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Development Co-operation Directorate
Development Assistance Committee

DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics

Summary record of the WP-STAT meeting of 4-6 October 2023

Meeting of the Working Party on Development Finance Statistics, 4-6 October 2023

This summary record was approved via the written procedure on a non-objection basis on 16th February 2024

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Summary record of the meeting of the WP-STAT held on 4-6 October 2023

Item 1. Welcome and introduction

1. The WP-STAT Chair, Ms. Katrine Heggedal, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants in person and online. She greeted the Vice-Chairs, Ms. Miryam Rordorf Duvaux and Ms. Megumi Muto, and thanked the Secretariat for the organisation of the meeting.
2. The DAC facilitator (Mr. Dirk Platzen) briefed the WP-STAT about recent developments of the DAC, including preparations for the High-Level Meeting (agenda and communiqué), private-sector instruments (PSI), the revised List of ODA Recipients and ODA-eligibility of the OECD country programme for Ukraine.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda [DCD/DAC/STAT/A(2023)4]

3. The Chair asked whether members had comments on the agenda.
4. One member asked the paper on education and training in the Information Communication and technology (ICT) to be set for discussion rather than for approval, since it was the first version of the proposal prepared by the Secretariat following the room document from a member in the previous meeting. The member also asked the Secretariat to share the documents earlier to allow more time for discussions in the capitals. The Secretariat noted that all papers except one had been issued two weeks before the meeting.
5. Another member suggested that the Secretariat informs the WP-STAT about recent discussions with the World Bank regarding hybrid capital and ODA eligibility, under the AOB agenda item. The agenda was updated to include this topic, for members' information, in the second day¹.
6. The updated agenda was adopted.

Item 3. Designation of the WP-STAT Bureau 2024

7. The Secretariat chaired this session. Ms. Katrine Heggedal, from Norway, was nominated as WP-STAT Chair, by Sweden. Mr. Hubert Drolet from Canada and Mr. Tomoharu Otake from Japan were nominated for the vice-chair positions by the EU and France respectively. There were no objections.

Action points

The WP-STAT designated Ms. Katrine Heggedal (Norway) as WP-STAT Chair. Mr. Hubert Drolet (Canada) and Mr. Tomoharu Otake (Japan) were designated as vice-chairs.

Item 4. Data collection: status update

8. The Secretariat provided feedback on the status of members' reporting and informed members that it would organise the launch of the final 2022 CRS data on official and private flows

¹ In this document, this item is recorded in the session Any Other Business.

by end-December or early January. The Secretariat encouraged the members that had not yet submitted their DAC statistics to report them to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

9. The Secretariat also informed members that it had published on the community space the list of organisations currently under examination for inclusion in the Annex-2 list of ODA eligible international organisations².

Item 5. Forward Spending Survey [DCD/DAC/STAT(2023)28]

10. The Secretariat (Mr. Mark Baldock) presented the status of the Forward Spending Survey (FSS) and the Secretariat's recommendation to discontinue it in its present format.

11. Members appreciated the Secretariat work and the opportunity to discuss this topic. Many reiterated that, due to their annual budget schedule, they are unfortunately unable to provide forward-looking data at recipient country level. Nine members intervened in favour of discontinuing the FSS in its current format. Some members commented that while the discontinuation of the FSS in its current form is inevitable due to the lack of data, it is still regrettable to not be able to have a granular forward looking information.

12. The Chair stated that there was a majority in support for the discontinuation of the FSS, but that some members still had regrets.

Action points

Members agreed with the Secretariat's recommendation to discontinue the FSS in its current format. Members will seek alternative solutions for providing forward looking data in the context of the Aid Effectiveness agenda.

Item 6. Anonymisation of CRS data for Afghanistan and Ukraine

13. At the request of members, in August 2021, the Secretariat had implemented a temporary and exceptional measure to anonymise sensitive descriptive information in the CRS (for Afghanistan initially, then for Ukraine). In September 2021, the DAC had discussed this issue and requested that the Secretariat develop guidelines for anonymising data under exceptional circumstances. The Secretariat had issued and presented these guidelines at the WP-STAT meeting in March 2022 [DCD/DAC/STAT(2022)9], which also invite members to review the situation every six months.

14. The Secretariat asked members if the data could be restored. Ten members stated that the current anonymisation should remain as is.

15. In response to a member's question, the Secretariat clarified that the current practice is to anonymise data for Afghanistan for all members, but for Ukraine data are anonymised only for members that specifically requested it.

