

TOSSD

15th meeting of the international Task Force CSOs' comments on TOSSD future governance

- We appreciate the need to consider options for the governance of TOSSD: the possibility of new members joining the Task Force and expectations raised by decisions on a new UN indicator may challenge the effectiveness of the current working arrangement.
- Concerns about the role and the legitimacy of TOSSD and the Task Force are noted. References to the letter and the spirit of the relevant AAAA deliberations are appropriate and welcome: meaningful participation and inclusion of all stakeholders are critical features to the TOSSD ambitions as a legitimate global statistical measure.
- We welcome the importance attached to a direct association of the UN in TOSSD discussions. A structured involvement of Unctad in TOSSD governance may offer several opportunities in light of the new SDG 17.3.1 indicator with UNCTAD and OECD as co-custodian agencies. On the other hand, we would like to note that achieving greater legitimacy through the inclusion of the larger UN constituency in TOSSD deliberations requires renewed efforts to broaden the direct political engagement of the UN in the governance of TOSSD.
- We welcome consideration for CSOs' role in governance options. As active observers, the Task Force has provided a unique opportunity for effective CSOs engagement in the development of the metric, with several issues still outstanding to be refined in the coming years. We would therefore appreciate clarity as to whether only countries or international institutions might be observers under the proposed provisions in Annex II of the background paper, including in any future issue-specific working group. If this were to be the case, these arrangements might prevent CSOs' from continuing their constructive engagement in future discussions to shape the Reporting Instructions, the Manual of Operations (yet to come), and the use and credibility of TOSSD as a recognized global metric.
- As different options are out for discussion and deliberation, we would like all interested parties to safeguard the key outstanding features of the current working arrangements, which are setting TOSSD as an example for similar endeavors; these features include:
 - enhanced transparency, including timely access to all documentations to feed Task Force's discussions and deliberations;
 - inclusive membership regardless of capacity to fund the TOSSD operational budget;
 - equal footing participation in both technical and strategic discussions; and
 - training and capacity development opportunities for all members.

These principles have served the Task Force well in advancing TOSSD in ways that take account of the concerns and interests of all stakeholders and are essential in any future governance arrangement.

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