








CBC IntoSAINT Project Group
First 2023 Virtual Meeting
February 28th, 2023

Minutes

1. Participants

IntoSAINT workstream members who attended the virtual meeting			
	AFROSAI-E Secretariat Mr. Gorden Kandoro Mr. Wynand Wentzel		Netherlands / EUROSAI Mrs. Ina de Haan
	Cameroon / AFROSAI/ CREFIAF Ms. Félicité Zobo		New Zealand / PASAI Mrs. Sarah Markley
	CAROSAI Mrs. Karen Bell		Norway (Special guest) Mrs. Jorild Skrefsrud Mrs. Gry Anette Midtbø
	Mexico (chair) / OLACEFS Mr. Juan José Ramírez Gutiérrez Mr. José Francisco de Villa Soto Ms. Zaira Aurith Rosales González		

2. Opening Speech and Welcoming Remarks

- Mr. José Francisco De Villa Soto gave the words of opening speech and welcoming remarks and presented the agenda.

3. Highlights of the First 2020 Virtual Meeting

- Mr. José Francisco De Villa Soto gave the information related to the first 2020 virtual meeting:
 - *From AFROSAI-E Mr. Gorden Kandoro, mentioned that due to the coronavirus emergency, AFROSAI-E was looking for possible ways to deliver online workshops. Part of the workshops can be online, and then the findings can be discussed with the participants in face to face focus group meetings. Something positive about using IT tools is that it allows the participation of a broader audience. Culture value assessments have been carried out online, and the results should not be disclosed unless a virtual high-level meeting or an underground analysis have been held.*
 - *From Cameroon / CREFIAF Ms. Félicité Zobo mentioned that online workshops have some advantages; however, some people are not used to the tool, and the workshop results could be compromised. Face-to-face discussions are preferable when holding IntoSAINT workshops.*
 - *From Indonesia / ASEANSAI Ms. Vivi Silvy Devianti Ms. Kusuma Ayu Rusnasanti, during the pandemic, it is better to use a blended scheme to deliver self-assessments.*

For request of the CBC, everybody should get ready to use IT tools. The IntoSAINT workstream should have a guideline or strategic plan on how to develop the blended methodology, and it should consider the information security. We should have a methodology for both: the face-to-face methodology and the blended scheme. It will be great to have a pilot blended self-assessment for benchmarking purposes.

- From Jamaica / CAROSAI Mrs. Carolyn Lewis, there are some challenges for CAROSAI member SAIs regarding the use of IT tools. A recent survey indicated that internet connection issues are faced by many SAIs. CAROSAI is interested in knowing about a pilot case when it comes to implementing online IntoSAINT workshops. CAROSAI will have to do a review of the availability of technology to determine whether this can happen.
- From Netherlands / EUROSAI Mrs. Marion Janson, online mechanisms have been implemented mainly for webinars and follow-up activities. Self-assessments of Integrity could be partially implemented through IT tool; however, for the main discussion face to face meetings are preferred, to make participants feel more comfortable when dealing with integrity issues. However, when the current situation continues, let's find out what we can do with online tools. There are online tools that support group discussions quite well, some even by showing individual opinions anonymously. Of course, this requires excellent IT security. In future this might also support large countries with big SAIs and lots of (distant) regional offices.
- From New Zealand / PASAI Mrs. Sarah Markley, New Zealand is open to try the online modality in order to test the idea. Explanations through videoconference could be held when too much interaction with the workshop participants is not required. On the other hand, online means could impact the results when having deeper discussions, so it's more convenient to use it for follow-up discussions.
- From Philippines / ASEANSAI Mrs. Luzvi Pangan Chatto Mrs. Melanie R. Añonuevo Mrs. Villa DJ. Bernaldo, the implementation of online activities is quite convenient, taking into consideration that the usual face-to-face learning mode might take some time to get restored. The structure of the online selfassessments should be designed and using a blended approach under the new normal is convenient. Google forms could be a good tool to gather the workshop scorings and keep the information confidential.
- From Tunisia / ARABOSAI Mrs. Nesrine Selmi Ms. Chiraz Tlili, the application of online workshops could be easier for North African and some Middle-East countries, who are more familiar with the tool.

