



**REPORT BY THE INTOSAI GENERAL SECRETARIAT
TO THE PSC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
BAHRAIN, 20-22 MAY, 2014**

First of all I would like to thank the Auditor General of Bahrain, Mr Hassan Al Jalahma and his excellent team for the warm hospitality and outstanding organization of this PSC meeting. It is once again a true pleasure to be here.

In the following I will give you a short update and brief overview on the recent developments and activities within INTOSAI and the INTOSAI General Secretariat.

**1. INTOSAI Involvement in UN Post-2015
Development Agenda**

With the UN General Assembly Resolution A/66/209 at hands the next step for the INTOSAI General Secretariat was to make use of the possibility to engage in the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda, which is the follow-up target of the Millennium Developments Goals, which is to be adopted at the UN level in 2015.

The goal is to incorporate, or try everything possible to promote the incorporation of the preconditions for proper functioning of SAIs, with emphasis on SAI's independence and the importance of SAI capacity building, in the UN Post-2015 development agenda in order to substantially strengthen the position and work of SAIs around the globe.

As one of INTOSAI's first steps to actively engage in the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda, the INTOSAI Secretary General

participated already in May 2013 in the High Level Panel on “Safeguarding Financing for Sustainable Development” involving UN USG Wu Hongbo. One of the agreements in this High Level Panel was, that there need to be undertaken common efforts to increase national and global accountability in development cooperation by strengthening accountability as a core principle in the post-2015 development agenda.

Further on in 2013, at the beginning of October, the INTOSAI Secretary General met the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon. The UN Secretary-General accepted with great pleasure the offer of the INTOSAI Secretary General to strengthen cooperation, particularly with regard to including the prerequisites for the work of SAIs in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Hence the UN Secretary-General invited INTOSAI explicitly to participate actively in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Along this line also XXI INCOSAI clearly called upon INTOSAI members to pursue and step up the cooperation with the United Nations. In the "Beijing Declaration", the INTOSAI community calls in particular for the implementation of the UN Resolution and expresses support for the plans to actively take a role in the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda.

To this end and in the course of implementing the INTOSAI Communication priority theme of 2014 which is "Implementation of the Beijing Declaration, especially of the UN General Assembly Resolution A/66/209 on strengthening the independence of SAIs and the ISSAI framework in order to secure sustainable development of public finances", the General Secretariat is now actively engaged in intensifying cooperation with the United Nations in the framework of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

- Contribution to the newly founded UN Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing’s call for input on the topic “FINANCING STRATEGY TO FACILITATE THE MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES AND THEIR EFFECTIVE USE IN ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES”. The**

Committee was established following a mandate from the Rio+20 Conference.

- **INTOSAI is involved in the UN Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing working on institutional arrangements, policy coherence, synergies and governance issues.**
- **INTOSAI GS participated in the UN 2014 High-Level Symposium on “Accountability and effective development cooperation in a post-2015 era” which took place in Berlin, Germany in March 2013. The Symposium examined key concepts of accountability and quality and effectiveness in development cooperation.**

A clear success for INTOSAI was the fact that in their conclusions both the ECOSOC President and the UN Under-Secretary General emphasized that to foster accountability as well as the strengthening of existing structures such as SAIs and Parliaments is of utmost importance and the Under-Secretary General, also explicitly underlined the importance of capacity building for SAIs within the margins of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

- **In April 2014 the INTOSAI GS participated in the annual meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) and managed that in the CEPA draft resolution presented to ECOSOC the importance to support and promote the independence of SAIs and strengthen the capacity of SAIs will be included.**
- **GS INTOSAI will participate in the ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum held in July 2014 in New York to advocate the strengthening of SAI independence and capacity building in the context of the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda. On July 8 the INTOSAI Secretary General will participate as panellist in the Ministerial Dialogue on “Preparing the high-level political forum for post 2015: Steering implementation of the development agenda and reviewing progress”.**

2. IPU

INTOSAI has intensified its cooperation with IPU in particular within the framework of the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda. The INTOSAI Secretary General and the IPU Secretary General at a meeting in Geneva on 27 February 2014 took this decision.

