

# **Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building**

## **Report of the Thirteenth Meeting of the TFSCB Advisory Panel (AP)**

(February 29 - March 4, 2016)

***The TFSCB: Reconciling New Challenges with Core Objectives***

**The World Bank  
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## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AP	Advisory Panel (TFSCB)
AU	Administrative Unit (TFSCB)
BAPS	Busan Action Plan on Statistics
BRICS	Brazil Russia India China South Africa (emerging countries)
CMU	Country Management Unit (WB)
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
DECDG	Development Economics - Data Group
DFID	Department for International Development (UK Government)
GFR	Grant Funding Request
HHS	Household Survey
ICP	International Comparison Program
IMC	Internal Management Committee (TFSCB)
LSMS	Living Standards Measurement Survey
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (PARIS21)
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century (consortium)
RSDS	Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (PARIS21)
SAP	Strategic Action Plan (WB)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
STATCAP	Lending program to support more efficient and effective statistical systems in developing countries (WB)
TFIDD	Trust Fund for Innovations in Development Data
TFSCB	Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building
TTL	Task Team Leader (WB projects)
UNSD	United Nations Statistical Division
WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WB	The World Bank

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The year 2015 has seen a major change in the remit of the TFSCB in that it has now taken on the funding of data production projects in the area of household surveys in addition to its tried and proven support of statistical capacity building projects in the broader sense. This expansion of its scope was made possible through the acquisition of additional funds of \$20 million from DFID to be disbursed until 2020 and of a new donor, the government of the Republic of Korea which committed a sum of \$3 million. As applications for grants have risen steadily throughout 2014 and 2015, the present volume of the TFSCB may be exhausted well before the year 2020 unless the TFSCB succeeds in attracting additional donors.

The new component of the TFSCB which grants funds of up to \$1 million for data production projects is still in a pilot phase. Its creation was largely due to the internationally driven identification of data gaps in connection with the SDGs. The target countries for TFSCB funded household surveys are predominantly situated in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In order to align the previous TFSCB two-stage grant procedures with the overall World Bank grant policies, all TFSCB proposals will now be processed in one continuous stage with the World Bank TTL guiding the client through the selection process. It should be possible to maintain the flexibility and simplicity of the procedure which was characteristic of TFSCB grants.

The expansion of the TFSCB remit to include the funding of household surveys will bring about a closer cooperation between the TFSCB and responsible policy units at the World Bank as well as with international agencies involved with the SDGs and with respective policy makers on the client level. Recent data initiatives such as the G20 Data Gaps Initiative and the World Bank new Trust Fund for Innovations in Development Data together with the World Bank's own Strategic Action Plan with its three areas of data gap priorities (household surveys, price statistics/International Comparison Program and civil registration/vital statistics) are also expected to have an impact on the future objectives and operation of the TFSCB. At the same time, project funding in connection with the Open Data Initiative is still going strong as it targets better coordination and harmonization of statistics and the establishment of open data policies on the national level.

The recent and future developments connected with a closer orientation of the TFSCB funding objectives to policy relevant data production projects are considered to have positive effects in terms of visibility, donor attraction and interagency cooperation. Yet, there are issues of ownership and sustainability which have to be addressed with the aim of eventually integrating grant funded data production into the national statistical strategic plans without neglecting the ongoing long term need for statistical capacity building. But it is also important to continue to support SCB projects, including creation of new or updating of existing NSDS that continue to play a pivotal role in SCB.

Having conducted a broad review of the grant submissions and respective funding decision of 2015 and extensive interviews with the director of the Development Data Group, members of the TFSCB Administrative Unit and Internal Management Committee as well as with representatives of other World Bank units in charge of project support on the African and Caribbean level, the AP of the TFSCB has proposed 14 recommendations which are grouped together in the following:

- The TFSCB should intensify its efforts to attract new donors through awareness raising of the policy relevance of TFSCB funding for data production, for example with respect to SDG monitoring and encourage client counterparts in their respective efforts to gain budgetary support from their governments to integrate policy relevant household surveys into their national statistical programs of work.
- Case studies of successful TFSCB funded projects on statistical capacity building (and on data production) should be presented to policy makers in client countries, regionally/internationally (e.g. PARIS21 meetings) and to prospective donors. Best practices should be derived from this experience to be made available as handbooks for client counterparts.
- The TFSCB should continue to support SCB projects, including the creation of new or updating of existing NSDS, to reconcile new challenges with the core objectives of the Fund.
- Ownership and sustainability of data production projects should be strengthened by complementing data production projects with statistical capacity components. Client countries should be strongly encouraged to provide matching funds to TFSCB grants, and client counterparts should be actively involved in the collection and presentation of best practices and respective exchange of experience on regional and international levels.
- World Bank representatives or consultants should conduct concluding interviews with client counterparts on issues of ownership, sustainability and best practices after the completion of data production projects.

## INTRODUCTION

An Advisory Panel (AP) was created in 2003 to conduct a yearly technical review of the World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) activities and propose recommendations to enhance its operation. Since its inception, the AP consists of two external consultants who meet the managers and other stakeholders of this TF (AU: Administrative Unit; IMC: Internal Management Committee; etc.) once a year at the Headquarters of the World Bank (WB). The 13<sup>th</sup> AP meeting was held from February 29 to March 4, 2016<sup>1</sup>. According to their terms of reference the two consultants are commissioned to reflect on the past practices and results of the Trust Fund, on recent changes to the scope and remit of the Trust Fund and to make recommendations on its future scope and practices. Specifically, they will:

- review and evaluate project proposals and approval decisions taken in the year of 2015 by the IMC in a general manner;
- prepare an annual report containing the findings from the abovementioned tasks;
- reflect and give their recommendations on the future direction and overall management of the TFSCB.

In the course of this mission, the consultants conducted a series of interviews with management and stakeholders of the TFSCB, namely:

- Ms Haishan Fu, Director of the Development Data Group in the Development Economics Vice-Presidency (DECDG), Mr. Grant Cameron (Manager, Development Data Group, DECDG, and Head of the IMC), Ms Ingrid Ivins, Mr. Mustafa Dinc, and Mr. Mizuki Yamanaka (all members of the TFSCB AU, and members of the IMC),;
- Other IMC members: Ms Amparo Ballivian, Ms Barbro Hexeberg, Mr. Neil Fantom, Mr. Olivier Dupriez, all DECDG; Mr. Gregory Kisunko, ECA region, and Mr. Victor Sulla, Africa Region;
- Ms Yevgeniya Sevchenko LAC region; Ms Gbemisola Oseni, Senior Economist, and Mr. Gero Carletto, Lead Economist, all LSMS (Living Standards Measurement Study), Development Data Group; Mr. Alvin Etang Ndip, Poverty Global Practice Unit.

