

# INTOSAI-Donor Cooperation

Working together to strengthen SAIs in developing countries

13<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Update  
July-September 2014

## 7th INTOSAI-Donor Steering Committee Meeting in Paris: Scaled up Funding and Response to Global Call for Proposals

The 7<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the INTOSAI-Donor Cooperation was hosted by the Cour des Comptes in Paris 17-18 September. The meeting was opened by Premier President of Cour des Comptes, France, Mr. Didier Migaud, and Mrs Anne-Marie Descôtes, representative of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France. The meeting was attended by 70 delegates representing donors as well as the INTOSAI community.

Key objectives on the agenda included discussion of the initial results of the IDI's 2013 Global Survey, experience sharing from the pilots of the SAI Performance Measurement Framework, as well as the progress of matching donors with concept notes received under the Global Call for Proposals 2013.

Progress on the Global Call so far shows that indicative interest has been expressed for 25 of the 47 concept notes received. Several development partners showed a great interest in taking forward further concept notes, and a number of projects have moved into concrete dialogue and project definition.

The meeting noted a sizeable increase in external financing to Supreme Audit Institutions, from \$54 million on average during 2011-13 to \$62 million in 2012-2014. This demonstrates that the INTOSAI-Donor Cooperation is delivering on its ambition to significantly increase the external financial support to Supreme Audit Institutions.

Read the [key summary from, the meeting, including the meeting's decision points, on the INTOSAI-Donor Cooperation website on \[www.idi.no\]\(http://www.idi.no\)](#)

## OECD Signs INTOSAI-Donor Memorandum of Understanding

The 7<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting welcomed its 22<sup>nd</sup> donor signatory to the INTOSAI-Donor Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding. During the first day of the meeting a signing ceremony took place, where the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) confirmed their interest in supporting the INTOSAI-Donor Cooperation.

The OECD and INTOSAI have to date engaged in fruitful cooperation, including joint work under the Effective Institutions Platform, such as the work stream on citizen engagement and Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs), and mutual exchange at different occasions, for example the Busan High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness and the OECD Global Forum.

Mr. Jon Lomøy, Director of the OECD Development Cooperation Directorate expressed that the signature demonstrates OECD's significant commitment towards strengthening accountability, transparency and the effectiveness of Supreme Audit Institutions worldwide.



Mr. Lomøy from OECD together with members of the Leadership group of the INTOSAI-Donor Cooperation.

### New CBC Leadership with a Mandate to Reform

The INTOSAI Capacity Building Committee (CBC) was given the mandate to reform its work by INCOSAI in Beijing 2013. The new CBC leadership, Chair Kimi Makwetu, Auditor General of South Africa and Vice Chair Magnus Lindell, Deputy Auditor General of Sweden, have developed a value platform, which was discussed at the CBC annual meeting in Lima, Peru in September. In the coming years, the CBC will focus on:

- supporting the important role of the INTOSAI regions in capacity development;
- integrating the work of the Capacity Building Committee’s different bodies into a more agile and flexible structure; and
- building and nurturing relationships with other actors in the SAI capacity building arena, inside and outside of INTOSAI.

Representatives from 25 SAIs representing all INTOSAI regions, as well as the INTOSAI General Secretariat, IDI and a number of donors, engaged in discussions and analysis of the capacity development needs of SAIs and the INTOSAI regions.



### INTOSAI Capacity Building Committee

The Capacity Building Committee is the INTOSAI advocate and custodian for SAI capacity development. We facilitate regions building their capacities and enhancing their capabilities.



#### Word from the Chair



During the XXI INTOSAI Congress the INTOSAI Capacity Building Committee was given the mandate to reform its work and improve efficiency. In my capacity as the new Chair of the Capacity Building Committee I have worked closely with Mr Magnus Lindell, Deputy Auditor General of Sweden, in his capacity as newly appointed Vice Chair of the Capacity Building Committee. We have developed a shared vision and value platform, which you can read more about on this website.

In Lima the CBC also launched its new website, above, ([www.intosaicbc.org](http://www.intosaicbc.org)) where members and stakeholders are able to retrieve current information on the activities of the subcommittee. The website also provides access to guides and other useful tools in capacity building related issues. The CBC very much welcomes contributions to the website, and encourages you to subscribe to its electronic newsletter.

