

Partner Reporting on Support to Statistics (PRESS)

Task Team Meeting – January 18, 2008

1. The fifth meeting of the Task Team on the Partner Reporting System on Statistical Development was held on January 18, 2008 at the offices of the PARIS21 Secretariat. Participants to the meeting were: Morag Ottens of Eurostat, Jean-François Divay of the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Phil Cockerill of DFID, Petteri Baer of UNECE, Brian Hammond of OECD, Geert Deserranno, Chair of OECD-DAC Working Party on Statistics, Naoko Watanabe of the World Bank (by audio-conference), Antoine Simonpietri (chairperson), Eric Bensele, Jean-Marc Landais, Marc Tocatlian, and Adriana De Leva of PARIS21. Lynn Forrest of DFID and Neil Fantom of the World Bank provided comments prior to the meeting.
2. The discussion focused on (i) how to move forward on the design and development of the PRESS; (ii) a response to the CCSA at its next session in February 2008; and (iii) results of Eurostat's reporting exercise for Africa.

Design and Development of the PRESS

3. A number of Team members emphasized the growing demand for information on partner support to statistics, so as to contribute to better partner coordination. This demand has been reflected most recently in the "scaling-up" discussion in Paris in November 2007 and in its follow-up work on preparing a proposed multi-donor funding mechanism to support the "scaling-up" initiative. Team members pointed out that the proposed PRESS is timely and useful to respond to this demand.
4. After a discussion of the merits and deficiencies of the CRS and the need for partners to collaborate on statistical support, particularly in light of the scaling-up initiative on support to statistics, the meeting agreed that the CRS and PRESS were complementary and could benefit from each other. In addition, to avoid any confusion on the role of the CRS and PRESS, it was suggested that the PRESS be regarded as an initiative on reporting and analysis of partner support to statistical development, not a parallel partner reporting system. In this vein, the acronym PRESS would now stand for "Partner Reporting on Support to Statistics". Specifically, the meeting agreed to a programme of activities that PRESS would undertake on an annual basis (Table 1). The principal activities include:
 - extraction of CRS commitment and expenditure data on statistical support for past years
 - collection of current year and future commitments from CRS-reporting partners through a questionnaire to PARIS21 partners
 - request PARIS21 partners to inform their CRS reporters and the Statistics and Monitoring Division of the Development Cooperation Directorate at the OECD (DCD-STAT) of changes/additional information
 - encouraging partners to improve their textual information on their activities to the CRS
 - collection of information on support to statistical development from partners who do not report to the CRS by a user-friendly questionnaire, managed by the PARIS21 Secretariat, and inviting them to report to the CRS if and when it suits them. The questionnaire to be used will be harmonized with questionnaires of existing reporting systems, such as CRS, to the extent possible;
 - presentation and dissemination of annual PRESS report to interested stakeholders and the public on the PARIS21 website. Partners will be informed of the publication schedules well in advance to ensure agreement on the publication of data.

