

PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

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CAG CALLS UPON SUPREME AUDIT INSTITUTIONS TO WORK FOR MUTUAL BENEFITS

SHRI MURMU ADDRESSES KNOWLEDGE SHARING COMMITTEE MEETING OF INTOSAI

CAG of India has called upon the Supreme Audit Institutions to work on motto of the INTOSAI “Mutual Experience Benefits All”. Addressing as the chair of Knowledge Share Committee of INTOSAI at the 5th KSC Main Committee Meeting in Brazil this morning, Shri Girish Chandra Murmu called upon the members to create Global Knowledge Centres for imparting training to the field level practitioners of SAIs by identifying the gaps which such Global Knowledge Centres can fill, steering INTOSAI community towards the higher motto of ensuring that no one is left behind. While underlining the major challenge of implementation of KSC products at the cutting-edge level of SAIs, he sought innovative suggestions from KSC members to shape KSC strategies for the next 3 years.

The C&AG of India sought members’ input on the idea of designating Regional Ambassadors and linking them with the governance structures of regional and sub-regional groups, to effectively promote inclusivity in KSC activities and widen the value and benefit of products developed by our Working Groups for wider dissemination and absorption of professional knowledge and skills. KSC’s interactions has brought about the realization that regional and sub-regional aspirations and concerns, when reflected in its products, take them a long way towards their ultimate usability.

Shri Murmu highlighted that KSC and its Working Groups, during the last three years, have been instrumental in recognizing professional requirements of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) and bridging the gaps by developing valuable guidance of public sector audit, covering a variety of people-centric issues such as audit of plastic waste, sustainable transport, climate financing, audit of sustainability issues, cyber security and data protection, audit of IT Governance, data analytics, technologies innovation, social control of public funds, stolen assets recovery, corruption prevention in public procurement, extractive industry audit and toolkit and extractive industry framework of Government Auditing Standards. Further, a

significant achievement is the development of INTOSAI Guidance on audit of public debt, audit of disaster management, performance audit of privatization and public procurement audit.

The C&AG of India underpinned that KSC is now emerging into an era of added responsibilities and fresh priorities with the new INTOSAI Strategic Plan in force which crystallizes the concerns of changing times, that of resilience in the face of challenging circumstances, and the need to consider aspects of equality and inclusiveness along with traditional focuses of audit. The new KSC Operational Plan is an attempt to ensure that every SAI is enabled to discharge its mandate in the fullest possible way. The effectiveness of KSC's work is ultimately borne out by extent to which its products are put to use and the impact our audits can make on the lives of the people. Universal relevance should be the guiding principle that inspires the content and coverage of KSC's products and activities he added.

The C&AG of India emphasized that the high quality guidance developed by KSC would be useful only by way of their wider dissemination through various means, e.g. webinars, training programs and collaborating within and outside our organization.

In his closing remarks Shri Murmu said, “With the new INTOSAI Strategic Plan in force we are now emerging into an era of added responsibilities and fresh priorities. The new plan crystallizes the concerns of changing times, that of resilience in the face of challenging circumstances, and the need to consider aspects of equality and inclusiveness along with traditional focuses of audit. With the year 2030 less than a decade away, we also need to bolster our strategies to enable our governments to achieve the sustainable development goals. I am confident that these INTOSAI priorities shall guide your plans and approaches towards knowledge development and knowledge sharing. Universal relevance should be the guiding principle that inspires the content and coverage of KSC's products and activities.”

The International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) operates as an umbrella organization for the external government audit community with support from its four Goal Committees, who lead the INTOSAI's efforts under their respective goals and thereby assist the INTOSAI Governing Board, as the apex INTOSAI organ, in implementing INTOSAI's goals and objectives.

The Knowledge Sharing and Knowledge Services Committee (KSC) (Goal 3) of INTOSAI,

under the able leadership of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India as the KSC Chair, works with the mission of encouraging cooperation, collaboration, and continuous improvement of Supreme Audit Institutions through knowledge development, knowledge sharing and knowledge services.

KSC has twelve working groups, whose focus span is the entire spectrum of public policy and administration, from science and technology to the environment, from fighting against corruption to sustainable development, from financial modernization to public debt. These working groups draw upon the expertise of its members in a variety of subjects to develop guidelines and handbooks to support the professionalism of Supreme Audit Institutions worldwide.

The KSC Main Committee comprises of 125 members SAIs and four observers. The committee meets once in every three years, in conjunction with the triennial INCOSAI, to discuss progress of KSC activities during the period of three years, in between two INCOSAI.

The 5th KSC Main Committee meeting is being held in conjunction with the XXIVth INCOSAI in Brazil. The meeting is being attended by delegates from about 20 Supreme Audit Institutions. Mr. Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller & Auditor General of India and the KSC Chair, delivered opening and closing remarks for the event.