and implement the solutions necessary to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
OUR VISION
Better data for all - a world where everyone can produce and use high-quality data and statistics to advance sustainable development for all people.

OUR MISSION
To put robust data and statistics at the heart of decision-making for inclusive sustainable development.
HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE OUR MISSION?

From 2021-2025, PARIS21 will focus on three priority action areas: Accelerate Innovation, Bridge Data Ecosystems, and Develop Statistical Capacity. Prudentially, we initially plan on a basis that our annual budget and human resources of 2019 will remain constant over the five-year period. However, given steadily growing interest among Development Assistance Committee Members, philanthropic organisations and others, we expect to see these levels increase, with a commensurate increase in ambition and impact.

These areas make best use of our strengths: our strong relationship with national statistical systems, our technical capacity, our operational agility and our ceaseless drive to innovate. As a partnership, we will continue to engage relevant stakeholders at all levels to design and implement the right solutions at the right time to achieve better data for all. We will be a bridge between national and global efforts, providing a platform for scaling-up national solutions and best practices, South-South cooperation and partnerships, while giving voice to national and sub-national groups, women and girls and disadvantaged communities on the global stage.

We see ourselves as incubators for new ideas, change processes – and commit to work with our international, regional and national partners for them to lead on the implementation and follow up.

We will continue to prioritise support to low- and middle-income countries, especially in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. We will put special focus on fragile states and small island developing states, adapting our approaches, methodologies and tools for these geographies. We will expand our support to data and statistics in crosscutting thematic areas such as gender and the environment.

Recognising that our vision cannot be achieved without gender equality, we will work to ensure that the empowerment of women is a core component of our planning, operations and engagement, and will incorporate gender and inclusion lenses across all facets of our work. This includes mainstreaming gender across our priority action areas to close the gender data gap, promoting diversity and inclusiveness in our work with partners and our own operations, and developing concrete inclusion targets in our results framework.
ACCELERATE INNOVATION

PARIS21 will locate, create, scale and deploy tools, methodologies and services that improve the quality of data and statistics and make their production processes faster, more cost efficient and effective. We will help national statistical systems (NSS) implement innovation programmes aimed at leveraging data science, adopting inclusive approaches to innovation and engaging with external data innovators. We will help countries fill data gaps by developing smart data and engagement strategies. We will continue promoting agile data planning to ensure policy-responsive data systems to support sustainable development and gender equality, including through operationalised national strategies for the development of statistics (NSDS).

We will promote innovation for greater data use throughout the policy cycle, and work with partners to make innovations sustainable by ensuring that they drive greater effectiveness, diversity, inclusion and efficiency within the statistical system. We will enhance the use of statistics in policymaking and monitoring by advocating for inclusive statistics and wider data use. We will develop specific indicators to report progress on innovation with NSS, and which demonstrate how innovative ways of producing and distributing statistical data affect their use.

**INDICATIVE RESULTS**

15 countries able to produce and disaggregate data along intersectional lines on new and urgent concerns (such as those related to gender equality, environment and climate, governance, sustainability, or well-being), including through advanced data analytics on secondary datasets.

15 countries with innovative data sourcing and analytics strategies for NSS designed and implemented, including through the establishment of partnerships with external data science stakeholders, particularly those that promote the leadership of women and active participation of marginalised groups. Impact of these innovative practices on statistical data use in policy monitored and documented.
15 countries and 3 sub-regional institutions equipped with interoperable data systems that facilitate data sharing and exchange for enhanced data production, dissemination and use, leveraging data and metadata exchange standards.

BRIDGE DATA ECOSYSTEMS

PARIS21 will build stronger partnerships and collaboration among multilateral agencies, private and public sector entities, cities, civil society, academia and the media to enhance trust in data, modernise data processes, strengthen inclusion, increase data coverage and use, and expand funding for statistics.

We will not only act as a bridge between different entities and sectors, but also between local, national regional and global actors, helping build stronger and more diverse communities of practice, effective peer exchanges and learning in statistics on critical policy issues such as gender, representation and intersectionality to develop statistical systems that leave no one behind. We will scale-up our advocacy at all levels for more and better funding to national statistical systems to facilitate better matching of funds to country needs and promote greater cooperation and coordination of global, regional and national actors.

We will help to make national and sub-national interventions and innovations sustainable, replicable and widely applicable, bringing them to scale through broad-based partnerships and advocacy. We will amplify the voice of national statistical offices at the global level, encouraging greater international cooperation, exchange of best practices through peer learning and knowledge creation.

Bridging the data ecosystem also means finding new and effective ways of filling persisting data gaps, disaggregating data to support the evidence base for gender equality, and strengthening the role of NSOs in coordination and user-producer dialogue. With renewed emphasis on capturing, measuring and communicating the impacts of interventions in national statistical systems, we will champion greater domestic and international resource mobilisation for data and statistics, including among the private sector, philanthropic organisations and aid agencies.

INDICATIVE RESULTS

More than 1,000 data stakeholders convened and engaged in dialogue to design and implement data solutions, promote more and better data for development, and adopt data-informed sustainable development policies. Cross-regional forums, board meeting, global discussions, user-producer forums, expert group meetings, and national workshops and regional high-level forums on statistics convened in support of this result, with gender and inclusiveness lenses applied to content development, meeting design and selection of participants.

15 countries capacitated with well-functioning partnerships around data. This will entail fostering data collaboration between and among national statistical system actors, particularly on priority areas for action such as gender equality and governance. NSOs will be empowered leaders in their data
ecosystem, able to play a coordinating and quality-assurance role beyond the traditional mandate of data production.

15 resource mobilisation campaigns for data and statistics (particularly on NSDS) implemented at the national level, three campaigns at the sub-regional level related to regional strategies for the development of statistics (RSDS), and one global campaign linked to more and better data for sustainable development.

DEVELOP STATISTICAL CAPACITY

PARIS21 will develop individual, organisational and systemic statistical capacity in low and middle-income countries. We will prioritise national statistical systems, helping develop their capacity to engage effectively with the larger data ecosystem.

We will do this by creating incentives to better align the supply of training and technical assistance to the priority needs of NSS by developing and implementing skills and capacity strategies within NSDS. We will leverage e-learning (via the PARIS21 Academy and connected portals) and blended learning to meet the scale challenge. We will equip the national statistical systems with knowledge and tools to help them successfully reply to national and global data demands but more importantly help governments collect sufficient information on how to improve the livelihoods of their citizens, prioritising populations most at risk of being left behind, including women and girls.

We will mainstream gender into our workshops, training and learning activities by ensuring that our activities are inclusive and empowering, and that learning materials support gender equality and inclusiveness. We will cultivate a data-driven culture in national development, policymaking, and governance, employing the tools and guidance developed by PARIS21 and its partners. Moreover, we will continue to measure statistical capacities built and their impact on the data ecosystem through the PARIS21 Statistical Capacity Monitor, our flagship reports and SDG indicators.
INDICATIVE RESULTS

Around 100 NSO leaders and senior managers trained and mentored on effective statistical leadership (including innovation and partnership management), and 5,000 senior staff trained on priority data topics and techniques, including mainstreaming gender in statistical programmes, with specific measures to prioritise women’s participation.

30 countries with policy-responsive (including SDG), fully funded, and implemented NSDS, through improved statistics governance. To achieve this, enabling legal frameworks and policies on statistics, adequate human resources (in terms of both quantity and skills), and operationalised data quality assurance frameworks, among other things, will be supported. At least 10 of these will identify and propose measures for closing gender statistics gaps.

15 countries with established statistical literacy programmes benefiting diverse audiences, particularly non-NSS staff such as data analysts in line ministries and public agencies, media, universities and schools, and civil society organizations, among others. Programme content and methodology made available via PARIS21 channels to a wider community for replication and scaling up.

15 new scientifically validated performance indicators to measure and monitor statistical capacities on national, regional and global level, including metrics for gender and inclusion.

ENSURING ORGANIZATIONAL READINESS

Hosted by the OECD since our inception in 1999, we have benefited from a close working relationship with the organisation. This has facilitated an exchange of ideas, substantive content, working practices and administrative procedures that is both rigorous and responsive to the rapidly evolving global data landscape. We will continue to strengthen this relationship during the 2021-2025 period.

In addition to the action areas mentioned above, PARIS21 has identified five critical aspects of organisational effectiveness that we will pursue order to remain agile, responsive, efficient and relevant during the term of this strategy.

STRENGTH THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

We will leverage the experience and expertise of our partners to create interventions that are impactful, comprehensive and relevant to national statistical systems. We will be a platform to amplify the voices of our partners, and to coordinate with other agencies. We will be a source of innovative ideas, practices and projects to
bolster the work of our partners on the ground. We will continue supporting countries by strengthening synergies between new and existing global, regional, national and subnational partners to create greater combined effects in supporting evidence-based policies as well as inclusive and sustainable development trajectories.

**STRATEGIC AGILITY AND EFFICIENCY**

One of PARIS21’s greatest strengths is our ability to adapt quickly to the rapidly evolving global data landscape, ensuring the timeliness of our responses and the relevance of our programming. We do this by incorporating the latest innovations and game-changing approaches, seizing opportunities as they arise, and ensuring administrative efficiency. During the 2021-2025 period, PARIS21 will harness the latest tools and technologies to make our work more impactful and effective, while continuing to streamline our administrative processes.

**HIGHLY CAPABLE, MOTIVATED AND DIVERSE WORKFORCE**

Our small but dedicated team of experienced professionals brings together a diverse set of skills, background and experience to advance PARIS21’s mission. As global demand for data and statistics increases, and in response to more and more requests for support from developing country partners, PARIS21’s core of long-term staff will continue to evolve, whilst seeking to maintain the diversity of our workforce and organisational leadership, with additional experts brought in as demand requires.

**MANAGEMENT FOR RESULTS**

PARIS21’s commitment to excellence in data and statistics for sustainable development extends to our own operations as well. Management for results will inform our culture and practice, with every project, programme, mission or report being produced to achieve a specific impact, and consequently monitored to that effect. A unified results framework will be developed to support the implementation and monitoring of the strategy. Planning and monitoring will consider those impacts in light of the different experiences of men and women. Our results will inform our work, providing insights into areas for improvement and opportunities for inclusive growth.

**AN INCLUSIVE LENS**

In keeping with a focus on ‘better data for all’, PARIS21 will build on its existing gender statistics portfolio to adopt an inclusive approach to strategy implementation. This includes an expansion of our ongoing efforts to mainstream gender and intersectionality in our activities across all action areas as well as developing respective indicators and targets in our results framework.

**CHAMPIONS FOR DATA & STATISTICS**

With mistrust of data and facts on the rise, it is more important than ever before that PARIS21 be a champion for data and statistics that reflect the diversity of populations, including women and girls. This calls for improvements in disaggregation to support intersectional analysis and innovations to make invisible populations more visible in official statistics. We will place a renewed emphasis on telling the powerful story of data in advancing sustainable development, while ensuring that our own efforts, and those of our partners, are reflected in our storytelling.
A BUSINESS MODEL FIT FOR PURPOSE

Implementing our strategy requires a strong and stable financial footing so that we can serve as an effective secretariat for a vibrant partnership. Today PARIS21 relies on a small pool of donors who provide our core funding. This presents a risk for the effective implementation of this strategy, and complicates the management of human and financial resources. At the same time, demand for PARIS21 services has continuously increased and diversified over the years, yet our current institutional framework restricts our ability to tap into new funding sources.

In order to strengthen our ability to deliver and remain at the cutting-edge of data and statistics for sustainable development, we will follow a two-pronged strategy.

First, in order to ensure a stable business model, we will continue to strengthen our core-funding base with existing and new partners, in line with our new, agile “partners engagement framework”. The framework will mainstream partnerships throughout PARIS21’s work and integrate them into our new results framework.

Second, recognising that remaining relevant within a rapidly evolving data ecosystem requires additional flexibility, we will actively work to tap into new funding sources. The creation of a ‘PARIS21 Foundation’, a separate entity able to raise funds from a wider variety of donors through a wider variety of funding mechanisms, could increase our ability to deliver on our strategic objectives and respond to the priority demands from the partners, countries and donors.
The next five years promise to be an incredibly exciting time for national statistical systems. The amount of official development assistance committed to statistics is on the rise, and there is an increasing awareness among the donor and international development communities that data and statistics must be at the heart of sustainable development. At the same time, the data revolution is opening up a wide horizon of possibilities for innovation and transformative change. Our interventions to support data & statistics are also now informed by better knowledge about what works and what does not.

PARIS21 and our partners stand ready to help every country reap the benefits of these changes, and develop national statistical systems fit for the 21st Century.
Delivering, Strengthening Our Impact, And Transitioning To Our New 2021-2025 Strategy
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1. PRIORITISING AND DELIVERING

1.1 DELIVERING ON OUR EXISTING STRATEGY

The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) helps governments acquire the skills, technology and funding necessary to produce and use better data for sustainable development.

In 2020, we will enter the ‘Decade of Action’ to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We will continue to experience an acceleration of the data revolution, brought about by the increasing digitalisation. Despite considerable progress, many low-income countries still lack basic quality data and the statistical capabilities to reap the benefits of the new data era. This needs to change, now. We must build solid statistical systems that can provide high quality “public good data” on topics that matter for all citizens in every country, tomorrow and beyond 2030.

In 2020, PARIS21 will continue to deliver on its 2016-2020 strategy, while transitioning to our 2021-2025 strategy. In that context, the Secretariat will design a new, unified results framework to complement the new strategy.

Together with our partners, we will continue to provide national statistical offices (NSOs) and national statistical systems (NSSs), planning and finance ministries, civil society organisations and others with the tools and training to undertake long-term planning, and arm them with the knowledge and capacity to build robust statistical systems capable of producing timely and high-quality data and analysis. We will advocate at the highest levels for the continued relevance of national statistics and ensure that they become more prominent on the development agenda, and we will catalyse greater funding for statistics among the donor community. We will also help develop data ecosystems that are open and transparent, and ensure that their benefits are available to all. We will champion the case for data and statistics at the heart of policymaking through communications campaigns that highlight real-world successes, rebuild trust in data and raise statistical literacy.

This document contains the proposal for a programme of work (POW) for the PARIS21 Secretariat in 2020, based on the four pillars of its 2016-2020 Strategy: Knowledge-Sharing and Innovation Incubator, Advocacy, Co-ordination and Monitoring, and Technical Support. The activities presented in this document are planned based on the current available funding to PARIS21 amounting to EUR 3.34 million and a conservative estimate on the potential funding, including ongoing discussions with donors. The POW was designed and will be implemented in accordance with the principles and good practice recommended in the “Guidelines on developing statistical capacity – CD4.0” which PARIS21 will publish in January. Special components of CD4.0 will be piloted with interested partners, as further detailed in this document.

PARIS21 is set to deepen its impact and influence in the data for development landscape. We are working smarter, communicating more clearly, promoting our knowledge and prioritising our action better. All this in addition to delivering on a robust programme of work as in past years. The demand for our support grows year-on-year and indeed outpaces our capacity. The proposed work programme is based on budget and human resources available, for which the Secretariat is grateful to its donors.

1.2 PRIORITISING ACTIVITIES

In 2020, our POW better integrates global, regional and national level activities. We prioritise activities related to data planning, including financing, and data use, including promotion of statistical literacy. We prioritise activities promoting partner involvement, which directly impact capacity and institutional development.

