

# ARABOSAI NEWSLETTER



## THIS ISSUE INCLUDES

-EDITORIAL

-INSIDE ARABOSAI

-COOPERATIVE AUDIT MISSIONS

-WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

-COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP



## "INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AUDIT GO TOGETHER"



**BY DR. HUSSAM BIN ABDULMOHSEN ALANGARI ,PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL COURT OF AUDIT OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

It is with no doubt that internal and external audit are complementary functions within the assurance framework of any organization. Both roles are essential for effective governance, transparency and control. External audit appreciates the collaborative nature by which internal audit function is implemented. The results and recommendations will demonstrate a different manner of regularity, naturalness and fair views.

Despite the need to preserve independence and objectivity, internal and external audit should maintain a close, constructive relationship. This is to ensure their work is coordinated in an efficient manner for a better gauge of resources. Ensuring an internal audit department on entities subject to Supreme Audit Institution oversight is evidently beneficial. This ensures consistence of quality performance and most importantly, it supports the efficiency of the external audit work.

The external auditors would need to collaborate with internal auditors and have access to their relevant reports. Subsequently, the external auditors need to be kept informed of any significant matter that comes to the internal auditor's attention and vice versa.

At the General Court of Audit of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, internal Audit has become even more significant within the institution and the oversight function. As a Supreme Audit Institution, it is very important to act as a role model for the public entities and support the internal

audit department impactfully.

Additionally, integrating the internal audit and external audit practice on the oversight functions has demonstrated a significant impact to the auditing reports. When internal and external auditors operate hand-in-hand, it builds a trustworthy relationship between the two. This trust has simplified the auditing tasks and allowed the external auditor to access the right information at the right timing, due to the internal auditor's data.

Thus, it is crucial to ensure that internal and external auditors meet periodically to discuss common interests. This would help auditors on both levels to benefit from their complementary skills. For example, auditors could exchange areas of expertise and perspectives; gain understanding of each other's scope of work and methods; and discuss audit coverage and scheduling to minimize redundancies. Additionally, auditors can provide access to reports, programs and working papers; and jointly assess areas of risk. As a result, this demonstrates an overall positive impact to the entities performance.

Ideally, internal and external auditors should maintain a constructive relationship. Hence, oversight responsibilities are best-achieved once internal and external auditors align jointly to foster the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of the overall audit impact.



# INSIDE ARABOSAI

# THE 63<sup>RD</sup> ARABOSAI GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

The 63rd meeting of the ARABOSAI Governing Board was hosted by the State Audit Bureau of Qatar, over two days from the 20 and 21 March 2022, with the participation of the heads of the supreme audit institutions in the member states of the Governing Board of the Organization.



During the meeting, a number of issues were discussed on its agenda which are following-up decisions taken in the last meetings and the report of the Chairman of the Governing Board. The board also discussed the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Board and General Secretariat. This is in addition to the approval of the final account for 2021 the estimated budget for 2022 ,as well as the setting of the next meeting date and the draft agenda of the 14th ARABOSAI General Assembly which to be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The ARABOSAI Governing Board has selected Qatar's State Audit Bureau by acclamation to represent the Arab organization in the Governing Board of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) for the period 2022-2028.

# THE 18 TH MEETING OF THE ARABOSAI PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The ARABOSAI Professional standards committee held its 18th meeting on 6-8 February 2021.

Ms. Nabila Maachou and Ms. Reem Hammoudi, from SAI Algeria, attend the meeting and provide the committee members with insights about the guide draft of the assessment of public policies.

Mr Mahmoud Hashim Mahmoud from SAI Bahrein also attend the meeting and give a presentation about the working progress of the INTOSAI PSC Steering Committee.

During this meeting, the ARABOSAI PSC discussed several issues such as the approbation if expert in quality assurance, quality assurance for audit work, the report of workshop organized with collaboration of AFROSAI-E on the documentation of audit work and the progress execution of the strategic plan.

## **-Quality assurance**

Within the framework of activities for the implementation of the priorities related to supporting Assisting Member SAIs in Setting the Mechanisms for Quality Assurance the committee approved a first list of expert from different SAIs member.

In the same context, the committee reviewed the report of the workshop “Quality assurance of audit work”, this workshop was organized in collaboration with SAI Egypt, SAI Jordan and the ARABOSAI GS. The committee has approved the recommendation of the workshop to update the quality assurance guide by taking in consideration disaster effect.

## **-Audit documentation**

The committee discussed the report of the workshop organized in collaboration with AFROSAI-E about the audit documentation. The report indicate several recommendations regarding the development of the SAIs organization, the audit practices at the level of the SAIs member and some projects proposition to carried out by the ARABOSAI standards committee.

