



## **Record of the Proceedings**

**Chairs: Pali Lehohla & Eckhard Deutscher**

**Friday, 6 June 2008**

### **I. Welcome Statement**

1. The chair of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), Mr. Eckhard Deutscher, introduced himself as this was his first meeting of the PARIS21 Steering Committee. He praised the work of PARIS21 and commented that statistics are one of the flagships of the DAC. Statistical capacity issues are recognised worldwide as critical to development co-operation. He then welcomed the meeting's special invitees: Ghana, Sudan, Tanzania, and UNECA then introduced the newly appointed Secretariat Deputy Manager.

### **II. Adoption of Agenda**

2. The Manager of the PARIS21 Secretariat requested that the afternoon item on Metagora be moved to the morning session in order to follow more closely the logic and structure of the meeting's discussion. This proposal was agreed. The agenda was adopted without further modifications.

### **III. Progress Reports**

3. Several reports on progress in specific initiatives were then presented.

#### *PARIS21 Progress Report*

4. The Secretariat Manager presented the PARIS21 progress report, outlining developments under the major work programme headings: regional programmes, advocacy, partnership, reporting, studies, and task teams. All PARIS21 actions are intended to support country efforts to design, implement, and monitor National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). At the Steering Committee's request, the Secretariat now works more intensely at the country level. PARIS21's regional programmes have increasingly supported country efforts to include statistical issues in wider development policies, including at donor consultative groups (e.g., Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Mali, Niger). Advocacy efforts include the development of a Statistics Advocacy Resources Toolkit (START), advocacy booklets, and NSDS synthesis documents in collaboration with national statistical offices. On partnership, PARIS21, along with the World Bank's Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), funds the participation of developing country statisticians in major international events. On reporting, PARIS21 produces country NSDS information sheets and is working on a toolkit on country reporting. Regarding studies, PARIS21 is producing relevant guidance on strategic planning and translates the documents into several languages. The Intersect task team proposes further development, including a proposal for a new team on subnational statistics. Lastly, he commented that the Secretariat has developed a proposal on tracking progress of the partnership.

#### *NSDS Progress Report*

5. The Secretariat Manager presented the room document leaflet which provides a snapshot of NSDS status in International Development Association (IDA) countries. This new format provides information not only the NSDSs being designed but also the existing ones being implemented. This approach reflects more clearly the complexity of country situations. The Secretariat also worked with the evaluators of the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS) to provide an overview of the situation from 2002 to 2007. He



closed by requesting that participants inform the Secretariat of any updates to the information presented in the table.

#### *Country-Level Advocacy*

6. The Secretariat Deputy Manager presented PARIS21's advocacy efforts. This has always been a central role of PARIS21, mainly at the regional and international levels. Since overall activities are focused on assisting the implementation of NSDS, which implies work at the country level, advocacy efforts at this level must be scaled up. Objectives at country level include facilitating the development of advocacy materials (e.g., booklets, videos, NSDS/NSS related products) tailored to national needs and in the medium-term developing national advocacy strategies. As mentioned previously, the Secretariat has launched the production of a Statistics Advocacy Resources Toolkit (START), which will gather relevant advocacy tools in a single package. The first version of this evolving tool is intended to be completed by end 2008. Future activities will include engaging public relations/communications experts into the START development and the expansion of advocacy support (i.e., to other regions and other sectors and targeting national development policies).

#### *International Household Survey Network and Accelerated Data Program*

7. The Secretariat presented progress in the two satellite programmes: the International Household Survey Network (IHSN) and Accelerated Data Program (ADP). These are complementary initiatives, both funded by the World Bank. Recent progress in the IHSN includes: continued development of data management tools, the IHSN question bank, and the IHSN survey catalogue (currently 3600 surveys loaded). Plans for the IHSN over the coming months include: further development and launch of the question bank, dissemination of microdata anonymisation tools and guidelines, finalisation of a survey quality assessment framework, and identification of possible solutions to improve the planning of future surveys by international survey sponsors.