The two Secretary Generals agreed on the fact that both SAIs and Parliaments are vital to ensure control of government. The cooperation between INTOSAI and IPU serves to establish a common position in the framework of the UN post-2015 process to increase transparency and accountability.

In this context, IPU Secretary General Johnson invited the INTOSAI General Secretariat to IPU General Assembly, which took place in Geneva on 19 March 2014 and where the INTOSAI representative presented INTOSAI's position and goals. INTOSAI enjoys since that meeting the status as an observer to IPU and has already been invited to the 131st IPU Assembly in October 2014.

3. INTOSAI Strategic Planning Process 2017-22

The 2013 re-established INTOSAI Task Force on Strategic Planning started the concrete planning by sending out an internal survey to all INTOSAI members to first get input from inside INTOSAI. Questions are in a kind of SWOT analysis and include, important for PSC also questions regarding standard setting and a possible INTOSAI certification.

A first phase of external scans will be carried out only among those institutions with no INTOSAI history. After contacting the INTOSAI regional working groups to discuss internal scan questions and leverage any summary work that may exist to supplement the responses and compiling and analysing data from the internal and the first external scans, the TF will develop preliminary findings to be discussed by the TF and the Finance and Administration Committee at the end of June 2014. Then based on the outcome of those scans and the input from the FAC the second phase of

external scan entity interviews will start with entities with previous INTOSAI relationships.

The preliminary internal and external scan results will be shared step by step with the TFSP, the FAC, the GB and all INTOSAI members in autumn 2014. After several more consultation rounds within the TF, in spring 2015 the draft strategic plan goals, activities and objectives for initial review will be shared with all INTOSAI members and selected external stakeholders. In the second half of 2015 the first draft of strategic plan will be completed and shared again with all before mentioned parties. Then in first part of 2016 the second version of draft strategic plan will be completed and shared again with all INTOSAI members & selected external stakeholders after incorporation of comments on first draft of strategic plan.

At the end of September/October 2016 the final draft version of the strategic plan 2017 -2022 should be ready in all languages to be presented to the XXII INCOSAI at the beginning of December 2016.

This strategic planning process aims to be as open and inclusive as possible, to consult as frequently as possible with all implicated parties to identify how the next strategic plan can best serve the needs of the INTOSAI membership, and best illuminate the future path and development. It will respond to global governance challenges and opportunities and reflect INTOSAI's diversity at a very large extent since this is one of INTOSAI's greatest strengths and source of value to assist individual SAIs.

4. 23rd UN/INTOSAI Symposium 2015

In May 2014 the INTOSAI General Secretariat proposed to all INTOSAI members the following theme for the 23rd UN/INTOSAI Symposium, which will be held again in Vienna from 2 to 4 March 2015, which will also underline the position of INTOSAI with regard to the Post-2015 Development Agenda:

“Post-2015 Development Agenda – Prerequisites and Possibilities for SAIs to safeguard sustainable development”. All INTOSAI

members have been invited to send their comments on the suggested theme in order to ensure that they can be taken into consideration in the final decision-making process with the United Nations.

5. UNDESA Capacity Development Workshop in Korea, 23 – 26 June 2014

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in cooperation with INTOSAI and the SAI of Korea is preparing as Capacity Building Workshop on “Innovations in Public Accountability: the Role of SAIs and Citizens” which takes place in the context of the UN public Service Forum / Day / Award Ceremony.

This high level event will be organized in four sessions on the current status of SAI’s readiness to engage citizens for public accountability, national experience of SAI’s engagement of citizens: challenges and opportunities; citizens engagement in auditing for detecting and deterring corruption and innovations in preventing corruption in public administration and capacity development supporting national SAIs.

Lectures will be representing the GS INTOSAI, IDI, INTOSAI member SAIs, the World Bank Institute, Commissions on Audit and UN bodies.