



INTOSAI Subcommittee on Accounting and Reporting

Report to the Professional Standards Committee
Brasilia, Brazil
June 2009

Survey Results of INTOSAI Members on Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards

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Acronyms used in the document

INTOSAI International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions

AFROSAI	African Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions
ARABOSAI	Arab Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions
ASOSAI	Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions
EUROSAI	European Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions
SPASAI	South Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions
PASAI	Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions
CAROSAI	Caribbean Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions
OLACEFS	Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Supreme Audit Institutions
OTHER	Stand alone countries that are not part of any region

**Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards
Survey Results of INTOSAI members
June 2009**

Executive Summary

Why did we conduct the survey?

As part of its 2008–2010 work plan, the INTOSAI Subcommittee on Accounting and Reporting proposed to survey INTOSAI members, with the aim of identifying the public sector accounting standards used by each member's country for reporting government financial results. The Subcommittee also proposed to survey members about their information needs regarding international accounting and reporting standards. The results will guide and shape the work of the Subcommittee over the next few years.

What information was sought in the survey?

INTOSAI members were asked to identify the public sector accounting standards used by the government organizations they audit when reporting their financial results. Members were asked to provide additional information in the cases where non-international accounting standards were used, such as what were their future intentions in this area. Finally, members were asked what kind of information they required regarding international accounting and reporting standards and how this information should be communicated to them.

What was our survey response rate?

To gather information about financial accounting and reporting standards, the Subcommittee asked 186 INTOSAI members to participate in the survey; 109 of these members responded representing 59% of the population. This response rate allowed us to draw conclusions and observations of interest. The survey was completed between 24 April and 5 June 2009.

What did we find?

The survey revealed that accounting standards currently used by the various countries were: IPSASB Accrual Basis (22%); IPSASB Cash Basis (24%); IFRS (24%); national standards established by their country's independent standard-setting agency (36%) and other standards (34%). Respondents were allowed to select more than one choice – 73% only selected a single response.

When a respondent indicated that their government was currently using IPSASB Cash Basis, 58% indicated that their government was planning to move to IPSASB Accrual Basis. Forty two percent (42%) would not.

When a respondent indicated that at least one non-international accounting standard was used by their government, 55% indicated that their government was planning to move to an international standard. 45% would not. The move to an international accounting standard would be: IPSASB Accrual Basis (76%); IPSASB Cash Basis (37%) and IFRS (34%). Respondents were allowed to select more than one choice – 41 responded with 60 total responses.

Survey Results

Survey Objectives

- ✓ Identify the public sector accounting standards currently used by the government organizations audited by INTOSAI members in their respective countries.
- ✓ Identify future plans to move to international accounting standards
- ✓ Identify the kind of information required regarding international accounting and reporting standards and how this information should be communicated

Sampling and Summary Statistics

- ✓ Target Group: 186 members of INTOSAI
- ✓ Members received, by email, a web-based survey administered from 24 April 2009 to 5 June 2009. Arabic members received by email, a PDF and Word survey form, since the web-based survey software cannot process Arabic. A few countries were sent the survey by fax.
- ✓ Contact information: email or fax addresses taken from the INTOSAI members' directory
- ✓ The survey was issued in the five official languages of INTOSAI: Arabic, English, French, German and Spanish
- ✓ 109 of the 186 members responded – a 59% response rate
- ✓ When the survey was issued, we indicated that all survey results would be kept confidential and would only be reported collectively (i.e., in total or by region).
- ✓ Individual percentages may not add up to group totals as countries may belong to more than one region and may also select more than one type of standards.
- ✓ A Power Point presentation deck of the survey results is also available. It provides additional information, charts and graphs (in total and by INTOSAI region). It should be consulted along with this written report.

Survey results

What accounting standards are currently used?

Taken together, more than 60% of countries within the each of the PASAI, AFROSAI, SPASAI, CAROSAI, OLACEFS and OTHER regions used at least one international standard while the ARABOSAI, ASOSAI, and EUROSASI regions had 40% or fewer member countries using international standards.

National standards were adopted by 50% or greater of the countries in the OLACEFS, ASOSAI, ARABOSAI and OTHER regions; by 32% of countries within the EUROSASI region; but by no more than 20% of the countries in each of the remaining regions.

Other standards were adopted by 45% and 49% of the countries in the CAROSAI and EUROSASI regions respectively; from 20% to 29% in the AFROSAI, ARABOSAI, and ASOSAI regions; but by less than 15% of the countries in each of the remaining regions. Other standards (tabulated from narrative responses to an open-ended question) included national standards established by other than the country's independent standard setter and included standards established by the government; a combination of local standards and international standards; and INTOSAI standards. For some responses, it was difficult to determine what standards were used.

What regions are currently using IPSASB Accrual Basis, IPSASB Cash Basis and IFRS?

Individual analysis of adherence to **IPSASB Accrual Basis** revealed that it was adopted by 56% of countries within the OLACEFS region; by 33% of countries within the AFROSAI region; but no more than 20 percent of countries within any of the remaining regions.

IPSASB Cash Basis was adopted by 43% of countries within the AFROSAI region; by 38% of countries within the SPASAI region; by 27% and 30% within the CAROSAI and ARABOSAI regions respectively; and from 11% to 19% by countries within each of the remaining regions. No country within the OTHER region adopted IPSASB Cash Basis.

IFRS was adopted by 50% or more of countries within the PASAI, SPASAI and OTHER regions; from 44% to 45 % of countries in the OLACEFS and CAROSAI regions; by 29% of AFROSAI countries; but by less than 20% of countries in the remaining regions.

What accounting standards will be adopted in the future?

Forty-one (41) countries indicated that they were planning to adopt international standards with 12 of those selecting more than one international standard. Overall, 34% of countries would adopt IFRS, while 90% of countries would adopt IPSASB (76% IPSASB Accrual Basis and 37% IPSASB Cash Basis).

Further breakdown of these statistics by regions indicate that **IPSASB Accrual Basis** would be adopted by 100% of countries within the SPASAI and OLACEFS regions; from 63% to 83% of countries within the AFROSAI, ARABOSAI, ASOSAI and EUROSAI regions; and by 33% of countries within the CAROSAI region.

IPSASB Cash Basis would be adopted by 100% of countries within the SPASAI region; by 63% of countries within the AFROSAI region; by 33% and 36% of countries within the CAROSAI and ASOSAI regions respectively; and by less than 25% of countries within the remaining regions.

IFRS would be adopted by 67% of countries within the CAROSAI region; by 50% of countries within the ARABOSAI regions; by 38% and 43% of countries within the AFROSAI and ASOSAI regions respectively; and by less than 25% of countries within each of the remaining regions.

Statistics are not available for the future adoption of **other** standards (i.e., those other than IPSASB Accrual, IPSASB Cash and IFRS). This was not included on the survey.

What reasons were given for countries not planning to move to international accounting standards?

- ✓ The government believes the current accounting standards adequately meet the needs of the users of the financial statements (45%)
- ✓ Constraints caused by lack of resources (3%)
- ✓ Other reasons (52%): National standards are reviewed against international standards and adjusted accordingly (47%); the current form of government accounting/budgeting does not lend itself to using international standards (12%); and the reasons given were not clear (41%).

INTOSAI members rated the kind of information they need regarding international accounting

and reporting standards

Kind of information sought	First Choice Response	Number of times selected
Guidance on the application of international accounting and reporting standards	48%	78
Updates on changes to international accounting and reporting standards	43%	78
Future directions for international accounting and reporting standards	5%	72
Other	5%	8

INTOSAI members rated their preference for sharing information about international accounting and reporting standards with other INTOSAI members

Preference for sharing information	First Choice Response	Number of times selected
Electronic communications	63%	79
Face-to-face meetings	37%	76
Teleconferencing	0%	60
Other	0%	8

Please scroll down to read in the language of your choice (English, Arabic, French, German or Spanish)

Survey on Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards of the INTOSAI Subcommittee on Accounting and Reporting

Dear colleague,

As Chairperson of the INTOSAI Subcommittee on Accounting and Reporting, I am writing to you to request your office to complete a survey on financial accounting and reporting standards. This survey is part of the 2008-10 work plan of the INTOSAI Subcommittee on Accounting and Reporting that was approved by the Professional Standards Committee in Beijing in October 2008.

The completion of the survey takes approximately 10 minutes. It is available in the five INTOSAI languages. All survey results will be kept confidential and will only be reported collectively at the next meeting of the Professional Standards Committee in June 2009 in Brasilia, Brazil.

If you would like to respond to the survey in Arabic, please complete the attached document and send it to the address below. If you have any questions or concerns, or you would prefer to complete the survey in another format (i.e. MS Word or PDF) please contact us at the address below:

Mr. Adriel Gionet
Director, International Relations
Office of the Auditor General of Canada
240 Sparks Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1W 1H5
CANADA

FAX: +1 613-957-0474
Phone: +1 613-952-0213 extension 4316
Email: adriel.gionet@oag-bvg.gc.ca

Please [click here](#) to complete the survey online and submit no later than 8 May 2009.

We thank you for your collaboration and we look forward to receiving your survey responses.

Yours sincerely,

Sheila Fraser, FCA
Auditor General of Canada

INTOSAI Subcommittee on Accounting and Reporting
Survey on Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards

As part of its 2008–2010 work plan, the INTOSAI Subcommittee on Accounting and Reporting proposed to survey INTOSAI members, with the aim of identifying the public sector accounting standards used by each member's country for reporting government financial results. The Subcommittee also proposed to survey members about their information needs regarding international accounting and reporting standards. It is our pleasure to send you this survey, which will be an important tool for gathering data from supreme audit institutions. The results will guide and shape the work of the Subcommittee over the next few years.

The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Please fill out the survey and submit it to the address below by 15 May 2009.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at the following address:

Mr. Adriel Gionet
Director, International Relations
Office of the Auditor General of Canada
240 Sparks Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G6
CANADA

Tel.: + 1-613-952-0213, ext. 4316
Fax: + 1-613-957-0474

Email: adriel.gionet@oag-bvg.gc.ca

1. In reporting their financial results, please select the accounting standards used by the government organizations that you audit. Choose all that apply:

International Federation of Accountants (IFAC)—International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB)—Accrual Basis

International Federation of Accountants (IFAC)—International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB)—Cash Basis

International Accounting Standards Board (IASB)—International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

National standards established by your country's independent standards-setting agency (an independent body with the authority to develop and establish standards and guidance governing financial accounting and reporting)

Other (please specify):

2. If in Question 1 you selected that your government is using IPSASB—Cash Basis, does your government plan to move to IPSASB—Accrual Basis?

Yes

No

3. If you selected at least one non-international accounting standard in Question 1, does your government plan to adopt international accounting standards to replace it (them)?

Yes

No

If you selected Yes, continue to Question 4

If you selected No, skip to Question 5

4. If you selected “Yes” in Question 3, which international accounting standards is your country planning to adopt? Choose all that apply:

International Federation of Accountants (IFAC)—International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB)—Accrual Basis

International Federation of Accountants (IFAC)—International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB)—Cash Basis

International Accounting Standards Board (IASB)—International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

5. If you selected “No” in Question 3, why is your country not planning to adopt international accounting standards?

Constraints caused by lack of resources

The government believes that current accounting standards adequately meet the needs of the users of financial statements.

Other (please specify):

If you selected an international accounting standard in either Question 1 or 4, please answer Questions 6 and 7.

If you did not select an international accounting standard in either Question 1 or 4, skip to Questions 8.

6. If you selected an international accounting standard in either Question 1 or 4, what kind of information does your supreme audit institution require regarding international accounting and reporting standards? Please rank each option in order of preference:

Updates on changes to international accounting and reporting standards _____

Guidance on the application of international accounting and reporting standards _____

Future directions for international accounting and reporting standards _____

Other (please specify): _____

7. If you selected an international accounting standard in either Question 1 or 4, what is your preference for sharing information about international accounting and reporting standards with other INTOSAI members? Please rank each option in order of preference:

Face-to-face meetings _____

Electronic communications _____

Teleconferencing _____

Other (please specify): _____

8. Is there anything else you would like to add?

On behalf of the Subcommittee, we thank you for completing the survey.

Survey on Accounting and Reporting Standards
Detailed statistics by INTOSAI Regions

REGION	Percent Using An International Standard	Percent Using National Standards	Percent Using Other Standards	Percent Using IPSASB Accrual	Percent Using IPSASB Cash	Percent Using IFRS	Number of Countries in Region
AFROSAI	76% (16/21)	19% (4/21)	29% (6/21)	33% (7/21)	43% (9/21)	29% (6/21)	21
ARABOSAI	40% (4/10)	50% (5/10)	20% (2/10)	10% (1/10)	30% (3/10)	10% (1/10)	10
ASOSAI	35% (9/26)	54% (14/26)	27% (7/26)	12% (3/26)	19% (5/26)	19% (5/26)	26
EUROSAI	27% (10/37)	32% (12/37)	49% (18/37)	16% (6/37)	14% (5/37)	8% (3/37)	37
SPASAI	75% (6/8)	25% (2/8)	13% (1/8)	13% (1/8)	38% (3/8)	50% (4/8)	8
PASAI	80% (4/5)	20% (1/5)	0% (0/5)	20% (1/5)	20% (1/5)	60% (3/5)	5
CAROSAI	73% (8/11)	9% (1/11)	45% (5/11)	9% (1/11)	27% (3/11)	45% (5/11)	11
OLACEFS	67% (6/9)	78% (7/9)	11% (1/9)	56% (5/9)	11% (1/9)	44% (4/9)	9
OTHER	50% (1/2)	100% (2/2)	0% (0/2)	0% (0/2)	0% (0/2)	50% (1/2)	2
ALL Regions	50% (55/109)	36% (39/109)	34% (37/109)	22% (24/109)	24% (26/109)	24% (26/109)	109

Note: Individual percentages may not add up to group totals as countries may belong to more than one region . and may also select more than one type of standards

AFROSAI	African Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions
ARABOSAI	Arab Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions
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Survey on Accounting and Reporting Standards
Statistics by INTOSAI Regions

REGION	Percent of Countries Planning to Adopt IFRS	Percent of Countries Planning to Adopt Any IPSASB Standard	Percent of Countries Planning to Adopt IPSASB - Accrual Basis	Percent of Countries Planning to Adopt IPSASB - Cash Basis	Number of Countries Planning to Adopt Any International Standard	Total Countries in Region
AFROSAI	38% (3/8)	88% (7/8)	63% (5/8)	63% (5/8)	8	21
ARABOSAI	50% (2/4)	75% (3/4)	75% (3/4)	25% (1/4)	4	10
ASOSAI	43% (6/14)	93% (13/14)	79% (11/14)	36% (5/14)	14	26
EUROSAI	25% (3/12)	92% (11/12)	83% (10/12)	25% (3/12)	12	37
SPASAI	0% (0/1)	100% (1/1)	100% (1/1)	100% (1/1)	1	8
PASAI	0% (0/0)	0% (0/0)	0% (0/0)	0% (0/0)	0	5
CAROSAI	67% (2/3)	67% (2/3)	33% (1/3)	33% (1/3)	3	11
OLACEFS	20% (1/5)	100% (5/5)	100% (5/5)	20% (1/5)	5	9
OTHER	0% (0/0)	0% (0/0)	0% (0/0)	0% (0/0)	0	2
ALL SAIs	34% (14/41)	90% (37/41)	76% (31/41)	37% (15/41)	41	109

Note: Individual percentages may not add up to group totals as countries may belong to more than one region and may also select more than one type of standards.

AFROSAI	African Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions
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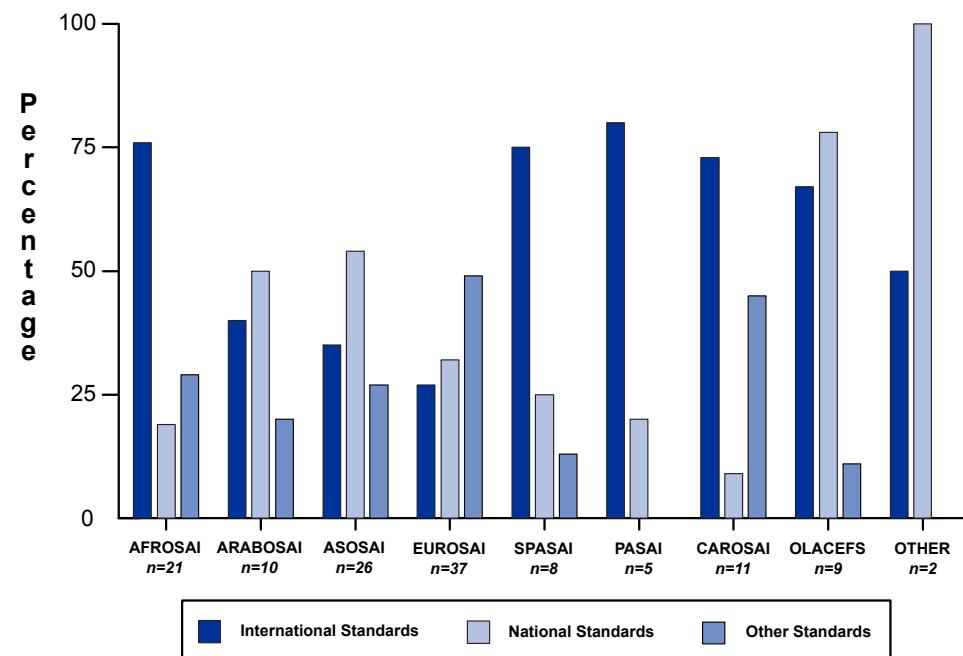
Survey on Accounting and Reporting Standards
Statistics by INTOSAI Regions

REGION	Percent of Countries Planning to Adopt IPSASB - Accrual Basis	Percent of Countries Planning to Adopt IPSASB - Cash Basis	Percent of Countries Planning to Adopt IFRS	Number of Countries Planning to Adopt Any International Standard	Total Countries in Region
AFROSAI	63% (5/8)	63% (5/8)	38% (3/8)	8	21
ARABOSAI	75% (3/4)	25% (1/4)	50% (2/4)	4	10
ASOSAI	79% (11/14)	36% (5/14)	43% (6/14)	14	26
EUROSAI	83% (10/12)	25% (3/12)	25% (3/12)	12	37
SPASAI	100% (1/1)	100% (1/1)	0% (0/1)	1	8
PASAI	0% (0/0)	0% (0/0)	0% (0/0)	0	5
CAROSAI	33% (1/3)	33% (1/3)	67% (2/3)	3	11
OLACEFS	100% (5/5)	20% (1/5)	20% (1/5)	5	9
OTHER	0% (0/0)	0% (0/0)	0% (0/0)	0	2
ALL SAIs	76% (31/41)	37% (15/41)	34% (14/41)	41	109

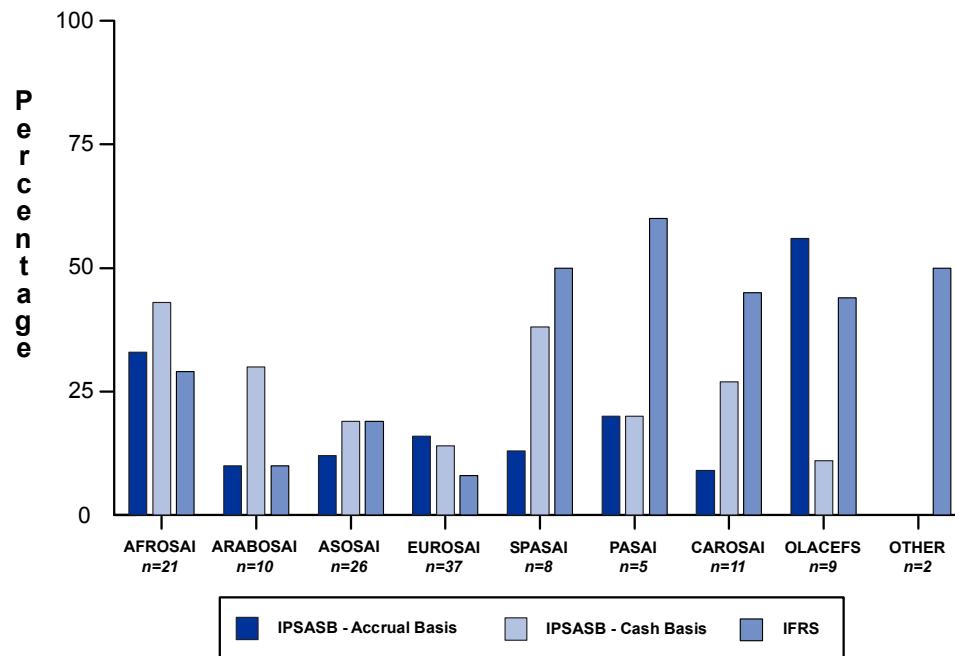
Note: Individual percentages may not add up to group totals as countries may belong to more than one region and may also select more than one type of standards.

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Accounting standards currently used by government organizations audited by SAIs by INTOSAI region
(n=109 / total responses=152)



Accounting standards currently used by government organizations audited by SAIs by INTOSAI region



Future plans to adopt IPSASB and IFRS by INTOSAI region

(n=41 / total responses=60)

