



International Forum on TOSSD

Steering Group of the International Forum on TOSSD

Notes from the special online session held on 26 June 2024

Preparing for the 1st session of the Preparatory Committee of the FfD4

The IFT Steering Group held an online meeting on 26 June 2024 to prepare for the first session of the Preparatory Committee of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4). This document summarises the discussions and the action points as recorded by the Co-Chairs and the Secretariat. A list of participants is also included.

The document is submitted for APPROVAL under written procedure and shall be considered approved unless any objections are received before 13 August 2024 c.o.b. It will subsequently be made available on the TOSSD website.

Contact:

Julia Benn, Head of Secretariat, International Forum on TOSSD (julia.benn@tossd.org)

SUMMARY

The IFT Secretariat ran through the key dates for the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) stock-taking exercise and provided an overview of the FfD4 process. They presented a draft text (on a PowerPoint slide) intended for the stock-take, that could also be submitted for inclusion in the documentation of the 1st Preparatory Committee of the FfD4 Conference, if appropriate. Steering Group (SG) Members acknowledged that the text clearly outlined the developments in TOSSD since the AAAA and also pointed out that some fine-tuning would be required should there be an outcome document from the stock-taking meeting. SG Members provided the following suggestions and comments:

- On the proposed text:
 - Shorten the text to make it fit for the stock-taking exercise by emphasising the fulfilment of the AAAA commitment on TOSSD and highlighting the achievements. Include the number of multilateral institutions reporting to TOSSD. As the point about ‘not diluting commitments already made’ is crucial, we should be prepared to support this argument with evidence.
 - Remove the more forward-looking elements from the text and retain them for other purposes, such as the FfD4 outcome document. They should highlight the significance of TOSSD, particularly from the recipient perspective, its comprehensiveness as a measure, and its role in filling a data gap, and where we hope to be in the future.
- On the process:
 - In addition to the text, circulate key messages (“talking points”) for the first session of the FfD4 Preparatory Committee to guide interventions by IFT Members. It was noted that a negotiated outcome document was unlikely and that there would be limited opportunities for promoting TOSSD, given that many countries would be focusing on the MDB reform. It was noted that the key messages would nevertheless be useful for bilateral meetings and informal interactions.
 - Leverage the fact that several countries in the G77+China group support TOSSD. The Secretariat will contact the IFT G77 members on the next steps. The benefits of TOSSD for developing countries will need to be clearly described to ensure there are no misconceptions.
 - There were differing views on whether the IFT should attempt to promote TOSSD through OECD channels. Several members emphasised IFT’s independence and preferred that OECD contributions to FfD4 omit any mention of TOSSD. On the other hand, one member suggested that the OECD could usefully share information on the IFT as its hosted entity. Another member noted the OECD’s participation at the UNDESA’s Interagency Task Force (IATF), which is meeting in October, as an opportunity to promote TOSSD.
 - It is crucial to secure references to TOSSD in the UNDESA’s ‘elements paper’ to be issued in September (a key input for the negotiations and the zero draft), as well as the UN Secretary General’s report on Development Co-operation (due in December). A CSO representative indicated that they were planning to review the latter in September/October and could verify the references



to TOSSD with the office in charge of that report. It was noted that the 2024 FFD report¹ already includes a reference to TOSSD and could be used as a basis and that it is also important to contextualise TOSSD within the SDG indicator framework.

- After July, the Secretariat could draft a statement on TOSSD, which could be signed and endorsed by the Co-Chairs and, ideally, IFT members.

Action points:

It was agreed that the Secretariat would undertake the following actions:

- Refine the text and prepare the key messages document for the Addis stock-take meeting and circulate it to the Steering Group for prompt feedback.² SG Members will use this document in their preparations for the Addis stock-take meeting.
- Collaborate with the Co-Chairs on a draft statement on TOSSD (for discussion at the September Steering Group meeting).
- Develop a concise document (2-3 pages) proposing language on TOSSD for the FfD4 outcome document. It will highlight the core messages and include links to relevant background documents for colleagues unfamiliar with TOSSD.
- Produce a timeline outlining the forthcoming key meetings and tasks to undertake.

Several SG Members and Observers volunteered to be available at short notice to review language on the inputs to the FfD4 process in the coming months.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

- Co-Chairs: European Union (EU) and South Africa
- Austria
- Brazil
- CSOs
- France
- IsDB
- Mexico
- Norway
- Organization of American States (OAS)
- SESRIC
- Spain
- United States

¹ See <https://desapublications.un.org/publications/financing-sustainable-development-report-2024>, page 103.

² This was done by email on 2 July 2024.