Within the scope of its strategy, PARIS21’s country and regional activities are based on direct formal requests from partners. Most of them come from heads of NSOs or NSS stakeholders, but also from national planning commissions, civil society organisations (CSOs) and development partners. The demand for support is larger than the funding availability of the Secretariat and therefore a prioritisation process for interventions is used, in particular for country-based activities. The Country Prioritisation System uses a set of qualitative and quantitative variables to determine priority countries:
• **Income Group**: Low-Income Countries (LIC), all of Africa, Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMIC) and/or International Development Association (IDA) and Blend Countries – being a LIC increases the likelihood of a country being selected;

• **Country Status**: Fragile States, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Landlocked Developing State– these three characteristics increase the likelihood of a country being selected;

• A customised statistical development dashboard that takes into account the status of the NSS in terms of governance (i.e. statistical legislation, NSS), advocacy and communication activities (i.e. website, social media), data management and dissemination (i.e. statistical standards, data platforms), national and international financial support to statistics (Country Report on Support to Statistics - CRESS).

Additional considerations used to prioritise countries include:

• **Assessing the sustainability of support**, particularly for countries with weak institutional capacity (continue to engage with the countries in the case of a long process: e.g. NSDS process; and feedback on implementation from the regional co-ordinators);

• **Inquiring whether the request has been submitted** to another development partner before further engagement;

• **Ensuring a balance** between regions to maintain the global nature of the Secretariat’s activities;

• **Leveraging partners’ own country activities** to maximise impact and reduce duplication.

Prioritisation also considers other factors, such as the opportunity to scale solutions or activities to other beneficiaries or to follow-up from activities undertaken in the previous year (e.g. institutional strengthening when an NSS assessment was done in the previous year); the existence of a firm political backing for a request from an NSO; or the involvement of key partners.

In many cases, the country-level activities proposed are dependent on the level of political advancement underpinning their launch and implementation at the national or regional level and might suffer considerable delays or cancellation based on shifting priorities. It depends also, in the best case, on additional funding received by the Secretariat during the year to undertake new activities. Therefore, the POW needs to remain flexible to adapt to these changing realities. This flexibility and agility is a key comparative advantage appreciated by beneficiaries of the PARIS21 POW.

The 2020 POW also provides global relevance, with a focus on Africa and a renewed programme for the Middle East North Africa region (MENA). The Secretariat will develop an action plan, specific to the MENA region, to implement the new 2021-2025 PARIS21 Strategy in the region. The action plan will have specific fund-raising, and will put particular emphasis on cross learning between countries in the region on innovation, data ecosystems engagement and capacity development.

In 2020, the proposed POW provides a balance between global, regional and country level activities.
The 2020 POW also provides global relevance, with a focus on Africa and a renewed programme for the Middle East North Africa region (MENA). The Secretariat will develop an action plan, specific to the MENA region, to implement the new 2021-2025 PARIS21 Strategy in the region. The action plan will have specific fund-raising, and will put particular emphasis on cross learning between countries in the region on innovation, data ecosystems engagement and capacity development.

The 2020 POW also provides a balance between the four pillars of its 2016-2020 strategy: Knowledge-Sharing and Innovation, Advocacy, Co-ordination and Monitoring, and Technical Support

1.3 BUILDING ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND ENGAGEMENT OF PARTNERS

The implementation of the POW will be done in close collaboration with more than 40 regional and global partners. Selected highlights include:

UK Department for International Development (DfID)
In addition to funding, the Department will facilitate interventions for advocacy, and actively contribute to and chair the NSDS Expert Reference Group. The use of ONS technical experts in selected activities, based on availability, is under discussion. PARIS21 will also provide advice to DfID statistical advisers in countries upon request.

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Following its funding of the study on a Global Fund for Statistical Capacity, the Agency for Cooperation and Development of Switzerland is funding the PARIS21 programme of work. In addition, PARIS21 is in close collaboration with Switzerland through its secretariat role on the Bern Network.
Global Affairs Canada and Statistics Canada
Through funding from Global Affairs Canada, the Secretariat will collaborate with Statistics Canada to identify common areas of intervention and resource personnel for specific interventions in countries, provide expert review of documents, and develop joint events in regional and international fora. Quality assessment frameworks and gender data will be prioritised.

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and Statistics Sweden
With financial support from SIDA, the Secretariat will collaborate with Statistics Sweden to identify and implement joint approaches for specific interventions in countries, for development of tools and knowledge products, and for joint events in regional and international fora.

Eurostat
Eurostat provides co-funding for several activities and is a close partner in the implementation of peer reviews in Africa.

World Bank
Collaboration with the World Bank country offices on their various statistical programmes takes place in the form of technical co-ordination. The collaboration with the Development Data Group advances international advocacy efforts on development data financing, and in measuring statistical capacity.

Inter-American Development Bank
Collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) includes the organisation of the regional seminar on data communication.

African Development Bank
Synergies with the African Development Bank (AfDB) on regional events are being established, in particular for the co-organisation of two sub-regional human resource management and leadership trainings. In addition, PARIS21 will continue to collaborate with the AfDB on NSDS developments and evaluations throughout Africa.

UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
Long-standing collaboration with SIAP will not only involve the organisation and co-financing of regional trainings on NSDS, but also leadership and innovation. Follow-up to the very successful 2019 regional training on data communication and data visualization is likely to continue at national level, with SIAP and the Asian Development Bank.

UN Statistics Division
The long-standing collaboration with UNSD will continue, both on Capacity Development 4.0 and on specific topics such as SDG data gaps and users-producers engagement. PARIS21 has been a contributor and reviewer of several chapters of the Handbook on Statistical Organisations.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in addition to being the host of PARIS21, provides guidance to the Secretariat, expertise in the development of various tools and information on commitments from partners, which feeds into the Partner Report on Support for Statistics (PRESS). In addition, the work of the DAC Informal Group on Development Data will benefit from PARIS21’s active involvement. PARIS21 also collaborates with relevant departments of the OECD on donor alignment, data sourcing topics, innovation management in public sector, etc.

Other Key Partners
The Secretariat will continue to team up with new partners including those from the private sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs and CSOs) and foundations. At the country level, the key implementation partners will remain actors from the NSS, often the NSO with the inclusion of the civil society organisations (CSOs). At the regional level, partners include member organisations such as the African Union Commission (AUC), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Pacific Community (SPC), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Southern African Development Community (SADC); technical organisations such as the Observatoire économique et statistique d’Afrique subsaharienne (AFRISTAT); and UN Economic
Commissions, in particular the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC). Although many of the bilateral donor partners may not directly engage with the Secretariat in the implementation of activities, they continue to play a strong role in championing and advocating for the mission and activities of PARIS21.

2. PILLAR I: KNOWLEDGE-SHARING AND INNOVATION

HIGHLIGHTS
• Fostering innovation in NSO & NSS
• New data sources
• New skills
• Data use and statistical literacy
• Trust Initiative implementation

2.1 INTEGRATING INNOVATION

The Secretariat will continue to promote innovation within NSOs. It will finalise its guidelines on “Understanding Data Innovation in National Statistical Offices" with additional case studies. The partnership with the OECD OPSI will continue and will be extended to new relevant partners. A training for NSO leadership will be delivered in partnership with SIAP in Asia, after a successful experience in 2019, and will be introduced in Africa with relevant partners involved in leadership training.

The Secretariat will also promote the engagement of official statistics with data innovators through different engagement activities, both at global and local levels. In addition to the pilots mentioned above, the Secretariat will participate and co-sponsor a hackathon in Jalisco, Mexico, to bring together a community of data innovators to solve a long-standing geospatial data issue of the local government, which has policy implications. Partnerships are being established between local universities, incubators of innovators, and official data agencies to help mobilise innovative thinking and solutions to fix current data problems. The Secretariat will implement its "Data Scientist" pilot project, which was designed last year with two voluntary NSOs. The objective is to bring innovative data science solutions to NSOs to fix long-standing data issues, augment available data files, and improve how data is curated and made available. This will be done by leveraging global and local expertise in five selected areas1.

The Secretariat will continue its work on measuring data use in policy, building on work done in past years on food and agriculture policies, and gender policies. First, by further refining its existing measurement tools and indicators, such as the measures on references to statistics in policy documents. Second, by researching and advancing the understanding of data use in policy cycles, upstream and downstream of policy

1 The five areas are:
• Data preparation: Using data science to improve current efficiency in data collection, transformation and preparation.
• Improving current methodology: Using data science to improve current methodology in sampling and survey.
• Revisiting existing data: Mining large micro data sets for new information and better quality. This includes using techniques such as text mining, machine learning / image recognition, projection for future
• Creating augmented data: Using big data methods to collect crumbles of data to produce new indicators, including using geo-spatial data for demographic, poverty and environmental statistics, citizen-generated data.
• Data visualisation and presentation using new tools, including open source tools such as D3, Python and R.
documents. This will be done with relevant partners, through desk research, interviews and specific pilots in two voluntary countries, linking this agenda to the statistical literacy agenda. Ultimately, the Secretariat will propose selected indicators for inclusion in the Statistical Capacity Monitor.

The Secretariat will continue its investigation of the usability of new data sources for NSSs, in particular through the participation and contribution to relevant global groups working on the topic (including the UN-GWG), including around geospatial data, administrative data, and citizen-generated data. Special attention will be given to “data sourcing strategies” and corresponding “data skills/capacities strategies” in the context of the support, which PARIS21 provides, to countries and regions in the design of their national strategies for the development of statistics.

The Secretariat will implement its “PARIS21 2020 Trust Initiative” which was launched at the 2019 Cross-Regional Forum, which aims at supporting two countries in implementing targeted activities to improve trust in NSO/NSS and its data products. Interested parties are invited to send their submissions, which will be evaluated by a multi-stakeholder, representative panel. Implementation will follow in 2020. Given the high number and high quality of the submissions, a specific, additional fund-raising campaign may be initiated by the Secretariat.

2.2 MAKING DATA AVAILABLE AND UNDERSTANDABLE

PARIS21 will finalise its guidelines on Data Flows Assessment Framework (DFAF), which were developed and piloted last year with several partners, including the OECD and Ghana. This DFAF aims at improving flows, and therefore access to data, within and outside an agency. It complements the work of the Secretariat on landscaping current dissemination practices NSOs implement in their data portals. This study will be finalised and published this year, jointly with Open Data Watch, through a paper on “Data Dissemination in the Digital Age: Are Data Portals working for Official Statistics?”. A specific e-learning course will be developed for this resource in the PARIS21 Academy e-learning platform to scale its outreach. Building on the successful use of the NSDS Guidelines website, PARIS21 will systematically make its knowledge available on the e-learning platform as soon as the work stream has been used in countries and can be followed remotely.

To support NSOs in improving their communication, the Secretariat will further develop its toolkit on “communicating with data” to help NSO staff and top management speak and write on data to improve the overall use of data.

This activity will be particularly important for the work on gender, as the Secretariat will work to improve dissemination and communication of gender statistics. The secretariat will leverage existing tools and develop new resources to engage journalists in communicating gender statistics. These activities focus on facilitating collaboration and dialogue between NSOs and media, as well as expanding the reach and impact of gender data. A PARIS21 e-learning course will be launched on the PARIS21 Academy. The modules will feature a 2-track model, designed to deepen journalists’ understanding of the work of national statisticians, and vice versa. The course features introductory education on key concepts in gender statistics and gender equality, topical modules on women’s economic empowerment, and crosscutting resources for gender data users. Specific training will be provided to journalists and official statisticians in effective visualization and communication of gender statistics, in Namibia and Nepal.

In addition, the Secretariat will conduct a regional seminar on data communication for NSOs in Latin America and the Caribbean. This will be organised jointly with the Paraguay NSO, IDB and UNECLAC.

The Secretariat will also conduct a regional training workshop on data visualization in Africa, in partnership with the African Development Bank, Afristat, and the French NSO (INSEE). This follows the success of this work last year in Asia and the Pacific, which was done with UNSIAP and the Asian Development Bank. For this year, the Secretariat is planning a blended approach, scaling the outreach through the appropriate use of its training resources available on the PARIS21 Academy.
2.3 GUIDELINES AND BEST PRACTICES ISSUES

The Secretariat will produce several discussion papers, case studies and guidelines this year, as detailed in corresponding sections of this document. Special effort will be made to develop and use specific, complementary e-learning resources, which will be available through the PARIS21 Academy. This e-learning feature is expected to play a strong role in the upcoming strategy and the work and feedback around it in 2020 will be essential. The Secretariat aims to make an increasing amount of material available via e-learning, which will build on partner inputs and existing outputs and processes to avoid duplication and leverage existing resources. The Secretariat is involved in the UNSD led Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST) task team on e-learning. PARIS21 is a founding member of GIST.

The Secretariat will finalise and launch its “Guidelines on developing statistical capacity – CD4.0” in January, in the context of a conference organised jointly with UNSD on “New approaches to capacity development for better data”. The conference will bring together 80 global, regional and country experts on statistical capacity development, official statisticians, training experts and technical and financial partners.

The Secretariat will continue to provide support to the Praia City Group on Governance Statistics and its Steering Committee Praia City Group. In particular, it will contribute to the finalisation of several chapters and lead on the finalisation of the chapter on “openness” in the Handbook. PARIS21 will provide support for the global consultation process, in close partnership with UNSD and the PRAIA Group Steering Committee. This work will be essential in encouraging NSO uptake of this topic. The draft Handbook is expected to be approved in March 2020 at the UN Statistical Commission.

The Secretariat will continue to develop and update the NSDS Guidelines, under the directions of the NSDS Guidelines Reference Group. The membership of the Reference Group will be updated after the 2020 meeting. DfID currently chairs the Reference Group.

The Secretariat will continue to develop and promotes other Guidelines and Best practices to facilitate knowledge sharing and mutual learning across countries as indicated in the different sections of this report.

3. PILLAR II: ADVOCACY

3.1 ADVOCACY

The Secretariat will continue its core advocacy role for better data for better policies for better lives. It will continue to do so by specific communication and engagement campaigns, building on its knowledge, reporting mechanisms including the three SDG indicators for which the Secretariat is custodian, and increased leveraging of its networks. A key milestone of the year will be the PARIS21 Annual Meetings, taking place on 7th and 8th April 2020 in Paris. The Secretariat is also fully committed to a high-level involvement at the next UN World Data Forum in Bern.

HIGHLIGHTS
• Better and more funding (Bern Network)
• Better use of data
• Better gender data
PARIS21 will organise an innovative Cross-Regional Forum in July 2019 on gender statistics in the margins of the Generation Equality Forum (Beijing+25). The Cross Regional Forum will bring together participants from different regions to share perspectives and experiences. Building on the success of the previous CRF livestreaming, connectivity will allow for global participation remotely, reaching out to managers from NSOs, gender experts, media, government officials and representatives from donor and technical co-operation agencies. Previous Cross-Regional Fora have focused on relevant issues for statistical development, including modernisation, subnational statistics, financing and SDG implementation, and trust in data.

As part of its global advocacy and dissemination of its guidelines and knowledge products, PARIS21 will contribute, attend and/or support international and regional events such as the World Data Forum in Bern, the UN Statistical Commission and its side events, the Committee of DGs (CODG) meeting in South Africa, the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians Meeting, the ASEAN Community Statistical System (ACSS) Committee Meeting, UNECLAC, ESCAP Conference, AIDB, AUC and UNECA meetings, as well as the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) and other relevant/necessary events.

The Secretariat will enhance the exposure of NSO Director Generals to international events such as the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), the PARIS21 Annual Meetings and other regional platforms, thereby providing a setting to voice the realities of NSSs. Following on the previous meetings in 2017 and 2018, under the auspices of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, PARIS21 will collaborate with the Pacific Community and CARICOM to strengthen collaboration at the level of UNSC through the launching of a SIDS co-operation platform, in co-operation with the UN DESA SIDS Unit as well as support the establishment of regional statistical co-operation in Africa and the Indian Ocean SIDS. A Roundtable for SIDS will be organised by the Secretariat and its Partners in the margins of the UNSC.