In the same context, the committee discussed the report on the questionnaire related to the audit documentation. This report contain a quantitative and qualitative analyze of the responses received from 9 SAIs. The report will be a tool for the PSC in to design projects with the greatest impact for SAIs that allow them to reduce the gap with INTOSAI standards in the field of documentation.

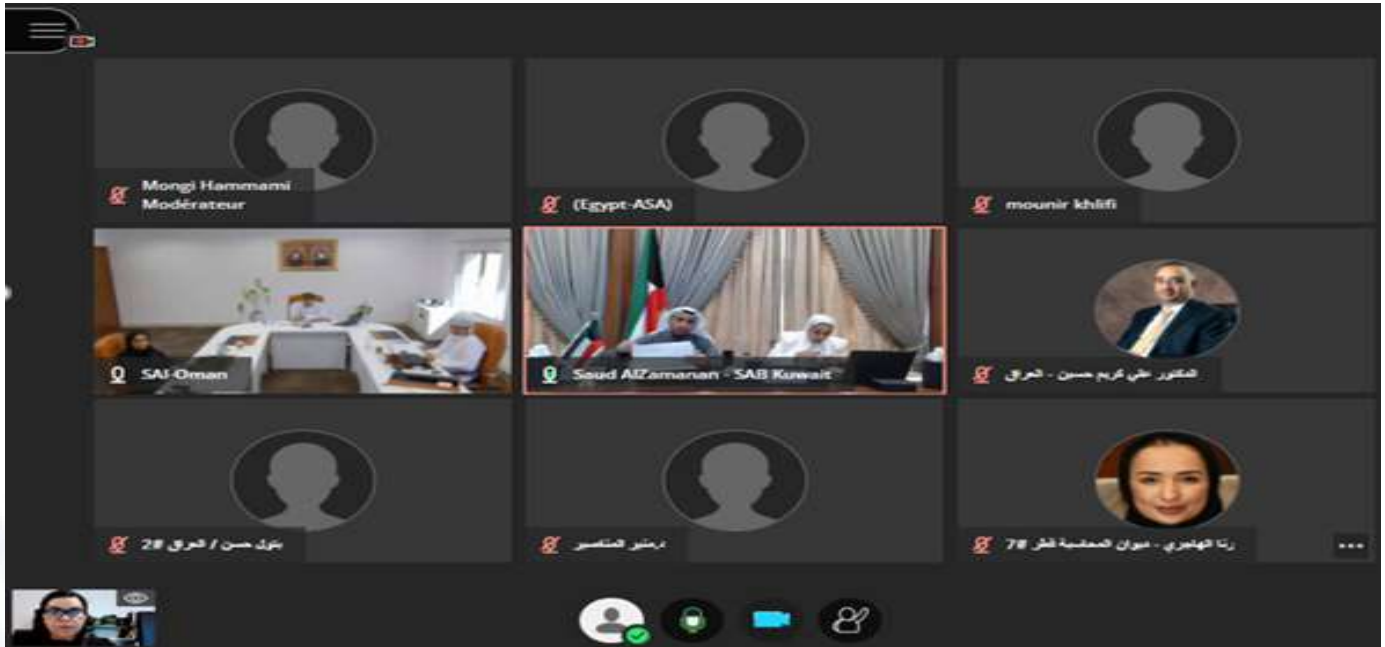
## **-The implementation of the strategic plan**

During this meeting, the members discussed the realization of the operational plan for the year 2021. Each team leader present the progress for the sub-priority, which are the following:

- Supporting the Efforts of Member SAIs in Standards Implementation
- Assisting Member SAIs in Documenting their Works as per Standards Requirements
- Assisting Member SAIs in Setting the Mechanisms for Quality Assurance

In the same context, each team leader present the operational plan for the year 2022 .

# ARABOSAI INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING COMMITTEE 19TH E-MEETING



The ARABOSAI Institutional Capacity Building Committee held its 19th meeting remotely in the presence of all its members during the period 8-10 February 2022. Within its agenda, the Committee studied the results of implementing the training working plan for 2021 and the training meetings that were carried out during the same year. The Committee members prepared the draft of the 2022 working plan and also formed a team to evaluate the results of the meetings that were implemented during the past three years. The e-learning plan was followed for both programmed and implemented courses.

During the second day of its meeting, the committee considered the results of the working group in order to develop new techniques for auditing in exceptional circumstances and the progress recorded in the implementation of the

Arabosai plan concerning the extractive industries audit.