Table 1: PRESS – Annual Activities

	Activities	Output	Responsible Entity	Calendar
	CRS data			
1	Extract commitment and expenditure data from CRS up to latest year (SCB code + key search words)	Excel files	JML, AD, DCD-STAT	Every January
2	Identify for each activity statistical area and financing typology (using classifications agreed upon by Task Team)	Excel files completed	JML, AD	Every January
3	Edit and tabulate information by recipient countries, partners, and statistical area, identifying any problems	3 Tables	JML, AD, Statistician	February
4	Forward anomalies/discrepancies to DCD-STAT		JML	February
	For countries/institutions reporting to CRS			
5	Review enhanced CRS results with main PARIS21 partners, including classifications of each activity by statistical area and financing category	Updated Excel files	PARIS21	March-April (ongoing)
6a	Request PARIS21 partners to inform their CRS reporters, PRESS, and DCD-STAT of changes/additional information		PARIS21	
6b	CRS to update information, as appropriate	Updated CRS	DCD-STAT	
7	Request PARIS21 partners to complete questionnaire on current year and future commitments, if any	Updated Excel files	PARIS21	March-April (ongoing)
8	Incorporate new information into the PRESS repository and the 3 tables in the report	Updated tables	PARIS21	March-April
	For countries/institutions not reporting to CRS			
9	Collect information via user-friendly questionnaire (past, current, and future activities) and regular discussions with PARIS21 partners	Completed questionnaires	PARIS21	Start mid-January
10	Incorporate this information into the PRESS repository and the 3 tables in the report	Updated tables	PARIS21	March-April
	Annual Report			
11	Draft annual report on results, review with partners (including agreement on publication of results) and produce final report	Report	PARIS21, TT, partners	Every May
12	Present report to PARIS21 SC	Presentation	PARIS21	May
13	Present report to WP-STAT	Presentation	PARIS21	June
14	Present report to CCSA	Presentation	PARIS21	Sept
15	Present report to other regional meetings (eg, FASDEV)	Presentation	PARIS21	
16	Dissemination of report to partners		PARIS21	May
17	Archive relevant documentation in PARIS21 files, as necessary, and in its website	Updated files Updated website	PARIS21	

Response for CCSA session

5. For the next CCSA session on February 25, 2008, the Task Team agreed to prepare a short progress report on its outputs, highlighting how these correspond to the TT's terms of reference (this is in response to the request of the last CCSA session in September 2007). The Team's output would be annexed to the report, including the review of existing reporting systems, the CRS study, the classification of statistical areas, and the typology of financing. The Team's full proposal on the design of the PRESS, including a questionnaire and a solution for storing and accessing the information will be presented to the CCSA in its September 2008 session.

Eurostat's reporting exercise for Africa

6. Morag updated the Task Team on Eurostat's reporting exercise for Africa. After a slow start, information has trickled in and the collection phase is almost complete (France will send its information soon). The data verification process with each donor will begin shortly. Based on this experience, Morag highlighted that the on-line questionnaire was appreciated by respondents; that nearly half of the projects reported were future commitments, indicating that information on future activities is available; and that one statistical office provided financial estimates of non-financial support, which in fact exceeded financial support. But, she noted that the following points be taken into account in designing the PRESS questionnaire: (i) the level of detail necessary for the classification of statistical areas and the financial typology (especially with respect to compulsory vs. voluntary answers); (ii) the distinction between joint/pooled funding and funding through an intermediary when the intermediary runs a basket fund; and (iii) the question on lead donor, which is important to avoid double counting, especially since more than one donor was involved in more than half of the projects.

Work Programme of Task Team – January-March 2008

7. The Task Team agreed to meet on March 10, 2008 to agree on a PRESS questionnaire that would harmonize it with questionnaires of existing reporting systems (such as CRS and Eurostat). The meeting would also select the technological tool for the storage, access, and tabulation of data for the PRESS, based on a proposal from Team members. Brian Hammond announced that Julia Benn would represent DCD-STAT at future Task Team meetings.

8. Table 2 presents the Team's work programme for the period January-March 2008, based on the above discussions:

Table 2: PRESS – Work Programme, January-March 2008

Activity	Responsible	Calendar
Design and development of PRESS		
Review questionnaires of different reporting systems (eg, CRS and Eurostat) to arrive at user-friendly questionnaire for the PRESS	Ottens/Baer Watanabe	Mid-February
Propose technological solution for storing, accessing, tabulating PRESS info	Baer Landais	Mid-February
Draft outline of PRESS annual report on results	De Leva	End-February
Draft calendar of first PRESS report	De Leva	March 10
CCSA session		
Draft progress report	De Leva/Bensel	End-January
Review of draft report	TT members	February 4
Submit report to UNSD	PARIS21	February 8
Eurostat exercise for Africa		
Draft report of results	Ottens	February
Access to database	Eurostat	End-June
Next Task Team meeting		
		March 10