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PARIS21 ANNUAL REPORT ON 2009–10 ACTIVITIES AND THE FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

DAC Meeting, 24 September 2010

The document is submitted for DISCUSSION on the draft annotated DAC Agenda [DCD/DAC/A(2010)14].

It is PARIS21's annual activity report to the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

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ANNUAL REPORT BY THE PARIS21 SECRETARIAT ON 2009–10 ACTIVITIES AND THE FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

Background

1. PARIS21¹ is a partnership of policymakers, analysts, and statisticians, from countries and development agencies across the world. The partnership aims to stimulate greater demand, availability, and use of better statistics and statistical analysis in national, international, and civil society decision-making. This is achieved through advocacy, methodology development, information-sharing, promotion of donor collaboration, resource mobilisation, and other support for countries.

2. The main thrust of PARIS21 work consists in assisting developing countries in the design, implementation, and monitoring of national strategies for the development of statistics (NSDS) in order to have, *inter alia*, nationally owned and produced data for all Millennium Development Goal (MDG) indicators and all development policy needs. The overall goal of the Partnership is to develop a culture of management for development results.

Progress in PARIS21 Activities in 2009 and the First Half of 2010

Organisation of the PARIS21 Consortium Meeting

3. As reported at the 9 December 2009 meeting of the DAC², PARIS21 held a meeting of its Consortium in Dakar, Senegal, from 16 to 18 November 2009. The main output of the meeting was a “Dakar Declaration on the Development of Statistics – DDDS”³ which represents a central framework for statistical development over the coming years.

4. With the new impetus that the DDDS provides to statistical capacity building in general and PARIS21 work in particular, the Partnership updated its working procedures to adapt to the evolving environment. A new strategy for the Partnership covering the period 2010–2014 was agreed, taking into account the results of the Consortium meeting. Among the priorities identified is the need to develop stronger linkages with data users and analysts. At the June 2010 meeting of the PARIS21 Steering Committee, participants approved a new logical framework. The framework sets out common goals that the Partnership would like to achieve over the next five years. Assigning objectively verifiable indicators to the framework with baselines, milestones, and targets proved quite challenging (in particular, to measure the use of data and the quality of NSDSs). In response, the Partnership established a task team to define and agree the indicators to measure Partnership progress through the logical framework. The Steering Committee also agreed new governance arrangements, dissolving then reconstituting itself as a Board, with

¹ The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) is hosted by the OECD’s Development Co-operation Directorate and was launched at a meeting convened by the DAC in November 1999. See summary record [DCD/DAC(2000)4].

² See document DCD/DAC/RD(2009)17/RD1.

³ See document DCD/DAC/RD(2009)17/RD7.

a wider representation from developing countries, all while maintaining the balance between recipients and donor institutions.

5. To secure funding for its future programme of work, the PARIS21 Secretariat launched a financing strategy that involved contacting all DAC members and observers. The first phase of this strategy has already been implemented to fill the funding gap for the remainder of 2010; the second phase, to be carried out in late 2010 and early 2011, will seek funds for the 2011–14 quadriennium.

6. Among the reforms agreed in the wake of the Consortium meeting, the PARIS21 Secretariat restructured its work programme along the following lines: (i) *co-ordination* of stakeholders to better address an evolving agenda, (ii) *advocacy* for increased use and development of statistics, (iii) promoting better-quality and effectively implemented *NSDSs*, and (iv) improving *knowledge for statistics*, by stimulating increased demand for and better use of data. Progress in each of these work programme components is outlined below.

Co-ordination

7. To promote effective collaboration among development partners, the PARIS21 Secretariat has developed a Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS), which collects and analyses information on support to statistical development in developing countries from financial and technical partners. PRESS facilitates an easier exchange of information on statistical activities being carried out and planned in recipient countries.

8. The exercise draws on information provided in the DAC's Creditor Reporting System (CRS) for DAC members and on an adapted questionnaire submitted to partners who do not report to the CRS. While the PRESS does collect data on commitment and disbursement levels, it is not intended to be an accounting exercise but rather a tool for collaboration. It provides a snapshot of who is doing what and where.

9. In 2009, PARIS21 conducted the second PRESS round, covering the period 2007–09. Among the key messages that emerged are the following:

- Financial support to statistics is relatively small. For most recipient countries, disbursements to statistics represented around 0.1% of their GDP.
- Statistical support is highly concentrated: a mere thirteen countries (Afghanistan, Albania, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, and Ukraine) had estimated disbursements that combined to total nearly 40% of worldwide estimated disbursements and 55% of total country-specific disbursements.
- Partner collaboration in statistical development, though found in various forms, needs to be strengthened. At country level, some recipient countries have established a donor collaboration mechanism in statistics (e.g., Lao PDR, Mali, Tajikistan), which could serve as examples for other countries.
- The focus of much of the statistical support continues to be toward institutional development and support to large activities (population/agricultural censuses and household surveys). This could be partly explained by underreporting of statistical components in larger projects or in projects where the decision is taken at the country level and never reported to the partner's headquarters.