Action points

Members agreed to maintain all data anonymized for Afghanistan. Some members wished to maintain their data anonymized also for Ukraine. The Secretariat will raise this question again at the next WP-STAT meeting.

² See: <https://one-communities.oecd.org/community/wpstat-collab/SitePages/document-139687.aspx>

Item 7. ODA valuation of the donations of COVID-19 vaccines [DCD/DAC/STAT(2023)30]

16. The Secretariat (Ms. Valérie Gaveau) presented an updated proposal for the ODA treatment of donations of excess COVID-19 vaccine doses, following the discussion that had taken place in the DAC meeting of February 2023. The proposal was to stop counting the donations of excess COVID-19 vaccine doses in ODA (starting from the year 2023) except when there was a direct request for a donation from the authorities of developing countries or international health institutions such as COVAX or WHO. The proposal also provided for ancillary costs attached to donations to still be recorded in ODA, hereby addressing the concern earlier expressed by one member about the risk of destruction of vaccine surplus rather than donations if no cost was recognised as ODA.

17. Members thanked the Secretariat for producing a proposal that took into account earlier comments. However, they still had diverging views. A majority could support the proposal while a few favoured a stricter exclusion (they rejected the proposed exception) and yet another member preferred to count the donations on a permanent basis:

- **Five members supported the Secretariat’s proposal for discontinuing the ODA reporting of excess vaccine donations for 2023 and future years.** Although two of these members shared that they would prefer keeping the same rules as in 2022, they were willing to support the Secretariat’s proposal to ensure consensus and consistency across providers. Two other members stated they preferred a stricter proposal (i.e. without the exception) but were ready to accept the proposal in the name of consensus as well.
- **One member rejected the discontinuation of ODA reporting for donations of excess doses.** It believed that these donations should be counted in ODA on a permanent basis, in line with the rules for aid in kind. In its view, changing the rules in 2023, due to the context, could lead to uncertainty in similar future situations. It could nevertheless show flexibility and consider accepting the proposal if the “direct request” justifying the inclusion of donations in ODA could be clarified: would a simple request by Covax regarding the availability of doses be accepted as a “direct request” justifying counting the donations in ODA? Other members also stressed that they would like to see this term clarified.
- **Two members stated that the donations of excess COVID-19 vaccines should not be counted as ODA (except the ancillary costs incurred), neither in 2023 nor in future years. One member agreed that the donations should not be counted as ODA, just as ancillary products, but did not specify its position on ancillary costs incurred with the donations. All three rejected the proposal because of the exception that allowed to count donations in certain cases.** This exception to the ‘no reporting beyond 2023’ directive would set an undesirable precedent with negative consequences in a future pandemic for developing countries. In any case, in these members’ views, the WP-STAT decision to count the donations of domestic surpluses had been made on an exceptional basis and was not meant to become permanent. They emphasized that vaccines were originally not purchased with a development objective and therefore did not fulfil ODA-eligibility criteria. A further argument related to the sub-optimal market behaviour that these ODA rules could induce: incentivize superfluous stocks instead of encouraging countries to better assess their needs and behave rationally on the markets, for a better access to vaccines for more countries and a more efficient functioning for the benefit of all.

18. In addition, two members commented on the elements presented in the Secretariat's document as relevant from an ODA-eligibility perspective. Regarding the global public good dimension of vaccination, one member pointed out that vaccines primarily benefitted the country that receives them. Although vaccination could have an impact on global resistance to COVID-19, the global public good dimension was found inadequate for assessing the ODA eligibility of surplus vaccine donations. Another member noted that the need to strengthen developing countries' health sectors should have no bearing on the ODA-eligibility of vaccine donations either. The Secretariat agreed that these two arguments were not the main reasons for discontinuing ODA reporting of excess donations and could be softened.

19. Given the diverging views, the Secretariat highlighted that there would be no point in investing time and resources towards a compromise as this did not seem achievable now. As a fallback option, it stood ready to issue a guidance along the lines of its proposal. One member however raised concerns regarding the decision-making process on this topic in the WP-STAT and asked the Secretariat to consult the OECD Legal Directorate for advice. It had accepted the inclusion of excess doses in ODA based on the understanding that it was a one-year exception and, in its view, the WP-STAT should not continue operating with a methodology for which there is no consensus, instead reporting should be discontinued.