The Secretariat will continue to serve as the Bern Network on Financing Data for Development’s Secretariat. The Bern Network is a multi-stakeholder collaboration established in 2019 to progress the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data by improving the quantity and quality of funding directed towards data and statistics, in particular in low-income countries. It brings together aid and development agencies, national statistical offices, ministries, private sector institutions and civil society groups and is led by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, Swiss Federal Statistical Office and core partners. The objective of the network is to deliver a set of commitments for the United Nations World Data Forum in October 2020 in Bern, Switzerland. In 2020, the Secretariat will develop a draft strategy for the Bern Network to drive outcomes under the network’s five main action areas for the UNWDF. In particular, the Secretariat will propose to work on a ‘Clearing-house for Financing Development Data’ as a planned deliverable for the UNWDF, building on discussions and consultations held with PARIS21 and OECD colleagues. The Secretariat will be involved in outreach and communications activities to ensure that its work is co-created with the input of as many stakeholder groups as possible. Meetings are being planned in the margins of the UN Statistical Commission, and in different capitals to advocate for better financing for better data. These events will be promoted as ‘Road to Bern’ events for the UNWDF. The Secretariat will continue to support the development of the Bern Network commitments through virtual meetings, analytical work, and country outreach and dialogue, with the aim of having advanced proposals by June 2020.

At country level, the Secretariat will promote greater visibility for official statistics and NSS at critical, leverage points of the NSDS cycles, either at launching or mid-term or final reviews. Special forums, to advocate for greater support for statistics, including domestic funding, will be organised with several countries where the Secretariat is involved through NSDS or CRESS related activities (including El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Lesotho, Bhutan, and Vanuatu).

3.2 COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS

In 2020, communication will be strengthened, as it is an essential component of any activity of the Secretariat, as detailed in the “communication” section of this document.

In addition, the Secretariat will design and implement communications campaigns that support PARIS21’s mission, including along the themes of:
• **Building trust in national statistics** – in support of the 2020 Trust Initiative, the Secretariat will implement a campaign that aims to raise awareness about the issue, highlight best practices and success stories, and engage a wide range of stakeholders in the discussion.

• **More and better development data** – at the start of the “Decade of Action” and in the frame of the Bern Network Secretariat, PARIS21 will work to build consensus and buy-in among key global partners for more and better funding of development data.

• **Strengthening NSO communications** – the Secretariat will work with our NSO partners, especially those in least-developed countries and fragile states, to strengthen communication of data and statistics, and of the work of NSOs themselves. We will do this by helping them to construct and implement communications strategies, provide training, and raising awareness (details with data visualization in section 2).

• **Effective data journalism** – the Secretariat will strengthen cooperation among journalists, NSOs, academics and civil society by implementing a learning programme where representatives of those groups will work together to develop pieces of journalism that effectively and accurately utilise national statistics (details with gender data in section 2).

• **Amplifying impact** – In the run-up to the 2020 UN World Data Forum, the Secretariat will work with its global, regional and national partners to identify success stories where stronger national statistical systems have contributed to positive development outcomes. The Secretariat will turn these into an engaging communications campaign aimed at bolstering support for national statistics.

### 4. PILLAR III: CO-ORDINATION AND MONITORING

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Global reporting
  - SDG Reporting, new PARIS21 Results Framework
- Clearing house mechanism
- NSDS & RSDS
  - Country support and Task Team

#### 4.1 GLOBAL MONITORING

PARIS21 will also continue to do SDG reporting as custodian agency for the SDG indicators on Statistical Legislation (17.18.2), National Statistical Plans (17.18.3) and Funding Dedicated to Support Statistics in Developing Countries (17.19.2).

Regarding the financial support to statistics, the Secretariat will roll out the Country Report on Support to Statistics (CRESS) in Lao PDR and Mongolia, Benin, Cameroon, Gambia and Niger. In addition, the CRESS methodology will be finalised based on its successful implementation and refining in several countries over the past years.
At the global level, the Secretariat will conduct and disseminate the main findings of the 2020 release of the PRESS, with initial results from the ‘Early PRESS’ (E-PRESS) methodological experiment. The online questionnaire that facilitates data collection was opened in September 2019 and results will be available in the first quarter of 2020. PARIS21 partners play a key role in providing the source data for this report, with the largest providers of support to statistics being PARIS21 Board Members: Canada, the United Kingdom, European Commission (Eurostat), FAO, IMF, UNFPA and the World Bank. The Secretariat will continue to contribute analysis on financing for gender statistics as part of the 2020 edition of PRESS. This includes an analysis of global support to statistics with (1) a gender component and (2) a primary objective of gender.

The Secretariat will also work with relevant partners, including UNSD and the HLG, to prepare for a global survey to monitor the progress on the implementation of the CTGAP.

The Secretariat will work on the integration of PRESS, CRESS, SDG, and ADAPT-enabled information systems to enhance the value of the information they generate, and reduce the burden of respondents and the silos of corresponding communities. This will play an essential role to inform the “clearing-house” mechanism which is being proposed in the context of the Bern Network.

4.2 NSDS/RSDS AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING

The Secretariat will continue to support countries in their strategic planning exercise, which is even more needed in an era dominated by the SDGs and more complex data ecosystems. Smart data planning is required. The Secretariat will assist in the design, costing using ADAPT, validation, review, implementation, evaluation of NSDSs in Angola, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Madagascar, Lesotho, Togo; Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Montserrat, Paraguay; Maldives, Vanuatu; Egypt and Palestine. ADAPT will continue to be one of the key tools used to support different steps of the NSDS lifecycle, including the articulation of mid-term strategic plans and annual action plans, and their monitoring. The integration at sub-regional/regional level of NSDS will be a key area of support for PARIS21 as funding to statistics at regional level will increase, following the recent World Bank / IDA initiatives.

The Secretariat will continue to support countries in the mainstreaming of gender in statistical planning, including NSDSs. The Secretariat will implement activities with nine countries (Senegal, Maldives, Kyrgyz Republic, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Cambodia, Lesotho and Jordan). This will be done through specific engagement strategies, dependant on each country context. Specific technical assistance will be provided, and capacity of national staff will be developed in the use of the frameworks and tools (in particular, ADAPT gender module) co-designed with partners for this project.

At the regional level, the Secretariat will continue its support to the Pacific region on the assessment of tourism statistics, and will organise a regional workshop to identify the strategic priorities in terms of data production and associated capacity development.

The Secretariat will conduct the first regional training on NSDS for the MENA region, in collaboration with AITRS, Jordan and UNESCWA. The 7th Regional NSDS Trainings in Asia and Pacific will be organised, building on the successful partnership with UNSIAP. The implementation of the SIDS guidelines for a lighter NSDS for certain countries will also be used in the Caribbean and for Pacific attendees in the Asia/Pacific training. NSDS costing will also feature prominently in all trainings, leveraging functionalities in ADAPT.

The Secretariat proposes the establishment of a high level Task Team to reflect on NSDS and RSDS approaches today, building on 20 years of experiences, lessons learnt and evaluations. This Task Team is expected to define quality assessment frameworks for NSDSs/RSDSs and to provide forward-looking guidance on how systemic, mid-term strategic data planning can be made even more relevant for those who use data, those who fund them and those who produce them. The Task Team will provide extremely useful guidance for many PARIS21 partners, and for the Secretariat.
5. PILLAR IV: TECHNICAL SUPPORT

5.1 STRENGTHENING STATISTICAL INSTITUTIONS

The Secretariat will organise leadership trainings in Asia and the Pacific for NSOs top management, in collaboration with UNSIAp, and in Africa, in collaboration with relevant regional partners. The Secretariat will also organise a regional workshop for African countries on human resource management, with AfDB and Afristat, which will be based on exchanges of good practice between African NSOs.

The Secretariat will conduct the first regional training on NSDS for the MENA region, in collaboration with AITRS, Jordan and UNESCWA. The 7th Regional NSDS Trainings in Asia and Pacific will be organised, building on the successful partnership with UNSIAp.

The Secretariat will continue to provide specific technical assistance to NSOs and NSSs, to help overcome some of their challenges associated with data planning and data use. In particular, the Secretariat will provide technical assistance:

- On data planning using ADAPT, to about 40 countries
- On data flows, implementing the DFAF framework to promote better modelling and timely data.
- On data portals management, implementing the recommendations of the UNSD assessment and the findings of the Data Portal survey (see section 2)
- On data communication and visualization, using the PARIS21 dataviz toolbox based on free tools
- On data use, implementing specific methodologies to track use and improve statistical literacy

5.2 UPDATING STATISTICAL LAWS

The work of the Secretariat on statistical legislation and legal framework will continue with the finalisation of an inventory of current practices and the preparation of short guidelines on experiences and lessons learned on the implementation of reviews of the statistical legislation in different countries. This work is essential as a coherent addition to PARIS21’s work on the SDG indicator on statistical legislation, and is of utmost importance for NSOs, NSSs and societies that demand more granular data and more privacy. There is an increase in the demands for guidance for adequate data governance expressed to the Secretariat, in line with NSOs expanding role as data stewards of the NSSs.

The Secretariat will undertake the Statistics Law Review and Revision in Bhutan.
6. COMMUNICATIONS

The Secretariat will pursue a communications strategy that seeks to expand PARIS21’s reach online and offline, deepen engagement with existing and new stakeholders by tailoring content delivery to different stakeholder segments, tell the story of the impacts of PARIS21’s interventions and those of our partners, and help strengthen communications within national statistical offices. Overall, the Secretariat will deepen the link between communications and partnerships, working to strengthen the relationship with key partners through timely, relevant, and fit-for-purpose communications.

The Secretariat will do this by making better use of innovative technologies and web platforms that enable us to streamline processes and increase communications effectiveness, by proactively and consistently reaching out to PARIS21 partners and stakeholders for impact-focused content, and by redoubling efforts to monitor performance and continuously adapt based on what works the best. The Secretariat will update the homepage of the PARIS21.org website to create a better user experience based on more and richer content. The Secretariat will also leverage our greatly expanded social media presence (which on Twitter grew from around 1,500 followers to over 20,000 in 2019) to share information the partnership and its activities and drive engagement with its events and outputs. The Secretariat will also expand and segment its email contact database, with a target of 10,000 contacts (from 5,000) by end of the year. New types of content and regular communications will be communicated to stakeholders, including regular impact stories on the PARIS21 website, interactive online publications, and e-learning materials. Finally, the Secretariat will increasingly pursue the integration of PARIS21 knowledge products into blogs, podcasts, webinars, editorials, news items, and event communications.

In addition, over the course of the year the Secretariat will design and implement communications campaigns that support PARIS21’s mission, as detailed in the advocacy section of this document.

7. MANAGEMENT

Among the tasks involved in transitioning to the new 2021-2025 Strategy and managing the day-to-day operations of the programme of work, the Secretariat will implement a systematic fundraising campaign to mobilise the financial resources necessary to carry out the directives given to it by the Board and Executive Committee. This will be done according to the new Strategy directions. The Secretariat will work to bridge the funding gap, in particular by trying to diversify the group of supporters and seeking multi-annual un-earmarked support.

8. BUDGET

In 2020, the Secretariat is presenting a Programme of Work that is higher than available funds as there are a number of voluntary contributions that are currently under negotiation. The Programme of Work breaks down into 41% non-staff costs and 59% staff costs. Activities under the UN Women funded project ‘Gender in statistics: Making every Woman and Girl Count’ are presented as an earmarked project separate to the Secretariat’s core budget activities.

In 2019, the Secretariat received funds from Germany, Korea, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and FAO, for 2019-2022. The Secretariat has already secured a new contribution this year from Switzerland and is currently in discussions with Canada, the Caribbean Development the European Commission, Eurostat, Korea, the Islamic Development Bank and Norway, for potential funding.

In addition to the funding needed to implement the 2020 POW, the Secretariat needs to ensure that it has sufficient further funds at its disposal to do all the necessary budget commitments ensuring programme continuity for 2021 (in particular extending staff contracts to the end of 2021). Toto this end, the Secretariat has sought out financing from other sources and has increased the number of new donors in 2019 (in particular, Switzerland) and potential new donors in 2020 (in particular, Canada and the European Commission). However, until today, the funding is insufficient to carry out the 2021 work programme or secure staff contracts for that year. The Secretariat will continue to actively seek financing for 2021 and beyond.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARIS21 - PROGRAMME OF WORK 2020 (IN EUROS)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>KNOWLEDGE SHARING &amp; INNOVATION INCUBATOR</strong></td>
<td>$1,015,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving NSS efficiency</td>
<td>$44,182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making data available and understandable</td>
<td>$49,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidelines/Best practices issued</td>
<td>$188,053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrating innovation</td>
<td>$146,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall operational expenditures</td>
<td>$45,596.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P21-STAFF</td>
<td>$541,905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADVOCACY</strong></td>
<td>$987,323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaging with new actors</td>
<td>$21,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>$45,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Advocacy</td>
<td>$85,214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall operational expenditures</td>
<td>$72,720.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P21-STAFF</td>
<td>$762,779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COORDINATION &amp; MONITORING</strong></td>
<td>$1,832,715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSS peer reviews</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSDS/RSDS</td>
<td>$537,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholder coordination</td>
<td>$111,374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Monitoring</td>
<td>$151,956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG Readiness</td>
<td>$26,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall operational expenditures</td>
<td>$88,132.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P21-STAFF</td>
<td>$917,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TECHNICAL SUPPORT</strong></td>
<td>$1,041,807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening technical skills</td>
<td>$183,254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to quality process</td>
<td>$61,744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Update statistical laws</td>
<td>$27,187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve data access</td>
<td>$87,806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall operational expenditures</td>
<td>$38,336.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P21-STAFF</td>
<td>$643,479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CORE WORK</strong></td>
<td>$4,877,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WORK ON GENDER</strong></td>
<td>$560,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-staff</td>
<td>$230,596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P21-STAFF</td>
<td>$330,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL 2020</strong></td>
<td>$5,438,126</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### TABLE 2: 2021-2022 Programme of Work Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARIS21 - PROGRAMME OF WORK 2020 (IN EUROS)</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCELERATE INNOVATION</td>
<td>1,517,074</td>
<td>1,552,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NON-STAFF</td>
<td>558,282</td>
<td>557,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P21-STAFF</td>
<td>958,792</td>
<td>994,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRIDGE DATA ECOSYSTEMS</td>
<td>2,552,666</td>
<td>2,541,531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NON-STAFF</td>
<td>1,057,058</td>
<td>997,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P21-STAFF</td>
<td>1,495,609</td>
<td>1,543,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEVELOP STATISTICAL CAPACITY</td>
<td>1,823,812</td>
<td>1,732,267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NON-STAFF</td>
<td>903,965</td>
<td>777,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P21-STAFF</td>
<td>919,847</td>
<td>955,268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAND TOTAL 2020</td>
<td>5,893,553</td>
<td>5,826,179</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Based on the proposed strategic objectives of the 2021-2025 Strategy)
TABLE 3: 2020-2022 Funding Gap Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNDING GAP ANALYSIS 2020-2022</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A - Budgeted expenditure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core work</td>
<td>5,438,126</td>
<td>5,893,553</td>
<td>5,826,179</td>
<td>11,331,679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN Women project/Gender</td>
<td>4,877,510</td>
<td>5,893,553</td>
<td>5,826,179</td>
<td>10,771,063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mainstreaming ²</td>
<td>560,616</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>560,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B - Income in hand³</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Contributions available at 01.01.2020⁴</td>
<td>3,339,037</td>
<td>2,433,379</td>
<td>1,079,608</td>
<td>6,852,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Contributions accepted in 2020</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C = (A-B) Initial funding gap</strong></td>
<td>-2,099,089</td>
<td>-3,460,174</td>
<td>-4,746,571</td>
<td>-4,479,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D - Potential funding⁵</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D1 - Grant agreements under negotiations⁶</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>927,536</td>
<td>927,536</td>
<td>927,536</td>
<td>2,782,609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D2 - Discussions in progress</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUROSTAT</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IsDB</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DevCo</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDB</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(E = C-D) Current funding (gap)/surplus - PER YEAR</strong></td>
<td>-756,553</td>
<td>-2,342,638</td>
<td>-3,779,035</td>
<td>-6,878,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current funding (gap)/surplus - CUMULATED</td>
<td>-756,553</td>
<td>-3,099,190</td>
<td>-6,878,225</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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2 Gender will be mainstreamed into PARIS21 core work as of 2021, in line with the new strategy.