8. The ADP comprises three main tasks: (1) documentation and dissemination of existing survey microdata; (2) analysis of existing survey data and assessment of the past survey programme; and (3) development of an improved survey programme and data collection. Recent developments in the ADP include: increased demand for Task 1 support, more international partners joining the programme, and launch of Task 2 activities in Cameroon and Mali, while Task 3 remains limited. Future ADP plans include: expanding Task 1, implementing Task 2 in five to six countries, continuing (in a limited form) Task 3, and preparing for a specific external evaluation (with IHSN). In addition to the original ADP pilot countries, many new countries have been added to the programme (Burkina Faso, Botswana, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Lesotho, Namibia, and Swaziland), and others have expressed interest in joining (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guyana, Mauritania, Mexico, Nicaragua, Palestine, Panama, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Uruguay). Other countries are also using the Microdata Management Toolkit without ADP support. Since the last progress report in November 2007, there has been a great jump in the number of surveys inventoried and loaded into the national data archives (NADA). NADAs are now live in Ethiopia (<http://www.csa.gov.et/nada/>), Liberia (<http://www.lisgis.org/nada/>), Nigeria (<http://69.89.2.24/nada>), and Uganda (<http://www.ubos.org/nada1>).

#### *Training of Statisticians*

9. The French representative delivered a presentation on training of statisticians. PARIS21 relaunched its training task team last year with a mandate just for Africa. In addition, the UNECA Statistical Commission for Africa decided in January 2008 to establish a task team on statistical training under the aegis of the African Committee for Statistical Coordination. Since there are several initiatives on this topic, he requested that the Steering Committee agree to merge its team with the UN group. He then called on all partners interested in training to join this team.



## **Discussion**

10. The chair invited comments on all four of the progress reports presented. Participants expressed satisfaction with the success of the partnership, in particular since the focus on NSDS. Some participants called on the Secretariat to expand its support to non-IDA developing countries, including in reporting on their progress with NSDSs. The Eurostat representative recommended also including progress in improving data quality in the tracking of the partnership's progress. Participants saw advocacy as a central activity of the Partnership and, in fact, recommended expanding its scope to include non-statisticians and leaders in other fields to foster a longer-term enabling environment that will be more likely to build ownership of statistical development. Furthermore, as suggested by the South-East Asia representative, the partnership's advocacy efforts should stress the need for national budget allocations to statistics. Advocacy is not a short-term activity but a permanent concern and one that ought to address the full community. Participants also urged the partnership to merge training initiatives and to ensure the efforts also target schools and on-the-job statisticians.

11. The chair closed by noting that there is a consensus on the need to assist countries with national advocacy strategies, to extend advocacy efforts outside the statistical community, to monitor the quality of data, to expose success stories, to merge the various training initiatives, and to extend PARIS21 support beyond just IDA countries.

## **IV. Reports from the Partnership**

### *Statistics for Results Facility*

12. The Secretariat Manager reported on the discussions held the previous day on the Statistics for Results Facility (SRF), reiterating the point that the facility is intended to be additional and complementary, rather than a replacement, to other funding mechanisms. The World Bank representative added that yesterday's participants highlighted the importance of national ownership, bringing together national-level players in a national partnership, and the pooling of resources. She noted that the facility consists of two dimensions: (1) a new, unfragmented way of working, and (2) a means to fill gaps where resources are lacking at country level. She said that the World Bank will incorporate yesterday's comments into the framework document, highlighting the need to recognise the local context and build on what is being done, clarifying the relationship between the SRF and the TFSCB, and underscoring that this is a demand-driven initiative. Participation from different donors will be essential. All donor agencies should be aware of this facility and that the partnership is moving forward with pilot countries. She called on the DAC chair to write to donors with a documentation package, asking what other donors can contribute (financially or technically) and how they can collaborate and co-ordinate.

### *Kigali Pre-Conference for Accra HLF*

13. The developing country co-chair presented his thoughts on the Kigali pre-conference for the Accra High-Level Forum (HLF), which he attended in late April 2008 on behalf of PARIS21. He commented that statistics were clearly not a central issue at the meeting (due mostly to the fact they are a cross-cutting issue), but that the significance and importance of measurement was elevated over the course of the proceedings. While statistics were treated under the Managing for Development Results (MfDR) roundtable, he argued that they ought to be discussed in the other roundtables as well (in particular, fragile states). As a way forward in urging the Accra organisers to accord greater attention to statistics in their discussions, he recommended that the partnership prepare an issues paper on statistics under the MfDR theme and urged the African Development Bank to add it to the agenda.



### *Support to Fragile States*

14. The developing country co-chair delivered a presentation on fragile states and statistical implications. The African Symposium for Statistical Development (ASSD) launched an initiative to focus on fragile states and specifically identified Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, and Sudan as priority countries for this reflexion. He observed that, in almost all countries where there exists fragility, there are resource and power-sharing issues. These situations desperately require statistics. As new elections arrive, census numbers are critical. Statistical operations lead by and large to democratisation. He called on the partnership to reflect on how best to support data production and use in fragile states and recommended the creation of a reflection group on the issue.

