



Record of the Proceedings

Chair: Richard Manning & Grace Bediako

DAY ONE: Thursday, 9 June 2005

I. Opening Statement

Mr. Manning welcomed the new chair, Ms. Bediako from the Ghana Statistical Service, and handed the floor to Mr. Bodin who welcomed the participants on behalf of ADETEF (*Assistance au développement des échanges en technologies économiques et financières*) and the French Ministry of Finance. Ms. Bediako acknowledged PARIS21's achievements in bringing statistics to a new level, by emphasising policy coherence and stressing the inclusion of the entire national statistical system in the quest for sustainability. She urged systematic follow-up after workshops and asked that the Committee endorse the use of follow-up missions to assist countries in the design and implementation of their strategic plans. This is a period of change for statistics, as governments recognise the importance of statistics but the difficulty lies in getting to where we want to be. Mr. Roeskau then welcomed participants as PARIS21's host organisation. He commented that, particularly in light of the upcoming UN Summit, 2005 is an important year, and the importance of statistics in measuring progress toward the MDGs and in the aid effectiveness agenda cannot be overstated. OECD's main role in supporting PARIS21's efforts is in providing a legal framework for working with partners and to facilitate the substance of PARIS21's cause. The OECD's Development Cooperation Directorate also provides the link with donors, a question that comes into play at the implementation phase of NSDS. He recommended organising a headquarters-level meeting of donors to discuss NSDS.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Manning asked for comments on the draft agenda. The agenda was approved as proposed.

III. Introductory Statement

The PARIS21 Secretariat Manager mentioned that the IDA14 Replenishment meeting held in Athens in February 2005 presented a strong signal of support to PARIS21, the TFSCB, and NSDS. This level of recognition from policymakers is a big achievement. Since the last Steering Committee meeting, the Secretariat has focused its work toward regional programmes and achieving the NSDS goal. He then highlighted the main achievements of the partnership in the previous months:

- *NSDS methodology*: translation and dissemination of the NSDS guide and advocacy documents, entry of more documents into the knowledge base, launching of the implementation guide, and presentation of the NSDS approach in many international and regional meetings.
- *Partnership*: finalisation of a first draft of the light reporting mechanism.
- *Advocacy*: finalisation and dissemination of the francophone video and the "Measuring Up to the Measurement Problem" documents.
- *Funding*: several new voluntary contributions received.
- *Regional programmes*: December 2004 workshop in Addis Ababa and February 2005 workshops in Bamako for Francophone Africa countries to draft NSDS roadmaps. Training session on the NSDS approach organised for Francophone consultants in Dakar in April 2005; another session to take place mid-June. May 2005 workshop for Lusophone countries held in Guinea-Bissau to launch the NSDS process and draft roadmaps. May 2005 workshop held in Zambia for SADC countries to help identify the successes and constraints to implementation of strategic plans, to share experiences, and



to assist in finding solutions to any obstacles that may exist. Central America still the best success story, as countries are very advanced in the NSDS phases. December 2004 NSDS preparatory meeting for the Arab States held in Cairo and April 2005 statistical analysis seminar in Tunisia for Maghreb States. Regional forum planned for September in Oman but financial arrangements still to be finalised. Series of four workshops planned for Asia in collaboration with ESCAP. Programme for Pacific Island countries and territories drafted at an April 2005 meeting in Nouméa and being discussed with regional partners.

- *Reporting*: establishment of NSDS barometers, outlining the progress in strategic statistical planning for all countries, drawing heavily on the World Bank's snapshot on statistical capacity.

