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## Final Record of the Proceedings

1. From 9–11 April 2013, PARIS21 held its Annual Meetings in Paris. The meetings opened with a special consultative session on the Busan Action Plan for Statistics on the afternoon of 9 April. The following morning, PARIS21 held a full-day meeting of its Board. On the final day, 11 April, the Partnership held a seminar entitled *Meeting User Needs in a Changing Data Landscape* followed by a technical session on *Moving From NSDS Design to NSDS Implementation*. All documents and presentations are available for download on the PARIS21 website<sup>1</sup>. Results from the evaluation forms are available in annex.

### Special Consultative Session on the Busan Action Plan for Statistics

Chair: Erik Solheim, OECD Development Assistance Committee

#### Introduction

2. The chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee, Mr. Erik Solheim, opened the proceedings by sharing the results from the previous week's *Global Forum on Development (GFD)*. The ex-President from Nigeria, Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo, delivered a keynote address at the GFD in which he said, "Bring me the statistics!" This statement is symptomatic of an increasing awareness of the key role that statistics play in development policy making. Across the world, the most successful nations are pragmatic and in order to be a scientifically based pragmatic society, one needs statistics. We live in a rapidly changing world — one which is much more democratic and diverse with a greater focus on development results. In the post-2015 debate, there is a strong role for statistics, including in highlighting success stories. New aims for the next decade will include eliminating extreme poverty and respecting green growth. The development community needs statisticians to help achieve these goals.

#### Report from the Task Team on Defining Implementation Arrangements for the Busan Action Plan for Statistics (BAPS)

3. The chair of the PARIS21 Task Team on Defining Implementation Arrangements for the Busan Action Plan for Statistics (BAPS) presented a report of the team's progress. At last year's Annual Meetings, the Board mandated the team to undertake three tasks: (1) identify implementation priorities from donors and partner countries and map them against the five proposed actions of the BAPS, (2) based on the above analysis, highlight eventual gaps that the international community needs to address in order to deliver on BAPS commitments, and (3) propose a mechanism/tool to monitor the implementation of BAPS possibly through a logical framework. The team has advanced substantially on all three tasks: the first two are complete and the third is on-going.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.paris21.org/PARIS21annualmeetings2013>

4. The team also proposed a new structure for the Secretariat's work programme (to be presented in greater detail later in this year's Annual Meetings) that is designed to act as a fund raising tool by showing that PARIS21 is adapting to new realities and aligning with the development effectiveness agenda. She then highlighted a number of new activities that the task team identified as useful for the Secretariat to incorporate, including: broader user–producer dialogues, technology innovations, big data, and post–2015 activities.

5. The team has proposed a light and simple logical framework that is intended to link with the monitoring of progress in the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation. She commented that there is still plenty of room to fine-tune the indicators and solicited the Board's feedback.

6. She further proposed that two new PARIS21 task teams be established to take BAPS work forward: (i) one on post–2015 issues to leverage the voice of statisticians in the deliberations (responding to action 4 of the BAPS) and (ii) one on new emerging technologies and methodologies in statistics (actions 2 and 3).

### ***Discussion***

7. Participants embraced the work proposed under the BAPS, including the idea of establishing a task team on emerging technologies since big data is an issue that PARIS21 should tackle. However synergies should be made with other groups working on “big data” issues to avoid duplication of effort. Investments in data analysis and use in developing countries should be scaled up — PARIS21 should expand its advocacy interventions to reach out to more users and build their capacities and statistical literacy. In addition, civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) is an orphan area that could benefit from PARIS21 involvement.

8. Participants also considered what the Partnership should do on post–2015 issues. The task team on post–2015 issues is sensitive as it would require that the Partnership negotiate its way carefully through all the initiatives targeting the new development agenda. It would be best to exert a quiet influence. At the same time, the post–2015 deliberations are a unique opportunity for statisticians to demonstrate that they represent the “soft infrastructure” of national development. PARIS21 could push for a goal or target on statistical development in the next framework to raise the profile of statistics.

### **Adapting Financing Tools to Support BAPS Implementation**

9. The representative from the World Bank delivered a presentation on supporting the implementation of the BAPS. He highlighted a number of drivers of demand for data, including the post–2015 framework, priority statistical domains, country-level policy needs, and the openness agenda (which includes official and non-official data). To respond to these increasing demands, the Bank is undertaking four clusters of activities. The first activity cluster is to maximise data accessibility and usability. Each driver for demand cannot be aligned with a single instrument: each activity responds to all of these demands. The second cluster is to establish standards and conduct pilots, research, and analysis. The standards established are for priority domains (FAO, ILO, UNSD/UN Women, SEEA). Tools and training are piloted through partners such as UNSD and PARIS21. The Bank also explores innovations in collecting high frequency data and enhancements in user–producer dialogue. The third cluster involves providing co-ordinated support to country and regional statistical capacity building in collaboration with many partners. The fourth cluster consists of formalising partnerships, including establishing a Memorandum of Understanding with

other multilateral development banks (and the UN) on capacity building for the post-2015 framework.

