

# **International Forum on TOSSD Terms of Reference**

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# 1. International Forum on TOSSD: vision and mission statement

## 1.a. Vision

1. The ambition for TOSSD<sup>1</sup> is that it becomes a global measure to track official and officially supported resources to promote the sustainable development of developing countries. This measure aims to promote greater transparency and accountability about the full array of officially supported development finance provided in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Such a measure needs a governance structure where all stakeholders are represented in an inclusive manner, can engage, and can exchange experience. As such, the International Forum on TOSSD (hereinafter 'the Forum') aims to improve the measurement and monitoring of the financing for sustainable development of recipient countries through TOSSD, including by fostering technical and political **partnerships**.

2. TOSSD represents an opportunity for all countries/territories, including recipient countries/territories, **to design an international development finance measurement standard and statistical tool that suits their needs**. In a financing landscape that is growing in volume and complexity, TOSSD is bringing greater **transparency** to the full array of officially supported resources provided in support of **sustainable development** of developing countries, including activities that combine private and public resources. TOSSD facilitates **learning and co-ordination** between all countries about how to access and combine resources most effectively, builds trust and helps mobilise **more private finance** through a better understanding of investment opportunities in developing countries. Importantly, TOSSD supports **more informed policy discussions** on how to align financing with sustainable development, on the **monitoring of the SDGs**, and ultimately on the **effectiveness and impact of development activities**. TOSSD measures flows **from a recipient perspective** and includes: i) cross-border flows to developing countries and ii) resources to support development enablers and/or address global challenges at regional or global levels. The measure notably provides insights about how the international community is financing what has been referred to in the context of TOSSD as International Public Goods<sup>2</sup>. As such, it complements existing statistical frameworks and databases on development finance. With all these benefits, TOSSD supports the United Nations in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. It is expected that the TOSSD framework and the Forum will continue to exist beyond 2030, to continue promoting greater transparency on flows in support of sustainable development.

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<sup>1</sup> Total Official Support for Sustainable Development

<sup>2</sup> Not all countries have adopted the concept of International Public Goods.

## 1.b. Mission Statement

3. The International Forum on TOSSD, working in an open, inclusive, and transparent manner, promotes and supports the effective global implementation of “Total Official Support for Sustainable Development”, an international statistical standard on financing for sustainable development in support of developing countries.

## 1.c. Main functions of the International Forum on TOSSD

4. To achieve its mission, the Forum will:

- **Maintain and improve the TOSSD statistical standard by:**
  - Updating the TOSSD Reporting Instructions and related methodologies, on a continuous basis.
  - Ensuring the integrity and consistency of the framework, taking into account, as appropriate, the results of TOSSD data collection rounds and other work in the field of sustainable finance measurement.
- **Collect and analyse TOSSD data, and continuously improve their quality, by:**
  - Undertaking yearly rounds of TOSSD data collection.
  - Expanding the coverage of data by inviting more providers to report on TOSSD and join the Forum.
  - Reviewing the quality of TOSSD data and any external studies to improve data coverage and quality.
  - Analysing TOSSD data and supporting their external analysis.
- **Actively promote TOSSD and the use of TOSSD data** within government agencies and internationally (e.g. recipient countries, national statistical offices, leading development think tanks and civil society organisations, and in international fora). Promote the use of TOSSD data to analyse development impact and enhance development effectiveness.

# 2. Participation: Members, Observers, TOSSD Data Reporters, and Independent Experts

5. Participation in the Forum is open to countries, territories and organisations, as indicated in the sections below. Participants can be providers, recipients, or dual providers/recipients of official development co-operation, and can participate in the Forum as Members, Observers, TOSSD Data Reporters without being Members or Observers, or Independent Experts. All countries/territories (with the exception of recipients) and organisations are expected to self-fund their attendance to in-person meetings of the Forum<sup>3</sup>. Meeting participants will not be compensated for their time. Neither membership nor participation in the Forum entails any legally binding rights or obligations under domestic or international law.