The members of the committee discussed the results of the thirteenth scientific research competition of scientific research in order to appoint the winners. They also took note of the Arab SAIs' plans in evaluating their performance according to the SAI-PMF framework, and highlighted the progress of the regional report project for the performance measurement of the SAIs according to the same framework. The committee's work was not limited following-up on the activities of the member SAIs, but also to follow up the programmed activities within the MoU signed with ASOSAI related to capacity building.

The committee prepared its draft of the procedure's rules and its operational plan for the year 2022. The committee followed-up the progress in preparing the organization's strategic plan for the period 2023-2028. In addition, Mr. Abdelhakim benlazrrg, Program Director of the INTOSAI Development Initiative, attended the committee meeting and gave a presentation on the current cooperation initiatives such as the Strategy, Performance Measurement and Reporting initiative (SPMR), and the audit Initiative on Emergency Financing Related to COVID-19. He also presented the new INTOSAI initiatives such as the Initiative for Risk and Crisis Management (CRISP), the Focusing on ICT governance for SAIs Initiative (Picture), the Leveraging on Technological Advancement initiative (LOTA) and others... The committee to encourage the member SAIs of the Arab organization to participate in these initiatives.

## THE SIXTH REMOTE MEETING OF THE ARABOSAI'S AUDITING COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The sixth meeting of the Committee was held remotely, from 25 to 27 of January, 2022. Members from the ARABOSAI's General Secretariat and the SAIs of Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Liban, and Mauritania participated in this meeting. Also, Mr Abdelhakim Belazreg, Representative of the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) attended the meeting.

Numerous topics were addressed, among which the main were:

- The progress in the implementation of the activities included in the concept note for the implementation of the audit program on Goal 4: Quality Education,
- The extent of progress in the completion of the operational plan for the year 2021 and the activities of the work plan for 2020, which is scheduled to be completed in 2021,
- Results of the organization's participation in the Fifth Regional Workshop on Voluntary National Reviews in the Arab Region,
- Participation of the organization in the activities of the INTOSAI Environmental Monitoring Working Group - Participation of the representative of the committee in the working group tasked with preparing the strategic plan 2023-2028.

The committee issued decisions and recommendations to be approved by the Governing Board during its upcoming meeting.

At the end of the meeting, the Chairman of the Committee thanked the members and the General Secretariat for their efforts to achieve the goals of the Committee and urged them to continue working to implement what was agreed upon according to the approved timetable.



# THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON ARABOSAI'S STRATEGIC PLAN



The General Auditing Bureau of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hosted the Consultative Meeting on ARABOSAI's Strategic Plan for the period (2023 – 2028) in Riyadh from 28 to 30 March 2022.

This meeting was attended by representatives from member Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs), ARABOSAI's General Secretariat and INTOSAI's Development Initiative (IDI).

The attendees were informed about the stages of implementation of the current strategic plan (2018-2023), the goals achieved, initiatives and projects, as well as the main problems that prevented the implementation of some strategies.

They discussed the procedures of the Strategic Planning Committee to collect information and learn about the experience of other organizations such as INTOSAI, EUROSAI and AFROSAI-e when preparing their strategic plans. In addition, they reviewed the general framework of the new strategic plan (vision, mission, principles, values, implementation methodology) and determined the priorities and objectives of the organization for the next period.

During the meeting, the representative of the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) made a presentation on strategic management.

The results of the global survey carried out by INTOSAI on the performance of ARABOSAI were presented at the meeting, showing some areas for improvement, such as the revision of guidelines, the updating of the audit methodology in accordance with the approved standards, support for monitoring of the results of the audit work, and how to benefit from the results when developing the new strategic plan

# ARABOSAI WORKING GROUP IN SUPPORT OF SAIs “AUDITING IN COMPLEX AND CHALLENGING CONTEXTS” (ACCC)

In line with INTOSAI’s crosscutting priorities and ARABOSAI Strategic plan, ARABOSAI aims to support ARAB SAIs auditing in complex and challenging context.

In this regard, on 17 and 18 October 2019, the INTOSAI Capacity Building Committee’s Work stream on auditing in complex and challenging contexts convened a workshop for a small group of support Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) from the ARABOSAI region to share experiences and to explore opportunities for a longer-term strategy of mutual support. As a result, this workshop has proposed some recommendations and a concept note was prepared.

The concept note contains three main focus areas:

lex and cha.llenging contexts in order to share their success stories at the international level;

- Preparing an electronic library for the best practices related to the auditing in complex and challenging contexts;
- Organizing webinars on Auditing in Complex and Challenging Context.

And in order to implement the concept note, already approved by the Governing Board of the Arab Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ARABOSAI), a working group has been created of SAIs auditing in complex and challenging contexts.