10. He then presented the Bank's financing instruments that enable it to make these activity clusters a reality. They have an array of instruments for BAPS support and partnerships: STATCAP, the Statistics for Results Facility Catalytic Fund, the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), ECASTAT which is funded by Russia, the International Household Survey Network Trust Fund, the Development Grant Facility, etc. However, there are funding shortages (in Bank instruments as well as in other agencies) that should perhaps be filled from domestic sources.

11. In closing, he sketched out a number of recommendations for the PARIS21 Partnership to help facilitate BAPS implementation. The statistical community needs to co-ordinate better on country and global levels. There still exist too many donor-driven surveys and we need better standards. We should encourage the use of data, but countries should provide advice on how to promote this. Global efforts to improve sector statistics should be better co-ordinated, and synergies across sectors facilitated. We should correct the funding mismatches — agriculture is well resourced, but other domains are not. As such, there should be an efficient use of funding, in which existing surveys are used more and repurposed. The dialogue between users and producers should be stepped up at national and global levels.

12. The chair of the TFSCB Advisory Panel then presented a report of the trust fund's progress. Active over the past 14 years, the TFSCB funds small projects with small amounts, primarily to support the design of NSDS but also accepting non-NSDS proposals. There are currently US\$2M of unallocated funds, and in addition several avenues exist for raising further funds, including from non-governmental foundations. In the future, the TFSCB is recommended to fund the following types of activities: the development of open data tools, knowledge and skills for using statistics effectively, and improving statistical capacity of developing countries for example through NSDSs.

### ***Discussion***

13. Participants raised a number of issues on how to take the implementation of the BAPS forward. They underscored the need for sustainable capacity building through increasing skills in educational institutions and in the marketing of data. In terms of ensuring sustainable funding, users must become more involved to increase pressure on governments to mobilise domestic sources for statistics. PARIS21 itself has a role to play in helping mobilise resources for underfunded statistical capacity building initiatives by identifying gaps through the PRESS/CRESS exercises and acting as a platform/marketplace where resources can be matched with programmes. The NSDS was highlighted as the most relevant framework at the country level for co-ordination and the definition of priorities. However at the global level, activities could still be much more effectively co-ordinated.

### **Implementing the Busan Action Plan for Statistics in an Evolving Environment**

14. The Secretary of the National Planning Commission Secretariat of Nepal highlighted that the government "can do nothing without statistics" hence it supports the statistical system and processes specifically because statistics are a public good. Public policy, which relies on information, is the function of government, and government is responsible for managing national priorities. The social and political changes in the country during the last decade have brought challenges and issues for the national statistical system specifically with increased demand for accurate, relevant, and timely data. To respond to these challenges, the Nepal Government in its

Consolidated National Strategic Plan is working on strengthening the statistical system through upgrading of the Central Bureau of Statistics and establishing a designated statistical system, survey clearance system, and co-ordination system. It will also endeavour to prepare a core set of statistics, formulate its NSDS, and continue to actively co-operate in the statistics consortium of the South Asian region through SAARCSTAT. However, he cited that many countries like Nepal have limited capacity to cope with the growing demand for statistics and the need to improve statistical infrastructures. The contribution of international organisations in the development of the overall statistical system is important and the role of PARIS21 in the development of statistics is crucial to facilitate this. He called on the donor community to continue to support statistical development through the Busan Action Plan for Statistics.

15. The President of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics identified 14 challenges in their statistical system: relevancy, accessibility, globalisation, funding, technology, attractiveness, capacity building, competitiveness, satisfied users, quality, confidentiality, autonomy, competencies, and the Internet. To rise to these challenges, she proposed four important points to consider:

- Investing in users – by focusing on making statistics accessible; finding out who users are; understanding their needs; and facilitating the use of statistics through literacy programmes
- Investing in people – by re-examining the current approaches in capacity building and putting more emphasis on e-learning and building of core competencies
- Investing in technology especially on the Internet and other relevant technologies as sources for competitive advantage in the delivery of statistics
- Developing a model to measure attractiveness of official statistics as an alternative to “relevancy”

16. The representative from the Qatar Statistics Authority (QSA) provided an overview of their practical experience in the implementation of the BAPS, stressing how the government is using statistics in crafting a vision for Qatar up to 2030. The statistical system is proactive in mainstreaming statistics at the core of development in Qatar. He cited as an example the government’s significant investment in technology in the conduct of the Qatar Census 2010 through the use of tablets which enabled the QSA to release the results within three months. One practical example of mainstreaming statistics in development is related to Qatar’s hosting of the 2022 World Cup. Currently, QSA is generating statistics not only relating to sports, but also health and infrastructure. It is also working towards bridging and relating sports authority development with overall national development through the use of statistics. He mentioned that a number of surveys were conducted by the QSA to help identify the number of facilities needed to be built or improved for the event. The QSA is likewise working on how people can better use the facilities before, during, and after the event. The QSA is relying on its second NSDS to be the unifying framework for addressing the demands and other statistical needs in the country including the requirements for developing regional statistics in the Gulf region.

### ***Discussion***

17. Participants suggested paying greater attention to emerging needs and policies and convincing government to use data more systematically. Responding to specific statistical needs as was done in Qatar is also an excellent way to increase involvement of users in data production. It may also be useful to advocate for a political economy of development statistics.

