



Steering Committee Meeting, 18 October 2002

DRAFT RECORD

Adoption of the Agenda

The Chairman Pali Lehohla opened the meeting and the agenda was adopted without amendment. Cesar Caballero the new representative for Central and South America was welcomed; he replaces Maria Arteta Manrique. Lucie Laliberté, Cletus Mkai, and Willem de Vries sent apologies that they could not attend.

PARIS21 Progress Report (June 2002 – October 2002)

The Manager of the PARIS21 Secretariat reported that preparations for several regional workshops had progressed. At the Consortium Meeting on the previous day, Albania had requested a workshop for Balkan States; this opportunity would be explored. An element of flexibility would be retained in the work programme to accommodate requests of this nature. Following the success of the two recent country workshops, he proposed that the Secretariat develop a set of guidelines, a 'do-it-yourself kit' for country workshops. This kit would include dissemination of task team products.

The third issue of the newsletter was to be postponed by one month in order to accommodate the results of the meetings during October. The Manager also announced that in future, there would be only three issues per year instead of four, in order to reduce the resource requirements. The advocacy film was part of the Secretariat's information sharing activities and would be adapted for other regions and languages. He recommended that the Secretariat take over the advocacy functions now that the advocacy task team had finished its work.

Workshops

Guidelines were needed for country and regional workshops to enable others to undertake similar activities. It was suggested that some activities of the Secretariat be devolved to regional organisations to enable materials to be produced in local languages and to address local issues. The CIS representative asked that PARIS21 assess the outcomes of regional workshops.

It was agreed at the request of the Arab States representative, that the dates of the Arab States workshop be finalised at the end of the month, following the forthcoming meeting in Tunis.

The German representative supported the request for a Balkan States workshop.

Membership

A number of Committee members requested details of membership statistics, and it was agreed that the information would be circulated. A handbook of members would also be considered. An outreach campaign was suggested to increase the participation in the Consortium of policy makers and those working in sectors such as health and education.

Translation

The representative of Francophone Africa asked that all task team reports be translated to French and Spanish rapidly. The translation of the Statistical Capacity Building Indicators task team's final report was urgently required. The Secretariat agreed to organise this.

The Progress Report

The World Bank representative requested a more strategic approach to the drafting of future progress reports and the addition of a section on fund raising. The section on task teams required updated descriptions of each team's mandate and emphasis on the integration of the teams with the work of the Consortium.

The UNDP representative suggested clearer table headings in the financial statement; i.e. the direct funding and cumulative total headings required more clarification on contributions in kind. It was agreed that the amount allocated for the Census task team could be increased to \$20,000.

Future Location for Meetings

The CIS Countries representative proposed that PARIS21 convene a Steering Committee or Consortium meeting to coincide with a workshop in a recipient country. The Steering Committee was invited to consider Central Asia as the location for the next meeting.

Governance Issues

A number of Committee members asked for a review of the rules concerning representation on the Steering Committee. It was agreed that this review would be included in the evaluation.

Country Activities

Concern was expressed that the Secretariat was over-stretched. The Secretariat was advised to maintain a strategic approach to its work at the country level; the evaluation would help to clarify the processes to be used.

Germany supported a proposal to develop a register of PARIS21 consultants. The UK endorsed this and added that facilitation skills were also required, together with training to enhance the skills of local experts. The Arab States and French representatives emphasised the need to involve regional bodies in the development of local skills for national activities.

Approval of the Report to the United Nations Statistics Commission

The Secretariat presented a draft report that must be presented to the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2003 and be submitted by November 2002. The Committee recommended revision of the report. A strategically focused, three-page report outlining PARIS21 achievements to date was required, especially as it was ultimately aimed at ECOSOC. This report could be appended to the letter that the Consortium co-chairs agreed should be sent to agency heads. This should be done before the end of the year.

PARIS21 Evaluation

Mary Strode presented the PARIS21 Evaluation Terms of Reference. The evaluation will cover PARIS21 activities to date and refer to the original terms of reference and logical framework. It should also make recommendations for a revised mandate and suggestions on how this should be accomplished.

The Secretariat recommended a small five-person sub-committee (or reference group) to guide the process and maintain quality control. Discussions are underway with the Peer Review team in DCD to assist in providing expert evaluators from the DAC Working Party on Aid Evaluation to join the sub-committee and to propose evaluators to undertake the work. The evaluation will start in December and report in April 2003 for the June Steering Committee.

Discussion

The Committee welcomed the TORs, which were felt to be comprehensive. The World Bank's contribution was \$100,000 for this evaluation. The Bank is obliged to report back on its use of the Development Grant Facility to their Board by May 2003. Advice on the draft terms of reference would be sought from experts in the Bank's Evaluation Department. Switzerland recommended that the evaluation experts determine the methodology, using the draft terms of reference as a guideline.

