

Record of the Proceedings

Chair: Pali Lehohla, South Africa

I. Opening Statement

1. The chair opened the proceedings by pointing out that the present meeting would be the first of the Steering Committee since the Consortium meeting held in Senegal this past November. It is therefore an appropriate time to consider what has been accomplished since that key event. The report of the Special Committee on Logical Framework, Governance Arrangements, and Funding Issues, which is to be considered in this meeting, will outline the way forward for the Partnership. If the Steering Committee comes to a collective agreement, it will launch a new phase in PARIS21 work, based largely on the results of the PARIS21 evaluation last year and of course those of the Consortium meeting. So this is obviously a pivotal moment in PARIS21 history. The chair then welcomed the newest Steering Committee members: Mr. Jaime Vaglio Munoz from Costa Rica representing Latin America and the Caribbean and Mr. Joseph Tedou from Cameroon who is the alternate for Western and Central Africa.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

2. The agenda was adopted without modification.

III. PARIS21 Progress Report (November 2009–May 2010)

3. The PARIS21 Secretariat delivered a presentation showing progress from November 2009 to May 2010 in Secretariat core work and the satellite programmes as well as the financial situation. Regional activities supported by the Secretariat include support to NSDS processes in a number of countries in Africa, Arab States, Asia, and Latin America. The Secretariat specified that PARIS21 support to countries' NSDS processes (be they strategy design or implementation) is based on explicit country demand. During the reporting period, six countries launched a strategy, and support has been given to 11 countries in the implementation process; support has also been given to Togo on its statistical law and to Lao PDR on mainstreaming the agricultural sector into the existing NSDS, in close collaboration with the FAO. A new dimension of Secretariat activities is the support to regional entities starting with SICA and OECS. Other regional activities have included the preparation of peer reviews in Congo and Benin, with support from Afristat and the African Union. The PARIS21 Secretariat also organised a meeting in the margins of this year's UN Statistical Commission on fragile and post-conflict states. This resulted in a draft concept note defining possible international interventions.

4. Regarding advocacy activities, the Secretariat published the country-level toolkit in English. French and Spanish versions are being prepared. This document will evolve in the future, be regularly updated, and probably be made available through a more interactive version on the

website. The Secretariat has also started a specific leaflet on NSDS to be ready by the second half of the year. The Secretariat has helped several countries produce advocacy booklets and NSDS synthesis documents and design specific advocacy strategies (e.g., Uganda). The following regional entities have also benefited from assistance in developing advocacy materials: African Union (implementation strategy of the African Charter), SICA, OECS, and Andean Community.

5. In partnership, the major activity was of course the Consortium meeting held in Dakar, the main output of which is the Dakar Declaration on the Development of Statistics. At the end of 2009, the Secretariat also distributed the results of the 2009 Round of the PRESS. The summary booklet has been translated into several languages. The 2010 PRESS Round is currently underway. The PARIS21 website is being revitalised, using a new technology enabling easier access to core information for users. The Partners Directory is being updated and will be made available on the new website by the end of the year.

6. In reporting and guidelines, the Secretariat maintains a database on country efforts to design and implement NSDSs. The status report has just been updated, covering 118 IDA and lower middle income countries. In close collaboration with FAO, the Secretariat has nearly finalised guidelines on mainstreaming the agricultural sector into the NSDS, in line with the global international initiative on agricultural statistics, and in collaboration with Statistics Norway, produced a guide on data dissemination. The Secretariat has also launched the updating of the existing NSDS guidelines, using the experience and lessons learned in design and implementation over the past several years, and in parallel will develop an NSDS quality assessment framework. In terms of training, the Secretariat has facilitated the creation of the African Group on Statistical training (AGROST). A permanent secretariat is in place in UNECA headquarters, and an action plan will be proposed and discussed by the end of 2010.

