



Relevance of Independent Supreme Audit Institutions

GIFT Stewards General Meeting, August 26, 2021

Effective, accountable and inclusive Supreme Audit Institutions

INTOSAI Development Initiative

The INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) is a not-for profit, autonomous implementing body which supports Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) in developing countries to be effective, accountable and inclusive institutions.

Strategic priorities:

- Well-Governed SAIs**
- Professional SAIs**
- Relevant SAIs**
- Independent SAIs**

Why is SAI independence important?

A SAI is a public oversight institution that audits a government's use of public funds

Independence is a critical prerequisite for a SAI to carry out its mandate effectively and to perform its role as an agent of accountability.

Independent,
relevant SAIs
contribute to

**Fiscal
Transparency**

Accountability

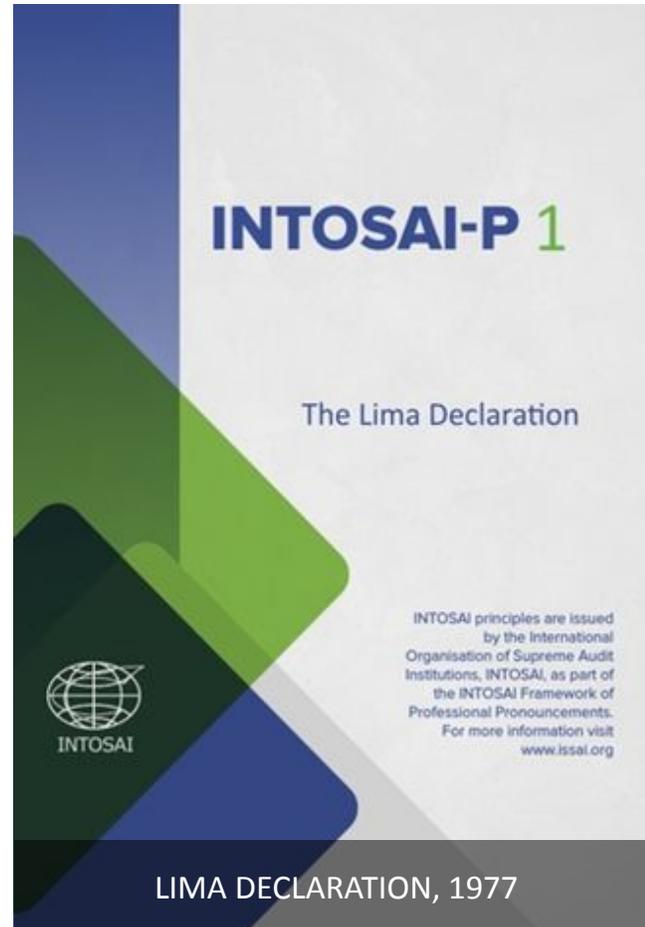
Rule of Law

**Effectiveness
and Efficiency of
Governments**

Anti-corruption

**Public
Participation**

What does it mean to be independent?



LIMA DECLARATION, 1977



MEXICO DECLARATION, 2007

The INTOSAI Mexico Declaration – 8 principles of SAI Independence

1. **The existence of an appropriate and effective constitutional/statutory/legal framework and of de facto application provisions of this framework.**
2. **The independence of Head of SAIs and members (of collegial institutions), including security of tenure and legal immunity in the normal discharge of their duties.**
3. **A sufficiently broad mandate and full discretion, in the discharge of SAI functions.**
4. **Unrestricted access to information.**
5. **The right and obligation of SAIs to report on their work.**
6. **The freedom to decide the content and timing of audit reports, and to publish and disseminate them.**
7. **The existence of effective follow-up mechanisms on the SAI's recommendations.**
8. **Financial and managerial/administrative autonomy, and the availability of appropriate human, material, and monetary resources**

GIFT High-level principle 9

The Supreme Audit Institution should have statutory independence from the executive, and the mandate, access to information, and appropriate resources to audit and report publicly on the raising and commitment of public funds. It should operate in an independent, accountable and transparent manner

Threats to SAI Independence

SAI operational and financial independence is low, and declining, in many regions of the world

SAI Heads face reduced protection from unjust removal

SAIs face increased interference in their budgets from the executive

Many SAIs face limitations in access to information

Principle of Financial independence

Mexico Declaration (principle 8):

- SAIs should have available necessary and reasonable human, material, and monetary resources – the Executive should not control or direct the access to these resources.**
- SAIs should manage their own budget and allocate it appropriately**
- The Legislature is responsible for ensuring that SAIs have the proper resources to fulfill their mandate. SAIs have the right of direct appeal if the resources provided are insufficient to allow them to fulfill their mandate**

IDI support to SAI Independence

- **Global advocacy and partnership**
- **Targeted support to SAIs (and SAI leaders) on independence**
- **SAI Independence Rapid Advocacy Mechanism**
- **Dissemination of knowledge products through SAI Independence Resource Centre:**
- **Visit us at www.idi.no**