IV. Progress in NSDS Country Programmes

The Secretariat Manager pointed out that some countries are more advanced than others in their strategic planning but that it must be recognised that there is a general movement toward the strategic approach to statistical development. He announced that PARIS21 is linking directly with some countries to assist with their strategic planning and that the African Development Bank has agreed to fund the design of NSDS for all African countries, to be coordinated through sub-regional organisations. The Secretariat Manager then presented several points learnt from the regional workshops:

- *Finding a balance between imposing the NSDS approach on countries and respecting national ownership*. PARIS21 must be careful about pushing the process along too fast just to achieve the NSDS goal. For the sake of sustainability and country ownership, PARIS21 must respect national realities.
- *Relationship between NSDS and existing strategies*. NSDS is becoming a buzzword but not all strategies satisfy the basic elements of NSDS: country-owned process; inclusion of all actors in the NSS; political commitment to the process; integration of statistical development into national development policy (e.g. PRS); involvement of donors from the very beginning of the process; established funding plan; and monitoring process for strategy implementation.
- *Roadmaps*. For countries that already have a strategy, the roadmap is a work programme for statistical development, for instance to increase the involvement of donors.
- *Helping country activities in a more active way*. The Secretariat Manager asked for guidance from the Steering Committee on how PARIS21 can help countries move forward after the roadmap is complete. Countries need more information and methodology development (e.g., on human resource development).
- *Co-ordination of entire statistical system*. Countries are asking PARIS21 for guidance on how to organise and co-ordinate their own sector line ministry statistical units.

National Ownership

Regarding the first point on respecting national ownership, the IMF representative commented that PARIS21 should focus on getting country ownership on strategic planning in statistics and felt that PARIS21's role is not to *ensure* that countries design their strategy but to *advocate* for their design. The Secretariat Manager pointed out that the NSDS design roadmaps that have been drafted so far have been written by the countries and not by PARIS21 or external consultants. They have therefore been entirely country owned. He commented that for those countries that have decided to pursue the NSDS process, we should ensure that assistance is provided.

Country-level Activities

There was considerable support from developing countries for PARIS21 engaging in country-level activities, including from the Northern Africa and Middle East representatives who argued that the NSDS focus should not be limited to low-income countries, as all countries need assistance in some form and the regional approach does not bring all the country-level partners to the table. Country-level missions could be conducted to assess the situation and define how to help in-country. The Southeast Asia representative



agreed that country-level assistance is needed but brought up the difficulties in co-ordination at the national level. PARIS21 has an important role to play in facilitating co-ordination, not only in the donor community but also among line ministries and NSOs. The ex-officio representative from Botswana said that PARIS21 had done well to reach most African countries through sub-regional organisations and urged PARIS21 to sustain momentum through SROs. The World Bank representative suggested engaging in several country case studies, particularly regarding the co-ordination of the wider statistical system, but cautioned about not losing sight of PARIS21's regional and international focus and getting overly involved at the national level. The representatives from the European Commission, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, and the United Kingdom all endorsed PARIS21 support to country-level efforts. Japan said that PARIS21 can play a role in identifying country needs and in mapping out what donors are doing at the country level. Norway recommended concentrating on assistance to countries in fleshing out the NSDS, arguing that it is important to get the strategies in place first, then it can be presented to donors. The UK recommended supporting country efforts to advocate to their own authorities and to donors. The chair commented that there was a clear demand for PARIS21 to work on the country level but noted the reservations of some members about how far it should go in this direction. In any case, it was clear that PARIS21 is not sufficiently resourced to work in all countries and will have therefore to be selective in where it engages and in how it engages. The OECD representative said that this issue relies on how PARIS21 defines who "we" are. Since the Secretariat cannot do everything and be everywhere, it will at times rely on the wider partnership to deliver its message and carry out its work. This is the only way it can resolve the resource issues.

Challenges

The Secretariat Manager then presented PARIS21's three big challenges over the next few months:

1. Finding a mechanism for strengthening donor collaboration in statistics and alignment within country policy frameworks such as the PRSs.
2. Identifying and securing the funding mechanism for country strategies. How can we be sure that money will be available when countries are prepared to implement their strategies?
3. Identifying and securing technical assistance in several statistical or strategic planning fields for NSDS design teams.