The AP members thank their counterparts for the fruitful discussions and the valuable information gained which are reflected in the review and recommendations below.

In addition, one member of the AP held meetings in February 2016 with some members of the PARIS21 Secretariat in charge of operations in specific regions to gather their views on the needs met by developing and transition countries in statistical capacity building and the evolution of these needs<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The reports of the previous AP meetings are available on the WB Website: <http://www.worldbank.org/tfscb>

<sup>2</sup> See conclusions of these meetings in the Annex III.

The AP was provided with documents for review and discussions on project proposals submitted to the Internal Management Committee (IMC) of the TFSCB since the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the AP in 2015, in particular:

- the Grant Funding Requests (GFR) with their Grant Financing Plans and Budget Tables for the proposals made under the Spring (14 proposals) and Fall (14 proposals) for the Non-NSDS Windows<sup>3</sup>;
- the GFR for the production of household survey data including survey implementation proper and related technical assistance under the newly pilot window for TFSCB supported household survey implementation;
- the minutes of the IMC meeting held on July 23, 2015 and on November 24, 2015 for the proposals made under the Spring and Fall Non-NSDS Windows respectively;
- the new “Guidelines and Procedures” of the TFSCB, published in October, 2015;
- the Concept Note on “Program to Improve the Production, Availability and Utility of Household Survey Data with TFSCB Funding”, that introduced a new pilot Data Production Window within the TFSCB;
- the Summary Sheet of the Annual TFSCB Review by DFID of May 2015;
- the TFSCB Annual Progress Report of May 2015; and
- the Summary of the Regional Forum of PARIS21 on Reinforcing Statistical Cooperation at the Regional Level to Support Sustainable Development (held October, 2015).

## **1 - PAST EXPERIENCE AND RESULTS**

### **1.1 History of the TFSCB**

The TFSCB is a multi-donor fund established in 1999 by the Development Data Group of the Development Economics Vice-Presidency of the World Bank. It was closely coordinated with the partnership’s activities of the Consortium PARIS21.

The 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 very flexible manner. It has built up organization, management, guidelines and procedures for operations with well-defined objectives. Since its establishment, PARIS21 supported with the financial help of the TFSCB and some other donors more than one hundred countries in setting up their National Strategies for Statistical Development. Up to the end of 2014, 256 projects submitted to a funding from the TFSCB have been approved and the total disbursement/commitment was around \$53 million. Projects have been approved in all regions, with the largest number, 80, in sub-Saharan Africa. The projects granted by the TFSCB were small-scale, with project volumes ranging from \$100,000 to \$500,000<sup>4</sup>. The project activities encompassed both preparation of NSDS and statistical capacity building activities as well as statistical subject matters, the latter responding to pre-defined and emerging topical priorities resulting for instance from the Busan Action Plan for Statistics (BAPS) and the Data Revolution

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<sup>3</sup> No proposal was made under the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) Window in 2015.

<sup>4</sup> The TFSCB rules impose a ceiling of \$500,000 to the budgets of the proposals.

Initiative of the WB, such as data for measuring sustainable development, open data, data for improving production and use of gender statistics and exploration of innovative approaches to data collection and dissemination.

The TFSCB has successfully operated, since its inception in 1999, in promoting medium- to long-term system-wide visions on statistical development in developing countries. Its financing has also contributed to the design, creation, and implementation and updating 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 SRF 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 PARIS21 websites led to a better understanding of Trust Fund goals and resulted in a greater percentage of proposals in line with the main objective of statistical capacity building. 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 deliberation.

## **1.2 Results for 2015**

In recent years, the number of donors has decreased and by mid-2013 the resources of the Fund had reached a balance of just about \$2 million of unallocated funds. In the fall of 2013, the DFID agreed to contribute \$20 million to the TFSCB and transferred this sum in one single tranche in November 2013. Accordingly, the closing date of the TFSCB program was extended from end-2015 to end-2020. Recently, the Government of Korea has committed \$3 million. However new donors are expected to join.

To some extent and paradoxically, the AP feared during its twelfth meeting last year TFSCB to be in danger of becoming a victim of this new gift from DFID. The question arose whether it is possible to maintain the initial spirit of the TFSCB when the number of proposals increases very quickly; as it was the case in 2014 (63 proposals received over 2014). During the year of 2015, a total of 32 proposals<sup>5</sup> have been received (Non-NSDS Spring Window: 18 proposals, 14 of which for discussion by the IMC; Non-NSDS Fall Window: 14 for discussion by the IMC meeting). That means that the total amount in 2014 and 2015 for the approved or conditionally approved proposals has been more than \$15 million. At this trend, even with the Korean pledge, the Fund will be exhausted by the end of 2017 which is not in line with the objective of DFID to disburse the funds by 2020. Two solutions are to be considered: (i) finding urgently new donors (ii) being more selective in the approval process, or a mix of these two solutions<sup>6</sup>.

It should be noted that no proposal has been received in 2015 under the NSDS Window.

In addition, a new Window was created to support projects related to data production in key areas. This new window is currently in a pilot phase. The proposals are approved by the IMC

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<sup>5</sup> See the Annex 1 of this Report for a detailed survey of the project proposals received by the TFSCB AU in 2015.

<sup>6</sup> Compared to 2014, the decisions made by the IMC were much more selective (32.1% rejected compared to 17.4 %).

through virtual meetings. The proposals are accepted by invitation only. DFID has pledged \$10 million for financing the projects through this new window. At the moment, a list of eligible projects concerning revisions and updates of existing household surveys and design and implementation of new household surveys has been established<sup>7</sup>. Four GFRs<sup>8</sup> were discussed and approved by the IMC in December 2015 for a total amount of \$4.6 million.

## **2 – NEWS DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 2015**

Several changes or new developments have occurred in the course of the year 2015 and have or may have implications for TFSCB:

- change in grant application and decision making procedure
- adoption of a Strategic Action Plan, including the creation of the new Window on Data Production in Key Areas
- developments in Open Data Initiative
- new Trust Fund for Innovations in Development Data (TFIDD)

### **2.1 Change in grant applications and decision making procedure**

Until mid-2015, the guidelines and procedures (based on two stages) prepared by the AU in April 2012 were followed:

- during the Stage 1, TTLs submitted, in consultation with the agency who has expressed interest, a short proposal; after review, a short list was established by the IMC and the TTLs were notified of the shortlisted proposals
- during the Stage 2, the recipients and the TTLs completed the Grant Funding Request (GFR) that was sent to the IMC for review and decision taking. Decisions were taken by the IMC during a face-to-face meeting. These guidelines were used for the 2015 Spring Window.