## 2.a. Members of the International Forum on TOSSD

6. Membership of the Forum is open to countries, territories and intergovernmental organisations<sup>4</sup> (e.g. multilateral development banks; UN agencies, funds and programmes; regional organisations) that:

- Endorse the vision and the mission statement of the Forum.
- Commit to reporting TOSSD data to the greatest extent possible.
- Commit to using TOSSD data to the greatest extent possible in official work and public communications.
- Promote the Forum and the TOSSD standard.
- Commit to actively participating in the Forum, including in its governance, decision-making processes and activities, by attending the General Assembly meetings, sharing expertise in relevant working groups, and promoting constructive dialogue in the Forum.

7. Forum Members are expected to contribute to the Forum<sup>5</sup> through:

- Financial contributions, or
- In-kind contributions. These can take various forms, for example: staff secondments, the organisation of in-person General Assembly or Steering Group meetings.

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<sup>3</sup> Funding of attendees classified as 'recipients' will be subject to available funding and will be at the discretion of the Forum Secretariat, taking into consideration Forum requirements and ensuring fairness of treatment of all requestors.

<sup>4</sup> Pending confirmation of the membership of the country/territory, official national bodies may participate, as a transitional measure.

<sup>5</sup> Contributions from recipient countries are not expected for the first three years, from when they join, in order to facilitate their participation as Members of the Forum.

8. Forum Members take decisions by consensus, except in exceptional circumstances where votes can be organised as described in subsequent sections.

## 2.b. Observers

9. Observer status is open to countries, territories and intergovernmental organisations for two years, after which the Observer is expected to become a Forum Member or give up its Observer status in the Forum for two years (after which it can apply for Observer status again).

10. During their tenure, Observers are expected to actively participate in the Forum's activities, share their expertise, and promote constructive dialogue on TOSSD in the Forum and beyond.

11. Observers may participate in General Assembly meetings and activities of the Forum and have access to all documents, but will not take part in decision-making. Participation in Steering Group meetings is by invitation of the co-Chairs, in line with its composition (see table 3.1).

12. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has a Permanent Observer seat in all Forum bodies given its role as a co-custodian of SDG indicator 17.3.1. Without prejudice to the above, other UN funds, programmes and specialised agencies may also join as Forum Members or Observers in line with the provisions in section "2.a Members of the International Forum on TOSSD" and in this section, 2.b Observers. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) also have one Permanent Observer seat in all Forum bodies.

13. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (UN CEB) Secretariat and the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) have one Permanent Observer seat each in all Forum bodies, in order to promote interoperability of data systems and implement the Sevilla Platform for Action initiative on Bridging Data Systems for Financing for Development. The OECD will also have a Permanent Observer seat in all Forum bodies to promote interoperability between TOSSD and the OECD Creditor Reporting System.

## 2.c. TOSSD Data Reporters

14. Countries, territories and intergovernmental organisations can participate in the TOSSD initiative as TOSSD Data Reporters without participating as Forum Members or Observers. TOSSD Data Reporters should submit their information, yearly, to the Forum Secretariat in line with the TOSSD methodology and data cycle.

15. In Year Y, the countries, territories and intergovernmental organisations that reported TOSSD data in Year Y-1 will be considered TOSSD Data Reporters.

16. TOSSD Data Reporters that are not Forum Members or Observers may attend the Forum's General Assembly but will not participate in decision-making (see Section 3.c below).

## 2.d. Independent Experts

17. The Forum may invite Independent Experts to support the work of its bodies on an ad hoc basis.

## 2.e. Application and withdrawal process

18. Application for Forum Membership / Observership is formalised through a letter of request sent to the co-Chairs and the Head of the Secretariat.

19. Forum Membership is approved by the General Assembly by written procedure. Forum Membership is formalised by and becomes effective on the date of a response letter from the Secretariat communicating the General Assembly's decision. Forum Members may withdraw from the Forum at any time by notifying the Forum co-Chairs or the Secretariat (which will inform the co-Chairs) through a formal letter. The withdrawal will be effective twelve (12) months after reception of the letter by the co-Chairs. The co-Chairs will inform all Forum Members of the receipt of the withdrawal letter in a timely manner.

