

Update on the Global Call for Proposals, as at 29 February 2012

Background

The global call for proposals (GCP) was launched in September 2011 to provide all SAIs, INTOSAI regions and INTOSAI bodies with the opportunity to put to forward demand led proposals based on the needs of SAIs in developing countries.

A total of 55 proposals were submitted. These include one global initiative, six regional and 48 country level initiatives. The sum of the financial support sought is 90,2 million USD. The large number of applications underscores the magnitude of the SAI capacity development needs as identified in the 2010 SAI Stocktaking. The INTOSAI-Donor Secretariat provided support by translating all proposals, reviewing 51 draft proposals and offering advice on how they could be strengthened.

An overview of the GCP and a summary of all 55 proposals was shared with all potential providers of support (both donors and SAIs) on 30th January. Potential providers shared this across their organizations, specifically with offices operating in the applicant countries and regions.

Way Forward

Members of the INTOSAI-Donor Steering Committee and observers met in Jaipur, India 23-25th February. The INTOSAI-Donor Secretariat updated participants on the GCP, and donors and SAIs expressed their mutual appreciation for the initiative. The Steering Committee agreed the following way forward:

1. Participants committed to register all current, planned and proposed SAI support projects on the SAI Capacity Development Database (www.SAIdevelopment.org) by **31 March 2012**, to strengthen coordination of support to SAIs and enable better decision making. Specifically:
 - i. The database has been amended to enable recording of proposed projects and all applications made under the GCP will be entered onto the database by the Secretariat
 - ii. The Secretariat has sent out a request to all donors to enter their current projects on the database by 31 March.
 - iii. Following 31 March, the Secretariat will send out a request to all SAIs, via the regional bodies, to check that the database contains all current, planned and proposed projects. The Secretariat will also use existing information to identify missing projects and ensure they are registered.
2. Potential providers of support will aim to indicate to the Secretariat their concrete interest in taking forward proposals by **24 May 2012**.
3. The Secretariat will provide a further update on the GCP to all applicants and potential providers of support by **31 May 2012**.
4. The Secretariat will send the summary of the GCP to the INTOSAI regions for onward circulation to their members. A number of SAIs have requested support in identifying potential implementing partners. The INTOSAI regions provide a suitable fora for dialogue on this process.

5. Notwithstanding the above target dates, the Secretariat will provide ongoing support to the process of matching proposals to potential providers throughout 2012.
6. During 2012, the Secretariat will produce an options paper on future mechanisms for SAIs to apply for funding, taking into account the agreement to establish a global pooled fund for SAI Capacity Development and the possibility of making the GCP a periodic exercise.

Expressions of Indicative Interest in Proposals

At the INTOSAI-Donor Steering Committee meeting, a number of donors and SAIs provided indicative interest in certain proposals, while larger donors and those with delegated offices were in the coordination and decision making phase but committed to indicating their interest in proposals by 24 May. The following table shows initial interest in proposals mentioned at the meeting. It should be noted this is an indication of initial interest only, based on the summary of proposals, and that potential providers of support are now examining the detailed proposals with a view to entering dialogue with the applicants. The interest expressed may be to provide support to part or all of the proposal, in the form of financial support and/or peer to peer support, or to reexamine existing support.

Proposal Name	Indicative Interest
Regional Proposals	
Capacity Development Support for Activities Contained in the Work Plans of AFROSAI-E for 2012-2014	African Development Bank
Building Functional and Organizational Capacity of ARABOSAI and Training Capacity of Members, 2012-2014	IDI
Strengthening the Capacity of SAIs in CAROSAI to Promote and Enhance Public Sector Accountability in the region, 2012-2015	IDI and Inter American Development Bank
Build In-House Capacity in Performance Audit in the 23 SAIs from CREFIAP	African Development Bank
Country Level Proposals	
Preparation of Training Programs for Barbados Audit Office	Inter American Development Bank
Capacity Development Support to SAI Bhutan , 2012-2015	Austrian Development Agency
Development of Audit Methodologies, Techniques and Tools, 2012-2015 (Tribunal de Contas da União – Court of Audit of Brazil)	Inter American Development Bank
Strengthened Capacity of SAI of El Salvador , 2012-2015	Inter American Development Bank
Improvement in Efficiency and Quality of Audit work with Application of an Audit Management System, 2012-2015 (Macedonia)	Norwegian Office of the Auditor General and Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Capacity Development Support to the Court of Accounts of Moldova , 2012-2015	Swedish National Audit Office
Institutional Excellence and Quality Performance, 2012-2016, State Audit and Administrative Control Bureau of Palestine	Swedish National Audit Office
Capacity Development Initiative, SAI Uganda 2012-2014	Swedish National Audit Office
Capacity Development Support to Office of the Auditor General of Zambia , 2012-2014	Swedish National Audit Office and NORAD
Capacity Development Support to SAI Zimbabwe , 2012-2014	Norwegian Office of the Auditor General