### *Eurostat–UNSD Conference on National Accounts*

15. The Eurostat representative presented results from the joint Eurostat–UNSD international conference on “International Outreach and Coordination in National Accounts for Sustainable Growth and Development” held in Luxembourg in May 2008. The objective of the conference was to adopt the “Luxembourg Recommendations” which focus on how to mainstream strategic planning for the development of national accounts; better co-ordinate, monitor, and report actions; and improve statistical systems generally. He commented that the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) adopted a proposal in February 2008 to update the current System of National Accounts (SNA93). The system under development will be called SNA2008. Volume I of the guidance has been approved, and volume II will be approved soon. Implementation of this new system is the next concern. Once the conference’s recommendations (available in annex I of the room document) are finalised, they will be submitted to the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts for follow-up and presented to the 2009 session of the UNSC.

### **Discussion**

16. Discussion focused on linking PARIS21 work on the above topics more closely with DAC work. The Canadian representative recommended advocating for support to statistics in fragile states to the DAC working group on the subject. The World Bank representative called on the DAC chair to speak to the Steering Group preparing the Accra HLF to ensure that statistics are addressed appropriately, as they are currently relegated to a limited role in the roundtable on MfDR. The Dutch representative noted that the DAC’s Joint Venture on MfDR will next meet on 18 June 2008 in Paris and that this would be an excellent opportunity to intervene on this point. The chair agreed to write two letters: one to donors regarding the SRF and one to the Joint Venture regarding statistics and Accra. He then called on the Secretariat to present a proposal on fragile states based on the developing country chair’s paper.

### **V. Metagora**

17. The General Co-ordinator of Metagora presented the achievements of the project. Over the past four years, Metagora has implemented pilot operations in several countries around the world to test and develop methods and tools for measuring human rights, democracy, and governance, promoting a bottom-up, participatory approach. The Co-ordination Team is currently preparing a publication that presents the project’s tools and methods as well as the current status of work on indicators on human rights. The publication will be published in English, French, and Spanish in CD and printed forms by early July 2008. He noted that, within the PARIS21 Steering Committee, Metagora has had strong support as well as strong resistance. While Metagora marked major progress in the field of measuring human rights and democratic governance, it is now time to conclude this phase and transfer its tools, resources, and network to an institution which has a greater policy profile, specifically the UNDP which is about to launch a Global Programme on Capacity Development for Democratic Governance Assessments and Measurements. Like Metagora, this programme respects the principles of nationally based action, enhances national capacities, works closely with national statistical offices, and intends to expand the inventory of initiatives and training



materials. He asked that the Steering Committee follow this UNDP work and that the DAC chair send a letter to the UNDP to invite them to attend the PARIS21 Steering Committee meetings to report on the progress of its Global Programme. This is a very successful conclusion of one phase and opening of the next one. He closed by announcing that Metagora is organising a concluding forum on 9–10 July 2008 in Paris, to which all Steering Committee members are invited. He requested that the developing country chair deliver a speech on fragile states at this meeting.

### **Discussion**

18. The South-East Asia representative expressed the full appreciation of the Philippine statistical system to PARIS21 and Metagora for opening their eyes on the measurement of human rights and democratic governance. More generally, Metagora has helped popularise statistics and statistical offices. He announced that in 2009 ASEAN hopes to organise a regional meeting on measurement of human rights and democracy. The Secretariat Manager commented that the Secretariat had been honoured to host Metagora, as its work is vitally important and has been very successful. He said that handing the work over to UNDP is an excellent way to support the role of official statistics in measuring these issues. He thanked the Metagora team for the work done. The chair concluded that the Committee endorsed the conclusion of Metagora activities and the project's transfer to UNDP.

