

Final Record of the Proceedings

Chair: Shaida Badiee, World Bank &
Brian Atwood, OECD Development Assistance Committee

1. From 28–30 March 2012, PARIS21 held its Annual Meetings in Paris. A first session of the Board was held on the afternoon of 28 March. The following morning, PARIS21 held the second session of its Board, followed by a Meeting of Statistical Capacity Development Donors in the afternoon. The morning of 30 March, the Partnership held a seminar entitled “NSDS At Work: National and Regional Good Practices.” All documents, presentations, and records from each session are available for download on the PARIS21 website (<http://www.paris21.org/PARIS21annualmeetings2012>).

I. Welcome Statement

2. The chair commented that, although these donor meetings traditionally consider funding issues for PARIS21 and the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), given the significance of the Partnership’s recent accomplishment at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, today’s session would also cover funding of the Busan Action Plan for Statistics (BAPS).

II. Funding the Implementation of the Busan Action Plan for Statistics

3. The World Bank representative provided an overview of initial financing requirements for BAPS implementation and a review of World Bank funding instruments to support implementation. Some key initiatives (*e.g.*, agriculture and gender) already have sound financing behind them, and others will not be overly expensive. Regional development banks will rely on current financing instruments.

4. Criteria have been identified for re-purposing Bank instruments: the financing instrument must clearly support BAPS actions while maintaining its original core objectives, co-ordinate with activities in other institutions, and maintain flexibility and responsiveness. A repurposed TFSCB will continue to support NSDS design (its core activity), initiate support to open data initiatives in countries, pilot “horizontal” initiatives and test new ideas, and customise its support for fragile states. A repurposed Statistics for Results Facility (SRF) Catalytic Fund will ensure that its original purpose of supporting large-scale operations remains its major focus, while at the same time explore disbursing grants quickly to countries to test innovative approaches and expand the scope of its support to targeted areas to improve results. Other World Bank instruments will be also repurposed, including:

- IBRD/IDA lending (large scale projects)
 - Broaden approach to budget support and results-based lending
- Trust Fund supporting East Europe/CIS (large and small scale):

- New partnership with Russia (ECASTAT) to finance regional and country programming
- Trust fund for household micro-data (small scale):
 - Explore support of applying curation techniques to administrative data and enterprise statistics (small scale, Bank staff).
- Development Grant Facility
 - Current funding through FY16 to support key partners (PARIS21 & UNSD)

Discussion

5. The chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) was impressed by the level of detail in these implementation arrangements and commented that they could be usefully shared with the Post-Busan Implementation Group (P-BIG). Other participants raised a number of issues relating to improving the efficiency of funding for statistical development. For example, the presentations earlier in the day on the Cameroonian and Ethiopian CRESSs (Country Reports on the Support to Statistics) demonstrated the high level of fragmentation in support to statistics. In addition, although trust funds supporting statistics are relatively small in terms of financing amounts, they nevertheless represent a significant administrative burden (project management, staffing, supervision) on countries. A number of developing country representatives urged donors to co-ordinate among themselves.

6. The Secretariat Manager underscored the need to improve NSDSs and put in place CRESSs and national partnerships in statistics. He also called on the Partnership to support the PARIS21 Secretariat in its implementation of the BAPS. He also urged developing countries to express their priorities through the surveys submitted to them prior to the Board meeting. The World Bank representative concluded that linkages with the P-BIG should be strengthened, awareness of BAPS objectives and implementation should be raised with governments, and the SRF should be made more efficient in disbursement. The task team mandated to assist in the implementation and monitoring of the BAPS will also address all of the above issues.

III. PARIS21 Secretariat Funding Issues

7. The Secretariat Manager presented the consolidated financial statement for the Secretariat which includes a statement of expenditure, a history of voluntary contributions / grants received, and a funding gap analysis. He pointed out that significant funding gaps exist for 2013 and 2014. He also mentioned the fact that the DAC Chair has agreed to send out fund raising letters to a selected list of potential donors. He concluded his presentation by highlighting the importance of having some predictability of resources in order to be able to deliver all activities planned in the programme of work.

Discussion

8. The representative from Korea confirmed that Statistics Korea will provide annual contributions until 2015. The contribution should amount to some 40,000 € per year depending on currency exchange fluctuations. The representative from the United Kingdom stressed the fact that DFID has been a long supporter of PARIS21. She will consult with her management and see how DFID can continue to provide support to PARIS21 after the end of the current grant in mid

2013. The representative from the World Bank confirmed that they will continue to provide support to both the Core and ADP/IHSN programmes. She explained that the ADP/IHSN funding will decrease in 2013 and 2014 because of other needs that have emerged from the Busan Action Plan for Statistics.

IV. TFSCB Funding and Donor Issues

9. The representative of the TFSCB Advisory Panel presented the repositioning of the TFSCB in the context of the BAPS and outlined possible ways in which the Fund could help in supporting three of the five actions, namely (1) implementation of NSDS, (2) open data, and (3) effective use of statistics. The Advisory Panel proposed a number of recommendations, including: revisions to the TFSCB guidelines to provide for monitoring and evaluation of supported projects especially in terms of outcomes and results meeting the needs of users, the conduct of post-evaluations of countries' NSDS work (with DECDG and PARIS21 collating and publishing case studies for selected model countries), the establishment of a separate TFSCB window on "Open Data" to promote transparency and open accessibility of data, and the continuation of the non-NSDS windows focusing on financing capacity development in topical statistical areas and regional projects aiming at developing common framework and harmonising statistics.

V. Closing Statement

10. The chair pointed out that the "Progress Since Paris" survey prepared for the Busan High Level Forum highlighted improvements in the channelling of Official Development Assistance through country systems. The CRESSs presented in the morning session of the PARIS21 Board draw attention to the country system issue and should therefore be expanded to other countries. In addition, to implement International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standards, the development community needs strong statistical systems. This work supports the transparency agenda. He concluded that donors must continue to support PARIS21 as its work is critical to these wider agendas.