

FORUM FOR INTOSAI PROFESSIONAL PRONOUNCEMENTS TERMS OF REFERENCE

INTRODUCTION

The INTOSAI Governing Board has mandated the chairs of the Capacity Building Committee (CBC), the Knowledge-Sharing Committee (KSC) and the Professional Standards Committee (PSC) to establish a common forum of technical experts to address standard-setting issues relating to the full Framework of INTOSAI's Professional Standards (the ISSAI Framework). The forum has been named: *Forum for INTOSAI Professional Standards (FIPP)*, by the CBC, KSC and PSC Chairs.

The current framework includes the four levels of ISSAIs and the INTOSAI GOVs. It is envisaged to expand on capacity-developing guidance to include education and training standards, competency frameworks and facilitation of certification processes.

The creation of FIPP is intended to ensure a single entry into the ISSAI Framework and a more uniform approval process for the ISSAIs and any other pronouncements included in the ISSAI Framework. FIPP will therefore have general responsibilities for the content and quality of the full set of professional standards defined by INTOSAI. It is the intention that FIPP should strengthen INTOSAI as an international standard setter and drive the continued development of appropriate standards for public-sector auditing. Members of FIPP will be expected to engage actively in the standards-developing process and define the appropriate level of requirements for public-sector auditing. FIPP will draw on project groups and the subcommittees of the PSC, CBC and KSC to draft proposals for the individual ISSAIs and other standards documents.

1. Purpose

1.1 FIPP has been established to support professional development by ensuring that INTOSAI provides a clear and consistent set of professional standards at issai.org. FIPP will achieve this through reviewing, monitoring and ensuring, among other things:

- that the ISSAIs and related pronouncements are developed towards a consistent set of professional standards that serve the needs of the members of INTOSAI;
- that the ISSAIs are based on the fundamental principles of public-sector auditing as defined by INTOSAI in ISSAI 100;
- that the ISSAIs contribute to ensuring the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public-sector auditing;
- that the professional standards also provide the basis for capacity development including schemes of education and certification, and facilitate knowledge sharing and verification (SAI peer reviews, SAI PMF, etc.).

2. Composition

2.1 **Membership** – FIPP comprises minimum 10 and maximum 15 members. The appointment of members for FIPP depends on the relevant SAIs' commitment to letting nominees work for INTOSAI for a pre-defined number of hours, as defined in a letter of commitment between INTOSAI and the relevant SAI.

2.2 Members of FIPP may be accompanied at meetings by one assistant.

2.3 **Qualifications** – Members are appointed on the basis of their expertise in the following areas:

- Financial audit
- Performance audit
- Compliance audit
- Other specialist streams of audit (IT audit, environmental audit, service performance, etc.)
- Development of audit methodology
- Management responsibilities for audits
- Standard setting on national or international level
- International cooperation
- Capacity development
- Education and training in public-sector auditing
- Development of competency framework/certification processes

Individual members must demonstrate sufficient competence and experience in at least two of the above-mentioned areas and be proficient in English. Collectively, the membership should reflect the necessary skills, the different types of public-sector auditing and the diversity of the INTOSAI membership.

2.4 **Appointment process** - An open call for nominations is circulated to all members of INTOSAI by the CBC, KSC and PSC Chairs or another body designated by INTOSAI. Candidates can be nominated by any of the following stakeholders: INTOSAI's Committees, Working Groups established under the Committees, the INTOSAI Regions (AFROSAI, ARABOSAI, ASOSAI, CAROSAI, EUROSAI, OLACEFS, PASAI), the IDI or individual SAI members of INTOSAI. Appointments are made jointly by the CBC, KSC and PSC Chairs based on a list of nominated candidates. The appointment of new members for FIPP shall be presented to the INTOSAI Governing Board for final endorsement

2.5 **Duration of term** – Shall be for a period of three years with approximately one-third of the membership rotating each year. Membership can be extended by a further two additional periods of up to three years.

Members appointed in 2015 will serve until the task defined for FIPP has been completed, or FIPP has been incorporated in the *Due Process for INTOSAI Professional Standards*, in which case the system of rotation will be established.

2.6 **Meetings** – Will be held a minimum of two times per year and at any other time, as FIPP's role and responsibilities require.

3. ORGANISATION

- 3.1 **Authority** – The authority of FIPP after INCOSAI 2016 will depend on the outcome of the Governing Board’s deliberations on making the forum a permanent body in INTOSAI, but could include making decisions that are currently vested in the three Steering Committees or the PSC Chair by the *Due process for INTOSAI Professional Standards* as endorsed by INCOSAI in 2010. FIPP’s authority in this regard would be expected to concern approval and classification at the three stages of the standards-developing process as well as any additional tasks delegated by the CBC, KSC and PSC Chairs.
- 3.2 **Obligation** – Members of FIPP are under obligation to act on behalf of and in the interest of the full INTOSAI membership - within the framework of INTOSAI - to promote public-sector auditing of a high quality to the benefit of users of SAI audit reports and the general public.
- 3.3 **Chair** –The body responsible for appointing the members of FIPP shall also appoint the chair. The outgoing chair may provide a recommendation in this regard upon consultation with the members of FIPP and the appointing body referred to in section 2.4.
- 3.4 **Working procedures** - The members of FIPP decide on the working procedures of the forum. The members of the forum may appoint a vice-chair, secretary, etc. as they see fit and define their roles and responsibilities as appropriate.
- 3.5 **Reporting** – FIPP will initially (2015 and 2016) derive its authority from the CBC, KSC and PSC Chairs, and will be required to report to the Steering Committees on work plans, progress made and other relevant issues in a manner that ensures an appropriate level of alignment with the overall strategy for standards development, transparency and accountability.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF FIPP

- 4.1 In addition to the responsibilities under the Due Process for Professional Standards, the forum will be responsible for addressing other cross-cutting issues including, but not restricted to the following:
- providing answers to questions on the status and interpretation of the ISSAIs, for instance,
 - providing answers to questions raised by project groups and subcommittees that are drafting ISSAIs or other documents for the ISSAI Framework;
 - defining common INTOSAI positions on standards-related issues, for instance, on technical matters that are considered by other standard-setting bodies.
 - encouraging that the perspectives of auditors as well as users of audit reports and other external stakeholders are considered in the standard-setting process.
 - liaising with all INTOSAI Working Groups and Subcommittees that develop content for the Framework of INTOSAI’s Professional Standards.