7. Over the reporting period, the International Household Survey Network (IHSN) has continued work on two main activities: the development of tools and guidelines for data archiving and the harmonisation of international survey methods and instruments. The Accelerated Data Program (ADP) is mainly implemented by national statistical agencies, but line ministries are becoming more and more involved. Fifty-six countries receive support in Task 1 activities, with 12 new countries requesting assistance. Through the ECLAC regional office, 12 Caribbean countries received specific training. More than 20 online survey catalogues are now available throughout the world thanks to ADP support. Task 2 is still in a pilot phase. Only Cameroon has received support on the education sector in collaboration with UNESCO. There is a growing demand for Task 2 but the available resources do not allow a scaling-up of this activity at the moment.

8. The Secretariat presented its financial situation, including for the IHSN and ADP components. In 2010, the PARIS21 Secretariat has so far received three new grants for the core programme: a four-year grant from the UK, the third part of the four-year contribution from Spain, and for the first time a contribution from Italy. Figures do not include the expected additional incomes, only those grants already approved by the OECD. Income and expenditure from 2006 to 2010 for both core activities and ADP-IHSN were also shown, with an existing gap on core activities for 2010 amounting to 666k Euros. It is expected that a new grant will be made available in 2010 for ADP-IHSN. To close the gap for 2010 and seek funds for 2011–14, a fund raising programme targeting in particular DAC donors was implemented in early 2010.

Discussion

9. Participants welcomed the report and underlined several points of particular interest. Updating the NSDS guidelines and developing an NSDS quality assessment framework were embraced as very positive initiatives. The representative of the African Development Bank requested a copy of the English version of the study on mainstreaming agriculture in the NSDS. The representative of Norway underlined the importance of advocacy, twinning projects and efficient co-ordination. The representative of the Islamic Development Bank insisted on the need to co-ordinate PARIS21 work with regional institutions to avoid any overlapping. In this regard, the Secretariat Manager requested the help of the Steering Committee to achieve better co-ordination and suggest any systematic way to improve this very important issue.

IV. Reports from the Special Committee on Logical Framework, Governance Arrangements, and Funding Issues, and the Task team on Logical Framework Indicators

10. The World Bank representative intervened via video-conference from Washington to present the report of the Special Committee, for which she acted as chair. This Special Committee was formed at the Dakar Consortium meeting to implement the points agreed in the Dakar Declaration. The Special Committee was composed of the World Bank, Netherlands, Mr. Zeine Zeidane, and the Secretariat. She then presented the recommendations on the logical framework and governance. In the logical framework, there is a greater emphasis on demand for statistics and distinguishing between the roles of the Secretariat and the wider partnership. In terms of governance, the major changes include transforming the Steering Committee into a Board, increasing the Board's size, and holding just a single meeting per year. She then outlined a few recommendations on funding, specifically for the Secretariat. The proposed work plan will cover the five-year period 2010–14; it is expected that the Secretariat gain access to fund raising expertise, including from the wider Partnership which should participate actively in advocating for financial support to the Secretariat.

11. The World Bank representative explained that in order to propose objectively verifiable indicators for the logical framework, PARIS21 established a task team chaired by the United Kingdom. The UK representative then intervened to present the process of defining the indicators. Although the task team has not yet proposed baselines, milestones, and targets for all indicators, much work has already been completed. Many indicators will rely on the PRESS exercise, whose questionnaire has been modified to collect these data. Some indicators have been very challenging, particularly the one on the use of statistics. The UK has contracted a consultant to develop a methodology to measure this point, looking at PRSP and MDG papers and other documents. The Secretariat will contract an intern over the summer to apply this methodology and measure the baseline. The indicator on NSDS quality is also ongoing. An NSDS quality assessment framework is being developed by the Secretariat. It is still undecided if this "NSDS QAF" will be applied via a self-assessment or via peer reviews. Other indicators will be measured through a perception survey, being developed by the Secretariat.

