



Steering Committee Meeting

18 October 2002

Secretariat Report to the Steering Committee: June 2002 – October 2002 Draft for discussion

PARIS21 Secretariat

A - Overview

PARIS21 continues to make good progress since the last Steering Committee Meeting in June 2002. The demand from countries remains strong for regional workshops and national follow-up. Task team activity has been high. A new task team on *Improving Statistical Support for Monitoring Development Goals* has started work. The task team on *Rural and Agricultural Statistics* met in Paris in September to agree on a programme of work. The *Statistical Capacity Building Indicators* team has completed its work on developing a questionnaire to assess statistical capacity in countries.

PARIS21 held a country workshop in Malawi in July 2002. It was very well attended, with high-level stakeholders participating throughout, and a number of positive outcomes. The advocacy material produced by the Secretariat is developing, with the second issue of the quarterly newsletter and the advocacy film finished. The film features key political advocates for statistics and includes good practice in using statistics from Uganda and other countries of anglophone Africa.

This report presents the progress made to date, the updated work programme, and the financial tables.

B - Regional Workshops

After review of the past regional workshops, it is intended that the next workshops will include the following three specific elements:

- Each country delegation presents the key problems being experienced and success stories in developing the statistical system to meet users' requirements. A user and a producer present their cases separately.
- Donors respond to the problems presented by countries and outline their ongoing or planned programmes of support in the participating countries. The statistical needs of the international community are also addressed.
- The participants then propose actions and outline plans to be taken forward at the country and international levels.

During the coming months, preparatory meetings will be systematically held for each regional workshop.

B - 1 WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

Proposals for the West and Central African regional workshops were agreed in Bamako during a one-day meeting in June, held back-to-back with an AFRISTAT Comité de Direction. For the first time, most of the heads of national statistical offices in West and Central Africa met together (both francophone and anglophone), to plan the proposed regional workshops. The meeting agreed to hold two workshops.

WEST AFRICA REGIONAL WORKSHOP

The workshop will include the 15 member states of ECOWAS/CEDEAO and Mauritania. A preparatory group was formed to plan the workshop, including the Government of Senegal, the ECOWAS/CEDEAO Secretariat, AFRISTAT, and the PARIS21 Secretariat.

The workshop will be split into two parts comprising seven to eight countries in each. Every country will be invited to attend both parts with up to six delegates from countries to which the workshop relates directly and one or two delegates from the other countries.

- The proposed workshop dates are the third week of January 2003 in Dakar for the first session and 17–21 February 2003 in Abuja for the second.

- In Bamako, the heads of statistics from the countries involved agreed that the first group will be Cape Verde, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, and Sierra Leone; and the second group will be Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo.
- Preparatory work at the country level before the regional workshop will be undertaken systematically.

CENTRAL AFRICA WORKSHOP

- The workshop will cover the six members of CEMAC (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon) and Sao Tomé and Príncipe. Each country delegation will include up to six participants. In addition, neighbouring countries or francophone countries—Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Madagascar, and Rwanda—that have not yet taken part in a PARIS21 workshop will also be invited to participate, but with a delegation of only two people.
- The proposed date is the second week of December, pending a decision on the final date from the Cameroon government.
- A preparatory group was formed including the Government of Cameroon, the Executive Secretariat of CEMAC, AFRISTAT, and the PARIS21 Secretariat.
- Preparatory work at the country level before the regional workshop will be undertaken systematically.

B - 2 CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

The proposals for the Central America Workshop have progressed since the last report to the Steering Committee. The countries involved are Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. Other countries from the sub-region—such as Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Mexico—and from South America will be invited, in addition to international and regional organisations and bilateral donors.

El Salvador has confirmed that the government will host the three-day workshop during the second week of February 2003.

Objectives of the workshop specific to the region are to promote co-ordination between countries of the sub-region, ECLAC and SIECA, for better economic convergence and to promote results-based management.

Expected outcomes will include:

- (i) Outlining reform programmes for national statistical systems;
- (ii) Identifying means for better co-ordination with policymakers, local authorities and other users of official statistics;
- (iii) A recommendation on the need to establish a Statistical Commission for the Central American sub-region;
- (iv) Promotion of a plan of action in each country, which may include country workshops; and
- (v) Establishing a monitoring group to follow the regional programme.

Preparatory work for the meeting is already underway.