He closed his presentation by commenting that PARIS21 is on the right track but that the Secretariat is concerned about the scope, timetable and magnitude of the work. PARIS21 needs to scale up its efforts to reach all 81 IDA countries by the end of 2006. If donors are not mainstreaming support to NSDS in their own programmes, the NSDS goal will not be achieved.

PARIS21 Objective and Focus

The IMF representative argued that assisting countries to have an NSDS by 2006 was not PARIS21's principal objective. There is a broader mandate to encourage evidence-based decision-making and NSDSs are a means towards that end, but we should not lose sight of the wider advocacy role. The World Bank representative replied that the emphasis on NSDS has provided a focus for international work on statistical development and represents a recognised output for the international community. The OECD representative commented that it is important that PARIS21's main goal remain the broad goal on promoting the use of statistics in policymaking. Having an NSDS by 2006 is a target and part of the entire process. One does not exclude the other. The ex-officio representative from Ghana supported the objective of NSDSs by 2006 and said that while the broader objective remains, NSDSs should remain the focus. The Secretariat Manager pointed out that the Steering Committee has already agreed the NSDS objective, as has the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics. The NSDS includes the broader goals of PARIS21.

Facilitating Financial Assistance

Regarding the issue of facilitating financial assistance for the NSDS process, the African Development Bank representative announced that his institution is supporting the NSDS objective by making funds available (through the subregional organisations of AFRISTAT, COMESA, SADC, and ECOWAS) to countries for



their NSDS design activities. They have also identified a lead consultant and intend to recruit 10 other consultants to assist countries in the design of their strategies. The representative from France assured that French embassies will follow the NSDS process very closely to help countries to get the assistance they need and highlighted the need to assist in co-ordination among donors at the country level. While countries must co-ordinate themselves, donors must also co-ordinate in implementing their own programmes. The World Bank representative echoed this last point, highlighting PARIS21's role in advocating for the co-ordination of donor support and activities in countries. She added that in order for developing countries to embark on a strategic planning process, they need a steady stream of funding, which does not currently exist. The representatives from the European Commission and Germany praised the NSDS barometer and country briefs as a very useful tool for donors to identify their entry points for assistance. The representative from Norway commented that if developing countries were delivering the message of their need for financial assistance in designing and implementing their NSDS it would be much more strongly received. Developing countries need to make the call, and PARIS21 should help them to refine and deliver this message. The representative from UK concurred. Countries need to show how poverty reduction and development is being hampered by the poor availability or use of statistics. The representative from Japan commented that PARIS21 can also help mobilise support by identifying the needs of countries, assistance already being provided and gaps. She recommended organising a seminar inviting representatives from donor HQ level to share experience and advocate for support to statistics. The representative from UNDP referred to the Millennium Review Summit in September. MDG Country Reports have been produced by 110 countries, which highlight concerns about the age, quality and accessibility of statistics to monitor progress towards the MDGs. The chair closed this issue by proposing that the co-chairs write to donor agencies to emphasise the need for support and collaboration in statistical development. In addition, PARIS21 could consider organising a specific event to bring together people at a reasonably senior level to share experiences.