Discussion

12. The Steering Committee welcomed the report and offered several comments on all three components. The introduction would benefit from being expanded to include a background on the

Partnership, outlining how it has evolved over time. In the logical framework, the Steering Committee recognised that much more work is needed on defining the indicators. The South-East Asian representative recommended developing an indicator on how countries are increasing support to statistics. He also called on the task team to consider more objective indicators to replace the perception-based, qualitative ones. The representative from the Netherlands cautioned against the over-abundance of indicators: the more indicators that are measured in the logical framework, the more ambiguous its management will become. He recommended that summary indicators be developed to show a general overview of the trend in PARIS21 progress. The IMF representative commented that the indicator to measure quality in NSDSs could draw on the Data Quality Assessment Framework and offered to provide IMF advice once the indicator is proposed. The representative from Norway suggested to strengthen the risks/assumptions in the framework and called on the Secretariat to invite comments on the logical framework from the Steering Committee, which could be incorporated at a later stage. Several representatives emphasised the need to support fragile and post-conflict countries. Participants also felt that the role of regional partnerships could be strengthened, including to co-ordinate training efforts. The framework could improve its description of how sectors work together in the partnership. A few participants suggested that the Partnership super-goal and goal could be switched. The representative from Luxembourg said that the Partnership should demonstrate how the ADP is instrumental in measuring progress towards the MDGs. The World Bank recommended that PARIS21 highlight the work of the Partnership through a worldwide report based on the logical framework. It would be a single, very visible output of the Partnership for the next Consortium meeting. In addition, PARIS21 should expand its collaboration beyond representatives of international institutions and country agencies to reach out to other partners who could potentially be involved in supporting the PARIS21 agenda.

13. On the topic of governance, participants emphasised the need to ensure an appropriate balance between developing countries and donor institutions to avoid a situation in which the developing country voice is drowned out. The South Asia and South-East Asia representatives argued for separate seats for their respective subregions, which are both very populous and contain many International Development Association (IDA) borrower countries. A stronger involvement of the Board with a greater number of regional institutions would also be welcome. The Steering Committee requested that the newly formed Executive Committee inform the Board of items on Executive Committee agendas. The intention is to solicit views and comments from Board members and improve communication between the two bodies. Participants recommended strengthening the role of the Secretariat, as it is the only full-time body for this work. The Secretariat could help to facilitate the work of developing country Board members, including through providing distribution lists and translation support to communicate Board decisions and results to the other countries of their regions.

14. On the issue of funding, participants recommended involving former Steering Committee co-chairs as possible PARIS21 champions. Participants also requested a more streamlined delineation of responsibilities between the Board, Executive Committee, and Secretariat on fund raising activities.

15. In closing, the UK representative clarified that the task team focused only on the first part of the logical framework (*i.e.*, the super-goal, goal, purpose, and outputs) and has not considered the second part (the partnership's and Secretariat's broad orientations of work). She agreed that too

many indicators make measuring overall progress difficult, but that summary indicators would not give a full picture. Perhaps a traffic light system could be developed. She suggested that the logical framework should remain a living document and said that the task team will continue to reflect on how to translate the perception surveys into a more objective measurement.

16. The Secretariat recommended that the Executive Committee validate revisions to the logical framework so that this is not held up until the next Board meeting in April 2011. The Secretariat also welcomed the idea of a worldwide report based on the logical framework to be produced for the next Consortium meeting in late 2014.

V. Approval of new governance arrangements & logical framework, and appointment of the new Board

17. The chair closed the session with a review of the decisions taken by the Steering Committee. On the composition of the Board, it was agreed that the initial configuration agreed during these proceedings (see Annex I) is open to modification and that the Board will henceforth manage membership. The Board may choose, for instance, to revise the number of seats available to bilateral donors or rework the regional groupings for developing country seats. An equal balance between developing country and donor institution seats is to be maintained. An overview of all decisions taken is available in Annex II below.

