**CBC Annual meeting – 2015**

**Theme 1 Regional professionalism**

**Opening remarks by Lyn Provost**

**(Controller and Auditor-General of New Zealand),**

**INCOSAI 2016 Theme Chair**

Good morning colleagues,

As you are aware, one of the themes at the INCOSAI 2016 is:

*“Professionalisation: what can promote INTOSAI’s credibility to become a more prominent international organisation?”*

‘Profesionalisation’ can mean different things to different people depending on their perspective. These different views on professionalisation are shaped by differences in environmental context, and different skills and experience. At the INCOSAI 2016, I would like us to develop a common understanding of what we mean by professionalisation, so that we have a solid platform to move INTOSAI forwards.

Professionalisation can include important matters such as independence, standard setting, capability building, certification, professional development, and so forth.

In my view, if INTOSAI is to be successful in its efforts to implement a professionalisation agenda, this needs to cover all levels of INTOSAI:

* Global level
* Regional level
* SAI level

Although the theme for INCOSAI 2016 is focused on what can promote INTOSAI’s credibility to become a more prominent international organisation, in the end the driver for this must be to increase the effectiveness of individual SAIs – after all, that is why INTOSAI exists.

In my view, we won’t be successful in our quest for enhanced professionalisation unless we can make gains at all 3 levels of INTOSAI.

I have long thought that the level which has the most potential to take INTOSAI forward in a meaningful way is the regional level, and the role played by INTOSAI’s regional working groups. As Secretary-General of PASAI, I have seen first-hand what difference can be made at the regional level.

While all the regional working groups are different, they share a common purpose and driver of providing support to SAIs in their respective regions. I therefore favour a “horses for courses” approach rather than a “1 size fits all” approach, when considering the role that regional working groups can play in the future. I think each region needs to operate in a manner which adds the most value to the SAIs in their region. However, undoubtedly there are some common areas of focus which are important in all regions of INTOSAI (e.g. advocating for the independence of SAIs).

I am delighted that the Capability Building Committee is focusing at this meeting on ‘Regional professionalism’. I think the key to INTOSAI taking professionalisation to the next level is unlocking the potential of the regional working groups in the various regions of INTOSAI.

While INTOSAI is able to provide the global voice for public audit, the role of regional working groups in providing an important link between individual SAIs and the wider INTOSAI organisation should not be underestimated.

I wish you well in your deliberations in Stockholm as the momentum starts to build towards INCOSAI 2016 in Abu Dhabi. I’m sorry that I can’t be with you in person, but I look forward to seeing many of you at the INCOSAI 2016.



Lyn Provost

Controller and Auditor-General (New Zealand)

INCOSAI 2016 Theme Chair (Theme II)