



TOSSD Task Force

Updated Terms of Reference

1 February 2019

I. OVERALL CONTEXT

1. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will call for massive resources and “smart” investments across the global value chain. It also implies a new development co-operation architecture where public sector actors – provider countries and multilateral organisations – work increasingly with the private sector and where emerging economies play an important role. The SDG agenda is galvanising renewed public policy interest at the global level regarding the importance of environmental sustainability and social inclusiveness.
2. The United Nations has developed a global SDG monitoring framework, including indicators for the means of implementation and relevant resource flows. This will enable the international community to understand where the resources are going – what countries, what sectors, what activities – and how much is being deployed. Many bilateral and multilateral institutions are now gearing up to track their SDG support. But the risk is real that this will result in a multitude of idiosyncratic, disconnected statistics measuring “apples and oranges”. What the world needs now are shared statistical tools and measures for ensuring a coherent, comparable and unified system for tracking SDG-relevant investments that can inform strategic planning, identify emerging needs and priorities, and assess progress in matching supply with needs.
3. Responding to this need for a global statistical framework, a new measure of total official support for sustainable development (TOSSD) has been proposed. TOSSD will track all financing provided by official bilateral and multilateral institutions – regardless of the level of concessionality involved or instrument used. It will also capture private resources that are mobilised through official means. The TOSSD framework is composed of two pillars: i) cross-border flows, and ii) global and regional expenditures, in support of development enablers, International Public Goods and to address global challenges.
4. Work to develop TOSSD has been taken forward in consultation with relevant UN bodies and, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which in its paragraph 55 calls for holding “open, inclusive and transparent discussions” on TOSSD. An International TOSSD Task Force¹ has been established to further elaborate the features of TOSSD and prepare a first set of Reporting Instructions for submission to a variety of international bodies and groupings. Agreement in 2019 on the scope and method of TOSSD reporting, in particular for the cross-border flow pillar, will enable TOSSD data to contribute to international reporting on SDG implementation at the UN-hosted High Level Political Forum in July 2019 and the in-depth review of the SDGs planned in July 2020.

¹ All information about the work of the Task Force is available at: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/tossd-task-force.htm>



5. The present Terms of Reference (TORs) provide an update to the December 2017 version and define the objectives, composition, governance arrangements and working methods of the TOSSD Task Force from January 2019 until the in-depth review of the SDGs planned in July 2020.

II. THE PURPOSE AND ROLE OF THE TASK FORCE AND ITS TASKS

6. In the first phase of its work, the Task Force has focused on developing the general statistical concepts, standards and methodologies of the TOSSD framework and specifically:

- Completed the first draft of Reporting Instructions for Pillar I on the cross-border flows (July 2017 - January 2019).
- Started the development of Pillar II on global and regional expenditures (from May 2018 onwards).

7. During the second phase of its work from January 2019 to July 2020, the TOSSD Task Force will carry out its activities along three work streams with specific objectives as follows:

- **Workstream 1: Finalising the Reporting Instructions**
 - Finalise the Reporting Instructions, particularly on the Pillar II of TOSSD, and maintain them in 2019-20, taking into account, as appropriate the results of the TOSSD data survey, country and thematic pilots as well as stakeholder feedback.
- **Workstream 2: Collecting and analysing TOSSD data**
 - Undertake two rounds of TOSSD data collection in 2019 and 2020, and seek to expand the coverage of these data, by inviting more providers, especially South-South providers, and multilateral institutions to report on TOSSD.
 - Review analyses of TOSSD data and promote their use in policy discussions on sustainable development finance.
- **Workstream 3: Integrating TOSSD in the SDG indicator framework and transferring or sharing the ownership of TOSSD with the UN:**
 - Engage specifically with the United Nations in order to identify a custodian or co-custodian agency for TOSSD and make substantial progress on transferring or sharing the ownership of the framework with that agency. In the meantime, the OECD will continue to work as the Secretariat of the Task Force to ensure that the TOSSD framework is maintained to the highest statistical standards and that data continue to be collected to inform policies on sustainable development finance.
 - Seek to increase the ownership of TOSSD as a new statistical framework of Sustainable Development Finance by different countries, international bodies and constituencies (e.g. the UN; developing countries; South-South providers; Think Tanks; CSOs and the Private Sector).



III. COMPOSITION OF THE TASK FORCE

8. As indicated in the December 2017 version of the Task Force TORs, as the work of the Task Force evolves, the Membership of the Task Force also needs to evolve.

9. The Task Force will consist of sovereign states and international institutions, or their designates. Members will be representative of key international constituencies that will generate and use TOSSD data e.g. TOSSD-eligible countries; bilateral and multilateral providers; and Northern and South-South providers. They will bring to the Task Force their technical expertise drawn from both national statistical offices and the development community. The Task Force may also include independent experts as permanent members.

10. In line with the objective of increasing ownership of TOSSD at the global level, the Task Force will seek to expand its membership as from January 2019. While any country or organisation is welcome to join, special attention will be paid to ensuring a balance in terms of representation from: TOSSD-eligible and provider countries; Northern and South-South providers, development policy and statistical practitioners. Special attention will also be paid to ensure adequate representation of multilateral organisations, in particular UN agencies. As and when the number of members exceeds 35, the Task Force will review its modes of deliberation to ensure its decision-making processes remain effective.

11. The Task Force will be led by [two co-Chairs][a Chair and two Vice-Chairs], representative of the Task Force membership among i) TOSSD-eligible countries; ii) Northern and South-South providers; and iii) Multilateral organisations.

IV. WORKING METHODS

12. Task Force work will continue being conducted principally through periodic, face-to-face meetings where participants will discuss statistical concepts, principles and approaches, in particular on the Pillar II of TOSSD; identify further research and analytical needs; provide comments on texts that will ultimately constitute a first set of TOSSD Reporting Instructions; and adjust the Reporting Instructions as appropriate, based on the results of the TOSSD data survey, country and thematic pilots, as well as stakeholder feedback.

13. The core output of the TOSSD Task Force by July 2020 will be a complete set of TOSSD Reporting Instructions and two rounds of data collection (one in 2019 and one in 2020).

14. Meetings will be managed and work structured by the TOSSD Task Force [co-Chairs][Chair and Vice-Chairs], with support from the Task Force Secretariat.

15. The [co-Chairs][Chair and Vice-Chairs] will function as a bureau to provide strategic oversight regarding the scope and nature of work, to identify topics for discussion, and to manage work flow and modalities.

16. Task Force members will be invited to propose topics for further inquiry or future consideration by the Task Force.



17. Participant-driven subgroups can be spontaneously created for carrying out further work with the support of the [co-Chairs][Chair and the Vice-Chairs].
18. External experts may be called on to participate in Task Force meetings for specific topics and specific expert workshops may be organised to address some technical issues outside of regular Task Force meetings.
19. Consultations with civil society organisations (CSOs) will be organised and their outcomes drawn to the attention of the Task Force as appropriate.
20. The Task Force Secretariat will convene and organise meetings, develop substantive texts, summarise discussions, and revise substantive texts to ready them for inclusion in the proposed TOSSD Reporting Instructions.
21. Considering the progress made, the Task Force will seek guidance from UN members with regard to the Reporting Instructions (e.g. at the UN Statistical Commission) or the future oversight mechanism of TOSSD.
22. Task Force meetings will be held four times per calendar year, funds permitting.
23. All Task Force meeting documents and outputs will be made available in the public domain in an effort to enhance openness, inclusivity and transparency.