

INTOSAI



Notes to ISSAI 30

In 2001, it was decided that the Code of Ethics should include also the auditing standards which are now known as ISSAI 100, ISSAI 200, ISSAI 300, and ISSAI 400. The Code of Ethics was issued by the Auditing Standards Committee at the XVIth Congress of INTOSAI in 1998 in Montevideo, Uruguay.

When the XIXth Congress of INTOSAI in Mexico City adopted the framework of professional standards, the Code of Ethics document was divided into five separate documents, i.e. ISSAI 30 and the four auditing standard documents mentioned above, in accordance herewith.

In the following you will find forewords and other information relevant to the Code of Ethics.

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 - 1998

I am pleased to provide the members of the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) with this Code of Ethics for auditors in the public sector, which received the Governing Board's approval at the 44th meeting in Montevideo in November 1998.

The Code constitutes a significant step forward in the process of harmonising the ethical concepts within the INTOSAI. It consists of only the basic postulates of ethics, since national differences of culture, language and legal and social systems bring about the need to adapt such postulates to the environment of the specific country. Therefore, this Code should be seen as a foundation for national codes of ethics to be developed by each Supreme Audit Institution.

Finally, I wish to express, on behalf of the Auditing Standards Committee, my deep gratitude and appreciation for the co-operation of all of the INTOSAI members in our effort to develop this Code of Ethics. I also thank my Committee colleagues for their timely support and positive contribution to this activity.

Inga-Britt Ahlenius
Chairman of the Auditing Standards Committee

Preamble- 1998

This draft Code of Ethics is the result of the joint labour of the members of the INTOSAI Auditing Standards Committee, which has included the Supreme Audit Institutions of:

Austria
Australia
Argentina
Brazil
Costa Rica
Japan
Philippines
Portugal
Saudi Arabia
Sweden; Chairman
United Kingdom
United States

A working plan for the Committee was presented and approved by the Governing Board at its 42nd meeting held in Vienna on June 24, 1996. The development of this Code of Ethics was one of the tasks set in that plan. The actions to fulfil it started with the collection of Codes of Ethics from all INTOSAI members in order to study similarities and differences. This led to a first preliminary draft discussed at a Committee meeting in Sweden in January 1997.

After the Committee meeting a new draft was developed and sent to all INTOSAI members for comments. After these comments were considered this final draft was developed.

The Governing Board has been informed of the progress of the work at its 43rd meeting in Montevideo in November 1997.

I would like to thank all the members of the INTOSAI Auditing Standards Committee for their dedication and co-operation in completing this project.

Inga-Britt Ahlenius
Auditor General, Swedish National Audit Office
Chairman, INTOSAI Auditing Standards Committee