This team is composed by five members from the



**AUDITING IN COMPLEX AND CHALLENGING CONTEXTS (ACCC)**

**WHAT IS THE ACCC?**  
Leading the efforts to identify when support is needed and good practices to address those needs.  
The ACCC aims to develop efficient methods and approaches to support public sector auditing in complex and challenging contexts, by itself its donors and partner organizations sustaining development in the area.  
Priority based on experiences of SAIs currently or previously working in complex and challenging contexts.

**WHO ARE WE?**  
National Audit Office (Bahrain)  
National Audit Office of Romania  
National Audit Office of Lithuania  
National Audit Department of Malaysia  
National Audit Office of Egypt  
State Audit of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
Audit Service Sector, Lebanon  
National Audit Chamber of Sudan  
SOCIETY Development Institution  
Sudan's Development Authority (SDA)

**WHAT DOES THE ACCC DO?**

- FORUM FOR EXPERIENCE SHARING**  
- Webinars  
- Workshops  
- Social media
- SUPPORT**  
- Information package for Donors  
- Information package for Parliaments  
- Recruiting and retaining staff
- ADVOCACY**  
ACCC gives a voice to SAIs more regularly featured in INTOSAI, which also means powerful and influential SAIs take the lead in INTOSAI.

**COMING UP: ACCC - Getting Connected**  
First digital handbook with 100+ pages of practical advice.

**INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING TO ACCC?**  
Contact: [www.pcc@acc@intosaibahrain.org](mailto:www.pcc@acc@intosaibahrain.org)

Arab region which are Yemen-Palestine-Egypt-Lybia and Irak. This working group held its first meeting, on the 1st November 2021.

Since that date, the working group has made good progress in the implementation of this plan. It held 3 meetings, during which the team approved its working methodology.

The methodology adopted by the working group consists that each member propose a success story consistent with his classification as a SAI operating in complex and challenging contexts with references to criteria advanced by the Organization Economic Cooperation and Development “political, social, economic, environmental and safety”.

The SAI of Palestine has proposed a success story. They have been able to achieve a mission related to performance audit during the last years with the support of the Swedish SAI.

The SAI of Egypt has advanced that they have also a good story. They were able to put in place recommendations and to operate effectively during the pandemic of Covid19. In fact, to be able to face the challenges and difficulties of completing the review audit during the Corona pandemic, several measures were implemented like encouraging the method of remote review by using the technology of information.

In addition, under the complex and challenging contexts overwhelmed the public entities, the SAI of Irak was challenged by the issue of promoting integrity in such entities since this SAI has lower grading in the evaluation reports issued by international organizations on integrity

measurement and corruption perceptions. So, to put in place their endeavors against this challenge, SAI-Iraq has prepared the “Guide on Fighting Corruption and Fraud in Public Entities” to help conducting a deep analysis of the risks facing a public entity main activity and designing professional ethics regulations, procedures and rules for fraud combat and prevention.

These three success stories will be available soon on ARABOSAI websiite.

Furthermore, SAI Libya would be willing to share their experiences in a future webinar that might cover some of their challenges.



# **Cooperative Audit Mission**

# THE ARABOSAI PLAN IN THE FIELD OF EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

The ARABOSAI's work program on the field of EI includes the implementation of a training workshop and a collaborative oversight mission. Mr Hani Hafedh Muhammed, from SAI Egypt and Ms Amal Muhammed Ali collaborate with ARABOSAI GS to designed the scientific material and upload it in the E-learning platform.

An inaugural session was held on June 7, 2021, during which the course and the first two axes of the scientific material were presented and the participants were informed that the rest of the material was included in the ARABOSAI e-learning platform so that they could view it and do some of the work entrusted to them.

Then the material was presented virtually using the videoconference during the week from 13 to 17 June 2021 at a rate of three hours a day with the participation of 34 participants from 12 SAIs. The workshop present the best practices and necessary technique for the audit of extractive industries and about 92% of the attendee evaluate the workshop as very good and excellent.



During the period from December 21 to 23, 2021, a meeting was held in Tunisia between delegations of the participating SAIs in the cooperative mission, which are SAIs from Iraq, Sudan, Kuwait and Libya.

Each team leader made a presentation about their plan audit and a fruitful discussion was held between all participant about the possible common audit objectives and audit questions taking in consideration the national specification of each SAIs regarding specially the legal and institutional framework.

