

**TWELTH MEETING OF THE TOSSD TASK FORCE
VIRTUAL MEETING, 9 AND 11 MARCH 2021
MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND ACTION POINTS**

This note presents the main conclusions and action points from the 12th meeting of the TOSSD Task Force (the TF) as recorded by the co-Chairs and the Secretariat. In brief:

- **Item 1.** The first TOSSD data collection (2019 data) was **very successful**, with an increased response rate compared with the 2019 Survey (92 respondents, including 13 new reporters) and **estimated totals of USD 226 billion for Pillar I, USD 70 billion for Pillar II and USD 47 billion for amounts mobilised from the private sector**. These results confirmed the value added that TOSSD data bring to the policy debate on financing the SDGs. This includes providing more **transparency** to recipient countries and shedding light on the **financing of international public goods**. In particular, going forward, TOSSD can be used as a framework to **capture contributions in the fight against the COVID-19** pandemic. The publication of the TOSSD data online (<https://tossd.online/>) was seen as a **key milestone in the development of TOSSD**, and there is strong momentum to reach out to new reporters to further improve the coverage. Going forward, **more work would need to be conducted by the Task Force on Pillar II and the delineation between Pillar I and Pillar II**, as some areas remain to be explored or finalised. In terms of next steps, the Secretariat will release the data online after the TF meeting and organise an official launch during a high-level event in April.
- **Item 2.** **All Task Force members should contribute** to support the promotion and dissemination of TOSSD data. **The Matrix should be further beefed up, notably with activities from the members**. A provider perspective is needed to allow effective communication. **A TOSSD information package** should be gradually developed with infographics, new videos and short stories. **No objection was received from members on the new objectives of the Task Force. The TORs of the Task Force will be adjusted accordingly**. ActionAid, AidWatch Canada and Oxfam International had published a comprehensive paper on TOSSD.
- **Item 3.** The Secretariat will prepare a **first skeleton of the Manual of procedures** for the next meeting. **A presentation of the governance structure of a few initiatives similar to TOSSD** will also be made in this meeting. Regarding financing scenarios, the Secretariat will organise **bilateral calls** to further investigate the possibility for members to contribute and present the result of those calls at the next meeting.
- **Item 4.** **TF members that are also members of the working group on the measurement of development support will continue coordinating ahead of the meetings of the working group** and the TF Secretariat will report back on progress at the next TF meeting.

	<p>Introduction and welcome</p> <p>Mr. Ashwell Jenneker on behalf of Mr Risenga Maluleke, co-Chair of the TF and Mr. Laurent Sarazin, co-Chair of the TF welcomed Russia as new observer to the Task Force. They also welcomed the other participants and thanked them for their attendance.</p>
<p>Item 1.</p>	<p>Item 1. Presentation of the first TOSSD dataset</p> <p>The Secretariat made a presentation of the results of the first TOSSD data collection and of the data in the “tossd.online” tool. It reported on a very successful exercise, with a much increased response rate (92 respondents, including 13 new reporters) in comparison with the 2019 data survey and estimated totals of USD 226 billion for Pillar I, USD 70 billion for Pillar II and USD 47 billion for amounts mobilised from the private sector¹. TOSSD data capture close to 60 000 activities not reported so far, representing an additional USD 76 billion in official support. TOSSD also discloses additional details on multilateral activities (the UN reported the details of their non-core resources for a total amount of USD 20 billion). These results confirmed the value added that TOSSD data bring to the policy debate on financing the SDGs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing more transparency to recipient countries, by capturing data for a wider scope of resources in support of sustainable development and from a wider range of providers (including South-South Co-operation providers such as Chile, Costa Rica, Indonesia and Nigeria). This point was illustrated during the meeting by showcasing the example of Guatemala where TOSSD data capture more resources than current statistics on development finance (+ 11% in total; + 37% compared to concessional finance alone - ODA + multilateral concessional outflows). • Shedding light on the financing of international public goods. Examples include the areas of biodiversity, health and climate. In particular, going forward, TOSSD can be used as a framework to capture contributions in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. <p>The co-Chair from South Africa thanked all respondents for the efforts put into this first data collection, which had led to this collective impressive success. He invited the Task Force reactions on the initial analysis of the data collected and views on potential opportunities for marketing TOSSD on this basis. Main points of the discussion are summarised below.</p> <p><i>Data collection</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants agreed that this first successful data collection was a milestone in the development of TOSSD, and that there was momentum to reach out to new reporters to further improve the coverage. • Participants noted the current gaps in TOSSD, given the non-participation of some large providers (Germany, World Bank). They recommended not to focus too much on these gaps in volumes which were understandable for a first year of data collection, and should not overshadow the improvements from a qualitative perspective (e.g. new data captured for Pillar II and from South-South providers). For now, estimates could be used to fill the major gaps. • Going forward, more work would needs to be conducted by the Task Force on Pillar II, as some areas remain to be explored or finalised (e.g. biodiversity) as well as on the delineation between Pillar I and Pillar II. • In practical terms, the Secretariat had faced major resource issues in conducting this first data collection, which had translated in some delays in processing the files. The resources needed for administering TOSSD would be discussed under Item 3. It was noted that coordination between CRS and TOSSD reporting could be improved if reporters concerned used the streamlined CRS/TOSSD file developed for that purpose. <p><i>Data visualisation tool</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As regards the visualisation tool, some expressed the view that the type of flow (grant or otherwise) and concessionality should be added as filters in the tool. The Secretariat indicated that the development of the tool had been the result of a consultation with the Task

