



15th INTOSAI-Donor Cooperation Steering Committee Meeting Virtual Sessions, 27 September 2022

Summary

The 15th Steering Committee (SC) meeting was conducted virtually with two sessions to facilitate participants from all time zones on 27 September 2022. Both sessions were opened by Mr. Brynjar Wiersholm, Deputy Director General of IDI and Head of GFU. Dr. Hussam Alangari, INTOSAI Chair of the Cooperation, and Mr. Ivo Germann, Donor Vice-Chair of the Cooperation delivered the opening remarks for the EAST session. Opening remarks were delivered by the Donor Chair of the Cooperation, Mr. Arturo Herrera and from the INTOSAI Vice-Chair of the Cooperation by Mr. Michael Hix on behalf of Mr. Gene Dodaro in the WEST session.

The SC meeting covered three key IDC Goals; namely IDC Goal 1 – Independent, Professional, Capable, Transparent and Well Governed SAIs; Goal 2 – Enhanced Partnerships and scaled up support to SAIs and Goal 3 – SAI-led Capacity Development. Both days were well attended with 33 persons attending the EAST session and 41 persons the WEST session.

Following the opening remarks Mr. Jostein Tellnes, IDI provided a short update of the achievements of the SAIs and PAP-APP programme to date. He noted that most of the nine highly challenged SAIs had achieved the milestones on their development journey. He highlighted new positive developments with AfDB stepping up and providing funding to AFROSAI-E and CREFIAF, USAID commitment in DRC and SAI Sweden reconfirming their commitment to support SAI Zimbabwe. Ongoing infrastructure needs and the importance of continuous support to all SAIs were mentioned as challenges.

Mr. Jean de Dieu Rakotondramihamina, First President of SAI Madagascar presented the experience of SAI Madagascar with developments over the past two years. He pointed to their focus on increasing the visibility and credibility of the SAI and progress made to make the SAI a recognised accountability actor. He underlined the importance of the support from the donor community and lessons learned in the process. He praised external partners and peers for supporting the SAI in increasing its independence and ability to publish audit reports despite resistance from the executive. Finally, he shared lessons learned and underlined the engagement of the head of SAI, importance of aligning audits with the priorities of State, donors and SAI and the need for more practical training.

GOAL 1 - Independent, Professional, Capable, transparent and Well-governed SAIs

The Donor and INTOSAI Chairs, in their respective sessions, recognized the increased importance of SAI Independence and the challenges in sustaining and increasing

independence. With the backdrop of democratic backsliding, the need for a goodwill ambassador to raise awareness in high level arenas seemed more relevant than ever both inside and outside the INTOSAI community.

1.1 – SAI Independence Goodwill Ambassador

Mr. Freddy Ndjemba, IDI introduced the video remarks by the Hon. Helen Clark highlighting the engagement and positive effect the Goodwill Ambassador (GWA) have had so far. In the video examples of her engagements were shown including at a meeting of the G20 Anti-corruption working group. The GWA underlined the importance of independent oversight being critical for building and keeping the trust of citizens in their governments.

Next steps:

The SC encouraged stronger use of the GWA for 2023 and to focus on a few but impactful events and interventions and there was support for the GWA working at different levels and arenas. The importance of legal frameworks as a topical area for engagement was highlighted. Specifically, the IMF/WB spring meeting was mentioned as an excellent opportunity where both INTOSAI leaders and UN representatives could be brought in to create an impactful event. The Donor Chair confirmed that they had raised the possibility internally in the WB and looked forward to realising the event. SECO also pointed out that there was an opportunity to use Social Media more to promote the GWA.

GOAL 2 - Enhanced partnerships and scaled-up support to SAIs

2.1 – Global SAI Accountability Initiative (GSAI) - Nurturing synergies and partnerships for GSAI support

Mr. Jostein Telnes, IDI presented an update of GSAI. He explained how SAIs were chosen and that the four selected SAIs (Dominica, Haiti, Honduras and Kyrgyzstan) could be joined by two more by the end of the year in line with criteria approved by the SC. He further elaborated on the next steps with the planning and design phase highlighting the challenges and possibilities. He highlighted the principle of the projects being SAI-led and importance of INTOSAI providers being able to scale-up support when this is needed.

Ms. Marcela Hommefoss, IDI referred to the possible two additional GSAI candidates and encouraged SC members to reach out should they be able to provide technical or financial support to either SAIs of Belize, Benin or Tajikistan.

Following the group work with the objective to better understand how to ensure that the country-level support is SAI-led, a broad range of take aways were provided by SC members to the GSAI team. These included areas such as leadership buy-in, understanding country context, sustainable funding, strategic plans and audit plans used as basis for support, utilizing ongoing regional initiatives, peer to peer support, showcasing impact of IDC support,



and raising SAI profiles with donors. Discussing how to form country coordination teams to ensure all efforts are coordinated was also highlighted.

2.1 Brokering Upscaled SAI Support (BUSS) Initiative

Ms. Marcela Hommefoss, IDI presented the new BUSS initiative and how it differed from the previous Global Call for Proposals GCP-T1. She highlighted how BUSS focused on ensuring funding in advance with known criteria before developing funding proposals. She added that BUSS would work to connect SAIs with potential providers at the regional level. In addition, she pointed to the BUSS leveraging on IDI's SPMR program participants being well equipped to write strong funding proposals.

Irish Aid underlined the importance of communicating with both donors at the central and regional level to ensure engagement, and Norad in addition supported the connection of the BUSS to other IDI initiatives. Both CREFIAF and SAI Brazil additionally praised the focus on bringing SAIs and regions closer together with partners.

Next steps:

SC members supported the approach to revitalise the GCP T1 now called BUSS.

GOAL 3 - SAI-led capacity development

1.1 Coordination – How can partners draw in the same direction to support SAIs

Ms. Camilla Fredriksen, IDI presented the key take aways from two open sessions on Coordination in the week that led up to SC meeting as well as an update on IDC working groups on climate and technology.

From the sessions she highlighted the capacities SAIs needed for coordination including clear SAI leadership and SAI strategic clarity. She further highlighted the INTOSAI opportunities for coordination such as the insights of INTOSAI regions and INTOSAI strategic documents. Ms. Fredriksen added that important lessons for providers of support from the sessions including the importance of aligning support with existing development priorities to ensure local ownership as well as being transparent between donors in sharing experiences.

SC members commended the principles and experiences addressed from the sessions. In the broader context of coordination South Africa /CBC welcomed views of the donor community on the newly developed INTOSAI goal 2 operation plan.

Ms. Fredriksen further presented an update on the IDC working group on climate change. She reiterated the objectives of the working group to scale up to support to do climate change audits, to promote and support the use of the GPGs and expertise available in the



INTOSAI WGEA and to support peer-to-peer support. She confirmed that the working group had been included in INTOSAI WGEAs' operational plan and that joint activities to support the work was planned.

Ms. Fredriksen further presented an update on the IDC working group on technology with a similar objective to scale up support to SAIs on ICT and technology. She pointed to the scope of the group remained unclear and underlined that three INTOSAI working groups already exist on IT Audit, Technology and Data analysis. Finally, she closed with noting that feedback from donors indicated more interest in sharing of experiences in the technology area and therefore refining the scope of the working group was still needed.

Recording of the first open session is available on the event website

<https://www.idcsc2022.org/Programme>

Next steps:

1. SC members supported the outlined plans for the working group on climate change.
2. The session Chair suggested the GFU to come back to the SC with a couple of options on the scope of the working group on technology. SAI Brazil confirmed their interest to participate in the group.