

Lisbon TOSSD Expert Workshop

“Developing the TOSSD framework: measuring collective actions supporting sustainable development

(19-20 September 2016)

CONCEPT NOTE

I. Background

The international community is working to develop a new international statistical standard, Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD), for tracking resources invested in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).¹ The primary objective of the TOSSD measurement framework is to promote greater transparency about the full array of officially-supported bilateral, multilateral and South-South development finance that is either directly received by countries (e.g. cross-border flows) or that is being provided to promote development enablers and/or address global challenges at the global and regional levels.

What is Total Official Support for Sustainable Development?

The current working definition of TOSSD is as follows:

“Total official support for sustainable development (TOSSD) includes all officially supported resource flows to promote sustainable development at developing country, regional and global levels where the majority of benefits are destined for developing countries, including those resources that support development enablers or address global challenges.”

TOSSD will cover all officially-supported resource flows regardless of financial instrument used or level of concessionality, or whether they are delivered through bilateral or multilateral channels. To be eligible, the resources would need to be i) targeted at efforts to achieve the SDGs and to support the Means of Implementation agreed in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and subsequent follow-on universally-agreed sustainable development strategies, ii) aligned with developing country development priorities and iii) in conformity with universally-agreed multilateral standards, principles and rules (e.g. WTO, UN Responsible Investment Principles, etc.).

Information about SDG-related resource flows provided through TOSSD monitoring will facilitate learning and exchange of good practice among developing countries about accessing and combining resources most effectively, offer insights about how and to what extent the international community is supporting development enablers and addressing global challenges, foster greater collaboration

¹ A [TOSSD compendium](#) has been provided to the international community for consultation.

across development partners financing the SDGs, and promote informed policy discussions about the spread, magnitudes and quality of development finance.

While the SDGs took the Millennium Development Goals as the point of departure for developing a new global goal framework, they have greatly expanded the level of ambition involved – and the scope of targets and indicators to measure progress. They break new ground in setting goals regarding governance (justice, institutions, voice and decision-making) and peace and the rule of law (stopping crime, human trafficking and abuse, corruption, etc.), sectors where international statistical definitions and parameters are unclear or taking shape. Further, some elements of the SDG framework involve concepts and notions that will be challenging to define and measure, such as inequality, empowerment, political/economic/social inclusion and opportunity and sustainable consumption.

Over much of the past two decades the international community has been grappling with the challenge of how to provide for certain development needs that go beyond national borders and interests in the face of inadequate international collective will and co-operation for their provision. These were commonly identified as Global Public Goods (GPGs)² and covered such global challenges as climate change, the control of infectious diseases, financial stability, and access to knowledge.

The work to develop the SDGs identified a core set of “development enablers” – including and going beyond GPGs – to guide policy approaches and enhance coherence at global, regional, national and sub-national levels. These development enablers covered a wide range of policies and actions across the four interdependent dimensions of sustainable development: inclusive economic development, inclusive social development, environmental sustainability and peace and security.

Development enablers underpinning the SDGs³

Inclusive economic development	Inclusive social development	Environmental sustainability	Peace and security
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fair and stable global trading system Adequate financing for development and stable financial system Affordable access to technology and knowledge Providing sustainable energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable food and nutrition security Universal access to quality health care Universal access to quality education Inclusive social protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable use of natural resources (climate, oceans, biodiversity) and management of waste Managing disaster risk and improving disaster response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Democratic and coherent global governance mechanisms Good governance practices based on the rule of law Conflict prevention and mediation Human rights protection

² Global Public Goods are defined as goods/services/policy actions that are i) global in scope, ii) freely available to everyone (non-excludable) and iii) where their use by one person or country is not at the expense of another person or country (non-rivalrous).

³ As identified in the final report produced by the UN system Task Team on the post-2015 UN development agenda “Realising the future we want for all”.

for all <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coherent macroeconomic and development policies supportive of inclusive and green growth 	systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing demographic dynamics • Regulating international migration 		
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They were considered as integrative and transversal enablers – supporting progress across all four dimensions – and they often called for collective international co-operation and action. The SDGs in their final form captured all of these development enablers in the 16 goals and 169 targets, confirming the essential role they play in ensuring inclusive, equitable and sustainable development for all.

