



Background note on the revised draft Terms of Reference of the International Forum on TOSSD

TOSSD Task Force Issues Paper¹ - Agenda item 1: Governance and Financing 21st meeting of the International TOSSD Task Force Thursday 6 and Friday 7 July 2023

1. At its meeting on 12 December 2022, the Task Force completed a first review of the draft terms of reference of the “International Forum on TOSSD”². At its meeting on 6-7 July 2023, the Task Force will be invited to review a revised version of these draft TORs. The revised version (circulated in a separate document) includes:
 - **Edits that do not change the substance of the Forum TORs.** These edits are proposed by the Secretariat, aim to improve the flow and remove unnecessary text.
 - **New sections** on i) data management, ii) intellectual property and iii) financial provisions that aim to ensure alignment with the envisaged hosting of the Forum Secretariat.
 - **Edits to clarify certain provisions in the TORs**, including when a contribution to the Forum gives right to a seat in the Steering Group.
2. Note also that the revised version no longer includes the material that was previously under the title “Context and purpose of the document”, since that text (copied for ease of reference in Annex) was background information and not a part of the TORs themselves.³ Certain other text that was intended to guide readers but that was similarly not part of the actual TORs has also been removed. Following these changes, all paragraph numbers in the TORs have been updated but are not shown in track changes to facilitate readability of the document.
3. Following the Task Force review, the finalised draft TORs will be circulated to all countries and organisations participating in the Task Force with an invitation to approve the TORs.

Issues for discussion

Task Force members are invited to review the revised draft Terms of Reference of the International Forum on TOSSD (version for review by the Task Force on 6-7 July 2023).

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² See the version of 12 December 2022 on the TOSSD website at: [TORs IFT 12 December 2022.pdf \(tossd.org\)](https://tossd.org/TORs_IFT_12_December_2022.pdf)

³ It could nevertheless be used for communicating about the transition to the Forum, or made available on the TOSSD website separately as a brief history of TOSSD.

Annex: Former Introductory text for the Terms of Reference

1. In the last two decades, the development finance landscape has seen major changes with the emergence of new actors (e.g. emerging providers, the private sector), the use of new financial instruments (e.g. guarantees) and, first and foremost, a greater focus on sustainable development. In July 2015, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) acknowledged this broad landscape and called for “open, inclusive and transparent discussions” on the new Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) measure⁴.
2. In 2017, an International TOSSD Task Force⁵ was created to develop a single international statistical standard encapsulating all official (and officially supported) resources of financing for sustainable development in developing countries, much beyond traditional development finance.
3. From July 2017 to June 2019, the International TOSSD Task Force focused on developing the general statistical concepts, standards and methodologies of the TOSSD framework, which led to the release of a first set of complete Reporting Instructions in June 2019. The first release of TOSSD data took place in 2020 on 2019 activities. Since then, the methodology and data are updated every year and published online.
4. In March 2022, the United Nations Statistical Commission endorsed Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 17.3.1 with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as co-custodians of this indicator. With this, TOSSD became an official data source for the SDG global indicator framework.
5. It was gradually recognised that TOSSD would require a much broader and stronger institutional framework providing efficiency and continuity to the work already carried out. The ambition of TOSSD is to become a global measure of support for sustainable development in developing countries. Therefore, the governance also needs to evolve to accommodate the reality of an increasingly diverse, international and multistakeholder initiative.
6. Another key element in the legitimacy of TOSSD is the official nature of the statistics collected, i.e. that TOSSD data are reported by governments and multilateral institutions. In order to bolster this legitimacy moving forward, the Task Force, with the relatively informal nature of its governance and participation (with some individuals participating in their capacity as experts rather than on behalf of their country/organisation), would need to evolve towards a more formalised governance arrangement. This was deemed necessary to be able to formally engage more official actors, collect more data, strengthen the nature of TOSSD as an international statistical standard and promote the use of the standard in official arenas.
7. Finally, the TOSSD Task Force had a high level of interaction and a strong involvement by members in the discussions. However, with a growing membership, there was a risk that this way of working would become increasingly challenging. The governance of TOSSD would require new structures to ensure continued efficiency of its deliberations, while ensuring balanced representation of all stakeholder groups (providers, dual providers/recipients, recipients and intergovernmental organisations).

⁴ See paragraph 55 of the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda \(AAAA\)](#).

⁵ All information about TOSSD and the work of the Task Force is available at: www.tossd.org

8. At their meeting in February 2022, TOSSD Task Force members agreed to work on a proposal for a gradual transition towards a clarified and more formalised governance structure with a permanent secretariat as soon as possible⁶.
9. The sections below set out draft Terms of Reference for an International Forum on TOSSD, hereafter referred to as the “International Forum”, “the Forum” or using its abbreviation “IFT”.

⁶ See all background documents at: www.tossd.org