

Minutes Skype meeting 6 February 2019 with the CBC workstream Auditing in Complex and Challenging Contexts

Participants

Liberia:	Yusador Gaye, Micah Tebah Belleh
Netherlands:	Ina Hopman, Abdel Elabassi
Norway:	Trygve Christiansen
Sierra Leone:	Adama Renner
Sudan:	Mohamed Elhafiz Nasr
Sweden:	Oskar Karneback (chair), Johanna Gårdmark

Excuses

Afghanistan:	Hamidullah Faqairy
IDI:	Jostein Furelid Tellnes

1. Opening remarks – approval of agenda

Oskar Karneback (chair), expressed his pleasure of being back in the office and work with the workstream. No comments were received on the minutes from the previous meeting, so they will be considered final. The agenda was approved with no other business announced.

2. Work plan

a. Short stories (IDI/Liberia)

The chair praised the short stories published on the website.

Yusador Gaye reported the progress. A revised letter has been sent out to collect new stories, but none has been received yet. Adama Renner raised a discussion regarding the type of stories that should be collected. The discussion clarified that some of the stories concern challenges that are related not explicitly to the complex and challenging context that the SAI operates in. SAI Liberia will collect the stories from time to time in order to allow for SAIs to share their lessons along the way.

All stories are interesting which is why we want to make an effort to publish them, even if the particular challenge concerned is not directly linked to complex and challenging contexts. Members, including Sierra Leone and Sudan, promised to share more stories.

In the middle of February, SAI Netherlands will host a EUROSAI seminar on peer-to-peer support. That will serve as an opportunity to collect experiences also from partner SAIs.

b. (Advocacy)

The chair reported that Magnus Lindell, CBC Vice-Chair, has written an occasional paper on peer-to-peer cooperation in which he has added aspects of challenging contexts. That is a kind of advocacy, and this type of promotion of the situation for SAIs in complex contexts is something that we should make sure to bring attention to when an opportunity arises.

We can make an effort to remind ourselves and others of the circumstances and conditions for SAIs in complex contexts.

Ina Hopman asked for the future plans for the group. Should we continue and present plans at INCOSAI? What efforts can we put into the work to make it worthwhile? It was concluded that we need to consider the future of the group and how we should proceed, not least in the area of advocacy.

c. Forum for experience sharing (Sweden)

Webinars are underway, and the first attempts were made in December, one successful following a not so successful attempt. Yusador Gaye shared her experience from hosting the first webinar. The first try was aborted due to a power cut in Liberia, but a second more successful session was held a week later. Some workstream members participated, including AG Malik of Sudan, and were very positive.

It was concluded that this is an interesting development and a way to use our limited resources in a cost-effective way. It is nice to see that it works and the workstream thanked Yusador Gaye and SAI Liberia for chairing the first webinar.

We hope that we will be able to have a second webinar in the coming months. We are following up with Afghanistan to see when they may be ready to host.

Ina Hopman pointed out that the slides to the presentation could well be quite detailed, since connection may be on and off, and this way it is easier to follow the train of thought in the webinar even if connection is lost and you miss a bit while reconnecting.

Trygve Christiansen suggested that we consider inviting external expertise to contribute to webinars.

The chair also reported that we are looking into opportunities of organising a forum in the ARABOSAI region, similar to the one held in Johannesburg last year. ARABOSAI has expressed interest and we will, through our consultant Mr David Goldsworthy, look into how this could be realised.

d. Guidance for SAIs in fragile situations (Sweden)

It was suggested that this item changes its name to “Guidance for SAIs auditing in complex and challenging contexts”, in order to stick to the new vocabulary introduced at the CBC meeting in Kuwait.

It was also reported that this issue will be discussed between the INTOSAI Goal Chairs when they meet in March.

3. Any other business, and next meeting

Date to be proposed in the middle of April.