20. Observership is approved by the Steering Group. Observers may withdraw from the Forum at any time by notifying the Forum co-Chairs or the Secretariat (which will inform the co-Chairs). The withdrawal will be effective one month after the notification. The co-Chairs will inform all Forum Members of the receipt of the withdrawal letter in a timely manner.

# **3.** Governance arrangements

## **3.a. Bodies of the International Forum on TOSSD**

21. The structure of the Forum consists of:

- A **General Assembly**
- A **Steering Group**
- **Working Groups**
- A **Secretariat**

## **3.b. Chairing arrangements**

22. The Forum will have two co-Chairs who will be co-Chairs of both the General Assembly and the Steering Group.

23. The two co-Chairs will be appointed by the General Assembly from the Forum Membership. In order to support diversity and rotation, no two serving co-Chairs will represent the same stakeholder group (providers, dual providers/recipients, recipients and intergovernmental organisations).

24. The co-Chairs' main functions are to:

- Promote the vision of the Forum and engage potential new Forum Members.
- Provide leadership to the Forum in the implementation of its mission.
- Contribute to defining strategic priorities for the Forum.
- Build consensus within the Forum and be ready to step in to help resolve issues that arise.
- Work with the Secretariat to prepare the meetings of the Forum, including their timing and agendas and modalities of attendance (virtual or in-person).
- Chair the meetings of the General Assembly and Steering Group, and any other meetings as appropriate. In this regard, it is the responsibility of the co-Chairs to ensure clarity of decisions and action points of the meetings.
- Encourage attendance, as well as the full and equal participation of all participants in the meetings of the Forum's bodies, ensuring that the views of all stakeholder groups are fully represented in all discussions.
- Ensure appropriate liaison with the Forum's Working Groups.
- Ensure a smooth transition for new co-Chairs.
- Strategically position and promote TOSSD in political and technical arenas e.g. UN, African Union and G20.
- Promote the use of the TOSSD standard as a tool for policy formulation on the financing of sustainable development.
- Work to expand the number of TOSSD Data Reporters and users of TOSSD data.

25. The co-Chairs may delegate their functions to a colleague from their administration, but should be ready to be involved whenever high-level matters need to be resolved.
26. Co-Chairs will serve for two years and may be re-appointed by the General Assembly for one consecutive two-year term.
27. In order to ensure continuity of work and appropriate institutional memory while ensuring regular rotation of the co-Chairs, only one co-Chair will be appointed each year.
28. The appointment process will be organised on the basis of expressions of interest sought by the Head of Secretariat before the last General Assembly meeting of year N, for appointment in year N+1.

### 3.c. General Assembly

#### 3.c.i. Composition

29. The General Assembly is comprised of all Members of the Forum. Observers, as well as TOSSD Data Reporters that are not Forum Members or Observers, can attend all General Assembly meetings but will not participate in decision-making.

#### 3.c.ii. Role and mandate

30. The General Assembly shall appoint the co-Chairs of the Forum, who will co-Chair both the General Assembly and the Steering Group. The General Assembly will also appoint members of the Steering Group, respecting the composition set out in Table 3.1.
31. The General Assembly meets at least once a year. Meetings can take place virtually or in-person.
32. The role of the General Assembly is to:

##### *Vision, mission and strategic priorities*

- Discuss and approve any modifications to the vision, mission and strategic priorities of the Forum, including these Terms of Reference.

##### *Budget and Work Plan*

- Provide inputs for the budget and work plan (hereafter referred to as “Budget and Work Plan”).

##### *Statistical standard and methodology*

- Identify specific areas or topics for further development of the TOSSD statistical standard and methodology to ensure that TOSSD continues to evolve and meet the requirements of all stakeholder groups.
- Make suggestions on how to ensure that TOSSD meets the needs of key users of data on sustainable development support, in particular, recipient countries.

##### *External co-ordination*

- Oversee co-ordination between the Forum and relevant technical bodies (e.g. the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) of the UN, Steering Group of the Development Account (DA) 15 on South-South Co-operation, the OECD Development Assistance Committee’s (DAC) Working Party on Development Finance Statistics (WP-STAT), the International Aid

Transparency Initiative (IATI), the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC)) and political entities (e.g. UN, G20, G77) on support for sustainable development.

