

Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building

Report of the tenth meeting of the TFSCB Advisory Panel (AP) (January 28 - February 1, 2013)

**The World Bank
Washington DC, USA**

**February 14, 2013
Chandrakant A. PATEL
Jean-Louis BODIN**

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

| | |
|---------|---|
| AP | Advisory Panel (TFSCB) |
| BAPS | Busan Action Plan on Statistics |
| CATI | Computer Assisted Telephone Interview |
| CG | Consultative Group (TFSCB) |
| DECDG | Development Data Group in the Development Economics Vice Presidency (World Bank) |
| DQAF | Data Quality Assessment Framework (IMF) |
| ECASTAT | Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building in Countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia (Federation of Russia) |
| EDGE | Evidence and Data for Gender Equality Initiative |
| FAO | Food and Agricultural Organization |
| FY12 | World Bank's Fiscal Year finishing on June 30, 2012 |
| GDDS | General Data Dissemination System (IMF) |
| GFR | Grant Funding Request |
| IDA | International Development Agency |
| IMC | Internal Management Committee (TFSCB) |
| IMF | International Monetary Fund |
| ISI | International Statistical Institute |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| NSDS | National Strategy for Statistical Development |
| PARIS21 | Consortium Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21 st Century |
| SDDS | Special Data Dissemination Standards (IMF) |
| SIOD | Support for Implementation of Open Data in Developing Countries (TFSCB proposal) |
| SRF | Statistics for Results Facility (World Bank) |
| STATCAP | Lending program to support more efficient and effective statistical systems in developing countries (World Bank) |
| TFMF | Trust Fund Management Framework (World Bank) |
| TFSCB | Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (World Bank) |
| TTL | Task Team Leader (World Bank projects) |
| TWICT | Transport, Water, Information & Communication Technologies Unit (World Bank) |
| WB | The World Bank |

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Advisory Panel (AP) was created to conduct a yearly technical review of Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) activities and report its findings and recommendations to the Consultative Group (CG) during its Annual Meeting. As decided at the Third Meeting of the Consultative Group (CG) of the TFSCB held in Paris on October 6, 2002 the AP consists of two “external advisors”.

The 10th AP meeting was held on January 28 - February 1, 2013 at the Headquarters of the World Bank in Washington, DC. In its report, the AP concentrated its work on the repositioning of the TFSCB in the context of the objectives and goals based on the mandate established by the WB President and the Busan Action Plan on Statistics (BASP). The section II discusses the growth areas for the TFSCB future activities. The section III deals with the TFSCB funding. A review of 2012 activities, including questions regarding the management of the TFSCB, is presented in the section IV of this report. An Annex presents and analyzes the project proposals received by the TFSCB Administration Unit since the 9th AP meeting held in February 2012.

The AP proposes that the TFSCB focuses its priorities on five growth areas: (1) Develop Open Data tools and an assessment framework and encourage countries to adopt them to open up their data for full public access; (2) Increase knowledge and skills needed to use statistics effectively; (3) Improve statistical capacity of developing countries; (4) Ensure developing countries have timely and accurate data; and (5) Collaborate with international, regional and bilateral organizations on the improvement of health, education, gender, vital and agriculture statistics.

With regard to the future funding of statistical capacity building projects, the AP noted that the TFSCB resources have dwindled to a balance of about \$ 2 million of unallocated funds, but several avenues for fund raising seem to be available in 2013. There is urgency for obtaining such new funding. The AP was informed that some non-governmental foundations have expressed interests in funding implementation of *Open Government Data Program* in developing countries. Certain governments who were TFSCB donor partners in the past and some new prospective donor countries like some emerging countries could also be drawn in as some of the proposed growth areas could be of interest to them. On the other hand, the World Bank *2012 Trust Fund Annual Report* indicates that in FY12 four new umbrella facilities were established. It should be found whether TFSCB may have access to funding from the umbrella on capacity development and if so what kind of strategic alignment would be required.

During its 9th meeting, the AP recommended to the IMC to consider the submission of project proposals in two phases, the GFR being drafted after the agreement of the IMC on a letter of intention or a concept note explaining the objectives and expected results of the proposals is received.. The AU produced in April 2012 new guidelines and procedures as a follow-up of this recommendation. However, some IMC members are not completely satisfied with the way in which this new procedure was

implemented. The AP continues to support the 2-stage procedure but recommends that as soon as possible an assessment of the new guidelines be carried out with the aim of improving its operation so that it remains efficient, transparent and flexible. The AP also recommends that the AU looks at the possibility of restoring the second Fall Window.

Twenty-five proposals were presented to AU for the stage 1 and seventeen GFRs were finally proposed to the IMC for final decision during its meeting of September 19, 2012. The budget allocated for the sixteen approved or conditionally approved proposals was \$ 3.92 million (compared to \$2.24 between March 2011 and February 2012). The total funding has increased compared to the previous period but its trend has considerably decreased during the past five years. 48.7 % of the approved or conditionally approved proposals, and 54.5 % of the total budget allocated, were concerning the update or implementation of NSDS. The IMC accepted a request of \$245,000 from the ISI to facilitate participation of statisticians from developing countries in international conferences, seminars or workshops during the years 2013 and 2014.

Two proposals were linked to the Open Data Initiative – see the section II on TFSCB Future - Growth Areas of this report. The IMC finally decided to merge these two project proposals into a single one not exceeding \$500,000; at a second stage, country executed proposals will be submitted in order to bring this initiative to the country level. The AP supports this decision that is in line with one of the most important Bank's Presidency policies and the Action 2 of the BAPS that aims to *implement standards for data preservation, documentation and dissemination that permit full public access to statistics.*

In short, the AP proposes seventeen recommendations, the main ones are as follows:

- The TFSCB should focus its priorities on five growth areas : (1) Develop Open Data tools and an assessment framework and encourage countries to adopt them to open up their data for full public access; (2) Increase knowledge and skills needed to use statistics effectively; (3) Improve statistical capacity of developing countries; (4) Ensure developing countries have timely and accurate data; and (5) Collaborate with international, regional and bilateral organizations on the improvement of health, education, gender, vital and agricultural statistics.
- The DECDG should develop a concerted strategy and pursue all the available avenues for funding in 2013. . In particular it should approach some non-governmental foundations that have expressed interests in funding implementation of *Open Government Data Programme* in developing countries, certain governments who were TFSCB donor partners in the past and some new prospective donors in emerging countries as some of the proposed growth areas could be of interest to them.
- For the umbrella facility established under the TF Reform Programme on

capacity development, the DECDG should investigate the mandate, sources of funds, the magnitude of funds raised from each donor/partner, and the means used to raise funds and the possibility of accessing funds from this umbrella.