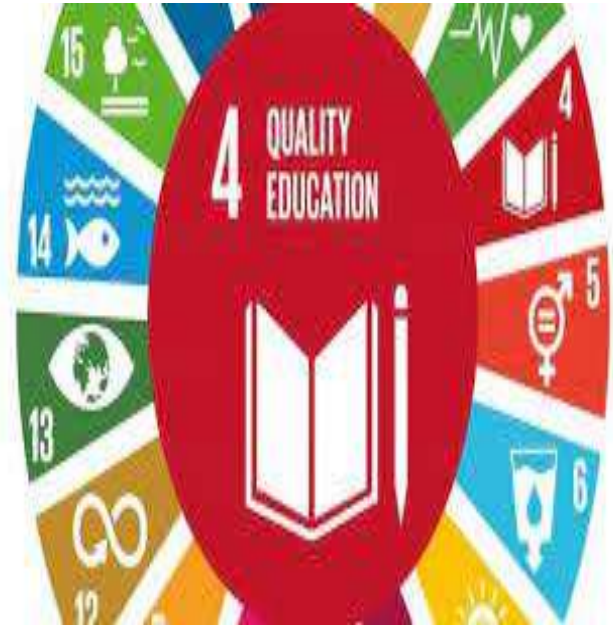
# COOPERATIVE AUDIT MISSION ON GOAL

## FOUR: QUALITY EDUCATION

The State Audit Bureau of Kuwait in cooperation with ARABOSAI, the Arab Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) and the United Nations Committee Economic and Social for Western Asia (ESCWA), organized a remote workshop on “Implementation of the auditing Program on the Fourth Goal of the Sustainable Development Goals: Quality Education” from 20 to 24 February 2022.

This workshop allowed the participants to become familiar with the theoretical and practical aspects of auditing the implementation of the sustainable development goals in general and the fourth goal "quality education" in particular, and to come up with a joint auditing plan and a program of agreed unified audit. , which will be adopted in the implementation of the collaborative auditing mission procedure on the fourth objective of the sustainable development goals.

As a result of this workshop, and in preparation for the implementation of a cooperative auditing mission, a preliminary meeting was held by the Federal Audit Office of the Republic of Iraq to determine agreement on the mission and its initial scope. Seven Arab SAIs including Algeria, Tunisia, Iraq, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, and Libya attended the meeting.



The number of participants in this cooperative audit mission increased significantly. It was agreed that the audit mission would cover both elementary and intermediate levels of education and identified the main axes of this mission, namely:

**The first axis:** the quality of curricula and courses

**The second axis:** the quality of infrastructure

**The third axis:** the efficiency of educational and administrative frameworks

**The fourth axis:** the quality of basic and continuous training

**The fifth axis:** the optimal management of human and financial resources

**The sixth axis:** the positive impression of the beneficiaries of school services

**Seventh Axis:** Continuous Improvement

**The eighth axis:** the results of academic achievement



# Workshops and Training

# AUDITING PUBLIC DEBT

The National Audit Office (NAO) of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in cooperation with the Secretariat General of ARABOSAI organized a virtual training course on "Auditing Public Debt" during the period from 03-07 October, 2022, which was attended by 27 participants from various SAIs from 14 Arab SAIs.

The five-day course was presented by Ahmed Buti, audit manager at the Regularity Audit Directorate at the NAO of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The aim of this training course was to enable the participants to familiarize themselves with the concept of public debt and in particular,

or tasks related to the public debt.

5) Sharing the experiences of the participating countries.

In the light of the presentations, discussion and interventions, a series of recommendations was made:

-Link public debt to a specific ceiling (the maximum borrowing allowed during the year), so that determination of the debt ceiling, for example,



is done when adopting the general state budget law for the year

-Central banks setting limits on the

concentrations of credit granted to the State by local

help them:

1) Recognizing the strategic importance of public debt at the state level and the importance of the SAI's role in auditing it.

2) Outlining some of the main concepts and terminology of public debt, its components and methods of calculating and disclosing it.

3) Getting acquainted with the procedures of financial audit, performance audit and compliance audit over public debt in accordance with INTOSAI standards.

4) Acquiring the necessary knowledge and skills to enable participants to carry out audit procedures

banks and financial institutions, with the aim of putting an end to the expansion of these banks in the holding of public securities, which can lead to the non-congestion of these banks and financial institutions in the available liquidities.

- Discuss how public debt is presented in the final accounts, in terms of compatibility between public sector accounting standards, INTOSAI standards and the country's public debt law.

- Address practical auditing more broadly, in terms of particular audit plans and programs



## "The Role of Supreme Audit Institutions in Auditing in times of Disasters"



The General Court of Audit of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the ARABOSAI organized a training course on the "Role of Supreme Audit Institutions in Auditing in times of Disasters", which was held on-line from 29 November to 01 December 2022.

The scientific material for the workshop was prepared and presented by two trainers belonging to the General Court of Audit of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Thirty participants attended this training course from fifteen Arab SAIs and they were addressed by discussing several axes, such as a definition of disasters, their characteristics and types, international procedures and standards used when monitoring and auditing disaster-related aid and the difficulties faced by entities when auditing in times of disasters.