#### *Communication and outreach*

- Make recommendations on and support the implementation of the communications and outreach strategy for TOSSD and the Forum.

#### *Evaluation and performance*

- Periodically review the Forum's performance, relevance, structure and governance.

#### *Forum Membership*

- Approve new Forum Members.
- Suspend Forum Members and Observers .

#### *Governance*

- Adopt supplementary governance procedures where necessary for the functioning of the Forum.

### **3.c.iii. Decision-making process**

33. The General Assembly will make every effort to reach decisions by consensus of Forum Members participating in the meeting, meaning the absence of any objections. If the co-Chairs consider that there is insufficient representation among Forum Members at the time an item is put to a decision, they may postpone the decision to a subsequent meeting or seek a decision by written procedure.

34. If, after discussion, the General Assembly fails to reach a consensus on an item for decision, the co-Chairs may put that item to a two-thirds majority vote of Forum Members participating in the meeting, provided that there is a quorum of at least three-quarters of Forum Members present. If there is no quorum, the vote will take place through written procedure.

35. Should the General Assembly need to organise a vote, each Forum Member will have one vote.

36. Between meetings, decisions can be taken by written procedure.

## **3.d. Steering Group**

### **3.d.i. Composition**

37. The Steering Group is comprised of a maximum of thirty (30) members ensuring the participation of members from each stakeholder group (providers, dual providers/recipients, recipients and intergovernmental organisations) and including the two co-Chairs (See Table 3.1 below). Steering Group members are not appointed to represent the position of the stakeholder group to which they belong.

38. All Forum Members providing the minimum financial yearly contribution as indicated in the financial provisions agreed when the Forum was established, or in-kind contributions as indicated in section 2.a, are eligible to sit on the Steering Group. Other members of the Steering Group will be appointed annually by the General Assembly, with a view to ensuring the balanced composition set out in Table 3.1.<sup>6</sup> In this context, the General Assembly will take into account in-kind contributions including but not limited to those mentioned in Section 2.a.

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<sup>6</sup> This model will be valid for the first three-year period of the Forum. The extension of this model will require further discussion. In the event that, within a given stakeholder group, the number of members who are eligible to be members

39. In Year N for Year N+1, the General Assembly of the Forum will appoint as Steering Group members:

- Forum Members that have contributed financially for year N+1;
- Forum Members that have indicated<sup>7</sup> their intention to contribute for year N+1 (financially or in-kind as defined in section 2.a); and
- Other Forum Members to respect the balanced composition of the Steering Group as set out in the Terms of Reference.

40. All efforts will be made to maintain a balanced membership in the Steering Group across the various stakeholder groups and ensure rotation within each stakeholder group.

41. UNCTAD, CSOs, UN CEB, IATI and the OECD each have a Permanent Observer seat on the Steering Group. The co-Chairs can invite a maximum of 8 observers to attend meetings of the Steering Group, from among IFT Members and Observers. The co-Chairs can also invite other people to attend meetings or sessions of the Steering Group, on an ad hoc basis. Permanent Observers, observers and ad hoc invitees will not participate in decision-making.

42. The Chairs of active Working Groups may attend Steering Group meetings but will not participate in decision-making. If the Working Group Chair is also a Steering Group Member, someone else should represent the Working Group during the meeting.

**Table 3.1. Composition of the Steering Group**

<b>Composition</b>	<b>Number of members</b>
<b>Co-Chairs</b>	2
<b>Providers</b>	8
<b>Dual providers / recipients</b>	8
<b>Intergovernmental organisations</b>	4
<b>Recipient countries</b>	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Other attendees</b>	
<b>Chairs of the active working groups</b>	Based on the number of working groups
<b>Permanent Observer – UNCTAD</b>	1
<b>Permanent Observer – CSOs</b>	1
<b>Permanent Observer – UN CEB</b>	1
<b>Permanent Observer – IATI</b>	1
<b>Permanent Observer - OECD</b>	1
<b>Other observers</b>	Maximum 8

### **3.d.ii. Role and mandate**

43. The role of the Steering Group is to:

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of the Steering Group exceeds the number indicated in Table 3.1, the Steering Group will review its composition giving due consideration to maintaining a balanced representation of stakeholder groups and providing incentives to contribute financially to the Forum. Options could include: expanding the number of Steering Group members, organising rotation within the stakeholder groups, or limiting the number of consecutive terms.