20. The Chair asked members to provide comments and the Secretariat to clarify the term "direct request". She highlighted the political nature of this debate, the complexity of the discussion, and that the Secretariat's proposal was a fair compromise and could constitute a good way forward as a guidance. She also mentioned the possibility of some in-depth work by the WP-STAT on the rules for aid in kind in 2024.

Action points

The proposal to discontinue the reporting of excess vaccine donations in ODA from 2023 onwards was not approved.

- Members are invited to share their comments by 20 October 2023,³ including their projected amount for excess donations in 2023 and 2024.
- The Secretariat was requested to seek advice from the Legal Directorate regarding future guidance on ODA reporting.
- The Bureau will explore how to engage with EVALNET on the issue of aid in kind.

Item 8. Biodiversity reporting – joint session with ENVIRONET [DCD/DAC/ENV(2023)8]

21. This joint session of ENVIRONET and WP-STAT was organised to gauge interest from members for joint work of the two bodies to improve biodiversity-related development finance data and information. The Secretariat (Mr. Juan Casado Asensio) presented the current status of reporting on biodiversity-related development finance. He highlighted that in the Secretariat's work on biodiversity, several challenges had been identified in this realm, indicating areas where the quality, coherence, coverage, and harmonization of members' reporting could be enhanced. Potential areas for future focus include updating the biodiversity Rio Marker to align with the decisions made at the Convention on Biological Diversity's 15th Conference of the Parties. This update should also consider the application of the marker in monitoring the international finance

³ Date decided by the Bureau after the meeting.

goals and targets outlined in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which had been agreed upon in December 2022.

22. Delegates discussed the topics presented by the Secretariat and agreed on the need to improve the quality of reporting and to propose guidance for statistical reporters on biodiversity. Some of the options discussed included the update of the indicative tables, the preparation of a biodiversity handbook for reporters, and an assessment of the quality of reporting. In addition, work could also be done with non-DAC, multilateral and other donors reporting to the OECD on biodiversity, to improve the information available. Members also exchanged views on how the Secretariat could support members to improve the awareness, communication and dissemination of the data.

23. The Secretariat's proposal of a joint ENVIRONET-WP-STAT work on biodiversity received strong support from delegates, and one member announced its financial support for this workstream, inviting other members to also support the Secretariat work on improving biodiversity data. The Secretariat will work on the terms of reference to lay out the next steps of this work, with a view to concluding this update before CBD COP17 takes place (due to take place in 2026).

Action points

The Secretariat will develop ToRs for the biodiversity work to be carried out in 2024.

Item 9. Climate-related development finance – update on the implementation of the transparency measures foreseen in the DAC Declaration

24. The Chair informed members that the item 9.a (indicative tables for the Rio Markers on climate change adaptation and mitigation) would be treated as a discussion item, rather than for approval, following a request by the ENVIRONET Chair to allow additional time for discussion in both communities.

Item 9.a. Indicative tables for the Rio Markers on climate change adaptation and mitigation [DCD/DAC/STAT(2023)31]

25. The Secretariat (Mr. Giorgio Gualberti) presented the draft indicative tables and an accompanying document, which takes into account the inputs received from members in a series of workshops in 2023 and in written form on the community space.

26. Members appreciated the work done so far to update the indicative tables and pointed to a number of areas where the language contained in the draft circulated could be further refined, as follows:

- Several members commented that the document should be made more ambitious. In particular, they suggested that the language on considering activities with 'net GHGs reductions' as mitigation-related should be edited in a more restrictive way, preventing the use of the Rio marker for all activities that are connected with fossil fuels and high GHGs emission sectors. The issue was raised in particular for brownfield energy efficiency investments in non-renewable energies, fuel switching activities, airports, and fossil fuels production.
- One member requested additional guidance for the 'type 3' adaptation activities, considering the current language as too broad. Another member asked further clarification on the use of the score significant for activities that mainstream adaptation.

- One member raised the question of ODA eligibility of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) activities, mentioning that this is one of the technological options to reduce GHGs emissions. The member also pointed that it is difficult to understand why a fossil fuel power plant is ODA-eligible, but a CCS power plant is not.
- Two members commented that ‘hybrid power plants’ should be allowed to be marked with the principal score for mitigation.
- Two members noted that the nuclear power plants should be ODA-eligible and marked with the mitigation marker. One also stated that if the Arrangement on Officially Supported Export Credits raises concerns for the eligibility status of nuclear energy activities, then changes to the DAC directives should be proposed, discussed, and then proposed for approval with WP-STAT, and only then should those changes be reflected in the indicative tables.
- One member explicitly supported the provision that activities that high GHG activities should only be marked for adaptation if mitigation is also marked.