The new guidelines adopted in 2015 are in line with the WB procedures for the small grants. All TFSCB proposals have now to be operated in a continuous process under the operations' portal of the Bank in order to streamline all WB procedures:

- firstly, an initiation note is sent to the AU by the designated TTL in liaison with the CMU of the recipient country or the GP manager;
- after approval by the IMC, the TTL will proceed in the Operations Portal including filling out of a GFR for submission as a part of the project package.

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<sup>7</sup> The other domains possibly covered by the new window might concern National Accounts (e.g. provision of source data for NA, surveys and new surveys needed for the production of NA, etc.).

<sup>8</sup> Iraq and Iraq (Kurdistan), Sierra Leone and Tanzania (respectively \$200,000, \$100,000, \$1,500,000, and \$2,300,000).

It seems possible to maintain the flexibility and the simplicity of the procedure with these new guidelines. However, in connection with the new guidelines, there may be emerging new issues of ownership of projects by the recipient countries which will have to be addressed in the following.

## **2.2. Adoption of a Strategic Action Plan**

A recent report of an Independent Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) defines the data revolution for sustainable development as the integration of data coming from new technologies with traditional data in order to produce relevant high-quality data. Together with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the WB has considered it necessary to undertake a concerted effort by countries and development partners to invest in data production so as to better measure key indicators.

According to this vision, the Chief Economist of the World Bank has created in 2015 a Data Council that has proposed to the Board a Strategic Action Plan (SAP). The SAP has identified three priority areas in data production for addressing development data gaps at country level: Household Surveys (HHS); Price statistics within the framework of the International Comparison Program (ICP); Civil Registration/Vital Statistics (CRVS). This Plan is accompanied by a reorganization of the statistical activities of the Bank around a position of Chief Statistician in charge of coordinating all these activities. This position will be created later in 2016<sup>9</sup>.

It has been decided to place the support to HHS under the TFSCB's umbrella, which is presented as to bring more coherence to the Bank's activities in this area and improve the synergy between the different projects of statistical capacity building. There is also a need to monitor progress towards the SDGs which implies a re-thinking of the ways in which countries and the international community invest in data production. Strengthening the quality of HHS has always been a priority for the Bank, in connection with the policy of poverty eradication. Countries being prioritized for funding through this pilot are mostly IDA countries or countries considered at risk of falling into the data deprived category that are ready to carry out a survey in the coming 18 months, but are experiencing a funding gap. The program addresses 10 to 15 countries between the fall of 2015 and the end of 2016. Although it aims at immediately increasing the availability and utility of data, it is also aiming at improving local capacity as an investment for the future. The objective is to conduct if possible a household survey every three years, or at least with a frequency of less than five years. To synergize the efforts of the various international agencies involved in this process (UNSD, UNDP, OECD, UNICEF, WHO) an Inter-secretariat Working Group has been created on the model of what was done in the 1990s for the revision of the SNA.

ICP and CRVS are also on the agenda of several Regional Development Banks, in particular on the one of the African Development Bank.

## **2.3 Developments on Open Data Initiative**

The ongoing Open Data Initiative has led to increased WB lending activities and to a better coordinated national statistical system. It is a catalytic program in that it exposes data gaps on the national level due to a poor coordination and lack of harmonization. It also demonstrates the importance of taking into account in the NSDSs the harmonization of standards and classifications

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<sup>9</sup> The Chief Statistician will also be in charge of producing statistical data on the WB's activities.

used within the national statistical systems and the improvement of an open policy of data dissemination for the benefit of all users. Therefore, the AP welcomes the proposals aiming at implementing an Open Data Policy in developing countries, provided these proposals insist on the essential role of the Chief Statistician for the coordination of national statistics.

The Big Data Initiative is still largely experimental and requires the collaboration of several international agencies. It may contribute to enhance the quality of SDGs (e.g. in domains such as health or transportation). Particular attention should be paid to the place of the uses of Big Data in the overall statistical landscape in developing countries. In addition, the role of non-government and commercial entities engaged in the gathering of data with regards to possible synergy effects on the one hand and the risk of replacement effects on the other hand on the remit and procedures of official data production will have to be carefully considered.

### **2.5. New Trust Fund for Innovations in Development Data (TFIDD)**

Good examples of “doing things right” in developing countries are generally not widespread. The WB Group has so decided to create a culture of finding and replicating the creative innovative solutions that exist on the ground and to facilitate experiences sharing as part of its contribution to better data for post-2015 development. To fund this activity, the WB has established a new Trust Fund for Innovations in Development Data (TFIDD). This new TF shares with the TFSCB the objectives of catalyzing innovative approaches to data production, data dissemination, statistical literacy; etc. It may support innovations such as mobile-phone based voice enumeration surveys, community mapping, local visualization tools for enhancing public understanding of key issues. This new TF plans to raise \$100 million. At this point it is not clear yet if and how the objectives of the TFIDD could have any bearing on the remit and operations of the TFSCB.

## **3 – OPPORTUNITIES OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

### **3.1. Higher visibility through relevance to topical policy issues**

In their report of the twelfth meeting of the TFSCB Advisory Panel the advisors recommended that the TFSCB, while maintaining its original remit, should give special attention to project applications in emerging domains in particular those of relevance to development policies of recipient countries or regions. It seems that the time has arrived for the TFSCB to take on new challenges in this respect. There is now awareness by international policy makers that the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the post-2015 Agenda cannot be monitored on the national and regional levels without a dependable and up-to-date data base produced by national statistical offices. In consequence, there is a need for instruments and venues to assess the progress towards SDG achievement, in particular on the level of private households. National Household Surveys are the tried and proven instruments for describing and analyzing patterns of poverty, symptoms of hunger, the state of health and attainment of education, gender equality, access to clean water, sanitation, and to affordable energy, as well as the conditions of work as they are addressed by the SDGs.

By broadening its remit to provide funding for the implementation of household surveys and for other types of technical assistance in connection with respective data production, the TFSCB’s activities will be of high relevance to efforts of policy makers, thus raising expectations of higher visibility in this sphere.

The TFSCB's support of the ongoing Open Data Initiative has proven to achieve increased attention by government policy makers in client countries. There are several reasons for this development: firstly, the Open Data Initiative provides opportunities to work at national level with the highest government representatives who are the counterparts on the client side - usually the prime minister or the minister in charge of ICT; the objective being to convince them of the merits of the initiative and to involve them in the supervision of its implementation. Secondly, it can be demonstrated to government policy makers that participation in the Open Data Initiative can lead to increased lending because of increased transparency and demonstrated efforts in connection with good governance. The benefits of the Open Data Initiative in relation to the further coordination of national efforts engaged in statistical production, to the harmonization of concepts and methods and to the identification of still existing data gaps, can also contribute to a higher visibility of the TFSCB by international and the client policy makers. So it is important to involve in one way or another the responsible staff of the National Statistical System in the implementation of the Open Data Initiative.