<sup>7</sup> The General Assembly will assess each case individually.

#### *Vision, mission and strategic priorities*

- Ensure the implementation of the vision, mission and strategic priorities of the Forum.

#### *Statistical standard and methodology*

- Oversee and approve new versions of the TOSSD methodology (Reporting Instructions).

#### *Budget and Work Plan*

- Discuss and approve the Budget and Work Plan prepared by the Secretariat.
- Oversee the implementation of the Work Plan, review and approve/reject budget changes proposed by the Secretariat.
- Actively support fundraising activities of the Forum.

#### *External co-ordination*

- Provide guidance to the Secretariat in relation to co-ordination with relevant technical bodies (e.g. IAEG-SDGs, Steering Group of the Development Account (DA) 15 on South-South Co-operation, WP-STAT, IATI, GPEDC) and political entities (e.g. UN, G20, G77) on support for sustainable development.

#### *Communication and outreach*

- Advocate for and disseminate Forum activities.
- Support outreach and engagement around the Forum.
- Promote TOSSD data as evidence for policy dialogue on support for sustainable development.

#### *Working Groups*

- Establish Working Groups (WGs), approve their terms of reference and appoint their Chairs/co-Chairs. Regularly review their progress and carry out an evaluation of performance before deciding on their closure or extension. Decide on any changes to the scope and duties of the WGs.

#### *Evaluation and performance*

- Prepare the periodic review of the performance of the Forum.

#### *Governance*

- Develop any supplementary governance procedures necessary for the functioning of the Forum, for approval by the General Assembly.

### **3.d.iii. Decision-making process**

44. The Steering Group will make every effort to reach decisions by consensus of those members participating in the Steering Group meeting, meaning the absence of any objections. If the co-Chairs consider that there is insufficient representation among Steering Group members at the time an item is put to a decision, they may postpone the decision to a subsequent meeting or request approval through written procedure.

45. If, after discussion, the Steering Group fails to reach a consensus on an item for decision, the co-Chairs may put that item to a two-thirds majority vote of Steering Group members participating at the next meeting, provided that there is a quorum of at least three-quarters of Steering Group members participating. If there is no quorum, the decision will be taken by written procedure.
46. Should the Steering Group need to organise a vote, each Steering Group member will have one vote.
47. In setting priorities for budgets and work plans, the Secretariat will consult all Forum Members that provide a financial contribution to the Forum.
48. Between meetings, decisions can be taken by written procedure.
49. The Steering Group may delegate to the co-Chairs the power to make a decision on a specific topic.
50. All Forum Members will be notified of decisions taken by the Steering Group, for information.

### **3.d.iv. Other administrative matters and transparency of the Steering Group**

51. The co-Chairs decide when and where to hold Steering Group meetings. These can take place virtually or in-person. The Steering Group will meet at least twice a year, and ideally at least once in person.
52. Members of the Steering Group should carry out their work in a consultative manner and the Secretariat will facilitate communication between them.
53. The co-Chairs of the Steering Group may invite other Forum Members to attend meetings should their expertise be relevant to a particular topic on the agenda. These Forum Members will not participate in decision-making.
54. A summary of each Steering Group meeting will be drafted by the Secretariat and approved by the Steering Group and made publicly available online. It will include a list of attendees, decisions taken and proposals made.
55. The co-Chairs will be responsible for setting the agenda, the dates and location of the Steering Group meetings together with the Secretariat. Working documents will be made available by the Secretariat to the participants in the Steering Group no less than 7 days before the meeting date.
56. In common with representatives of Forum Members and Observers (cf. section 2), the co-Chairs will finance their own participation in the General Assembly and Steering Group meetings and will not be compensated for their time.
57. The Steering Group will make available to financial contributors that are not members of the Steering Group the approved Budget and Work Plan, annual financial statements and audits, as per the rules of the entity hosting the Forum.