27. The Secretariat thanked members for the comments received. It re-stated that the issue of ODA-eligibility of nuclear power plants derives from the ‘Nuclear-sector understanding’ of the ‘Arrangement on officially supported export credits’ that excludes ‘aid support’ for the sector by the members.

Action points

The Secretariat will collect comments on the latest draft from both ENVIRONET and WP-STAT members and will convene a joint ENVIRONET/WP-STAT virtual discussion on this topic. Approval will be sought through a written procedure afterwards in WP-STAT.

Item 9.b. Imputed multilateral climate shares methodology [DCD/DAC/STAT(2023)32]

28. The Secretariat (Ms. Sandie Xu) presented an updated methodology to produce the imputed multilateral climate shares table, which is updated annually by the Secretariat and published online.

29. Members welcomed this discussion and expressed overall support for the new methodology. In particular:

- Four members supported the introduction of a 40% coefficient for the activities marked as significant.
- Two members supported a coefficient of 30%, and in some cases 40%.
- Two members supported the use of a 50% coefficient.
- One member reflected that the impact of a decrease on climate-related development finance that would result from the methodological change is challenging to accept. The member invited the Secretariat to increase data collection from multilateral institutions and to share with members the difficulties encountered in its outreach, so that members can properly engage with multilateral institutions.
- One member stated it was in favour of the new approach but asked some time to consult. Another member suggested to make a sensitivity analysis for 2019-20.
- Two members commented on the share the Secretariat had attributed to some specific environmental funds.

- One member favoured retaining the current method and expressed the need to focus efforts on ensuring a clear and accurate narrative of the figures rather than reporting figures that communicate a false degree of precision given the caveats of the approach.

30. The Secretariat thanked members for the comments. It clarified that multilateral institutions report voluntarily to the OECD, and that the Secretariat cannot therefore impose the use of specific methodology. It recalled that the institutions that are newly added to the Annex II List of ODA-eligible international organisations are required to report data to the Secretariat.

31. The Secretariat also clarified that improving the coherence of statistics is one of the drivers of the proposed revision of this methodology. The Secretariat will take into account the comments received but this topic is under responsibility of the Secretariat and will not require a formal approval by the WP-STAT.

Action points

Members will share comments in written form by 20 October. The Secretariat will finalise the revised methodology to be implemented starting from 2024 on 2022 data.

9.c Correspondence of the OECD-DAC sector classification with UNFCCC data collection.

32. This item was not discussed at the meeting.

Action points

The Secretariat will share a document and will collect members' comments on the community space.

9.d Follow-up to the discussions on reporting of activities under the art. 6 of the Paris Agreement on International Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) [for information]

33. The Secretariat (Mr. Giorgio Gualberti) informed members that it had not received any example of ITMO activity by members for ODA-eligibility assessment and that it would therefore put the topic on hold until the need to report such activities arise.

Action points

Given that members have not submitted to the Secretariat any example of ITMO activity for ODA eligibility assessment, it was decided to put further work on hold.

9.e Capacity building and technology transfer

34. The Secretariat (Mr. Giorgio Gualberti) informed members that it had received no comments on the methodology presented at the previous meeting to track capacity building and technology transfer for climate change adaptation and mitigation [DCD/DAC/STAT(2023)24]⁴.

Action points

The methodology will be posted on a dedicated page on the community space.

⁴ However, upon further verification, the Secretariat recovered comments that members had provided on this topic. The Secretariat will produce a revised version taking into account the feedback received.

Item 10. Purpose code for education and training in the Information Communication and Technology (ICT) sector [DCD/DAC/STAT(2023)33]

35. The Secretariat (Mr. Giorgio Gualberti) presented a proposal to add in the CRS sector classification a purpose code for education and training in the Information Communication and Technology (ICT) sector and update related CRS purpose codes. This document follows up on the discussion held in the WP-STAT meeting of 30 May-1 June 2023 on a room document presented by the European Union [DCD/DAC/STAT/RD(2023)2]. The proposal was warmly welcomed by all members, who praised the European Union's initiative and the work of the Secretariat.