The aim of this training course was to introduce the concept of disasters, and the importance of audit of disaster-related aid, familiarize participants with standards for auditing disaster-related aid and present the steps and procedures of a disaster audit during the three phases of a disaster. In the light of the presentations of the trainers and

the discussions, a series of recommendations was made:

- 1) The potential risks of disaster must be included at the reporting stage and the timing of its issuance as an essential part of the audit plan in order to overcome the problem of (temporary precautionary measures) that may lead to the suspension of the work of the SAI, and an emergency plan must be implemented to deal with such circumstances.
- 2) To harness the accumulation of knowledge of the SAIs members to develop a procedural guide for the organization to audit aid in disasters.
- 3) To prepare a guide that includes instructions on "Auditing in the Light of Disasters" addressing and shedding light on what was not included in Guide 5330, which did not address the detailed steps of how to audit and the detailed audit procedures.
- 4) Benefit from participatory audits by cooperating with SAIs in auditing disaster risk reduction.
- 5) Share the experiences of Arab SAIs on "Auditing in the Light of Disasters" through the website of the ARABOSAI.



## "RISK-BASED AUDITING"

The National Audit Office (NAO) of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in cooperation with the Arab Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, organized a virtual training course on "Risk-Based Auditing" which was attended by 53 participants from 14 Arab SAIs, during the period from 17 to 20 January 2022. The training course was conducted by senior auditor at the Administrative Audit Directorate at the NAO, Hasan Yusuf, and discussed risk-based auditing tools and approaches, as well as acquiring knowledge of the entity's nature of activity and its internal control system as required by INTOSAI standards. This training course focused on how to assess the risks based on the entity's nature of activity, how to deal with the identified risk levels, and how this is reflected in the audit plan. This course aims to provide participants with risk-based control tools and help them to acquaint the activity of auditees, including the Internal Control System in accordance with the requirements of international standards, risk assessment and dealing with the levels of risks that have been assessed and

identified and their reflection on the audit plan. In the light of the presentations of the trainer and the discussions, a series of recommendations was made:

- 1- Highlight the importance of internal control to assess transparency and facilitate the work of supreme audit institutions.
- 2- Highlight the importance of taking into consideration the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic on the work of the audited entity, in particular with regard to inclusive digital finance and mobile applications.
- 3- Prepare a unified guideline based on international standards and disseminate it to SAIs members, and prepare trainers to assist auditors in the application of this guideline.
- 4- Encourage auditors to obtain professional certificates for risk assessment and management
- 5- Highlight the importance of developing an integrated register of control risks based on the experiences of SAIs members, as a reference to be used by the auditors



# **COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP**

April.2022, ISSUE 7



## ARABOSAI AND ALECSO SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENT

The ARABOSAI signed on March 3, 2022 an agreement with the Arab Organization for Education, Culture and Science (ALECSO).

This agreement aims to enhance cooperation between the two organizations in following up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially with regard to Goal 4 “Quality Education” and to strengthen the cooperation between the two parties in the following areas:

- Exchange of resources and publications related to education and research
- Co-management of events (conferences /workshops, etc.) for programs and for research and training activities
- Exchange of experts in the field of research and technical services
- Coordination of joint marketing and advertising
- Exchange data and statistics on education in Arab countries



## THE 2022 ARAB REGIONAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The ARABOSAI participated in the 2022 Arab Regional Forum on Sustainable Development held from 15 to 17 March 2022. The Arab Regional Forum assess progress and exchange knowledge, good practices and policy solutions to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with regional priorities and specificities.

The Arab organization participated in the 5th and 9th special sessions of this forum , comes within the framework of implementing the memorandum of understanding concluded between ESCWA and ARABOSAI.

The 5th special session of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development 2022 baptized "How can Supreme Audit Institutions support recovery and implementation of the SDGs in the Arab region?". This session was devoted to the examination of the main obstacles that SAIs have faced perform the key function of maintaining transparency and accountability standards and support the delivery of the SDGs and solutions to overcome them; exploring possibilities for a stronger and more effective role for SAIs in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda; and the identification of the actions needed to make SAIs accountable in carrying out a transformational, Green and People-Centered COVID-19 a recovery that leaves no one behind.

