

**9th Meeting of the INTOSAI Working Group on
Value and Benefits of SAIs**

Arusha, Tanzania
August 29 - 31, 2016

CHAIR'S REPORT

Dear colleagues,

I want to thank you for your enthusiastic response to our 2016 annual meeting here in Arusha, Tanzania. We have in this occasion twenty nine participants representing eleven member SAIs, namely: Austria, China, France, Indonesia, Iraq, Mexico, Namibia, Peru, South Africa, Tanzania, and the United States of America, as well as two representatives from the INTOSAI Development Initiative and one participant from the Policy Forum, which is a non-governmental organization from Tanzania.

The objective of this meeting will be to discuss the latest developments, achievements attained, and new initiatives to be undertaken by the Working Group, on the eve of the XXII INTOSAI Congress.

The deliberations to be held during these days will form the basis of our reports to be tabled during the 8th meeting of the Goal 3 Steering Committee next week in Mexico City, as well as the 68th meeting of the INTOSAI Governing Board, and the INCOSAI in December 2016 in Abu Dhabi.

In my capacity as Chairman of the INTOSAI Working Group on Value and Benefits of SAIs, I am honored to report the activities as carried out since our last meeting, held in Nanjing in September 2015.

I am pleased to announce the acceptance of the SAI of Pakistan's request to join our Group, after a consultation period among the membership.

As you know, this Working Group has been given a mandate to develop tools, strategies and/or mechanisms for communicating and promoting the value and benefits of Supreme Audit Institutions.

This entity has contributed to raising the awareness, within the INTOSAI community and before relevant stakeholders, on the impact of supreme auditing and its value to make a difference in the lives of citizens through trust, efficiency, and effectiveness.

It's important to highlight the commitment shown by the members of the Group as to the development of the different projects that are included in our working plan.

First I would like to refer to the Performance Measurement Framework for Supreme Audit Institutions, developed by a Task Team led by the INTOSAI-Donor Secretariat at the IDI.

This version is based on the experiences stemming from the outcomes of the pilot version launched in July 2013. It takes into account the results of extensive consultation and testing through more than 20 pilot assessments, and several official rounds of consultation with numerous stakeholders, from 2013 to 2015.

Additionally, this version includes contributions from francophone SAIs with jurisdictional functions, and was disseminated among the Working Group member SAIs for comments.

I would like to point out that the SAI PMF is neither an ISSAI nor an INTOSAI GOV, and therefore it is not required to follow the INTOSAI Due Process.

Despite the aforementioned and in order to strengthen the reliability and rigorousness of the document before the INTOSAI community, it was decided, in coordination with the Chair of the INTOSAI Goal 3, and the Task Team to follow a process similar to the required to endorse ISSAIs.

The Framework was submitted to the approval of the Chair of the Goal 3 Steering Committee.

In the next agenda item, our colleagues from IDI will share with us further details on the progress of this initiative. Their report will point out the need to consider the sustainability of this framework after the Congress. In this sense, it will be relevant to clarify who will oversee it within the INTOSAI community, and to identify the resources to be required for training, keeping up to date and developing guidance for implementation.

Another relevant initiative is the Forum of Jurisdictional SAIs Network of General Prosecutors, which aims to be a space for reflection, collaboration, and exchange of good practices among SAIs with this type of organizational model.

As a result of the meeting held in Paris, on November 13th 2015, a key document was released, dubbed the “Paris Declaration”, which lists the values of SAIs with jurisdictional functions. Its purpose is to promote the value and benefits of jurisdictional SAIs as independent, credible and effective bodies.

The final name of the document will be announced by Mr. Alventosa, during this meeting.

Due to the relevance of the contents of this statement, the SAI of France, in coordination with the SAI of Mexico, has made the corresponding arrangements with the United Arab Emirates to count on a special venue in between INCOSAI activities, for its signing by the Forum members and other parties.

We will learn of the progress on the Guideline on Effective Practices of Cooperation between SAIs, the Legislature, the Judiciary, and the Executive, which is led by our colleagues from the SAI of Jamaica.

As agreed during our last meeting in Nanjing, the Working Group's feedback was considered in the drafting of the revised version.

Afterwards, the updated version was re-exposed before the Working Group members for additional comments, in order to obtain information concerning SAIs' good practices in their cooperation with the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Executive branches. The comments received by the project leader were included in a new version of the Guideline, which will be presented by the SAI of Jamaica.

With regards to the work carried out by the Task Team made up by the SAIs of Namibia, South Africa and Mexico, and as agreed last year, the survey related to identify the challenges and the good practices on the implementation of the principles of the ISSAI 12 were submitted to the member SAIs, which had not provided their responses.

So far, all but one of the Working Group members answered the survey, so now we count on information from a reliable sample of the INTOSAI community, which could be used to identify the main factors that should be considered so as to fully implement ISSAI 12.

Interesting findings will be presented by our colleagues from Namibia and South Africa, and then we can open enough time during our meeting to discuss the next steps to take advantage of this initiative.

At the Nanjing meeting last year, where we had the opportunity to discuss the importance for SAIs to identify and manage their own risks as well as those linked to the public sector operation, the Working Group members agreed that the SAI of Mexico would draw up a draft to expound the main elements that SAIs should take into account to identify both (1) key national risks, and (2) its own internal functioning risks.

As for the former, the SAI of Mexico would work with the SAI of the United States, and as to the latter, the coordination would be carried out with the SAI of China.

I am glad to inform that both projects have been completed. Both topics will be presented tomorrow and your inputs will be truly valuable to enrich them and to identify whether they could be regarded as working documents to be presented to the INTOSAI community.

As for the extended mandate granted by the XXI INCOSAI, the Working Group is also responsible for communicating and promoting the importance of the different INTOSAI tools, such as the SAIs' Information Database, the Self-Assessment on Integrity (IntoSAINT), the KSC-IDI Community Portal, the INTOSAI Online Glossary,

the SAIs Capacity Development Database, and the Experts Database, among others.

The awareness-raising on these tools within the INTOSAI community and before relevant stakeholders becomes very important, taking into consideration their impact on the perception of the value of supreme auditing. An agenda item has been included in our meeting to address this issue.

We have allocated time to discuss the relevance for the SAIs to count on, a suitable quality control scheme, as a part of their management, in order to ensure an adequate level, of reliability on their work.

Given the environment of mistrust that surrounds public sector, SAIs must be able to demonstrate the accuracy of their reports, in order to promote preventive actions, control implementation, risk assessments, and integrity policies against impunity; we must be neutral and impartial. In this regard, in this meeting we will have the opportunity to discuss about this relevant issue.

Another topic of the utmost importance for the INTOSAI Community, refers to the definition of the new Strategic Plan for the period 2017-2022.

During our meeting we will have an agenda item focused on its main features, and its relevance to our work.

This new Plan includes five cross-cutting priorities to achieve its goals in the upcoming years. In our meeting we will address one of these priorities, namely, the sustainable development goals, and how to maximize the value of SAIs work by incorporating relevant issues in our annual audit plans.

Finally, I would like to highlight the commitment and relevant contributions of all member SAIs which volunteered to share their good practices and experiences dealing with conveying the value and benefits of supreme auditing by means of national case studies.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your attention.

Mr. Juan M. Portal, CPA
Auditor General of Mexico
Chairman of the INTOSAI Working Group
on Value and Benefits of SAIs
August 29, 2016