Availability of Technical Expertise

The OECD representative evoked the issue of the huge demand for technical assistance in the coming years. OECD national offices can certainly help, but it should not be taken for granted that they will be willing to help. PARIS21 needs to strengthen its relationships with OECD Chief Statisticians, as they can play a very important role in advocating with their aid agencies, with the media, etc. and in sharing best practice with developing country counterparts. He then proposed that the OECD Statistical Committee be used to strengthen the relationship between the PARIS21 community and the OECD statistical offices community. He commented that the OECD's statistical directorate and community of partners are available to work with PARIS21 in providing access to the tools they have developed over the past few years to help developing countries. Both the need for technical co-operation and the OECD proposal to address this were met with general agreement; however, several participants — including the IMF and World Bank — commented that the provision of consultants from OECD country statistical offices provides one model but is often too expensive for developing countries. The IMF expressed concern that technical assistance from an external consultant going through a formulaic process could result in a sense of lack of ownership on the part of developing countries. The Secretariat Manager commented that the briefing sessions for PARIS21 consultants are designed to ensure that technical co-operation is conducted in accordance with NSDS principles and therefore in response to countries' specific needs and respecting national ownership. The UK representative commented that we need to be concerned about the quality (as well as volume) of technical assistance, and try to ensure that the Chief Statisticians of OECD countries are on board with this approach to free up the technical assistance of their statisticians. This requires a strong advocacy push. She added that the demand for technical assistance should be expressed in sector ministries and not just in NSOs. The European Commission representative remarked that many European countries view statistical co-operation as a low priority and that the OECD and Eurostat therefore have an important role to play in advocating for technical support to statistics. He then announced that Eurostat will soon produce a guide outlining the policies behind EC statistical co-operation programmes, which will refer to PARIS21 and promote the use of NSDS as a framework for support. The representative from Central Asia referred to good experiences with study visits and the representative from South East Asia advised that lessons be learnt from accumulated experience of the early NSDSs. The chair closed the discussion by commenting that it seemed that as work on NSDSs goes forward to a common timescale there could be significant constraints in OECD capitals to accessing enough high-quality expertise from hard-pressed National Statistical Offices. Donors and NSOs



need to look together at how to respond to this demand. This could be a further reason for bringing stakeholders together at senior-level meeting next year.

V. Support to NSDS: Methodology

The PARIS21 Secretariat Manager presented the NSDS methodology tools: the Essentials, Design Guide, Advocacy paper, NSDS Annual Report, and Knowledge Base. He announced that the Secretariat is now working, at the specific request of countries, on a best practice paper on implementing an NSDS and a sample strategy. Further requests have been received to demonstrate the link between the NSDS and PRSP and between the NSDS and MDGs. The Secretariat is also moving forward on providing guidance on how to integrate a statistical sector development strategy into the larger NSDS. An informal meeting with UN specialised agencies and a few donors was held last December on these intersectoral issues. A follow-up meeting is planned for late 2005 to address these issues more deeply. He proposed that an annual report on progress towards NSDS design and implementation be produced and asked for the Committee's approval to allocate resources to this. He then asked for advice and guidance from the Committee on how to maximise the efficiency of the Knowledge Base.

On the NSDS design guide, the Southeast Asia representative requested that section 5.1 be modified to remove the reference to "political control" as it suggests that politicians will be controlling the process, which is a situation we want to avoid. The Secretariat manager confirmed that this was not intended and it will be corrected. The chair closed the session by concluding that there was universal support for the production of an annual NSDS report.

DAY TWO: Friday, 10 June 2005

VI. Support to NSDS: Advocacy, Task Teams, Partnership

Advocacy

The Secretariat Manager presented PARIS21's recent work in advocacy, highlighting the francophone advocacy video that features the president of Mali and the set of documentation surrounding the "Measuring Up to the Measurement Problem" paper. Countries are now requesting their own country-based videos, and the Secretariat is trying to position itself to respond to this demand as it is a huge undertaking. He then announced that the Secretariat will produce by the end of June a specific programme for delivering advocacy materials. The targeted, selective delivery of advocacy messages and materials is a crucial and signature activity for PARIS21.