3 Voluntary contributions are subject to an administration charge of a maximum of 7.3% applied to the total contribution amount.

4 This includes the 2019 non-staff committed funds carried forward which amount to €580,242 as at 01.01.2020 (see expenditure report).

5 All information as of 17 Feb 2020.

6 These countries have provided annual contributions in the past and PARIS21 is expecting their continued support in 2020 or negotiations on a grant agreement are in advanced stages.
INFORMATION NOTE
COVID-19 IMPACT ON PARIS21 PROGRAMME OF WORK 2020
CURRENT SITUATION AS OF 27 MARCH 2020

The global outbreak of COVID-19 in the first quarter of 2020, and related prevention and mitigation measures taken worldwide, have already impacted the workforce of the Secretariat and the implementation of the Secretariat Programme of Work 2020 (POW 2020), which was designed in November-January 2020. There is no anticipated impact on the Secretariat fundraising for 2020 at this stage.

PARIS21’s Partners, in particular the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in low and middle income countries, are vulnerable to the impact of the pandemic, calling for timely and strategic support. These NSOs are strained by the ongoing crisis, which causes delays in the conduct of basic data collection activities such as surveys and censuses, among others. Meanwhile, more urgent and highly granular data demands arise, which require a coordinated response by the NSOs to aid governments in mitigating crises. It is expected that national statistical systems may be required to reprioritise statistical activities to respond to new and abrupt data demands, coordinating with different state agencies, private sector, and the general public. The PARIS21 Secretariat is leveraging the corporate knowledge and practice of its host, the OECD. It shows proximity with its partners, in listening to new needs and situations. It shows agility in providing alternative schedules, or implementation plans – so that results can still be delivered in line with the proposed POW 2020.

As of early April, the POW2020 as it is presented to the Board for approval is still valid. The Secretariat will continue to monitor the evolving situation and do the required adjustments, building on its emerging practices highlighted in this note. The likely scenario is to progressively resume the activities based on physical presence of our staff and consultants in June/July, while maintaining a conservative approach towards the autumn planning. Considering that the COVID-19 crisis has had a significant effect on our work, PARIS21 intends to maintain and scale the key smart solutions and continue to adjust its services and tools. PARIS21 expect however an increased demand for missions of its staff (country projects) in the summertime, when some of the on-hold activities may resume.

INITIAL RESPONSE BY PARIS21

The Secretariat response thus far has been twofold: putting in place agile adjustments to priorities and modalities of intervention, and starting new activities directly relevant to COVID-19 and crisis management.

Putting in place agile and innovative adjustments to priorities and modalities of intervention

In order to mitigate the delay or cancelation of pre-COVID-19 POW deliverables and bringing more efficiency, the Secretariat has embarked on:

- **Effective guidance and frontloading pre-COVID-19 normative work:**
  - Launch of PARIS21 Academy, including e-learning courses on PARIS21 initiatives and tools (ADAPT, gender statistics, skills, data viz toolkit), including step-by-step modules, blended training etc.
  - Reprioritisation of normative work; elevated (virtual) knowledge sharing and technical guidance: Capacity monitor, publishing CD4.0 guidelines, revised NSDS Guidelines, Gender mainstreaming in NSDS, etc.

- **Increased and more focused communication with partners and beneficiaries:**
  - Country-level support, e.g. weekly check-in calls with beneficiary countries, remote technical support and more focused guidance.
  - Streamlined global and regional knowledge sharing with partners – introduction of more frequent and more-focused webinars and platforms/events, e.g. allowing countries to connect and share their crisis-mitigation practices
Many PARIS21 activities, especially at the national and regional level, involve travel and/or physical on-site presence to support our partner countries (Table 1). Therefore, the measures undertaken currently aim at switching to new ways of working to provide better support and empower our Partners. Many of our Partners are also struggling with extensive change and crisis management, which add to the long-lasting issues of remote connectivity. PARIS21’s activities affected the most refer to country missions by PARIS21 staff and consultants (workshops, trainings, pilots) and organisation of regional events (conferences, workshops and fora). When this is not possible, activities, when relevant, are postponed in consultation with partners.

**Table 1. PARIS21 activities on hold or postponed**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pillar / Level</th>
<th>Global</th>
<th>Regional</th>
<th>National</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge &amp; Innovation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Regional workshops and events</td>
<td>National workshops and pilots (e.g. CGD, Statistical literacy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>National workshops and events (e.g. CRESS launch)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination &amp; Monitoring</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Organisation of related events and workshops (e.g. workshops, Generation Equality Forum)</td>
<td>National workshops and consultations (e.g. NSDS or gender workshops)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical assistance</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2. PARIS21 activities maintained with new approaches, or frontloaded timelines**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme/level</th>
<th>Global</th>
<th>Regional</th>
<th>National</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge &amp; Innovation</td>
<td>Normative work and data science innovation: ADAPT, NSDS Guidelines, CD4.0 Guidelines, Statistical Capacity Monitor, Trust initiative, P21 strategy</td>
<td>Convening stakeholders to remote webinars to discuss impact of COVID-19</td>
<td>Remote guidance (e.g. ADAPT, CGD, new data source pilot)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>Participation in global fora, task teams and initiatives, e.g. Bern Network, COVID-19 impact on NSOs, PRESS.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination &amp; Monitoring</td>
<td>Normative work on SDG Monitoring, VNRs, Coordination On-line Annual Meetings</td>
<td>Participation in regional video-conferencing events</td>
<td>Remote guidance (e.g. mainstreaming gender in the NSDS) and webinars with national stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical assistance</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Remote technical assistance (eg: ADAPT, NSDS)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LAUNCHING NEW, DIRECTLY RELEVANT ACTIVITIES

• Rapid Action Task Force to document the impact of COVID-19 on NSOs, identify strategic solutions to mitigate the effects current crisis and share country experiences and coping strategies. PARIS21 is collecting information from partner countries on the scope of COVID-19 impact on their current and future statistical activities, data-collections affected and new data demands;

• Increased production of normative work including on COVID-19 impact on specific data collections (innovations put in place by partners; impact on gender and vulnerable groups' data; statistical work streams that have been left behind) and NSO communication (COVID-related online dissemination)

• Providing more tailor-made and single country-oriented capacity development solutions, which can be put in place in a cost- and capacity-efficient manner, e.g. reducing the number of ADAPT workshops to focus on more efficient data-input activities and an improved communication of impact and outcomes, etc.
TACKLING COVID-19: MITIGATING THE IMPACT ON NSS IN MIDDLE AND LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES

A ROAD-MAP FOR A PARIS21 ACTION TASK FORCE
1. COVID-19 AND NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES

By the end of January, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global health emergency, upgrading to a global pandemic on 11 March. While the timing and scope of national responses are not homogenous, in mid-March 2020 many countries imposed lockdowns and declared a state of emergency. Travel bans, closure of national frontiers and various regulations to encourage ‘social distancing’ are now being implemented by countries most affected by the crisis. These containment measures have disrupted the everyday lives of citizens worldwide, precipitating major shocks in the global economy.

Although the pandemic has, thus far, predominantly affected high- and middle-income countries in the Global North, it is now reaching the developing world (WHO). As OECD countries work to ‘flatten the curve’ at home, the challenge is just beginning in states where the virus is expected to prove an even more durable threat. As COVID-19 continues to spread, National Statistical Systems (NSSs) find themselves facing unprecedented challenges. In the middle of a census year, many NSOs now struggle to conduct their usual statistical activities while maintaining the safety for their staff. At the same time, policymakers, development partners and multilateral institutions need more and better data to monitor the spread and impact of COVID-19. Within OECD countries, disruptions to planned statistical activities are already emerging. The United States Census Bureau has announced a postponement of 2020 census activities, and the UK Office of National Statistics has pre-emptively informed the public of anticipated delays in regular data publication in the wake of the crisis.

However, early indications show COVID-19 will affect NSSs in developing and least developed countries in unique ways with lower coping mechanisms. Moreover, these effects are expected to last over longer time horizons for these institutions than for OECD counterparts. In particular, least developed countries and fragile contexts with poor infrastructure, weakened health systems and limited institutional capacity are more constrained in their options for response, raising concerns on prospects for containment. As NSSs in developing countries comply with lockdowns and other mitigation policies, immediate challenges associated with remote working conditions and limited capabilities will begin to impact national statistics in the short-, medium- and long-term. In addition to disruptions to field-based data collection, available data on socio-economic conditions and prices may rapidly fall out of date due to evolving conditions on the ground, even as demands for new data rise. Furthermore, the pandemic will exploit durable structural challenges related to coordination, governance and financing, adding layers of complexity for NSSs in crisis.

1.1 WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

In the short-term, a number of direct effects of the outbreak are shaping statistical activities at the national level. NSSs face calls for timely, ad hoc data to track the outbreak and inform containment and mitigation efforts, while operational space to conduct their work is becoming more constrained in the following areas:

- **Full or partial closure of NSOs and other NSS institutions due to lockdowns and other mitigation efforts:** while statistical services in OECD countries may be capacitated to move to remote working arrangements to sustain their activities, NSOs in these contexts often lack critical IT infrastructure to telework effectively.
- **Reduced or closed access to survey and census respondents:** ongoing or pending data field-based data collection is already suspended in a number of cases. In the absence of functional technology-based solutions (e.g. phone- or web-based tools), these critical statistical products could be delayed indefinitely.
- **Disruptions to technical assistance and capacity development programming:** unlike their OECD country counterparts, many NSOs in these contexts rely on external interventions to support data collection and analysis, increasing risks of delayed or limited release of updated statistics.
- **Pressures to improve coordination with other key stakeholders in the National Statistical System (NSS):** as
other government agencies engage in their own efforts to respond to the outbreak, their availability to engage with the NSO on regular data production activities will decline.

Early examples include:
- In **Rwanda**, the government took immediate measures to close schools and non-essential businesses following detection of the first infected case. In this cautious environment, the NSO has now discontinued all ongoing household data collection, and planned capacity development initiatives have been cancelled or postponed.
- In **El Salvador**, prior to a localized outbreak, the government declared a month-long closure of key NSO activities, disrupting progress in ongoing field-based data collection and the planning cycle for the new National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS).

In the medium-term, indirect effects of the crisis threaten the supply of national statistics. NSSs play a critical role in informing policy and programmatic interventions to respond to the crisis, despite disruptions in their workflows, including the following:

- **Demands for timely dissemination and communication of essential statistics**: ongoing challenges of limited data frequency and disaggregation common to NSSs in these contexts will become exacerbated in the context of this crisis as the situation evolves over time.
- **Pressures to harmonise standards for data governance and openness across the NSS**: as concerns around misinformation and trust in statistics from other sources increase, the NSO has a key role to play in offering guidance and standards for data quality. This dimension of NSO coordination in developing contexts poses a challenge for many NSOs under normal conditions. However, monitoring and responding to external data sources will become increasingly complex during the pandemic and its aftermath.
- **Disruptions to policy and financing cycles to support statistical development**: as governments and development partners turn their attention to funding the response to the outbreak and subsequent recovery, limitations in support and policy alignment in national statistics may constrain activities and reshape priorities.

Early examples include:
- In the **Philippines**, the national government proposed a cash transfer to poor households for the duration of the COVID-19 lockdown. The Philippines National Statistical System will now need to provide data to identify poor households and define the programme threshold to compute the amount needed to finance the cash transfer.

These short and medium term effects are outlined in the figure below:

**Anticipated effects of COVID-19* on low-and middle-income country NSSs**

- **Data Supplies (direct channel)**
  - Donors withdrawing or delaying technical support/capacities
  - Teleworking/less staff available
  - Stakeholder coordination more difficult
  - Lower response rate of citizens
  - Delays in census and surveys
  - Severe IT disruptions

- **Squeezed NSS capacities**
  - Decision-makers demanding more data for better crisis response
  - Economy reacting to the crisis (prices escalate) increasing the demand for more timely data

- **Data Demands (indirect channel)**
  - Less accurate data
  - Lower policy coherence
  - Delayed publication of indicators
  - Compromised dissemination standards
  - Reduced (domestic and external) funding to statistics
  - Data governance more challenging – competitors, privacy, communication

- **Short-term**
  - Decision-makers (domestic and international) demanding more data for better crisis assessment and impact
  - More demands for disaggregated data – producing and using data at low geographic/social granularity
  - Reprioritisation of NSS POWs

- **Medium-term**

* Assuming COVID-19 outbreak leads to 1) government lockdowns in the short-term, and 2) economic recession in the medium-term
Looking beyond the crisis to its aftermath, a robust supply of high-quality, disaggregated statistics will be essential to interpret and respond to the long-term effects of COVID-19 for all citizens, particularly those at risk of being left further behind. Implications of past pandemic events, such as the Ebola outbreaks in West and Central Africa, demonstrate differential long-term effects on women and girls, displaced people, and other vulnerable populations (CGD). It is therefore essential to support NSSs and statistical development as the pandemic response continues to support evidence-based approaches to mitigation and recovery.

1.2 THE PARIS21 RESPONSE

In advance of its Annual Board session in April, PARIS21 has convened a Task Force to engage and support our NSS partners across the globe, with the aim to mitigate the effect of the evolving global crisis on their daily operations, their medium-term activities and their long-term development.

The Task Force will focus on three central questions facing national statisticians and their staff:

- First, how will the global COVID-19 crisis affect the operational activities of NSOs in low-income countries?
- Second, what challenges do NSSs face in responding to the increased data demand due to the effects of the emergency at the sub-national and national level?
- Third, what are possible solutions to mitigate the negative consequences of the COVID-19 crisis for statistical development and operations?

Initial findings will be presented during the PARIS21 Board Session in a special webinar (8 April 2020), followed by publication of a policy brief later that month, with continued work to develop new approaches to support statistical development in crisis contexts.

2. WHAT PARIS21 PARTNERS ARE DOING

As part of a vibrant data for development community and the larger international development ecosystem, the PARIS21 contribution will complement and bring value to the action plans of several key partners. To date, these include:

- Open Data Watch has curated a dynamic resource bank and organised it by various stages of the data value chain: availability, openness, dissemination, and use and uptake. This highlights important questions surrounding opening and sharing data, and the challenges associated with data use.
- The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data has created a listing of Data Sources, Research and Analysis, Visualisation and Maps among others to share credible information.
- The GovLab has launched an open ‘Call for Action’ on #data4covid, calling upon major stakeholders to take some key actions to leverage the potential of data collaboratives in addressing the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and to improve preparedness for the future. Some of these actions include:
  - Developing a Governance Framework
  - Building Capacity
  - Establishing Data Stewards
  - Unlocking Funds
  - Promoting technological innovation
- The OECD has set up a Covid-19 Pandemic Policy Platform, which analyses the pandemic through its different angles and consequences on the economy and our societies and the policy tools that can be used to mitigate the effects of the crisis.
o Relatedly, the OECD plans to launch a tool, the Covid-19 Policy Tracking Initiative to provide a single entry point for countries and track policies that national governments are putting in place to fight the pandemic.