4. Update from the participants related with the: Self-assessments and IntoSAINT training events.

- IntoSAINT self-assessments and training events, showcasing IntoSAINT in the public sector and its achievements, as well as some considerations in digitizing IntoSAINT tools as follows:

SAI / Region	Comments
Cameroon / CREFIAF/AFROSAI Ms. Félicité Zobo	Commented the difficulties they have faced to tie both the IntoSAINT tool and the workshop, to include, within its Strategic Plan in AFROSAI, which is the regional entity that brings together the SAIs of Africa, to generate, within the SAIs, good practices, transparency, responsibility and integrity. And for this, the Technical Committee of AFROSAI, in charge of the implementation of the Strategic Plan, has

	<p>created a Working Group that leads the work of transparency and responsibility on a project of materials in French, however, they have faced difficulties to carry it out, as well as the pandemic generated by COVID-19, stopped the efforts to achieve it. This Working Group is also planning to organize an IntoSAINT Moderators Training Workshop by the end of this year. Therefore, they require the support of this Project Group, so that they are provided with updated material to be translated into French, as well as to provide experts.</p>
<p>Netherlands / EUROSAI Ina de Haan</p>	<p>First of all, it is encouraging to hear that CREFIAF is taking action to hold a Workshop for Moderators, however, about the decision to work on the translation of IntoSAINT material, since there is already material properly translated into French, which have been used in Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria. The current Handbook in French is on the CBC IntoSAINT workstream website.</p> <p>Also noted that in the 2018 workstream meeting in Mexico City, it was agreed to update the material. At this time they are updating the materials, particularly in PASAI, where SAI of New Zealand has been doing a very good job of translating and updating the materials, so we asks to wait a bit for the deployment of IntoSAINT in CREFIAF, to ensure that everyone uses the same material. It is important to ensure both the quality of the materials, the quality of the translation of the materials, the quality of the workshops and that at least should be the responsibility of the presidency of this Project Group. Pointed out that recently in coordination with Gordon Kandoro (AFROSAI-E), they have held a Workshop with the updated materials for AFROSAI-E and that they are working to have compact and dedicated materials for a training set, which is better and proven; this set contains an e-learning module, that currently is built by the NCA, and face to face training set. The e-learning module will be the first requirement for new facilitators. In addition it is also available for others, including non-SAI actors, who want to learn more about IntoSAINT and awareness raising.</p> <p>For EUROSAI the tool has been applied in Georgia in the previous years and the self-assessment tool is planned to be implemented in North Macedonia.</p> <p>Finally, she expresses the need to ensure that the quality of both the IntoSAINT Workshop and the training is as required. Therefore the workstream should consider organising global meetings around the updated materials, once they have been adopted, to ensure that all certified moderators are able to work with it.</p>
<p>Mexico/ OLACEFS Juan José Ramírez Gutiérrez</p>	<p>Pointed out that the promotion of IntoSAINT within OLACEFS is the responsibility of the Technical Committee on Good Practices and Governance, from now on, (2023) it's in charge of the SAI of Ecuador, with the support of the SAI of Mexico as president of IntoSAINT.</p> <p>With the implementation of the self-assessment tool in the SAIs of Puerto Rico, Panama and Venezuela, the application has been completed in the 22 SAIs that make up OLACEFS.</p> <p>In 5 countries the tool has been applied in various government entities.</p> <p>There are currently 50 Certified Moderators from 18 countries that make up OLACEFS.</p>