Consequently, although the new developments concerning the data production component of the TFSCB and the issues addressed by the G20 Data Gaps Initiative<sup>10</sup> and the World Bank's own TFIDD, are either still in a pilot phase or at a conceptual stage, the AP fully endorses their objectives in terms of any possible benefits to the data situation of developing countries and encourages to TFSCB to seize the respective opportunities for higher policy relevance and visibility connected with them.

### **3. 2. Attracting new donors**

Since the report on the twelfth meeting of the TFSCB advisory panel, the government of the Republic of Korea has emerged as a new donor to the TFSCB. In addition, DfID has significantly increased its contribution in order to support household survey activities in client countries. While the donor situation has, thus, improved over last year, there is still room for further improvement. The overall donor situation on the government side is still quite difficult because the traditional donor countries, especially those in Europe, and emerging donors from the BRICS group are faced with their own economic and financial challenges.

Donor activities on the national government level are in most cases increasingly focused either on selected topical policy issues or on specific target regions. The same seems to hold true for private donors and their trust funds. In view of the TFSCB's broadening its funding activities to include statistical subject matters of direct policy relevance such as the production of data on household income, health, education or gender equality, it should be easier than before to attract government and private donors who are already supporting such issues.

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<sup>10</sup> The G20 Data Gaps Initiative has been launched in order to improve the availability and comparability of economic and financial data, as the turmoil that hit the markets - when the financial crisis broke out in 2007-2008 - highlighted the need of broader datasets for policy makers and supervisors to better assess the evolution of the economy, as well as the intervention required. One of its leading initiatives is the Principal Global Indicators (PGI) website. This program may have, together with the IMF's GDDS, some implications on the TFSCB capacity building task. An opportunity for TFSCB can be to include topical policy issues in its funding activities in that it provides support to national and regional statistical offices engaged in their participation in the ICP.

Case histories of successful TFSCB funded projects in specific areas of donor interest could be presented to prospective donors in order to acquisition funds. The funding of policy related data production in conjunction with the TFSCB's long standing experience in working to improve the requisite statistical capacities could be of particular interest to emerging donor countries and to government or private donors who are looking for ways to channel their support to areas where funding can have a relatively quick and more readily recognizable impact as compared to the long term and cross-sector prospects of supporting statistical capacity building proper. It is however important to check the specific areas of donor interest meet really the needs of the recipient countries.

Another potential benefit to be pointed out to prospective donors would be that by channeling their funds through the TFSCB, the latter would provide know how and experience, a network of experienced advisors and any requisite administrative and managerial support, thus relieving potential donors from the burden of managing grants of comparatively moderate size but still ensuring considerable impact for the funds they provide.

### **3.4 Grant funded data production projects as a prelude to survey integration into national statistical work programs**

Ideally, data production through regularly conducted surveys should be an integral part of any national statistical program of work and, thus, a component of any strategic planning on the part of client countries. Periodic reviews of the data situation on the national level as conducted in connection with the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have exposed critical data gaps especially in the poorest countries and in the sub-Saharan African region. Many countries do not conduct household surveys on a regular basis, in even more countries there is a time span of ten or more years between these surveys. This situation has not changed with the declaration of the SDGs. The new TFSCB projects on the implementation of household surveys are expected to raise awareness in the client countries of the importance of household statistics not only for monitoring sustainable development on the national level but also for TA negotiations with donors. A grant supported and successfully conducted household survey with demonstrated usefulness in terms of SDG monitoring and IDA could make a powerful argument for integrating regular household surveys into the national statistical program of work and for funding it from client budgets.

In order to ease the way into full national funding of household surveys, the TFSCB could more actively promote the possibility and the benefits of matching funds, i.e. TFSCB and client funds, as an appropriate step to full recipient ownership of household surveys.

### **3.5. Data production initiatives can foster interagency cooperation**

The TFSCB since its inception has operated in a unique way in that it has focused on the cross-sectional topics of statistical capacity building and strategic planning for statistics. Both areas are essential prerequisites for any well operating statistical system. They do not lend themselves, however, to high visibility from and extensive communication with international agencies which are predominantly subject matter oriented.

As the TFSCB has taken on the funding of data production projects this will result in increased contacts with international agencies operation in the same subject matter area, for

example agencies within the UN sphere. These contacts could create synergies and foster more coordinated approaches to matters of common interest. As these agencies also operate on the high policy level, exchange of views and experience with them could funnel TFSCB concerns and initiatives into respective policy debates and initiatives on the international level.

## **4 – CHALLENGES AND RISKS OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

### **4.1 Role of WB vs role of recipients, ownership and sustainability of projects**

It can be argued from past experience that SCB grants were usually awarded on client demand because the PARIS21 and TFSCB were very successful in raising the awareness that the sustainable development of national statistical systems depends on sound strategic planning and investments into statistical capabilities and infrastructure. The function of TFSCB projects as a door opener to larger World Bank funded projects has also contributed to clients embracing strategic planning for statistics and statistical capacity building as worthwhile pursuits of national interest. There is a question, however, whether this momentum of ownership can be carried over to the new data production component of the TFSCB.

The emergence of the data production component of the TFSCB is at present predominantly supply driven in that the initiative evolved from the data gaps which were recognized on the international level while setting up the SDGs. While supply driven initiatives, if successfully implemented, may eventually trigger demand, there remains a risk that such initiatives may continue to be regarded by the target country as being the sole responsibility of the initiating institution or donor country. In this case, grant supported data production will remain an isolated, at best a periodical activity with little or no sustainable impact on the client institution.

While in theory projects should be recipient initiated and conducted in order to ensure sound recipient ownership, i.e. recipient-executed, this stipulation is not always feasible. In countries with low capacity statistical offices it may not be possible to task them with the full preparation, application and management of a project which may be relatively small in scope but requires comparatively high administrative and management inputs. In such cases, it seems reasonable to task the WB with the project management.

However, if national statistical offices are repeatedly alleviated or even freed from administrative and management tasks associated with projects conducted to their benefit or if projects are perceived to exclusively serve the information demand of international agencies or the WB, there is a real danger of non-ownership and dissociation from the goals of the project on the part of the beneficiary country and national statistical office. Therefore, greatest efforts should be made to involve the recipient country or statistical office in the initiation, application and implementation of projects by orienting the project content closely to the needs and priorities of the recipient country.