• The Development Cooperation Directorate (DCD) of the OECD is developing a policy brief to look at how development co-operation can best support developing countries to respond to the Covid-19 crisis.
  o Additionally, the DCD is mobilising donors (within the DAC) for an urgent and co-ordinated development co-operation commitment/response to support developing countries affected by COVID19.
  o The DCD also plans to administer a survey of DAC members to ask the following questions: What contributions have you made, or plan to make, to bilateral funds for the COVID-19 response? Are you using, or do you plan to use ODA or any other development co-operation instrument (including blended finance) for COVID-19 related activity, including for health, economic or social development, fragility prevention, humanitarian assistance?

Given the ongoing scale of efforts and information deluge, it is then critical for PARIS21 to have a specific and meaningful focus, relevant for our core constituency.

3. GUIDING QUESTIONS

In the attempt to join efforts and support PARIS21 partner countries in understanding and tackling the effects of the COVID-19 crisis, the Task Force will answer the following three questions:

1. How will the COVID-19 crisis affect the operational activities of NSOs in low-income countries, in particular in light of ongoing/planned Census 2020 and ongoing/planned NSDS activities?

   The first part of the analysis will collect evidence on the different channels through which the crisis affects the daily operations of our partner NSOs. Factors such as a lack of work force due to illness, or less available domestic funding for statistical activities might alter the supply of data and statistics in the particular situation of a crisis. It is thus important to understand which core NSO activities will be stopped, post-poned and maintained in 2020.

2. How have data demands on NSSs changed due to the effects of the emergency at the sub-national and national level?

   The second part of the analysis will look into the capacity challenges related to increased demand for data, and potential lower supply due to constraints in data collection. It is crucial to understand which statistical capacities are needed most and where. In this light, it is fundamental to understand how official statistics contribute to adequate policy making and societal behaviour in times of crisis.

3. Which strategies exist to mitigate the negative consequences of the COVID-19 crisis?

   The third question will lead the Task Force to collect a set of strategies on how to mitigate the negative consequences of the crisis together with our partner NSNs. The Task Force thus aims to provide a toolkit for the short-and the longer term crisis reaction.

Moving forward, the Task Force will analyse structural effects of the COVID-19 epidemic on societal, economic and institutional aspects.

• Acceleration of structural trends: Forecasts hypothesize that the crisis might accelerate structural trends such as the application of digital technologies in data collection and production processes. This, in turn, might increase
inequality in various dimensions, creating capacity gaps between NSSs in more developed countries, and those lagging behind.

- **Re-prioritisation of planned statistical activities away from LNOB**: Moreover, the COVID-19 crisis might force NSSs to re-prioritise their planned statistical activities throughout the year. Experts fear that topics related to the LNOB agenda such as data on vulnerable communities might get pushed back.

- **Long-term economic effects on funding for statistics/data**: Furthermore, the economic aspects of the crisis caused by COVID-19 will affect the spending priorities of donor countries and might thus affect the level of funding to statistics and data as a sector.

- **The role of NSOs in crisis situations**: Finally, NSSs have a fundamental role in influencing policy making and societal behaviour in crises and situations of fragility.

### 4. PLANNED OUTPUTS AND TIMELINE

The following outputs and time-lines are planned:

   1.1. Review literature and news articles related to/published by NSOs coping with COVID-19
   1.2. Consolidate findings from webscraping NSO websites, social media and other platforms to assess COVID-19 related items
   1.3. Analyse and illustrate the channels through which COVID-19 affects NSO operations

2. Collecting country anecdotes via strategic outreach to partner countries – 25 March 2020
   2.1. Establish first email contact with partners in ongoing projects (Phase 1)
   2.2. Conduct short phone/skype interviews (Phase 2)
   2.3. Establish a systematic email outreach to PARIS21 partners (Phase 3)

3. Collecting lessons learned from our NSO partners including short-, medium- and long-term coping strategies to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 – 25 March 2020

4. Drafting a short policy brief (5-7 pages) to document the evidence collected – 3 April 2020

5. Preparing a webinar to discuss specific country mitigation strategies – 4 April 2020

6. Establish a coherent social media channel on the activities – ongoing
INTRODUCTION

1. This information note is intended to provide a comprehensive summary of the proposal to establish a PARIS21 Foundation. The document outlines the background and rationale for a PARIS21 Foundation and summarises its main features and the key issues for consideration to further elaborate and implement the Foundation. The latter have been presented as common questions and answers for members’ convenience.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

2. The funding situation for international organisations, entities and initiatives supporting statistical capacity development and data production has been undergoing fundamental changes in recent years, reflecting also general changes in the development finance architecture. While overall funding for data and statistics has slightly increased over the last years, more actors are competing for resources just as the ambition and scope of work have increased, in particular with the agreement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These changes are having an impact on PARIS21, which since its creation in 1999 has been 100% financed by voluntary contributions, mostly from Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donors. At the same time as its core funding has been affected, the demand for PARIS21’s services and work has expanded, casting light on the need to find solutions to adapt to the evolving funding environment. PARIS21 as an entity must therefore adjust to these changes in order to ensure its sound financial footing for the years to come.

3. It is in this context that the PARIS21 Board instructed the Secretariat in 2017 to explore new approaches to secure the long-term financial sustainability of the partnership and its work for the future. In response, the Secretariat in close consultation with the Executive Committee and partners developed in 2018 a proposal for a PARIS21 Foundation (‘the Foundation’) in consultation with the OECD’s Legal and Financial services as a way for the partnership to expand its donor base, tap into new funding sources and consequently reduce the existing funding gap and its impact on the implementation of PARIS21’s programme of work.

4. The proposal for the Foundation was first presented to the Board at its meeting in 2018, where it received members’ approval to be further developed. An update was given to the Board in April 2019 and the Secretariat was requested to continue taking steps to advance the project. Consequently, over the past year the Secretariat has pursued consultations with the OECD, conducted an exploratory mission to Geneva, Switzerland, as a potential site for the Foundation, and commissioned an expert study to assess the market potential for a Foundation to support PARIS21’s funding base to drive the initiative forward. The following sections of the document draw on the results of these activities to summarise the main features of, and practical aspects linked to, the establishment of a PARIS21 Foundation, along with key issues for further consideration and next steps to support Board members’ discussion.

PARIS21 FOUNDATION: OVERVIEW OF MAIN ELEMENTS AND KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

WHY A FOUNDATION?

5. A foundation is an internationally recognised structure that has a clearly defined goal set in its statutes ensuring that the funds the foundation receives can only be used for a specific purpose. It was identified by the PARIS21 Secretariat and the OECD Legal and Financial teams as the legal vehicle best suited to support PARIS21’s fundraising efforts, as it would be able to operate on different rules and regulations than those in place for the OECD and hosted entities like PARIS21

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1 The project had the working title of PARIS21 Advisory Unit.
to accept grants\textsuperscript{2}, thereby allowing for an additional donor base to be accessed to complement the partnership’s current donor pool.

6. Foundations are increasingly used by international organisations and NGOs to expand the donor base for their activities and reach funders that are not easily accessible to international institutions, for example private charitable foundations and high net worth philanthropists. Setting up foundations is now an established practice in response to growing funding challenges, and PARIS21 is following in the footsteps of the UN Foundation, and more recently the WHO and UNHCR, amongst others.

7. The Secretariat proposes Geneva, Switzerland, as a base for the PARIS21 Foundation, taking into account the experiences of other foundations and the practical considerations outlined below (see paragraphs 13-16).

**WHAT WILL THE FOUNDATION DO?**

8. In terms of activities, the primary purpose of the Foundation will be to raise funds for PARIS21 from new donor sources and improve visibility of PARIS21 more generally from its presence in Geneva. The Foundation could serve as a pass through vehicle to channel funds raised to PARIS21\textsuperscript{3}, and it could equally act as a reserve fund to support new and urgent demands so that PARIS21 can remain agile and reactive in response to new challenges.

9. The Foundation is not intended to affect existing PARIS21 donors and their funding flows. These donors would continue to use the OECD grant acceptance procedure to support PARIS21’s programme of work.

10. The Foundation will not be a profit-making entity. The funds received will be put towards supporting PARIS21 as per the goal defined in the Foundation’s statutes. As such, the Foundation is not intended to operate as a consulting firm or to carry out private-sector activities.

11. The Foundation would equally be able to transfer the funds it receives directly to pay for activities in countries e.g. to cover logistical costs for a PARIS21 workshop organised by PARIS21 and an NSO. This approach could increase efficiencies and allow PARIS21 to respond to late/last minute requests that can often come through at country level. It is also the recommended approach that a Swiss foundation support more than one beneficiary (provided there is a link to the Foundation’s goal). Funding on the ground PARIS21-run activities would fit the requirement of ensuring that funds are being used correctly in this context.

12. In addition to channelling funding, the Foundation’s functions could be broadened in the future as relevant to include direct implementation of activities, although this is subject to interest from and further discussion by PARIS21 Board members.

**WHY GENEVA?**

13. As an international hub that is home to many international organisations, including the second largest site of the United Nations, Geneva would be an ideal location for the Foundation and provide PARIS21 with an international presence and many networking opportunities in the margins of high-level events.

\textsuperscript{2} There are funders who are currently unable, or unwilling, to channel resources to PARIS21 as an OECD-hosted entity given existing OECD rules and regulations.

\textsuperscript{3} Provided that there are no specific conditions attached to the funds that would prevent them from being accepted by the OECD on behalf of the PARIS21 Secretariat.
14. Swiss foundations are globally viewed as reputable and reliable, and are in fact the only legal structure in Switzerland with a supervisory authority to whom they have to submit annual financial and activity reports. This robust approach fosters trust and confidence with potential donors.

15. Creating a foundation under Swiss law is also a relatively straightforward process, and once the goal of the foundation is established, it cannot be altered for at least 10 years, therefore establishing a strong tie-in with the entity it has been set up to support. In addition, PARIS21’s Swiss Board members have indicated their support for the PARIS21 Foundation to be based in Geneva.

16. As part of its scoping work, PARIS21 undertook a mission to Geneva in September 2019 to meet with the Geneva Welcome Centre, which supports the establishment of Swiss foundations, a number of relevant law firms, which provided pro-bono initial legal advice, as well as contacts at IOs and NGOs.

**WHAT IS THE MARKET POTENTIAL FOR THE FOUNDATION (NEW DONORS AND FUNDS)?**

17. The charity sector and a number of private donors are the key sources of additional funding PARIS21 could access through the Foundation, according to a thorough market analysis undertaken by specialised consultancy agency THINK to assess the viability of the foundation and its fundraising potential, received in February 2020.4

18. The new opportunities, would be relatively low cost to access and could generate income relatively quickly. The report found that based on programme synergies, nine organisations are priority prospects as new potential donors and could provide grants totalling over USD 4.5 million over three years, representing a large pool of possible additional funding for PARIS21.5

19. To engage with this new group of donors, the report recommended a more targeted approach leveraging communications and tailored framing of PARIS21’s vital work to resonate with the charity sector. These elements will be considered when further developing the business model for the Foundation.

**WHAT WILL THE FOUNDATION’S RELATIONSHIP BE WITH THE PARIS21 SECRETARIAT AND OECD?**

20. The PARIS21 would be an entirely separate and independent legal entity from the OECD/PARIS21 to allow for a different set of rules to be applied than those in place under the OECD system.

21. To ensure that the Foundation’s mission and activities remain in line with PARIS21 at all times, various mechanism will be developed. The first being the clearly defined link in the statutes of the Foundation. The second being a ‘recognition agreement’ or ‘affiliation agreement’ which would allow the foundation to use the PARIS21 logo within certain terms in return for providing funds. The OECD Legal Directorate has offered support to put such an agreement in place.

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4 THINK Intelligence (2020), "Market & Prospect Research & Initial Steps for Foundation Development: Report for PARIS21".
5 Ibid, p. 6.
HOW WILL THE FOUNDATION BE GOVERNED?

22. In terms of governance, a Swiss foundation needs a governing board composed of at least 3 members, one of whom needs to be a Swiss national or an EU national residing in Switzerland. The board members do not have to be named individuals but can be a role/title. The foundation board needs to meet at least once a year.

23. PARIS21 would propose that the Chair of the PARIS21 Board and the Executive Head of PARIS21 compose two of the Board members, along with a board member from the Swiss administration who will likely be the Swiss founder of the Foundation (see paragraph 23 below). This would meet the minimum requirement but it may also be advisable to have other foundation board members from other sectors and geographical zones who would act as ‘ambassadors’ for the foundation and would support networking and outreach efforts.

HOW CAN THE FOUNDATION BE SET UP AND WHAT IS THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN?

24. The process to create a foundation in Geneva is straightforward: a founder is needed to provide the initial capital CHF 50,000 (approx. EUR 50,000) required to start the foundation. Under Swiss law, there are no restrictions as to who the founder can be: it can be an individual or an institution. The founder has no further role except for retaining the rights to change the goal of the foundation after a set period of time (10 years).

25. The creation process can take as little as 3 – 6 months depending on the legal complexity of the statutes.

26. Aside from the initial capital, the set-up costs would total around EUR 12,000 – 16,000. This includes legal fees, notary fees and administrative fees to register the foundation, although OECD legal services could also provide some support.

27. The initial running costs would be fairly low as a Swiss foundation can exist virtually and does not need a physical office space or employees in order to be incorporated. Annual audit fees would amount to EUR 3,000 – 5,000 depending on the complexity of the accounts. An accountant would also need to be hired to prepare the reports but the OECD may allow
PARIS21 staff to undertake this task until the foundation is more established.

28. A 5+ year gradual rollout plan will be developed to ensure growth is managed and the strategy adjusted as needed. A strong communications and fundraising strategy (drawing on the findings of the independent market analysis report) will be designed to ensure a targeted approach to potential donors and ensure visibility. PARIS21 Foundation board members will also be ‘mobilised’ to assist with visibility and growth.

29. The Foundation will not hire staff or begin extensive rollout of activities until a certain funding threshold is reached (to be determined in the business plan). Progress will be closely monitored. Initial costs will be kept low as the foundation will only have a virtual presence during its early stages.

**WILL THE FOUNDATION AFFECT PARIS21’S CURRENT DONORS AND FUNDING BASE?**

30. The Foundation will focus on new areas for fundraising so there will be no overlap or competition with existing donors. PARIS21’s core donors will continue to use OECD grant procedure to support PARIS21’s programme of work. The majority of the funds received by the foundation would be transferred to PARIS on an annual or bi-annual ‘bulk’ basis using a simple offer letter as per OECD procedures. Some foundation funds could be used to respond to punctual/urgent in country requests as long as there is alignment with the PARIS21 programme of work.

**HOW WILL MISUSE OF FUNDS BY THE FOUNDATION BE AVOIDED?**

31. Under Swiss law, foundations are required to use the funds received in line with the goal defined in its statutes. In addition, an annual audit is required under Swiss law. The activity and financial reports will be submitted to the relevant Swiss supervisory authority, and the reports can be published on the foundation’s website to promote transparency and donor confidence.

32. The OECD will also screen any transfer of funds from the Foundation to the PARIS21 Secretariat.

**NEXT STEPS**

33. The proposed next steps for PARIS21 Foundation would include:

- The Secretariat addressing the remaining issues to be clarified in order to develop a full and robust 5+ year business proposal to establish the PARIS21 Foundation. This will include continuing financial and institutional risk analyses, confirming the founder, finalising discussions with the OECD Legal Directorate, defining the donor outreach strategy, and confirming the foundation board composition

34. Once these elements are defined, the proposed timeline is as follows:

- **Finalisation of the Foundation document**: “PARIS21 Foundation: mission, governance and functioning” – May 2020
- **Approval of the Foundation document by the Executive Committee** – June 2020
- **Formal launch of the Foundation** for an initial 2 year test phase at the UN World Data Forum in October 2020
The Bern Network on Financing Data for Development is a multi-stakeholder collaboration established in 2019 to progress the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data by improving the quantity and quality of funding directed towards data and statistics. It brings together aid and development agencies, national statistical offices, ministries, private sector institutions and civil society groups and is led by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, Swiss Federal Statistical Office and core partners including PARIS21, which serves as the network’s Secretariat. The objective of the network is to deliver a set of commitments for the United Nations World Data Forum in October 2020 in Bern, Switzerland.