### **VI. Forward Work Programme (2009–2010)**

19. The Secretariat Manager presented the proposed activities of the Secretariat for the period 2009–2010. This work programme is the continuity of the programme from previous years. As agreed by the Steering Committee, increased attention is placed on country-level support to the design, implementation, and monitoring of NSDSs. The work programme comprises five primary axes:

1. Assistance to countries on implementation of NSDS through regional programmes
2. Developing the tools for advocating at global and country levels
3. Energising the Partnership
4. Reporting on NSDS progress and helping countries to report on statistical development
5. Conducting studies and convening task teams

20. PARIS21 will provide support to countries through, *inter alia*, facilitating donor support, co-ordination, and collaboration; advocacy in the short term (booklets) and medium/long term (advocacy strategy at national level); reporting; facilitating peer reviews; and supporting funding requests. New activities in 2009–2010 include:

- Greater emphasis on a country-based programme in Asia
- Addressing the needs of small states and islands
- National strategies on advocacy and reporting on statistical development
- Partner Reporting on Support to Statistics (PRESS) as a standard PARIS21 activity
- Global report on statistical development
- Consortium meeting
- Tracking progress of partnership
- Establishment of a new task team on sub-national statistics

21. The Secretariat then elaborated on the proposed process for tracking progress of the partnership. These papers are intended to respond to the Steering Committee's request that the Secretariat report not merely on Secretariat progress but on progress of the wider partnership. At previous meetings, the Steering Committee had also encouraged the Secretariat to review/streamline the logframe, so more quantifiable indicators have now been provided. He proposed that the six-monthly progress reports continue, tightened up with some concrete targets, then supplemented by an annual report at the Fall Steering Committee



meeting reviewing partnership progress towards outputs and outcomes set out in the logframe. There will also be the evaluations every three to five years, which will also look at partnership purpose and goal. The room document provides some baseline information on which to track progress. The first annual report will be available for the next Steering Committee meeting. Means of verification should rely on indicators that already exist, including the NSDS report, the PRESS information, the World Bank's statistical capacity indicators, and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group papers on MDG indicator availability. He asked if the Steering Committee is satisfied with the new logframe and the new objectively verifiable indicators. He also asked for comments on whether the Secretariat should conduct an extensive exercise, involving countries and development partners, to review country policy documents and donor development policy documents in evaluating partnership progress. He suggested that PARIS21 should not talk about attribution but rather contribution.

### ***Discussion***

22. Participants expressed general support for the proposed work programme and tracking of partnership progress. Recommendations emerged on measuring the quantity and quality of data produced, assessing statistical capacity, providing an overview of evaluations of large international statistical capacity building initiatives, and integrating statistics into the work of the DAC Working Party on Aid Effectiveness. While the UK, Dutch, and Norwegian representatives praised the revised logframe, the latter requested more outcome, impact, and purpose targets as well as more indicators on how many countries are implementing an NSDS, in order to more accurately measure if the goals are being achieved. The Norwegian representative argued that the logframe could be stronger on the use of statistics and donor involvement in statistical development. In light of the SRF focus on country-level partnerships and PARIS21's extensive experience in building them, the UK representative suggested that PARIS21 should produce a paper on how to build these partnerships.

23. The chair concluded that there were no objections to the proposed activities in the work programme nor to the tracking of progress. There was support for increasing the donor/country responsibility in reporting on progress. The Committee has proposed a light working group on fragile states and statistical issues but was a little divided on the proposal to establish a new task team on subnational statistics. PARIS21 should take a pragmatic stance to the subnational issue and act more as a catalyst.

### **VII. Proposal for a Consortium Meeting**

24. The Secretariat Manager presented a proposal for a 2009 Consortium meeting. The Consortium is intended not to be merely for statisticians, but also to include representatives from policy fields, research institutes, donor agencies, etc. PARIS21 is the forum where statisticians and non-statisticians can discuss issues relating to statistical development. Late 2009 will represent the 10-year anniversary of PARIS21'S creation. It will therefore be an opportune moment to review where PARIS21 is and where it is going. It will also be an opportunity to review all country and donor papers on statistical development. He proposed that such a review be conducted as a Consortium background paper, which would be a major output of the partnership. He proposed the dates of 17–19 November 2009 in Dakar, as Tunisia has removed its candidature because there will be a presidential election at that time.

### ***Discussion***

25. Participants were in favour of the Consortium proposal and urged the Secretariat to form the preparatory group very quickly. The representative from Luxembourg volunteered to be part of this group. As the proposed dates are in the same week as Africa Statistics Day, the preparatory group will need to devise a means to ensure African NSO heads' participation in the Consortium. There was support for extending participation to non-statisticians, including the audience that will attend the Accra HLF. The chair concluded that the Committee agreed to the proposal and that some emerging issues such as climate



change and fragile states should be included in the agenda. The Secretariat and preparatory group will coordinate with Senegalese authorities to set exact dates.