36. Six members supported the Secretariat's proposal to add a purpose code for education and training in the Information Communication and Technology (ICT) sector and to update related CRS purpose codes. Some members were ready to accept the proposal, but others asked that their comments on minor modifications be considered.

37. One member stated it could not approve the Secretariat's proposal as presented. Although this member supports the creation of this new purpose code, the time frame in which the proposal was shared with the members did not allow for proposer analysis and comments. The member also noted that the clarifications provided for existing codes in the proposal suggest a departure from how they have reported them in the past; and therefore requested further clarification on members' interpretations and differentiation between distribution of media or communications (15153) versus the creation of content for listed forms of media (22030).

38. One member requested that the term "Professional" be added to the title of the proposal, since for this member, at national level, ICT was more associated with primary education.

39. One member asked that the term "professionals" be removed from the clarification of purpose code 15153. According to this member, the term is a bit restrictive and the scope of the persons concerned goes beyond professionals. With this change the member would be happy to accept the proposal.

40. The Chair underlined the general support for this proposal, even though it had not been adopted. She encouraged members to post their comments/suggestions on the collaborative work platform. The Secretariat will then take these comments and those made orally during the meeting into account to come up with a new proposal which, she hopes, will be adopted.

Action points

The Secretariat will collect comments on the communities space and will subsequently submit a revised version for approval via the written procedure.

Item 11. ODA-eligibility of cultural programmes [DCD/DAC/STAT(2023)21/REV1]

41. The Secretariat (Ms. Valérie Gaveau) presented a proposal to revise the Reporting Directives on activities in the field of culture. The proposal integrated comments received from members on an initial version discussed at the WP-STAT meeting in May/June 2023 and was submitted for approval. One member was ready to approve the proposal and most members acknowledged progress, but several still had comments and requests for changes and were not able to approve.

42. Responding to a remark by two members that they did not have enough time for their internal consultations, the Secretariat stressed that the document for this agenda item had been issued on 15 September, i.e. more than two weeks ahead of the meeting, in accordance with the regulatory deadlines.

43. The main point in the Secretariat's proposal which members disagreed with related to the ODA treatment of support for cultural heritage. Several members asked to remove the three last examples of non-ODA activities in this field. Two members also considered that referring only to economic benefits and capacity building for assessing the ODA eligibility of support for cultural heritage was too restrictive and asked to include in the updated rules a reference to the social welfare of the population. Arguments put forward to support the eligibility of the three last examples are summarised below:

- Relocation of sculptures/paintings/buildings: in the event of conflict, the preservation of cultural heritage has many advantages for the economic and social development of a developing country and relocation should be considered ODA-eligible as long as local populations support these projects. Furthermore, it would not be consistent to present relocation to protect works of art as an example of non-eligible activity while their restoration once damaged would be presented as an eligible example.
- Research work in an archaeological site: it was not possible to establish a hierarchy of benefits (for developing countries vs for the international community) for this type of project. The study, excavation, dating and anastylosis of a site were inseparable elements, each generating tourist activity that benefitted the local economy. However, one member emphasised that it was essential for the objects discovered during these archaeological searches to remain in developing countries and not be transferred to donor countries.
- Promotion of the inclusion of a new site located in a developing country on UNESCO's List of World Heritage: such promotion helps create social and economic development in developing countries and one of UNESCO's objectives is to support capacity building in Africa.

44. Members also had comments on the ODA-eligibility of other elements covered by the proposal, these are summarised below.

- Large sporting events with worldwide financial repercussions: one member considered that it should be included in ODA because of the economic spin-offs that primarily benefitted the developing countries and for the sake of consistency: financing a stadium would be considered non eligible only when built in view of a competition with an international dimension. Another member expressed concerns about this approach, considering that donor countries benefit a lot from the events and that the buildings are not always used after the event, the resources invested in these buildings being then lost.
- Financing the visit of artists from donor countries to developing countries: one member disagreed with this exclusion from ODA. In its view, it would introduce a hierarchy of cultures (donor vs recipient country) which was not warranted as culture was universal.
- Preservation of the donor cultural and historical heritage in developing countries: one member suggested considering as eligible the restoration of colonial heritage as when it represents a significant economic value for the country (tourism).
- Restoration of religious sites: two members considered that a blanket exclusion from ODA of this type of activity contradicted with the proposed rules for assessing the ODA eligibility of restoration of cultural sites generally (economic benefits from tourism, training of local workers). They recalled that many religious buildings were an important source of tourist attraction in developing countries. One suggestion was to exclude only buildings that are currently mainly used as places of religious worship but still count others; another suggestion was to count only the tourism component of such restoration programmes.

