ACCC webinar – we want to get to a new level as a SAI – now how do we make it happen?

Key point from the INTOSAI CBC Auditing in Complex and Challenging Contexts workstream Webinar 3 November 2020.

Main speakers:
Premier President of the Court of Accounts of Madagascar, Mr Jean de Dieu Rakotondramihamina
Premier President of the Court of Accounts of Niger, Prof Oumarou Narey

Facilitator:
Senior Manager, IDI Bilateral Support, Jostein Tellnes

Summary:
In 2017 the SAIs of Niger and Madagascar joined the Accelerated Peer-support Partnership programme (PAP-APP) aimed at mobilizing scaled-up support to the most challenging SAIs. At the webinar the First Presidents, Mr. de Dieu and Professor Narey, spoke about their respective journey to lead the SAI to a new level by developing new strategic plans and mobilize donor support based on the plan.

The webinar focused on the different steps that the SAIs had taken and some critical challenges they had faced and overcome. Starting with a self-assessment, using key elements of the SAI PMF framework, the SAIs of Madagascar and Niger got a good picture of the challenges for their SAIs.

Another important step in the process was the stakeholder engagement. Professor Narey highlighted the large involvement and commitment of staff in addition to external stakeholders as a key success factor. Likewise, Mr de Dieu underlined engaging stakeholders in the strategic planning process as an opportunity to make the SAI visible and get acknowledgement for its contribution to the development of the country.

To develop feasible strategic plans with all the gaps many SAIs in challenging contexts have and making sure that it adds value in the country, Mr. de Dieu and Professor Narey both talked about the importance of aligning the strategic plan to national policies and priorities.

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1 This programme was established as a response to the Global Call for Proposals Tier 2 initiative by the INTOSAI Donor Cooperation. In the Global Call for Proposals Tier 2, nine SAIs in challenging context were selected as they are having major challenges and are receiving limited support. See more here: Accelerated Peer-support Partnership (PAP-APP) (idi.no)
In the end, the SAIs of Madagascar and Niger also succeeded to mobilise scaled-up support for their key strategic priorities. They succeeded by showing commitment to the SAI mandate and delivering audit results as well as building trust and finding a good balance of engaging with donors. Both SAIs conducted regular joint meetings for all interested technical and financial partners, and thereby ensured coordination and commitment for scaled-up support.

The webinar ended with Mr. de Dieu and Professor Narey sharing their visions for the years to come - bringing change and benefit to the daily lives of the citizens.