- The IMC should judge proposals on financing of goods more flexibly, rather than adhering strictly to 20 percent limit, when it comes to financing of IT enhancing efficiency of production and dissemination of data.
- An assessment of the new guidelines and procedures introduced by the AU in April, 2012 should be carried out as soon as possible with the aim of improving its operation so that it remains efficient, transparent and flexible.
- Pointed and clear instructions should be given to the TTLs to complete the template for stage 1 of the new procedure and not to proceed with GFR or other detailed work until their proposal is shortlisted.
- The AU should look at the possibility of preparing the list of shortlisted proposals through a face-to-face IMC meeting and restoring the second Fall Non NSDS Window.
- For the project proposals to be presented by non-IDA countries, a significant contribution from the requesting country comparable to the sum funded by the TFSCB should be asked.
- Whenever it is possible, sector/topical projects should preferably be financed through others facilities (e.g. the TF ECASTAT) or by sources external to the World Bank (e.g. FAO).

I. BACKGROUND

1.1. Organization of the work of the Advisory Panel (AP)

The AP was created to conduct a yearly technical review of TFSCB activities and report its findings and recommendations to the Consultative Group (CG) of the TFSCB during its Annual Meeting. As decided at the Third Meeting of the CG held in Paris on October 6, 2002 the AP consists of two “external advisors”¹ who meet the Administrative Unit (AU) in charge of the management of the TFSCB once a year at the Headquarters of the World Bank. These meetings are organized some weeks before the meetings of the Consultative Group that are held in Paris, in conjunction with the meetings of the Board of PARIS21, in order to prepare and present report based on the most recent facts and findings.

¹ See the rationale behind this decision and the terms of the reference of the AP in the reports of the previous AP meetings.

The 10th meeting of the AP was held from January 28 to February 1, 2013. The reports of the previous meetings are available on the World Bank Website.

1.2 Acknowledgments

The AP was provided with documents for review and discussions from project proposals submitted to the Internal Management Committee (IMC) of the TFSCB since the 9th meeting of the AP, in particular:

- the new TFSCB Guidelines and Procedures published by the AU in April 2012;
- the Procedural Guidance for small recipient-executed TF² prepared for TF managers and published on March 30, 2012;
- grants decisions taken by the virtual meetings of the TFSCB Internal Management Committee (IMC) in 2012 for the two proposals made under the NSDS window;
- the minutes of the IMC meeting held on September 19, 2012 for the proposals made under the Non NSDS windows;
- the Grant Funding Requests (GFR) for all proposals (with their Grant Financing Plans and Budget Tables);
- the documents received for preparing the short list at the end of the stage 1 of the new procedure according to the new TFSCB Guidelines and Procedures³.

It also received the *2012 Trust Fund Annual Report* presented⁴ to the WB staff on January 30, 2013 and profited on January 31 by a brief presentation of the toolkit prepared by the staff in charge of Open Data at DECDG (<http://data.worldbank.org/open-government-data-toolkit>).

The AP had comprehensive discussions with some members of the IMC in the World Bank: Grant Cameron (Manager, Development Data Group, DECDG, and Head of the IMC), Carolina Diaz-Bonilla (Latin America and Caribbean Region), Antoine Simonpietri (Africa Region), Barbro Hexeberg, Olivier Dupriez, and Neil Fantom (DDG, DECDG) and Amparo Ballivian (Open Data Unit, DECDG). The AP also met with Ingrid Ivins and Mustafa Dinc (AU and IMC). These discussions were fruitful and served to look forward to the future of TFSCB after more than 12 years of operational knowhow and expertise supported by the decision-making process which is now well established and allows for rapid and efficient clearance of project proposals.

² It is interesting to note that, in this Guidance, the terms *small grants* and *micro grants* refer to grants respectively below \$5 million and \$500,000. The grants for TFSCB projects are therefore micro grants according to this Guidance.

³ See the section IV of the report and its Annex for the presentation of the new procedures.

⁴ One member of the AP attended this presentation

1.3 Content of the AP Report

During its 10th meeting, the AP concentrated its work on the repositioning of the TFSCB in the context of the objectives and goals based on the mandate established by the WB President Jim Yong Kim at the last Annual Meetings and on the Busan Action Plan on Statistics (BASP).

The section II discusses the growth areas for the TFSCB future activities. The section III deals with the TFSCB funding. A review of 2012 activities, including questions regarding the management of the TFSCB, is presented in the section IV of this report. Finally, the AP recommendations are summarized in section V. As in the reports of the previous meetings, an Annex presents and analyzes the project proposals received by the TFSCB Administration Unit since the 9th AP meeting held in February 2012.

II. TFSCB FUTURE: GROWTH AREAS

*“Data are crucial to setting priorities, making sound policy and tracking results. Yet many countries have weak statistical capacity and lack reliable and updated economic and poverty data.”*⁵ To address this imbalance between demand and supply of timely and quality data, the World Bank President suggested in his speech:

- a) Invest in data and analytical tools building on the success of the Open Data Initiative; and
- b) Work with partners (in building statistical capacity) to ensure virtually all developing countries have timely and accurate data.

Based on this broad mandate established by the World Bank President, the Advisory Panel recommends that the TFSCB should focus its priorities on five growth areas by funding development and improvement. In fact it should be noted that the TFSCB is well-placed to complement the actions supporting capacity building as it has sustained broader partnership approach well over a decade for this purpose. :

1. Develop “Open Data tools and an assessment framework and encourage countries to adopt them to open up their data for full public access”⁶;
2. Increase knowledge and skills needed to use statistics effectively⁷;
3. Improve statistical capacity of developing countries;
4. Ensure developing countries have timely and accurate data; and
5. Collaborate with international, regional and bilateral organizations on the improvement of health, education, gender, vital and agricultural statistics.

⁵ Remarks made by the World Bank President Jim Yong Kim at the Annual Meetings Plenary Sessions, Tokyo, Japan, October 11, 2012.

⁶ Action 2, “A Busan Action Plan for Statistics”, Statistics for Transparency, Accountability and Results, at <http://www.paris21.org/busan-ation-plan>.

⁷ Ibid. Action 3 of “A Busan Action Plan for Statistics.”

