

TOTAL OFFICIAL SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (TOSSD) A NEW STATISTICAL MEASURE FOR THE SDG ERA

How much support is provided to developing countries to help them reach their own Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? As of today, no one knows: there is no international statistical standard to measure and track those resources. To fill this gap, providers and recipients of development co-operation are working together to develop a new measure: Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD).

TOSSD aims to provide greater transparency about the full array of official external support – bilateral and multilateral – towards the sustainable development of developing countries. It will also include the amounts of private finance mobilised by official interventions (e.g. through public-private partnerships) in support of sustainable development.

Filling an information gap

- **The 2030 Agenda calls for mobilising more resources in support of sustainable development, including by the private sector, but...**
- **There is currently no way to effectively measure official support, either financial or in-kind, towards the sustainable development of developing countries.** The 2030 Agenda challenges the international community to craft a new international development finance standard that can be used by recipients and providers, including South-South and triangular co-operation providers.
- Recipient countries in particular demand **more transparency on activities carried out in their countries and more international action to address challenges that affect the lives of their citizens.**

How TOSSD will help

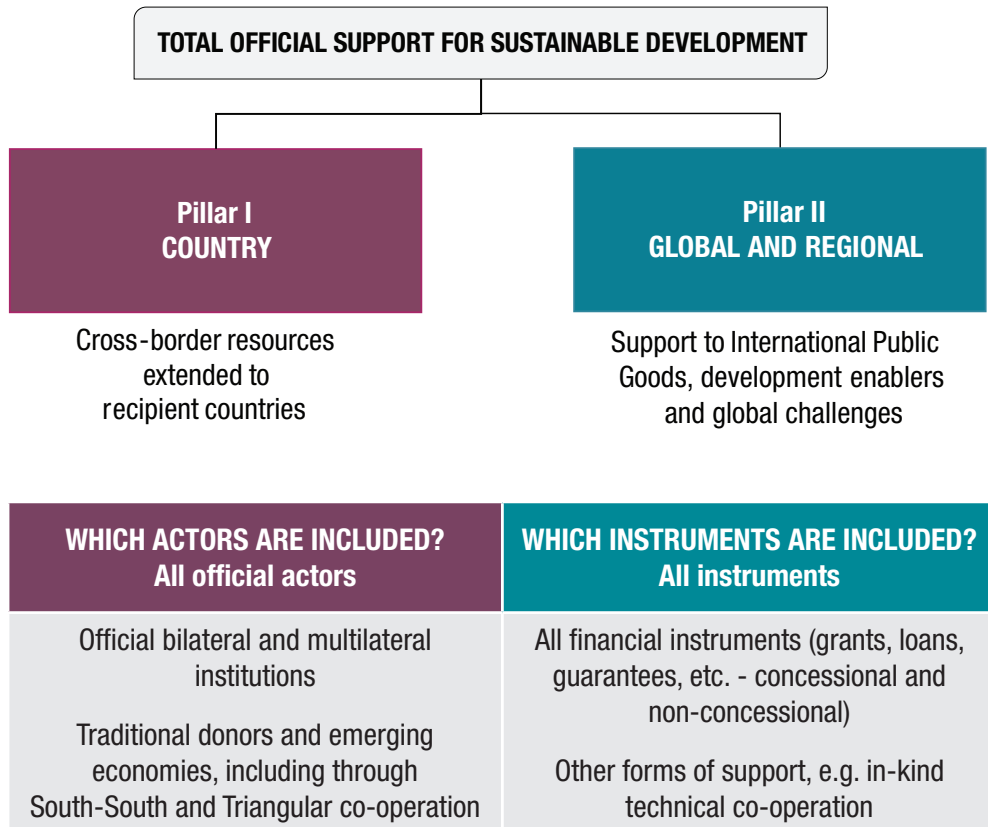
TOSSD will:

- Establish a sound, **shared international statistical framework** for monitoring officially supported resources supporting the SDGs;
- Improve the **empirical basis for policy discussions** on SDG financing;
- **Inform planning and budgetary processes in recipient countries** to optimise the use of domestic and international resources in support of sustainable development;
- **Facilitate learning and exchange of good practice** among recipient and provider countries about accessing external resources, and combining them effectively;
- Shed light about the extent to which the international community is providing adequate levels of finance to support international public goods and address **global challenges** (e.g. climate change).

What is TOSSD?

A new metric that measures official flows, and private flows mobilised by the official sector, to support sustainable development.

TOSSD will be comprised of two pillars: the first consists of resources flowing into the *recipient country* in direct support of its sustainable development. The second consists of resources spent outside the country, on *global and regional actions* that indirectly support its sustainable development, e.g. the promotion of international public goods (e.g. stable climate), the strengthening of development “enablers” (e.g. regional peace operations) or tackling global challenges (e.g. communicable diseases).



