11th INTOSAI-Donor Steering Committee Meeting

Kuwait City, 6 September 2018

Key Decision Points

Opening remarks from Dr. Hussam Al-Angari, INTOSAI Chair of the Cooperation, and Mr. Edward Olowo-Okere, Donor Chair of the Cooperation.

The Steering Committee Welcomed updates from Kimi Makwetu, Chairman of the INTOSAI Capacity Building Committee who informed about decisions and discussions at the CBC Steering Committee.

Agenda Item 1: Global Call for Proposals

The Secretariat presented the progress of the Global Call for Proposals, highlighting the improvements in the submission numbers for GCP Tier 1 and the progress on the funding of the "Accelerated Peer Support Partnership" (APP) initiative from AFROSAI-E, CREFIAF and IDI, initiated with the Austrian Development Agency and with additional funding from MFA Iceland. The Secretariat also informed about the progress in establishing Project Support Groups to ensure coordination and potentially help secure funding after the first phase of the APP-program. The Steering Committee took note of the improvements in the submission numbers and the progress on Tier 2.

Agenda item 2: Review of the Cooperation

The Secretariat presented the main findings and recommendations of the review and the Steering Committee discussed some of the recommendations. The Steering Committee members noted the importance of continuing to engage with those outside the cooperation and expressed agreement on the need to assess the value added of the database in 2019.

Agenda item 3: Discussion on Partnership and the Way Forward

The Steering Committee discussed proposed changes to the delivery mechanisms and governance of the Cooperation. The discussions involved issues such as the need for smaller groups for detailed discussions and the trade-off between this and having a larger group with more representation from developing country SAIs. It was agreed to integrate the functions of the Secretariat fully into IDI, meaning that it is no longer a ring-fenced function hosted by IDI. The Steering Committee decided to continue the current strategy for the next year, maintaining the GCP Tier 1 and Tier 2 as the top priority.

The Steering Committee decided to establish a task force consisting of representatives from both the Donors and INTOSAI to propose how the governance arrangements of the Cooperation would interact with the IDI Board. The Steering Committee was in general agreement that this process had to happen quickly.

Hesitation was expressed with regards to making any decisions during the meeting, with the proposition from the leadership that it would be best to just get all ideas and proposals down on paper so that they could be duly and fully considered in due time by the proposed task force.

Agenda item 4: IDI Strategic Plan

The IDI is in the process of finalizing its new strategy to cover the period 2019-2023. The new strategy will seek to have an impact on the key areas where SAIs produce value for the citizens. Programs will be delivered four via workstreams themed as Professional SAIs, Well-Governed SAIs, Independent SAIs and Relevant SAIs. Among the main strategic shifts was the aim to better integrate Gender in all IDI interventions.The Steering Committee agreed that the Inclusion of Gender as a strategic priority is very important. Members also expressed that it would be good to see how this has been achieved and the impact at the end of the strategy period.

Agenda item 5: Communication of Success in the Cooperation

The Secretariat expressed the importance of the communication strategy in the 'Way Forward' discussions as well as its impact on spreading the IDC principles as well as raising awareness around key IDC Initiatives. There was a notable increase in the social media followers of the IDS as well as its presence on many social media platforms. It was noted that although the numbers were low overall, that the Key change angents are fully engaged and following. The steering committee proposed a targeted approach to reinvigorate disengaged MOU signatories. Cooperation members agreed on the importance of updating the SAI Capacity Development database and a 'Virtual Hangout' was recommended for the Secretatiat's consideration to increase the likelihood of updates being done periodically.

Agenda item 6: Secretariat Workplan and Risk Register

The Secretariat presented the categorization of outputs and some proposals for the 2019 workplan. As the 'Way Forward' discussions and conclusions were still ongoing, a workplan for 2019 and onwards will be prepared after the meeting and shared at the next Steering Committee Leadership meeting. The Risk Register will also be updated to reflect the key priorities and functions have been agreed on by the Steering Committee.