The Southeast Asia representative mentioned the 16–17 August 2005 meeting of heads of ASEAN NSOs as an excellent opportunity for PARIS21 to raise its profile in the region. He then supported the idea of getting a champion for statistics in the country, which will ensure that the strategy has a driving force behind it. The South Asia/East Asia representative called for shocking yet simple country-specific examples of the use of statistics to demonstrate their value. The IMF representative also highlighted the importance of advocacy work and emphasized the need to build ownership at government level in countries for statistical capacity building programmes. This may require targeting policy people as the principal audience. The World Bank representative recommended that the next Secretariat progress report mention advocacy work activities undertaken by PARIS21 partner agencies, such as recent work for the Africa Commission, G8 and Development Committee. She also commented that advocacy is more than just pamphlets and includes action-oriented interventions. The ex-officio representative from Botswana highlighted the need to engage with the private sector as well as with governments. The chair concluded the discussion by commenting that there are some particular international opportunities for advocacy interventions this year, including the Monterrey follow-up meeting in New York later in June. The "Measuring Up to the Measurement Problem" materials should be distributed to people at that meeting. He also highlighted the need for country-specific advocacy and for advocacy materials and interventions to be relevant to the countries in question. He then called on the World Bank and UNDP to present at the next Steering Committee meeting how many of their consultative groups and Round Tables have statistics on the agenda.



Task Teams

Costing and Funding

The Secretariat presented the progress in the Costing and Funding task team, which was set up at the last Steering Committee meeting. An inception report has been completed, which reviews published material from the reports from the Improved Support to Monitoring Development Goals task team and the OECD's Creditor Reporting System (CRS). The team is currently reviewing TFSCB projects and analysing their costing information. The team has sparked interest from the Health Metrics Network to participate.

Intersect

The Secretariat presented the progress in the Intersect task team. Sarah MacFarlane from the University of California at San Francisco convenes this task team. While the Secretariat gives as much support as it can, the team is nevertheless missing the assistance that a hosting institution can provide. A December 2004 meeting with UN specialised agencies explored how to define this team's work, the extent to which NSDS can actually cover the whole NSS, and how to take account of sectoral and subnational statistics. A follow-up meeting is currently scheduled to take place in Dar-es-Salaam in late 2005 to take this intersectoral work forward. The representative from France advised of plans to organise a workshop back-to-back with the October Afristat meeting to address these sectoral issues.

Metagora

The Metagora Co-ordination Team (MCT) Manager presented the progress in this project. He said that Metagora is fully integrated within PARIS21, but its budget is entirely financed by a separate package. The money used is not coming from funds aimed at supporting statistical operations, but rather aimed at human rights monitoring. He said that the project is responding to country demand and is working to strengthen national statistical capacity. The project is at a crucial state, as it now has some intermediate results. A panel of experts is monitoring the implementation of the project on a strictly independent basis and it recently submitted a very positive report to the Metagora Steering Committee of Donors. Preliminary results and first significant lessons emerging from the project were presented and discussed in the Metagora Forum held in Paris on 24 and 25 May 2005. Among these, three are of particular importance in the perspective of PARIS21 objectives: (1) data on human rights, democracy and governance can in fact be collected and indicators produced are central for policy makers' decisions; (2) statistics can provide powerful tools to enhance evidence-based monitoring of key human rights and governance issues; and (3) national statistical agencies can be efficiently involved in measuring governance and democracy through well established tools, such as official household surveys. The project has proven this in 11 countries throughout the world. The Metagora Forum held a session on the role of official statistics, a point that should be developed further in the future. Participants at the Forum found that there is good ground to pursue additional Metagora activities after the end of the pilot phase (February 2006) and the Steering Committee of Donors requested the MCT to produce a strategic paper that should serve as basis for deciding on donors' renewed commitment to support the extension of the project. The IMF representative questioned the location of the Metagora programme within the PARIS21 Secretariat, given its topic area. The Middle East representative praised Metagora work as very important to countries of his region and supported the idea of its extension for a new term within the framework of PARIS21. The Southeast Asia representative shared this support and confirmed that Metagora is contributing to national statistical capacity building as it has helped raise the appreciation for statistics in his country and helped obtain linkages with policy agencies and human rights institutions.