The Swedish National Audit Office also plans to look closely at the institutional landscape in Mali and the different audit offices that are currently operating, to examine the possibility of providing support to the external audit office.

In addition to the above, other donors have requested copies of proposals to inform their decision making, but were not in a position to announce indicative interest during the meeting. The Secretariat will assist the matching process on a real time basis and provide a further update by 31 May 2012.

Possibility of Support from a Global Pooled Fund for SAI Capacity Development

A group of donors has been working to establish a global SAI Capacity Development Fund and has previously asked the World Bank to administer the fund. The Secretariat and World Bank will continue to work with this group to finalize the operating arrangements for the fund and seek indications from donors on possible contributions to the fund by 24th May. Donors from Switzerland and Denmark expressed an intention to provide funds through this mechanism subject to internal approvals, whilst Australia also expressed an interest in exploring this mechanism. Three further donors who were not present at the meeting had also previously indicated their interest in providing pooled funds.

It is hoped the fund can be operational before the next Steering Committee meeting in October 2012. Once operational, a Funding Board comprised of representatives of donors contributing to the fund will agree on how to review and make decisions on which projects to fund, and will meet to consider all proposals in need of funding. Projects approved by the Funding Board will be taken forward in the form of a grant from the Fund to the applicant, and a standardized grant agreement signed between the World Bank and the applicant.

Observations on Lessons Emerging from the Global Call for Proposals

Discussions at the Steering Committee identified a number of lessons learnt from the GCP which the INTOSAI and Donor communities should reflect for the future.

- I. Some SAIs were unfamiliar with the process of writing funding proposals and as a result some proposals were weaker than others. As would be expected, the weakest proposals often came from SAIs and regions with the greatest needs, and donors were urged to consider providing support. In the short term, there is a need to work with these SAIs to strengthen their existing proposals. In the medium term, there needs to be systematic efforts to strengthen the capacity of SAIs to develop proposals.
- II. Almost half of the proposals contained requests for support for infrastructure and IT equipment. A number of donors and SAI providers explained that such support was not within their mandates. Others noted that they could and had in the past supported SAIs with such needs. All agreed that were support was requested for infrastructure and IT equipment, there must be a strong justification in terms of improved operational efficiency, and it must be part of a wider program of capacity development.

- III. A number of proposals came from SAIs which were already receiving support from a country level multi-donor trust fund. Donors that were already putting money into that specific trust fund explained they would continue to do so and did not wish to create new funding structures. Donors thought that such arrangements were already functioning well and that needs for additional funding should be discussed between the SAI and the donors in country. However, the call for proposals may be useful to identify additional donors that might join such country level arrangements. In a number of such countries, donors promised to review existing programs in light of the proposals made by the SAIs.
- IV. 15 proposals specifically targeted implementation of the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). As a result of the first round of matching high priority initiatives identified from the 2010 stock taking, IDI will launch a trans-regional program on ISSAI implementation during 2012, funded by the World Bank. In these cases, it is essential to ensure coordination and avoid overlap between the trans-regional and country level programs. Many of these country level proposals identified this issue, committed to participate in the trans-regional program, and adjusted their proposals to focus on country level implementation of lessons learnt from the trans-regional program.
- V. 78% of proposals included components aimed at strengthening audit capacity, many of which included the development or tailoring of manuals. It was noted that a number of generic regularity and performance audit manuals already existed at the global and regional levels which did not need to be reinvented. It was agreed that efforts should focus on customizing such manuals towards country specific circumstances, rather than starting from scratch. It was further agreed to try to raise awareness and access to such existing global and regional public goods.

For any queries on the GCP, please contact the INTOSAI-Donor Secretariat at INTOSAI.Donor.Secretariat@idi.no