

Record of the Proceedings

Chair: Antoine Simonpietri, World Bank

I. Welcome Statement

1. The representative from the World Bank expressed Mrs. Shaida Badiee's regret that she could not attend and announced that he had been asked to represent her as chair of this session. He invited participants to adopt the agenda, which was endorsed without modification.

II. PARIS21 Secretariat Funding Issues

2. The PARIS21 Secretariat reminded Board members of Annex 3 in the Report from the Special Committee on Governance Arrangements, Logical Framework and Funding Issues that had been approved the day before. This Annex — which offers proposals on the management of voluntary contributions within the PARIS21 Secretariat — stipulates, *inter alia*, that donors try to pledge their voluntary contributions for implementation of the agreed programme of work and budget as early as possible. Reporting to donors will take the form of a single, annual report. Board members are moreover requested to assist in efforts to raise funds for the development of statistics as well as for the Secretariat. The budget of the core programme for 2011 has been evaluated at some 3.3 million Euros. Figures for the ADP/IHSN programmes remain stable except for Task 2 which will be scaled up. The PARIS21 Secretariat will work closely with the Executive Committee if there is a need to tighten expenditure, and the Board will be informed accordingly. The Secretariat expressed its appreciation to those donors who have helped to partly fill the 2010 funding gap. As for 2011–14, two donors have thus far made commitments over the medium term. Other donors are strongly encouraged to follow suit as there is a need to get more donors involved. Regarding the ADP/IHSN programmes, the Secretariat stressed that the World Bank (who has been the sole donor providing funds to the Secretariat for this specific work) is hopeful to be in a position to provide funding at least until 2013. However, there will be a need to involve more donors if we want to scale up activities on Task 2.

Discussion

3. Participants echoed the importance of providing medium-term funding to the Secretariat to allow more effective planning of activities, although they stressed that the absence of such a commitment does not mean a lack of commitment to work with PARIS21. Despite current financial constraints and challenging political situations in their countries/institutions, several donors (including Belgium, the European Commission, Eurostat, France, Ireland, Korea, Netherlands, and the World Bank) commented that they are attempting to secure funding for the Secretariat in the near future. The representative for South Asia suggested soliciting the participation of the Asian Development Bank in financing PARIS21 activities. Other participants highlighted the option of providing in-kind contributions: the African Development Bank, for example, confirmed their commitment to work with PARIS21 on the NSDS review and Italy to provide technical assistance.

The representative from Northern Africa pointed out that the growing demand put on statistical agencies of developing countries to produce more statistics has not been met with a corresponding increase in funding. Developing countries might therefore have more and more difficulties to finance their statistical development, and the gap with developed countries will continue to widen.

4. The PARIS21 Secretariat thanked all Board members for their expressions of support. The Secretariat recognised that the international community is currently facing a difficult period due to the economic and financial crisis. It however stressed that now is the right time to invest in statistics. The crisis has amplified the world's need for accurate, timely statistics to manage for results and to do more with less money. The Secretariat also invited Board members to help raise additional funds and confirmed its readiness to provide any material that could help in this matter.

III. TFSCB Funding and Donor Issues

5. The Board considered two separate presentations on the World Bank's Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB): one covering the results of the report of the seventh meeting of the TFSCB Advisory Panel and one outlining TFSCB progress as of June 2010.

6. The Advisory Panel discussed four options for the future of the TFSCB: (i) winding up the fund in 2012, (ii) streamlining TFSCB IV to focus on NSDS and its process, (iii) continuing with marginal changes, and (iv) revamping TFSCB IV with a revised mandate. The Panel proposed a combination of the options (ii), (iii) and (iv) as an "ideal option" that would involve an enhanced facility extended to 2017 and resourced by a new fund raising campaign, a grant ceiling raised to US\$500k, a minimum 60% allocation to NSDS applications, and the creation of a new window for data dissemination issues with emphasis on data integrity, transparency, and activities.

7. The presentation on TFSCB progress outlined several key achievements of the fund. The TFSCB has invested more than US\$34 million in 171 national, regional, and global projects and has been an effective catalyst for further funding. Five out of the first six STATCAP countries received support from TFSCB to prepare an NSDS or equivalent strategy. All of the five Statistics for Results Facility pilot countries had TFSCB grants first. The TFSCB has also been able to provide support to countries emerging from conflict and has helped countries meet immediate data needs. The 2008 evaluation of the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics and the 2009 evaluation of the TFSCB indicated that their projects have been instrumental in building statistical capacity in developing countries. The World Bank representative closed by stating that, in order to implement the Advisory Panel's "ideal option," a further US\$12M would be required up to 2017. If this option is agreed, an evaluation and detailed review would be conducted in 2015.

Discussion

8. Participants agreed that the TFSCB should be used to support overall statistical development (system-wide approach) in countries, be more aligned with the PARIS21 logical framework, and support the evaluation of NSDS quality. Quality assessments could be done through the NSDS quality framework with the assistance of experts/consultants.

IV. Overview of Funding Mechanisms & their Needs / Strategy for Bringing Other Donors into the Partnership

9. The representative from the Netherlands introduced this agenda item noting that more funds are needed for statistics as well as more co-ordination and that the Partnership – through the Board – is responsible for mobilising funds. He noted that the Secretariat and the Partnership were planning to work together on a funding campaign that would run from September 2010 to December 2011 and would seek to broaden the Secretariat’s financial base, including trying to raise money from private foundations and other actors that had not contributed funds to the Partnership in the past. The Secretariat plans to engage a professional fundraiser and would develop a funding database as well as enlist the support from “PARIS21 champions.” A number of questions were put for discussion:

- How should the Partnership hold each other to account for realising the commitments in the Dakar Declaration for the Development of Statistics and for finding the resources to achieve those commitments?
- How should a funding campaign work? What roles would the Partnership and Secretariat have? How should other donors be brought into the Partnership? Who might be asked to become a champion? And what are the key messages for the new campaign?

Discussion

10. The representative from Southern Africa suggested that it would be important for a campaign to look at statistical requirements across different sectors and to focus on the successes in improving MDG measurement. Several representatives thought PARIS21 had a particularly important role to play in statistical advocacy and the UK felt, in this context, it was important to construct a powerful narrative around the links between better statistics, better policies, and better development outcomes. The UK and Portugal were among those who felt it would be useful to look outside the PARIS21 Board and seek help PARIS21 champions, such as former PARIS21 co-chairs, as well as marketing and communications experts. The UNSD noted that a more focused approach — seeking money for statistics for a specific sector, such as climate change — might be more likely to be successful than a more generic request for work on NSDS and also noted that demonstrating PARIS21’s close links to the MDG process could be useful. There was a general consensus that the Secretariat had an important role to play in co-ordinating fundraising activities across the Partnership. The Secretariat should build on its recent fundraising work to develop some stronger, clearer messages for potential donors (governments, foundations, and businesses). These messages should be more closely linked to the use of statistics and should be developed in discussion with non-statisticians (users, communications experts, etc.).