45. A few members suggested further amendments to the text:

- Include footnotes 6 and 7 in the main text of the proposal, given the important indications they contain.
- Also include in the main text the example concerning the exclusion of cultural activities used to forcibly normalise minorities into the dominant culture.
- Find an alternative term for "recreational", which was outdated and not appropriate to the concept of culture.

46. One member also generally felt that the proposal became overly prescriptive which was not the initial motivation for updating these rules. Another member, noting the numerous reactions on several parts of the proposal, suggested making the rules more general, and develop separately a casebook to illustrate the eligibility of specific cases.

47. The Secretariat undertook to consider all the comments made by members and to come back to them with a revised proposal for approval under the written procedure. It noted that only the revised paragraph 93 was meant to be included in the Reporting Directives; the examples, although submitted for approval as part of the proposal, were not planned to be included.

48. The Chair concluded by pointing out that the Reporting Directives could not overregulate ODA eligibility, it was for each member to determine the main objective of its projects (development of developing countries or mutual benefit). In case the written procedure fails, a workshop can be organised to talk through the cases on which members have different views.

- **Action points**

The proposal for revised rules on the ODA-eligibility of cultural programmes was not approved.

- Members are invited to share their comments by 20 October 2023, including suggestions for alternative examples of non-ODA activities in the field of cultural heritage.
- The Secretariat will then issue an adjusted proposal for the rules on the ODA-eligibility of cultural programmes, for approval under a written procedure.
- Further work to compile more examples in a Casebook can be envisaged in future.
- In case the written procedure fails, a workshop can be organised to talk through the cases on which members have different views.

Item 12. ODA casebook on migration-related activities [DCD/DAC/STAT(2023)34]

49. The Secretariat (Ms. Valerie Gaveau) presented the draft Casebook, meant to illustrate the application of the newly agreed principles and criteria for assessing the ODA-eligibility of migration-related activities. It explained that the Casebook was overall satisfactory as the 32 examples contained therein covered all the themes discussed by the DAC Temporary Working Group in charge of elaborating the principles and criteria. It thanked members for making the effort to share examples of non-ODA activities which were the most useful to illustrate the boundaries of ODA. Still, it highlighted that more work remained to be done as not all members contributed examples. In addition, some examples were missing in two important areas for which the agreement stipulated that members committed to provide cases (conditionality of aid, return and reintegration). In the absence of relevant examples, the Secretariat would develop hypothetical cases for consideration.

50. Members welcomed the Casebook as a critical piece of work that will be highly useful in the years to come to help assess the ODA-eligibility of activities in the field of migration. They generally found the cases to be clear and varied, but a few of them challenged the partial eligibility

or non-eligibility of several cases that they wished to present as eligible instead (3, 4, 7, 8 and 21) and one member asked for inclusion of one of the cases it had shared with the Secretariat.

51. Responding to a question asked by several members on the reporting of partially eligible cases, the Secretariat advised to follow a conservative approach i.e. either report only the ODA-eligible share of such projects' budget or entirely exclude them (when ODA components cannot be separately identified).

52. The next steps would include bilateral consultations between the Secretariat and members on the cases that prompted comments. This version of the Casebook would then be finalised and published. In line with members' interest for keeping the Casebook a living document, the cases would also be available from an on-line database on ODA-eligibility and additional cases would continue to be included on a regular basis.

53. The Chair took note of the praises for the Secretariat's work and encouraged members to accept the Casebook in its current form as the Secretariat's guidance on the eligibility of projects in the field of migration. She advised not to enter a new discussion on the eligibility of specific cases and recalled that the Casebook would lose its usefulness if it presented only ODA cases.

Action points

Members will share their comments by 20 October 2023. The Casebook will then be submitted for members' approval.

- The Casebook will subsequently be published and cases included in an on-line database on ODA-eligibility. Additional cases will continue to be included on a regular basis.
- Members are encouraged to deliver on their commitment to submit examples – ODA and non-ODA – in the areas of conditionality and return and reintegration. In the absence of relevant examples, the Secretariat will develop hypothetical cases for consideration.

Item 13. TOSSD update and future arrangements

54. The Secretariat presented an update on the TOSSD data collection and on the future governance arrangements of the International Forum on TOSSD. As of 4 October 2023, 87 countries and organisations had already reported their TOSSD data for 2022. Following the approval by the OECD Council, work is ongoing to set up the secretariat for the International Forum starting 1 January 2024.

