

**FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE TOSSD TASK FORCE
VIRTUAL MEETING, 14 AND 17 FEBRUARY 2022
MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND ACTION POINTS**

This note presents the main conclusions and action points from the 15th meeting of the TOSSD Task Force (the TF) as recorded by the co-Chairs and the Secretariat. In brief:

- **Item 1. Members agreed to a gradual transition of the Task Force towards a clarified and more formalised governance structure by early 2023.** Members also reconfirmed the broad structure of a future governance arrangement around a plenary and a steering group, and supported the possibility of creating technical sub-bodies, as appropriate. Many members advocated for an appropriate involvement of the UN/UNCTAD in the future TOSSD governance structure. **The Secretariat will provide a draft proposal of the future governance structure, including with the roles and responsibilities of the various bodies within this new structure, for feedback by members at the next Task Force meeting.**
- **Item 2. Many members agreed in principle to contribute to TOSSD financially or through in-kind contributions. Members also reconfirmed their support to a financing model based on fixed but differentiated contributions. There was an overall preference for a funding model by group of stakeholders (as opposed to a model based on income per capita).** At the next TOSSD Task Force meeting the Secretariat will provide more information on the budget. Moreover, members are expected to update the Task Force on internal discussions regarding contributions to TOSSD. OECD DAC members will hold discussions among themselves to see how they can best support TOSSD in the context of the OECD DAC PWB discussions. The Secretariat will support them in this regard and continue bilateral exchanges with Task Force members.
- **Item 3. Following the discussion at the UN on the scope of indicator 17.3.1., there was broad agreement to keep the TOSSD pillar attribution unchanged and to implement a keyword ‘#non17.3.1’ to identify activities that do not fall in the scope of indicator 17.3.1, including on Peace & Security expenditures.**
- **Item 4. The Secretariat will prepare an issues paper for a substantive discussion on further development of the TOSSD recipients’ list at the next meeting of the TOSSD Task Force, based on Mexico’s proposal.**
- **Item 5. Regarding South-South Cooperation, it was agreed that the new proposed additional codes will be applicable in 2022 to the reporting of 2021 activities.** The potential use of these categories by all TOSSD reporters will be discussed at a next meeting of the Task Force. **There was also agreement to include in the TOSSD database South-South flows that benefit countries not in the list of TOSSD recipients, but not to include the corresponding amounts in the total TOSSD figures.**
- **The next meeting of the TF is scheduled to take place early April 2022 and will mostly focus on the issues of governance and financing.**

	<p>Introduction and welcome</p> <p>The co-Chair welcomed participants and thanked them for their attendance.</p>
<p>Item 1.</p>	<p>Future governance of the TOSSD framework</p> <p>The Secretariat presented two options for renewed governance arrangements for TOSSD. The first option was a “status quo”, where the Task Force could simply extend its TORs and keep its current structure. The second option consisted of an evolution of the Task Force toward clarified and more formalised governance arrangements.</p> <p>The co-Chair first recalled the rationale for the discussion on the future governance of TOSSD. He notably recalled some of the content of the TOSSD strategy paper¹ and highlighted challenges that the current situation entails, such as the disconnection between the ambition of TOSSD and the current set-up of the Task Force.</p> <p>With regard to the two options presented, members agreed on option 2 (a gradual transition of the Task Force towards a clarified and more formalised governance structure by early 2023). Members also reconfirmed the broad structure of a future governance arrangement around a plenary and a steering group, and supported the possibility of creating technical sub-bodies, as appropriate. The following main comments were made regarding this transition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some members, while supporting the transition, highlighted the importance of taking into account its financial implications. • One observer highlighted the importance of keeping a high level of transparency in any future governance arrangement. • One member flagged the need to maintain an overall structure that is lean, agile, manageable in size and regionally representative. • At the request of the co-Chair, the issue of the name was postponed to a later meeting. • There was some divergence on the possible composition of a future steering group with some supporting a group that is widely representative and formal, and others in favour of a looser, more informal, possibly small, steering group. • On the membership, members started discussing the possible linkages between membership and financing, and between membership and voting power. • Some members indicated that they would provide further comments on the paper after the meeting. <p>Many members advocated for an appropriate involvement of the UN/UNCTAD in the future TOSSD governance structure. The following main comments were made on this topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One member, while strongly supporting the involvement of the UN in TOSSD, cautioned that it will not be possible for them to support a governance model that would entail further financial commitments towards the UN. • Several members highlighted that “involvement” of the UN did not mean “hosting” by the UN, which should rather take place at the OECD due to the synergies and necessary expertise already in place there. • UNCTAD indicated that they welcomed a discussion on their involvement in a future governance structure. • One member advocated for creating a link between the new TOSSD structure and an existing UN structure, such as the IAEG-SDGs, the UNDCF or the ECOSOC, to seek views from the UN and provide feedback. • The Secretariat highlighted that the exact format of the governance structure was still being studied, notably as it depended on the availability of funding.