In January 2020, the Bern Network adopted a roadmap developed by the Secretariat for its 2020 activities to drive outcomes under the network’s five main action areas for the UNWDF. In line with the roadmap, in February 2020 the Secretariat drafted a concept note for a ‘Clearing-house for Financing Development Data’ as a planned deliverable for the UNWDF, building on discussions and consultations held with PARIS21 and OECD colleagues. In parallel, the Secretariat, together with Bern Network core group members and the Global Partnership for Effectiveness Development Cooperation (GPEDC), drafted a note on proposed collaborative activities between the Bern Network and GPEDC to develop country principles for greater support to data and statistics as another planned deliverable. This note was the product of in-person and virtual meetings held in February 2020 between the GPEDC and Bern Network core group members. To explore the potential for in-country dialogue to develop the principles, GPEDC and the Bern Network Secretariat held a call with the statistical office of Madagascar at the end of February, with planned follow up conversations for March. In early March 2020, Bern Network members met with the GPEDC Secretariat based at UNDP in New York. Both documents on the clearing-house and country principles were submitted to the Bern Network core group for discussion at their first in-person meeting, which was held on 29 February in New York. At the meeting, it was agreed that the Bern Network Secretariat and core group members would continue to drive activities to develop these commitments further, as well as to develop an outcome to leverage sectoral funding for UNWDF.

Since January 2020, the Bern Network has also implemented a number of outreach and communications activities to ensure that its work is co-created with the input of as many stakeholder groups as possible. On 14 January, it hosted an event with NSOs on domestic resource mobilisation in the margins of the PARIS21-UNSD conference on Capacity Development 4.0 in Paris, France. This was followed by a meeting on 28 February exploring financing in the context of ‘more and better data for the decade of action’, which was co-hosted by the Government of Switzerland and PARIS21 at the OECD Center in Washington D.C and engaged the Washington-based community of multilateral development banks, think tanks, foundations and other institutions on the Bern Network’s activities. On 2 March, the Bern Network Secretariat co-organised an official UN Statistical Commission side event on ‘More and Better Financing of Data for Development’, where it presented its action areas. All three activities were officially branded and promoted as ‘Road to Bern’ events for the UNWDF, raising the visibility of the network’s work. Following these meetings, the Bern Network received multiple requests for membership and expanded its membership base (149 members). At the end of February, the Bern Network Secretariat launched a brand new official website for the Bern Network.

From March 2020 onwards, the Bern Network will continue to develop its commitments through virtual meetings, analytical work, and country outreach and dialogue, with the aim of having advanced proposals by June 2020 to build buy-in from stakeholders. Specific planned activities include: virtual meeting of Bern Network members and GPEDC on country principles outreach in March 2020; a survey of potential users of the clearing-house in March/April 2020; development and roll out of a Bern Network communications strategy and products from March/April 2020; a virtual meeting of Bern All members in March/April 2020; a session on the Bern Network at IAOS in May 2020; and workshops on Bern Network commitments in July and September 2020.
INTRODUCTION

1. This concept note provides an overview of key elements, considerations and practical suggestions to develop a clearing-house to support more and better financing for development data. It has been developed for discussion by PARIS21 Board members at the Annual Meeting on 7-8 April 2020.

2. The clearing-house is being designed as an output of the Bern Network for Financing Data for Development (Bern Network) for the 3rd United Nations World Data Forum (UNWDF) in October 2020 in Bern, Switzerland (see paragraph 6 below). PARIS21 is a member of the Bern Network and provides the function of network Secretariat. The proposed clearing-house supports PARIS21’s wider objectives in the 2020 Programme of Work, including building activities and engagements with partners, advocacy for more and better data and adequate resourcing, raising visibility and communications around the importance of data and funding, and leveraging complementary tools and products under PARIS21 and its partners. PARIS21 Board Members are invited to provide initial feedback during the Annual Meeting to contribute to the further development of the project.

3. The document is divided into two sections. The first elaborates the key elements and considerations relating to the development of a clearing-house for financing development data, including its overall purpose, added value, and key factors that can affect its design. The second builds on these elements to put forward a proposal for how a clearing-house could be delivered in the practical sense, ending with suggestions for next steps to take the project further. A series of questions is included at the bottom of the document to guide discussions and gather inputs from members for moving the clearing-house forward.

BACKGROUND

4. The 2030 Agenda requires all countries to generate, collect and use more and better development data for their policy-making than ever before. These evolving demands mean that national statistical systems (NSSs) must modernise and develop new capacities to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), necessitating the mobilisation of significant resources to this end over the next decade. The implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Development Data (CTGAP), which was adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2017 as a roadmap for the evolution and development of NSSs to meet future needs, is estimated to require USD 5.6 billion a year through 2030 for 144 low- and middle-income countries. Taking into account estimates of available domestic and external funding sources for these countries, there is currently an annual gap of USD 700 million to resource data and statistics at scale, presenting a significant challenge to the development and statistical communities.

5. To address this challenge, new ways must be found to create efficiencies in current spending, leverage existing resources and attract new funding, both domestically and from external aid providers. This need was recognised in the Dubai Declaration of the UNWDF 2018, which calls for innovative funding strategies for the CTGAP. However, to be successful, such innovations would need to overcome a number of barriers that currently limit incentives for channelling adequate financing for data and statistics. These include: poor domestic awareness of the importance of statistical capacity; lack of transparency of donor activities and predictability of funding for country programmes; poor alignment of projects with country systems and priorities; fragmentation between sectors or information systems; and a lack of coordination and
harmonisation of development efforts across actors. Improving the quantity and quality of funding in this field must therefore include actions to tackle these obstacles.

6. It is in this context that a clearing-house for financing development data was proposed by Bern Network members as a potential solution to address some of these barriers. Established in January 2019 as an open, multi-stakeholder alliance of national statistical offices (NSOs), development agencies, philanthropies and civil society partners, the Bern Network aims to promote more and better funding for data and statistics for low-capacity and fragile states. To this end, it seeks to catalyse actions and commitments across five areas identified as critical to improving the status quo for financing development data ahead of the UNWDF 2020: mobilising domestic resources; scaling-up of funding; boosting aid efficiency; strengthening collaboration; and leveraging sectoral funding. By providing information on supply and demand of financing for statistical capacity development, it was suggested that a clearing-house could help donors improve the allocation and effectiveness of resources for statistics, strengthen collaboration and harmonisation among donors and partners, and potentially support the scaling-up of funding through pooling arrangements. It would therefore complement other potential outputs under development by the Bern Network to comprehensively address the issue of more and better funding for development data.

7. The sections below clarify and consolidate these suggestions to elaborate what a clearing-house for financing development data could involve and how it might be developed in practice. The working term ‘clearing-house for financing development data’ (‘clearing-house’) has been used throughout the document.

KEY ELEMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR DEVELOPING A CLEARING-HOUSE ON FINANCING DEVELOPMENT DATA

I. DEFINITION

8. The term ‘clearing-house’ originally referred to a financial establishment that dealt with exchanging checks and bills so that only net balances needed to be settled in cash by member banks. Today, its definition has been extended to include any entity or agency that “collects, sorts and distributes specialised information”, matching the demand and supply for such information. In the international governance space, clearing-houses are commonly found as online platforms that facilitate cooperation on specific issues through the exchange of various types of information and related services, which can be tailored to suit particular needs and purposes. For example:

a. The Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) is currently discussing the establishment of a clearing-house to serve as: a database on forest financing opportunities and financial flows for sustainable forest management; an interactive platform for exchanges on best practices and lessons learned from projects; and to support the assessment and monitoring of progress made on the SDG on global forests.

b. The Clearing-House Mechanism for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) operates as a repository of information on the convention and facilitates technical and scientific cooperation on biodiversity among countries by connecting

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5 Bern Network (2019), “More and Better Development Data for a Decade of Action”.
network of national clearing-houses and partner institutions together.  

9. Developing a clearing-house for financing development data would therefore require consideration of a number of elements to ensure value, including: a clear articulation of the purpose of the clearing-house and how it would motivate stakeholders to change and bring about intended improvements; the clearing-house’s evolving functions and services; expected users; data sources; and sustainability. These are explored in the following paragraphs.

II. PURPOSE

10. A clearing-house for financing development data could be designed to respond to the issues that currently impede the achievement of more and better resources for data and statistics for development. As referred to above, donors and recipient countries (e.g. national statistical systems) face several challenges related to the provision of adequate and quality support for data and statistics. Four challenges of particular relevance for a clearing-house are highlighted below:

a. Lack of transparency of donor activities and funding flows, in some cases related to time lags in the availability of information, which affects the sustainability of financing and predictability of commitments for countries and can encourage underfunding or overfunding of specific countries and data sectors by donors. In addition, the lack of timely information stands in the way of concerted efforts to allow for more effective coordination of donor programming to address issues such as certain sectors being left behind and countries being under-funded compared to others.

b. Low levels of harmonisation and coordination among development actors, in part due to the lack of transparency, can lead to the creation of redundant mechanisms for data production that can divert resources and confuse data users.  

c. Poor alignment of funding and programming with country systems and strategies can result in efforts to improve statistical capacity and data production that are not necessarily in line with the national priorities of recipient governments but rather reflect priorities and modalities of donors, who have their own monitoring and reporting requirements. This could also lead to donor dependencies for a survey or instrument, further impacting the efficient allocation of scarce resources for statistical capacity.

d. Lack of reliable costing of national demand frameworks, as expressed in global, regional or national strategic frameworks (like NSDS and RSDS) or their associated action plans can prevent effective domestic budget allocation and development partner investment.

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9 Other examples include the Biosafety Clearing House, the ASEAN Regional Clearing-House Mechanism, and the Sustainable Consumption and Production Clearinghouse. See also UNFF (2019), p. 23.
12 NSDS (National Strategies for the Development of Statistics) and RSDS (Regional Strategies for the Development of Statistics).
11. The above challenges for donors and recipients result in incentives that currently do not enable greater cooperation on funding statistical capacity development. The information asymmetries brought on by the lack of transparency, both in terms of donors’ plans and demand from recipient countries, make the current landscape of funding for statistics resemble a patchwork of different initiatives as opposed to a coherent architecture. By tackling these system inefficiencies and poor incentives through the provision of timely information, a clearing-house can help donors to make better choices without requiring organisational rethink; what is beneficial for the donor will be beneficial for funding the landscape for data for development.

12. When donors are provided with information on existing projects, coupled with the demand for general statistics and sector-specific funding by countries, they will be better able to guide their own investments and focus on how their priorities fit into the larger data for development funding architecture. A clearing-house could provide soft guidance on where funding is particularly needed by presenting information clearly and without bias, while also highlighting particular shortfalls and emerging issues. Easier access to information would also help donors and recipients in times of crisis and when quick decisions are needed.

13. The purpose of the clearing-house is therefore to support better and greater allocation of resources for data by fostering transparency, improved accountability and alignment, and better coordination among donors through the provision of information and services to better match the supply and demand for statistical support. What such information and services could involve are outlined below.

III. FUNCTIONS AND SERVICES

14. The following are the possible types of information and services that could be provided by the clearing-house:

a. Highlighting and visualisation of funding gaps: This feature could aim to identify and visualise funding gaps to help donors plan and coordinate their statistical support activities. It could include information on which countries, statistical domains and activities are over- or under-funded, helping avoid ‘aid orphans’, as well as indications of the level of urgency of certain funding gaps. It would be necessary to consider what further information would be useful for donors and countries given the sensitivity of aid prioritisation. In terms of design, the data and funding gaps could be expressed as heat-maps to facilitate ease of use.

b. ‘Now’cast/forecast: This feature could support forward-planning and resource allocation by donors by providing information on: how much funding has been committed for disbursement until now, how much funding is expected from ‘perennial’ projects, and the level of the global funding gap for data and statistics based on information currently available. If developed correctly, it could serve to help donors better plan their upcoming activities, avoid overlap in funding, and signal funding gaps to the global community before there capacity development can be negatively impaired in countries.13

13 The forecast is intended to provide evidence on how substantial the funding gap will be if removing the lump-sum funding for censuses and the quasi-stable funding such as the Demographic Health Survey and the technical support on economic statistics provided by IMF. It is therefore not intended to make assumptions on how much aid providers will contribute in the future. More information on the demand side could also be presented in the forecast section to highlight the funding gap. These features can build on analysis made available through new methodologies and a database introduced by PARIS21 to provide ‘Early PRESS’ information (see separate information note).

14 These will be explored in close consultation with the Data for Development (D4D) work stream of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), which is currently planning the development of donor profiles.
including: past and ongoing projects; most active donors in a country, with a possible registry of contacts to facilitate information flows; co-financing partners; funding mechanisms, methods and instruments; statistical domains that are under-financed in a country and activities that rely heavily on donor financing.

15. These functions were identified as being potentially useful during early discussions and are not exhaustive. For example, they can be expanded to include information on different types of funding modalities, as well as best practices/guidelines for statistical cooperation which are currently being considered by the GPEDC and the OECD-DAC work stream on Data for Development.16

16. The suggestions in this section can be complemented by conducting consultations with potential users of the clearing-house to further define the types of information and services that could be provided.

IV. USERS

17. Most clearing-houses in the international governance space are open online platforms easily accessible by different user groups, at times requiring registration to access specific tools.17 For the clearing-house on financing development data, it is worth distinguishing between user types at this stage primarily to help consider the type of information and services that would be useful, i.e. to tailor functions and features.

18. The two main categories of users identified during consultations are donors (bilateral and multilateral) and countries (e.g. NSS and ministries of economy and planning); however, other categories could also be considered as the clearing-house is further developed, for example researchers.

V. DATA SOURCES

19. The provision of a clearing-house’s desired functions and services are dependent on the accessibility and quality of data that are currently available. For the purposes of the clearing-house on financing development data, several databases exist that could be leveraged to extract relevant information, thereby helping maximise existing resources and avoiding duplication. These include: the Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS), which draws on OECD-DAC data and is managed by PARIS21; the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) for alternative data on donors and projects, including philanthropic foundations; and donor transparency portals for data on specific projects (e.g. World Bank, UNDP, USAid, DFID). On the demand side, information can also be drawn from National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and Regional Strategies for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) which include strategic plans and detailed operational action plans for capacity development as well as estimated budgets, in addition to the Country Reports on Support to Statistics (CRESS), which include detailed data and analysis on how the national statistical system has been, and will be, funded in past and coming years. Other data sources, such as the Word Bank’s Statistical Performance Index (SPI)18 and the IMF’s Data Quality Assessment Framework (QDAF)19, can also provide valuable information on national statistical activities and help aid providers to sort through the information at national level. Members could consider what

15 Access to such information under the clearing-house would have to be controlled to protect privacy, e.g. portal for registered/approved users. Such features would have to be considered further.
17 See proposals by the UNFF (2019).
18 The SPI is currently under development and will be available soon. See https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/measuring-statistical-capacity-nations
additional databases could feed into the clearing-house and offer opportunities for partnership with other organisations.

**VI. SUSTAINABILITY**

20. The sustainability of the clearing-house is an essential element that must be considered for the long-term viability and value of such a project. In examining existing clearing-houses, the GFFFN found that many encountered difficulties in keeping information up-to-date, affecting the relevance and timeliness of information. This was due in large part to the setting of excessive expectations regarding the quality and quantity of data by the clearing-house founders. To avoid similar experiences, the clearing-house for financing development data should set realistic goals regarding its functions and uses and aim to leverage low-hanging fruits, for example database updates that are already underway (see Box 1 below). In addition, any necessary human- and budget-resources should be considered and planned for at an early stage to ensure that the project is achievable. Other questions for consideration include where and how the platform for the clearing-house could be hosted, which can be discussed at a later stage.

