



## **Steering Committee Meeting**

**15 October 2003**

### **Addendum to June 2003 Progress Report (July 2003 – September 2003)**

**PARIS21 Secretariat**

# Description of PARIS21 Activities

## ***A – PARIS21 Management***

### **Evaluation**

The final report of the PARIS21 Evaluation was received from OPM in August and is available on the PARIS21 website at [www.paris21.org/html/workshop/sc0703/eval\\_final.pdf](http://www.paris21.org/html/workshop/sc0703/eval_final.pdf).

### **Consortium Meeting**

It was agreed that the Consortium Meeting planned for October 2003, would be postponed until June 2004.

### **Steering Committee**

Propositions for the modalities of future elections have been received from African, Latin American and CIS representatives. The election process will be discussed during the meeting on October 15 (see document P21-SC2-03-GOV)

### **Individual Membership**

Nearly two thousand 'partners' (i.e., members and other members) are currently registered as of 30 September 2003. A new on line form will be in place in the coming months whereby existing members will be asked to renew their membership to the new phase of work of PARIS21, and new members will be able to register directly on line.

### **General Administration**

On 9 May 2003, the PARIS21 Secretariat, along with the rest of the OECD's Development Co-operation Directorate, relocated from its offices at the OECD headquarters at La Murette to the Tour Europe building at La Défense. PARIS21's mailing address, phone numbers, fax numbers, and email addresses all remain the same. (See information sheet on 'How to find us')

### **Human Resources**

Since the last steering committee meeting, the secretariat has gone from 10 to 7 members. It is intended to replace these staff members as soon as the work programme is agreed, and the funding secured.

### **Partnership/Fund Raising**

Several meetings have taken place between PARIS21 and OECD/DAC country members in order to deepen partnerships. So far, contacts have been made with Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Portugal and Spain. During these meetings, the principles of PARIS21 were explained and the future work programme (2004 to 2006) described.

PARIS21 participated in the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities meeting lead by the UN, 8–10 September 2003, in Geneva. The following points were discussed;

- Technical discussions on the Consolidation of regional and global data
- The proposition of a common international statistical system
- The place of PARIS21 within the international statistical community, it was suggested that PARIS21 could be in charge of identifying the reasons for missing data.

PARIS21 was present at the Biennial meeting of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) conference from 13-20 August in Berlin. During the conference, 2 members of the secretariat attended to present and discuss the activities of PARIS21. The conference was also a good opportunity to register new members.

## ***B – Knowledge Base and Advocacy***

### **Advocacy films**

Since the last Steering committee Meeting in July, additional subtitled versions have been added to original English-language film on DVD, entitled *Measuring the Change in World Poverty*. The subtitles currently exist in French, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian. A separate Arabic sub-titled version also exists on CD-ROM.

Work has begun to produce a francophone video for Africa using previously recorded interviews of prominent francophone and anglophone politicians.

### **Workshop Guide**

The final version of the guide for partners wishing to undertake stakeholders' workshops is now available and will be presented at the Steering Committee Meeting on 15 October 2003. (P21-2003-WK-02)

## ***C – Information Exchange***

### **Website**

The secretariat intends to 'over-haul' the current site, taking into account the expanding number of media files and new features, and plans to have countries manage their PARLISTAT web pages directly.

### **PARLISTAT**

A consultant from Mali worked with the PARIS21 secretariat in August 2003 to develop a pilot for PARLISTAT and to find the basis of a general guideline for this matter.

A draft for Honduras and Equator has also been prepared.

## ***D – Task Teams and Studies***

### **Census**

The secretariat has participated in the preparation of the November meeting, UNFPA/PARIS21 International Expert Group Seminar: Population Census Data Dissemination, Use and Advocacy to be held 10–12 November 2003 in Pretoria, South Africa. A videoconference call linking representatives from PARIS21, UNFPA, DFID, and Statistics South Africa was organised in August 2003 to coordinate preparations for the meeting.

### **Strategic Statistical Development Plan**

A preliminary guideline has been prepared by PARIS21 secretariat to be presented to the steering committee. This guideline includes the main important aspects of the elaboration and implementation of the plan. It must be conducted by the highest level of government decision, as it concerns all the actors of the national statistical system and its partners.