¹ Notably the paragraphs 25 to 28 in <https://www.tosssd.org/docs/strategy-paper-by-co-chairs.pdf>

	<p>The Secretariat will provide a draft proposal of the future governance structure, including possible roles and responsibilities, for feedback by the members at the next Task Force meeting.</p>
<p>Item 2.</p>	<p>Financing scenarios</p> <p>In follow-up to the discussions at the previous Task Force meeting, the Secretariat presented two possible financing scenarios: one based on per-capita income and another one by stakeholder group.</p> <p>The following general comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several members reiterated their support for a financing model based on fixed but differentiated contributions. • Members flagged the importance of having a model that allows for predictable contributions as opposed to a system that would change too often. • One member pointed to the importance of a flexible system that suits the wide variety of members' funding procedures. • Several participants requested more information on what the overall budget would fund. • One member from the SSC community indicated that if SSC providers wish to have a voice in TOSSD, they do need to contribute. <p>While several members expressed no specific preference for a particular model, there was an overall preference for funding model n°1 (by group of stakeholders):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several members indicated that this scenario better reflects the reality of development co-operation. • One member expressed the need to establish clear criteria for each group of stakeholders. • Several members considered the proposed amounts as reasonable contributions. <p>On the contributions themselves the following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional providers: The co-Chair clarified to traditional providers that their contributions should be on top of those planned for the OECD DAC PWB. This was indeed clear for the majority of DAC members even if one member expressed that they would prefer their contribution to be part of the OECD DAC PWB. OECD DAC members should hold discussions among themselves to see how they can best support TOSSD in the context of the OECD DAC PWB discussions. • SSC providers: One member reiterated its commitment to contribute financially to TOSSD. Several other SSC providers agreed to contribute in principle, but indicated that it was challenging for them and that this may take time. There was an agreement on the need for a discussion on more innovative solutions (incl. in-kind, role of regional organisations). • Multilaterals: One multilateral organisation formally confirmed a contribution while another keeps investigating the issue. • Recipient countries: Several members indicated that recipient countries can contribute indirectly and that perhaps some countries and organisations could cover contributions on their behalf. <p>On next steps, the Secretariat recalled the two main difficulties in the context of the OECD DAC PWB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The necessity to have a budget that is commensurate to the needs for managing TOSSD, including the data collection for close to 100 providers. • Since the last OECD DAC PWB had a budget cap, it would be important that the DAC agrees at least to remove this cap on voluntary contributions to allow interested countries and organisations to contribute. <p>At the next TOSSD Task Force meeting the Secretariat will provide more information on the budget. Moreover, members are expected to update the Task Force on internal discussions regarding contributions to TOSSD. OECD DAC members will hold discussions among themselves to see how they can best support TOSSD in the context of the OECD DAC PWB discussions. The Secretariat will support them in this regard and continue bilateral exchanges with Task Force members.</p>