	<p>It is important to mention that the workshops that took place in Panama, Puerto Rico and Venezuela during 2022, were carried out within the context of the new normal, some SAI's have expressed their interest in replicating the application of the tool, so it is expected to have more activities during this 2023.</p>
<p>CAROSAI Mrs. Karen Bell</p>	<p>Indicated that the IntoSAINT program was stopped in 2019, just before the COVID-19 pandemic, the SAIs were conducting the evaluation and for the others that already had their recommendations, they were working on following them up. What is required at this time is the reincorporation of IntoSAINT, however, they are faced with the situation that the staff who had the training is no longer working in the SAIs and that they must then restart the program, so they are waiting to be able to do so.</p>
<p>Philippines / ASEANSAI Mrs. Pearl L. Ramos</p>	<p>Shared that the IntoSAINT methodology was implemented in 2015. There was an IntoSAINT Pilot Assessment Workshop conducted in October 2015 participated by 25 auditors. Prior to the incorporation of the IntoSAINT methodology, there was a law issued by the President of the Republic of the Philippines, Executive Order no. 176 s. 2014, which institutionalized an Integrity Management Program in all government offices, including the SAI of the Philippines. To harmonize these two programs, the IMP Project Team/Technical Working Group of SAI Philippines developed strategies and processes to implement a COA-Wide Integrity Management Program. Therefore, in 2018 the obligation to have a manual was generated, incorporating in one of the Chapters of the Handbook, the IntoSAINT methodology. The TWG is now working on the completion of the Integrity Management Program Handbook-Enhancing and Sustaining a Culture of Integrity. The IntoSAINT tools are integrated in this Handbook as part of the IMP Implementation Guide- Conducting an Integrity Self-Assessment.</p> <p>In 2020 to 2021, four capacity building sessions on Integrity Assessment were conducted for Trainers, via online activities and face-to-face.</p>
<p>New Zealand / PASAI Mrs. Sarah Markley</p>	<p>SAI of New Zealand has not supported any additional country, with which it is working, however, in 2019, it trained 12 IntoSAINT moderators from the SAIs of New Zealand, Australia, Cook Island and Samoa, and representatives from Mexico attended New Zealand to complete the training.</p> <p>Subsequently, assessments were carried out in New Zealand, Australia, Cook Island and Samoa. Support in Samoa and Cook Islands included assessment of one public entity in in each country, Ministry of Finance in Samoa and Ministry of Agriculture in Cook Islands.</p> <p>During the COVID-19 pandemic, SAI Samoa, has continued to use the IntoSAINT methodology, to assess Central Government Agencies, 12 assessments have been completed and 3-4 are planned which will mean all central agencies have been assessed. Samoa is now following up entity actions through its annual audit processes. NZ is working on arrangement to continue the training of Samoan personnel, since a member of the team that was trained, is</p>

	<p>no longer active in the SAI. While Samoa has trained staff themselves NZ wants to verify the quality of such training and accompaniment, particularly in the public sector the proper use of the tool, so that the credibility of the tool is maintained. It is important to be very careful with the quality, NZ are currently talking with SAI Samoa arrange training timing following a visit at the end of the 2022 year and that they are waiting for it, to give continuity to the training.</p> <p>In 2020, at least 8 SAI's in PASAI were interested in receive assistance to implement the tool, and tentative plans were in place for another round of training of moderators be carried out in the region. these plans are now being revisited now that border are open again. The PASAI Congress is currently in progress and Sarah is discussing interest in IntoSAINT and desire to include it as part of PASAI's future strategy.</p> <p>Another work carried out during the time when it was not possible to work on in-person supports, was the development of a new Guide for Moderators, which basically documents, compiles and the advice and training received from the SAI of Mexico in 2019, and is now documented in this Guide, which serves as support for the work of the organizers of the Workshops, that integrates the preparations, the things that they must focus on to carry them out during the workshop and facilitate logistics, the delivery of reports, workshop schedules and things like that that help the integration of the workshop. The guide was completed in October of last year; same that have been socialized among some colleagues, waiting for it to work and with the aim of capturing the knowledge achieved, which was not documented, but to make it much easier to compile all the information that exists around. The guide has been prepared as a global asset for use by all and not only for PASAI. , working now to integrate inputs from those that have piloted it to ensure it has everything included that is needed.</p>
<p>Norway, Mrs. Jorild Skrefsrud (Special Guest)</p>	<p>Pointed out that, in short, the Guide provided by Sarah Markley, has been very helpful and ultimately it will be used in the update to come in North Macedonia, which will be in March, it has been working on in recent months, since they have seen the true beauty of the evaluation of IntoSAINT and the potential, both seen in their own organization, the relevance to their institutional corporate partners, the experience that most have had is that it is complicated, extensive material and a lot of paperwork added to the evaluation, but we began to explore the possibility of simplifying it, for the work of the moderators and in their EFS, and now we have a software platform used for searches, questionnaires, audit questionnaires and for internal services of our organization, with a very good experience and based on this "Questback" platform, the updated material provided by Sara was used and electronic services were designed, from the main questionnaire of IntoSAINT, and Ina was invited to ensure quality, in North Macedonia, will be the pilot project, for the first time it will be applied in March hoping that it works and that it provides the benefits we think, although it does not know if it is the time and place for a demonstration and that it is of interest to the group, but it can be shared that it has made an agreement with "Questback" for 30 licenses to have them available to everyone after the pilot project and if it works well, whoever is interested and who is planning an evaluation, can obtain a license and of course see that it is a friendly tool, it is a platform that complies with the legislation to process and capture information from individuals, complies with the GPR in Europe, and with the confidentiality needs on which IntoSAINT</p>

