

INTOSAI



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INTOSAI PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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Foreword

by Sir John Bourn

Comptroller and Auditor General of the United Kingdom

Chairman of the Working Group on the Audit of Privatisation

When I was asked in 1993 to chair the new INTOSAI Working Group on the audit of privatisation, SAIs were very much aware of the radical changes taking place in so many of our countries in the role of government and how governments relate to their citizens. These fundamental changes, involving the redrawing of the lines between the public and private sector, also presented a major challenge to SAIs, who had to modernise the ways in which they work to secure the accountability of the state to its citizens and representative bodies.

Five years on, this commitment of INTOSAI members to the development of their auditing methods and professional skills is marked by the contribution that so many SAIs have made, both within the Working Group itself and in numerous INTOSAI meetings and seminars, to the guidelines on the audit of privatisation set out in this document.

The guidelines distil our experiences in a variety of economies, at all stages of development. They set out why the state auditor needs to examine and report on these sales and practical advice on how to do it. They do not attempt to provide answers to every question that might be posed, not least because the nature of privatisation is constantly developing. But I believe that what is recommended will be of enduring benefit to all SAIs, and also to the state bodies whom we seek to assist as they strive to get the best value for the taxpayer.

*John Bourn
Montevideo
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