<p>Item 3.</p>	<p>Possible adjustments to TOSSD following the UN process: Peace and Security</p> <p>The Secretariat presented a short paper on the pros and cons of adjusting the TOSSD framework to take into account the scope of Indicator 17.3.1 as defined by the IAEG-SDGs working group on the measurement of development support, in particular moving all non-ODA eligible peace and security activities to Pillar II. Members were invited to provide guidance on the preferred way forward for TOSSD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most members preferred keeping the pillar attribution in TOSSD unchanged. In particular cross-border flows to developing countries in support of non-ODA eligible activities should remain in pillar I. Members considered that it is important to keep consistency in the logic of the two TOSSD pillars. • Some members also noted that the reference to TOSSD as a data source for indicator 17.3.1 is only a first step in the longer and incremental process of anchoring TOSSD within the UN. Efforts in this regard will need to continue and it will be important to continue collecting data on activities beyond the scope of indicator 17.3.1 to build evidence and inform the future UN discussions. • In order to identify activities that would not fall under the scope of indicator 17.3.1 and that would need to be excluded from the data submitted to the UN Statistics Division, members suggested using a keyword ‘#non17.3.1’. Members also stressed that while the generation of the keyword may be automated for reporters to the OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS), it will have to be done manually for South-South providers who report only in TOSSD. • One member expressed interest in obtaining support on how to report on peace and security activities. <p>The Secretariat confirmed the feasibility of using a keyword ‘#non17.3.1’ and its availability to support South-South providers in identifying peace and security activities excluded from the indicator 17.3.1.</p> <p>In his summary, the co-Chair noted the broad agreement for keeping the TOSSD pillar attribution unchanged and for implementing a keyword ‘#non17.3.1’.</p>
<p>Item 4.</p>	<p>Further development of the TOSSD recipients’ list</p> <p>Mexico presented some preliminary ideas on further development of the TOSSD recipients’ list based on multi-dimensional criteria. This item was not subject to a discussion by the Task Force. It was agreed that the Secretariat will prepare an issues paper for a substantive discussion on this topic at the next meeting of the TOSSD Task Force, based on Mexico’s proposal.</p>
<p>Item 5.</p>	<p>Possible adjustments to TOSSD following the UN process: South-South co-operation</p> <p>The Secretariat presented a proposal to make temporary adjustments to TOSSD to adapt it to the conceptual framework of South-South co-operation (SSC), which will be subject to pilot testing in 2023-24 by UNCTAD, in collaboration with the OECD. The TOSSD methodology would then be updated, taking into account the results of the pilot testing.</p> <p>The proposal contained several additional TOSSD codes that would capture the modalities included in the SSC conceptual framework, so that TOSSD data as reported by SSC providers can directly feed the pilot exercise.</p> <p>There was overall support from Task Force members and especially from SSC providers to include the SSC-specific codes in the TOSSD methodology. Some members noted that some of these additional categories would also be useful for traditional providers.</p> <p>A SSC provider suggested leaving the reference to the BAPA+40 process in footnote 25.</p> <p>There was also general support for including in the TOSSD database activities of SSC providers that benefit countries not in the list of TOSSD recipients but that are considered as developing countries by SSC providers e.g. Chile or Uruguay. Members also agreed that this support should not be shown in total TOSSD figures.</p>

	<p>It was agreed that the new proposed additional codes will be applicable in 2022 to the reporting of 2021 activities. The potential use of these categories by all TOSSD reporters will be discussed at a next meeting of the Task Force. There was also agreement to include in the TOSSD database South-South flows that benefit countries not in the list of TOSSD recipients, but not to include the corresponding amounts in the total TOSSD figures.</p>
	<p>AOB and Wrap-up The co-Chair thanked the participants and the Secretariat for their hard work. The co-Chair recalled the main elements discussed during the meeting, also highlighted above. The next meeting of the Task Force is tentatively scheduled to take place in early April 2022.</p>