**Regional Forum on Capacity Development, Graz, Sunday, 5 November**

***Conclusion***

* The session had been highly informative – it elevated a number of important transversal issues that we need to jointly attend to. As just one example, we have heard numerous references to ISSAI implementation being a strategic priority with many needs connected to it; and we’ve heard about various mechanisms and initiatives within INTOSAI already aimed at addressing this as well as other capacity development needs. Ultimately there is no one initiative by any one body that can meet all the needs relating to ISSAI implementation. On the contrary, we all need to support ISSAI implementation, and we do: through training initiatives, cooperative audits, SAI PMF and peer review assessments as well as through regional and bilateral capacity development projects etc.
* We were also glad to be informed of numerous well-managed initiatives supporting the implementation of the INTOSAI and regional strategic plans, and we look forward to future progress reports in this regard.

***Resolutions***

As a way forward the following resolutions were discussed and agreed to.

1. In order to address the need for a single point of contact within INTOSAI that can streamline coordination and communication, align common efforts, explore synergies, track and evaluate progress, and share knowledge, we agree to create an **INTOSAI-Regions Coordinating Platform** as a logical extension of the current IDI-Regions annual workshop, inclusive of all organs and regional organizations. It is proposed that the platform meet annually towards the middle of the year to align efforts, eliminate multiple requests for information (see Annexure A.)

In addition, we will consider the possibility of creating a central repository of information relevant to the needs of INTOSAI and specifically the INTOSAI Regions.

The Regional Forum at the annual CBC meeting will continue to promote and showcase regional professionalism, and share experiences.

2. **Capacity and funding of regional organizations** – Given the numerous inputs made in this regard today and often times before, it proposed that the relevant data from the recent INTOSAI global survey be analyzed for relevant trends as well as good practices, and that the CBC, IDI, in consultation with regional organizations, work on a position paper for deliberations at the June 2018 meeting of the *INTOSAI-Regions Coordinating Platform*, the outcomes or recommendations from the deliberations to be reported to 71st Governing Board.

3. Based on the increasing interest in and reliance on the **SAI PMF**, the CBC and IDI as governance and operational leaders of the SAI PMF will consider all of today’s inputs when in December this year we are finalizing the detailed SAI PMF roll-out plan for 2018.

Communication material on the value of the SAI PMF as a needs-assessment tool, amongst other, will be sent in early 2018 to all regions and INTOSAI organs based on SAI PMF Communication Strategy that was adopted at the recent CBC meeting in Washington.

4. **Cooperative audits** as a primary capacity building tool – this morning’s inputs confirms the absolute value of cooperative audits as a capacity building tool. The CBC Chair therefore undertakes to explore together with the CBC Subcommittee on Cooperative Audits ways in which to further scale up lessons-learned from cooperative audits cross INTOSAI and especially inter-regional initiatives (OLACEFS linkages).

5**.** In similar vein we have heard confirmation about the value of **peer-to-peer support**, a topic that was also dealt with in detail at the recent CBC meeting as a possible work stream. The CBC undertakes to prioritise finalizing a terms of reference for such a possible work stream.

6. **Peer Reviews** is another, or supplementary, way in which to identify a SAI’s development needs – we will ensure that the Peer Review conference being planned for June 2018 by SAI Slovakia as the Chair of the CBC’s Peer Review Subcommittee, will include a special focus on the value of peer reviews for SAI needs-assessment.

7. The meeting confirmed the wide recognition among regional organizations of the **IDI’s support and advice**. The IDI has dedicated regional liaison officer to each region of INTOSAI, and IDI leadership participates in most if not all of the region’s governing boards or assembly meetings. We welcome the IDI Director General’s indication that the IDI is committed to continuing to strengthen this support and cooperation.

8. As far as accessing the **INTOSAI-Donor Cooperation** is concerned, the IDC has now created two mechanisms through which SAIs and regional organizations can apply for support – GCP 1 and GCP 2. However, we have to increase the knowledge of the INTOSAI-Donor Cooperation in regions and among their member SAIs in order to encourage their applications for support through the GCPs. We acknowledge that the INTOSAI-Donor Secretariat is also driving various communication initiatives around the Cooperation’s support of SAI development – we trust that each of us here will commit to supporting these initiatives, for example by agreeing to specific communication actions.