The meeting resulted in a joint CBC work plan, shortly available on the CBC website. The CBC’s ability to meet its goals rests on the membership’s willingness to engage in the work and commit resources for CBC tasks.

### OLACEFS workshop on SAI PMF Implementation

A workshop on sharing of experiences from SAI PMF pilots under implementation in OLACEFS was organized by the CEDEIR and the INTOSAI-Donor Secretariat, and held in Costa Rica on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September.

The workshop identified several key issues that should be in place to ensure a successful process of a SAI PMF pilot:

- commitment by management at all levels;
- awareness raising internally in the initial phase of the project;
- open and good communication internally about the process and purpose;
- importance of having an assessment team with dedication and credibility - multidisciplinary skills and experiences – and with good knowledge of and commitment to the SAI PMF and the ISSAIS;
- implementation of a risk assessment of conducting a SAI PMF in the initial phase of the project to identify possible difficulties and constraints early on.

The workshop delegates suggested several areas for improvement in the framework. The suggestions related to specific indicators and to the content and structure of the SAI Performance Report.

The delegates at the workshop reiterated a need for development of an application manual for the SAI PMF framework, including guidance on the level of evidence needed for scoring of indicators and criteria with a suggested documentation list.



### The SAI Capacity Development Fund Releases Support to Projects in Georgia and Gabon

At the 7<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the INTOSAI-Donor Cooperation, participants recognized the launch of the SAI Capacity Development Fund, a multi-donor trust fund managed by the World Bank. The first contribution to the fund, of 5.6 million USD, has been provided by Switzerland, and the first funds released. The Funding Board announced support for two capacity development projects, for the benefit of the Supreme Audit Institutions in Gabon and Georgia.

Experiences with the process so far have been positive. Donors have found many advantages with channeling support to SAIs through the SAI CDF, such as more cost-efficient support and increased monitoring capacity. The SAI CDF is considered to be a flexible tool that can provide support to demonstrated capacity development needs of SAIs.

The next steps for the SAI CDF are further disbursements to enable consideration and approval of new projects in early 2015, followed by finalizing operational arrangements for the fund based on the first experience on identifying projects. Furthermore, the SAI CDF administrator and funding board are in dialogue with additional donors potentially interested in joining the SAI CDF.

### 5 New Programs identified through the Global Survey

Results from the 2013 Global Survey have identified 5 new areas that are emerging as priorities in the next period. These are:

- Professionalization of SAIs, through auditor certification programs
- Role of SAIs in preventing and detecting fraud and corruption
- SAI stakeholder relations, including civil society and increasing the impact of audit reports
- SAI performance measurement and reporting
- Institutional capacity development for SAIs, particularly independence and legal frameworks.

The ISSAIs also continue to be a key priority for most SAIs. IDI is currently working on how to meet the expressed needs. Donors interested in supporting programs in these areas should contact IDI’s Director General Einar Gørrissen, [Einar.Gorrissen@idi.no](mailto:Einar.Gorrissen@idi.no)

### SAIs and Stakeholder Engagement Practices

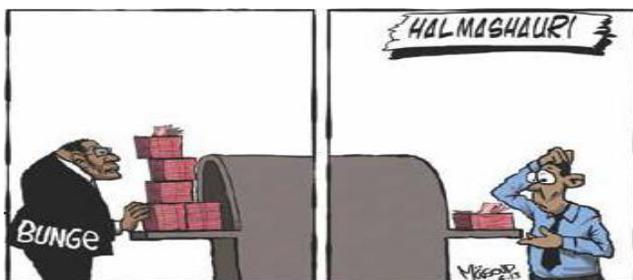
The OECD, in its capacity as the secretariat of the Effective Institutions Platform (EIP) has carried out a study on how SAIs interact with civil society. The study was commissioned to assess SAI approaches for increased interaction with external stakeholders such as citizens, civil society, media and the parliament.

The study sought to analyze some of the relevant dimensions that may influence SAI engagement strategies. These include the enabling conditions, mechanisms and instruments used for engaging, costs and benefits of such engagement, risks, and emerging results. Members of the Effective Institutions Platform took on this study as part of their work on “accountable and inclusive institutions”, one of the Platform’s five pillars on public sector reform .