#### **VIII. Proposal for Partner Reporting on Support to Statistics**

26. The Secretariat delivered a presentation on progress of the Partner Reporting on Support to Statistics (PRESS) team. As a step in promoting effective collaboration among development partners, PARIS21 agreed on setting up a mechanism that would collect and analyse information on support to statistical development by financial and technical partners. This tool — the PRESS — would permit an easier exchange of information on statistical activities being carried out and planned in recipient countries. So far, the PRESS team has produced the following: a review of existing partner reporting systems, an in-depth study of the OECD's Creditor Reporting System (CRS) to assess its use for PRESS, a classification of statistical areas, a classification of financial/non-financial support, a questionnaire for collection of PRESS data, and an identification of the key features of the PRESS. The 2008 iteration of this exercise — an expansion of the 2005-06 exercise which covered only aid to Sub-Saharan Africa — has been launched to capture more partners and more recipients. The first step was an extraction from the CRS for data up to 2006, followed by the questionnaire sent to 83 partners (bilateral donors, multilateral institutions, regional organisations, sub-regional organisations, statistical training institutes, and foundations) for 2007 and planned activities. For those partners who do not report to the CRS, the PRESS team sent the questionnaire to capture past and planned activities. The questionnaires were sent not only to development agencies but also to statistical offices in donor countries. These data are currently being processed in a database to be maintained by the PARIS21 Secretariat. A two-volume report — due by August 2008 — will outline the findings, methodology, coverage, and lessons learned (on results and the process). Next steps include:

- Presentation of PRESS to DAC Working Party on Statistics in June
- Partner review of their data
- Review of draft report by PARIS21 Bureau
- Final report by August
- Dissemination of report
- Presentation to Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities in September
- Preparation of short leaflet on findings

27. The Secretariat intends to mainstream PRESS activities into its work programme and proposed a periodicity of every other year for this exercise. The Secretariat Manager called on donors to produce their own annual reports on their support to statistics, which would in turn feed into the PRESS.

#### ***Discussion***

28. Participants were very supportive of this work, which they viewed as producing a very useful tool for co-ordination. While the report may be so useful as to be necessary on an annual basis, participants felt that it would be best to see the initial report first before deciding on its periodicity. The UK representative requested that the database be searchable by country, donor, etc. to satisfy user needs for this data. The chair concluded that participants felt the exercise should be as simple as possible and that the frequency of the report's production should be determined after release of the initial report.

#### **IX. Proposal for Virtual Statistical System**

29. The convenor of the Virtual Statistical System (VSS) task team presented a proposal for the team's work. The team aims to develop a web-based tool to provide access to relevant knowledge on statistics and statistical development for countries to use for their planning. The VSS is proposed to be a knowledge centre that takes into account the information needs of various users and focuses on the development of statistical systems. It will be implemented through a user-friendly IT platform, a portal serving as an entry



point to access the content, based on a modular approach. He proposed to categorise the content into activities and themes. English will be the primary language; however, reference materials will be made available in the original languages. The content can be optionally translated into the six UN languages. The development of the portal will involve UNSD and the World Bank with the Development Gateway Foundation handling its design. UNSD is proposed to host the site. Completion of the site would be in 2009 for presentation at the International Statistical Institute (ISI) session as well as at a side event at the 2010 session of the UNSC. The VSS would require over US\$430k which includes test cases in two countries. The Development Gateway Foundation has received grants totalling US\$80k for the test cases, which leaves a balance of US\$350k. He asked for Steering Committee approval for the Secretariat to allocate this figure to the VSS work. He added that, if the Committee finds this work too complicated or too expensive, the team could scale the operation down.

### ***Discussion***

30. Discussion focused on the advantages and disadvantages of the VSS. While most participants — in particular, those from developing countries — underscored the usefulness of the system and its relative inexpensiveness, some were concerned about the issues of its sustainability and maintenance and the fact that it appeared to be too IT-driven. Participants requested to continue discussions with UNSD that they intend to host and maintain the VSS. Some participants also asked for greater detail regarding the content to be made available, the costing of the system, and how developing countries can contribute to its development. The World Bank representative proposed to review the comments received, discuss it within the task team, then present a revised proposal to the Bureau for approval. The chair concluded that the Committee agrees in principle with the proposal and with the allocation of resources; however, the Bureau would like to be updated on the issues of maintenance and sustainability of the system within two months.

### **X. Management Issues**

31. The Secretariat Manager proposed the dates of 5–7 November 2008 in Paris for the next Steering Committee meeting. This proposal was agreed.