¹ The presentation made to the Task Force was subsequently updated due to late submissions and additional data quality checks. The figures presented here are those as of 10 May 2021 (see the events page at www.tossd.org).

	<p>Force and that there was a trade-off between user-friendliness (simple tool, with a few key dimensions to manipulate) and transparency (access to the full set of activity-level data to allow users to carry their own analyses). The tool could nevertheless evolve, and the possibility of introducing new filters would be considered.</p> <p><i>Communication</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In view of promoting TOSSD further, participants suggested developing and posting online short videos/presentations based on the newly available TOSSD data. <p>In terms of next steps, the Secretariat would release the data online after the meeting and would organise an official launch during a high-level event in April².</p>
<p>Item 2.</p>	<p>Strategy and proposed activities for the promotion of TOSSD and TOSSD data in 2021</p> <p>The Secretariat presented a summary of the background paper this item, including with updated objectives for the Task Force. All communication activities should be aligned with these new objectives. The Secretariat also presented the new TOSSD website, www.tossd.org.³</p> <p>The main highlights from the discussion that followed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No objection was received from members on the new objectives of the Task Force. The TORs of the Task Force will be adjusted accordingly. • The Co-chair insisted that all TF members should participate in communications and outreach activities and asked that members submit to the Secretariat their planned activities to promote TOSSD and TOSSD data this year. • Sweden will support the Activity 1 in the matrix on the “increased knowledge on the basic concepts contained in the TOSSD methodology” and is working on a manual that they will distribute domestically. They also suggested to make an even more digestible format of the RIs. The Secretariat indicated that the RIs are relatively short if compared to the CRS Directives that comprise several hundred pages and several annexes. • One member asked if there had been communication within the ECLAC⁴ and that it would be useful to include TOSSD data into the UN Voluntary National Reviews. • One member called for greater ambition in the activities proposed, including with a full communication package and videos. The member also indicated the importance of the strategy paper and the necessity to promote it. Further communication material should be developed to communicate on how to access the data. The member signalled the need to come back to the discussion on the development of a provider perspective for TOSSD, which will allow all providers (including South-South providers) to show their own results, and that the TF should aim for progress on this issue at its next meeting. • The Secretariat indicated that training materials are being developed with support from the EU. The proposed activities are commensurate to the current capacity of the Secretariat. An updated version of the Reporting Instructions is also being prepared and the new data collection exercise will start at the end of April. • One member indicated that with the new data, TOSSD can be brought into G20 discussions. • CSOs indicated that ActionAid, AidWatch Canada and Oxfam International had published a comprehensive paper on TOSSD.⁵ • Canada indicated that they will have a couple of pages in their annual report on TOSSD. They also suggested to have publications from members also publicised on the website. The

² See the side-event at the Financing for Development Forum on 12 April here: <https://tossd.org/events/>

³ In reaction to the presentation of the website where the EU was acknowledged for their funding, the co-Chair from the EU thanked the Secretariat and indicated that they were pleased with the website and to have invested EU funds so wisely into this product.

⁴ No specific initiative had yet been taken towards ECLAC yet.

⁵ See DOI.10.21201/2021.7390, for example at <https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/total-official-support-for-sustainable-development-tossd-game-changer-or-mirage-621164/>

