

Record of the Proceedings

Co-Chairs: Eckhard Deutscher, OECD Development Assistance Committee & Samia Zekaria, Ethiopia (after her election)

I. Election of Officers

1. The PARIS21 Secretariat Manager presented proposals for the nomination of the new developing country co-chair of the Board and the composition of the Executive Committee. He proposed that the Executive Committee include two developing countries, two bilateral donors, plus permanent seats for PARIS21's five founding institutions: Eurostat/European Commission, IMF, OECD, World Bank, and UNSD. The PARIS21 Secretariat would hold a non-voting seat. A rotating chair would be elected by the Executive Committee members themselves.

II. Decision on Election of Officers

2. The Board agreed the election of Ms. Samia Zekaria, Director General of the Ethiopian Central Statistics Agency, as the new Board co-chair. Comoros will replace Ethiopia in the East Africa and the Horn seat on the Board. The Executive Committee was formally constituted with Lebanon, Philippines, France, United Kingdom, Eurostat/European Commission, IMF, OECD, World Bank, and UNSD as its members. The PARIS21 Secretariat will hold a non-voting seat on the Executive Committee. Mr. Pali Lehohla was elected alternate for the Southern Africa seat.

III. Adoption of the Agenda

3. The agenda was adopted without modification.

IV. Secretariat Programme of Work and Budget (PWB 2011–14)

4. The PARIS21 Secretariat Manager presented the Secretariat Programme of Work and Budget, along the lines of the newly adopted structure (Co-ordination, Advocacy, NSDS, Knowledge for Statistics). Co-ordination will involve conducting the annual PRESS rounds, helping countries to establish national partnerships and country reports on support to statistics, and reporting on progress of the Dakar Declaration through the logical framework. Advocacy will involve rolling out the country-level toolkit, assisting countries to develop advocacy materials and strategies, and delivering messages in relevant international fora. The NSDS component will involve the mainstreaming of sectors, facilitating peer reviews, and adapting the approach to fragile contexts. A separate note on fragile and post-conflict states was presented for discussion, based on PARIS21 consultations held over the past few years. The Knowledge for Statistics component includes facilitating the work of task teams and the work of the International Household Survey Network (harmonising international survey methods and instruments, developing tools/guidelines for microdata management, etc.) and Accelerated Data Program

(supporting harmonisation / reconciliation of data and survey instruments, etc.). In closing, the Manager underlined the budget forecasts for the period, and the associated budget needs, for both the core Secretariat work programme and the IHSN/ADP programmes.

Discussion

5. The programme was globally well received, as it matches with the discussions, suggestions, and agreements over the past few months. The alignment with the priorities identified in the Dakar Declaration was also recognised. Participants welcomed the increased coverage of sectors that was proposed. In order to adapt the programme to the challenging financial environment, participants called on the Secretariat to work with the Executive Committee to prioritise activities where necessary. In particular, some members felt that, if such prioritisation becomes necessary, then the Secretariat's involvement in the country-level NSDS work should be reduced, assuming the wider Partnership is committed to carrying out the demand-driven interventions. Specific comments were made on fragile states (the need to remain flexible when implementing activities in these very difficult contexts) and on the urgency to develop the NSDS quality assessment framework. Lastly, participants agreed to tentative dates for the next Board Meeting: 27–29 April 2011 in Paris, to be confirmed by the Executive Committee.

V. Working Together as a Partnership

6. The Secretariat presented the paper “Working Together as a Partnership” which contained suggestions about how the different commitments within the Dakar Declaration could be implemented by the different segments of the partnership: namely, developing countries; bilateral, regional, and international institutions; the research/data analysis community; PARIS21 Board members; and the PARIS21 Secretariat.

Discussion

7. Participants welcomed the paper as a flexible and useful basis to stimulate discussion. However, a number of people suggested that it was a little too broad and general at the moment, and more concrete guidance would be required to operationalise the ideas within it. A number of ideas were put forward. Several participants supported the idea of creating a global directory of statistical users and producers. The representative for the Middle East noted that such a document was being prepared jointly with UNESCWA for that region. The representative from Belgium felt more explicit guidance for donors was needed and stated that already substantial support to statistics is being integrated in sector work and that NSDS should build on this. A number of participants supported the UK's view that the current document was a little too supply-driven and that the language should be changed to reflect more attention to the users (and potential users) of statistics. It was vital to understand and meet their needs, as well as to generate demand by creating a stronger culture of evidence-based decision making. It is important to distinguish between those who use data to design policy and the politicians who approve policy. The former are an easier group to engage with than the latter.

8. Representatives suggested that thought be given to how to engage with the MDG review summit in September 2010, and it was agreed that the PARIS21 Secretariat would prepare a paragraph on the importance of statistics for evidence-based decision making as a tool to achieving the MDGs. Participants stressed the important role PARIS21 plays in advocating for

statistics and in co-ordination, especially by supporting the establishment of national partnerships (though sometimes the word “co-ordination” was perceived negatively) and that these roles should be stressed in the paper. There was also consensus that the document should pay more attention to the regional, rather than just the national, component. The representative from HMN reminded participants that subnational-level data is often more important for policy making than national-level data.

9. The chair called on the Secretariat to update the partnership paper to take on board some of the comments made by participants (e.g., sharing of information/knowledge as a common role to all stakeholders in the partnership). The chair also recognised that it would be useful to have a separate, more developed partnership document (drawing more on best practices) as an advocacy tool.

VI. Overview of Decisions Taken

10. The chair reviewed the decisions taken by the Board over the course of the meeting’s proceedings. An overview is available in the table below.

Overview of Decisions Taken

#	Decision for the PARIS21 Board
1	<p>Does the Board agree to the election of new officers?</p> <p><i>The Board elected Ms. Samia Zekaria from Ethiopia to be its developing country co-chair. Comoros will replace Ethiopia in the East Africa and the Horn seat on the Board. The Executive Committee was formally constituted with Lebanon, Philippines, France, United Kingdom, Eurostat/European Commission, IMF, OECD, World Bank, and UNSD as its members. The PARIS21 Secretariat will hold a non-voting seat on the Executive Committee.</i></p>
2	<p>Does the Board agree to the recommendations proposed for working together as a partnership?</p> <p><i>The Board endorsed the overall principles of the partnership document and called on the Secretariat to update the partnership paper to take on board some of the comments made by participants (e.g., sharing of information/knowledge as a common role to all stakeholders in the partnership).</i></p>
3	<p>Does the Board approve the Secretariat Programme of Work & Budget (PWB) 2011–14?</p> <p><i>The Board approved the overall orientations of the Secretariat PWB, with the caveat that it remain flexible. The Executive Committee will work with the Secretariat to fine-tune PWB priorities, where necessary, and inform the Board of final results.</i></p>
4	<p>Does the Board agree to the proposed programme of work in fragile and post-conflict countries?</p> <p><i>The Board endorsed the proposed programme of work in fragile and post-conflict countries, emphasising collaboration with the Statistics for Results Facility (SRF) and the DAC International</i></p>

#	Decision for the PARIS21 Board
	<i>Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) and highlighting the need for an adapted approach to NSDSs in such situations.</i>
5	<p>Does the Board tentatively agree to hold its next meeting in Paris on Thursday 21 and Friday 22 April 2011?</p> <p><i>The Board tentatively agreed to hold its next meeting in Paris from 27-29 April 2011. The Board requested a three-day meeting that includes a Board meeting, donors meeting, and a seminar. The Executive Committee will take the final decision on the dates.</i></p>