



INTOSAI translation network for pronouncements

Introduction

For the ISSAIs, and INTOSAI's other professional pronouncements, to be accessible and useful they need to be clearly drafted, unambiguous and readily understandable by any practitioner. Having pronouncements available in the five official INTOSAI languages is of major reputational importance to INTOSAI as a standard-setter, and a requirement under due process.

At the meeting of the PSC-Steering Committee in 2019, delegates noted that the translation of pronouncements by SAIs, either by their own translators or auditors, would be the most sustainable and cost-effective way forward for INTOSAI. They thus welcomed the PSC secretariat's proposal to set up a network of volunteer SAIs, in specific language groups, able to undertake the translation and revision of documents. This note provides an update on the work of this network.

A small community of ardent volunteers

Early in 2020, the PSC secretariat identified and contacted those SAIs which work predominantly in French, German, Spanish and Arabic (INTOSAI's official languages, in addition to English) and sought their commitment to this scheme. We are very encouraged to have received the following positive replies, offering us possibilities for translation and revision subject to the volunteers' availability and workload:

Translations into:	SAI ¹
German	Austria Germany
Arabic	Qatar United Arab Emirates
French	France
Spanish	Argentina

¹ The European Court of Auditors helped with some translations into French and Spanish. The Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation are also helping where translations into Russian are requested.

Work carried out

Translation requests started arriving at the beginning of 2021, and the network has already been involved in translating or revising GUIDs 5250 & 5330 and ISSAIs 200 & 2000.

We are very grateful to all colleagues who are contributing to this important work!

Looking forwards

Although the overall initial response from SAIs to join the language groups was lower than ideal (particularly in order to separate translation from revision, and to spread the burden sufficiently), we are confident that the INTOSAI translation network for pronouncements scheme is viable, and that other partners will take part as the arrangement expands.

We take this opportunity to renew our call to all SAIs who have translation capabilities to consider translating / revising documents within INTOSAI language combinations, when they have spare capacity.

Similarly, there may be experienced auditors in those SAIs working in one of the INTOSAI official languages, who know the subject matter and associated vocabulary, have a good command of English and are willing and have the time to undertake the translation of a document (with the approval of their employer).

We ask anyone in either of these two categories to contact the PSC secretariat at psc@tcu.gov.br
