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Paris, 23 February 2007

PARIS21 Progress Report for Grant Number DI26215

Dear Sir,

In accordance with the terms of the arrangement¹ between the World Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, under grant number DI26215 and DGF file 401006-05, I have the pleasure to submit to you below a report of activities financed under this grant. The arrangement represents a contribution of 1.5 million U.S. dollars for PARIS21 (hosted by the OECD's Development Co-operation Directorate) activities implemented during the period of July 1, 2005 to December 31, 2006, which was later extended to June 30, 2007 as confirmed in the World Bank's letter dated December 7, 2006. The present narrative report covers the period January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006.

Grant Objectives

According to the terms of the arrangement, the contribution was intended to finance components of the PARIS21 work programme, in particular those components concerned with support to national strategies for the development of statistics (NSDS). PARIS21's objective is to assist all low-income, International Development Association (IDA) countries, as appropriate, to design an NSDS by 2006 in order to have, *inter alia*, nationally owned and produced data for all Millennium Development Goals indicators by 2010. The NSDS component of the PARIS21 work programme includes elements such as: advocacy, the development of NSDS methodology, and NSDS roll-out through regional programmes in conjunction with international and regional partners. The grant is intended to support each of these elements.

Expenditure to Date on this Grant

During the period January 2006 to December 2006, the World Bank contribution enabled PARIS21 to cover expenses related to activities in all of the NSDS programme elements mentioned above. The grant funded the review and translation into Arabic of various advocacy documents as well as the delivery of advocacy messages at several regional statistical meetings throughout the Arab region. In NSDS methodology development, the grant covered expenditures related to the production and translation of guidelines on implementing NSDSs and preparations for a future workshop to be held in Senegal on the integration of NSDS into poverty reduction strategies. Activities related to PARIS21 regional programmes financed under this grant include the organisation of several regional events in Central America (*Regional Workshop on Presenting Central American Countries' NSDSs* held in June 2006 in Costa Rica, *Meeting to Present Central American NSDSs to the International Community* held in September 2006 in Guatemala, PARIS21 participation at the *OECD Regional Conference for Latin America: Measuring Progress of Societies* held in October 2006 in Colombia, and a side meeting in Colombia to launch an NSDS programme in the Andean Community) as well as the Secretariat's participation at the Post-AFCAS Workshop on Agricultural Statistics for Lusophone Africa Countries in December 2006 in Cape Verde.

The grant also financed expenditure related to the November 2006 PARIS21 Steering Committee held in Paris and a joint PARIS21 – Inter-American Development Bank conference on “Using Statistics for Broad-Based Development: Challenges for Latin America and the Caribbean” held in September 2006 in Washington, DC.

¹ *FY2006 Development Grant Facility Window 1: PARIS21 Work Program – Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics*

Planned Expenditure on this Grant

Planned expenditure on this grant for the period January 1, 2007 to June 30, 2007 includes operation costs of the Secretariat; further development of NSDS methodology, including finalisation of the guide to integrating sectoral statistics into NSDSs; reporting on country progress toward designing and implementing NSDSs; and costs associated with producing the advocacy document “Counting Down Poverty”.

Progress in Achieving Programme Goals

As described in the agreement, the grant objective is to ensure that, as appropriate, all IDA countries will have an NSDS in place or in preparation by the end of 2006. In early 2006, PARIS21 produced a preliminary report outlining country progress in the design of strategies. Of the 105 countries covered by the report, 34 had strategies in place, 54 were at various stages in preparing strategies, while 17 countries neither had strategies in place nor had started to design one, though a number of these have expressed their intention to do so. Some countries with existing strategies have expressed their intention to update and develop them following the NSDS approach. Since this grant funded many activities in Central America, it should be noted that all six countries of the region have finalised the design of their NSDSs in 2006.

Problems / Issues

Among the obstacles encountered by PARIS21 in carrying out the work financed under this grant was the departure of the DFID secondee in charge of the Asia and Anglophone Africa regional programmes. The PARIS21 Secretariat is addressing this issue by identifying and contracting appropriate regionally based consultants to help carry out the work. In addition, the slow disbursement of donor funding to support NSDS design has presented difficulties both for PARIS21 and countries. PARIS21 has held various videoconferences and meetings with financial and technical partners to resolve this problem.

Additional Information

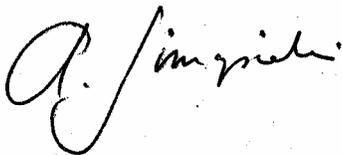
Please find attached the following additional documentation:

- “PARIS21 Progress Report for 2005 and Work Programme for 2006” which was submitted by the PARIS21 Secretariat to its Steering Committee in April 2006 and which outlines the overall activities of the PARIS21 Consortium during the period June 2005 to March 2006.
- “Preliminary Worldwide Progress Report on National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS),” also presented at the April 2006 Steering Committee meeting.
- “Addendum to April 2006 Progress Report (May – October 2006)” which was submitted by the PARIS21 Secretariat to its Steering Committee in November 2006.

The next reports to be submitted on this grant are (1) a narrative and intermediate financial report to be submitted by 30 June 2007 covering the period January 2006 to December 2006, and (2) a final narrative and financial report to be submitted by 31 October 2007 covering the entire grant period.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for the support that the World Bank has given to PARIS21 since its creation, and I am at your disposal for any further information.

Sincerely yours,



Antoine Simonpietri
Manager, PARIS21 Secretariat