## **Video Conference Intervention from Mrs. Shaida Badiee, World Bank**

18. Mrs. Shaida Badiee from the World Bank intervened via video conference to share her thoughts on the past and future of PARIS21, as she will soon retire. She said that the Bank — not just the Development Data Group, but the entire World Bank Group — has always been a strong supporter of PARIS21 throughout its lifetime. She recalled the establishment of the Partnership back in 1999, when the International Development Goals, Millennium Development Goals, and Poverty Reduction Strategy Processes initiated a discussion on the need for better data to achieve better development outcomes. The international community recognised that no single organisation could fix the data problem, hence the need to create PARIS21.

19. PARIS21 has had a significant impact over the years — the task team on NSDS defined the core of PARIS21's work, the task team on Improved Support to Monitoring Development Goals produced six country case studies back in 2004 that we still cite today, and the Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS) is an example of a true partnership product. In the future, PARIS21 should not serve as a halfway house for failed initiatives but should instead be a sounding board and breeding ground for new ideas.

20. Demand for data is at an historic high, and data sources are expanding. In addition, there still exists a huge skills gap and shortage of funding. PARIS21 must bring in partners such as the UN and support the new agenda articulated in the BAPS. We must become a leading advocate for statistical use, including through supporting the open data movement. We have collectively done an amazing job over the years.

21. The Board expressed its great appreciation for Shaida's service to statistics in general and to PARIS21 in particular over the years. She has helped deliver all of PARIS21's major outputs and has provided very strong leadership. The Secretariat Manager formally asked if — now that she is retiring — she would serve as PARIS21's senior champion.

### **Closing Statement**

22. The chair closed the session by highlighting three themes to consider when moving forward: (i) funding statistics where there are different priorities, (ii) co-ordination of partners at the global level, and (iii) increased visibility for statistics and PARIS21.

## **Board Meeting: Morning Session**

**Chair: Mohamed Taamouti, Morocco**

### **Welcome Statement**

23. Mr. Mohamed Taamouti from Morocco welcomed participants and introduced himself since this session represents his first as co-chair of the PARIS21 Board. He was previously Director-General of Statistics in his country before accepting a position as economic director at Morocco's central bank. He is therefore both a data user and producer. He commented that the demand for data is growing and diversifying, and there is a great variety of issues for statisticians to address. PARIS21 is at the centre of these issues, and its role now is more crucial than ever before. PARIS21 is a dynamic partnership with a dynamic Secretariat. PARIS21 has never been more visible, and the BAPS will be central to statistics over the coming years.

## **Adoption of the Agenda**

24. The agenda was adopted without modification.

## **Report on Executive Committee discussions**

25. The chair of the Executive Committee presented a report on the Committee's discussions since the March 2012 Board meeting. The principal order of business of all deliberations has been the work of the Task Team on the Busan Action Plan for Statistics. In addition, the Executive Committee did discuss a number of other topics, including: the work of the Task Team on NSDS Guidelines, the financial situation of the PARIS21 Secretariat, the agenda of this year's annual meetings, the Consortium meeting and the concept note of post-2015 development goals. She expressed the Committee's gratitude to the Task Team on NSDS Guidelines regarding its co-operative work, regular updates, and progress made. Lastly, the Committee decided to postpone the Consortium meeting originally scheduled for 2014 and to reduce its scope relative to the one held in Dakar in 2009.

## **Annual PARIS21 Progress Report – 2012**

26. The PARIS21 Secretariat presented the 2012 progress report along the CANK structure (Co-ordination, Advocacy, NSDS, and Knowledge: ADP/IHSN). Among the highlights of PARIS21 work in 2012 are the following:

- *Co-ordination*: the 2012 Round of the PRESS exercise was conducted and its results disseminated and presented in relevant fora; two NSDS status reports were issued; the updating of NSDS guidelines continues; the Secretariat has monitored progress through the PARIS21 logical framework; and the participation of developing country statisticians was facilitated at the UNSC, Statcom-Africa, and ESCAP Committee on Statistics.
- *Advocacy*: support was lent to 15 countries or regional entities in producing booklets promoting statistical development and in organising seminars, and the Secretariat delivered advocacy messages in 18 international or regional events. PARIS21 co-organised with Eurostat and local partners two high-level regional events on the role of statistics in facilitating regional integration. Central America and South East Asia have an RSDS (regional strategy for the development of statistics) that PARIS21 and Eurostat helped support. The two events took place late last year and brought together statisticians and data users to discuss priorities in statistics and how to ensure that producers are getting relevant data into the hands of users.
- *NSDS*: support was lent to 35 countries or regional entities; pilot results on Country Reports on the Support to Statistics (CRESS) were consolidated and the new exercise was launched with a simplified questionnaire; the Secretariat held a regional dialogue between statisticians and policy-makers from 18 French-speaking African countries in Abidjan and the "First User-Producer Dialogue on Statistical Capacity Development for Inclusive Growth" in Manila.
- *Knowledge*: PARIS21 is a member of the International Household Survey Network (IHSN) and hosts part of its Secretariat. IHSN deliverables in 2012 included (i) the upgraded IHSN Survey Catalog, (ii) the development of tools and guidelines (with a special focus on innovation with the Microdata Anonymization Toolkit), and (iii) the harmonisation of

survey methods and instruments. For the latter, the IHSN Secretariat facilitated the assessments of food consumption and gender issues in existing survey questionnaires by IHSN agencies. PARIS21 has continued the implementation of the Accelerated Data Program (ADP) in close collaboration with the World Bank and other international partners. Main ADP deliverables in 2012 included (i) new national survey catalogs established in 10 countries, (ii) more national capacity on survey data management created, with 66 countries having received technical assistance – 20 more countries being involved in ADP regional level activities, and (iii) improved survey methods and instruments developed and established in Ethiopia.