Rural and Agricultural Statistics

The Secretariat presented the progress in the Rural and Agricultural Statistics task team, which has been reformulated to take on the following activities: (1) production of an advocacy video on agricultural statistics, for which a script has already been produced and is being reviewed; (2) production of a report on how to integrate agricultural statistical development into the larger NSDS, which will be placed in the



Knowledge Base and will serve as an example for other sectoral statistics development strategies; (3) production of a report on the status of agricultural statistics development in Africa, and (4) development of an advocacy dissemination plan for the above materials. This work programme is being carried out with several partners, primarily the FAO and IFAD.

Training for Official Statisticians

The Secretariat presented the progress in the Training for Official Statisticians task team. A team meeting was held in April 2005 in the margins of the ISI Conference in Sydney. Participants agreed to produce an inventory of statistical training institutes and a guide to designing a human resources development strategy for statistics. The Middle East representative supported the work of this team, saying that countries need co-ordination and that PARIS21 can play this role of co-ordinating work in statistical training. The European Commission representative said that this team should explore synergies between the team's activities and software packages such as ERETES (for national accounts) and EUROTRACE (for trade statistics), as there is a need for an international body to co-ordinate the work of training in these packages. The IMF representative cautioned against duplication of efforts by this team, as there is already plenty of materials on statistical training. The Secretariat Manager replied that task teams are established to fill an identified gap. The training team is therefore intended to consolidate funding for training activities and to develop advocacy for more support to training statisticians. The representative from France confirmed the need to deepen knowledge in this area.

Improved Support to Monitoring Development Goals

The World Bank representative presented the final report for the Improved Support to Monitoring Development Goals task team. She outlined the results of the six country case studies, the international study, and the household survey study. The team's findings fed into the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics as well as the Expert Group Meeting on the MDGs. She commented that this team was a very successful mechanism for studying statistical capacity needs for responding to MDG data demands and proposed to close the team's operations with the Steering Committee's approval, because its work is now complete.

Population Censuses

The World Bank representative announced that the work of the population census team is being handed over to UN in preparation for the 2010 census round. She recommended that PARIS21 confirm this with UN then close the team on the PARIS21 side. This proposal was endorsed.

The representative from France commented that one of the roles of task teams could be to analyse finalised NSDSs and identify what is missing. The chair closed the discussions on task teams by thanking the World Bank for its work on the now-closed Improved Support to Monitoring Development Goals team. He said that PARIS21 should be fairly cautious about the number of teams run at a single time. He picked up France's point on gaps in NSDS as a seemingly natural consequence of the large number of NSDSs but felt that an actual task team might not be required for this. He invited PARIS21 and the World Bank to propose how to address this issue. He closed by saying that task teams are clearly providing important outputs for the statistical community.

Partnership

The Secretariat Manager presented PARIS21's recent work in strengthening partnership. He announced that the second Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDev) will be held in late 2005 in Addis Ababa to bring together all donors supporting statistical development in Africa. At this event, there will be a presentation of a draft regional strategy for statistical development in Africa and a proposal to create a statistical commission for the continent. He then presented the draft PARLISTAT site¹ which offers links to

¹ <http://www.paris21.org/pages/parlistat/countries/>



websites relating to statistics, sorted by country. He called on institutions to organise statistical programme information on their own websites, so that PARLISTAT can be a portal to this important information. The Secretariat then presented the proposed light reporting mechanism, which the first FASDev meeting tasked PARIS21 to produce. The light reporting template is an attempt to exchange information among partners about donor support to statistical development. The template has been designed and piloted with the FAO, World Bank, and Eurostat. The intention is to roll it out with the key donors assisting Africa, with the Steering Committee's approval. If responses are well received, PARIS21 will produce a synthesis report, present it to the next FASDev and post it on the website and in PARLISTAT, and possibly replicate the mechanism in other regions. This will require a commitment from partners to keep the information up to date.

