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PARIS21 Progress Report for Grant Number DI270715

Dear Sir,

In accordance with the terms of the arrangement¹ between the World Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) — under grant number DI270715 (DGF file 401008-05 - NSDS) — I have the pleasure to submit to you below a report on progress made towards achieving the grant's overall objectives. The arrangement represents a contribution of 1.3 million U.S. dollars for PARIS21 (hosted by the OECD's Development Co-operation Directorate). The present narrative report encompasses the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008 and supplements the interim expenditure report enclosed herein.

Grant Objectives

According to the terms of the arrangement, the contribution is 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 countries, as appropriate, to design and implement an NSDS in order to have, *inter alia*, nationally owned and produced data for all Millennium Development Goals indicators. The NSDS component of the PARIS21 work programme includes elements such as: advocacy, the development of NSDS methodology, the promotion of donor collaboration, and NSDS roll-out through regional programmes in conjunction with international and regional partners. The grant is intended to support all of these elements.

Progress in Achieving Programme Goals

For the sake of simplicity, the progress that PARIS21 has made in achieving its programme objectives are hereafter grouped by the NSDS programme elements mentioned above: advocacy, NSDS methodology, donor collaboration, and regional programmes.

Advocacy

At the expressed request of national statistical offices, the Secretariat has lent assistance in finalising advocacy booklets promoting increased support to statistics as well as booklet summaries of NSDSs.

NSDS Methodology

To assist developing countries with technical issues relating to statistical development, PARIS21 produces relevant documentation and guidance. The current grant has financed the production of a sample paper setting out good practices for an NSDS document, a guide on the financing and costing of NSDS implementation, and an overview of evaluations of large-scale statistical capacity building initiatives.

Donor Collaboration

The PARIS21 Secretariat convenes an inter-agency task team whose function is to report on and analyse donor support to statistical capacity building. This team — the "Partner Report on Support to Statistics" (PRESS) — conducted its 2008 round of results last year, and the publication and dissemination of these results were financed on this grant. Parallel to this

¹ *FY2008 Development Grant Facility Window 1: PARIS21 Work Program – Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics*



exercise, the grant also financed the development of a contact directory of the global statistical community, including statisticians, policymakers, researchers, and other partners interested in statistical development.

Regional Programmes

PARIS21's support to NSDS processes is increasingly focusing on country-based activities and includes various components such as the promotion of partnership, the mobilisation of technical and financial resources, and on-demand advisory services to countries. Activities supporting the regional programmes which have been financed under this grant include the services of two consultants working on Francophone Africa and another on Asia, a Secretariat mission to Comoros to help with their NSDS implementation and to facilitate a meeting of local donors, a Secretariat mission to Belize to present the NSDS approach to Caribbean countries, and the organisation of an NSDS meeting for Maghreb countries.

In addition, this grant enabled the Secretariat to cover costs related to the functioning of the Secretariat, the recruitment process for the new Secretariat Manager, preparations for the November 2009 PARIS21 Consortium meeting to be held in Dakar, the participation of developing country statisticians at the 2008 ILO International Conference of Labour Statisticians, and the organisation of the November 2008 PARIS21 Steering Committee meeting.

Problems / Issues

One potential issue for PARIS21 is the transition of the new Secretariat Manager in March 2009. However, he spent two weeks in late January / early February with the Secretariat in Paris to prepare for his new assignment.

Additional Information

Please find attached the following additional documentation:

- “Progress Report for the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) -- Reporting Period: November 2007 – April 2008”
- “Progress Report for the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) -- Reporting Period: May 2008 – September 2008”

The next reports to be submitted are an interim activities report and an interim unaudited financial statement on grant DI270715 by 15 August 2009 (*i.e.*, 45 days after 30 June 2009). At this same time, we will send to you the “Financial Statements of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development as of 31 December 2008,” which the OECD will finalise in March 2009. PARIS21 will then submit final narrative and financial reports for this same grant by 31 October 2009.

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,

Christophe Duhamel
Deputy Manager, PARIS21 Secretariat