Example of a development enabler at global level: work of standard setting international organisations

TOSSD Task Force Issues Paper[1]

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For discussion under agenda item 4

I.   INTRODUCTION

1.   Many multilateral organisations have a standard setting role, this is, the role to establish norms and standards in their respective areas of expertise. Those activities produce benefits at the global level and not only for developing countries. At the same time, they are embedded in the 2030 Agenda and referred to throughout the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) as a contributor to an enabling environment for sustainable development.

2.   Examples of references to standard setting activities in the 2030 Agenda include the promotion of a *"universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda"* (target 17.10) or the effort to *"Protect labour rights"* (target 8.8). These activities contribute to sustainable development of all countries by improving global governance. Another example, from the AAAA (paragraph 37) is the statement that: *"We will foster a dynamic and well-functioning business sector, while protecting labour rights and environmental and health standards in accordance with relevant international standards and agreements, such as the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the labour standards of ILO, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and key multilateral environmental agreements, for parties to those agreements."*

3.   With a view to reflecting these activities in the TOSSD Framework, a first step would be to identify which organisations are involved in global standard setting activities underpinning the 2030 Agenda. A second step would be to see how their activities could be best captured in TOSSD Pillar II and at what level of detail, noting that some of these organisations also have operational country-level or regional activities in developing countries that should rather be reported as cross-border flows in Pillar I. (The issue of how to classify regional activities will be discussed under Item 8 of the Agenda.)

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[1] Jointly drafted by Julia Benn (Julia.Benn@oecd.org) and Marisa Berbegal Ibanez (Marisa.Berbegalibanez@oecd.org).

II. ORGANISATIONS WITH STANDARD SETTING ACTIVITIES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR INCLUSION IN TOSSD

4.   First of all, a preliminary list of organisations that conduct standard setting activities at the global level related to the 2030 Agenda shall be identified. This could include:

- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Financial Stability Board
- Food and Agricultural Organisation
- International Labour Organisation
- International Maritime Organization
- International Monetary Fund
- International Renewable Energy Agency
- International Telecommunications Union
- Convention to Combat Desertification
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Universal Postal Union
- World Customs Organization
- World Health Organisation
- World Intellectual Property Organisation
- World Meteorological Organisation
- World Tourism Organization
- World Trade Organisation

5.   There are similar types of standard setting organisations at the regional level that could also be relevant for TOSSD, such as the UN regional commissions [e.g. Economic Commissions for Africa (ECA), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)], the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) or the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council).

Questions to Task Force members

Do you agree that the organisations listed in paragraph 4 should be included in the TOSSD framework given their standard setting activities contributing to sustainable development?

What regional organisations would be relevant for TOSSD Pillar II?

III. IDENTIFYING STANDARD SETTING ACTIVITIES, PRACTICAL EXAMPLES

6.   The three examples below showcase which kind of global standard setting activities could be reported under Pillar II. The examples have been selected from previous OECD work examining the extent to which standard-setting organisations' activities are targeted to developing countries.

a) The case of International Labour Organisation (ILO)

7.   ILO's mandate is to promote employment and decent work in its member states. Its thematic scope ranges from fundamental human rights such as the abolition of forced labour, child labour and discrimination and the promotion of freedom of association and collective bargaining, to technical areas such as occupational safety and health, social security coverage, conditions of work and decent work in specific economic sectors. The ILO budget for 2018-19 has the following components:

- Governance organs: International Labour Conference, Governing Body, Major Regional meetings and Office of the Legal Adviser.
- Policy: this includes international labour standards, employment policy, enterprises, sectoral policies, governance and tripartism, conditions of work and equality, social protection, research and knowledge, statistics, technical meetings reserve, Deputy Director General's office and regular budget technical co-operation.
- Field operations & partnerships, which includes regional programmes.
- Employers' and workers' organisations.
- Management and reform: includes support and management services.
- Office of the Director General.
- Oversight and evaluation, including among others audit, ethics and evaluation.
- Other budgetary provisions.
- Adjustment for staff turnover.