### **Progress on NSDS Guidelines**

27. The chair of the Task Team on the NSDS Guidelines reported on the redesign of the guidelines. The team's objective is to update the existing guidelines to include specific issues such as fragile states, sectorial strategies, intranational strategies and regional strategies and to explain how to successfully implement NSDS in developing countries through good practices. The work is currently 90% complete and was presented in the Executive Committee meeting in New York in 2012 and 2013. Finally, the Task Team asked Board members to provide good examples of NSDS to enrich the guidelines.

### ***Discussion***

28. The Board congratulated the Secretariat for its results in 2012, both under the core NSDS work and that of the IHSN/ADP. They urged greater engagement with data users and the private sector, greater involvement in the large vertical statistical programmes, and increased support to RSDS processes as they are useful tools in leveraging national investment or external support at the country level. The CRESS exercise should be expanded as it is a means for improving transparency and monitoring the proper use of resources. Long-term planning and financing of statistics remain difficult yet fundamental issues — PARIS21 can play an important advocacy role in this regard.

### **Secretariat Programme of Work & Budget – 2013**

29. The PARIS21 Secretariat Manager presented the forward-looking programme of work and budget. He proposed a new structure for the programme of work called the SAMS (Strategy – Access – Monitoring – Skills / Knowledge Sharing). This new structure aligns more closely with the actions of the BAPS, continuing the traditional PARIS21 activities while adding some new work streams (e.g., tracking global summits, producing guidance on IT innovations and big data, involvement in post-2015 deliberations). The financial situation of the Secretariat is healthy for 2013; however, 2014–15 is still uncertain. The Secretariat Manager called for more efforts from donors to fill the funding gap.

### ***Discussion***

30. The Board supported the proposal for the new SAMS structure to the programme of work and offered some specific feedback for future activities. The Board viewed the proposed programme as quite ambitious and as such could perhaps benefit from prioritisation. The Secretariat should be opportunistic in participating in other (e.g., vertical) initiatives that can draw attention and funds. The post-2015 agenda is one such initiative in which PARIS21 should become involved. Advocacy should continue to be a major focus, including in engaging more robustly with

users and regional entities and in supporting training of statisticians and improving the statistical literacy of users. PARIS21 could also help formulate a research agenda on hot, emerging issues.

## Board Meeting: Afternoon Session

Chair: Grant Cameron, World Bank

### Post-Busan and the Global Partnership: How Do Statistics Fit In?

31. The representative from the OECD presented progress in the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation. The Fourth High Level Forum (HLF-4) — at which the Global Partnership was agreed — emphasised the need for more and better evidence to improve development effectiveness. As such, the BAPS is one of the clearest and most important commitments endorsed at the Forum.

32. The HLF-4 recognised the evolution of development co-operation from Monterrey to Busan. There is now a diversity of actors, a diversity of forms of co-operation, and a complementarity with other sources of development. The Busan Partnership Agreement acknowledges a number of shared principles to achieve common goals: ownership of development priorities by developing countries, a focus on results, inclusive development partnerships, transparency, and accountability. Several of the HLF-4 commitments are relevant for statistics, including an increased focus on development results, transparency and accountability, and the strengthening of country systems to build effective institutions.

33. Monitoring progress of the Global Partnership will be through a globally light, country-focused approach. There will be country-level frameworks (with national indicators and targets led by the country) as well as an international-level framework (with selective indicators and targets monitored on a rolling basis by the Global Partnership). Each country will choose indicators and targets according to their own priorities; however, it is recommended that they include in the list the 10 common indicators identified for the global level.

34. The global indicators were selected where data are already available or easily obtainable at the country level. Indicators 1 (*extent of use of country results frameworks by co-operation providers*) and 8 (*% of countries with systems that track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment*) are particularly relevant for statistics. Another good entry point for statistics is the effective institutions platform, which has issued an initiative on involving national statistical offices in Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys.

35. She encouraged PARIS21 to engage with the Global Partnership, including pushing Busan implementation through the BAPS; sharing evidence on experiences, challenges, and best practices with all stakeholders; communicating opportunities for scaling up successful initiatives and blockages; and communicating perspectives to the relevant members on the Busan Steering Committee. She closed her presentation by expressing the Global Partnership's keen interest in hearing from PARIS21 on how to push for better statistics and encouraged participants to share information at the Global Partnership community space<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://one.unteamworks.org/GPEDC>

## **Discussion**

36. Participants asked for advice on how to engage in post–2015 discussions and if the 10 global indicators were already finalised. The OECD representative replied that PARIS21 is already a wide partnership and as such should not wait to be asked to provide input on post–2015 issues. There is already plenty of room for a partnership such as PARIS21 to intervene. Regarding the Global Partnership indicators, she invited feedback over the next couple of weeks. The Global Partnership wants to avoid being a burden on national statistical systems and may revisit the monitoring at a later stage if they are not getting useful information.