Lack of project ownership and lack of sustainability in the development of client statistical systems are two sides of the same coin. To integrate an initially conducted stand-alone project on data production as a survey to be conducted periodically, preferably in three year intervals, into the national strategy plan for statistics is a major step towards sustainability. The higher the client's involvement in the data production project, for example by way of matching project funds with

own resources, the higher the likelihood of achieving sustainability in conducting regular national household surveys.

Ownership of regional projects which are usually conducted under the auspices of the WB is not a matter of concern as the mutual benefits and synergy effects of these projects outweigh the lack of country ownership. Ideally, however, one of the participating statistical offices could assume the lead role in a regional project and, thus, foster country ownership. When the actual recipient is a sub-regional organization (e.g. CARICOM, or WAEMU, etc), it should be possible for this organization to execute the project.

#### **4.2 Gradual replacement of statistical capacity building efforts by projects on data production**

While the opportunities resulting from the extended remit of the TFSCB appear to be obvious, it seems to be necessary to also consider the risks associated with the new developments. As stated before, there are certain administrative obstacles attached to the small grants associated with statistical capacity building (SCB), including the setting up or revision of strategic plans in statistics. This could eventually lead to a preference to submit proposals for the potentially larger grants associated with data production on the part of client countries or to their insisting that the World Bank administer grants for SCB if there should be a manifest need for SCB work at all on the national level. As SCB projects tend to show their cross-sectional effects rather in the long range, it might be tempting for client countries to take a short term perspective and opt for the comparatively quickly obtained results and the obvious potential success of projects on data production which, in addition, are expected to provide higher visibility and recognition for official statistics by policy makers than the relatively mundane project work on SCB.

Nevertheless, as the TFSCB has gained its merits from its successes in the support of cross-sectional SCB oriented projects, it should continue to build upon this reputation in convincing client countries that stand-alone projects on data production will in the long range not bring about major and lasting improvements in statistical systems. Thus, the World Bank representatives involved in data production projects should at the same time engage in advocacy for SCB.

The high international visibility and the usefulness of household survey results for planning purposes on the national level can be easily demonstrated to national policy makers. In the spirit of ownership, the client institution should undertake this awareness raising and lobbying with the aim of gaining political support for the eventual integration of donor supported household surveys into the national program of work for statistics. In this way, a supply driven initiative would become a demand driven endeavor, ensuring ownership and sustainability.

#### **4.3. Do not lose sight of the original objectives**

The new developments may pose downside risks to the initial objectives of the TFSCB that remain still valid.

As noted in the section 1.2, no proposal has been received in 2015 under the NSDS Window. Yet it is generally recognized that NSDSs should continue to play a pivotal role in

strengthening statistical capacities; in particular it is important to further strengthen coordination, building and/or updating legal and institutional frameworks, drawing attention to ethical issues and drawing up communication plans. DECDG and PARIS21 must also emphasize the importance of Regional Strategies (RSDS), the role of Centers of Excellence in sub-regions and the benefits countries can draw from “peer reviews”.

The introduction of the Data Production Window and, in particular, the support to HHS may unbalance the regional distribution of projects. Since the inception of the TFSCB, Africa has received around 25% of the grants. But now most, if not all, of the requests for HHS are coming from that region. It is important that the TFSCB does not lose sight of needs for assistance in other regions, especially where clients are eager to embrace ownership and to ensure sustainability by their past or current project activities.

## **5 – RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS<sup>11</sup>**

1. Encourage recipient countries to contribute matching funds or support in kind to TFSCB grants, in particular for grants to non-IDA countries.
2. Encourage client countries to complement projects on data production with grants on SCB in order to enhance the capacity building aspects of data production projects and to foster sustainable capacity building through household survey projects.
3. In order to keep alive the TFSCB until 2020, the WB is encouraged to find new donors with the support of PARIS21 and to be more selective in the approval process of proposed requests.
4. In view of the dwindling number of government donors for statistical capacity building, the AU and the PARIS21 Secretariat should investigate the possibility of raising funds from the private sector, i.e. charitable trusts, private foundations (e.g. Bill Gates Foundation). In order to achieve this, the TFSCB could make case presentations and organize discussion fora as side events at international economic summit meetings where leaders of government and the private sector convene to discuss global concerns and future directions.
5. The TFSCB should continue to support SCB projects, including the creation of new or updating of existing NSDS programs, to reconcile new challenges with the core objectives of the Fund.
6. Present case studies of successful TFSCB funded projects on the national level to prospective donors and client countries.
7. Collect best practices from successfully conducted data production and SCB projects to be presented in a handbook on “Best Practices of preparing and implementing TFSCB funded projects”.

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<sup>11</sup> Recommendations 3 and 4 have already been done by the AP during its 12<sup>th</sup> meeting (recommendations 3 and 4 of that meeting).

- 8.** Promote project ownership and encourage demand based applications from client countries by actively involving client counterparts in the collection and presentation of best practices and in exchange of experience on the regional level.
- 9.** Use the PARIS21 and regional statistical meetings as a platform to present and exchange best practices of TFSCB funded projects.
- 10.** Conduct concluding guided interviews with clients to assess ownership aspects of data production projects and to gather suggestions on how to foster ownership in future projects<sup>12</sup>.
- 11.** Develop WB or regionally executed SCB and strategic planning projects (i.e. updating strategic plans, setting up five year work plans for statistics derived from Masterplan) for clusters of countries within a region in order to alleviate administrative burden of grants on individual countries.
- 12.** Encourage client countries to use TFSCB supported data production projects as means of advocacy for more government support for the integration of policy related surveys into the national statistical program of work.
- 13.** Increase flexibility of TFSCB procedures to allow for WB executed grants in such cases where there is a manifest demand on the client side but still a lack of administrative infrastructure for grant administration.
- 14.** Pay attention to the regional distribution of TFSCB grants and actively encourage and reward readiness (e.g. by promoting client approach on international level or in talks with donors) to embrace ownership and ensure sustainability on the part of the client.

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<sup>12</sup> See the AP proposal for a guide for interview in the Annex II.

## ANNEX I

### **SURVEY OF THE PROJECT PROPOSALS RECEIVED IN 2015 BY THE TFSCB ADMINISTRATION UNIT (AU)**

Until mid-2015, the guidelines and procedures for Non-NSDS Windows (based on two stages) prepared by the AU in April 2012 were followed:

- during the Stage 1, TTLs submitted, in consultation with the agency who has expressed interest, a short proposal; after review, a short list was established by the IMC and the TTLs were notified of the shortlisted proposals
- during the Stage 2, the recipients and the TTLs completed the Grant Funding Request (GFR) that was sent to the IMC for review and decision taking. Decisions were taken by the IMC during a face-to-face meeting.