B - 3 ASIA REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

A preparatory committee has been established for the South East Asia workshop for Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The workshop will be organised jointly by the Asian Development Bank and PARIS21 Secretariat with the participation of the Government of Philippines and will be held between 7–9 November 2002 in Manila. The preparatory committee for the workshop includes representatives from the ADB, UN-ESCAP, SIAP, ASEAN Secretariat, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and Singapore.

As reported previously, other Asia regional meetings are planned:

- For Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan could take place in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic in June 2003 (tentative).
- For Pacific Island countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. It is hoped that the workshop could be planned to coincide with the triennial conference for Heads of Statistics Offices in September 2003.
- A workshop for South Asian countries and another for the remaining countries of the Asian region.

Preparatory work for the meetings is already underway.

B - 4 ARAB STATES REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

Following the agreement in April 2002 to invite all twenty-two members of the Arab League to the workshop, a suggestion has been made to divide the meeting into two parts, which are currently planned to take place in Amman, Jordan, by mid-January 2003 and to be hosted by the Department of Statistics of Jordan.

The workshop would be sponsored by the League of Arab States, international organisations represented in the region, as well as regional organisations and development banks. The UN-ESCWA would provide technical assistance for drafting the agenda and identifying speakers. A Programme Group with specific responsibilities was set up, and an implementation timetable was approved.

Preparatory meetings could be organised in Tunis during the League of Arab States' Statistics Commission meeting 25–27 October 2002.

C - COUNTRY FOLLOW UP

C - 1 Malawi

PARIS21 was asked to assist in developing the role of statistics in the Malawi Poverty Reduction Strategy. The workshop took place in Blantyre from 24–26 July 2002. The Malawi UNDP office funded the local costs. PARIS21 funded consultants and international experts who brought their experience to the Malawi debate.

Previous visits by PARIS21 had highlighted several problems in providing the statistics for the PRSP. These included the institutional tensions between the key stakeholders in Malawi, the lack of baseline data, the needs to reinstate the unified statistical service and cost the poverty reduction targets.

The 120 participants included top civil servants, five members of Parliament - including the Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee, and active members of civil society. Illustrative of the demand for stakeholders meetings in SADC countries, Lesotho, Mauritius and Zambia participated in the meeting at their own expense.

The workshop featured two groups of parallel sessions, each with four groups. In the first group, the most popular sessions were Expenditure Tracking and Development Indicators of Input and Output. In the second, which focussed on developing forward plans, the stakeholders interest was overwhelmingly focussed on the institutional arrangements for the implementation and monitoring of the PRSP - primarily who was responsible

for doing what, an issue that was delaying the PRSP implementation process. This focus retained attendance by key senior staff throughout the workshop and gave a good platform on which to advocate for statistics and to promote good practice examples from neighbouring countries.

Consensus was reached during the workshop on many of the institutional arrangements for PRSP implementation. All groups made detailed plans for further development after the meeting. These were agreed in plenary.

Among the outcomes the following are significant:

- The UNDP Thematic Trust Fund on Poverty has made substantial funds available for follow up, including for further development of the NSO common database (MASEDA) for all users of statistics in Malawi and the appointment of a co-ordinator.
- The common statistical service in Malawi is to be reinstated, to enable the NSO to co-ordinate and harmonise all the official statistical operations in Malawi, including those in line ministries.
- An outline plan for the development of a Master Plan for the wider Malawi statistical system was agreed, and this will be developed further after the meeting.
- An outline poverty-monitoring plan was agreed for further development by the NEC.
- It was agreed that an adequately resourced dissemination plan was required, focussing on the needs of stakeholders, with a defined timetable, common standards, training, multidisciplinary analysis teams, and clearly agreed media channels for dissemination.
- A programme and timetable for settling the unresolved institutional arrangements was agreed, with the NEC taking the lead.
- PARIS21 helped to broker a twinning arrangement between Malawi and South Africa, sponsoring by the World Bank, to support poverty monitoring, particularly expenditure tracking.
- With support and advice from the Southern Africa Regional Poverty Network (SARPYN), refinement of the tools civil society use in the next budget monitoring exercise. This resulted from a subsequent civil society workshop organised by the National Democratic Institute to provide better understanding of the range of budget monitoring activities underway and co-ordinate their efforts.