8.   Activities carried out under the budget item "field operations & partnerships" are relevant for pillar I if they are related to TOSSD-eligible countries. In the biennium 2018-19, these represented 36 % of the total budget of the ILO. Activities under budget items "policy", and "employers' and workers' organisations" could be collected under pillar II. Support services such as "governance organs", "management and reform", 'office of the Director General" or "oversight and evaluation" could potentially be considered under pillar II as well, given that these services are necessary for the implementation of the programmes conducive to sustainable development.

b) The case of UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)

9.   The UNWTO is one of the few organisations that report to the OECD all its activities, including global activities (which are not classified as ODA). Its work on promoting policies for sustainable tourism is reflected in target 8.9 of the 2030 agenda: "By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products".

10.   The following examples of global activities have been extracted UNWTO's reporting on 2016 expenditures:

- Joint research on city tourism performance.
- International year of sustainable tourism for development, 2017.
- 2nd Global Forum on gastronomic tourism.
- International mayor's forum on tourism 2016.
- 5th global summit on city tourism.
- UNWTO awards for excellence and innovation in tourism.
- Meeting of committee on statistics and tourism satellite account.
- UNWTO international conference on tourism and sport.
- International congress on world civilizations and creative tourism.
- Publication of UNWTO tourism stories book.
- Conference on religious heritage and tourism.
- Global Tourism of snow and mountain tourism.
- World tourism conference 2016.
- UNWTO global conference on wine tourism.
- Booklet of accessible tourism for everybody.
- Happiness 360 conference.
- 1st World conference on tourism for development.
- Global Code on Tourism and ethics.

11.   Other activities of the UNWTO are directed to particular countries and would be therefore included in the cross-border flow pillar of TOSSD.

c) The case of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

12.   IRENA is an intergovernmental organisation with near global membership and a mission to support accelerated development and deployment of renewable energy. It also provides a voice for renewable energy and supports countries in their transition to a sustainable energy future by providing relevant data and statistics, advice on best practices, policy development etc.; insights on financial mechanism and technological expertise; capacity building programmes; and a large library of publications and other resources.

13.   A number of IRENA's activities take place in countries and regions, while others are global. The breakdown of its thematic areas is as follows:

- Thematic programme areas:
    o Planning for global energy transition.
    o Gateway to knowledge and renewable energy.
    o Enabling investment and growth.
    o Renewable energy access for sustainable livelihoods.
    o Islands: lighthouses for renewable energy deployment.
    o Regional action agenda.

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- Governing body meetings

- Administration and management services

14.   The three first thematic programme areas (global transition, knowledge and enabling investment) take place at the global level, and in that sense could fall under pillar II of TOSSD. The other three focus on developing countries and could therefore be classified under pillar I if they are at country level, and under pillar I or II if at regional level. With regards to administration and governing body items, they could be considered as necessary for the organisation to function and might be included in pillar II as well.

IV.   PRACTICAL QUESTION RELATED TO REPORTING ON PILLAR II

15.   A question to discuss in the context of Pillar II, and more concretely in the context of standard setting activities, is whether the level of granularity or detail should be the same as for the activities reported under pillar I or whether less information would be necessary. Task Force members are invited to reflect and provide their feedback on this issue.

16.   Moreover, to implement reporting in a practical way, it will be necessary to clearly distinguish standard setting activities from direct support to developing countries, reportable under pillars II and I respectively. Most of the organisations proposed already report to the OECD the direct support but not their global activities. Since multilateral organisations have the required information, it should be relatively easy for the organisations to expand the reporting to their standard setting activities. However, there may be a feasibility issue in trying to capture activities from all organisations from the start, and there could be a temporary alternative of counting in pillar II the contributions by providers to these organisations.

Questions to Task Force members

Do you agree that global activities should be included in pillar II of TOSSD? Shall they be reported at activity level or could a simplification of the reporting format be envisaged?

Shall support services of international organisations such as procurement or financial services be included in pillar II of TOSSD? If so, shall they be presented separately from other global programmes or activities?

Do you agree with the proposed split between pillar I and II depending on the scope of the activity (country level vs. global)?