	<p>depends. It is a friendly tool that generates reports, which makes it possible to discuss the results immediately with the participants, in addition to making the process more bearable for the moderators and simplifies their work, it is also a more dynamic way for the workshop itself, it is of interest to the moderators, it makes it possible for the moderators to discuss the results immediately and makes it possible to separate the survey from the vulnerabilities of integrity and the control system that sometimes becomes a massive and tiring job.</p>
<p>AFROSAI-E Mr. Gorden Kandoro</p>	<p>Indicated that the summary of what was addressed in 2020 in the opening speech was correctly shared. After the year 2020, as the desire to have the tool in digital had been promised, is happy that the union of efforts has begun to have the digital tool and a good approach of integrity throughout the strategic management process.</p> <p>In 2020, a Seminar was held in Sudan, 2019-2020 just before the lockdown, which was intended to apply a SAINT tool, unfortunately, as everyone knows, during the political transition, stability and challenges in Sudan, that project was stopped. However, work continues to try to get the IntoSAINT tool in most SAIs, but it has also given us time to think and interact with their peers.</p> <p>Last year, (2022), Ina and Sara were contacted for the launch of the tool again, so they agreed to have a moderator training, which was intended to take place in 2022, but they realized that it was not possible to plan it, as required. Fortunately, it was possible to handle it to do it in January and February 24. The IntoSAINT moderator training with 17 countries and 38 participants, with the support of Ina from NCA and Jorild from the Norwegian NGO.</p> <p>Thanks the two colleagues for the encouragement to work out of the ordinary, to achieve this work, with the updated materials and then carry out the face-to-face work in the Workshop in this month (February), as you know 15 countries were represented and seeks to have at least 3 training workshops of IntoSAINT moderators and thus restart the work of the SAINT tool, in 2024.</p> <p>The challenges that remain, and this has been discussed before, is the issue of financing, not only in terms of the training of people, but also of the recommendations that arise from the requirements of SAIs to establish, on the one hand, an adequate budget of funds, which allows the application of the tool to be made possible. As mentioned in Sudan that an additional budget was required to add new structures and integrate ethics and risk and integrity coordinators, to carry out this whole process.</p> <p>In the AFROSAI-E region, there is a strategy to deploy the IntoSAINT and SAINT tool. It is clear that it can be done, but the challenge that remains is in terms of funding mechanisms, so I asks the colleagues present and in particular our president, to help us obtain funds for the deployment of the tool.</p> <p>It requires a lot of work and as mentioned by Ina, the IntoSAINT tool, seems to be very simple when only observed, but when it comes to implementation, it requires experienced staff, since it is not just about applying it and already, it does not work like that, so we need a lot of</p>