The results, based on a stocktaking of 32 SAIs from around the world, revealed that citizen engagement strategies varies across countries and throughout the audit cycle. The study also found that engagement with citizens and CSOs was more common than with other actors . Furthermore, one-way communications are prevalent to interactive communication.

In order to explore possibilities to increase and benefit more from SAI engagement with external stakeholders a Learning Alliance has been established. The first meeting will take place in Paris on 29 October, following the EIP annual meeting.

Read the full study or the Policy Brief on the EIP webpage: [www.effectiveinstitutions.org](http://www.effectiveinstitutions.org)



Example of citizen report by NAO Tanzania using cartoons to explain budget implementation weaknesses

### SAI PMF Moves Towards INTOSAI Congress, 2016

The INTOSAI Working Group on the Value and Benefit of SAIs (WGVBS) had their annual meeting in Mexico in September. During the meeting the working group agreed on the due process to be followed regarding the update and approval of the SAI Performance Measurement Framework (PMF), leading up to the INTOSAI Congress in 2016.

The importance of openness and sharing of results from SAI PMF pilots was also discussed. The WGVBS encouraged further participation in the SAI PMF pilot process and greater sharing of information and experiences from pilots with the SAI PMF task team. This will better enable the Task Team to strengthen the tool and ensure it is an appropriate and relevant tool for all types of SAIs. The WGVBS also emphasised the importance of transparent Quality Assurance (QA) arrangements to maintain the credibility of the assessments and the tool itself. SAIs were encouraged to make use of QA arrangements offered by IDI and others. These issues were further echoed at the INTOSAI-Donor Steering Committee meeting.

Also delegates at the Paris Steering Committee meeting provided valuable inputs on the Secretariat's suggestions on how the efforts should be continued. It was agreed that the SAI PMF adds value compared to other assessment schemes, as it provides a high-level assessment of the functioning of the SAI. The importance of composing teams with the necessary audit and language skills were pointed out by several partners, and it was advised to prioritize training team leaders and QA reviewers, including consultants, to meet the future need for carrying out SAI PMF Assessments.

In 2015, the SAI PMF task team will begin work on development of a final version of the SAI PMF.

### Planned SAI PMF Timetable, 2015-16

Mar-15: Close pilots & consultation  
 May-15: SAI PMF Task Team Meeting (Oslo)  
 Aug-15: Proposed response to consultation comments & experiences submitted to WGVBS  
 Sep/Oct 2015: SAI PMF Task Team Meeting (South Africa)  
 Apr-16: SAI PMF endorsement version to WGVBS  
 May-16 – Jul-16: 90 day re-exposure period (if required)  
 Aug-16: endorsement version considered by WGVBS  
 Sep-16: endorsement version considered by KSC  
 Dec-16: GB, INCOSAI consider endorsement version

### Synthesis Report on Evaluation of SAI Capacity Development Initiatives Published

The synthesis drew upon existing evaluations from capacity development projects, and identified lessons learned and opportunities for improvement in design of initiatives and approach to their evaluation.

The report is part of the work on developing guidance for better evaluation of SAI capacity development projects. The results of the synthesis were presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting, where it was received with great interest by donors and SAIs alike. It is available at [www.idi.no](http://www.idi.no)

### Forthcoming Events

Below is a selection of key events which may be of particular interest to stakeholders. For the complete INTOSAI calendar, see [www.intosai.org](http://www.intosai.org).

- October 14-15:** 6<sup>th</sup> Knowledge Services Committee (KSC) -Steering Committee meeting
- October 24-28:** 13th General Assembly of AFROSAI
- October 27-28:** AISCCUF meeting
- November 3:** IDI Board Meeting
- November 5-7:** 66<sup>th</sup> INTOSAI Governing Board meeting
- November 24-28:** XXIV<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of OLACEFS

#### INTOSAI-Donor Steering Committee Leadership

Chair (INTOSAI): *Osama Faqeeh, General Auditing Bureau, Saudi Arabia*  
 Chair (Donors): *Jennifer Thomson, World Bank*  
 Vice-Chair (INTOSAI): *Gene Dodaro, U.S. Government Accountability Office*  
 Vice-Chair (Donors): *Honor Flanagan, Department for International Development, UK*

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