



PSC mandate 2014-2016

Safeguarding the results achieved by the members of the PSC, Subcommittees, Project, Working Groups and Task Forces so far in respect to the foundation of the INTOSAI framework of International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions will be a key task for the PSC in the next three years. INTOSAI and the PSC will continue to cooperate with other standard-setters and develop standards that meet the needs of the INTOSAI community.

The XX INCOSAI in 2010 marked the launch of the first comprehensive set of ISSAIs. Through the adoption of the South Africa Declaration, the members of INTOSAI made a commitment to use the ISSAI framework as a common frame of reference for public sector auditing; to measure their own performance and auditing guidance against the ISSAIs, and to implement the ISSAIs in accordance with their mandate and national legislation and regulations. Implementing the ISSAIs is a key ambition in INTOSAI's strategic plan 2010-2016 and a range of important initiatives have now been launched through the IDI, the regional working groups and other INTOSAI bodies.

This commitment placed new demands on the transparency, credibility and professionalism of INTOSAI's standard-setting process. At the INTOSAI Governing Board meeting in 2012 in Chengdu, China, there was general agreement that the current PSC Chair would continue until 2016 for the purpose of establishing a more sustainable standard-setting solution for INTOSAI.

PSC's mandate 2014 – 2016 represents a natural extension of the adoption of the South Africa Declaration in 2010 and the decision by the Governing Board referred to in the above. It also represents the on-going commitment to keep the ISSAI framework updated and on edge with developments within public sector auditing, and the experience gained from the recently concluded Harmonisation Project. Based on this, the PSC and its five subcommittees will focus on four areas in the mandate period 2014-2016:

1. Evaluate and improve the standard-setting processes in close cooperation with the INTOSAI Task Force on Strategic Planning in order to ensure and develop INTOSAI's standards for public-sector auditing.
2. Carry out maintenance reviews of all General Auditing Guidelines on level 4 of the ISSAI framework to identify the need for revisions to ensure consistency with the new Fundamental Auditing Principles on level 3 and develop them towards a clearer set of auditing standards.
3. Revise/develop ISSAIs and INTOSAI GOVs in accordance with the INTOSAI Due Process.
4. Support implementation of the ISSAIs.

1. Improve the PSC's standard-setting process

Ensuring the transparency, credibility and professionalism of INTOSAI's standard-setting activities in the future is a pressing concern, and the PSC will therefore in the mandate period 2014-2016 work towards the implementation of a solution that will effectively meet this challenge. Determining the scope and the nature of activities that could further support INTOSAI's role as a standard setter will, in addition to the five PSC subcommittees, require close collaboration with representatives of the Capacity Building Committee, the Knowledge Sharing Com-

mittee, the INTOSAI Development Initiative, other standard setters and the FAC Task Force on Strategic Planning.

Initially, focus will be on evaluating and identifying the strengths and weaknesses, and costs and benefits of possible improvements of the current setup for standard-setting in INTOSAI. The result of the activities pursued in this respect along with proposals for possible new structures, will be presented to the INTOSAI Governing Board in 2014, and will guide the activities in the years 2015 and 2016.

2. Maintenance reviews

One of the tasks resulting from the Harmonisation Project is the need to ensure consistency between the new Fundamental Auditing Principles and the General Auditing Principles. In accordance with the agreed maintenance frequencies for the ISSAIs, the PSC (Performance Audit Subcommittee, Financial Audit Subcommittee and Compliance Audit Subcommittee) will therefore carry out reviews of the General Auditing Principles to identify the need for revisions, and the Internal Control Standards Committee and the Subcommittee on Accounting and Reporting will handle maintenance of the INTOSAI GOVs.

3. Revise/develop relevant ISSAIs in accordance with the INTOSAI Due Process

Depending on the outcome of the maintenance reviews, the PSC will launch projects to revise/develop ISSAIs to ensure that the requirements of auditing are clarified and the guidelines are based on the new fundamental auditing principles (ISSAIs 100-400).

4. Support implementation of the ISSAIs

The implementation of the ISSAIs gained momentum when the INTOSAI's Development Initiative (IDI) launched the ISSAI Implementation Initiative (the 3i programme-Programme) in 2012. The PSC has previously had its focus on raising awareness on the ISSAIs, but with the establishment of the 3i programme emphasis has shifted to contributing to the implementation of the ISSAIs. The 71 members of the PSC are, through the experience gained from the standard developing work, well positioned to contribute to this work - together with relevant parties in INTOSAI - and will continue to do so in the next mandate period.

October 2013