## **3.e. Working Groups**

### **3.e.i. Establishment, role and mandate**

58. Working Groups (WGs) are established by the Steering Group to support its work in certain thematic areas. WGs will provide expert advice, analyse key issues, and prepare documents on outputs of their work to facilitate decision making by the Steering Group.

59. The Secretariat will draft terms of reference for the WGs, under the direction of co-Chairs, and for approval by the Steering Group.
60. WGs will be established for a maximum term of three years. Before completion of a WG's term, the Steering Group will review its performance and decide whether it should be extended.
61. Any changes to the scope and duties of a WG require the approval of the Steering Group.
62. WG Chairs are regularly invited by the Forum co-Chairs to share their WG's progress, findings and outcomes at meetings of the Steering Group and/or the General Assembly, as appropriate.
63. Summaries of WG meetings are made publicly available online.

### **3.e.ii. Composition**

64. A WG can have a maximum of two co-Chairs.
65. The Chairs of WGs are appointed by the Steering Group based on expressions of interest among the Members of the Forum. The appointments are for a fixed term, to be decided at the time of creation of the WG, and can be renewed.
66. WGs are open to all Forum Members and Observers. Representatives are to be drawn from national statistical offices and the development community, and should provide a balance of expertise from different stakeholder groups and regions.
67. The number of participants in a WG should generally not exceed 30 to maintain effective working conditions. The composition of WGs should ensure balanced participation e.g. stakeholder groups, gender and regions.
68. WGs can invite Independent Experts and TOSSD Data Reporters to participate in the discussions and provide technical expertise as required.

### **3.e.iii. Decision making**

69. The WGs adopt recommendations on the basis of consensus of their Forum Members participating in the meeting. If consensus cannot be reached, the Chair(s) will transfer the matter to the Steering Group.

### **3.e.iv. Statistical Working Group**

70. The Forum will have a permanent Statistical Working Group.

#### *Role and mandate*

71. The purpose of the Statistical Working Group (hereafter the SWG) is to advise the Steering Group on the maintenance and improvement of the quality (i.e. timeliness, accessibility, punctuality, interpretability, soundness of methods)<sup>8</sup> and user-friendliness of TOSSD data. This includes regular updating of the reporting rules and taxonomies, and regular review of the TOSSD online tools.

#### *Composition*

72. The membership of the SWG should reflect that of the Steering Group in terms of the balance of Providers, Dual providers/recipients, intergovernmental organisations and Recipients. Participants in the

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<sup>8</sup> These are the main dimensions of the UN Statistics Quality Assurance Framework that are expected to be discussed in the SWG.

SWG are expected to be the statistical correspondents of Forum Members and Observers i.e. staff of their national statistical offices, central Ministries in charge of sustainable development planning/SDG monitoring, or knowledgeable about sustainable development support. The Chair of WP-STAT will be invited to participate as an Observer to ensure maximum technical and statistical coherence between TOSSD and OECD statistical methods, norms and processes. UNCTAD is invited to attend as an Observer in matters related to the joint custodianship of SDG indicator 17.3.1. The Chair of IATI will also be invited to attend as an Observer. TOSSD Data Reporters that are not Forum Members or Observers may be invited to participate as Observers.

#### *Working methods and resources*

73. The SWG meets at least once a year to review the results of the data collection of the previous year and prepare relevant documentation for the next data collection round. The meeting of the SWG should be scheduled to enable the Steering Group to make timely decisions on changes for the next round. Other meetings can be organised on an ad-hoc basis.

74. The SWG will be represented in Steering Group and General Assembly meetings by its co-Chairs.

75. SWG participants are expected to provide the resources necessary for carrying out the work of the SWG.

76. The SWG will collaborate with other bodies in charge of collecting development finance data internationally, such as IATI and WP-STAT, to promote coherent reporting practices.

77. The Steering Group will evaluate the SWG's performance at least once every three years.

### **3.f. Secretariat**

78. The Forum Secretariat will operate under the substantive guidance of the Steering Group. It will report to the Steering Group on all matters that fall within the Steering Group's purview, including progress against the Forum Budget and Work Plan. The Secretariat will perform its functions in accordance with the rules, procedures and policies of the hosting entity, in particular those with regard to staff and financial administration.