During the fifth special session within this forum Mr. Saleh Moussa Musleh, from the state audit Administrative control Bureau in Palestine, gave a distinguished intervention focused on the main obstacles and challenges facing the Supreme Audit Institutions in performing their tasks and supporting standards of transparency and accountability and the strategic effects of Covid 19 on The supervisory body, in addition to the role that the legislative and executive authorities can play to enhance the role of the supreme audit bodies and to develop fruitful relations with them in order to enhance the audit impact. In the framework of the same session, Mr. Mohamed Abu Zeid, from the Central Auditing Organization in Egypt, gave a distinguished intervention that included the following topics:

- Challenges faced by Arab regulatory agencies before and during the pandemic and solutions/reforms to overcome them.
- Future opportunities for oversight bodies to support the realization of the 2030 Agenda.
- Lessons learned and priority actions to enhance the role of SAIs and their readiness to fulfill their mandate to enhance transparency and accountability in crisis situations and support a greener, more inclusive and more resilient recovery

The 9th special session of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development 2022 was about: Addressing coordination challenges and contemporary statistical data collection methods and resources to enhance data quality for inclusive recovery and SDG Achievement in the Arab region.

This special session assessed the SDG indicators gaps with emphasis on coordination of the national statistical systems in the Arab region.

Ms. Nabila Maashou, Director of Studies at the Accountability Council of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, presented an intervention during the ninth special session of the Forum on "Coordination challenges, methodologies and modern resources in collecting statistical data to enhance coordination challenges, methodologies and modern resources in the Arab region".

In this intervention, Mrs. Nabila Maashou underlined the crucial importance of statistics and The data is used to follow up the achievements that aim to achieve the sustainable development goals, and then to evaluate the results and effects of public policies and programs that aspire to embody the 2030 development program.

The challenges related to statistics and data that depend on the success of these policies will also be highlighted, such as data frameworks, information quality and reliability, methods of production as well as information systems and the level of coordination between them and their ability to provide the necessary information in a timely manner that allows embodying the principle of not leaving a person on the sidelines.



# **News from ARABOSAI Members**



## NEWS from EGYPT



1. The Accountability State Authority (ASA) of Egypt, participated in the 13th Steering Committee Meeting of the INTOSAI Knowledge Sharing Committee [KSC-SC] that was hosted virtually by SAI India; the KSC Chair, on September 16th, 2021. The meeting discussed several topics among which were :

- Presenting the activities of the INTOSAI University (U-INTOSAI) which is managed by the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation; the INTOSAI Chair, which provides educational services for the INTOSAI member SAIs.
- Projects under the INTOSAI Framework for Professional Pronouncements [IFPP] as well as projects outside the said framework [non-IFPP].
- Reviewing the most significant items of the INTOSAI Strategic Plan (2023-2028).

H.E. Counsellor/ Hesham Badawy; President of the Accountability State Authority (ASA) of Egypt, agreed to host the 14th KSC-SC meeting in September 2022 in case it will be held physically and in light of the latest situation of Covid-19 pandemic.

2. The Accountability State Authority (ASA) of Egypt participated virtually in the 38th Conference of the International Working Group of Government Experts in the International Standards of Accounting and Reporting that was organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development [UNCTAD] during the period from November 9th to 12th, 2021. The meeting discussed many topics among which were :

- Presenting the outcome of the first two years' practical application of the Guide developed by the International Working Group of Government Experts pertaining to the contributions aiming at implementing the Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs], including measuring the fundamental indicators for the entities' reporting regarding the contributions made towards the SDGs' implementation.

- Climate financial disclosure included in the audit reports' preparation : in terms of good practices and major challenges regarding the practical implementation of the disclosure requirements.

3. H.E. Counsellor/ Hesham Badawy; President of the Accountability State Authority (ASA) of Egypt and Chair of the INTOSAI Working Group on Fight Against Corruption and Money Laundering [WGFACML] along with H.E. Counsellor/ Mohamed Al-Faisal Yousef; the ASA's Vice-President, and the delegation of the Working Group Secretariat participated in the 75th INTOSAI Governing Board meeting which was held virtually on November 23rd, 2021. The meeting was hosted by SAI Brazil and moderated by the Chair of the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation; Chair of the INTOSAI Governing Board. Many topics were discussed during the meeting among which was the issue of hosting the 25th INCOSAI in the year 2025. The GB adopted the AFROSAI's nomination of SAI Egypt to host the said meeting.





4-H.E Counsellor/ Hesham Badawy ; President of the Accountability State Authority of Egypt (ASA), along with H.E. Counsellor/ Mohamed Al-Faisal Yousef; the ASA's Vice-President and the ASA's accompanying delegation participated in the 9th Conference of the States Parties [COSP] to the United Nations Convention against Corruption [UNCAC] that was held in the period from December 13th to 17th, 2021 in Sharm El-Sheikh - Egypt, preceded by a symposium on "The Role of SAIs in Preventing and Combating Corruption : The Way Forward", which held on December 12th, 2021 and organized by the United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC].