These guidelines were most recently used for the 2015 Spring Window.

The proposals presented through the NSDS Window were not affected by these new procedures. But in 2015, no NSDS proposal was submitted.

The new guidelines adopted in 2015 are in line with the WB procedures for the small grants. All TFSCB proposals have now to be operated in a continuous process under the operations' portal of the Bank in order to streamline all WB procedures:

- firstly, an initiation note is sent to the AU by the designated TTL in liaison with the CMU of the recipient country or the GP manager;
- after approval by the IMC, the TTL will proceed in the Operations Portal including filling out of a GFR for submission as a part of the project package.

In addition, a new Window was created to support projects related to data production in key areas. This new window is currently in a pilot phase. The proposals are approved by the IMC through virtual meetings. The proposals are accepted by invitation only. At the moment, a list of eligible projects concerning revisions and updates of existing household surveys and design and implementation of new household surveys has been established. Four Initiation Notes<sup>13</sup> were discussed and approved by the IMC in December, 2015 for a total amount of \$4.6 million.

Eighteen proposals were received by IMC through the Non-NSDS Spring Window and fifteen were shortlisted. One of the shortlisted proposals was not submitted to the stage 2. Fourteen were therefore received by the IMC during the Non-NSDS Fall Window that operated under the new guidelines. In 2014, for both windows, sixty proposals were received and forty-six shortlisted. The number of proposals submitted to the IMC in 2015 was 40% of the figure observed in 2014.

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<sup>13</sup> Iraq and Iraq (Kurdistan), Sierra Leone and Tanzania (respectively \$200,000, \$ 100,000, \$1,500,000, and \$2,300,000).

No proposal was submitted through the NSDS Window.

Out of the fourteen proposals received during the Spring Window and submitted to the IMC, four were accepted, seven conditionally approved, and three rejected. Out of the fourteen proposals received during the Fall Window under the new guidelines, three were accepted, six were rejected and five were proposed for a resubmission for an IMC virtual meeting<sup>14</sup>. In total, out of the twenty-eight proposals received during the two Windows, seven (25.0%) were approved, twelve (42.9%) conditionally approved or proposed for a resubmission for a further virtual meeting and nine (32.1%) were rejected. In 2014, these percentages were respectively 32.6%, 50.0% and 17.4%.

The geographical distribution of the thirty-two proposals presented through both Windows is as follows:

<b>Region</b>	<b>Proposals</b>	<b>Shortlisted proposals</b>	<b>Accepted proposals</b>	<b>Conditionally accepted proposals (Spring W.)</b>	<b>Deferred proposals (Fall W.)</b>
AFR	13	11	3	2	2
LAC	6	6	-	4	2
MENA	1	1	-	-	-
SAR	1	1	-	-	-
EAP	2	2	2	-	-
ECA	3	3	1	1	-
Global	6	4	1	-	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>

The percentage of proposals coming from Africa region has notably increased (40.6% of the proposals and 42.9% of the accepted proposals compared to 22.2% and 25.0% respectively in 2014).

The total requested for the 32 proposals sent to the AU was \$12.679 million (compared to \$17.922 in 2015). The budget allocated for the 14 approved or conditionally approved proposals was \$5,762,600 (compared to \$10.024 million in 2014). If we assume a return of 50% on the deferred proposals resubmitted for a further virtual review, \$726,175 will have to be added, i.e. an

<sup>14</sup> Two projects proposed for a resubmission were combined.

expected total allocated budget of \$6,488,775 (compared to \$12.087 million in 2014). This figure is similar to the average funding observed between 2000 and 2010<sup>15</sup> (over \$5 million every year).

During its 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, the AP proposed to classify the proposals discussed by the IMC into six categories<sup>16</sup>:

1. NSDS proposals
2. Implementation of NSDS
3. Growth areas proposed by the TFSCB donors and the priorities resulting from the BAPS and MDGs
4. Other emerging issues
5. Sector specific activities
6. Miscellaneous

The assignment of a project to a particular category is sometimes a subjective choice. This classification, however, sheds light on the choices that led the AP to make a particular recommendation.

The proposals received under the new Data Production Window are not listed in the survey below.

### **1. NSDS proposals** (no new proposals<sup>17</sup>)

Proposals presented in this section concern not only new NSDS proposals, but also updates of former NSDS (or Statistical Master Plans), or NSDS replacing “first generation” NSDS that did not comply with the guidelines proposed by PARIS21 after some years of experience.

There was no new proposal, as a very large majority of developing or transition countries having now prepared SNDS or SMP. But this conclusion is somewhat misleading insofar as it confuses 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. PARIS21 expressed the opinion that NSDS should continue to play a pivotal role in strengthening statistical capacities. The NSDS Guidelines 2.0 it recently prepared by PARIS21 will certainly increase the number of proposals for new, revised or updated NSDS in the coming years.

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<sup>15</sup> The average funding fell down to \$2.77 million during the three years 2011, 2012, and 2013.

<sup>16</sup> These six categories are different from the six ones used in the reports before the 12<sup>th</sup> one. It is therefore not possible to make comparisons with years 2000 to 2013.

<sup>17</sup> 2 new proposals in 2014.

## **2. Implementation of NSDS and Statistical Capacity Building Programs** (3 new proposals<sup>18</sup>)

Proposals presented in this section concern methods on implementing validated NSDS but also focusing on the enhancement of NSDS through advocacy, evaluation, etc. The proposals aiming at building statistical capacities have also been added in this section, even if they don't make any reference to NSDS.

### **Non NSDS Fall Window**

Approved: AFR: Ethiopia – 2017 Population & Housing  
Census Support \$500,000

*9.4% of the presented proposals*

*5.6% of the proposals approved, conditionally approved or resubmitted*

*7.8% of the budget allocated (compared to 31.1% in 2014)*

### **Rejected (Non NSDS Spring Window):**

AFR: Uganda – Support for Implementation of PNSD  
AFR: East African Community – Harmonised Statistics

The proposals concerning the implementation of NSDS and statistical capacity building programs constitute, with the preparation of NSDS, the core orientation of the TFSCB since it has been created. The budget allocated for those two categories of proposals does not reflect this priority. In 2014, 32.9% of the allocated budget was used for the categories 1 + 2.

