



TOSSD Task Force Final Terms of Reference

7 December 2017

I. OVERALL CONTEXT

1. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will call for massive resources and “smart” investments across the global value chain. It also implies a new development co-operation architecture where public sector actors – provider countries and multilateral organisations – work increasingly with the private sector and where emerging economies play an important role. The SDG agenda is galvanising renewed public policy interest at the global level regarding the importance of environmental sustainability and social inclusiveness.

2. The United Nations has developed a global SDG monitoring framework, including indicators for the means of implementation and relevant resource flows. This will enable the international community to understand where the resources are going – what countries, what sectors, what activities – and how much is being deployed. Many bilateral and multilateral institutions are now gearing up to track their SDG support. But the risk is real that this will result in a multitude of idiosyncratic, disconnected statistics measuring “apples and oranges”. What the world needs now are shared statistical tools and measures for ensuring a coherent, comparable and unified system for tracking SDG-relevant investments that can inform strategic planning, identify emerging needs and priorities, and assess progress in matching supply with needs.

3. Responding to this need for a global statistical framework, the OECD has been working with the international community to devise a new measure of total official support for sustainable development (TOSSD). TOSSD will track all financing provided by official bilateral and multilateral institutions – regardless of the level of concessionality involved or instrument used. It will also capture private resources that are mobilised through official means. The TOSSD framework is composed of two pillars: i) cross-border flows, and ii) support for promoting development enablers/addressing global challenges (the Global Public Goods agenda).

4. Work to develop TOSSD will now be taken forward in close association with relevant UN bodies (including the UN Statistical Commission) and, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which in its paragraph 55 calls for holding “open, inclusive and transparent discussions” on TOSSD. A special TOSSD Task Force will be established to further elaborate the features of TOSSD and prepare a first set of Reporting Instructions for submission to a variety of international bodies and groupings. Agreement in 2018 on the scope and method of TOSSD reporting, in particular for the cross-border flow pillar, will enable TOSSD data to contribute to international reporting on SDG implementation at the UN-hosted High Level Political Forum in 2019.

5. These Terms of Reference define the objectives, composition, governance arrangements and working methods of the TOSSD Task Force during its first work phase (from July 2017 to March 2018). They will be reviewed prior to the launch of the Task Force’s second work phase.

II. THE PURPOSE AND ROLE OF THE TASK FORCE AND ITS TASKS

6. The primary objective of the TOSSD Task Force will be to clarify the features of the TOSSD statistical framework and develop recommendations for adjusting or improving the framework (definitions, measurement parameters and methodologies, eligibility criteria). These proposals will be shared with different international bodies/constituencies (the ECOSOC and its constituent bodies including for example the United Nations Statistical Commission, the Financing for Development Forum, the Development Co-operation Forum, and the Committee for Development Policy; the OECD Development Assistance Committee; the General Assembly Second Committee; and the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development).

7. In the first phase of its work, the Task Force will focus on core statistical concepts, standards and methodologies pertaining to the TOSSD framework in general and the cross-border flow measure in particular (July 2017 – March 2018).

8. A second phase of work beginning in 2018 will scope out TOSSD statistical features vis-à-vis the global challenges/development enablers measure. The modalities for carrying out the second phase of work by the Task Force will be clarified in due course.

III. COMPOSITION OF THE TASK FORCE

9. The Task Force will consist of sovereign states and international institutions, with a maximum of 20 country participants and 6 multilateral organisations. Members will be representative of key international constituencies that will generate and use TOSSD data e.g. bilateral and multilateral providers, Northern and South-South providers. They will be drawn from both national statistical offices and the development policy community. They will be invited to participate in their personal capacity. As the work of the Task Force evolves, the Membership of the Task Force may also evolve.

10. The Task Force will be led by two co-Chairs, representative of the North and the South, one representing the development co-operation policy community and the other national statistical offices.

IV. WORKING METHODS

11. Task Force work will be conducted principally through periodic, face-to-face meetings where participants will discuss statistical concepts, principles and approaches, identify further research and analytical needs, and provide comments on texts that will ultimately constitute a first set of TOSSD Reporting Instructions.

12. The core output of the TOSSD Task Force will be draft sections of the TOSSD Reporting Instructions.

13. Meetings will be managed and work structured by the TOSSD Task Force co-Chairs, with support from the OECD Secretariat.

14. The co-Chairs will function as a bureau to provide strategic oversight regarding the scope and nature of work, to identify topics for discussion, and to manage work flow and modalities.

15. Task Force members will be invited to propose topics for further inquiry or future consideration by the Task Force.
16. Participant-driven subgroups can be spontaneously created for carrying out further work with the support of the co-Chairs.
17. External experts may be called on to participate in Task Force meetings for specific topics.
18. Consultations with civil society organisations (CSOs) will be organised and their outcomes drawn to the attention of the Task Force as appropriate.
19. The OECD will convene the Task Force, organise meetings, develop substantive texts, summarise discussions, and revise substantive texts to ready them for inclusion in the proposed TOSSD Reporting Instructions.
20. Considering the progress made by the Task Force, UN members will provide guidance to the TOSSD Task Force when the TOSSD framework and emerging reporting methods are presented to the UN Statistical Commission, if possible, in the margins of its March 2018 session.
21. Four Task Force meetings will be held, set for July 2017 (one day), December 2017 (two days), January 2018 (two days) and March 2018 (back-to-back with the UN Statistical Commission meeting).
22. All Task Force meeting documents and outputs will be made available in the public domain in an effort to enhance openness, inclusivity and transparency.