### **Rural and Agricultural Statistics**

The task team will hold a meeting in coordination with the 18th Session of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS) in Yaoundé, Cameroon, 26–30 October 2003.

## **Improved Statistical Support for Monitoring Development Goals**

On 17 September 2003, the task team representatives met with UNSD and UNDP. The main issue discussed was the team's work programme. This has two main parts: a set of country case studies to review country capacity and an international study. The work plans of the country study teams will be presented at the next meeting of the UN MDG Inter-agency group, to be held in Geneva in November 2003.

### **Tools and Methods**

Legal and financial arrangements between OECD and EC are underway. The presentation for the OECD Council is being prepared.

### **Other**

Since the presentation of the new task team on 'Better use of multisectoral data, for decentralised governance and local accountability,' there have been further discussions with the Rockefeller Foundation on the implementation of this task team.

## ***E – Regional Workshops***

### **Arab States Regional Forum**

A PARIS21 regional Forum took place for the Arab States in Jordan last September. Hosted by the Jordanian Government, the Forum was co sponsored by the League of Arab states and PARIS21. Twenty out of the twenty-two members of the Arab League attended and represented the producer and user sides of statistics. A number of international organisations were also present. The Forum was opened by the Jordanian Minister of Planning, and the Palestinian Minister of Planning chaired a session. Some concluding points can be found below:

The participants of the Forum recognised that statistical development is more a policy issue than a technical one, and a sustainable national statistical system providing reliable, timely, relevant, and documented data is a crucial part of a good governance framework.

The need for a strategic statistical development plan was also endorsed by all participants, and several countries have asked for support to initiate the design of such plans.

The Forum endorsed also the Elements of an Integrated Regional Statistical Program for the Arab Region which will be discussed in detail with the relevant parties.

### **Asia Regional Workshops**

Discussions are underway with the Asian Development Bank to finalise the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and incorporate the ICP Programme in the joint activities.

## ***G – Reporting on Statistical Systems***

### **Statistical Capacity Building Indicators**

It is intended to use the SCBI questionnaire as a framework for a national auto-evaluation. In particular, Lebanon has expressed a strong interest.

## **Work Programme for October – December 2003**

The following activities are the continuation of the work programme previously agreed. Depending on the decisions of the Steering Committee in October 2003, it could be amended or changed.

### **Advocacy**

- *Why Statistics?* completed and launched with accompanying brochures
- Best Practices material added by December
- Adaptable advocacy material produced
- Stakeholder workshop guide finalised
- Film synopsis and script finalised for Francophone and Spanish-speaking countries
- Video clips library documented and available

### **Information Exchange**

- One additional newsletter produced and disseminated
- Regular updating of the website including country documentation, and new features depending on the decisions of the SC
- Implementation of rehailed website project
- Consultant roster available for consultation on web
- Pilot test of PARLISTAT and project document including budget and time table
- Participation in meetings

### **Task Teams and Studies**

- Census – Participation in the meeting to be held in Pretoria in November.
- Strategic Statistical Development Plan – The guidelines for integrated strategic statistical development plans will be finalised and translated. A TT meeting is planned.
- Improved Statistical Support for Monitoring Development Goals – Possible task team meeting, November 2003.
- Tools and Methods – Installation of the METAGORA team and start of activities.
- Agriculture Task Team – First progress report of the Interim Project and a task team meeting will take place in October 2003.
- Joint Meeting with ILO on Labour Statistics, December 2003.

### **Regional programmes and country follow-up**

- Support to UNECA Experts Group on peer review, and ABSA
- Preparation of Round II of Regional workshops for South and East Africa
- Support to RDC national workshop
- Follow up of Arab States Forum
- Preparation of Asia Workshops
- Follow up of Latin America workshops

### **Reporting Statistical Systems**

- Update of the guidelines for SCBI
- Concept note and implementation arrangements for the report on the use of statistics and the development of statistical systems

### **Fund Raising**

- Fund Raising strategy elaborated with donors and international institutions
- Launch of systematic fund raising activities in relation with the TFSCB