## **3. Growth areas proposed by the TFSCB donors and the priorities resulting from the BAPS and MDGs** (7 new proposals<sup>19</sup>)

To address the imbalance between demand and supply of timely and quality data, the World Bank President suggested in a speech pronounced in October 2012 to (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 that virtually all developing countries have timely and accurate data. Taking into consideration this broad mandate established by the World Bank President, the growth areas proposed by TFSCB donors and the priorities resulting from the Busan Action Plan for Statistics (BAPS) and from the MDGs' framework, the AU prepared a note for discussion for the IMC meeting held in February, 2014. According to this note, special emphasis should be placed on:

1. Making government data more accessible by participating actively in the Bank policy on Open Data Readiness Assessment (ODRA) and Action Plans
2. Improving the production and use of Gender Statistics
3. Improving the data foundation for measuring sustainable development
4. Funding innovative approaches

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<sup>18</sup> 10 new proposals in 2014.

<sup>19</sup> 14 new proposals in 2014.

5. Improving TFSCB's results focus.

The proposals meeting this emphasis have been classified in this third section.

**Non NSDS Spring Window**

<u>Approved:</u>	AFR: Ethiopia – Open Data Initiative	\$300,000
	Global: Open Data in Developing Countries	\$450,000
	EAP: Fiji – ICT Enhanced Data Collection and Dissemination	\$268,000

Conditionally Approved:

AFR: Uganda – Enhanced Dissemination Service Delivery Data to Improve Transparency	\$230,250
ECA: Kyrgyzstan – Open Data Action Plan	\$450,000

**Non NSDS Fall Window:**

Resubmitted for IMC Virtual Review:

Global: WB Poverty GP Unit – Innovations in Development Data <sup>20</sup>	\$545,000
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**Total**                **\$2,243,250**  
(\$545,000 pending)

*21.9% of the presented proposals*

*33.3% of the proposals approved, conditionally approved or resubmitted*

*30.6% of the budget allocated (compared to 26.7% in 2014)*

Rejected (Non NSDS Fall Window):

ECA: UNDP-Serbia – Open Data Action Plan

**4. Other emerging issues** (8 new proposals<sup>21</sup>)

Proposals presented in this section refer to issues emerging from discussions in global summits or UN meetings at global or regional level. This also includes the issues emerging of the Strategic Action Plan recently approved by the WB Board. The number of proposals classified in this fourth category may increase in the next future.

**Non NSDS Spring Window:**

Conditionally approved:

LAC: El Salvador – Indicators for Educational

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<sup>20</sup> One project presented by Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal (Open Algorithm Initiative for NSOs) – \$45,000 requested - was combined with the WB Poverty GP Unit – \$500,000. So the requested amount indicated here is the total of the two proposals, slightly above the ceiling.

<sup>21</sup> 5 new proposals in 2014.

Opportunities	\$98,680
LAC: Haiti – Strengthening the Education M&E System	\$500,000

**Non NSDS Fall Window:**

Resubmitted for IMC Virtual Review:

LAC: UNECLAC – Estimation and Harmonization Of Price Statistics to Support Estimation of PPPs	\$414,700
AFR: Nigeria – Poverty and Conflict Monitoring System in Northern Region	\$400,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,413,380</b> (\$814,700 pending)

*25.0% of the presented proposals*

*22.2% of the proposals approve, conditionally approved or resubmitted*

*15.6% of the budget allocated (compared to 10.6% in 2014)*

Non shortlisted (Non NSDS Spring Window):

AFR: Zanzibar, Tanzania – Improving Student Prospect

Not submitted to Stage 2 (Non NSDS Spring Window):

AFR: Sudan – Development of Higher Education Management Information System

Rejected (Non NSDS Fall Window):

Global: WB SPL GP Unit – Strengthening Country Capacities to Regularly Monitor the Performance of SPL (Social Protection and Labor) Programs

MENA: Jordan, Tunisia, Palestine – Education Statistics and EMIS Project

5. **Sector specific issues** (5 new proposals<sup>22</sup>)

Proposals presented in this section relate to specific statistical topics complementing the preparation or the implementation of NSDS. As during its previous meetings, the AP notes 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 and may contribute to statistical capacity building, at least in some of their components. The AP also notes that sector specific issues may attract new donors, in particular bilateral donors or charities.

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<sup>22</sup> 15 new proposals in 2014.

**Non NSDS Spring Window:**

Approved: AFR: Liberia – Agricultural Recall Survey \$500,000

Conditionally Approved:

LAC: OECS – Measuring the Economic Impact of Tourism \$400,000

LAC: OLADE – Energy Statistics in Caribbean States \$500,000

**Non NSDS Fall Window:**

Approved: EAP: Vietnam – Transport and Trade Logistics  
Statistical System \$498,460

**Total \$1,898,460**

*15.6% of the presented proposals*

*22.2% of the proposals approved, conditionally approved or resubmitted*

*29. % of the budget allocated (compared to 2.5% in 2014)*

Rejected: Global: Climate Transparency Initiative

**6. Miscellaneous** (9 new proposals<sup>23</sup>)

**Non NSDS Spring Window:**

Conditionally approved:

AFR: WAEMU – Welfare Survey Modernization \$489,000

**Non NSDS Fall Window**

Approved: EAP: Turkmenistan – National Welfare Monitoring System \$328,210

Resubmitted for IMC Virtual Review:

LAC: Handicap international: Production and Use of  
High Quality Data on Disability  
in 4 Andean Countries \$500,000

**Total \$1,317,210**  
(\$500,000 pending)

*28.1% of the presented proposals*

*16.7% of the proposals approved, conditionally approved or resubmitted*

*16.5% of the budget allocated (compared to 0 in 2014)*

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<sup>23</sup> 3 new proposals in 2014.

Rejected (Non NSDS Spring Window):

AFR: Senegal – Improving National Accounts  
Global: UNESCO – Effective use of ICT in Education

Rejected (Non NSDS Fall Window):

AFR: AUC – Capacity Building of the African Institute for Remittances  
SAR: Afghanistan – Measuring Success of Development Interventions  
Global: UNSD – eLearning on SNA

## ANNEX II

### PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERVIEW GUIDE ON RECIPIENTS' EXPERIENCE WITH TFSCB GRANTS

*The interview should be conducted within a time span of less than 6 months after conclusion to the project. It should be conducted by a World Bank staff member or consultant who was not engaged in the project. His/her counterpart should be the responsible team leader on the client side or the senior statistician of the client institution.*

#### **I - Initiative to apply for grant**

**Please tell us where did the initial idea for such a grant originate?**

1. Contacts with WB country representative, suggestion by WB representative
2. National Statistical Office in connection with:
  - National Strategic Program for Statistical Development
  - Definition of topical data demands by government
  - Data demands by international agencies or donors
3. Talks and suggestions derived from regional meetings
4. Other : specify .....