HOW IS “SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT” DEFINED IN THE TOSSD CONTEXT?

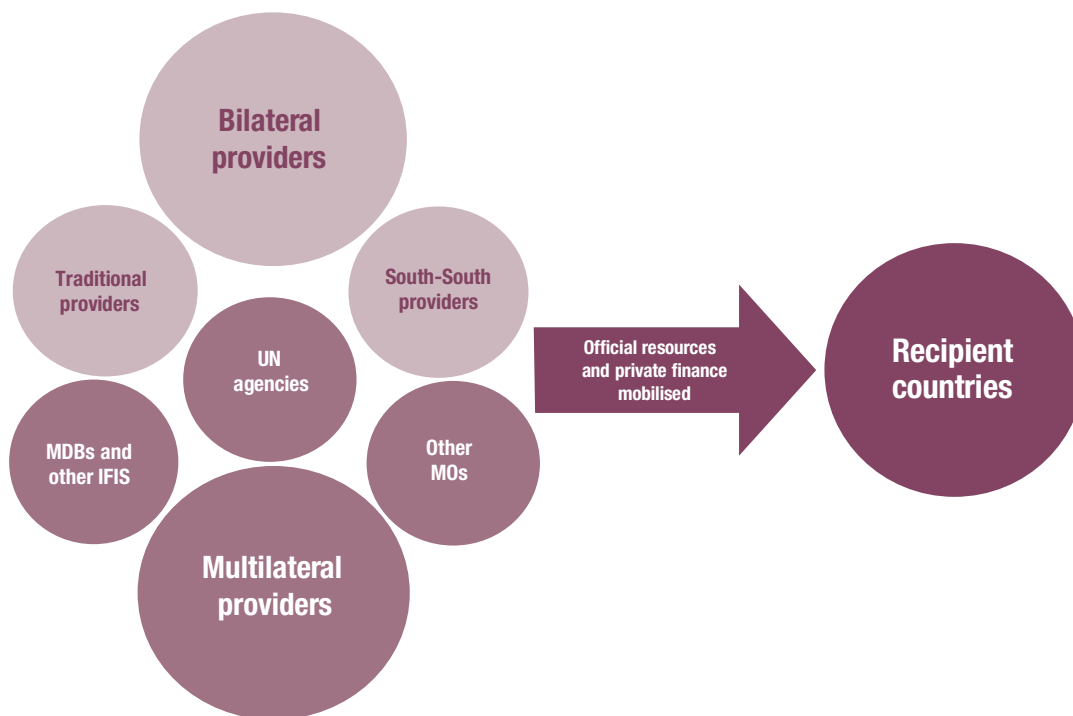
The concept of “sustainable development” is defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.* “Sustainable development” in the TOSSD context is inherently linked to the Sustainable Development Goals as agreed in the 2030 Agenda. Activities recorded as TOSSD support the implementation of the SDGs by generating sustainable economic growth, ensuring social inclusion, without compromising the environment.

*Definition first used in the “Brundtland Report”. (See Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future”, Chapter 2 “Towards Sustainable Development”, p. 41, New York: UN, 1987.)



PILLAR I: TOSSD TO RECIPIENT COUNTRIES

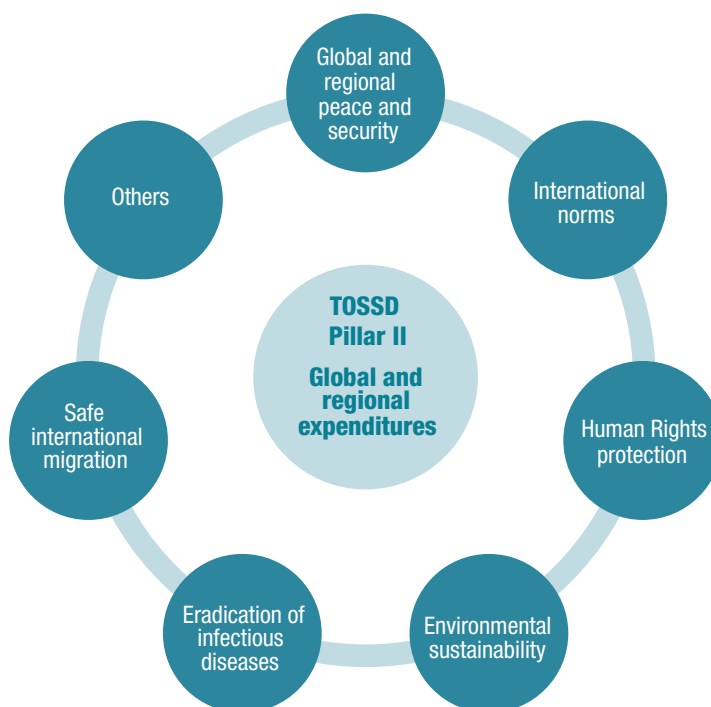
The Pillar I of TOSSD will include all official resources from bilateral and multilateral organisations for sustainable development towards recipient countries. Private resources mobilised by official actors to support sustainable development will also be included, but presented separately.