2.1. Open Data Initiative

The meeting of the TFSCB Internal Management Committee, held on September 19, 2012, conditionally approved two grant proposals: a \$450,000 proposal for “Capacity Building for Open Statistics and Data Analytics in Developing Countries” and a \$500,000 proposal for “Support for Implementation of Open Data in Developing Countries (SIOD)”, under the condition that the two proposals be combined into a single one and the total of the grants not exceed \$500,000. The first initiative would develop and deliver assessment, analytic framework, and other IT tools for Open Data. The later initiative aims to bring “Open Data” to the country level, initially in pilot countries. DECDG should plan to develop further and finalize documentation and software for “Open Data” and on its success in the pilot countries, and ask PARIS21 to carry-out advocacy on “Open Data” to encourage interested and willing developing countries to seek funding on “Open Data”, eventually from the TFSCB. DECDG should actively seek the cooperation and funding from the TFSCB partners and interested NGOs for investment in the Open Data Initiative as advocated by the WB President. The AP supports this decision that is in line with one of the most important Bank’s Presidency policies and the Action 2 of the BAPS that aims to *implement standards for data preservation, documentation and dissemination that permits full public access to statistics.*

2.2. Increase Knowledge and Skills Needed to Use Statistics Effectively

Currently responsibilities for subject matter (topical/sector) areas of statistics are fairly distributed among international organizations in accordance with their mandates and expertise. The IMF has done considerable work on data dissemination and quality through the SDDS, GDDS, and DQAF. However, subject matter responsibility on enhancing the effective use of statistics has not been clearly allocated now. In accordance with Action 3 of the BAPS, DECDG should take the lead and develop programs by engaging experts to increase knowledge and skills on effective use of statistics. The programs could include development of innovative documentation and training materials for e-learning, provision of training to data producers and users (including the media), enhancing awareness on the role of data in setting developmental objectives and priorities and tracking outcomes and results, etc. Based on the framework for these programs, the mandate of the TFSCB be broadened to provide small grants, for technical assistance and training requests from developing countries, to increase domestic knowledge and skills for effective use of statistics..

2.3. Improving Statistical Capacity of Developing Countries

Most of the developing countries have prepared an NSDS through TFSCB grants and about twenty percent of them have implemented these strategies through their own resources or supplementing with either STATCAP loans, or as pilot countries under the SRF Catalytic Fund. There is still a great deal to be done to promote widespread implementation among developing countries. Some NSDSs have to be updated. Moreover, in accordance with the Action 1 of BAPS the NSDSs need to be strengthened

and refocused to address country level development priorities. The TFSCB in its update of the Guidelines may wish to suggest to countries that proposals for funding strengthening and refocusing the NSDS would be welcome. Moreover, it should also be noted that countries implementing the recommendations of the revised NSDSs will need additional funding support and the TFSCB is the most appropriate instrument to fund some of these activities. However, as regards the overall implementation of the NSDS in the countries, DECDG together with PARIS21 need to work out a broader strategy. In consultations with heads of NSOs either at international or regional forums,, it should be ascertained as to whether the STATCAP and SRF are sufficient tools for funding implementation in remaining developing and transition countries. If timely and robust actions are not taken on implementation now, the available NSDS may become outdated in building capacity to address data needs targeted at the throes of the 21st century.

2.4. Timely and Accurate Data

The IMF gave a big push since the years 1990s to timely and accurate data through the GDDS, Metadata Program and DQAF in developing countries. An increasing number of developing countries have also subscribed to more demanding standard SDDS. The World Bank devoted its own priorities to social and external debt data, ICP, and development indicators. Through the Open Data Initiative, dissemination standards and systems, the training and awareness on the effective use of statistics, and the World Bank's encouragement to the countries to focus their statistical capacity building strategies to national development priorities, pressure or demand should be built up once again to convince NSOs to deliver timely and accurate data. On the other hand development of statistical concepts and methodologies, procedures and innovative statistical tools, efficient hardware and user-oriented software on data production and dissemination and above all the enhanced implementation of NSDS should facilitate production of timely and accurate data. The TFSCB could contribute to this objective by providing grants to NSOs for certain NSDS implementation components and statistical training and to some extent for updating electronic hardware and software. In this connection the AP recommends that the IMC judge proposals on financing of goods more flexibly, rather than adhering strictly to 20 percent limit, when it comes to financing of IT enhancing efficiency of production and dissemination of data.

2.5. Collaboration With Other International and Bilateral Organizations

The Advisory Panel in its Report of the 9th Meeting (March 2, 2012) pitched for collaboration with other institutions on agriculture, health, education, gender and vital statistics. In fact the BAPS endorsed the support for gender and vital statistics. The launch of initiatives such as the *Implementation Strategy of the Global Action Plan to Improve Statistics*, and the *Evidence and Data for Gender Equality Initiative (EDGE)* and the *World Bank Umbrella Trust Funds* will help fill some gaps in Gender Statistics. In the area of agriculture, food security is still the burning issue and so is the demand for timely and accurate agriculture statistics. DECDG should continue to play an active role in building up partnerships in these areas and examine how the TFSCB could contribute to these efforts in its complementary way.

III. TFSCB FUNDING

TFSCB has evolved over a period of its operations into a sound financial and management tool for providing, in cooperation with the development partners, small grants to developing countries for statistical projects in a flexible manner. It has built up organization, management, guidelines and procedures for operations with well defined objectives. For years it was a multi-donors multi-recipients fund, but now it has culminated into a single donor multi-recipients fund. Its resources have dwindled to a balance of about US \$ 2 million of unallocated funds.

On surface this sounds gloomy and the AP recalls the recommendation #.1 it proposed during its 9th meeting⁸. But there should be calculated optimism as there is a support of the World Bank's management for investment in statistical capacity building and *Open Data Initiative*, possibility of securing funding for the BAPS and importance being given to gender, vital and agriculture statistics. Based on this outlook and opportunities, the AP has considered five possible growth areas for TFSCB⁹. The DECDG should develop a concerted strategy and pursue all the available avenues for funding in 2013. The AP was informed that some non-governmental foundations have expressed interest in funding implementation of *Open Government Data Programme* in developing countries. Certain governments who were TFSCB donor partners in the past and some new prospective donor countries like Brazil, China or Korea¹⁰ could also be drawn in as some of the proposed growth areas could be of interest to them. The AP strongly recommends that the implementation of Open Government Data in individual countries be through an open window under the TFSCB umbrella. Therefore there is urgency for obtaining funding for such requests.

