

Opening Session Message
Arturo González de Aragón, P.C.A.
Public Debt Committee
June the 7th, 2004
Moscow, Russian Federation

Members of the Public Debt Committee:

We are united again to conduct our annual INTOSAI Public Debt Committee meeting. I want to thank the attending delegations as well as the Initiative for the Development of INTOSAI representatives, for their presence in this centenary capital city. I want to publicly acknowledge the personnel of the Russian Federation Accounts Chamber, for the support and facilities offered to us, specially to Dr. Sergei Vadimovich Stepashin, President of the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation, represented by Mr. Alexander N. Semikolennykh, Deputy Chairman of the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation and to Mr. Sergei O. Shokhin, Auditor, Member of the Board of the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation.

In order to attain its goals, the Public Debt Committee's main performing axis are training and research. In this sense, I'm pleased to inform you that our training plans have successfully evolved. Only by means of the promotion of the best administrative, accounting, control, supervision and auditing practices, those countries which must assign a considerable portion of their resources to public debt service payment, may enjoy a more rational, transparent and effective expenditure budget, thus being able to allocate resources to other programs that have priority. Bearing this in our minds, we will support these training, research and information sharing initiatives.

Another strategic guideline of our Committee has been the research, by means of analysis and deeper study of diverse issues regarding public debt. On this, several countries, with expertise on the matter, or with a greater advance degree on the study of several phenomena, have decided to share their knowledge and offer it for the benefit of the INTOSAI community. We'll have a chance to hear them on this during the meeting.

In my quality of Chairman of the Board of this Committee, and as I will make explicit in my report, I'm highly pleased to know, for a fact, that the commitments assumed by its members are fully complied, and that our work advances according to the priorities we have set. The completion of our tasks has convened us here and constitutes the basis of our contributions to the endeavors we have undertaken.

I am sure that the contents of this meeting's agenda will contribute to the attainment of our goals and the accomplishment of our commitments. Let's not forget that our mission demands the best of our efforts for the welfare of the societies which have entrusted us with the high responsibility of serving others.

Thank you very much

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