

Minutes Skype meeting 23 April 2019 with the CBC workstream Auditing in Complex and Challenging Contexts

Participants

IDI: Jostein Furelid Tellnes
Norway: Øyvind Berg Larsen, Jorild Skrefsrud
Sweden: Oskar Karneback (chair), Johanna Gårdmark
Development
Action: David Goldsworthy (consultant supporting the chair)

Excuses

Afghanistan: Hamidullah Faqairy
Liberia: Yusador Gaye, Micah Tebah Belleh
Netherlands: Ina Hopman, Abdel Elabassi
Sierra Leone: Adama Renner
Sudan: Mohamed Elhafiz Nasr

1. Opening remarks – approval of agenda

There were fewer participants than anticipated. The participants present agreed to hold a meeting and circulate minutes for comments in order to move issues forward.

The agenda was approved with the additional item suggested two weeks ago on the future direction of the workstream.

The workstream was reminded that there will be a workstream meeting in Tokyo on Monday 1 July and we hope that everybody are able to attend.

2. Future of the workstream

Stemming from a discussion in the last meeting, an e-mail was circulated a couple of weeks ago, inviting members to contribute to the future focus of the workstream. Input was received by e-mail from Ina Hopman (Netherlands) which underlined the importance of keeping the workstream demand-driven. As a result we suggest

circulating a survey to a broader group of SAIs to enquire about their needs and how the workstream can support them.

It would also be good to receive some feedback on the work we have done so far. Are products being used and/or can they be more useful or better promoted? When sending the survey, clarify the role of the workstream to not get an impossible wish-list. Many SAIs struggle with the lack of political support and we see this as an area of need. Although there are many actors already involved in advocacy on this arena, it may still be an area where the workstream could make a difference. It would be interesting to explore this issue further: what can the workstream really do? What can INTOSAI do?

We will share a draft survey with the workstream for quick consideration. David will facilitate the survey and compile the results. A practical problem is how to get in touch with some SAIs. IDI will try to help. We should remind SAIs that they do not need to be CBC members to contribute or benefit from this work.

3. Work plan

a. Short stories (IDI/Liberia)

A request for additional stories has been sent out. A reminder will be made at the AFROSAI-E Governing Board.

We need to follow-up on stories that are not ACCC-related for possible publication as well.

The webinars may be a potential source for generating stories. Workstream members who attend the webinars were requested to listen in and, after the webinar, connect with SAIs who make interesting comments and invite them to write a story.

We also need to consider how to advertise new stories when they are published.

b. (Advocacy)

We should consider input from the survey to see if there is any additional work that we could do to advocate for SAIs in challenging contexts.

Work currently carried out as part of initiatives to support ISSAI implementation could also be considered as advocacy efforts, i.e. developing information materials for donors and parliamentarians. David gave an update about the development of fliers. The flier for donors is close to being ready for layout, following consultation with the PSC and a few donors. Some key INTOSAI players will also be consulted. It is more difficult to consult with parliaments, but some are providing their inputs.

The workstream is considering the practical aspects of formatting and printing.

We should keep in mind that advocacy can be many different things and we should take opportunities as they arise.

c. Forum for experience sharing (Sweden)

Webinars

A second webinar was held on 10 April and David shared an update. SAI Sierra Leone had carefully prepared for the webinar but were unable to connect with sound on the day. Fortunately, thanks to the good preparations, David could deliver the content to the participants, in the place of AG Lara Taylor Pearce, and there was still a good discussion. David was commended for the careful preparations.

11 June – Afghanistan has volunteered but communication is an issue, so Palestine has also been approached as a possible additional contributor.

8 October – volunteer is needed

10 December – Kosovo has volunteered.

A general challenge is achieving frank and sincere discussion in the webinars while at the same opening up for more participants. One issue is the topics selected. We can also try to promote participation that is more question-oriented than focused on sharing by the participants. When speakers share outlines with David before the meeting he can also try to encourage speakers to dig deeper on certain issues.

ARABOSAI Forum

A forum is being planned for later this year in the ARABOSAI region. The ARABOSAI Governing Board has endorsed a proposal by the ARABOSAI Secretariat. They are expected to propose a date, hopefully in October. We will consider possible synergies with initiatives in ARABOSAI by SAI Netherlands and/or IDI.

d. Guidance for SAIs in fragile situations (Sweden)

The fliers are underway (see above).

4. Any other business, and next meeting

- Date for next meeting: an e-mail will be sent to check availability for a meeting in early June.
- Oskar is leaving the Swedish NAO and this was his last meeting as the chair. Recruitment is ongoing and a replacement will hopefully be in place in August or September. Meanwhile Johanna will lead the workstream. Oskar thanked the group and expressed his appreciation for the good cooperation.