TFSCB operates within the guidelines established by the *World Bank's Trust Fund Management Framework (TFMF)*. The framework has four pillars:

- (1) Strategic Alignment
- (2) Business Process Integration
- (3) Cost Recovery and Efficiency
- (4) Oversight by Management and Board

2012 Trust Fund Annual Report states in the Section on World Bank Trust Fund Reform Programme that in FY12 four new umbrella facilities were established¹¹ in the areas of capacity development, gender equality, trade and education. For the umbrella on

⁸ Recommendation 1 of the report of the 9th AP meeting: An active fund raising campaign should immediately be launched by PARIS21 and the World Bank to provide robust and sufficient financing for repositioned TFSCB. New categories of donors may be approached.

⁹ See section II of this report

¹⁰ The Russian Government has signed in April, 2012, a US\$ 15 million grant with the World Bank to support its Multi-Donor Programmatic Trust Fund (ECASTAT) that will enhance capacity and address financial constraints of the statistical systems in Eastern Europe and the CIS, with an emphasis on IDA borrower countries.

¹¹ Page 14

capacity development, the DECDG should investigate the mandate, sources of funds, the magnitude of funds raised from each donor/partner, and the means used to raise funds. Moreover it should be found out whether TFSCB could have access to funding from this umbrella and if so what kind of strategic alignment is required. Overall experience on the operations of this umbrella is highly relevant to TFSCB.

Moreover the DECDG should periodically examine that the TFSCB remains closely aligned with Country Assistance Strategies (CASs) as well as with regional and sector strategies. Such strategic alignment can facilitate fund raising and eventual delivery of results that are targeted by the developmental objectives.

IV. REVIEW OF 2012 TFSCB ACTIVITIES

4.1. Management of the TFSCB

As noted in the previous reports of the AP meetings, the TFSCB has successfully operated, since its inception in 1999, in promoting medium- to long-term system-wide vision on statistical development in developing countries. Its financing has contributed to the design and creation of NSDS in a large number of countries. These NSDS have provided the basis for STATCAP projects of the World Bank or for country projects that are being implemented with financing from the SFR Catalytic Fund. In addition, TFSCB financing has contributed to the implementation of a large number of smaller country or regional, sector specific, and training projects on statistical capacity building..

Improved communication media created through World Bank and PARIS 21 websites led to a better understanding of TF goals and resulted in a greater percentage of proposals in line with the main objective of statistical capacity building. The mechanism for making decisions within the IMC is now well established and runs efficiently and allows NSDS proposals to be immediately reviewed as they are received under the “NSDS Window”. The AP has found that all decisions made during the meetings of the IMC were generally decided according to the guidelines after a well-informed thinking and debate.

During the 9th AP meeting held in February 2012, comments and suggestions were made by some members of the IMC to the AP for improving the preparation of the GFRs and the IMC decision process. One of the concerns they expressed was that (i) preparing a GFR is a long and somewhat hard and troublesome work and (ii) when the project proposal is rejected, the agency or TTL that has prepared the GFR may have the feeling to have wasted the time of those people that had prepared it. Therefore, the AP recommended¹² to the IMC to consider the submission of project proposals in two phases, the GFR being drafted after the agreement of the IMC on a letter of intention or a concept note explaining the objectives and expected results of the proposals is received...

¹² See the report of the 9th meeting – Recommendation 11

Therefore, the AU introduced in April 2012 new guidelines and procedures. The new procedure consists of two-stages: during the stage 1, TTLs submit, in consultation with the agency who has expressed interest, a short proposal (2 pages following a template recommended in the guidelines). After review, a short list is established by the IMC and shortlisted proposals are notified to the TTLs. During the stage 2, for each proposal the prospective grant recipient and the TTL complete the GFR that is sent to the IMC for review and decision making. Decisions were made by the IMC during a face-to-face meeting (held on September 19, 2012). Because of this 2-stage procedure, there was only one window in 2012;

.However, some IMC members were not completely satisfied with the way in which this new procedure was implemented. Their reservations were as follows:

- the stage 1 is burdensome: according to one IMC member, the work to be done by the TTLs for the stage 1 represents 80 % of the total work, which would not make the 2-stages procedure worthwhile¹³.
- lack of flexibility: the limitation to a single window has considerably delayed the consideration of proposals submitted after the 1st quarter of 2012.
- lack of transparency: according to some IMC members, they were only asked to endorse in a very short time a list of shortlisted proposals prepared by the AU¹⁴, without any opportunity of having an in-depth discussion through a face-to-face IMC meeting.

The AP was not in position to assess the merits of these comments. Nevertheless, it continues to support the 2-stage procedure but recommends that as soon as possible an assessment of the new guidelines be carried out with the aim of improving its operation so that it is efficient, flexible and transparent, e.g. pointed and clear instructions to the TTLs to complete the template for stage 1 and not to proceed with GFR or other detailed further work until their proposal is short listed. The AP also recommends that the AU looks at the possibility of preparing the list of shortlisted proposals through a face-to-face IMC meeting and restoring the second Fall Window.

On the other hand, the AP recalls its recommendation made during its 9th meeting: since the TTLs have generally very little time to really manage the projects, because of their small size that usually generates a problem for the cost/effectiveness of all the tasks to be done by TTL, it would be advisable to propose in the GFR some “tracking indicators” that could be used by the TTL to follow up easily the progress of each project.

4.2. Highlights of 2012¹⁵

¹³ Maybe this reservation was due to the fact that some GFRs were ready for submission in the weeks preceding the announcement of the revised guidelines and procedures, and the TTL and prospective recipient countries preferred not to follow the new rules.

¹⁴ The AU sent to all IMC members by e-mail on June 11, 2012, a list of pre-selected proposals along with the criteria used to assess them. The IMC members were asked to endorse this list within a 10-days delay but had the option to ask the AU to reconsider its recommendations.

¹⁵ The Annex gives further details on the project proposals received by the TFSCB AU in 2012.

The AP was provided with the list of twenty-five proposals presented to AU for the stage 1 and seventeen GFRs finally proposed to the IMC for final decision during its meeting of September 19, 2012. At the end of the stage 1, seventeen out of twenty-five proposals were shortlisted. Three shortlisted proposals were not followed by the preparation and submission of a GFR, The GFR for one shortlisted proposal was not reviewed because the Country Director had not sent his approval before the IMC meeting¹⁶. However two GFRs for proposals that were not shortlisted at the end of the stage 1 were nevertheless prepared and submitted through the Non NSDS Window to the IMC meeting.