### **PARIS21 Involvement in Post–2015 Deliberations**

37. The chair opened the discussion on the post–2015 agenda by pointing out that the original MDG process started out as a one-way discussion of politicians defining an agenda that statisticians had to monitor after the fact. He asked how the statistical community can change that in the new framework. The Secretariat Manager sketched out a way forward, proposing a number of activities, including the establishment of a collaborative online platform to share the most recent information on the debate, leveraging the voice of developing country statisticians in the debate, organising a high-profile workshop/conference, supporting a research agenda and participating in academic debates, producing a global report on statistical development, and establishing a task team or advisory group that could, *inter alia*, advise on promoting a goal or indicator on statistical capacity development.

## **Discussion**

38. The Board provided a rich range of comments on the proposed work on the post–2015 framework. Participants debated PARIS21's (technical and political) role in the framework discussions, the need to involve users more actively, the merits and potential pitfalls of proposing an indicator on statistical capacity development, and the mandate of a potential task team. In summarising the session's discussion, the chair concluded that the Board was comfortable with the broad structure of how PARIS21 proposes to engage with the agenda and called on the Secretariat to (i) move quickly and close the PARIS21 conceptual work as rapidly as possible, (ii) stress PARIS21's comparative advantage which is the inclusiveness of its partnership and the strong pluralistic voice of countries/institutions and users/producers, (iii) be selective in the actions it undertakes – recognising the fluidity of the post–2015 MDG process over the coming months, (iv) recognise that target setting is a political process and that the Secretariat is better served raising awareness on the challenges of filling data gaps once targets are established, and (v) revise the note to clarify the objectives and share a new version with the Board through virtual consultation. The Secretariat Manager promised to revise the document in the coming weeks to include sharper objectives and activities and a clear timeline for implementation.

### **PARIS21 Communication Plan**

39. The PARIS21 Secretariat presented its communications plan and the progress achieved thus far in implementing it. The plan is a living document and started in November 2012, designed to achieve several goals: to increase the visibility, interest in, and knowledge about PARIS21; to maximise the outreach and impact of PARIS21 activities and events; to scale up PARIS21 as a resource for statistical knowledge, capacity development, and co-ordination between statistical actors; and to promote the role of PARIS21 as a central partnership for dialogue and advocacy in the field of statistical development. The means through which the Secretariat intends to achieve

these goals are: revitalising the website, e-mailing newsflashes, participating in different social media platforms<sup>3</sup>, producing and disseminating advocacy materials, and engaging with high-profile champions. Progress in all of these activities has advanced significantly with the exception of identifying champions and establishing a collaborative platform on which partners can share information and experiences. The Secretariat solicited feedback on the plan and encouraged the Board to participate fully in our joint communication efforts.

### **Discussion**

40. The Board welcomed the objectives and progress of the communications plan and applauded the social media efforts in particular.

### **Proposed Dates for 2014 Meeting**

41. The Secretariat proposed dates for the 2014 Annual Meetings, highlighting potential conflicts. The OECD Committee on Statistics will be held from 7 to 11 April 2014, while the Spring Meetings of the World Bank and IMF will take place from 19 to 20 April. Easter will be on 20 April, and the OECD will be closed on the 21<sup>st</sup>. In light of the timing of these other meetings, the Secretariat proposed 2–4 April 2014 for the PARIS21 meetings. The Board approved this proposal.

## **Seminar on Meeting User Needs in a Changing Data Landscape**

**Co-moderators: Gerald Haberkorn, Secretariat of the Pacific Community & Johannes Jütting, PARIS21 Secretariat**

### **Introduction**

42. The Secretariat Manager opened the session by introducing a draft paper commissioned by the PARIS21 Secretariat on *Knowing in time: how technology innovations in statistical data collection can make a difference in development*. He encouraged participants to provide comments on that paper and to consider institutional governance frameworks such as private–public partnerships in statistics. The co-moderator of the session, Mr. Gerald Haberkorn from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, pointed out three main problems that statisticians encounter: (i) lack of finance and human resources, (ii) organisational bottlenecks and challenges to effectively address data gaps and timeliness, and (iii) heavy reliance on large surveys and censuses. In addition, he emphasised inadequate data dissemination, low quality of reports, and low marketing skills.

### **Taking stock: What are the main challenges and obstacles to getting data into the hands of users?**

43. Mrs. Norah Madaya from the Uganda Bureau of Statistics identified a number of challenges to getting data into the hands of users. NSOs have limited capacity to package information and to adapt to changing technologies. The diversity of dissemination strategies confuses producers and users, and websites and other dissemination platforms frequently malfunction. Legal barriers hinder dissemination due to the need to respect the confidentiality of respondents. There is an

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<sup>3</sup> Communicate with the Secretariat via Twitter (@ContactPARIS21), Facebook (ContactPARIS21), and LinkedIn (linkedin.com/company/2681384).

absence of a simple users profile as they are heterogeneous. Lastly, NSOs have a low competitive power relative to private data producers who are equipped with modern technologies and advanced capabilities.