Action points

DAC members, observers and participants are invited to contact the TOSSD Secretariat should they wish to obtain further information on joining the International Forum on TOSSD.

Item 14. WP-STAT 2024 work programme

55. Members made suggestions in a roundtable on the priorities they saw for WP-STAT work programme in 2024. The discussion highlighted:

- The need for strengthened synergies between WP-STAT and other bodies (Environet, EvalNet, International Forum on TOSSD, Paris Club, IATI, DEVCOM, etc.). One concrete suggestion was to organise a joint WP-STAT/Paris Club workshop on debt relief, to promote harmonised reporting on the ODA reporting (grant equivalents and flows) of forthcoming large debt restructuring operations (Zambia, Ghana, Ethiopia).

- The substantive topics to prioritise in the areas of improved reporting (SDG focus, purpose code classification, Rio markers, project descriptions), definitions (food security, innovative finance instruments), products (imputed multilateral shares by sector).
- The transversality of the work on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the importance to relate many of the above points with the newly created WP-STAT network on AI.
- Constrained resources will force to set priorities among all the topics mentioned. Virtual meetings can be considered, with the caveat that they are not as productive as in-person meetings.

56. The Secretariat noted that creating and maintaining synergies between WP-STAT and other bodies requires dedicated resources that should be reflected in the next PWB for 2025-26.

Action points (for immediate release)

The Bureau will reflect on how to incorporate members' feedback and the topics proposed in the WP-STAT work programme for 2024 and in the next meetings' agendas.

Item 15. Topics for discussion in the annual WP-STAT CSO dialogue

57. Members reflected on the past WP-STAT CSO dialogue events and provided suggestions on the topics to be discussed with CSOs. Suggestions included the possibility to have thematic consultations on specific dossiers, a discussion on development finance beyond ODA, a discussion on the ODA narrative, enlarging the dialogue to experts and think tanks and data improvements.

Action points

The Secretariat will organise a WP-STAT-CSO dialogue on the 17 November 2023, taking into consideration members' discussion on topics and modalities. Agenda and invitations will be circulated shortly.

Item 16. Update on PSI [for information]

58. The Secretariat updated members on the DAC discussion regarding the batch 2 topics on 3 October as well as the status of the WP-STAT written approval procedure on the batch 3 topics. In discussion, several members expressed their appreciation of the collective efforts in the PSI Project Team and WP-STAT more broadly during the last few months. Some also called for flexibility in the very last stage of the review of the provisional reporting methods.

Item 17. Any Other Business

Updated guidance on the ODA eligibility of the OECD Ukraine Country Programme

59. Members took note of the Secretariat's guidance on the ODA-eligibility of their contributions to the OECD Country Programme.

WP-STAT Informal network on data quality and innovation

60. Members approved the new name and Terms of Reference of the Informal Network on Data Quality and Innovation. The Secretariat will set up a dedicated community space for this network with a specific thread for members to share their ideas on future topics for discussion.

World Bank hybrid capital instruments

61. The World Bank has been considering issuing hybrid capital instruments (notably the “Shareholder/Development Partner Hybrid Capital” or “SDPHC”) to raise resources from its shareholders and partners and the capital market. This topic had gained high importance in light of the then upcoming Annual Meetings of the IMF and the WBG in Marrakech. As discussions on the exact design of such instruments were advancing, several members and the World Bank had reached out to the Secretariat to share their views on the ODA-eligibility status of the SDPHC.

62. Keeping in mind the provisional character of the available information and a lack of approved ODA directives on mezzanine finance and bonds, the Secretariat recalled the existing ODA directives on core contributions to multilateral organisations to subsequently share its perspectives on the conditions under which the hybrid instrument could be considered ODA-eligible. The Secretariat suggested that a parallel with the treatment of sunk cost could be made if the hybrid instrument maintained its multilateral character, was untradeable, and involved no reflows to the donor (both principal and interest, or its equivalent such as coupon or dividend).

Dates of WP-STAT meetings in 2024

63. The next WP-STAT meeting is scheduled to be held on 6-8 March 2024⁵. The Secretariat will communicate the dates for the other WP-STAT meetings in 2024 shortly.

⁵ Due to room availability issues at the Conference Centre, the dates for the 2024 meetings are now set on 13-15 March, 4-6 September and 2-4 December.