#### **II - Application procedure**

**Please elaborate on your experience with the application procedure**

1. Application procedure was straight-forward and promptly attended to
2. There was
  - some
  - good
  - excellentassistance from the World Bank representatives in:
  - defining the aims and parameters of the project
  - drawing up the budget
  - securing government support
3. Other comments:.....

### **III - Implementation of the grant**

#### **Please share your experience**

The grant was

- implemented as proposed
- there were delays in implementation
- extension of grant was required
- budget problems occurred
- continued strong/ lack of government support

Specify your answers: .....

### **IV - Sustainability of results**

#### **Please assess the sustainability of grant results**

- i. Will the survey/ the activities be integrated into regular work program of your statistical system? In which way (e.g. integration into strategic work plan, active preparation of new grant for next survey, looking for national donors, government is willing to supply matching funds for next survey)?
- ii. Is there a manifest increase in user demand for statistical data derived from the project? Please specify (demand from national government, other data users on national level, international aid agencies).
- iii. Have there been identifiable synergy effects on regional level (e.g. exchange of experience with other countries, joint reports on best practices, development of common IT solutions for presentation and analysis of survey results)?

### **V - General observations on grant matters**

Can you think of any areas of improvement? Please elaborate in which area:

- Application procedure
- Communication before, during, after grant implementation
- Assistance from World Bank representatives
- Support from government
- Integration of grant results into regular work program of statistical office
- Promoting results of grant implementation on national/regional/international level

Specify your answers: .....

### **VI - Would you recommend TFSCB grants for data production to other recipients as a suitable instrument for achieving their stated purposes?**

- Yes, because
- No, because
- With some reservations, because .....

## ANNEX III

### CONCLUSIONS OF MEETINGS<sup>24</sup> WITH SOME MEMBERS OF THE PARIS21 SECRETARIAT IN CHARGE OF ACTIVITIES IN SPECIFIC REGIONS

**Q1. The TFSCB was established in 1999 by the WB (in conjunction with the creation of PARIS21) to strengthen the capacity of statistical systems in developing countries. What are for you the priorities for statistical capacity building, particularly in regions that you follow on behalf of the secretariat of PARIS21?**

- NSDS should continue to play a pivotal role in strengthening statistical capacities. It's important to further strengthen coordination through updating NSDSs, both within and among countries (sectors, review NSDSs based on countries' National Development Plan/Strategies and SDGs, understanding and incorporating data revolution in statistical development through NSDSs, costing of NSDSs, implementation of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, sustainable funding, human resource capacities, professional staff, better understanding of risks and opportunities, ....)
- Building and/or updating legal and institutional frameworks. Regulation of statistical activities.
- Ethical issues.
- Building communication plans (visualization, releases, press statements, participation to open data policy, dissemination of micro-data).
- Importance of Regional Strategies (RSDS). Role of Centers of Excellence in sub-regions. Peer reviews based on a South – South cooperation.

**Q2. According the PARIS21 NSDS Progress Reports (last one in January 2015), the number of regions having “a strategy expired or absent and not planning one” is often very few. Some previous reports of the TFSCB AP thought that these reports are somewhat misleading insofar it doesn't take into account the quality of NSDS/SMP produced for 15 years and their implementation and updating. Do you share this opinion and do you think producing NSDS (new or updated) is no longer a priority?**

For sure, the tables of the page 2 of NSDS Progress Reports may be seen as misleading. It's necessary to look at the list of countries in the following pages to have a better view of the situation. But it's true that the Reports do not indicate the quality of NSDSs developed and implemented so far.

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<sup>24</sup> February 5, 2016 – 5 pm: Millicent Gay Tejada – Asia, Pacific and Caribbean

February 16, 2016 – 3pm: Shelton Kanyanda (Anglophone Sub-Saharan Africa) and Rudolphe Petras (Francophone Sub-Saharan Africa)

Some of the documents mentioned in the NSDS Progress Report are still SMPs (Statistical Master Plans) concerning just the NSOs and not the full NSS). One can consider that the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of NSDS has started in 2010 with an accent on the NSSs and no longer on only the NSOs, with a better sector based approach. A third generation will integrate new sources (e.g. big data) and new thematics.

- Consequently, it remains a priority that all countries should continue developing and implementing NSDS (new, updated or revised) as an on-going activity based on previous and international experience

**Q3. The TFSCB was originally designed to support two types of projects: (i) preparation of NSDS; and (ii) capacity building activities in specific priority areas in the context of the BAPS. Do you think that the four BAPS priority areas identified in 2013 (open government data; gender statistics; improving source data for measuring sustainable development; innovative approaches) are still relevant?**

Yes these priority areas are still relevant. Immigration (both internal and external) will be a new relevant topic. Taking into account the SDGs is fundamental for the future NSDSs and proposals for TFSCB funding. Gender statistics should be changed to reflect other sector of statistics that may be relevant to countries as per the SDGs.

**Q4. DFID has recommended that the WB work with PARIS21 to explore how the TFSCB could support the upgrading of NSDS in the context of the data revolution and SDGs and how TFSCB can use the tools developed by PARIS21 to ensure NSDSs are realistic and of good quality. Do you support this recommendation?**

Yes, PARIS21 is continuously updating the NSDS guidelines to incorporate emerging issues. There is an NSDS Guidelines Expert Reference Group. Updating NSDS Guidelines includes: Agenda 2030; Data Revolution; Fragile states; Sub-national Strategy and Regional Strategy; First timers, etc.

Other tools to strengthen the NSDS process include: a tool named ADAPT to plan and cost the NSDS as well as the SDGs; NSDS Evaluation Tools to understand the implementation quality of the NSDS; Innovation inventory solutions, etc

- The TFSCB Unit should help both to update the guidelines and implement at country or regional level.

**Q5. Do you think it is necessary to automatically expand the remit of TFSCB into areas that would appeal to new donors?**

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is working with the PARIS21 Secretariat. It is necessary to be prudent. Bloomberg may be interested for developing more reliable and open economic statistics. Any collaboration should be on line with countries' priorities. Such collaboration should not be only based on technical matters.

**Q6. The Administration Unit has opened a new window "Data Production in Key Areas" with increased budget (up to 1-2 million USD instead of \$500,000, focused on household surveys, national accounts, etc). Are you informed of this pilot activity?**

SK is aware of this new window. He has been in contact with countries that have already benefited of this window, e.g. Ethiopia. He also made recommendations to countries to apply for the TFSCB in the event when they need some support to develop their capacities in data production.

**Q7. Any other business?**

Develop more activities on evaluation. Dissemination of some "success stories".