	<p>contribution of TOSSD to COVID-19 should be much more visible. The Secretariat could carry out a short survey on what countries have as materials to be published.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brazil (ABC) commented on the data published on tossd.online that more should be done on the validation of the sources of data: they noted that a lot of support presented as support to Brazil is actually coming from Brazil. They recalled their reservation towards the IPGs concept. Brazil (IPEA) also suggested that the data quality review cycle will need to include a validation step for recipient countries. <p>In his wrap-up, the co-Chair highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Task Force members should contribute to support the promotion and dissemination of TOSSD data. The Matrix should be further beefed up, notably with activities from the members. • A TOSSD information package should be gradually developed with infographics, new videos and short stories.
<p>Item 3.</p>	<p>Proposal to develop a basic manual of procedures and presentation of preliminary estimates of members' contributions to the TOSSD Task Force</p> <p><i>Manual of procedures</i></p> <p>The Secretariat presented a proposal to develop a basic manual of procedures for the Task Force. The main highlights from the discussion that followed included the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no objection to the creation of the Manual. Responding to questions by members, the Secretariat provided more detail on the potential content of some of the sections of the Manual: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On Membership: the Manual would clarify who can participate in the Task Force, and the need for a regional balance in the membership. It would clarify the application process, including through official letters, which help to show the commitment of the countries. ○ Rotation of co-Chairs: the Manual would propose options for a process of rotation of co-Chairs. ○ Decision-making process: the manual of procedures would help to discuss this issue, based on the previous discussions within the TF (consensus-based and / or majority). ○ Funding: expectations for providers to self-fund their participation. • The next TF meeting will include a presentation of the governance options of other initiatives similar to TOSSD. • A skeleton of a Manual of procedures, including an updated version of the TORs will be presented at the next meeting. <p>The Secretariat will prepare a first skeleton of the Manual of procedures for the next meeting, A presentation of the governance structure of a few initiatives similar to TOSSD will also be made in this meeting.</p> <p><i>Preliminary estimates</i></p> <p>The Secretariat presented preliminary estimates of members' contributions to the TOSSD Task Force along three scenarios.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A base contribution equal for all members • A base contribution by type of stakeholders • A base contribution by type of stakeholders + GNP-adjusted contribution <p>The main reactions and highlights were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall members welcomed the various proposals. • The vast majority of members favoured scenario 1 (Base contribution equal for all members) or 2 (Base contribution by type of stakeholders), with a slight preference for scenario 2. • There was a proposal to modify the scenario 2 using income categories. • Colombia requested to be placed in the dual /recipient provider category rather than provider category. An adjusted excel document, presenting revised estimates for financing the work of the Task Force was sent after the meeting reflecting this change.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One multilateral organisation raised doubts about the possibility for multilaterals to provide such financing to the initiative. • Whether members of the DAC will be able to fund TOSSD via the DAC PWB will depend on the final governance structure of TOSSD. • There was support for the possibility to take into account the provision of in-kind contributions such as staff secondments in lieu of financial contributions. • More views by recipients should be gathered on these estimates and on the possibility for them to provide contributions. <p>The Secretariat will organise bilateral calls to further investigate the possibility for members to contribute.</p>
<p>Item 4.</p>	<p>Update on the IAEG-SDGs working group on measurement of development support</p> <p>The Secretariat presented an update on progress on the IAEG-SDGs working group (WG) on the measurement of development support. Members of the Task Force that are also members of the IAEG-SDGs working group were invited to provide their perspective on how the group is functioning and progressing so far. Other members' comments were also invited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the TF that are also members of the Working Group confirmed the assessment made by the TF Secretariat on the slow progress made by the Working Group. • UNCTAD highlighted that in the last 2-3 meetings, discussions had become more concrete. By the end of the year, the group is supposed to report back to the Statistical Commission. Within the working group, UNCTAD is acting as the Secretariat for a subgroup on South-South Cooperation. The leadership of Mexico and Brazil was praised in this context. There will be some SSC providers that do not wish to monetise parts of their co-operation and that will therefore stick to qualitative measurement. On the issue of IPGs, some countries in the Working Group had reservations on the concept and time does not allow to come to a conclusion. On IPGs, several other members expressed strong regrets that the working group does not see the importance and the value of including them in the indicator. • One member suggested that the proposed approach by Brazil and Mexico be taken into account in the context of TOSSD. • The co-Chair from the EU expressed regrets about the fact that the working group has not yet understood that TOSSD is a new concept and questioned the usefulness of an indicator that would include only ODA and private finance mobilised and a bit of SSC. • Both co-Chairs and a member raised the issue of which institution would run such an indicator. • Several members expressed frustration as to the progress of the working group. The Secretariat indicated that very few opportunities had been provided to present TOSSD to the group. • One member highlighted that the scope of TOSSD and that of the indicator are different and that the working group started with different levels of expertise and understanding of the issue. <p>TF members that are also members of the working group will continue coordinating ahead of the meetings of the working group and the Secretariat will report back on progress at the next TF meeting.</p>
	<p>AOB and Wrap-up</p> <p>The Secretariat provided a short summary of the responses sent by members regarding their potential activities to promote TOSSD and TOSSD data (see Item 2. above).</p> <p>The co-Chairs thanked the participants and the Secretariat for their hard work. The co-Chair from the EU also thanked Mr. Ashwell Jenneker from South Africa for replacing Mr. Maluleke as a co-Chair for part of the meeting. Co-Chairs recalled the main elements agreed during the meeting, also highlighted above. The next meeting of the TF is scheduled to take place around June/July 2021.</p>