Dear reader,

There is a well-known African proverb that says smooth seas do not make skillful sailors. An apt description for 2020 thus far! While the global pandemic continues to affect many aspects of our work and lives, it has also brought about opportunities to make us more resilient and adaptable.

Although we’ve had to adapt our approaches to support our member SAIs, our dedication to continue making a difference in the performance of our SAIs has not wavered. This has meant an increased focus on supplying direct SAI-level support through virtual training, direct engagements, and material reviews. To reach the region more broadly, we hold webinars on specific focus areas. We held the first of our monthly webinars for communication practitioners in July. The next webinar, which is open to communication practitioners from all INTOSAI members, will take place on 26 August 2020. To find out more about the discussion topic and to register, click here.

The health and safety of our staff and our member-SAI staff are critically important to us. Together with the implications of ongoing international travel restrictions, these factors have led us to the decision to adapt our annual Technical Update conference to be a virtual event in 2020. The virtual Technical Update will take place from 2 to 6 November 2020 and we will be publishing more information on the programme and registration process soon.

We are delighted to welcome Ms. Nancy Gathungu as the new Auditor-General of Kenya. Ms. Gathungu was sworn into Office on 17 July 2020, and will serve for a non-renewable term of eight years, as per the Kenyan Constitution. She succeeds Mr. Edward Ouko who left office in August 2019, after the expiry of his eight-year term. Click here to read more.

In follow-up to our research project on “SAI resilience in addressing the auditor expectation gap during disaster periods: The case of sub-Saharan SAIs during the COVID-19 pandemic”, we are doing a series of interviews with our member Auditors General to learn from their insights on the topic. We’ve already uploaded the interviews with the Auditors General from South Africa, Sierra Leone, and Ethiopia on our website, and more will follow shortly. We are also pleased to inform you that the research paper has been translated to Portuguese.

Adopting the ISSAIs continues to be a challenge for the SAI community. It is important that key partners, in particular parliaments, understand why we are adopting the ISSAIs, what this means for them in exercising their oversight roles, and how they can best support us while we are implementing the ISSAIs. The INTOSAI Capacity Building Committee workstream on AUDITING IN COMPLEX AND CHALLENGING CONTEXTS (ACCC) have produced two new resources.

1 An introductory flier: Supporting SAIs in Complex and Challenging Contexts An introduction for parliaments.
2 A background briefing: Helping Supreme Audit Institutions apply international auditing standards in complex and challenging contexts.

Click here to access these resources on the CBC website.

With support and in collaboration with the Working Group on Extractive Industries and the ARABOSAI region, we are pleased to note that our Guideline on Audit Considerations for Extractive Industries is now available in Arabic. Our gratitude goes to the ARABOSAI Secretariat for translation of the guideline.

Finally, we want to encourage our member-SAIs to contact us if you have any specific training needs that we can support you with through our virtual and online learning channels.

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