

INTOSAI



Notes to ISSAI 100, 200, 300 and 400

Originally, when the INTOSAI Auditing Standards were launched in 1992, they were presented in one separate document. In 2001, it was decided that the Code of Ethics which was issued by the Auditing Committee at the XIVth Congress of INTOSAI in 1992 in Washington and endorsed by the Congress in Montevideo in 1998, should also include the INTOSAI Auditing Standards.

The Auditing Standards were amended in 1995 by the XVth Congress in Cairo, Egypt and when the XIXth Congress of INTOSAI in Mexico City adopted the framework of professional standards, it was decided to split the Code of Ethics document into five separate documents: ISSAI 30 (Code of Ethics) and the auditing standards ISSAI 100, ISSAI 200, ISSAI 300 and ISSAI 400.

In the following you will find forewords and other information relevant to the documents.

Preamble - 2001

At the XVIth INCOSAI in Montevideo in 1998, the Congress unanimously approved and issued The INTOSAI Code of Ethics.

At the same meeting it was furthermore decided that the INTOSAI Auditing Standards Committee should restructure the Auditing Standards in order to facilitate updates and additions in the future, but without changing its content. The Committee has now produced a restructured version of the Auditing Standards.

For practical reasons it has been proposed that the Code of Ethics and the Auditing Standards are made available jointly in one volume.

It is however important to see the relationship between the relevant INTOSAI documents:

With the Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts as its foundation, the INTOSAI Code of Ethics should be seen as a necessary complement, reinforcing the INTOSAI Auditing Standards issued by the INTOSAI Auditing Standards Committee in June 1992.

In the minutes of the XVIth INCOSAI meeting in 1998 the following was stated.

The different documents may be regarded as a comprehensive framework with the following elements:

- The Lima Declaration is the foundation with its comprehensive precepts on auditing in the public sector.
- The Code of Ethics represents the next level with its statement of values and principles guiding the daily work of the auditors. One of the principles outlined in the Code of Ethics is the auditor's obligation to apply generally accepted auditing standards.
- The Auditing Standards on the next level, contain the postulates and principles for carrying out the audit work.
- Guidance Material, which is the fourth level provides practical assistance to SAIs in implementing the Standards in their individual constituents.

In this volume, thus, will be found the Code of Ethics together with the Restructured Auditing Standards, which was approved by the XVIIth Congress of INTOSAI in Seoul 2001.

Inga-Britt Ahlenius
Chairman of the Auditing Standards Committee

Foreword - 2001

This revision of the INTOSAI Auditing Standards is a significant step forward in the development of truly international auditing standards. It flows from a recommendation of the XIIIth INCOSAI (Berlin) that the previous version be amended to recognise the particular needs of countries whose SAIs are constituted as courts of accounts.

I speak for the Committee on Auditing Standards in expressing appreciation of the efforts made by all INTOSAI members in developing the standards. In particular I wish to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the Court of Accounts of Belgium, the newest member of the INTOSAI Auditing Standards Committee, and other SAIs constituted as courts of accounts. I also wish to thank my other Committee colleagues for their support and positive contribution to the revision.

While INTOSAI Auditing Standards do not have mandatory application they reflect a "best practices" consensus among SAIs. Each SAI must judge the extent to which the standards are compatible with the achievement of its mandate.

It is the view of both the Governing Board and the Auditing Standards Committee that these Standards are a "living" document. As such they should reflect, to the extent possible, the current trends, issues and concerns in auditing methodology and practice.

The Governing Board gave its approval to these Standards at its 35th meeting in Washington in October 1991. I commend to members of INTOSAI the revised standards.

J.C. Taylor
Chairman of the Auditing Standards Committee

Preface - 1989

As chairman of the INTOSAI Committee on Auditing Standards, I am very pleased to present the final draft of our work.

Our Committee was established in May 1984 to present recommendations and plans for developing an INTOSAI auditing standards project. Subsequently, the Committee was expanded to include the Supreme Audit Institutions of:

- Austria: ex-Officio
- Argentina
- Australia
- Brazil
- Costa Rica
- Japan
- Philippines
- Saudi Arabia: Chairman
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- United States

A working plan for the Committee was presented to and approved by the Governing Board at its meeting held in Sydney in March 1985. This working plan called for the formation of four study groups to divide the work as follows:

- The first group consisting of the United States (Group Coordinator), Costa Rica, and the Philippines to work on "General Principles in Government Auditing".
- The second group consisting of Australia (Group Coordinator) and Argentina to work on "General Standards in Government Auditing".
- The third group consisting of Sweden (Group Coordinator) and Japan to work on "Field Standards in Government Auditing".
- The fourth group consisting of United Kingdom (Group Coordinator) and Brazil to work on "Reporting Standards in Government Auditing".

Each of the four groups developed a discussion memorandum on their subject and elicited, analysed and researched comments and suggestions from other committee members. On the basis of these discussion memoranda, suggestions and comments were incorporated into preliminary exposure drafts on each topic. Further research, suggestions and comments received from the INTOSAI Governing Board and committee members resulted in the preparation of final exposure drafts. The Governing Board approved these drafts at the May 1987 meeting in Vienna and commissioned the Committee to meet in London to harmonise terminology and style of the four drafts.

A group of experts representing the Committee met for five days in London during June 1987 to prepare the final consolidated draft. This group of experts consisted of Mr. Abdullah I. Al Saleh and Dr. Issam J. Merei from Saudi Arabia (Chairman), Mr. W.A. Broadus (United States), Mr. Nazario Anis (Philippines), Mr. Cyril Monaghan (Australia), Mrs. Gunhild Lindstrom (Sweden), Sr. Fernando Goncalves (Brazil) and Messrs. John Pearce and Andy Burchell (United Kingdom).

The Governing Board at its 31st meeting in Berlin agreed to the following arrangements concerning the re-exposure of the INTOSAI Auditing Standards and the consideration of any comments received:

1. The comments received shall be compiled and transmitted to the Committee Chairman by the Secretary General.
2. The INTOSAI Auditing Standards Committee Chairman and the Secretary General shall decide jointly on the necessity and appropriateness of possible changes.
3. The document shall then be submitted to the Berlin Congress for adoption.

The Committee Chairman and the Secretary General have analysed the comments received and have made the changes as deemed appropriate.

Although the word "Standards" was used throughout this document, it is understood that this word is to be used synonymously with the word "guidelines" which keeps the authority for compliance within the domain of each Supreme Audit Institution.

I would like to thank all the members of the INTOSAI Auditing Standards Committee for their dedication and cooperation in completing this project. Special thanks is given to the group of experts who improved the final drafts during their meeting in London.

Omar A. Fakieh, State Minister
President, General Auditing Bureau of Saudi Arabia
Chairman, INTOSAI Auditing Standards Committee
Rijadh, March, 1989