MDBs: Multilateral development banks **IFIs:** International financial institutions **MOs:** Multilateral organisations

PILLAR II: TOSSD TO INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC GOODS AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Many SDGs cannot be addressed by national governments alone (e.g. SDG 13 on combating climate change and SDG 14 on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans). Achieving them will depend on successful international co-operation. That is why the 2030 Agenda calls for collective action, adequate policies and financing both at the national and international levels. The second pillar of TOSSD is designed to capture global and regional expenditures that support the SDGs. These resources are not currently captured in any international statistics. As such, TOSSD Pillar II will fill an important information gap in international statistics on the financing of sustainable development.



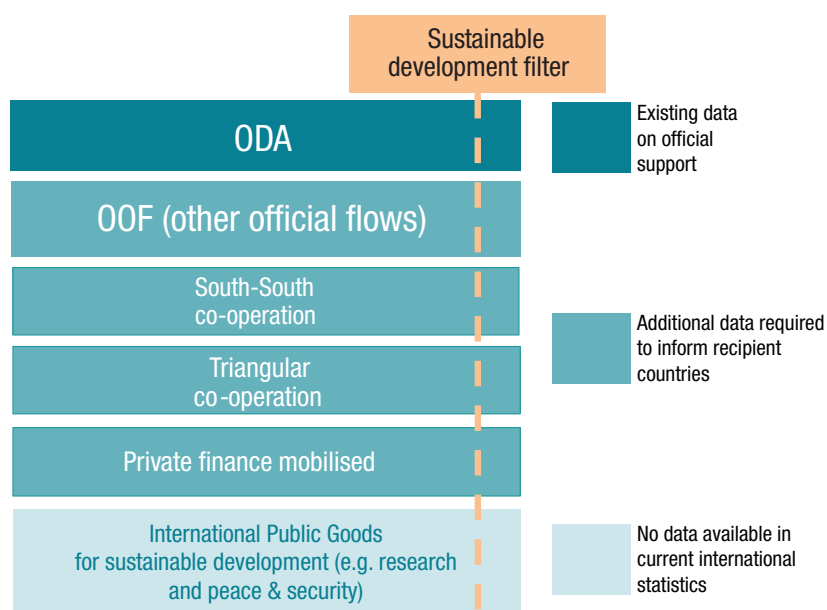
Closing the information gap: TOSSD building blocks

Only a portion of data on co-operation for sustainable development is available in international statistics and consistent across development actors. TOSSD aims to close this information gap by providing additional, and standardised, information on key building blocks critical to the 2030 Agenda.¹

Who is developing TOSSD?

The work to develop the TOSSD statistical methodology started in 2017, in an open, inclusive and transparent manner, in line with the call made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in July 2015 (Paragraph 55). TOSSD is developed by an International Task Force comprised of about 25 development policy and statistical experts from provider countries (north and south), recipient countries and multilateral organisations. The main objective of the Task Force is to develop the TOSSD statistical methodology (i.e. the statistical definitions, measurement methods and taxonomies), called “Reporting Instructions”.

The development of TOSSD is also nourished through the dialogue with other stakeholders including civil society organisations, the United Nations, the private sector and international experts, through ad-hoc meetings, workshops and side-events in international conferences.



Country pilots

In order to establish TOSSD as a viable, relevant and robust international statistical standard, the support and engagement of recipient countries is fundamental. The OECD, which acts as the technical Secretariat of the TOSSD Task Force, is therefore carrying out specific thematic and country pilot studies² to align the framework to the developing countries' needs.

These pilots help to guide the principles that govern TOSSD (e.g. development effectiveness principles) and test the statistical methods and boundaries of the framework (e.g. measurement of in-kind technical co-operation or inclusion of costs incurred in provider countries). Pilots also help to scope the potential of TOSSD to respond to recipient country policy and planning needs (e.g. budgeting, national accounts, balance of payments and debt sustainability).

Next steps

In January 2019, the International TOSSD Task Force completed the methodology for the Pillar I of TOSSD. Next steps include:

- **Finalise the TOSSD methodology for Pillar II.**
- **Devise arrangements for data gathering and reporting.**
- **Establish a functional, legitimate and inclusive TOSSD oversight mechanism.**

More information: <https://oe.cd/tossd-task-force>

1. See “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld> and the outcome document of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda at: https://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf

2. See: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/tossd-country-pilot-studies.htm>