



2021 Stewards General Meeting Session Relevance of Independent Supreme Audit Institutions

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.

Day: Thursday, 26 August

Time: 10.30am EDT (90 minutes)

Language: English

Independent audit institutions using internationally-recognized auditing standards are widely regarded as fundamental to financial accountability. Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) should be empowered to provide assurance that reporting on public finances is reliable and free from material misstatement. This is of utmost importance for a transparent public administration, for ensuring the effective exercise of the legislature's oversight role, and to build public trust in the integrity of fiscal management.

In order to be able to fulfil their functions and ensure their potential value, SAIs need to be seen as trustworthy. To gain that trust, they need to be perceived as independent from the government and protected against outside influence. Assisting in this, the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) operates as an umbrella organization for the external government audit community. The INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) supports SAIs in developing countries to sustainably enhance their performance and capacity. IDI's work is based on the needs and challenges SAIs experience. In this session we talk about this initiative and how SAIs can seek support from it.

Item	Content	Allotted time
Introduction	Presentation on IDI and SAIs topic by mag. Jorg Kristijan Petrovič, First Deputy President of the Court of Audit of Slovenia.	5 minutes
Presentation by IDI on SAI Independence: Marte Briseid	<p>IDI presentation will be comprised of following aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Brief introduction of IDI and its activities (2) Highlight the relevance of SAI independence (3) Breakdown principle 9 of GIFT and associate them to the Mexico Declaration principles <p><i>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</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (4) Highlight its component on “appropriate resources to audit” 	10 minutes
Reactors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Claire Schouten, International Budget Partnership - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation on the IBP perspective regarding SAIs work based on: (1) the Open Budget Index; (2) the joint publication with IDI “All hands on deck: Harnessing accountability through external public audits”, and (3) include their view on the COVID-19 in the work that is conducted by Supreme Audit Institutions. 2. Joaquin Caprarulo, ACIJ - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation on how financial independence, and independence of SAIs in general, should be considered within the PFM of countries. 3. Amy Edwards, US. Treasury and Sheila Thipe, South African National Treasury - 	35 minutes (7 minutes for each participant)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation on the balance they have to keep when designing their national budget given the need for SAIs to count on financial independence: Challenges and opportunities <p>4. Jan van Schalkwyk, Office of the Auditor General, South Africa-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation on the model they follow to ensure their financial independence 	
Interactive discussion	IDI will prepare questions that could be addressed, through Mr. Petrovic, session moderator, by session participants	20 minutes
Wrap-up session	Session moderator to conclude session with summary of key session take-aways	5 minutes