79. The co-Chairs and the Head of Secretariat will maintain a strong working relationship. The co-Chairs provide advice to the Head of Secretariat on issues affecting the implementation of the work plan or which pose political risks for the Forum.

80. The Secretariat will carry out the following functions:

- Strategic development and communications
- Maintenance of the TOSSD statistical standard and methodology
- Data collection and publication
- Financial management and administration

81. Such functions include the following tasks:

#### **Strategic development and communications**

- Strategically position and promote TOSSD in political and technical arenas e.g. UN, African Union and G20.

- Promote the use of the TOSSD standard as a tool for policy formulation on the financing of sustainable development.
- Work to expand the number of TOSSD Data Reporters and users of TOSSD data.
- Act as the focal point for any individuals or organisations interested in the work of the Forum, in close liaison with the Forum co-Chairs.
- Actively disseminate TOSSD data, promote their use within government agencies and internationally, and use TOSSD data in policy and communication materials.
- Maintain and further develop a dedicated external website and other communication tools e.g. intranet, community space.
- Produce an annual report covering the Forum's main activities and achievements throughout the year.
- Implement the Budget and Work Plan approved by the Steering Group, and report on progress.

#### **Maintenance of the TOSSD statistical standard and methodology**

- Support and make proposals for the further development and improvement of the TOSSD statistical standard and Reporting Instructions.
- Ensure alignment of methodologies with good statistical practice.
- Carry out relevant research and develop proposals to continue enhancing the relevance of the TOSSD framework in tracking support for sustainable development.
- Analyse the past TOSSD data collection rounds and work carried out outside the Forum on the measurement of sustainable development support, country and thematic pilots, as well as stakeholder feedback, to support the further improvement of the TOSSD Reporting Instructions.

#### **Data collection and publication**

- Undertake yearly data collection and seek to expand the coverage of TOSSD data, engaging with current and potential new TOSSD Data Reporters.
- Manage the data collection process and ensure the necessary quality assurance to verify that TOSSD data are in line with the TOSSD Reporting Instructions.
- Provide advisory services to recipients and providers for collecting, reporting and analysing TOSSD data in order to support capacity-building. These advisory services are demand-driven and subject to specific funding.
- Co-ordinate with other relevant technical bodies which maintain databases on development finance to optimise work flows (e.g. UNCTAD, IATI and WP-STAT).
- Store TOSSD data in a centralised database.
- Publish TOSSD data on an online TOSSD public portal where data will be released on a regular basis and accessible free of charge.
- Carry out all appropriate maintenance related to this portal.
- Review analyses of TOSSD data and propose any action to improve data coverage and quality.

#### **Financial management and administration**

- Act as the focal point for any individuals or organisations interested in the work of the Forum and how it is administered and financed.
- Undertake the day-to-day administrative and financial management of the Forum, in accordance with the approved Budget and Work Plan, guidance from Forum Members, and relevant rules and procedures of the hosting entity.

- Prepare the Budget and Work Plan for approval by Forum Members.
- Engage in resource mobilisation for the Forum.
- Provide an annual update on income and expenditure to the Steering Group and the relevant body of the hosting entity.
- Organise meetings of the bodies of the Forum, including the General Assembly, the Steering Group and the Working Groups, ensuring that the agendas, and other relevant documentation are circulated at least one week in advance. Draft summary records and action points of the meetings.
- Provide administrative support to Forum Members, Observers, TOSSD Data Reporters and Independent Experts attending meetings of the Forum.
- Support the co-Chairs in preparing Forum meetings, and provide them with input on substance for other international events, as necessary.
- Engage with co-Chairs and the Steering Group throughout the year to ensure the smooth functioning of the Forum.
- Maintain a document management system for communication purposes and proper safeguarding of corporate memory.

### 3.g. Other governance arrangements

#### **Data management**

82. The Secretariat will maintain a publicly accessible, electronic database with data collected by the Secretariat from TOSSD Data Reporters. These data will have passed the quality checks carried out by the Secretariat and will have been cleared for publication by the respective governments. This database will be publicly accessible as part of a TOSSD website, featuring information about the TOSSD initiative as a whole.