44. Dr. Jeffery Round, Emeritus Reader at the University of Warwick, focused on the importance of the Social Accounting Matrix (SAM). He said the SAM is an aggregated account to bring data together from various fields – household surveys, production surveys, and other sectors of the economy. It shows how the economy works and interacts across sectors. Among the challenges to putting data in users' hands are a lack of understanding how the different sectors or channels of the economy work and interact and the rise of user demands for data. To deliver data efficiently, the international community should focus not only on capacity building of statisticians but also training for economists, demographers, political scientists, and other data users.

45. Ms. Haishan Fu, Director of the UNESCAP Statistics Division, pointed out that there are gaps in data and a time lag in the production and dissemination of data. This situation has resulted in a multiplicity of actors producing data such that official statisticians no longer have the monopoly on production. Statisticians will have to draw more systematically on administrative data, embrace new technologies, and liaise more with private producers. The divide between official and non-official data producers is increasing yet the two communities should work together to ensure that users get the data they need.

46. Participants from the floor offered some suggestions to improve the provision of data to users. Official statisticians should focus on what kinds of data are to be supplied to what types of users, liaise with the private sector to ensure timeliness, consider easing legal restrictions to the use of data from private producers, and validate and co-ordinate privately produced data. They should not panic in the face of the new challenges of big data and IT innovations and should make better use of the data that already exist. Lastly, it would be useful to make the NSO more autonomous and expand the composition of national statistical councils to include representatives from the private sector and academia.

#### **Way forward: What solutions exist to better meet the needs of users in a changing data landscape?**

47. The co-moderator from the SPC commented that the obvious entry point for meeting user needs is to improve the relevance of the data produced. Statistics must be transformed into information. The Pacific community organises policy seminars / dialogues where senior policy-makers, including at times Ministers and even Prime Ministers, are kept as a captive audience and are presented with thematic policy briefs. This approach has borne fruit. The region disseminates its data (including spatial data) via the web; however, open data is a sensitive issue in countries with such small populations.

48. Dr. Mahar Mangahas presented the work of the Social Weather Stations (SWS) in the Philippines, where he serves as President. The SWS is a non-profit social research institution and non-official data producer. The timeliness of data is a crucial issue, one that the SWS tries to address by tracking issues very quickly via regular social weather surveys. The latest official surveys in the Philippines for poverty dates back to 2008 and for hunger back to 2009. However, the SWS has more recent data. In addition, the SWS measures subjective indicators including through Gallup-outsourced polls.

49. Mr. Chris Gingerich highlighted the commitment of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to improved statistics. He showed a video<sup>4</sup> in which Bill Gates demonstrates why measurement matters. He highlighted the problem of conflicting numbers and the need for real-time data. For example, to inform a speech that Gates delivered in China, he consulted several data sources, many of which could be of questionable quality. Furthermore, the accessibility and readability of data remain issues. He recommended improving the marketing in national statistical offices and asked if they should be data producers or brokers. Statistical offices could evolve into brokers or advocates for information and give a sort of good housekeeping seal of approval. He encouraged the statistical community to consider what data are best produced where. Statistical offices could play a role in informing users what non-official data are useable and therefore consecrate their own resources to producing the more challenging data themselves. He closed his presentation by calling for improved co-ordination at all levels: among users/producers/funders, between producers and other producers, and between funders and other funders.

50. Mr. Grant Cameron presented the hackathons<sup>5</sup> that the World Bank has sponsored. These events are opportunities for producers to get data — public but not necessarily official data — out to users. The hackathons involve people from different communities working together to solve a shared problem. In fact, they are meant to develop connections between communities, as much as solve the actual problems. The hackers often use the data in ways the official community may not have considered. He encouraged official statistical communities to become involved in such events. The events often offer a prize at the end to incentivise innovation. PARIS21 ought to draw on the ideas of the open data initiative to organise some hackathons.

51. Participants reacted to the panellists' presentations and considered the impact of the diversifying data industry. A recent survey in Spain found that data users were less interested in data quality than they were in data timeliness. Sometimes the official quantitative data do not tell the whole story and should therefore be supplemented with qualitative data. These developments result in competitiveness between data producers. Competition can of course be healthy but this need not necessarily be viewed as an "either/or" situation where the official and non-official data producers are at odds. Instead, there should be a convergence of efforts between the various actors. Lastly, regarding hackathons another potential benefit of such events could be to demonstrate to the public the constraints that national statistical offices face.

## **Wrap Up and Next Steps**

52. In closing, the two co-moderators concluded that hackathons could be an interesting new activity for PARIS21, as it is a useful advocacy tool. The proposed task team on innovation and emerging technologies could take this proposal under consideration and integrate it into public-private partnerships.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.thegatesnotes.com/Personal/2013-Annual-Letter>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jm2QxXNLSaQ&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jm2QxXNLSaQ&feature=player_embedded)

## Technical Session: Moving From NSDS Design To NSDS Implementation

Moderator: Johannes Jütting, PARIS21 Secretariat

53. The objective of this technical session was to bring together statisticians, policy makers and donors and to discuss concrete actions to shift from NSDS design to NSDS implementation. Concretely, the objective was to exchange views and to develop recommendations on:

- How to successfully implement NSDSs;
- How to get sustainable funding for NSDS implementation;
- How to better mainstream statistics into policymaking processes in developing countries.

