Towards a new commitment on statistical development

Ten years ago, the PARIS21 Partnership was launched to promote a culture of evidence-based policymaking in developing countries. Tremendous progress has been made, but much still remains to be achieved. To outline how the diverse contributions of stakeholders supporting statistical development can dovetail most effectively, the PARIS21 Partnership is organising its Consortium Meeting in Dakar, Senegal, from 16 to 18 November 2009. The event will bring together some 400 high-level participants — policy makers, statisticians, analysts, and civil society and private sector representatives from developing and developed countries, and multilateral organisations — to discuss statistical capacity building in developing countries. The PARIS21 Partnership is honoured that the President of Senegal, His Excellency Maître Abdoulaye Wade, has agreed to deliver the opening speech.

As statistics are necessary to inform, design, implement, monitor and evaluate development policy and, generally, to make sound economic, social, and life decisions, a country’s development relies critically on its statistical system. Statistics help governments improve their policies and investments and be accountable to their parliaments and citizens about the delivery of development results. Statistical capacity building in developing countries increasingly takes shape through a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), a comprehensive process which mobilises the support and input of all stakeholders: governments, civil society, cooperating partners, the international statistical community, and of course the national statistical system itself. Donor organisations and national governments must both commit to a sustained funding of national statistical systems to help under-resourced developing countries to respond to increasingly urgent data needs. This Consortium meeting will consider and outline the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders, in the form of a Dakar statement on statistical development.

The event is being jointly organised by the Government of Senegal and PARIS21 and will be followed by the 5th African Symposium on Statistical Development. It will take place at the Hôtel Méridien Président in Dakar.