9. We have noted the need for good practice guidance on **regional performance measurement[[1]](#footnote-1)**. It is proposed that this be considered as another topic for discussion at the 2018 INTOSAI-Regions Coordinating Platform.

10. As regards the expectation that the regional organizations will bring forward **regional emerging issues**, there is a proposal before the 70th Governing Board proposing a role for all around this table to support the SCEI (Supervisory Committee on Emerging Issues) enhancing its ability to identify and prioritize INTOSAI-wide emerging issues – we suggest that we all support this initiative.

11. PASAI has made two very specific requests for support, which we believe could be supported:

* As CBC Chair I am happy to undertake to write to international institutions[[2]](#footnote-2) to request them to invite, as a standard practice, our regional organizations and their member SAIs to participate in relevant capacity building programmes[[3]](#footnote-3) taking place in the regions, and
* In recognition of the issues that the small island states in PASAI (and CAROSAI) are dealing with, we request the IDC leadership to consider approaching global funds such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) for a possible interest in supporting SAIs, e.g. in the area of environmental audit or performance audit.

**Annexure A ― INTOSAI-Regions Coordination Platform[[4]](#footnote-4)**

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| --- | --- |
| **Purpose** | To provide a single platform to INTOSAI organs and regional organisations for tactical and operational[[5]](#footnote-5) coordination and alignment of common efforts, exploring synergies, tracking and evaluation of progress, and knowledge sharing.[[6]](#footnote-6) |
| **Participants** | Goal committees, IDI (which includes the INTOSAI-Donor Secretariat and SAI PMF Unit), Regional Organisations (SG, Presidency, CBC/Training Committee), Standing Committee on Emerging Issues, General Secretariat, and INTOSAI Journal will be the main participants.  The IDI and CBC will convene the platform. |
| **Content & focus** | 1. Coordination and integration of the implementation of INTOSAI-wide programmes and initiatives of INTOSAI organs and regional organisations 2. A single point of contact to centrally deal with all the requests from the global level, and vice versa 3. Knowledge sharing, learning and providing mutual advice with regard to implementation of INTOSAI-wide programmes and initiatives and synergies 4. Processing of information relevant to all (e.g. survey results) 5. Introducing (and consulting on) new IDI programmes and public goods 6. Enabling a region-to-region practical knowledge sharing session |
| **Success factors** | * Consistency and commitment of staff participating on behalf of the respective organs and regions * Agenda consulted among all participants well in advance * Increasing the impact of forum meetings by means of preparatory work long in advance, plus effective follow-up, e.g. with the use of the INTOSAI portal, and * Approval of the IDI board. |
| **Location** | Oslo, Norway, because of IDI is the host of the former IDI-Regions’ Workshop which is now replaced by the expanded platform. |
| **Cost** | Venue and meals to be sponsored by IDI, all other costs to be carried by the respective participants.[[7]](#footnote-7) |
| **Timing** | Annually towards June for the face-to-face meeting, but to continue throughout the year by virtual means. |
| **Support mechanisms** | INTOSAI portal (maintained by KSC & IDI), e.g. for preparatory work feeding into forum meeting, for follow-up, and for knowledge sharing and communities of practice. |

1. This relates to regional organisations’ systematic monitoring, evaluation and reporting on its performance. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. E.g. OECD, PEFA, multilateral development banks, IFAC, IIA, Professional Accounting Organisations, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Relevant programmes will include programmes on fraud & corruption; good governance; PFM; the cost of environmental mismanagement; SDGs , etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Given the areas of common interest and the need for increased integration within INTOSAI, the annual IDI‑Regions workshop has naturally grown into a platform with participation from most of the INTOSAI organs such as the CBC, PSC and KSC, the INTOSAI Presidency, the General Secretariat, and the INTOSAI journal. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The platform will deal with tactical and operational coordination, alignment of efforts, consultation, etc. and not concern itself with strategic alignment, coordination, progress tracking, etc., which is the purview of the PFAC and the INTOSAI Governing Board. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. The platform will not replace the Regional Forum at the annual CBC meeting which has the distinct aim of promoting and show-casing regional professionalism. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. To enable SAIs not able to travel to participate, virtual connecting will be explored. We will consider all options for virtual communication options, including with IDI/KSC portal. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)