10. The 2010 Round of the PRESS is currently being conducted, and its results will be published on the PARIS21 website on 20 October 2010, to coincide with the World Statistics Day celebrations. The data collected will also be freely accessible from the OECD.Stat site.

Advocacy

11. Since its creation, PARIS21 has played a key role in advocating for increased involvement of national stakeholders in statistical development and enhancing the status of statistics in major international initiatives. To help national statistical system managers and statisticians in developing countries with their own advocacy work, PARIS21 developed a Country-level Advocacy Toolkit. Through advocacy methodological advice, tools, tips, and messages, the Toolkit focuses on statistical advocacy as a means to convince policy-makers, civil society, the media, NGOs, and representatives of multilateral and bilateral agencies in developing countries of the importance of statistics in the wider context of development. It also provides guidance on making the case for developing countries to have a well-prepared, adequately funded, and successfully implemented NSDS.

Support to NSDS Processes

12. PARIS21's support to NSDS processes includes various components such as the promotion of national partnerships, the mobilisation of technical and financial resources, and on-demand advisory services to countries. The geographical coverage of countries is showing greater balance with new countries in the Anglophone Africa, Arab States, Caribbean, and Pacific sub regions benefiting from PARIS21 support. In addition, separate regional workshops on NSDS were held for Caribbean states and Pacific Island countries and territories, with representatives from each region sharing their perspective with the other. The Secretariat also organised several meetings to define a programme of support to fragile and post-conflict states, which draws heavily on the recommendations of the DAC International Network on Conflict and Fragility.

13. The Secretariat regularly reports on worldwide progress in designing and implementing NSDSs, covering International Development Association (IDA) borrower countries, lower middle income countries, and all countries in Africa. Of the 118 countries covered, over 93% had adopted the NSDS approach. This includes 98% of African countries. Nearly 52% of countries globally were implementing a statistical strategy, 31% were designing a strategy, and 10% were planning one. Most of the countries that are not in the midst of an NSDS process are in general special cases, for example, fragile or small island developing states.

Knowledge for Statistics

14. At the recommendation of the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics Advisory Board and with the approval of the PARIS21 Steering Committee, DAC, OECD Budget Committee, and OECD Council [see C/M(2006)6], the PARIS21 Secretariat implements two satellite programmes — the International Household Survey Network (IHSN) and the Accelerated Data Program (ADP) — as partnerships with the World Bank and with the active participation of many other international partners.

15. The ADP and IHSN have been very successful in improving data archiving/dissemination and harmonising survey programmes in developing countries. The tools and methodologies that these two programmes offer to the Partnership have been instrumental in stimulating increased demand for and better use of data.

16. The ADP has been supporting 65 countries worldwide under its Task 1 (microdata documentation, archiving, and dissemination). ADP Task 2 (assessment of data quality and harmonisation/improvement of survey methods) was piloted in Cameroon with UNESCO and Nigeria with

the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program. The World Bank, African Development Bank, GTZ, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community are contributing to the implementation of Task 1 at the country level. Sustainable capacities have been built in some countries who no longer need direct ADP support.

Future Directions of PARIS21's Work

17. PARIS21's future work will be organised along the new structure outlined in paragraph 6 above: co-ordination, advocacy, NSDS, and knowledge for statistics. Progress will be monitored with the indicators identified in the revised logical framework.

18. In terms of future work not mentioned above, PARIS21 proposes to accelerate its activities targeting the creation/enhancement of country-level partnerships of donors and national stakeholders. This is in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. PARIS21 will assist countries in establishing these partnerships and in identifying a lead donor with whom national authorities can regularly liaise on matters concerning statistical development. These efforts will be complemented by continued advocacy for a better integration of NSDSs in national development policy frameworks as well as support to establish a country-level PRESS to identify partner aid to statistics from the country perspective and government allocations to statistics.

19. In addition, PARIS21 will convene a task team to update the NSDS guidelines and enrich them with experiences gained over the past five years. In order to better mainstream sectoral statistics concerns into national strategies, specific support in the development of agricultural statistics will also be provided to three pilot countries (Lao PDR, Mozambique, and Peru) in collaboration with the FAO. PARIS21 will pursue similar support to statistics in the sectors of health, education, and environment in collaboration with relevant technical partners.

Issues for Discussion

20. The DAC is invited to:

- a) note document [DCD/DAC(2010)35];
- b) comment on the future directions of PARIS21's work, outlined in paragraphs 17 through 19.