

**INTOSAI PUBLIC DEBT COMMITTEE MEETING
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THE PUBLIC DEBT COMMITTEE AND INTOSAI'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Background

One of the main issues discussed during the XVIII INTOSAI Congress last October was the endorsement of the INTOSAI's Strategic Plan 2005-2010. Although our Organization's achievements were widely acknowledged, the need of a new structure to meet the XXI century's challenges was made evident. Therefore, a task force lead by the United States of America's Government Accountability Office was created, so it could propose the necessary structural modifications. The Strategic Plan draft version was presented during the Governing Board Extraordinary Meeting, held in Vienna in June 2004. Being endorsed by the Board, its official presentation in the XVIII INCOSAI held in Budapest was decided.

INTOSAI's Strategic Goals

INTOSAI's Strategic Plan proposes three primary goals related to its mission. The first is to promote strong, independent and multidisciplinary SAIs as well as developing and adopting effective professional standards. The second one is to build capabilities and professional capacities within the SAIs by means of training, technical assistance and other development activities. The third one is to encourage SAIs cooperation and continuous improvement through knowledge sharing including peer reviews, benchmarking and investigation. A fourth goal is added to these three ones, concerning the goal of making of the INTOSAI a model international organization.

The Strategic Goal with the most important impact for the Public Debt Committee activities is Goal III, because Committees, Working Groups and Regional Groups (OLACEFS, EUROSAI, etc.), specialized knowledge-producers, are the most intended to convey their activities outcomes. The objective of Goal III is, precisely, to define new and more efficient strategies and communication policies for the benefit of all our community.

Our Public Debt Committee is one of the INTOSAI's knowledge generators and therefore is encompassed within the designed strategy for the accomplishment of the Plan's Goal III. The INTOSAI did not deem necessary to modify the structure of the already existing Committees, so our work may continue on the very same basis.

Another issue regarding Goal III is to offer willing SAIs the opportunity of having their efficiency and performance evaluated by means of comparative studies with other SAIs. To do so, it is needed to establish a group of benchmarks

related to a certain activity, and then conduct the comparative study. The Public Debt Committee has assumed this task through the development of investigations, papers and objective products, which provide SAIs with high quality information on our subject.

A third issue of this Goal is the necessity of developing a strategy and a policy for global communication, so the resulting knowledge may arrive in an agile and efficient fashion. It was considered that the *International Journal of Government Auditing* constitutes an important instrument for this objective.

Finally, the possibility of promoting partnerships with academic entities meeting INTOSAI's independency requirements was pointed out. In this way we'll integrate more actors to the auditing-related knowledge creation.

Goal Liaisons Election

In order to facilitate the implementation of these tasks, the process of electing the so-called "Goal Liaisons" was conducted during the Governing Board's 53rd A Extraordinary Meeting, held on March 18, 2005 in Budapest, Hungary. In order to attain that objective, the Governing Board instructed the Committees' and Working Groups' Chairs to consult with their respective members about suitable candidates. A profile of the eligible SAIs was defined: to be part of the Governing Board, have met all their obligations within the INTOSAI, count on international experience on their corresponding Goal sector and finance these activities by themselves.

Our Goal Liaison has as its task to oversee that the different Groups and Committees' works are oriented towards the fulfillment of Goal III. The Goal Liaison may even report the Governing Board the Working Groups and Committees working programs' advances, as representatives of the corresponding titular. Finally, they should become facilitators of the contacts between the Governing Board and the Committees, Working Groups and Regional Groups, regarding this Goal's objectives.

Being the Chairman of this Committee, I made the required consultation and conveyed its results during that meeting. After voting, it was decided that the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India would be the Goal III Liaison.

In response to a request from India's SAI on the alternative communication mechanisms, a proposal was sent as to expedite liaison labors on knowledge distribution as generated by the INTOSAI committees and working groups. Basically, this proposal consists of the creation of "interest groups" made up by SAIs which wish to acquire specific knowledge on certain specific issues (e.g. public debt, privatization, environmental auditing, and so forth). The goal liaison will act as middleman between these groups and knowledge producers, which will ask to timely submit relevant information on their field to be distributed among INTOSAI community.

Conclusions

Knowledge creation and sharing among SAIs all over the world has been one of the Public Debt Committee's guidelines. Our annual reunions, our members offer a report of their activities' advance, which are achieved with the publication of objective products and placed within the reach of all INTOSAI members. We are aware that our work is of the highest quality, and brings about a real impact on SAIs public debt auditing labors. Thus, it will be necessary to join proactively to the new structures, so our work reaches the highest possible number of SAIs.

Therefore, the Public Debt Committee and its activities have an appropriate reference and explicit framework within the INTOSAI's Strategic Plan 2005-2010. It is up to us to collaborate, within our sphere of competence, to fulfill Goal III's objectives, by means of persevering, deepening and conveying the knowledge stemming from our investigations, for the benefit of all INTOSAI community.