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CBC Position Paper on Sustainability of Operations

The purpose of this paper is to provide guidance to the CBC secretariat and workstreams on how the CBC will support economic, social and environmental sustainability, with the ultimate goal of leaving no SAI behind. Once adopted by the CBC Leadership, it will be shared with the CBC Steering Committee for their consideration and approval.

Background

Broadly speaking, sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to which all UN members and thus all INTOSAI members subscribe, relate to economic, social and environmental sustainability. The INTOSAI Strategic Plan includes the SDGs as a crosscutting/organizational priority and in the latest draft states that:

INTOSAI contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. *INTOSAI, through its working bodies and Regional Organizations, supports its member SAIs' efforts to play a key role in promoting and supporting high quality, relevant audits of national initiatives to support the achievement of the 2030 United Nations (UN) Agenda for Sustainable Development.*

Each SAI has a role in the audit and evaluation of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through national development plans in their respective countries. INTOSAI encourages its member SAIs to contribute to the follow-up and review of the UN Sustainable Development Goals within the context of each nation's specific sustainable development efforts and SAIs' individual mandates.

CBC position

While the INTOSAI organizational priority does not explicitly state what INTOSAI can and will do, the INTOSAI Capacity Building Committee has taken the following position to promote sustainable operations within the committee.

The CBC's principles are to:

- consider sustainability issues when planning all committee initiatives.
- limit its carbon footprint to the extent possible.
- strive to ensure equal opportunity for all SAIs to participate in, contribute to and benefit from CBC operations.
- be fiscally responsible both with INTOSAI resources, and with the resources of CBC workstreams and members.

Operationalization of sustainable operations

CBC leadership, workstreams and secretariat will:

- always consider digital solutions as a first option in international engagements – to avoid travel and enable broader participation with limited costs – but without compromising the success of the event in any significant way.
- when travel is necessary, strive to combine different face-to-face engagements in the same location and back-to-back.
- Consider the feasibility of hybrid solutions in connection with face-to-face meetings.
- consider environmentally friendly means of travel when possible, e.g. train vs. aeroplane.
- consider the diversity of the INTOSAI membership to make sure:
 - that as many as possible are able to contribute to CBC initiatives.
 - that products and services are relevant in different contexts, e.g. regardless of size, model and level of development.
 - that products and services are as accessible as possible, e.g. website adjusted to smart phones and translations available.
- strive for optimal use of available resources, consistently being cognisant of cost-and time-saving measures.

Furthermore, the CBC leadership, workstreams and secretariat will encourage other INTOSAI bodies and stakeholders to do the same.