Light Reporting

There was general support for the light reporting mechanism. Participants recognised it as a useful tool for information exchange and as a means to facilitate donor co-ordination. Many donor participants agreed to complete the form. There were nevertheless some concerns regarding the exercise. The UK representative said that the template does not account for support to multilaterals or the provision of secondees. Several participants expressed concern over the risk of double counting and the difficulty in gathering all relevant information, particularly from their country-level delegations. Capturing statistical support as a component of a larger development project was clearly another difficulty as was the scale of the exercise for some agencies (IMF, EC). While some participants recommended delegating responsibility of completing this form to country-level delegations and/or to recipient countries themselves, others pointed out that this would not be feasible and that, since the exercise is in its infancy, PARIS21 cannot expect the information gathered to be a perfect representation of the situation. The Secretariat Manager commented that the intention is to get a snapshot and to exchange information. A few participants recommended that this exercise be part of DAC reporting systems. The OECD representative said that while the CRS does have a specific code for statistical capacity building it does not capture support within wider, sectoral programmes and the data are not as timely as FASDev are seeking. Furthermore, the light reporting template captures information that the CRS does not. He proposed to bring up the issue at the DAC Working Party on Statistics meeting starting 14 June to get feedback and encourage responses. The representatives from Japan and Norway said that this is an important exercise to improve information on who is doing what and where, which could show where gaps exist and improve dialogue with countries. A key selling point for donors should be making a contribution to the aid effectiveness agenda of harmonisation, alignment, and results.

The chair concluded the discussion by highlighting participants' feelings that the exercise is potentially useful. It was agreed that the template should be simplified, the Secretariat would sharpen the definition of the statistical development activities on which to report, including statistical components of broader programmes (e.g., by providing estimated ranges for statistical components within projects), the Secretariat and DAC Statistics Unit would work with a few donors to fine-tune the form, the Secretariat would roll out the form in all of Africa then produce a report synthesising the results to be presented at FASDev II. The report to the next Steering Committee meeting should present the results as well as constraints and costs involved. If the results are deemed successful and useful, the Committee might then make the decision to continue its administration and replicate it in other regions.

VII. Status of Funding for PARIS21 and TFSCB

The Secretariat Manager thanked all donors to PARIS21 then presented the Secretariat's current funding situation (see pages 25–26 of the progress report). The Secretariat continues to follow-up on the May 2004 Joint Funding Proposal. Discussions are currently underway with five new potential donors. The funding gap for 2005 and 2006 is listed on the bottom of page 26. The World Bank representative then presented an update on the TFSCB, its projects, sources of funding, and financial gap. He commented that one solution to close the gap would be to finance just NSDSs and not embark on other projects. Interest in accessing the TFSCB has been increasing, especially from outside the Bank and in conjunction with PARIS21 events and meetings. The chair closed by saying that PARIS21 had created a demand and that the funding that has already been secured provides a solid basis for the Partnership's activities, but it would be useful to widen



the number of donors supporting both PARIS21 and the TFSCB. He offered to write around to donors after the meeting.

VIII. Light Evaluation and PARIS21 Beyond 2006

A Secretariat representative presented the proposal for a light evaluation in 2006, underscoring the fact that there were very thorough evaluations of both PARIS21 and the TFSCB in 2003. He pointed out that since the last evaluation was not finalised until late 2003, the Joint Funding Proposal was not rolled out until mid-2004 which severely hampered PARIS21 activities throughout 2004 due to lack of funds. He therefore proposed that the evaluation be conducted earlier in the year than the previous one was. He called on the need for a group of Steering Committee representatives to evaluate the initiative, review its impact and relevance, and help define a possible future for PARIS21 or PARIS21-related activities. To account for the timing of this exercise, he further proposed to combine the next two Steering Committee meetings into one meeting to be held in March/April 2006. This group of representatives would include an independent reviewer to help the group with this work and to facilitate the process. The Secretariat will contact Steering Committee members with a more detailed proposal and, via correspondence, finalise the TORs.