54. The seminar was divided in two separate sessions: a plenary and three breakout groups.

### Plenary Session

55. The Seminar was opened by the PARIS21 Secretariat Manager who underlined important key points on NSDS. The NSDS is at the heart of PARIS21's work since 2004 and the Second International Roundtable on Managing for Development Results in Marrakech. The NSDS has become THE framework for statistical development in countries and is anchored in the Paris Declaration principles on aid effectiveness. Nearly all countries are embarked in an NSDS process. In fact, many countries are now on their second or third generation strategy. An NSDS is a platform that allows statistical activities, capacity development, and infrastructure improvements to be planned. This platform also enables stakeholders in the NSS (sectorial ministries, central bank, national statistical office, etc.) as well as technical and financial partners to co-ordinate their efforts through appropriate mechanisms. The NSDS is facing implementation challenges, especially because of funding scarcities, weak political support, and weak co-ordination of stakeholders.

56. PARIS21 is, on a daily basis, involved in the field to help countries with NSDS, in particular in:

- supporting countries in NSDS design, implementation, and monitoring processes: roadmaps, action plans, validation workshops, resource mobilisation, mid-term reviews, drafting of advocacy documents, etc.
- encouraging the establishment of dialogue mechanisms at country level: co-ordination of all national statistical system actors (e.g., National Statistical Councils) but also between the government and the community of donors.
- providing on-demand advisory services in certain fields: statistical legislation, National Statistical Councils, training.
- providing specific support to fragile/crisis states as well as small island developing states.
- sharing information on experiences from other regions in designing and implementing NSDSs.

57. Mr. Yuba Raj Bhusal, Member Secretary of the National Planning Commission of Nepal presented the statistical system and the experience of his country in implementing a Consolidated National Statistical Plan (CNSP). He expressed the need for and interest in NSDS to develop the overall statistical system of Nepal. He compared the NSDS to a "bible for statistics" for monitoring the global and regional development agenda. As the objective of Nepal is to become a middle

income country by 2030, statistics are key to monitor the national development agenda. From his experience, an NSDS is also a powerful instrument to better co-ordinate all stakeholders and strengthen the institutional development of the NSS (i.e., creation of the National Council).

58. Mr. Joseph Tedou, Director General of the National Statistical Institute of Cameroon, explained the main constraints of his country in implementing the NSDS which is considered a priority on par with the other national economic policies. He presented the whole NSDS process in Cameroon (since 2008) and highlighted the main constraints encountered, mainly on funding mobilisation and human resources. To face these challenges, the NSI has put in place work methods such as multi-annual programmes consistent with the national budget, review of the institutional framework, and regular meetings on statistics between the government and partners.

### **Breakout Groups**

59. Each group worked for an hour and a half on a specific question and proposed concrete recommendations.

**Group 1:** *What are the challenges in financing statistical activities (country and development partners' perspectives) and the appropriate recommendations/mechanism to improve and sustain funding for statistics?*

60. To address this issue of sustainable funding of statistical development, participants proposed recommendations at both country and regional level:

#### At country level

- Continue with the NSDS and aligning it with the National Development Plan through:
  - ✓ Integration of statistical financing in the medium term expenditure framework, specifically the 10-year survey programme
  - ✓ Strengthening of sectorial data/statistics

#### **Case of Uganda:**

- ⇒ Before NSDS, the government financed only about 30% of the budgetary needs for statistics
- ⇒ After NSDS, the government financed around 70% of the budgetary needs for statistics

- ✓ Use of quality statistics in results-based budget (performance-based budgeting) of the government by reinforcing sectorial statistical analysis

#### **Case of Peru:**

- ⇒ It managed to secure 10x its budget for regular operations due to the realisation of the government that statistics are important for decisions
- ⇒ The statistical system has shifted emphasis from data generation to analysis of data thus reinforcing the analytical capacities of sectors

- ✓ Finance ministries, planning departments and NSOs all collaborating in the activity
- Adopt a government policy that statistical support should be aligned with the NSDS for better co-ordination of support to statistical development (as in the case of Uganda)

#### At regional level

- Strengthening of regional integration of statistics through Regional Strategies for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) that are aligned and consistent with country NSDS:
  - ✓ Provides a common framework for developing statistics in the region by having common goal, vision and core set of statistics (e.g., UNESCAP)
  - ✓ Ensures high-level political commitment and support at the country level (and possibly of the UN Statistical Commission)
  - ✓ Focus on sectorial statistics plan – which are integrated into the country NSDS and help countries leverage external support
- Optimise south–south co-operation through:
  - ✓ Pooling of regional resources for statistics, specifically for small countries as in the case of the Pacific

#### ***Case of the Pacific region:***

- ⇒ Due to size of countries in the Pacific the region has adopted a strategy of sharing human resource experts on statistics (e.g., on agriculture statistics) to do work not only in one country but in the entire region;
- ⇒ a regional skills database is under development by the Pacific Statistics Steering Committee to identify experts in various statistical fields in the region
- ✓ Set-up regional statistical co-ordination unit/office to undertake region-wide co-ordination of statistical activities and initiatives

**Group 2:** What specific short- or long-term activities can be undertaken by both country and development partners toward successful NSDS implementation while enabling the NSS to adapt to changes and address the new and increasing demands on statistics associated with it?