	<p>work, in terms of lessons.</p> <p>Regarding the colleague of AFROSAI, I can talk to her and see how you can help and do something for Africa, I know that IntoSAINT is alive in Africa, we ask for support from colleagues and continue, update and create much more.</p>
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5. Strength and support of the IntoSAINT network. Next steps

SAI / Region	Support
EUROSAI	<p>Would like to share with the attendees, that she will retire from her work from the first of July and since she considers IntoSAINT, a bit like her legacy, it is important, to know that the tool is in good hands, but it is important to considerate that 3 things are happening:</p> <p>1) That there will be an agreement, on the material, the new material that Sara already explained and that she has been doing a great job, they have been working on the last online training, she particularly loves the Facilitators Guide, which, with a little trick, you could achieve a set of basic material to use it all, what it means to ensure the quality of IntoSAINT materials;</p> <p>2) The second thing you have in mind to finish, before the retirement is to update a set of materials, as Sara mentioned, she already has a set of updated training materials, with which she has experimented and with which she worked with Francisco de Villa Soto, to have an online training session and later a face-to-face session, so she and Gordon have already experimented with a bit of a trick, to achieve just before their retirement a set of training materials, Theoretical Training and an Online Learning Manual, which is in talks with their superiors and the Court of Accounts of the Netherlands, it is 99% sure that you can provide the funds for the online learning module, and that it will be available to all those who are interested in IntoSAINT, which will be published on the AFROSAI-E platform, so that everyone can have it available and review it;</p> <p>3) What they also experienced to have a certification and really good trainings for the moderators, first you need the online learning phase, then have the other part of the face-to-face training, to finally have an exercise under the supervision of experienced IntoSAINT moderators, only fulfilling these 3 requirements, you will reach a certification to be an IntoSAINT Certified Moderator.</p> <p>So, this is what I wanted to build, before I can say goodbye and leave IntoSAINT in the capable hands of your colleagues here, and if you needed to mention these 3 points, you know it will be difficult, particularly to be able to do it in person, but it is basically what I wanted to share with the attendees.</p>
CAROSAI	<p>Asked Ina, to recall paragraph 3 of his previous commentary, that he had not followed the idea completely.</p> <p>Ina exposed it again.</p> <p>Also requested to include Wenda Happorns, in any formal training or to share material between regions.</p>
EUROSAI	<p>Pointed out that the SAI of Mexico can support this issue as the presidency of the Project Group, however, points out that it is the regions who take the initiative to request support, both for training and to request materials, so that they are not diverse and it is also SAI Mexico who carries out this part.</p>
CAROSAI	<p>Agreed.</p>
CREFIAF/ AFROSAI	<p>Asked, if in order to have access to the material in French, also had to approach the SAI of Mexico.</p>
SAI MEXICO	<p>Indicated that without any problem, will contact via email to attend to the request.</p>

6. General Matters

6.1. SAI Mexico request.

In response to the pronouncement of Ina's retirement, from the SAI of Mexico, the effort, dedication and teaching that Ina has made in IntoSAINT is recognized, admired and appreciated, so she asked the participants to give her a round of applause, by virtue of having done an amazing and very important job.

SAI Phillipins, ASOSAI/ASEANSAI

Asked, if there is an update in the materials, as the SAI of the Philippines continues to use the 2014 materials that were used in the Vietnam seminar.

SAI Netherlands, EUROSAI

Indeed, updates have been made, that they are even still working on the updates and that they are not finished yet.

6.2. Update of the IntoSAINT section on the CBC website

SAI Mexico

In a second item of "General Matters" in the agenda, SAI Mexico informed that received an email from INTOSAI Secretariat of the Capacity Development Committee (CBC) to share that one of their projects is to update their website, so it was agreed that SAI Mexico will inform to the CBC Secretariat the updated information of the IntoSAINT members.

7. Photo Group and Closing the virtual meeting.