The AP was provided with the seventeen proposed GFRs (fifteen proposals presented through the Non NSDS Window plus the two presented through the NSDS Window). The two proposals made through the NSDS Window were accepted by virtual IMC meetings. Only one of the fifteen proposals concerning world (proposed by the UN Population Division) presented through the Non NSDS Window was rejected. The two other proposals in the same category (proposed by the World Bank) were accepted under the condition to be merged (see also section 2.4 and Annex). The total percentage of proposals made through the Non NSDS Window that were not shortlisted after the stage 1 or rejected during the stage 2 is therefore 48 % (compared to 50 % during the previous period).

The budget allocated for the sixteen approved or conditionally approved proposals was \$ 3.92 million (compared to \$2.24 between March 2011 and February 2012, \$ 11.78 million for the two-year period between April 2008 and April 2010). The total funding has increased compared to the previous period but its trend has considerably decreased during the past five years.

48.7 % of the approved or conditionally approved proposals, and 54.5 % of the total budget allocated, were concerning the update or implementation of NSDS. The IMC accepted a request of \$245,000 (6.3 % of the total budget allocated) from the ISI to facilitate participation of statisticians from developing countries in international conferences, seminars or workshops during the years 2013 and 2014. This request was similar to the one presented by the ISI in 2011 for the years 2011 and 2012.

Two proposals were linked to the Open Data Initiative – see the section II on TFSCB Future - Growth Areas of this report. The IMC finally decided to merge these two project proposals into a single one not exceeding \$500,000; at a second stage, country executed proposals will be submitted in order to bring this initiative to the country level. The AP supports this decision that is in line with one of the most important Bank's Presidency policies and the Action 2 of the BAPS that aims to *implement*

¹⁶ One IMC member finds that this decision was overly bureaucratic and very detrimental to the country since the country director's approval came a few days later, so that the proposal could be reviewed under the condition of the arrival of this approval, which would have allowed the project not to be delayed by a year.

standards for data preservation, documentation and dissemination that permit full public access to statistics.

The remaining approved proposals were concerning sector specific activities e.g. agriculture and education. For some of them, it would have been possible to find other sources of funds e.g. ECASTAT or FAO.

4.3. Post-evaluation of Projects

During its 7th meeting (May 2019), the AP supported recommendation nr. 8 of the Independent Evaluation Report made in 2009 which stated that some form of evaluation could help to highlight lessons learned for the benefit of future projects (expansion of the role of the AP to include ex-post evaluation of sample projects, thematic evaluations, end-of-project evaluations of the largest projects). Therefore, the AP reiterates its recommendation nr. 5 of its 9th meeting. Post-evaluations of countries' NSDS work are necessary. DECDG and PARIS21 should collate and publish case studies for selected model countries (at least one for each region).

VI. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS¹⁷

1. The TFSCB should focus its priorities on five growth areas: (1) Develop Open Data tools and an assessment framework and encourage countries to adopt them to open up their data for full public access; (2) Increase knowledge and skills needed to use statistics effectively; (3) Improve statistical capacity of developing countries; (4) Ensure developing countries have timely and accurate data; and (5) Collaborate with international, regional and bilateral organizations on the improvement of health, education, gender, vital and agricultural statistics.
2. The DECDG should develop a concerted strategy and pursue all the available avenues for funding in 2013. In particular it should approach some non-governmental foundations that have expressed interests in funding implementation of *Open Government Data Programme* in developing countries, certain governments who were TFSCB donor partners in the past and some new prospective donors in emerging countries as some of the proposed growth areas could be of interest to them.
3. The projects aiming at implementing Open Government Data in individual countries should be submitted through an open window under the TFSCB umbrella.

¹⁷ This includes recommendations coming from the Annex that presents the update of the survey of the recent project proposals. It also includes some recommendations reiterated from the reports of the previous AP meetings.

4. For the umbrella facility established under the TF Reform Programme on capacity development, the DECDG should investigate the mandate, sources of funds, the magnitude of funds raised from each donor/partner, and the means used to raise funds and the possibility of accessing funds from this umbrella.
5. The DECDG should periodically examine that the TFSCB remains closely aligned with Country Assistance Strategies as well as with regional and sector strategies.
6. The IMC should judge proposals on financing of goods more flexibly, rather than adhering strictly to 20 percent limit, when it comes to financing of IT enhancing efficiency of production and dissemination of data.
7. An assessment of the new guidelines and procedures produced by the AU in April, 2012 should be carried out as soon as possible with the aim of improving its operation so that it is efficient, transparent and flexible.
8. Pointed and clear instructions should be given to the TTLs to complete the template for stage 1 of the new procedure and not to proceed with detailed further work until their proposal is short listed.
9. The AU should look at the possibility of preparing the list of shortlisted proposals through a face-to-face IMC meeting and restoring the second Fall Non NSDS Window.
10. "Tracking indicators" should be included in each GFR. They could be used by the TTL to follow up easily the progress of the projects .¹⁸.
11. Post-evaluations of countries' NSDS work are necessary. DECDG and PARIS21 should collate and publish case studies for selected model countries (at least one for each region)¹⁹.
12. Efforts should continue to be made by PARIS21 and the WB to encourage the countries to prepare more comprehensive NSDS really adapted to the situation of the statistical system, to tie up with the developmental objectives of the countries and to update, or to re-draft the NSDSs of the first generation.
13. The IMC should clearly specify when it is possible to include data collection components in the GFR.

¹⁸ Reiteration of the recommendation nr. 12 of the report of the 9th meeting.

¹⁹ Reiteration of the recommendation nr. 5 of the report of the 9th meeting.

14. For the project proposals to be submitted by non-IDA countries, a significant contribution from the requesting country comparable to the sum funded by the TFSCB should be asked.
15. Whenever it is possible, sector specific projects should be financed through alternative facilities (e.g. the TF ECASTAT) or by sources external to the World Bank (e.g. FAO).
16. Specific rules for making decisions on proposals submitted by World Bank units or by the secretariat of PARIS21 have to be prepared and submitted to the Donors' Committee²⁰.
17. The help provided by the TFSCB for facilitating participation in international conferences should be strictly used for conferences, seminars, and workshops within the scope of capacity building in official statistics²¹.

²⁰ Reiteration of the recommendation nr. 7 of the report of the 6th meeting.

²¹ Reiteration of the recommendation nr. 10 of the report of the 9th meeting.

ANNEX

UPDATE OF THE SURVEY OF THE RECENT PROJECT PROPOSALS RECEIVED BY THE TFSCB ADMINISTRATION UNIT (AU)

Since the 9th AP meeting held in February, 2012, and as mentioned in the section 4 of the report, new guidelines and procedures were proposed by the TFSCB Administration Unit in April 2012 to prepare TFSCB funding proposals. The new procedure consists of Two-Stage procedure.