#### **Intellectual property**

83. Forum outputs, including the methodology, research papers, and communication materials, will be the property of the Forum Members and will be published under their responsibility. Intellectual property will be held by the entity hosting the Forum Secretariat, on behalf of Forum Members, subject to and in accordance with all relevant arrangements and agreements regarding the hosting of the Forum Secretariat. This will include the maintenance of a publicly accessible database with Forum outputs, or as otherwise instructed by the Forum Steering Group, subject to the policies and procedures of the entity hosting the Forum Secretariat.

84. Intellectual property rights related to other work carried out jointly by the Forum Members and other organisations, subject to and in accordance with all relevant arrangements and agreements with such organisations, will be the joint property of the Forum Members and such other organisations. Forum Members and such organisations may use and reproduce this work separately, subject to an appropriate acknowledgement of the Forum Members' or the other organisations' contribution to the work and provided that Forum Members or such other organisations, as the case may be, obtain the written consent of the organisation or the Forum Steering Group, respectively, before granting any license to a third party. Without prejudice to the above, any translation or joint publication will be subject to a separate written agreement.

85. The data included in the Forum database may include data belonging to the entity hosting the Forum Secretariat, data belonging to Forum Members and data belonging to TOSSD Data Reporters. The entity hosting the Forum Secretariat, the Forum Members and the TOSSD Data Reporters will each be responsible for the data they own.

# **4. Financial provisions**

## **4.a. Funding model**

86. The budget of the Forum is financed in full by voluntary contributions (VCs) as indicated in Section 2.a. The scale of expected yearly contributions from Forum Members is as follows<sup>9</sup>:

- For providers (Level 1): EUR 200 000
- For providers (Level 2): EUR 100 000
- For providers (Level 3): EUR 25 000
- For dual providers/recipients (Level 1): EUR 75 000
- For dual providers/recipients (Level 2): EUR 25 000
- For dual providers/recipients and recipients (Level 3): EUR 2 000
- For international organisations: EUR 50 000.

87. The scale of expected yearly contributions will be reviewed by the Steering Group in the first half of every year for application in Year N+1.

88. Voluntary contributions of an amount different from the ones indicated in the funding model can also be accepted.

## **4.b. Funding and budgetary procedures**

89. The entity hosting the Forum Secretariat will administer the contributions in accordance with its financial regulations and other applicable rules, policies and procedures.

90. The entity hosting the Forum Secretariat will be the holder of all the Forum Secretariat's staff and intellectual service contracts.

91. Reporting on the Budget and Work Plan will be done through standard progress reports every six months in line with the financial regulations of the entity hosting the Forum Secretariat.

92. Contributors will refrain from requesting information above and beyond that provided in the agreed standard substantive and financial reports prepared by the Secretariat.

93. The Secretariat is authorised to undertake amendments to the budget where the financial impact is limited to a transfer between budget headings and where these amendments do not carry additional financial obligations for the Forum in subsequent years. If Budget and Work Plan amendments result in higher financial obligations in subsequent years, a formal agreement by the Steering Group will be required.

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<sup>9</sup> As discussed in the 20<sup>th</sup> TOSSD Task Force meeting in March 2023, major economies among the OECD DAC membership, Arab donors and major SSC providers are expected to be Level 1 contributors.

94. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the entity hosting the Forum Secretariat, establishes the bilateral financing arrangements with each Forum Member. The arrangement will be based on a contribution agreement or offer letter substantially in line with the one suggested by the hosting entity.
95. Financial contributions to the Forum's Work Plan for Year N+1 are due before the end of year N.
96. The Secretariat will notify Forum Members of any financial irregularities as soon as possible.

# **5. Supplementary information**

## **5.a. Hosting entity**

97. The hosting entity for 2024 and 2025 is the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), whose headquarters are in Paris, France. The hosting arrangement is automatically extended to 2026 providing there are enough financial contributions to cover the approved Budget.

98. The hosting arrangement is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding which was signed by the OECD, Canada, France, Spain and the United States, on 19 December 2023.