



Draft Aide Memoire

SAI LEADERSHIP AND STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

“CONTRIBUTIONS OF SUPREME AUDIT INSTITUTIONS TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS”

Organised by the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

19-20 July 2018, New York

1. Background

The Strategic Plan 2017-2022 of the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) identifies four approaches through which SAIs can support and contribute to the follow-up and review of the SDGs: 1) Assess the readiness and audit national systems to follow-up and review progress toward the SDGs; 2) Conduct performance audits of the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of government programmes which contribute to the SDGs; 3) Assess and support the implementation of SDG 16; 4) Be models of transparency and accountability in their own operations.

In 2016, the INTOSAI Knowledge Sharing Committee (KSC) and the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) launched the “Auditing SDGs” capacity development programme as a contribution to INTOSAI’s efforts for supporting the role of SAIs in contributing to the SDGs. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) has been a partner of the programme since its inception.

The main objective of the programme is to support SAIs in conducting performance audits of government preparedness for implementation of the SDGs in all INTOSAI regions according to the International Standards of SAIs (ISSAI). Such audits are envisaged as one of the first responses of SAIs in contributing to SDG implementation, follow-up and review by providing independent oversight on the government’s efforts in the early implementation of the SDGs. It will also give SAIs a voice in the implementation and follow-up and review of the SDGs in their countries. The results of the audits in several regions will be available in 2018.

Against this backdrop, in July 2017 the IDI and UNDESA organised a joint meeting of SAI leadership and stakeholders on “Auditing preparedness for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”. This meeting facilitated substantive discussions and knowledge-sharing on critical issues related to auditing preparedness for SDG implementation at the national level, and provided

an opportunity to affirm the commitment of SAI leadership and stakeholders to carry out the cooperative performance audits.¹

Drawing on the success of the first meeting, the IDI and UNDESA will co-organise another joint meeting for SAI leaders and stakeholders on auditing SDGs in the margins of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2018, in New York. The meeting will provide a space for debate and learning on how to audit the SDGs and facilitate information sharing on SDG audits, reflecting on common challenges and opportunities and the engagement between governments, SAIs and other stakeholders in the follow-up and review of the SDGs.

This Aide Memoire provides information on the objective, focus and expected outcomes of the meeting.

2. Objectives and expected accomplishments

- Facilitate understanding and dialogue between SAIs, governments and other stakeholders regarding emerging practices in SDG implementation, including on adapting the 2030 Agenda into national contexts, integrated policies, multi-stakeholder approaches, resource mobilization, realising the principle to leave no one behind across SDG-related programmes and policies, and implementation risks, among others.
- Take stock of ongoing audits of preparedness for SDG implementation and early implementation, their emerging findings and recommendations, and share experiences and lessons learned in conducting these audits.
- Enhance understanding of the capacities, knowledge, methodologies and tools SAIs need for conducting audits of preparedness for SDG implementation and early implementation.
- Discuss expectations from governments and other stakeholders on the role of SAIs in the realisation of the 2030 Agenda, including their contribution to the follow-up and review of the SDGs at different levels.

3. Structure and main themes

Discussions during the 2018 meeting will consider the distinctive characteristics of SDG audits and highlight their contribution to improving national SDG implementation and to the follow-up and review of the SDGs at different levels. Participants will share innovations and country experiences and reflect on the challenges, opportunities and emerging lessons from conducting audits of preparedness for SDG implementation, both in terms of substance and process. Relevant audit findings, recommendations and reports from different regions will be presented.

¹ The meeting report is available from:

<http://workspace.unpan.org/sites/Internet/Documents/Report%20IDI%20Meeting%20Final%20DPADM%20IDI%2006%2009%202017.docx.pdf> [19 January 2018].

According to the topic of the session, panels will mix different stakeholders for enhanced dialogue and interaction. SAIs, government representatives, non-state actors and other stakeholders will engage in a dialogue on SGD implementation, follow-up and review to be informed by the experience of ongoing audits. Sessions will facilitate sharing of experiences across INTOSAI regions, SAIs with similar concerns and findings from SDG audits, and countries/ regions facing similar challenges (e.g., SIDS). During the second day, participants will also discuss the way forward and reflect on how to move from auditing preparedness to auditing the implementation of the SDGs.

4. Expected outcome

It is expected that the discussions at the meeting will inform the IDI-KSC “Auditing SDGs” programme, in particular the planning and conducting of the cooperative performance audits on preparedness for SDG implementation in different regions as well as the programme’s final synthesis report on auditing SDGs. Furthermore, the discussions will also inform ongoing initiatives to support SDG implementation, follow-up and review undertaken by INTOSAI and its member SAIs and SDG follow-up processes at the United Nations.

A report of the meeting summarizing the main contributions, conclusions and action points emanating from the discussions will be prepared by UNDESA and IDI. The report will be available on the UNDESA/DPADM and IDI websites.

5. Participants

The meeting will be by invitation only. Approximately 150 participants are expected to attend, including heads of SAIs, members of SAI leadership teams, leaders of teams conducting SDG audits, representatives from the INTOSAI Bodies, INTOSAI Regions, as well as other representatives and experts from the SAI community along with government officials from capitals and UN missions in New York and parliamentarians. Selected representatives from civil society, academia, UN system agencies and other key stakeholders will also be invited to participate as experts.

6. Date and venue

The meeting will take place in New York, at UN Headquarters (Conference Room 2), from 19 to 20 July 2018.

7. Language

The working languages of the meeting will be Arabic, English, French and Spanish. Simultaneous interpretation and translation will be provided.

8. Documentation

Concise contributions and presentations will be prepared by speakers and experts at their own expense. All the documents of the meeting will be posted online at the event website: <http://bit.ly/SAIs4SDGs>

9. Contact information

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