

INTOSAI Donor Cooperation

4 December 2015

INTOSAI-Donor Steering Committee Response to the Evaluation of the INTOSAI-Donor Cooperation

The INTOSAI Donor Cooperation is an important partnership between the INTOSAI and donor communities aimed at optimizing the joint efforts of the partners in strengthening the capacity of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) in developing countries. The Cooperation is governed by a Steering Committee composed of INTOSAI representatives and donor signatory representatives. The Steering Committee commissioned this independent evaluation of the Cooperation to serve as an evidence base to inform and improve the future design of the Cooperation and the decision-making processes related to it. As the period since the start of the Cooperation is less than five years, the focus of the Evaluation was on learning. The report was finalised on 12th August 2015, and its findings and recommendations were discussed at the 8th INTOSAI-Donor Steering Committee meeting in October 2015¹.

The Steering Committee greatly appreciates the efforts of all those who took part in the evaluation, particularly the SAIs of Burkina Faso, Dominican Republic, Nepal and Zambia who participated in in-depth country studies, and the SAIs of Bangladesh, El Salvador, Paraguay and Uganda for their participation in desk studies. We also extend our thanks to the Evaluation team, and the INTOSAI-Donor Secretariat for their contributions.

The Steering Committee welcomes the evaluation report as a strategic input into the future direction and strengthening of the Cooperation and broadly supports the report's conclusions and recommendations.

The Steering Committee concurs with the Evaluation's assessment that the MoU and the Cooperation remain highly relevant as SAIs play an important role in public accountability, but that there is a continuing need to better coordinate support to SAIs in developing countries and to give more focus in future work programs to the key priorities stemming from the Cooperation's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) principles. The evidence of behaviour change towards more effective support by both SAIs and donors noted by the Evaluation is welcomed by the SC as an indicator of the positive impact of the Cooperation.

The Steering Committee confirms the importance of the pillars of the current Cooperation Program Document and the major activities supported by the Cooperation: the SAI Performance Measurement Framework (PMF), the Global Call for Proposals, the SAI Capacity Development Fund, and the SAI Capacity Development Database. To achieve better alignment between the Cooperation's MoU and the Program Document and to better prioritize activities to help increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the Cooperation, the Steering Committee has established working groups to review and make recommendations on the continuing relevance of each of the pillars and ways to enhance and strengthen the impact of Cooperation activities. The outcomes of the working groups' deliberations will be considered by the SC in deciding on the future Program direction of the Cooperation over the next year.

The Evaluation highlights that the SAI PMF being piloted is highly appreciated by all stakeholders and is contributing to improved strategic planning and better articulated capacity development needs by SAIs. The development of this performance measurement framework has been a significant activity of the Cooperation. As the development of the SAI PMF is now coming to an end with the planned submission of the SAI PMF to the INTOSAI Congress in 2016 for endorsement, the Steering Committee concurs with the

¹ The published Evaluation report is available at <http://www.idi.no/artikkel.aspx?MIId=145&AId=1068>

"Working together to strengthen Supreme Audit Institutions in developing countries."

Postal Address
IDI, Riksrevisjonen
PO BOX 8130 Dep
N-0032 Oslo
Norway

Office Address
Pilestredet 42
Oslo
Norway

Telephone
+47 21 54 08 10

Telefax
+47 21 54 08 50

E-Mail
intosai.donor.secretariat@idi.no

www.idi.no

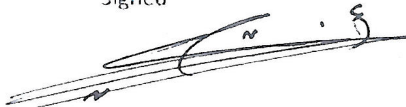
Evaluation's recommendation that the future roles, responsibilities and funding for the SAI PMF following endorsement need to be clearly articulated. The SAI PFM working group established by the Steering Committee will examine these issues and prepare an options paper on the future role of the Cooperation (including its Secretariat) in relation to the SAI PMF. The outcome of the Steering Committee's consideration of the options will be an input to INTOSAI's SAI PMF Post-2016 Strategy .

The Steering Committee agrees with the Evaluation's conclusion that the governance arrangements of the INTOSAI-Donor Cooperation continue to be appropriate and adequate in the evolving context of the Cooperation, and with the finding that stakeholders are generally satisfied with the arrangements and the work of the Cooperation's Secretariat and Steering Committee leadership. The Steering Committee also concurs with the Evaluation's recommendations on the need to reflect on the adequacy of representation of the interests of SAIs in developing countries at the Steering Committee, the linkages of the Cooperation to INTOSAI committees, particularly the Capacity Building Committee (CBC), and the clarity of the position of the Cooperation's Secretariat within the IDI and respective roles. To enhance linkages between relevant stakeholders and coordination and representation, the CBC leadership has responded positively to participating in the Cooperation's meetings and conferences and continuing efforts will be made by the INTOSAI Steering Committee representatives, particularly INTOSAI regional bodies' representatives and donors, to ensure adequate representation of developing countries. INTOSAI regional bodies play a key role in linking global and country level activities and therefore their active participation in the Cooperation's governance is important and will be promoted. The Steering Committee also believes that hosting of the Cooperation's Secretariat within IDI has many benefits and brings direct access to the INTOSAI network and synergies with other IDI activities. Continued vigilance will be maintained to guard against potential conflicts of interest.

The Steering Committee concurs with the Evaluation's assessment of the need for the Cooperation to be sufficiently visible and recognized by stakeholders at the global, regional and country levels, and for the role and the contribution of the Cooperation to be highlighted in joint Cooperation-INTOSAI activities. The Steering Committee acknowledges that country-level stakeholders have difficulty differentiating between INTOSAI, the INTOSAI-Donor Cooperation, the INTOSAI-Donor Secretariat and IDI, and their respective roles and responsibilities. The Steering Committee considers that demonstrating results and making the activities and results of the Cooperation visible is important to its continued success, however such emphasis should not be to the detriment of INTOSAI and SAI ownership and leadership of SAI strengthening activities. To address the issues of results and visibility, the Steering Committee will develop a communications strategy and a results framework, and a monitoring and reporting strategy for the Cooperation to better demonstrate the results of the Cooperation.

The INTOSAI Donor Cooperation is committed to optimizing the joint efforts of the INTOSAI and the donor communities to enhance the capacity of SAIs in developing countries and considers the Evaluation report a useful tool for reflection and discussion to meet this goal.

Signed



Osama Jafar Faquih
Chair INTOSAI-Donor Steering Committee



Jennifer Thomson
Chair INTOSAI-Donor Steering Committee