Annex I: Composition of the PARIS21 Board – June 2010

#	Representing	Member	Alternate
1	Co-Chair	Elected Developing Country Member	Ms. Samia Zekaria Ethiopia
2	Developing Countries	Western and Central Africa	Mr. Sekouba Diarra Mali
3		East Africa & Horn	Ms. Soifiat Tadjiddine Alfeine Comoros
4		Southern Africa	Mr. Joao Dias Loureiro Mozambique
5		Northern Africa	Mr. Mohammed Taamouti Morocco
6		Middle East	Dr. Maral Tutelian-Guidanian Lebanon
7		East Asia	Mr. Hing Wang Fung Hong Kong, China
8		South East Asia	Mr. Romulo Virola Philippines
9		South Asia	Mr. Velayuthan Sivagnanasothy Sri Lanka
10		Latin America and Caribbean	Mr. Jaime Vaglio Munoz Costa Rica
11		Eastern Europe and CIS	Mr. Stepan Mnatsakanyan Armenia
12	Regional Banks	African Development Bank	Mr. Charles Lufumpa
13		Asian Development Bank	Ms. Chellam Palanyandy
14		Inter American Development Bank	Mr. Xavier Comas
15		Islamic Development Bank	Dr. Abdullateef Bello
16	Regional Institutions	AFRISTAT	Mr. Martin Balepa
17		ASEAN	Mr. Agus Sutanto
18		CARICOM	Ms. Philomen Harrison
19		SPC	Mr. Gerald Haberkorn
20	Co-Chair	DAC Chair	Mr. Eckhard Deutscher
21	Bilateral Donors	Netherlands	Mr. Rob Swinkels
22		United Kingdom	Ms. Frances Harper
23		Luxembourg	Mr. Daniel Byk
24		Norway	Mr. Erlend Nordby
25		Spain	Mr. Willem Luijckx
26		France	Mr. Jean-François Divay
27		Italy	Ms. Simonetta Di Cori
28		Belgium	Mr. Martinus Desmet
29		TBD	
30		TBD	
31	Multilaterals	European Commission / Eurostat	Mr. Pieter Everaers/ Mr. Eric Deschoenmaeker
32		IMF	Ms. Adelheid Burgi-Schmelz
33		OECD	Mr. Jon Lomoy/Mr. Stephen Groff
34		UNSD	Mr. Paul Cheung
35		UNDP	Ms. Diana Alarcon
36		World Bank	Ms. Shaida Badiie
37		FAO	Mr. Pietro Gennari
38		UIS (UNESCO)	Mr. Hendrik van der Pol
			Mr. Thierry Lairez Mr. Cesar Guadalupe

#	Representing	Member	Alternate
39	WHO / HMN	Mr. Tim Evans Mr. Ties Boermat	Ms. Sally Stansfield Mr. Nosakhare Orobato
40	Representative of individual members of the Partnership		
41	PARIS21 Secretariat Manager	Mr. Abadila Berrou	Mr. Christophe Duhamel

Annex II: Overview of Decisions Taken

#	Decision for the PARIS21 Steering Committee
1	<p>Does the Steering Committee approve the recommendations outlined in the Report from the Special Committee on Logical Framework, Governance Arrangements, and Funding Issues?</p> <p><i>The Steering Committee endorsed the report in principle.</i></p>
2	<p>Does the Steering Committee approve Annex 1 on Logical Framework in the Report from the Special Committee?</p> <p><i>The Steering Committee approved the logical framework in Annex 1, recognising that further work is needed on the identification of indicators.</i></p>
3	<p>Does the Steering Committee approve Annex 2 on Governance in the Report from the Special Committee?</p> <p><i>The Steering Committee approved the governance arrangements in Annex 2, subject to the removal of table 1 and all references to it.</i></p>
4	<p>Does the Steering Committee approve Annex 3 on Management of Voluntary Contributions within the PARIS21 Secretariat in the Report from the Special Committee?</p> <p><i>The Steering Committee approved the management of voluntary contributions in Annex 3.</i></p>