**DELIVERING THE CLEARING-HOUSE FOR FINANCING DEVELOPMENT DATA: PROPOSAL FOR A WAY FORWARD**

21. Building on the considerations outlined above and taking into account the Bern Network’s timeline to launch a clearing-house for October 2020, a practical way forward to deliver the project is to structure the clearing-house as a decentralised platform comprised of different tools and resources hosted and managed by other organisations within existing programmes of work (see Figure 1), with limited, light-touch centralised quality assurance. The different services suggested earlier could be provided through these tools, ensuring that budget and resource demands remain manageable and different organisations’ existing mandates are respected. This structure would also support the eventual expansion of the clearing-house towards other services as products become available and are linked to the platform, enabling a staged approach to suit different timelines (see ‘Next steps’ below).

22. An example of how existing tools can be leveraged and integrated into the clearing-house is given below for PARIS21’s PRESS, which can serve as a potential starting point for the clearing-house to provide services primarily for bilateral donors in time for UNWDF 2020 (see Box 1). Board members are invited to discuss what other tools, products and resources could be connected to the clearing-house either in the short- or medium-term, for example principles for effective development cooperation on statistics, which are also currently under discussion within the Bern Network. Additional considerations could include how the tools could be linked to the clearing-house in practice, for instance through branding and the development of appropriate interfaces.

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20 UNFF (2019).
21 GPEDC and the Bern Network are exploring collaboration on this topic. See Bern Network (2020).
CLEARING-HOUSE STRUCTURE

Figure 1: Proposed structure of the clearing-house for financing development data. The different components in this graphic would together constitute the clearing-house.

- Visualisation of funding gaps (country, data area)
- Recipient country factsheets
- Now-cast/forecast on funding committed for data projects/programmes

Collectively supports transparency, collaboration, accountability and alignment ...
BOX 1. PRESS+ AS A TOOL TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR THE CLEARING-HOUSE FOR FINANCING DEVELOPMENT DATA

Over the years, PARIS21 has improved PRESS by adding new elements, from methodology changes involving the use of text mining to thematic improvements through the inclusion of a gender module, to respond to users’ requests and reflect new topics in the development community. The PRESS 2020 aims to further respond to new demands made by its users. These include more information sharing and better transparency, better timeliness, in-depth information to donors for better planning, etc.

Meanwhile, efforts are also being made to explore how “hidden”, or under-utilised, information from the PRESS dataset that is not reflected in the PRESS report could be leveraged. The PRESS dataset includes more than 30 variables to store different aspects of information about each project. More than 15 of those variables are not reflected in the current global report. There are more than 14,000 development projects on statistical development from 2006 to 2018 in the dataset, but the individual-level information was lost in the PRESS report during the aggregation process. Augmented information that is not directly available in the current dataset may also be generated through techniques such as text mining, mathematical modelling and machine learning.

By unlocking this under-utilised information, several new features can be developed. These include an open database to publish the dataset for users to filter and query data, profiles with detailed information on donor projects/activities and recipient countries, nowcasts and forecasts that present forward-looking perspectives for better planning, and identification of “aid orphan” countries and sectors in statistical development. A diagram in the Annex shows how these features link users’ needs (left side) by leveraging and unlocking the hidden information (right side) of PRESS.

These features which build on PRESS, called ‘PRESS+’, will allow for stronger advocacy. Users can use more than the highlighted numbers in the report to provide evidence on the necessity of support to certain areas of statistics. Through these improvements, PRESS data will also become more relevant for recipient countries. The past PRESS does not consider the validation and reception on the demand side. By producing and highlighting profiles for countries, PRESS+ will be able to present what the current status is in specific countries, which was missing in the global report.

These benefits make PRESS+ a valuable tool to be integrated into the clearing-house for financing development data and through which to deliver a first set of services for the clearing-house.
NEXT STEPS AND QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

23. The proposed next steps and timeline for the clearing-house include:

   a. Adapt and further develop a proposal to operationalise the clearing-house following the Board meeting on 7-8 April 2020, reflecting input from the discussions and conducting additional consultations and research as required (see questions below).

   b. Conduct consultations with potential users to collect input to inform the design, services and features of the clearing-house in spring 2020.

   c. Develop a mock-up/demonstration of first round of services through PRESS+ for May 2020.

   d. Conduct outreach and refine the prototype clearing-house between June-September 2020.

   e. Launch clearing-house with first round of services at UNWDF in October 2020 (Phase 1).

   f. Develop other services for introduction after October 2020 (Phase 2).

24. Board members are requested to consider the following questions to inform these next steps and the further development of the clearing-house:

1. What functions and services in addition to the visualisation of funding gaps, information on current and planned projects and country profiles could the clearing-house offer to help address some of the existing coordination challenges?

2. What additional data sources can the clearing-house leverage? Are there existing initiatives that the clearing-house could link to in order to bring the most value?
INFORMATION NOTE
MONITORING AID FLOWS TO STATISTICS WITHOUT LAGS
BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE: LOOKING BEYOND PRESS

The PARIS21 Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS) is the most comprehensive global analysis of donor financial flows to data and statistics. PRESS aims to provide a full picture of international support to statistics. Specifically, it covers the commitments received by all countries to report for the SDG indicator 17.19.1: “Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries”. Started in 2008, PRESS results have now been widely referenced such as in the Financial Times, the OECD Development Co-operation Report 2017 and other publications. Over the years, PARIS21 has continually enhanced the PRESS methodology and narrative by adding new elements (See box below)

The PRESS uses two main data sources: the OECD’s Credit Reporting System (CRS: https://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/crsguide.htm), which documents funding from bilateral donors, and a survey targeted at multilateral donors. CRS data published at the beginning of year n only covers projects until year n-2 due to donors’ fiscal calendar, reporting cycle and its meticulous statistical methods. Consequently, the robust and comprehensive PRESS report, which usually launches at Q3 each year, has an 18-month lag in its coverage. This workflow is described in the figure below, which implies that PRESS does not capture timely donor financial flows to statistics and the structural issue of lagged reporting remains.

Therefore, PRESS in its current form, is not used to:

- **Nowcast** the funding to statistics, i.e. estimate support to statistics and data for the current year
- **Forecast** funding to statistics, i.e. estimate support to statistics and data for the coming years

How the lag in the CRS data leads to lag in PRESS

![Diagram](https://example.com/diagram.png)

Hence, despite the many improvements in PRESS, the lack of timely aid reporting is a persistent concern among its primary users – donors. With growing interest in funding data and statistics, there is a rising demand for timely data in order to plan activities, projects and coordinate various development co-operation efforts. This issue has garnered substantial urgency in the wake of coordinating efforts to fund the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data (CTGAP), and diverse data ecosystem with new actors like private foundations, civil society organisations (CSOs) and other development partners.
This request was addressed by PARIS21 in its 2019 annual meeting, by proposing a new workstream on called E-PRESS (Early PRESS) to provide stakeholders with information on aid flows to statistics with much less lag. This workstream is a collection of approaches that includes the construction of a new, harmonised database that links alternative data sources with existing PRESS data. Further, it also offers new insights from nowcasting and forecasting the funding to statistics. The resulting outputs from the workstream will be integrated into PARIS21 projects, for example enhanced PRESS reporting from 2020 and including it as a key component of the proposed Clearing-house on Financing Development Data (see information note).

**IN FOCUS – PRESS: AN EVER-EVOLVING AND INNOVATIVE TOOL**

PRESS has evolved since its inception to meet new requests from diverse stakeholders and effectively respond to the growing interest of the international development community. In 2016, the Secretariat innovated by using text mining to analyse information from over 2 million development projects. The report further improved in 2017 by including more philanthropic foundations to better assess the enlarged pool of donors. In 2018, a gender module was introduced to the PRESS to reflect more detailed information on Gender statistics. In 2019, the PRESS began evaluating how SDG monitoring impacts funding to statistics. A proposal by PARIS21 to improve the purpose code in development financing was also adopted by the OECD Development Assistance Committee Working Party on Development Finance Statistics (WP-STAT) in 2020. This will lead to significantly increased accuracy in reporting aid flows to statistics by 2021. The Secretariat will also publish the micro-level dataset from PRESS in 2020.

**ESTIMATING SUPPORT TO STATISTICS WITHOUT LAGS – RESEARCH CONDUCTED AND RESULTS OBTAINED**

To develop E-PRESS, PARIS21 undertook a few different approaches:

1) Estimating support to statistics for the current year (i.e. nowcasting), and for upcoming few years (i.e. forecasting) as captured by disbursements, instead of commitments. Switching the variable under consideration from commitments to disbursements was essential for two main reasons. First, disbursements capture the actual release of funds, hence are more useful for donor planning purposes. Second, it can take several years to disburse a commitment, hence by construct, there are more data points available on disbursements than commitments over the same time period, making the regression more robust. A further benefit of looking at disbursements is also that this information is available in multiple data sources, beyond CRS. (see point 2 below on using alternative data sources). This was based on a simple regression model, drawing from the literature on aid predictability and a steady relationship between commitments and disbursements overtime. The model helped estimate the funding from donors based on the historical data. Regression analysis was carried out to predict current and future disbursements based on reported commitments. Using this method, PARIS21 was able to estimate the funding to statistics to the current year and upcoming years using CRS data, even though the CRS data doesn’t actually report for these years.

   a. Nowcasting: We found here that the estimation can deviate from the actual reported number by 10-20 per cent, and the accuracy improves in recent years as donors have committed to better transparency and reporting.

      i. Although CRS only has a full coverage of official aid until 2017, our nowcast was able to provide information on aid to statistics until 2019. The results indicate that global funding to statistics is not likely to increase substantially in 2018 and 2019, even accounting for 20% underreporting. This worrying finding implies
that the increased focus on data and the adoption of the SDG framework may not fully translate in a substantive increase in financial support to statistics.

**b. Forecasting:** Applying the same model, but with additional assumptions about aid-flows informed by PARIS21’s institutional knowledge in the sector, we were also able to predict funding gaps in statistics based on reported commitments.

i. This approach was applied since we found that the predictability between disbursements and commitments used for nowcasting funding to statistics decreases greatly after the current year (or a short time horizon), since for example, many projects committed in 2017 will end in 2020. However, this lack of predictability on-paper could be partially mitigated by creating a forecasting model based on a few well-informed assumptions (such as continuation of longstanding projects like Demographic Health Survey, or termination or reduction of funding for certain projects like censuses), leveraging past PRESS data and PARIS21’s institutional knowledge on support to statistics for over two decades.

ii. It is important to emphasise that the forecast does not aim to predict detailed allocation by aid providers. It aims to present how substantial the future funding gap will be if removing the lump-sum funding for censuses and longstanding funding. No country level information will be produced through this exercise to avoid the potential impact on funding to a specific country.

iii. We found that the global funding to statistics may increase over the next two years, primarily boosted by the 2020 round of censuses. However, similar to the finding from the nowcast, there was no sign of significant systematic increase from the current level.

**2) Using alternative data sources for aid flows on statistics:** Apart from nowcasting and forecasting disbursements to statistics from CRS data, another way to address the structural lag issue in aid-flow reporting is to address the root-cause of the problem itself – the dependency on the CRS database, and to look for this information in alternate data sources. PARIS21 created a new and harmonised database to obtain more updated information on aid flows at project level by linking the following data sources with PRESS data (i.e. CRS data + current projects in PRESS survey data):

a. The International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) database
b. Donor transparency portals
c. Multilateral donor reporting on future projects in the PRESS survey data (currently untapped in PRESS reporting)

PARIS21 has been exploring these alternatives since 2019 and has accumulated knowledge over this period. For example, the USAID dataset helped PRESS 2019 to identify the USA’s support to the statistics for the first time, especially its effort through the Demographic Health Survey (DHS). PARIS21 has also established methodology in merging and harmonising the aforementioned datasets, addressing the multiple pros and cons of each data source, in particular the completeness problem (acute in IATI) and coverage problem (acute in donor portals).
Table 1 presents a glimpse of the resulting harmonised dataset, obtained after linking different sources.

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<td>TURKSTAT / IPA 2015 GRANTS / A.3</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1087260</td>
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<tr>
<td>EC</td>
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<td>2018</td>
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<td>SESRIC</td>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>OIC Statistical Capacity Building (STATCAB) Programme</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1825</td>
<td>PRESS Survey</td>
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<td>OIC Statistical Capacity Building (STATCAB) Programme</td>
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<td>PRESS Survey</td>
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<td>65189.9</td>
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<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>Peru</td>
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<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>Asia, regional</td>
<td>Asia-Pacific</td>
<td>STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>8861.69</td>
<td>CRS</td>
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For the 15,312 projects in the new dataset, 54 % of disbursements activities come from the CRS data, comparing with over 73% in the earlier dataset used for PRESS. In the new dataset, PRESS survey accounts for 27% of projects while IATI database and donors’ databases (accessed through donors’ transparency portals) account for 19% of the projects. By filtering through the data using recipient country and year, donors can already observe the upcoming funding received by a country for statistical development. It is then easier for them to identify funding gaps in prioritised areas. Hence, the new harmonised dataset can achieve better diversification of data sources and reduced dependence on CRS.

Comparison between PRESS and the new harmonised dataset on the share of projects by data sources
3) Nowcasting and forecasting funding to statistics with the new, harmonised database.

Finally, PARIS21 applied the same model on nowcasting and forecasting support to statistics (disbursements) but based on the new harmonised database, linking PRESS data with aforementioned alternative sources. The main findings of this approach were similar to those based on CRS estimations: there is no indication of a systematic increase in funding to statistics in the current or coming years.

PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

The additional information gathered through the E-PRESS workstream aims to complement PRESS results rather than substitute them. Even with a longer time lag, the PRESS still reports the most reliable and comprehensive data on funding to statistics. Data from the PRESS continues to serve as the source data for SDG indicator 17.19.1.

The E-PRESS outputs also vary in accuracy, from the ones as robust as PRESS such as the merged database, to the forecast analysis which builds on several assumptions. The insights gathered from this workstream can therefore be used for different PARIS21 products meant to serve different purposes:

- The nowcast on disbursements and some information provided by the harmonised dataset can be directly presented in PRESS 2020 as a natural extension of its current content, based on existing data sources like CRS.
- The forecast on funding gap could be presented in separate policy briefs, due to its speculative nature.
- The complete new harmonised database can also be deployed on a platform to be used as a dynamic planning tool by development partners, for example under the proposed Clearing-house on Financing Development Data (see separate information note).

The work above can be taken further by strengthening the communication and consultation between PARIS21, donors and recipients. Such consultations would lead to more robust results by correcting erroneous information contained in alternative data sources such as the IATI database, validating assumptions on termination or continuation of projects to better inform assumptions for forecasting, and generally enhancing data sharing. Building on this information, PARIS21 could estimate country-level nowcast in the next iteration of this analyses. Consultations over the analyses will also help PARIS21 to better shape outputs to meet the demand of its stakeholders.

As the outbreak of the Covid-19 may impact donors’ GDP/GNI and consequently, their Official Development Assistance, one can expect some fluctuation in development financing. Despite the problems these anomalies will bring to the analyses, the nowcasting and forecasting approaches will become more valuable in this background. Combining with the 2020 round of censuses, the results from these analyses can play a crucial role to inform the statistics and the development co-operation communities to prepare for and respond to these challenges.
PARIS continues to develop the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) Guidelines, guided by the NSDS Guidelines Reference Group. The focus is double: first, updating the Guidelines; second, making them used where needed.

