

PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

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ELEVEN PEOPLE CENTRIC AUDIT DOCUMENTS READY: CAG

One of the major challenges of the work of Supreme Audit Institutions is the audit of Sustainable Development Goals, since the needs of sustainability and the needs of development are to be judiciously balanced. This was stated by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India while inaugurating the annual meeting of the Knowledge Sharing and Knowledge Services Committee (KSC) in Cairo today. Shri Girish Chandra Murmu emphasized that our policy advocacy and evaluation has to be backed up with an appreciation of the complex dynamics of ecological stability, economics as well as the analysis of statistical data.

Mr. Murmu announced that KSC Working Groups have brought out 11 documents developed 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, debt authorization, stolen assets recovery, and corruption prevention in public procurement. He also expressed confidence in bringing out a new Guidance on public procurement audit before November 2022.

The CAG of India underlined the role of KSC in recognizing felt needs and filling the gaps by bringing out valuable products in several areas of public sector audit. KSC has upheld the INTOSAI's long cherished position of leaving no SAI behind by providing SAIs with authoritative and detailed guidance not only on what to achieve but also on how to achieve, he said.

Mr. Murmu reminded the delegates that the KSC's strategies for the coming years should draw inspiration from and be attuned to the committed priorities of INTOSAI viz.,

supporting SAI professionalism, supporting SAIs to stay resilient in the face of extremely complex and fast evolving global circumstances marked by volatile political situations, calamitous events, changes in financial markets, and changes in climate, as also to the ideals of equality and inclusiveness. He exhorted the members to keep abreast of global megatrends and strategically equip themselves to audit challenging areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Climate financing, forensic auditing, fraud and corruption, climate change etc. where the practice of auditing is difficult and the processes are yet to be established.

In building auditors of the future, Mr. Murmu underlined the need for strategic collaboration in the area of imparting training to auditors. It is also important, he said, that for greater reach and effectiveness of knowledge dissemination efforts, the products of KSC should reflect the varied circumstances under which different SAIs operate. This alone shall guarantee inclusivity to our efforts. While announcing the plan to revamp the INTOSAI Community Portal for greater accessibility and ease of use, Mr. Murmu pointed out that the reach and impact of the work of SAIs is greatly dependent on how the larger society perceives their work. This pointed to the need to develop comprehensive strategies for stakeholder engagements at all levels.

The 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.

The 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 Steering Committee (KSC SC), comprising the Chairs of the Working Groups under KSC, Chair of INTOSAI Professional Standards Committee (PSC Goal 1), Chair

of INTOSAI Capacity Building Committee (CBC Goal 2) and SAIs leading cross-cutting projects, the KSC Chair (SAI India) and five observers, takes on the coordination role and evaluates whether the KSC tasks are consistent with the INTOSAI's objectives. The committee meets every year to discuss important activities of the Working Groups and the cross-cutting priorities of the INTOSAI and reports the progress of KSC activities to INTOSAI Governing Board every year.

The three day Annual KSC SC meeting is being held in Cairo from 12 to 14 September 2022, hosted by the Accountability State Authority of Egypt. The meeting is being attended by delegates from about 16 Supreme Audit Institutions.

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