The TOSSD measurement framework will need to mirror the breadth and specificity of the SDG framework, and by extension the scope of the development enablers they cover. While most of the targets grouped within the SDGs are sector-specific and are long-standing areas for development co-operation activities, many of the targets relating to development enablers are new, have a cross-sectoral/indirect character, and are often delivered through global or regional initiatives. They thus will need to be assessed in greater depth in order to clarify whether expenditures towards them can count as TOSSD. In this regard, it will be important to understand how to apply the TOSSD criterion that stipulates that only finance supporting activities where the “majority of benefits” flow to developing countries are eligible to be considered as TOSSD. Operational measurement boundaries will also need to be established.

II. Scope and objectives of the workshop

The expert workshop will provide a critical input to the design of TOSSD.⁴ as it will focus on the practical application of statistical approaches and tools as applied to officially-supported investment in key development enablers relating to i) peace and security and human rights and ii) migration. While a body of statistical approaches and data has been developed and consolidated over the years covering a measure of these activities, there are additional actors and activities that, at present, are not captured through existing international statistical systems.

The overall objective of the workshop will be to advance the international dialogue on how to capture officially-supported investments in key development enablers in a sound, coherent and feasible way. In particular the workshop will seek to:

- Clarify how finance supporting specific categories of development enablers – peace and security, human rights and migration – could be identified and evaluated for reporting purposes by applying a notional “decision tree” (see Annex 1) to projects and programmes in these areas. While the institutional arrangements for reporting and co-ordinating information on TOSSD flows are not yet clear, and while governance and oversight arrangements have yet to be

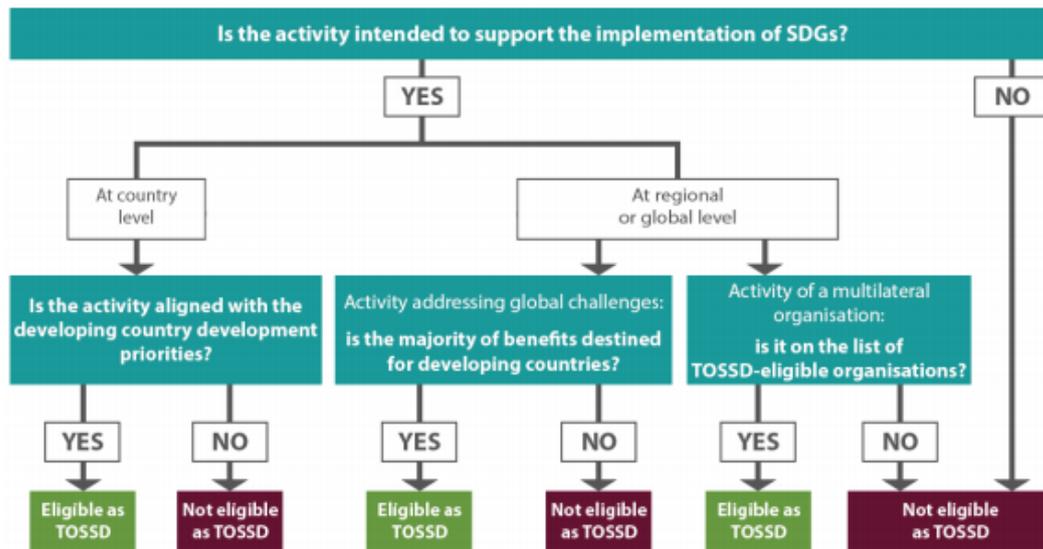
⁴ International workshops, consultations and dialogue processes have been undertaken over the past year and half as part of the development of TOSSD.

identified and agreed, it is important to test possible tools, methods and approaches that could be utilised in operationalising TOSSD.

- Identify relevant international, regional and national institutions operating in these areas whose activities would be TOSSD-eligible – the first step in establishing a “list” of TOSSD-eligible institutions for those particular targets where core contributions are financing TOSSD-eligible activities.
- Explore approaches for clarifying the TOSSD “majority of benefits are destined for developing countries” criterion.

Annex I

Decision tree for determining eligibility of TOSSD activities



* Development may not necessarily be the primary objective for supporting the activity, but could be combined with other objectives such as cultural, political, commercial and religious. Activities mutually benefiting the provider and recipient country would also be eligible.