**PROGRESS IN 2019**

In 2019, the PARIS21 Secretariat organised the fifth meeting of the NSDS Guidelines Reference Group (on 21 March 2019). The meeting took place just before the PARIS21’s board meeting (3-4 April 2019) and all the changes validated by the reference group were presented during the PARIS21 Board Meeting. The Reference Group, co-chaired by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the PARIS21 Secretariat, comprises experts from countries and organisations from all regions and aims to guide the annual updates of the NSDS Guidelines.

The PARIS21 Secretariat presented the new NSDS lifecycle diagram and proposed to include the new NSDS Lifecycle diagram in the NSDS Guidelines to better illustrate the overall NSDS process and provide more straightforward guidance on the various steps to undertake. This facilitates ease in using the NSDS Guidelines and responds to feedback from users of the NSDS guidelines to make the guidelines more user-friendly. It also clearly defines the steps where the Advanced Data Planning Tool (ADAPT) could be used. This is particularly useful as more and more countries are now making use of ADAPT as part of their NSDS process.

PARIS21 Secretariat also presented the ongoing work to revamping the NSDS Guidelines website. Further recommendations were provided by the Reference Group to redesign and update the NSDS Guidelines website to make it more user-friendly, practical to use, and the information made more easily accessible. It recommended also further updates to be done in 2020, including redesigning in a circular flow process the new NSDS Lifecycle diagram and consider simplification of steps, review and update the content to make it shorter and more straightforward and ensure consistency of concepts (e.g., data ecosystem, data value chain, etc.), etc.

In early 2020, the Secretariat has engaged stakeholders to review and finalise the revised NSDS lifecycle which was changed from linear to circular model with the three levels: stages, phases and steps, and the content of stage 1 (Preliminary stage) as recommended by the Reference Group.

The Secretariat has collected, consolidated and integrated feedback from users ranging from NSOs, regional and international organisations, and independent experts. Based on the feedback received, the NSDS Lifecycle was finalised and serves as the navigating structure of the guidelines content and website.

Country best practice examples under each step of “Stage 1” were provided and made more accessible for new and old users of the NSDS guidelines.

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1 Countries: Kyrgyzstan (representing Europe and Central Asia), Somalia and Ethiopia (representing Africa), Peru (representing Latin America), Jamaica (representing Caribbean), Palestine (representing Middle East), Lao PDR (representing Asia), Vanuatu (representing Pacific), Statistics Sweden.

Regional organisations: UNECA, UNESCAP, UNESCWA, CARICOM, EUROSTAT

Global organisations/donors: World Bank, DFID, UK
MOVING FORWARD IN 2020
On February 21st 2020, the NSDS Reference Group convened a meeting to discuss the review of the new website. Participants expressed appreciation and support for both the new NSDS Lifecycle diagram, the updates on the website and content. The revamped NSDS Guidelines website allows users to have an interactive access mode and will be fully finalised in Q3 2020.

(i) Finalising the new NSDS Guidelines website and user engagement

The Secretariat will continue the development of stage 2 (NSDS Design stage) and stage 3 (NSDS Deployment stage) to be finalised by end of July 2020. PARIS21 will continue to engage stakeholders until the finalisation of the guidelines. PARIS21 will continue to conduct user consultations after the population of the content of each stage in the website as well as specific feedback on website navigation. As done in the first stage of the NSDS lifecycle, country best practice examples will continue to be populated in each step in all 3 stages of the NSDS Guidelines as appropriate.

The Secretariat will link the current website to necessary details on NSDS from the old website for user needs (e.g. guidelines for development of regional strategy for development of statistics (RSDS), sector strategy for the development of statistics, other relevant details, etc.).

(ii) NSDS Guidelines outreach

PARIS21 will reach out to users of the NSDS guidelines through the website, e-learning and on-site training workshops on NSDS. PARIS21 has experience in regional training working with its partners in Asia, LAC, MENA region and in Africa. The trainings are adapted to country context and address different thematic areas where the NSDS coordinators are targeted. The trainings touch upon topics affecting national, regional and global development framework and help countries clearly identify their data priorities and commitments on the three levels. The Secretariat will develop an outreach strategy through the following aspects:

- Regional outreach through regional workshops on NSDS Guidelines that include mainstreaming regional statistics frameworks (e.g. Strategy for Harmonization of Statistics in Africa - SHaSA) in the NSDS process

- Training of trainers (including consultants) on the use of the NSDS Guidelines to better support the NSS to design the NSDS;

- Training the NSS at country level on the design of the NSDS integrating sectors and sub-national levels;

- Outreach to the government policy-makers and donors on funding the NSDS design and implementation;

- As part of this outreach strategy, the website will be translated into other priority languages.
INFORMATION
NOTE
ADVANCED DATA
PLANNING TOOL
(ADAPT)
NEW FUNCTIONALITIES AVAILABLE

The Advanced Data Planning Tool (ADAPT) which is a free, cloud-based, multilingual and consultative data planning software developed by PARIS21 was further strengthened in 2019. The software development and associated support continues as ADAPT remains a priority tool for PARIS21. The Version 1.2 of the tool launched in April 2019, contained additional features of costing and budgeting of data plan activities, including the Gender Module that caters specifically to gender data-gap issues. These developments were required by ADAPT users.

ADAPT now allows for detailed capturing of costs (estimates) and budget information of activities in data plans entered in the system. The reports in ADAPT now take into account costs captured through all activities of data plans and related budget information which is a key issue in many countries, especially where data-related activities rely heavily on external funding, which is not always predictable.

The new ADAPT Gender Module, allows for monitoring of the gender data production that describe more accurately the situation of women and men in society according to relevant global commitments and national policies. The module allows ADAPT users to tag indicators as gender-relevant, according to national and global priorities. The reports in ADAPT now allows to recognise all gender-related data being produced across the different agencies in the national statistical system and provides a detailed look into data gaps to monitor the SDGs and other policies relevant to gender equality.

Overall, the improved and stable software helped countries to use it both for data gap assessments (including with focus on gender relevant data) as well as in monitoring of data plan activities without hurdles.

PARIS21 also developed training material such as online learning courses, updated user manual and exercises on ADAPT functionalities in multiple languages to assist users.

In addition to develop plans to build new functionalities including advanced reports, PARIS21 initiated the work on development of the new architecture of ADAPT, which would be based on application programming interface (APIs) and micro-services. In addition to being architecturally sound, the tool will improve the interactions users will have with it and the interface users will experience.

OUTREACH: MORE USERS AND USAGE

Trainings on ADAPT extended to partners, including UNSD and different UN agencies, as well as to additional countries. This included two back-to-back regional trainings (June 2019) held in Addis Ababa in partnership with UNECA. The workshops included both NSOs and planning institutions representatives. The Anglophone workshop included Ethiopia, Ghana, Zambia, Egypt, Malawi, Liberia, Gambia, Kenya and Uganda. The Francophone workshop included Senegal, Cote d’Ivoire, Niger, Cameroun, Burkina Faso, Sao Tome, Morocco, Mali, Djibouti and Cape Verde.

In Latin America, ADAPT training took place in Dominican Republic (May 2019), Ecuador (August 2019) and Paraguay (November 2019).

In Egypt (October 2019), Senegal (August 2019) and Kyrgyzstan (September 2019) the gender module of ADAPT was introduced to support mainstreaming gender activities in the respective National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs).
ADAPT was also presented during the UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics held in May 2019, OECD Experts Meeting on Gender Budgeting held in September 2019 and in joint PARIS21 and UN Women Expert Meeting on supporting gender statistics held in October 2019.

PARIS21 also organized a regional training workshop on ADAPT for Asian countries in partnership with UNSIAp in Chiba, Japan (November 2019).

In addition to fact-to-face training workshops, PARIS21 also organized online webinars to support existing and new users of ADAPT.

The three main stages of NSDS lifecycle are preliminary, design and deployment. In 2019, many NSOs engaged to exploit ADAPT across these phases. ADAPT’s utility aligns particularly well within the design and deployment stages. Predominantly in the design stage, assessing the NSS, identifying strategic goals, and elaborating actions plans are phases where benefits are significant. In the deployment stage too, in implementing and monitoring phases, ADAPT was considered extremely useful.

One example is Senegal’s Agence Nationale de Statistique et de la Démographie (its ADAPT instance is shown below) which used ADAPT in 2019 to enhance coordination of the NSS and leveraged effective data planning throughout the NSDS lifecycle. In its third NSDS development process, ADAPT proved very helpful.

Going forward, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics is planning to use ADAPT in monitoring the implementation of its strategic plan in 2020.

PARIS21 is also working with development partners such as UNITAR, UNSD, UNESCAP, UNECLAC and UNECA etc. to create an informal task team to foster coordination between agencies who maintain and promote various tools for strengthening better data planning.
INFORMATION NOTE
SDG INDICATORS
17.18.2, 17.18.3, 17.19.1
PARIS21 is the custodian of the following three SDG indicators:

1. Indicator 17.18.2, “Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics”.
2. Indicator 17.18.3, “Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by sources of funding”.
3. Indicator 17.19.1, “Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries”.

UPGRADING TO TIER 1, IMPROVING DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING

All three indicators were upgraded to Tier I by October 2019, starting from one indicator at Tier III and another at Tier II. In comparison, half of the 232 indicators in the SDG framework are still at Tier II or Tier III.

In 2019, the SG’s report on SDGs accepted the narratives of all three indicators submitted by PARIS21. In addition, the indicator 17.18.3 was among six indicators of Goal 17 to feature in the SDG “glossy” report.

PARIS21 made several improvements to the data collection process to increase the response rates while reducing the reporting burden for countries, especially at the beginning of each year, when the national Statistical Offices (NSOs) are overwhelmed by data requests.

PARIS21 has collected and submitted data for the 2020 round of SDG reporting in February 2020. In this round, 63% (156 out of 247) countries and territories reported their information for indicator 17.18.2, compared from 55% (136 out of 247) in the last round. Data availability for the implementation status of national statistical plans also improved from 72% (178 out of 247) to 75% (185 out of 247) countries and territories. The response rate for the funding status of national statistical plans increased from 51% (129 out of 247) in 2019 to 60% (148 out of 247) in 2020 as well. Data availability for indicator 17.19.1 remains at a high level of 71% (129 out of 181). UNSD will soon publish the results of the 2020 round of reporting.

PARIS21 is also developing a survey portal to optimise its surveys, including the data collection for the SDG indicators. Through features such as prefilling and conditional functions, the new survey portal will reduce countries’ reporting burden of SDG reporting and other surveys. Respondents will also be able to access, review and report their data more safely using dedicated logins. On the back end, data processing and analytical functions are deeply integrated into the survey portal. Data submitted from countries will be compiled and analysed with more transparency, before reported to the UN. Building on the new survey platform, the SDG survey questionnaire will also be modified to improve the response rate further, to help respondents better comprehend the questions and to ensure the quality of data reported.

PARIS21 will submit modification request for the metadata of the three SDG indicators on the UN website to keep the information up-to-date in 2020. The secretariat will also carry out some analysis to compare the results from the SDG indicators.

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2. A Tier I indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, and data are regularly produced by countries for at least 50 per cent of countries and of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant.
7. The indicator 17.19.1 only concerns developing countries.
monitoring and other information. For example, by combining data from SDG indicator 17.18.2 and the UN survey on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, PARIS21 will explore the insight on the readiness and awareness of countries on the FPOS to achieve Target 17.18.

**IN FOCUS: PROGRESS TOWARDS TARGET 17.18**

As reporting started in 2016, only five years of data are available for both SDG indicators 17.18.2 and 17.18.3. In addition, response rates were low in the first two years of monitoring. With the SDG indicator 17.18.1 still in Tier III, measuring the progress for the full target 17.18 is difficult.

- Simply comparing the numbers of countries reporting on these two (17.18.2 and 17.18.3) indicators cannot show the real progress. The total number reported is likely to increase over time because more countries are expected to respond to the survey in the future.
- Comparing the share of countries is also problematic. Currently, over 70% of developed countries have already reported to the survey while the response rate for the rest of the world is lower. Data also shows that developed countries are more likely to have a statistical legislation that complies with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics or a fully funded national statistical plan under implementation. As more information from developing countries become available, the share of countries might decrease regardless of global improvement.

Therefore, monitoring the number of countries “advanced”, i.e. the change of status of a country towards the target 17.18 could be a reliable approach. For the indicator 17.18.2, a country “advances” when it moves from having no statistical legislation to adopting a statistical legislation that complies with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. For the indicator 17.18.3, a country “advances” when it changes from having no national statistical strategy to implementing a national statistical strategy that is fully funded. Each country compared against itself to show the real progress made. Countries which start to provide data later will also be included in the final evaluation as long as they have two data entries by 2020.

To retain trust in official statistics, more national statistical offices need to comply with strict international principles, including scientific methods, professional ethics and standard procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data. The SDG 2019 reporting identified 111 countries having national statistical legislation compliant with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (figure 1). Since 2016, progress has been substantial, with 31 countries advancing from having no statistical legislation that complies with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics to adopting one (figure 2). Northern America and Europe lead other regions, followed by Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia.

![Figure 1: Number of countries with national statistical legislation compliant with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, 2019 reporting](image-url)
The progress is also encouraging in LDCs (6 countries), SIDS (4 countries) and LLDCs (4 countries).

The strategic vision of a national statistical plan allows a country to ensure production and dissemination of core statistics in line with the country’s development plans and in response to the growing demand for high quality, timely and accessible data while also providing a framework to mobilise both national and international resources. The 2019 SDG reporting found that 77 countries were implementing a national statistical plan that is fully funded (figure 3). Unlike statistical laws, progress has been slow for national statistical plans, with only 11 countries advancing from not having a plan under implementation and
ANNEX
2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE PARIS21 SECRETARIAT
Statement of Expenditure 2019
Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019 (in Euros)</th>
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<td><strong>Activity costs</strong></td>
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<td>Knowledge sharing &amp; Innovation Incubator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improving NSS efficiency                                     46,228</td>
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<tr>
<td>Making data available and understandable                      176,809</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrating innovation &amp; Best practices                       276,836</td>
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<td>Communication                                                 68,704</td>
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<td>Global advocacy                                               164,070</td>
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<td>Engaging with new actors                                      11,014</td>
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<td><strong>Co-ordination &amp; Monitoring</strong></td>
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<td>SDG readiness                                                 16,402</td>
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<td>Stakeholder coordination                                     87,346</td>
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<td>Statistics strategies &amp; review                                481,469</td>
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<td>Global monitoring                                            75,143</td>
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<td><strong>Technical support</strong></td>
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<td>Strengthening technical skills                                342,170</td>
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<td>Support to quality processes                                  34,058</td>
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<td>Update statistical laws                                       3,750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improve data access                                          25,533</td>
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<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
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<td>Per person chargeback 1)                                      353,964</td>
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<td>Mobility Workspace Service charge 2)                          14,695</td>
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<td>Sub-total                                                     2,688,035</td>
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<td><strong>Corporate costs</strong></td>
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<td>Voluntary contributions administration charge 3)              386,242</td>
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<td><strong>Total costs 2019</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Financial commitments for 2020</strong></td>
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<td>(in Euros)</td>
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<td>Staff commitments 2020 4)                                     1,276,933</td>
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<td>Non staff commitments 2020 5)                                 580,242</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Financial commitments</strong></td>
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<td>1,857,175</td>
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</tbody>
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1) Per Person Chargeback covers the following costs: Office space, office furniture, IT core services, international telephone usage, photocopiers, training, shuttle, etc.
2) OECD Mobility Workspace Service charge is a package charge per month per staff member and includes a core set of secure mobile services, comprising access from a smartphone or tablet, and primary workstation.
3) VC Administration charge, see C(2009)158
4) Legally binding commitments related to staff contracts.
5) Legally binding commitments related to contracted intellectual services and other goods & services.

Paul Schreyer
Acting Director of the Statistics and Data Directorate

Rebecca Coleman
Head of VC Management Division