During the Stage 1, TTLs submit, in consultation with the agency who has expressed interest, a short proposal (2 pages following a template proposed in the guidelines). After review, a short list is established by the IMC²² and shortlisted proposals are notified to the TTLs. During the Stage 2, the recipients and the TTLs complete the Grant Funding request (GFR) that is sent to the IMC for review and decision taking. Decisions were taken by the IMC during a face-to-face meeting (held on September 19, 2012). Because of this 2-stages procedure, there was only one window in 2012

The proposals presented through the NSDS Window are not affected by these new procedures.

Results of the Stage 1

Twenty-five proposals were received by IMC and seventeen were shortlisted. Three shortlisted proposals (one in the Latin America and Caribbean region – Argentina - and two in Eastern Europe & Central Asia region – FYR of Macedonia and Moldova²³) were not followed by the preparation of a GFR. One GFR for a shortlisted proposal (Mauritania) was not formally sent to the IMC meeting. On the request of some IMC members, two GFRs for proposals (World) that were not proposed by the AU for the shortlist at the end of the stage 1 were nevertheless prepared and submitted to the IMC meeting of September 2012.

Results of the Stage 2

Only two proposals were submitted through the NSDS Window. These two proposals were approved.

The AP was provided with the seventeen GFR proposals (fifteen proposals presented through the Non NSDS Window plus the two presented through the NSDS

²² A list of shortlisted proposals was prepared by the Administrative Unit and sent to the IMC members for endorsement.

²³ The title of the proposal presented by Moldova was “Capacity Building for Open Statistical Data”. The DEDCG proposed that its objectives will be taken by its Open Data project proposal by including Moldova in the list of pilot countries.

Window). The two proposals made through the NSDS Window were accepted by virtual IMC meetings. Only one of the fifteen proposals presented through the Non NSDS Window was rejected. Only one proposal concerning all regions (World) was rejected. The two other proposals in the same category (World) were accepted under the condition to be merged (see section 2.4). The total percentage of proposals made through the Non NSDS Window that were not shortlisted after the stage 1 or rejected during the stage 2 is therefore 48 % (compared to 50 % during the previous period).

The geographical distribution of the twenty-five proposals presented during the stage 1 was as follows:

| Region | Number of proposals | Number of shortlisted proposals | Number of GFR received during the Stage 2 | Number of accepted proposals |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Africa | 6 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| LAC | 6 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| MENA | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| South Asia | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| East Asia & Pacific | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Eastern Europe & Central Asia | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| World | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| TOTAL | 25 | 17 | 15 | 13 |

The two proposals presented through the NSDS Window concern the Africa region and the world. The geographical distribution including these proposals is:

| Region | Number of proposals | Number of accepted proposals |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Africa | 7 | 5 |
| LAC | 6 | 2 |
| MENA | 1 | 1 |
| South Asia | 4 | 2 |
| East Asia & Pacific | 1 | 1 |
| Eastern Europe & Central Asia | 4 | 2 |
| World | 4 | 2 |
| TOTAL | 27 | 15 |

The budget allocated for the 16 approved or conditionally approved proposals was \$ 3.92 million (compared to \$2.24 between March 2011 and February 2012, \$ 11.78 million between April 2008 and April 2010, and \$ 5.52 million between April 2010 and March 2011). The total funding has increased compared to the previous period but its trend has considerably decreased during the five past years.

During its 7th meeting, the AP supported the 4th recommendation of the evaluation report and proposed to adjust the ceiling of the grants from 400,000 to 500,000 US dollars (corresponding to an inflation rate of 2.25 % per year since 2000). Seven proposals (same number as in the previous period) presented a request above the former ceiling of 400,000 US dollars but four among these seven proposals were accepted with a reduced amount as the two proposals on open data presented by the World Bank were invited to merge. Finally only two projects were accepted over the former ceiling of 400,000 dollars.

Since the report of its 6th meeting, the AP classifies the proposals received by the TFSCB Administration Unit into six non-homogeneous²⁴ categories:

1. NSDS proposals (1 new proposal is identified in this category)
2. Country proposals concerning the implementation of NSDS (6 new proposals identified in this category)
3. Country proposals concerning sector specific activities (6 new proposals identified in this category)
4. Regional proposals made by multilateral institutions (3 new proposals identified in this category)
5. Proposals made by NGOs (no new proposal identified in this category)
6. Proposals aiming at facilitating the participation of statisticians from developing countries in international conferences, seminars or workshops (one new proposal identified in this category).

The statistics at the end of each section are presented with a reminder summary of the comparable ones presented in the reports of the previous meetings. In the column “Budget allocated”, the figures are presented in US dollars.

1. NSDS proposals (1 new proposal)

Only one new proposal might be considered as a new NSDS proposal, or an update of a former NSDS (or Statistical Master Plans), or a NSDS replacing “first generation” NSDS that did not comply with the guidelines proposed by PARIS21 after some years of experience.

| Window | Proposal | Region | Decision | Budget allocated in \$ |
|---------------|---|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| NSDS Window | Liberia – Update National Statistics Development Strategy | Africa | Approved | 60,000 |

²⁴ The three first categories are depending on the content of the proposals; the three last ones are depending on the different institutions (other than bilateral) having made the proposal.

| | | |
|---|---|---------------|
| TOTAL | | 60,000 |
| 3.7 % of the presented proposals 6.7 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved 1.5 % of the budget allocated | | |
| <u>Reminder: Statistics 9th AP meeting)</u> 15.0 % of the presented proposals 30.0 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved 18.7 % of the budget allocated | | |
| <u>Statistics (8th AP meeting)</u> 17.2 % of the presented proposals 20.8 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved 16.2 % of the budget allocated | <u>Consolidated statistics (6th and 7th AP meetings)</u> 13.5 % of the presented proposals 17.0 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved 14.4 % of the budget allocated | |

The limited number of new proposals is due to the fact that a very large majority of developing or transition countries have now prepared NSDS or Statistical Master Plans.

During its 6th meeting, the AP welcomed the initiative taken by PARIS21 to distribute a brochure on “NSDS Status in IDA and Lower and Middle Income Countries” in May 2009. This brochure was updated in February 2010, November 2010, November 2011, and October 2012. According to the last updated brochure, only 2.5 % of the IDA and low and middle income countries have no strategy or with strategy expired and not planning one (the figure was 25.6 % in May 2009, 20.3 % in November 2010 and 7.6 % in November 2011). But these percentages are somewhat misleading insofar as they confuse NSDS of the first and second generations. Efforts should continue to be made by PARIS21 and the WB to encourage the countries to prepare more comprehensive NSDS really adapted to the situation of the statistical system and to update, or re-draft the NSDSs of the first generation.

2. Country proposals concerning the implementation of NSDS (6 new proposals)

Proposals presented in this section concern methods on implementing validated NSDS but also focusing on the enhancement of NSDS through advocacy, evaluation, etc.

| Window | Proposal | Region | Decision | Budget allocated in \$ |
|-----------------|---|---------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Non NSDS Window | Chad – NSDS Implementation | Africa | Conditionally approved | 483,372 |
| | Comoros – Supporting Statistical Development | Africa | Conditionally approved | 360,133 <i>(requested 428,241)</i> |
| | Madagascar – National Statistical Development | Africa | Conditionally approved | 349,855 <i>(requested 465,765)</i> |

| | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------|--|--|
| | Maldives – Statistical Capacity Building (SCB) | South Asia | Approved | 200,000 |
| | Togo – NSDS Implementation | Africa | Conditionally approved | 375,842 <i>(requested 450,000)</i> |
| | Vietnam - Improvement of the Dissemination of National Statistics | Eastern Asia and Pacific | Conditionally approved | 308,300 |
| TOTAL | | | | 2,077,502 <i>(requested 2,219,768)</i> |
| 22.2 % of the presented proposals 40.0 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved 53.0 % of the budget allocated | | | | |
| <u>Reminder: Statistics (9th meeting)</u> 35.0 % of the presented proposals 40.0 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved 49.2 % of the budget allocated | | | | |
| <u>Statistics (8th meeting)</u> 13.8 % of the presented proposals 12.5 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved 15.4 % of the budget allocated | | | <u>Consolidated statistics (6th and 7th AP meetings)</u> 20.3 % of the presented proposals 20.8 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved 26.5 % of the budget allocated | |

The percentage of proposals concerning the implementation of NSDS that have been approved or conditionally approved and of budget allocated to these proposals is very similar to the figures observed during the previous period. The AP as well as the 2009 evaluation drew the attention of the TFSCB Administrative Unit to the importance of such projects. Three of these proposals are related to poor or fragile countries (Chad, Comoros, and Madagascar).

Improving the dissemination of national statistics (Vietnam) is one of the actions recommended by the AP during its 8th and 9th meetings. Some proposals have a training component; the AP welcomes such components since training is an essential requirement for strengthening capacities.

For two proposals (Comoros, Madagascar), the IMC decided not to finance data collection components, which is not permitted under TFSCB regulations. One question arose: should the use of mobile phones (Togo) be considered as having to be accommodated under the 20 % goods limit and not as an investment per se, since this innovative method for data collection may largely improve the quality of data collected (in the same way as CATI does). Some IMC members do agree that the TF has been set up to build statistical capacity and not simply to fund data collection activities but think that it is sometimes difficult to separate the data collection components from the other

objectives of the projects. The AP requests the IMC to clearly specify when it is possible to include such components in the request.

3. Country proposals concerning sector specific activities (6 new proposals)

Proposals presented in this section relate to specific statistical topics complementing the preparation or the implementation of NSDS:

| Window | Proposal | Region | Decision | Budget allocated in \$ |
|---|--|---------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Non SNDS Window | Armenia – SCB and Implementation Support for Pilot Agricultural Census | Eastern Europe and Central Asia | Conditionally approved | 200,000 <i>(requested 380,000)</i> |
| | Azerbaijan – Establishment of a Meta Information System | Eastern Europe and Central Asia | Conditionally approved | 250,000 <i>(requested 488,000)</i> |
| | Jordan – Technical Support for Statistical Capacity Building | Middle East and North Africa | Approved | 231,750 |
| | Pakistan – Improving the Scope and Usefulness of the Social and Living Standards Measurement | South Asia | Conditionally approved | 154,300 |
| | Paraguay – Strengthening Education Accountability and Information Systems | Latin American and Caribbean | Approved | 100,000 |
| | El Salvador – Indicators for Educational Opportunities | Latin American and Caribbean | Conditionally approved | 98,680 |
| TOTAL | | | | 1,034,730 <i>(requested 1,452,730)</i> |
| <p>22.2 % of the presented proposals 40.0 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved 26.4 % of the budget allocated</p> | | | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| <u>Reminder: Statistics (9th meeting)</u> | |
| 15.0 % of the presented proposals | |
| 10.0 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved | |
| 13.2 % of the budget allocated | |
| <u>Statistics (8th meeting)</u> | <u>Consolidated statistics (6th and 7th AP meetings)</u> |
| 37,9 % of the presented proposals | 20.3 % of the presented proposals |
| 41,7 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved | 13.2 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved |
| 39,8 % of the budget allocated | 15.7 % of the budget allocated |

During its previous meetings, the AP noted that financing sector specific activities may be an interesting and valuable complement to the NSDS, provided that such proposals have been made in countries having adopted and validated a NSDS, which is the case for the accepted proposals.

One of the project (Pakistan) will be Bank executed, if so decided by the South-Asia Vice-Presidency; this situation has to be exceptional.

The proposal from Jordan has been classified in this category despite its title because a large part of this proposal aims to redesigning and implementing the Jordan Household and Expenditure Survey.

Two recipient counties are non IDA countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan). However according to the TFSCB guidelines, *all member countries of the WB are eligible for the TFSCB funding, even if IDA countries will have some priority*. For the project proposals presented by non-IDA countries, one recommendation could be to ask a significant contribution (say 50%) from the country comparable to the sum funded by the TFSCB.

It has also to be noted that it would now have become possible to finance proposals such as the ones presented by Armenia and Azerbaijan through the TF ECASTAT funded by the Russian Federation.

The proposals classified in this category might also be sometimes financed by sources external to the World Bank, for instance FAO in the case of Armenia.