61. Participants proposed five recommendations to ensure successful NSDS implementation and enabling NSS to adapt to changes:

- To set the progress measuring indicators for NSDS implementation (active monitoring of fulfilment of main targets and aims, how efficiently local resources are mobilised, how successful and collaborative national statistical system is or became after NSDS, how satisfied users are);
- To increase visibility and the role of PARIS21 (to be more active towards policy makers, for instance, to invite them together with statisticians and to discuss NSDS implementation);
- To enhance donor co-ordination through NSDS;

- To create the guidelines to set national training plans (how to share experience at regional level, how to conduct regular data users meetings or data users satisfaction surveys, training on NSDS planning);
- To ensure the necessity of the financial sustainability and costing with priorities of the NSDS implementation (how the NSDS financial cost is reflected in annual budget planning).

**Group 3:** *What concrete strategies/actions can be put in place to actively involve policymakers to support and finance national statistical development? Alternatively, what concrete actions must statisticians do to ensure the relevance of statistics in policymaking? (Francophone Group)*

62. The group offered a number of recommendations to improve the involvement of data users in statistical development:

- Involve statisticians and policy makers from the very beginning of activities and throughout the phases of the NSDS. Build a statistical culture.
- Make users aware of the body of available data and their possible uses. Hear the needs of users, be present to the greatest extent possible in discussion forums in order to understand policy and decisions taken, and ensure that data corresponds to needs. Encourage decision makers to use data in their evaluations.
- Establish contact with people who understand statistics and who are close to decision makers. Develop links with data analysts in ministries who can act as champions for statistics.
- Provide concrete examples of the potential uses of statistics, which will serve as a powerful advocacy tool and increase the visibility of the national statistical agency and bring new opportunities.
- Involve the media through training programmes, explaining terms/concepts.
- Explore the possibility of charging for all activities / production of statistics that are outside the regular scope of production.

### **Follow Up and Next Steps**

63. PARIS21 proposes to implement some of the recommendations as a pilot exercise in 2013:

- To help countries improve financing on statistics: PARIS21 proposes to support 1 or 2 countries to develop a medium term expenditure framework on statistics.
- To improve monitoring of NSDS implementation: PARIS21 proposes to develop a simplified NSDS implementation matrix containing indicators to assess the fulfilment of NSDS targets and efficient financing of statistical activities in the NSDS.
- To increase dialogue between users and producers of statistics: PARIS21 proposes to organise users/producers workshops at the country level.
- And finally, to improve communication of statistics: PARIS21 proposes to assist 1 or 2 countries in: 1) packaging and disseminating easy-to-understand and laymanised statistics; and 2) training media practitioners on statistical literacy and communication of statistics.

64. The Secretariat will report back to the Board on these pilot activities during a special session of the PARIS21 annual meetings in 2014.

## Annex: Analysis of Evaluation Form Results

### 9 April 2013 Session 1 - BAPS

#### QUESTION

*approx 40 present*

	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Not applicable
1. Usefulness of the topics discussed	21	11	3	2	
2. Format/structure of the seminar	10	22	7	1	
3. Relevance and clarity of presentations	7	17	12	2	
4. Length of discussion/interactive time	10	14	12	1	
5. Clarity of summary given	9	17	9	2	
<b>6. Overall value of the seminar</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>37 ratings</b>
	<b>30%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>5%</b>	

### 10 April 2013 Board meeting

*approx 50 present*

	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Not applicable
1. Relevance of topics addressed	25	9	3		
2. Style and clarity of documents	13	16	7	1	
3. Clarity of objectives for each agenda item	10	18	6	1	
4. Division of discussion time between agenda items	13	23	1	1	
5. Clarity of conclusions reached after discussion of each item	14	12	11	2	
<b>6. Overall value of the Board meetings</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>39 ratings</b>
	<b>41%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>2%</b>	

**11 April 2013 Session - AM**

1. Usefulness of the topics discussed
2. Format/structure of the seminar
3. Relevance and clarity of presentations
4. Length of discussion/interactive time
5. Clarity of summary given
- 6. Overall value of the seminar**

*approx 30 present*

	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Not applicable
1. Usefulness of the topics discussed	15	6	3	3	
2. Format/structure of the seminar	10	12	5	2	
3. Relevance and clarity of presentations	7	13	9	1	
4. Length of discussion/interactive time	9	6	9	4	
5. Clarity of summary given	13	8	5	2	
<b>6. Overall value of the seminar</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>27 ratings</b>
	<b>48%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>15%</b>	

**11 April 2013 Session - PM**

1. Usefulness of the topics discussed
2. Format/structure of the seminar
3. Relevance and clarity of presentations
4. Length of discussion/interactive time
5. Clarity of summary given
- 6. Overall value of the seminar**

*approx 22 present*

	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Not applicable
1. Usefulness of the topics discussed	16	1	2		
2. Format/structure of the seminar	13	6	2		
3. Relevance and clarity of presentations	7	7	2	1	1
4. Length of discussion/interactive time	8	5	5	1	
5. Clarity of summary given	7	7	3		
<b>6. Overall value of the seminar</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>18 ratings</b>
	<b>72%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>5%</b>		