The UK asked that the evaluation consider as a success criterion, the amount of government resources being made available for statistics in countries influenced by PARIS21. The location of the Secretariat after 2003 should be reconsidered in the evaluation. While an evaluation generally assesses programmes from a historical point-of-view and determines if the programme met its original objectives, the Committee was also interested in looking towards the future and a new strategy for PARIS21.

A number of donor representatives offered the services of their evaluation departments. The Secretariat explained that this was in line with the terms of reference that provided for two experts on the sub-committee to be members of the DAC Working Party on Aid Evaluation. A tendering process would take place to appoint the evaluators to do the work. This would maintain the transparency and neutrality of the process. It was agreed that the 5-person sub-committee would comprise two expert DAC evaluators, two Steering Committee representatives - Hasan Abu-Libdeh (Arab States) and Shaida Badiee (World Bank) – and a member of the Secretariat.

It was agreed that the PARIS21 evaluation should run in parallel with the Trust Fund evaluation, which will take place in the same timeframe.

Proposal for a New Task Team on Governance Indicators

Switzerland presented a proposal for further research into governance indicators under the auspices of PARIS21. Since the 2000 conference at Montreux, there have been consultations and seminars concerning developing governance and human rights indicators. The EC and Switzerland felt PARIS21 would be a suitable location for developing methodologies to support indicators in this area. Prominence was to be given to governance indicators, and the research would be undertaken in collaboration with regional agencies and recognise different local sensitivities to governance and human rights issues. The research would draw on synergies with PARIS21 and would not add further administrative burdens, as the project would include its own administrative support.

Three items were included in the project programme:

- A report on the framework for developing indicators in governance and human rights
- A report of existing initiatives on the same
- An outline for a manual of methods

A task team was proposed to accommodate the project on Governance Indicators.

Discussion

The representative of Francophone Africa supported the proposal to develop the tools to measure good governance in Africa. The Steering Committee was reminded that NEPAD has good governance as a priority, as does the African Union. The Anglophone Africa Representative expressed his support for the proposal, adding that there was a need to integrate qualitative and quantitative measures and to develop a technical manual. The

representative of Arab States supported the proposal, as did the representative for the Commonwealth of Independent States who felt that transition countries were in urgent need of such tools.

The European Commission representative informed the Committee that human rights and good governance were a main chapter in its partnership agreements; the tools to measure these were urgently required. A 100 million Euro programme was in place to measure good governance, and further work was required on developing performance indicators.

France also supported this work, provided it was for the development of research tools rather than for statistical production and that care was taken in the management of this sensitive area of work. UNDP also supported the idea of the research, as most UN agencies already have special units devoted to this difficult issue and the project would support the work of the UNHCR. UNDP cautioned that work must be carefully managed, as PARIS21 could risk compromising its neutrality by working in this highly politicised area.

Concern was expressed about the proliferation of task teams and the burden on PARIS21 management. The representative of the OECD mentioned the existing work of the DAC's GOVNET and the priority given by OECD to governance and human rights issues. OECD supported suggestions to put the work under a research title. There were problems with accommodating the team physically, because of OECD space constraints.

The Chair concluded that there was overwhelming support for the governance indicator project to be hosted by PARIS21 and asked for recommendations on how to co-ordinate the work and physically accommodate the project personnel.

Eurostat nominated Mr. Pommier, the representative of France, as the task team convenor to ensure integration of the work of the project within PARIS21. France accepted the role subject to the team adopting the name of "Tools and Methods" and adopting governance indicators as one of its projects.

Training

Eurostat suggested that PARIS21 should revisit core capacity building and training and develop a new task team on Statistical Training. The representative for Francophone Africa supported the idea of covering statistical training and asked if Eurostat could prepare Terms of Reference for circulation and subsequent discussion at the next Steering Committee meeting.

Secretariat Issues

The Manager of the PARIS21 Secretariat thanked all those who had assisted PARIS21 with the capacity and means to prepare regional activities in Arabic and Spanish. The Secretariat would still require specialised skills and intended to recruit staff for periods of up to six months for specialised activities. A one-year contract was proposed for the newsletter and web site editor.

Office accommodation was a problem. OECD is relocating to La Défense where there are even fewer offices available for PARIS21. With the help of OECD, PARIS21 was trying to find the cheapest solution to the office space problem and would keep the Steering Committee informed. The Secretariat agreed that there should be greater emphasis on fundraising in the future.

The Secretariat had sent thanks on behalf of the Steering Committee to two members that had recently resigned: Tony Williams and Paul Cheung.

The date of next Steering Committee meeting was proposed for the third week of May 2003, and CIS offered to host the meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.