There was universal approval among participants for the proposed light evaluation. The World Bank, France, United Kingdom, and European Commission volunteered to take part in the evaluation group, and the representative from France suggested that the DAC's evaluation network be involved in the exercise. The World Bank representative suggested broadening the consultation to the wider Consortium membership, but it was pointed out that this would require striking a balance with those who are more and those who are less influential and knowledgeable about the partnership. The chair concluded that the light evaluation proposal was accepted, that the next Steering Committee meeting would be postponed until April 2006, and that the Secretariat would make a more specific, detailed proposal for the evaluation and the facilitator's TORs.

IX. Status of the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics

The World Bank representative presented the status of the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS). The Action Plan's aim is to improve the capacity of national and international statistical systems to produce and use data for development. The Plan includes six major actions for the international statistical community: (1) Mainstream strategic planning through NSDSs; (2) Prepare for 2010 census round; (3) Increase finance; (4) Set up International Household Survey Network (IHSN); (5) Improve MDG monitoring; and (6) Improve international accountability. The presentation described how the partnership guiding the Action Plan will work and its governance system. She then announced that the World Bank is submitting a proposal to the Development Grant Facility to fund activities in the Action Plan, a portion of which will be allocated to PARIS21 for work on NSDSs and to implement the core IHSN programme. Most of the activities will build on and be funded through an expansion of existing work programmes and instruments. The Middle East representative commented that developing countries need to be better informed about the MAPS programme. Countries are not allocating resources to this initiative because they know little about it and are unsure what their role should be.

X. Summary of Decisions

The chair presented a paper outlining PARIS21's goal, target, and decisions from this meeting. After discussion and suggestions from participants, the wording of this text was finalised as follows:

PARIS21 Background

PARIS21's goal is "to develop a culture of evidence-based policymaking and implementation which serves to improve governance and government effectiveness in reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals." (source: PARIS21 logical framework).



PARIS21 has a target that by 2006 all low-income countries should have a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics so that reporting on the MDGs in 2010 is based on nationally owned and produced data. (source: PARIS21 Steering Committee decision and Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics)

List of Decisions

The Committee strongly supported that NSDSs be integrated within each country's national development strategies (e.g., PRSs) and meet country policy needs and results-based management. The Committee urged financial and technical partners to make use of the NSDS as a framework to provide harmonised support to statistics within their assistance programmes for countries' national development strategies.

The Committee endorsed a suggestion for a senior-level meeting between OECD country NSOs and senior aid agency managers to advocate for enhanced technical support to developing country statistical development.

The Committee agreed that the PARIS21 Secretariat will continue to pursue a pro-active approach (through advocacy, facilitation, coordination, advice, etc.) at the international, regional, subregional, and, as appropriate, country level to support countries in designing their strategies. This approach will respond to demand and be proportionate, with priority given to IDA countries, while considering the needs of middle-income countries. The focus of country-based work should be on promoting harmonised and co-ordinated approaches in support of evidence-based policymaking and complementing the activities of others.

The Committee recommended that partners should actively promote and assist the NSDS process, since PARIS21 relies heavily on all members of the partnership to help it meet its goal.

The Committee agreed that the Secretariat should produce, with the assistance of partners, a comprehensive report on NSDS progress worldwide for the next Steering Committee meeting.

The Committee agreed on the programme of NSDS methodological work (including special studies) set out in the progress report.

The Committee agreed that the light reporting template should remain simple, the Secretariat would sharpen the definition of the statistical development activities on which to report, the Secretariat and DAC Statistics Unit would work with a few donors to fine-tune the form, and the Secretariat would roll out the form in all of Africa then produce a report synthesising the results to be presented at FASDev II and at the next Steering Committee meeting.

The Committee accepted the light evaluation proposal and agreed to postpone the next Steering Committee meeting to April 2006. The Secretariat will make a more specific, detailed proposal for the evaluation and the facilitator's TORs to be agreed by correspondence.