

**MEETING OF THE INTOSAI WORKING GROUP
ON PUBLIC DEBT
KYIV, UKRAINE
OCTOBER 7 - 8, 2009**

WELCOME REMARKS

Dear colleagues:

On behalf of Mr. Arturo González de Aragón, C.P.A., Auditor General of Mexico and Chairman of the INTOSAI Working Group on Public Debt, I thank your attendance to this annual meeting, which in this occasion has its venue in Kyiv, Ukraine.

I'm glad to acknowledge, on behalf of all our membership, the kind hospitality offered by Mr. Valentyn Kostiantynovych Symonenko, Chairman of the Chamber of Accounts of Ukraine, and his staff, which has extended us their warmest welcome and support to this event.

It is truly a privilege getting together in this ancient city where, in many senses, emerged some of the most important cultural components shared by the inhabitants of this vast region of Europe.

The laureate Ukrainian writer Taras Shevchenko showed in an extract of his poem "Testament" the deep love he felt for his fatherland, which is still visible among the citizens of this great country.

*When I am dead, bury me
In my beloved Ukraine,
My tomb upon a grave mound high*

*Amid the spreading plain,
So that the fields, the boundless steppes,
The Dnieper's plunging shore
My eyes could see, my ears could hear
The mighty river roar.*

This, the land of Shevchenko's eternal dream, is the country in which we have the opportunity of getting together. Again, I thank the Chamber of Accounts of Ukraine for its kindness

Not much time has elapsed since our last Meeting in July 2008, held in Nadi, Fiji Islands; nevertheless, the past international events, especially regarding economic and financial issues, have had a profound impact on international community.

Han surgido nuevas temáticas vinculadas con la administración de la deuda pública y su fiscalización; situaciones que demandan de nosotros, en tanto el grupo especialista en la materia en el seno de la INTOSAI, respuestas concretas que permitan, en el campo de nuestras atribuciones, contribuir a atenuar los efectos de la crisis económica actual.

New topics related to public debt management and its auditing, have emerged. These situations demand us, the INTOSAI specialized area, concrete answers that allow us, within our responsibilities, help to mitigate the current financial crisis.

In addition, there is another type of crisis, which also represents a serious situation for many governments: citizen's credibility on the State's capability to successfully manage public resources.

A key element for governance is citizen's trust, and it is precisely by means of superior auditing that the citizenry may be provided

with appropriate elements to exercise an effective oversight over the state's actions.

Being Public Debt one of the most sensitive aspects during crisis, it is necessary that we are aware of the importance that our activities might represent for the improvement of the governments' scarce resources management facing societies' growing demands.

Finally, I would like to express the WGPD Chair's acknowledgment to your corresponding SAIs for undertaking the effort, in terms of time and resources, for your active participation in this meeting during these hard times. I want to propose to you that, in order to correspond to these efforts, our Working Group achieves concrete progress that results useful for the INTOSAI community.

Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you

Kyiv, Ukraine, October 7, 2009