

Further guidance on the use of keywords

TOSSD Task Force Issues Paper¹ - Agenda item 2
16th meeting of the International TOSSD Task Force
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I. Background

1. The TOSSD reporting format has a keywords field (item 10b). Keywords are used to identify activities of a particular interest. In the 2021 data collection (on 2020 data) activities tracked using keywords included support to climate change mitigation (#mitigation), climate change adaptation (#adaptation) and Covid-19 prevention and recovery (#covid19). The definitions of these keywords are given in section 4.3 of the Reporting Instructions.
2. The Task Force adopted a fourth keyword at its meeting in February 2022 to identify the activities that do not fall in the scope of indicator 17.3.1 (#non17.3.1).
3. Some reporters' data submissions contained additional keywords relating to different aspects of COVID19 assistance but other topics too. These non-standard keywords have been included in the TOSSD database on a test basis.
4. At the 14th meeting of the TOSSD Task Force (8-9 December 2021) some members asked for more flexibility in the use of the keyword field and tasked the Secretariat to prepare a proposal to that effect. They pointed out that this would allow members that submit data to both CRS and TOSSD to align the reporting of keywords in their respective data submissions.

II. Options for reporting keywords

5. The reporting of keywords could be based on three different approaches, top-down, bottom-up and hybrid.
 - **Top-down (or restricted)**, where only predetermined keywords are allowed, each with a specific definition. This is the approach currently foreseen in the Reporting Instructions that list the allowed keywords in section 4.3. This approach maximises data reliability and comparability across reporters.
 - **Bottom-up (or free)**, where reporters are allowed to include the keywords of their choice. This approach, often referred to as 'folksonomy', permits users to discover more easily non-

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standardised topics, but does not assure data uniformity. This approach maximises innovative uses of keywords.

- **Hybrid approach**, where user-generated keywords and predetermined keywords coexist. The two types of keywords are differentiated from one another by the use of a special character (such as a hash #) for pre-determined keywords. The advantages of this approach are described below.

III. Proposal to implement a hybrid approach

6. A hybrid approach permits to retain both the advantages of homogeneity of statistical data, and of innovative uses of keywords. However, more guidance on the latter would be needed both for the reporters and the data users.
7. A hybrid approach in the TOSSD data reporting could work as follows:
 - i. **Pre-determined keywords** are approved by the TOSSD Task Force and included in the Reporting Instructions, section 4.3, with specific definitions. The pre-determined keywords are preceded by the symbol #. The Secretariat maintains a 'look-up' table to reconcile the hashtags submitted with alternate spelling options.
 - ii. **User-defined keywords** (not preceded by the symbol #) are reported spontaneously by the data reporters. They could be used to highlight a publicly relevant aspect of the activity, such as a policy objective, a specific process, the adoption of a standard, the involvement of stakeholder group, the belonging to a particular set of activities or other intrinsic characteristics of the activity. However, keywords should not be used to identify characteristics which are relevant only for the reporter (such as an internal process) and that could not be extended, in principle, to all finance providers. The Secretariat could provide feedback on this aspect during the data collection process.

Issues for discussion

- Do Task Force members agree to extend the use of keywords to user-defined ones?
- Do Task Force members agree to modify the Reporting Instructions to distinguish between pre-determined and user-defined keywords as described in paragraph 7 above?