C - 2 South Africa

As noted in the last report, South Africa had its first country workshop from 3–6 April 2002. A ministerial request for a plan for the statistical system in South Africa and for a national indicator set to measure policy performance throughout government is now being urgently pursued in South Africa. PARIS21 was able to supply a consultant at short notice to South Africa to assist with the statistics plan. This plan has now been completed and will shortly be released. The World Bank Trust Fund is expected to reinforce this work and to assist with follow-through.

C - 3 Zambia

Zambia funded a policy planner and a statistician to attend the Malawi meeting. Immediately afterwards, the Malawi workshop, the new Director of Statistics of Zambia requested PARIS21 assistance in developing a strategic plan for the statistical system to provide the key data required for the PRSP. Key donors active in Zambia agreed that PARIS21 would collaborate with existing and proposed donor programmes to maximise the effectiveness of all involved. PARIS21 may be able to provide the consultant requested.

C - 4 Other countries

The Secretariat has received specific requests from Albania, the Central African Republic, Chad, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Country activities (including missions and workshops) will be undertaken during the fourth quarter of 2003.

D - Task Teams and Studies

Brief updates for the task teams that have been particularly active during the period under review:

- Strategic Statistical Development Plan

The Strategic Statistical Development Plan task team has identified country experiences and best practices to produce a guide for the formulation of national statistical development plans. In an effort to study the links between national/regional and sector/national planning and to make recommendations on the preparation and implementation of sequenced information strategies, the team wrote three preliminary documents in French. The task team has organised a meeting on 15 October 2002 to prepare a proposal for building synergy between international initiatives on strategic statistical development plans.

- Statistical Capacity Building Indicators

Following an IMF-hosted seminar in Washington 29–30 April 2002 and a presentation to the Steering Committee in June 2002, the task team on Statistical Capacity Building Indicators created an amended version of the questionnaire to assess statistical capacity using a number of indicators. A final report together with the questionnaire will be submitted on 18 October at the annual Consortium meeting.

- Rural and Agricultural Statistics

The team on Rural and Agricultural Statistics hosted a high-level “Seminar for a New Partnership in the Promotion of Rural and Agricultural Statistics in Supporting Poverty Reduction and Food Security in Africa” from 16–17 September 2002 in Paris. More than 50 participants attended the seminar, including representatives from 17 bilateral, regional, and multilateral agencies as well as statisticians and policymakers from 13 African countries. A proposal for “Strengthening Agricultural Statistics for Poverty Reduction and Food Security in Rural Africa” was approved at the meeting. The report of the seminar is being prepared.

- Improved Statistical Support for Monitoring Development Goals

The newly formed task team originally scheduled its first meeting for 12–13 September 2002. That meeting was postponed until 15 October 2002 to coincide with the annual PARIS21 meetings. The team convenors will present a report on its debut meeting to the Consortium on the morning of 18 October 2002.

A proposal to work together with the Rockefeller Foundation on developing a task team to look at cross-sectoral statistics and poverty was discussed this quarter. The Secretariat also received a proposal to work with the Rio Group on Poverty Analysis.

E - Information Sharing

During the period under review, the publication and dissemination of the newsletter has been very well received. The newsletter will become a key element of information sharing for PARIS21. The PARIS21 film “Measuring the Change in World Poverty” will also be instrumental in advocating for results-based management and statistics.

- Newsletter:

After a very successful debut issue of the PARIS21 newsletter in April 2002, the Secretariat published its second issue in July 2002. In the second issue, the Secretariat opened the newsletter to country-level input, with submissions from Mauritania, Peru, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Tunisia. The newsletter is published in English, French, Spanish, and Arabic. The Secretariat intends to add a Russian version for the third issue, due out in November 2002.

- Web Site

The PARIS21 website is updated regularly. The Secretariat routinely posts the agendas, papers, presentations and reports from its meetings. New items include the June 2002 PARIS21 Steering Committee meeting; the Rural and Agricultural Statistics task team’s meeting from September 2002; and the Malawi workshop from July 2002.

A page has been created for the new task team on Improved Statistical Support for Monitoring Development Goals. During this reporting period, the Secretariat also posted features on the recent DFID publication “Statistics Matter: Eliminating World Poverty” and an article written by the African Development Bank Statistics Division on a “Pilot Study on the Construction of Purchasing Power Parities.” The second issue of the PARIS21 newsletter has been placed online in its four languages, in both text and PDF formats. An online version of the PARIS21 membership form was also made available on the site and has resulted in a significant number of submissions.

