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DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE

Draft Annotated Agenda of the First Meeting of the TOSSD Task Force

6 July 2017

The first meeting of the Total Official Support for Sustainable Development - TOSSD - Task Force took place at OECD Conference Centre on 6th July 2017.

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DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA TOSSD TASK FORCE MEETING

OECD Conference Centre
6 July 2017

9:00	1. Welcome remarks and adoption of the agenda
9:45	2. What is TOSSD?
10:30	<i>Coffee / Tea Break</i>
11:00	3. Clarifying key concepts embedded in the TOSSD definition
13:00	<i>Lunch (George Marshall Room of the Château)</i>
14:30	4. Measurement issues: relevant international statistical norms and valuing technical co-operation
16:00	<i>Coffee / Tea Break</i>
16:30	5. TOSSD-eligibility of specific financial instruments
18:00	6. TOSSD Task Force: draft terms of reference and proposed working methods
18:30	7. Closing remarks and next steps

ANNOTATIONS

Item 1. Welcome remarks and adoption of the agenda

1. Ms. Martine Durand, OECD Chief Statistician and Statistics Director, will welcome participants and provide an overview of the issues that will be discussed and the objectives to be accomplished in the course of the meeting. This will be followed by introductory remarks by the two TOSSD Task Force co-Chairs – Ms. Lisa Bersales, National Statistician of the Philippines and Ms. Ana Gallo-Alvarez, Team Leader of Financing for Development for the European Commission – who will set the scene by describing how TOSSD relates to future SDG monitoring efforts and to today’s development finance context. The session will close with a short “icebreaker” exercise to introduce participants animated by M. Haje Schütte of the OECD Secretariat.

Item 2. What is TOSSD?

2. The Secretariat will give a brief PowerPoint presentation outlining the structure and key features of the TOSSD measurement framework as it currently stands. This will be followed by a question-and-answer session enabling participants to clarify and explore specific aspects of TOSSD in greater detail.

Item 3. Clarifying key concepts embedded in the TOSSD definition

3. There are a number of terms in the working definition of TOSSD that will require greater clarity and precision in order to ensure TOSSD becomes a functional international statistical standard that can be used by a range of actors with an adequate degree of uniformity and precision. The issues paper will set out the current definition of TOSSD and take up, in turn, four conceptual/definitional issue areas:

- 1) What is meant by “sustainable development” in Agenda 2030, and how can it be operationalised in the TOSSD statistical framework?
- 2) What international standard or definition of “developing country” could be used for TOSSD? What might be relevant eligibility criteria in this regard?
- 3) What is meant by “official” flows? Would it include support provided by state-owned enterprises or companies with substantial government ownership stakes? What is the difference between “official” and “officially-supported” flows – and is this distinction important for TOSSD?
- 4) Should the definition specify that TOSSD-eligible resource flows need to be aligned with the development priorities of recipient countries, or are there circumstances where SDG-related support may not fully conform to country development priorities e.g. regarding governance issues, gender, sexual rights, human rights, marginalised groups, etc.?

4. For each issue area, the text describes the original thinking/approach of the term or concept in question, followed by a short section detailing concerns, doubts or additional considerations that have been raised in different TOSSD consultations and that call for further reflection and/or clarity. The text concludes with key questions designed to stimulate and frame Task Force deliberations.

5. The objective of the discussion will be to clarify as much as possible the key considerations raised by each issue area, and to explore whether additional research or reflection is required that can be taken up in the next TOSSD Task Force meeting.

Lunch A light, informal buffet lunch will be offered to Task Force participants in the George Marshall Room of the Château (please follow posted signs).

Item 4. Measurement issues: relevant international statistical norms and valuing technical co-operation

6. This session will begin with a brief overview of how generic statistical measurement issues will be integrated in the TOSSD measurement framework (e.g. direction of flows, point of measurement, net versus gross, commitment versus disbursement). As a prelude to more focused measurement discussions that will take place in future Task Force meetings, the session will then turn to approaches for valuing technical co-operation in development co-operation programmes and projects, which is a question of particular interest to South-South providers. It will also assess possible currency conversion methodologies and whether/how purchasing power parity conversion methodologies might be integrated in TOSSD.

7. The objective of the session will be to come to clarity on a set of basic measurement standards for TOSSD and assess whether further work will be required in this regard.

Item 5. TOSSD-eligibility of specific financial instruments

8. The objective underpinning the cross-border flow component of TOSSD is to capture as comprehensively as possible the full range of official support provided towards achieving the SDGs in developing countries, including complex public/private financing arrangements combining multiple actors and instruments. This session will look at three relevant issues in this regard: i) an existing “taxonomy” of financial instruments that might be integrated in the TOSSD system, ii) approaches for measuring and for incorporating or presenting in TOSSD private resources mobilised through official use of leveraging or risk-deferring instruments and iii) whether, when, and to what extent export credits might be TOSSD-eligible (e.g. where both commercial and developmental considerations co-mingle), and how they could be integrated in a functional data reporting and collection system.

9. The objective of this meeting segment will be to assess whether and how both mobilised resources and export credits might be reflected and/or integrated in the TOSSD measurement framework. It will also shed light on the scope and nature of work that might

be needed to categorise and valorise export credits that have a mix of commercial and developmental features.

Item 6. TOSSD Task Force: draft Terms of Reference, including proposed working methods

10. The final session will focus on a proposed Terms of Reference for the TOSSD Task Force setting out the objectives and purpose of the Task Force, the scope of its work, the structures and modalities through which the work will be carried out, and report-back responsibilities. Task Force members will be invited to discuss and take note of the draft text.

Item 7. Closing remarks and action points/next steps

11. The co-Chairs will summarise the main outcomes of the meeting and outline next steps for the TOSSD Task Force. The session will conclude with closing remarks from M Jorge Moreira da Silva, Director of the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate.