

Closing Message
Working Group on Public Debt
October 8, 2009

Dear colleagues:

Our working meeting is about to conclude. The compromises undertaken by all of us —to be developed during the next months— aim to better serve our respective societies. Even though each nation's experience regarding public debt is quite diverse, some constants undoubtedly exist, which we might analyze in order to deepen our auditing and accountability activities.

Our work is significant because it deals precisely with the people's welfare and the governments' use of resources belonging to the public. Besides, this matter is particularly sensitive, because what we are doing today will have future impact on our descendants, who will have to assume our decision's costs.

I would like to propose that we all keep up with our active participation, all along the upcoming year before our next meeting is held in Yemen, both in the projects you have undertaken and in other matters discussed during these last days.

Possibilities offered by modern communications have virtually eliminated distance, and allow us to interact instantly. We have tools such as our Working Group's website, which can be widely used to promote debate and knowledge sharing. I invite you to use it in order to

keep in touch and to swiftly make progress in our objectives' attainment.

Our horizon is the XX INTOSAI Congress to be held in 2010 in South Africa. By then, we will offer our colleagues all around the world the fruit of our work, which will undoubtedly keep stirring up great interest, being a subject of momentous significance for all.

I thank again the kind hospitality of Mr. Valentyn Kostiantynovych Symonenko, Chairman of the Chamber of Accounts of Ukraine, for this event's organization, as well as their colleagues, who devoted all their efforts to honor this compromise.

I would like to finish with some of the words that the Ukrainian poet Ivan Franko wrote in his poem "The Immortal Cossack", to this fair country, which offered us its kind and friendly hospitality.

*O God, I hear our mother tongue,
Our ancient songs still being sung!
The glorious memories of our nation
Still live in this new generation!
For still they sing of Cossack fame,
Their bloody fights they still acclaim—
Here's proof that my beloved race
Is not yet locked in death's embrace.*

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for your attention.

Kiev, Ukraine, October 8, 2009