4. Regional /international proposals made by inter-governmental institutions (3 new proposals)

Proposals presented in this section refer to regional or multilateral proposals made by inter-governmental institutions.

| Window | Proposal | Region | Decision | Budget allocated in \$ |
|--|---|---------------|--|--|
| Non NSDS Window | UN Population Division – Innovative Methods for Estimating Reproductive Health Indicators | World | Rejected | (requested 140,007) |
| | WB – Support for Implementation of Open Data in Developing Countries (SIOD) | World | Conditionally approved | (requested 500,000; to be merged with the proposal for Capacity Building for Open Statistics in Developing countries; at a second stage, new recipient-executed proposals will be submitted) |
| | WB – Capacity Building for Open Statistics and Data Analytics in Developing Countries | World | Conditionally approved | (requested 450,000; to be merged with SIOD; at a second stage, new recipient-executed proposals will be submitted) |
| TOTAL | | | | 500,000 (requested 1,090,007) |
| 11.1 % of the presented proposals 20.0 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved 12.8 % of the budget allocated | | | | |
| <u>Reminder: Statistics (9th meeting)</u> 35.0 of the presented proposals 20.0 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved 18.9 % of the budget allocated | | | | |
| <u>Statistics (8th meeting)</u> 20.7 % of the presented proposals 16.7 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved 20.3 % of the budget allocated | | | <u>Consolidated statistics (6th and 7th AP meetings)</u> 25.0 % of the presented proposals 27.4 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved 34.5 % of the budget allocated | |

Two proposals were presented to the IMC by units in charge of Open Data policy within the World Bank, respectively DECDG (SIOD) and the TWICT Unit (Capacity Building for Open Government Statistics and Data Analytics in Developing Countries). The IMC decided to combine these two proposals into a single project not exceeding \$500,000; at a second stage, new recipient-executed proposals could be submitted.

However, the AP recalls that, during its 6th meeting, it recommended that specific rules for making decisions on proposals submitted by World Bank units have to be prepared and submitted to the Donor's Committee.

5. Proposals made by NGOs (no new proposal)

| Window | Proposal | Region | Decision | Budget allocated in \$ |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---|-------------------------------|
| TOTAL | | | | 0 |
| <i>0 % of the presented proposals</i> | | | | |
| <i>0 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved</i> | | | | |
| <i>0 % of the budget allocated</i> | | | | |
| <u>Reminder: Statistics (9th meeting)</u> | | | | |
| <i>0 % of the presented proposals</i> | | | | |
| <i>0 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved</i> | | | | |
| <i>0 % of the budget allocated</i> | | | | |
| <u>Statistics (8th meeting)</u> | | | <u>Consolidated statistics (6th and 7th AP meetings)</u> | |
| <i>3.4 % of the presented proposals</i> | | | <i>5.4 % of the presented proposals</i> | |
| <i>0 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved</i> | | | <i>0 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved</i> | |
| <i>0 % of the budget allocated</i> | | | <i>0 % of the budget allocated</i> | |

No proposal has been made by NGOs for more than two years. The last proposals received by the Administrative Unit were not approved and no budget was allocated. However, during its 7th meeting, the AP noted that NGOs' proposals conducive to promote national statistical capacity building and generation of demand for statistics should be considered carefully if any.

6. Facilitating participation in international conferences (1 new proposal)

Requests submitted by organizers of international conferences or seminars to facilitate developing countries' participation in these events are discussed in this section:

| Window | Proposal | Region | Decision | Budget allocated in \$ |
|--|---|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| NSDS Window | ISI - Support for Developing Country Participation in Conferences | World | Approved | 245,000 |
| TOTAL | | | | 245,000 |
| <i>3.7 % of the presented proposals</i> | | | | |
| <i>6.7 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved</i> | | | | |
| <i>6.3 % of the budget allocated</i> | | | | |
| <u>Reminder: Statistics (9th meeting)</u> | | | | |
| <i>0 % of the presented proposals</i> | | | | |
| <i>0 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved</i> | | | | |
| <i>0 % of the budget allocated</i> | | | | |

| <u>Statistics (8th meeting)</u> | <u>Consolidated statistics (6th and 7th AP meetings)</u> |
|---|--|
| 6.8 % of the presented proposals | 15.5 % of the presented proposals |
| 8.3 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved | 21.7 % of the proposals approved or conditionally approved |
| 8.3 % of the budget allocated | 9.0 % of the budget allocated |

During its previous sessions, the AP recognized that funding participation of statisticians from developing countries to international conferences or seminars through the TFSCB can contribute to international co-operation by encouraging the participation of developing countries in the dialogue on the development of policy, framework, standards and methodologies on statistics. There is merit in funding such participation provided there is an effective contribution by the sponsored participants in the development of standards, methodologies and innovations in statistics and they become vehicles for knowledge transfer to the developing countries.

During its 2010 Fall meeting, the IMC took decisions on the principles, the budget allocation, the event selection process and the administrative process²⁵. The TFSCB Guidelines and Procedures will be revised to reflect the changes.

The project proposal presented in 2012 by the ISI is consistent with these decisions. ISI has presented a global plan covering the two calendar years 2013 – 2014. It has also submitted a report on the use of the previous plan financed by TFSCB and covering the two calendar years 2011 – 2012. Most of the activities reported by the ISI were successful, in particular the three workshops on “*The leadership in modern statistical systems*” organized in Addis-Ababa in March 2011, Daejon, Korea in November 2012 and Dakar, Senegal in December 2012. However, it should be noted that a part of the funds (around 15 %) were used for funding seminars, workshops or congresses outside the sphere of official statistics (for instance, the World Congress on Probability and Statistics). The AP was told that this has been notified to the ISI for the new grant but that does not appear in the GFR.

Additional remark:

As regards the proposals that were not shortlisted at the end of the stage 1 or not followed by a GFR presented to the IMC meeting of September 19, 2012, these proposals²⁶ might be classified as follows:

²⁵ The details of these decisions could be found in the report of the 8th meeting of the AP (March 28, 2011 – page 20).

²⁶ The two “WORLD” proposals that were not proposed for the shortlist prepared by the AU during the phase 1 but nevertheless re-integrated by the IMC and presented in stage 2 are not included in this list.

1. NSDS proposals & Update of NSDS:
Sri Lanka²⁷: Generation of Key Data in Post-Conflict Setting, as Part of the Awakening Project

2. Country proposals concerning the implementation of NSDS:
Argentina: Statistical Capacity Building
Benin: Support to the implementation of an information system and a data base within the Ministry of Environment, Housing and Urbanism.
Colombia: Strengthening the NSS according to International Standards
Mauritania: Support to NSDS
Moldova: Capacity Building for Open Statistical Data

3. Country proposals concerning sector specific activities:
Bhutan: Support for National Forest Inventory
Macedonia: Capacity Building for Energy Consumption and Efficiency Information System

4. Regional Proposals made by inter-governmental institutions:
Secretariat General of the Andean Community: Program for Training in Statistics
Statistical Conference of the Americas & UN ECLAC: Regional Knowledge Platform (implemented by INEGI, Mexico)

²⁷ This proposal might be considered as an update of a previous NSDS after the end of the Civil War in 2010.