32. The chair then proposed a process for hiring the new Secretariat manager. The terms of reference for the post have been written and agreed by both the Bureau and OECD. A panel, composed of members of the Steering Committee and OECD, will be formed to review candidate dossiers (CV, written exam, etc.) and conduct interviews. The vacancy notice will be published in September 2008 and be open for six weeks. Interviews will be conducted by mid December and the selection made by end of December. Depending on the selected candidate's availability, the new Manager could begin in early 2009.

### ***Discussion***

33. Participants expressed no objections to the proposed process; however, the UK representative requested that the process be brought forward to ensure placement of the new manager in the Secretariat before the current one's departure. The South Asia and World Bank representatives recommended that the Steering Committee be open to authorise the extension of the existing manager's contract to cover any period or gap in the hiring of the new manager, even if hired only as a consultant. The African Development Bank representative cautioned against requiring a written exam, on the grounds that it could eliminate potentially good candidates. The OECD representative clarified that OECD procedures require either a written exam or a presentation; however, the wording in the vacancy notice could be revised to address this. The chair concluded that the Committee agreed on the proposed process then thanked the Secretariat Manager for his service over the years.





**XI. Other Business**

34. No points were raised under this agenda item.

**XII. Overview of Decisions Taken**

35. The chair reviewed the decisions taken by the Committee over the course of the meeting's proceedings. An overview is available in Annex I below.

**XIII. Closing Statement**

36. The developing country chair invited all participants to the ISI session to be held in Durban, South Africa in August 2009. He commented that he would be pleased to have the VSS presented at the ISI either as a pilot or final product. The DAC chair closed by highlighting the importance of PARIS21's work, as statistics have a key role in fighting poverty and in development in general.



## Annex I: Overview of Decisions Taken

#	Decision for the Steering Committee
1	<p><b>Does the Committee agree with the proposed activities in the PARIS21 work programme for 2009–2010, as outlined in P21-SC1-08-WKPG?</b></p> <p><i>The Committee agreed to the proposed activities in the work programme. In addition, the Committee suggested the establishment of a light working group on fragile states issues.</i></p>
2	<p><b>Does the Committee agree to the proposed framework for tracking progress of the PARIS21 partnership outlined in document P21-SC1-08-RPT?</b></p> <p><i>The Committee agreed to the proposed framework for tracking progress of the partnership and called on partners to provide the relevant information to the Secretariat, as needed, to track certain points.</i></p>
3	<p><b>Does the Committee agree to the establishment of a new task team on subnational statistics?</b></p> <p><i>The Committee was largely in favour of the establishment of this task team, but the Secretariat should remain pragmatic as to the depth to which this issue is addressed since this is an in-country issue.</i></p>
4	<p><b>Does the Committee agree with the proposals for a Consortium meeting in late 2009 (P21-SC1-08-CONS)?</b></p> <p><i>The Committee agreed to the organisation of a Consortium meeting in November 2009 in Dakar, possibly during the week of African Statistics Day (e.g., 17 to 19 November 2009). Secretariat discussions with Senegalese authorities will determine exact dates.</i></p>
5	<p><b>Does the Committee agree with (1) the proposed work plan of the Virtual Statistical System Task Team, as outlined in P21-SC1-08-VSS, and (2) the allocation of resources from the PARIS21 Secretariat budget to support the work plan of the team?</b></p> <p><i>The Committee agrees in principle with the proposal and with the allocation of resources; however, the Bureau would like to be updated on the issues of maintenance and sustainability of the system within two months.</i></p>
6	<p><b>Does the Committee agree that the Metagora project conclude its activities in August 2008?</b></p> <p><i>The Committee agreed with the conclusion of Metagora activities and its handing over to UNDP.</i></p>
7	<p><b>Does the Committee agree with the Secretariat Manager hiring process outlined in document P21-SC1-08-HIRE?</b></p> <p><i>The Committee agreed with the hiring process and requested that it be accelerated.</i></p>



#	Decision for the Steering Committee
8	<p>Does the Committee propose a date for the next Steering Committee in late 2008 in Paris? Does the Committee agree to the proposed format of (1) a full-day meeting on PARIS21, and (2) a half-day seminar on “the role of statistical groups of donors and partners at the country level”?</p> <p><i>The Committee agreed to the dates of 5–7 November 2008 in Paris. Participants at the 5 June 2008 Donors Meeting requested that PARIS21 funding be raised once again in the Fall meeting.</i></p>