

## Record of the Proceedings

Chair: Shaïda Badiee

### I. Opening Statement

1. The chair welcomed participants and explained that the intention of this meeting is to report on where PARIS21 and the World Bank's Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) are in terms of funding and to see if any adjustments need to be made.

### II. PARIS21 Funding and Donor Issues

2. The Secretariat presented its financial situation, including planned expenditures. The funding gap for 2010 should be closed if the agreements currently under discussion are concluded. For the biennium 2011–12, the provisional budget is 7M Euros. The impact of the DDDS on Secretariat activities and the next biennium's budget is still to be evaluated.

#### *Discussion*

3. The World Bank representative announced they are committed to continue contributions to the three PARIS21 work streams that they have funded in recent years (*i.e.*, NSDS, IHSN, ADP) up until 2013. The representative from the United Kingdom said that they have been working with PARIS21 to iron out administrative details to transfer 2M pounds over the next four years. The Eurostat representative confirmed that they contributed 150K Euros to PARIS21 last year and this year to fund advocacy activities and foresee contributing 100K Euros next year. PARIS21's developing country co-chair called attention to the increased workload requested of the Secretariat during the Consortium and commented that it would be difficult to assign budget figures to these activities. He wondered at what point PARIS21 will know how much this will cost and what impact it will have on the budget shortfall.

### III. TFSCB Funding and Donor Issues / Status Report on the Statistics for Results Facility

4. The World Bank representative outlined the objectives and status of funding issues in the TFSCB. He announced that the Bank is closing TFSCB1 and requested the Steering Committee's permission to transfer its balance to TFSCB3. After the transfer of 950 thousand dollars from TFSCB1, 5.5M dollars would be available in the TFSCB. If applications are received at the same rate that they are currently being submitted, the TFSCB can operate for another 18 months to 2 years with current funds. He commented that the demand for NSDS applications is declining, possibly because many countries already have an NSDS in place. He added that some of the outdated NSDS could be updated with TFSCB financing. He also requested feedback on whether TFSCB funds ought to be made available to countries to finance some NSDS implementation activities, particularly in conflict countries. He said that the TFSCB underwent an elaborate evaluation and that the Bank will very shortly provide an official response to the final report. The report gives clear indications on the way forward.

5. The World Bank then representative outlined the objectives of the Statistics for Results Facility (SRF), which will provide catalytic funds up to 7–10M dollars for NSDS implementation activities, focusing on the poorest IDA countries. The duration of SRF projects is a maximum of five years. The SRF Council has held its first meeting and approved its charter and list of pilot countries: Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Nigeria, and Rwanda.

6. Mr. Bodin then presented the TFSCB Advisory Panel report (which will be published in two to three weeks). The report contains 18 recommendations. The TFSCB is being more and more frequently solicited to fund the participation of statisticians from poor countries at international conferences. This is important but he questioned if the TFSCB is the mechanism best suited to fund this type of activity. He recommended that a calendar of events be prepared well in advance to plan out this funding, as there are too many urgent requests at the last minute.

### ***Discussion***

7. The representative from the Netherlands commented that it is of limited use to design an NSDS if there is not a resource mobilisation effort undertaken in parallel. He asked what role PARIS21 and the TFSCB will play in mobilising more resources for NSDS design and implementation. PARIS21 should confront donors about their commitments or even lack of commitments, the PRESS being a useful tool to inform such discussions. The World Bank commented that the SRF provides a good incentive to countries and donor representations in countries, while the United Kingdom representative recognised that the SRF pilot countries are quite difficult ones in which to work and encouraged other donors to contribute to this Facility. The African Development Bank representative promised that his institution would work very closely with PARIS21 to co-finance activities in Africa.

8. The Eurostat and European Commission representatives pointed out that the multiple funding instruments cause confusion in countries and present difficulties in terms of co-ordination and alignment for donors. The Partnership runs the risk of duplicating efforts and unnecessarily complicating processes, both for countries and donors. The chair recommended that the PARIS21 and TFSCB evaluations be reviewed in greater depth and that a special discussion on funding strategies be organised at the June 2010 Steering Committee meeting. Participants agreed to form an expert group to develop thoughts and suggestions on this funding strategy. This group will be composed of the African Development Bank, EC, Netherlands, United Kingdom, and World Bank.

### **IV. Closing Remarks**

9. The chair closed by remarking that PARIS21's funding situation is stable for 2010, assuming that there are no major changes to the 2010 work programme and that funding commitments are signed in time. The TFSCB has enough money for 18 months to move forward.