

## **CAG's Closing Remarks: UN Panel Session**

**7 December 2021**

**Distinguished members of the Panel, the Executive Secretary of the Panel, and other participants from across the globe and various time zones.**

1. I want to express my gratitude and appreciation for the engaging and productive sessions over the last two days.
2. We extensively discussed regular audit activities of the Panel and reviewed progress on earlier decisions. I am happy that we could also deliberate on several initiatives for the coming year. I am hopeful that these initiatives will contribute towards important goals like fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals, overcoming the impact of Covid-19, and implementing UN reforms.
3. Our Panel's auditing activities have played a pivotal role in ensuring transparency and improving governance in our client organizations. Financial and compliance audits have ensured adherence to rules and regulations. In addition, constructive oversight over various management activities like UN reforms, Covid impact on UN operations, financial investments, etc. will help our client organizations to efficiently utilize their resources.
4. The Panel discussed several topics. These included: Financial management, IPSAS related issues, impact of COVID on Internal Controls, Outsourcing of services-especially hiring of non-staff by third parties, Supply Chain Management, Implementation of Common Back office-UN reforms, Environmental and Social Governance concerns for the UN, issues related to auditing Public Administrations in the domain of digital transformation.

5. Vice-chairman Mr. Jorge Bermúdez and I would like to thank all of you for your continued cooperation and active participation in the Panel's activities. It has indeed been an honor to serve as the Chairman of this Panel and contribute towards global wellbeing.
6. I want to congratulate Chile and Indonesia for being elected as the next Chair and Vice-Chair of the Panel, respectively. I want to assure you that SAI India would extend all possible support to you and continue to actively participate in all activities of the Panel, and discharge our duties.
7. I would like to express my appreciation to our Executive Secretary, Ms Anjana Das and her team for effectively organizing the hybrid TG and Panel meetings consisting of a large number of in-person as well as remote participants. She and her team has set a new benchmark for conducting international meetings in these challenging times. We must applaud their exemplary efforts.
8. Once again, I would like to thank all of you for your cooperation not only over the last two days but since I took over as the Chair of the Panel.

I declare the Sixty-first (2021) UN Panel Session closed.

Thank you.