The jobs page advertised recent positions available with the United Nations Mission in Angola and the United Nations Development Programme in Lesotho and Zanzibar.

- Advocacy film

A 25-minute advocacy video is now complete, entitled ‘*Measuring the Change in World Poverty*’. The documentary film starts with the international agenda on poverty reduction and indicators, covers results-based success stories in Uganda, and discusses indicators and the need for better statistics. The film features interviews with H.E. President Yoweri Museveni (Uganda), Rt. Hon. Clare Short (UK), and the Hon. Trevor Manuel (South Africa) plus a number of experts in poverty, health, and statistics from anglophone Africa. The audience is expected to be primarily professionals working in the statistical field in anglophone Africa. A shorter 10-minute version for policymakers is also complete. Versions for francophone and lusophone Africa are now being planned. The film will be available in both video and DVD-enabled CD-ROM formats.

The film uses a catch phrase, promoted by Trevor Manuel, ‘*If You Can’t Measure It, You Can’t Manage It*’. The message of the film is that you cannot manage a successful development programme if you have not identified the targets for your programmes and monitored with statistics whether policies and programmes have been successful or not. It focuses on indicators and statistics as part of good governance and of meeting the Millennium Development Goals. Some of the weaknesses in current statistics are identified.

The filming of the South African Development Indicators workshop also produced a number of filmed 20-minute presentations. It is proposed to develop a Country Workshop Pack, a do-it-yourself kit for use by country agencies and their partners who would like to consult with stakeholders on statistical systems. It would comprise;

- ❖ A practical workshop guide – how to organise a stakeholders workshop
 - ❖ The films – the full 25-minute version and a 10-minute cut-down version for busy policymakers.
 - ❖ Filmed presentation of Margaret Kakande (Uganda) – Tips for developing an indicator system for poverty monitoring.
 - ❖ Filmed presentation of Servacius Likwelile (Tanzania) – Developing a Poverty Monitoring Plan.
 - ❖ Filmed presentation of Ben Kiregyera – Developing a Statistical Plan
- Document Database

The Secretariat continues to gather country-level documentation for eventual inclusion in its document database. Representatives from Eurostat visited the Secretariat in September to present their documentation database system (CIRCA) for possible use by PARIS21. Once selected, the database will manage and present country statistics-related documents. The Secretariat will collect the documents, translate abstracts where necessary, and input them to the database, as a resource for all PARIS21 members and to facilitate the sharing of information.

F - PARIS21 Management

- Evaluation

At the last Steering Committee meeting, it was agreed that PARIS21 should be reviewed in full in 2003. The review will be related to the goals of PARIS21: including increased political support for statistics; integration of strategies for the production, analysis, and use of statistics in national development strategies; a more effective user–producer dialogue; and improved collaboration between all partners. The evaluation will measure outcomes directly under the control of the initiative, such as effective funding and implementation of the work plan and use of outputs from task teams, as well as broader ones such as the influence exerted on senior decision-makers to give greater priority to statistics and results-based management. The broader issues would also include greater commitment by developing and transition countries to better statistics and by donors to better co-ordinate their statistical capacity-building efforts. The evaluators will also be asked to make proposals for improving the effectiveness of PARIS21. These proposals will be used to develop any proposal to extend the life of PARIS21 beyond 2003 and should also include a review of the governance arrangements.

A small sub-committee—which could comprise two members of the DAC Working Party on Aid Evaluation, a member of the PARIS21 Secretariat, and a representative of the Steering Committee—will oversee the PARIS21 evaluation. It is proposed that a company be engaged to take on the management of the process and to provide an experienced evaluator and to hire experts in development and statistics. Preference will be given to proposals showing strong competence in the areas of development and evaluation. Draft terms of reference will be discussed by the Steering Committee and will be forwarded to the Working Party on Aid Evaluation, for their comment and nominations to the sub-committee. The evaluation will commence in December and report by April 2003.

- Membership

A review of the membership was started by the Secretariat in March 2002. A new category of member was created, PNM or partner non-member, this category corresponds to the potential members identified, participants who have attended meetings, contacts made during missions, etc. An on-line membership form is now operational and has already produced a significant number of new members. The total number of ‘contacts’ including PNM’s is 1314. This can be broken down into 748 members and 566 PNM’s.