5-H.E Counsellor/ Hesham Badawy ; President of the Accountability State Authority of Egypt (ASA), along with H.E. Counsellor/ Mohamed Al-Faisal Yousef; the ASA's Vice-President have virtually participated in the 56th AFROSAI Governing Board proceedings on July 7th, 2021, as well as the 15th AFROSAI General Assembly on 8th, and 9th of July 2021.

The meeting's proceedings witnessed the appointment of the Court of Accounts of Senegal as the Chair of AFROSAI for the upcoming three years, in addition to the adoption of the AFROSAI's Strategic Plan 2021-2026. During the meeting, ASA presented the report of the "African Journal for Comprehensive Auditing" for the years (2017 - 2020), in its capacity as Editor - in - Chief of the Journal. The report included a presentation on the Journal's activities, new regulations, and executive procedures.

6-H.E. Counsellor/Hesham Badawy ; President of the Accountability State Authority (ASA) , along with H.E. Counsellor/ Mohamed Al-Faisal Yousef;

the ASA's Vice-President participated in the Planning and Strategy Meeting of the African Union Board of External Auditors [BoEA] that was held virtually on November 18th, 2021, headed by SAI Nigeria with the attendance of the General Auditors and Board members. The meeting aimed at planning and adopting the financial audit strategy of the African Union for the financial year 2021 and witnessed - among other matters - the adoption of the minutes of the African Union Board of External Auditors' [BoEA] previous meeting as well as the adoption of the audit plan and strategy for the financial year 2021. During the meeting, the ASA was assigned to participate in the financial audit of the African Union and its institutions for the year 2021, which are :

- The African Union Development Agency [AUDA-NEPAD]- South Africa.
- The African Union Commission [AUC] (IT System Audit) - Ethiopia.
- The African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child [ACERWC] - Kingdom of Lesotho.

7-The Accountability State Authority (ASA) of Egypt participated virtually in the 42nd meeting of the Council of ministers that was held on November 9th, 2021, with the attendance of the COMESA member states.

The meeting bureau was chaired by SAI Madagascar with SAI Egypt as Vice-Chair, and SAI Uganda as a rapporteur. The meeting was followed by the 21st COMESA Summit that was held on November 23rd, 2021 entitled "Strengthening Resilience through Strategic Digital Economic Integration" where The Arab Republic of Egypt assumed the Presidency of the COMESA Summit.



## NEWS from Sultanate of Oman



### State Audit Institution (SAI) Issues its 2020 Annual Report Brief

Aiming to meet the requirements of the 10th Five Year Plan, and to promote transparency, SAI Oman has issued its annual report brief to the community.

The brief has touched upon SAI's objectives, work mechanisms and some observations and recommendations for the entities subject to audit. In addition, the brief has included SAI's other observations and recommendations concerning administrative apparatus, public authorities & enterprises, commercial & industrial companies as well as oil and gas companies. In addition, SAI has included the results of the oversight work, as well as presented some examples of the observed violations. The last part of the brief has discussed issues on promoting integrity and presented SAI's activities regarding the assigned task of Anti-Corruption Agency.

The brief's first release was published in all electronic and printed media. In addition, SAI participated in a number of TV and radio interviews that handled issues related to the brief. It is worth mentioning that the brief has been broadly welcomed by various groups of the society.

### Oman State Audit Institution (SAI) Passes the Annual External Audit Phase and Receives the Renewal of the International Certificate of Accreditation (ISO 9001:2015) for the Third Year

SAI has passed the annual external phase for the year of 2022 and received the renewal of the International Certificate of Accreditation (ISO 9001:2015) from "TUV Rheinland" for a number of auditing and supporting units whether at SAI's headquarter or at one of its branches in the different governorates.

In its final report, "TUV Rheinland" paid tribute to SAI's professional expertise as well as the accuracy and speed in documenting the published data, which was requested from the audit units regarding the external audit works.



This asserts the keenness of SAI's higher management to activate ISO requirements. It is worth mentioning that SAI has received the International Certificate of Accreditation (ISO 9001:2015) in December 2019 from the National Accreditation Body "DAKKS".

### **SAI Oman Participates in the "Thinking Group of Creating New Auditing Technologies in Exceptional Circumstances"**

SAI has participated in the activities of the "Thinking group of creating new auditing technologies in exceptional circumstances" which comes as an implementation for the proposal of studying the creation of new technologies and the preparation of procedures manuals in the same regard. This matter was discussed in the 18th meeting of the ARABOSAI Institutional Capacity Development Committee held in May 2019. During the meeting, it was agreed to form thinking groups that contribute in creating new auditing technologies in exceptional circumstances, such as the spread of diseases and pandemics. These groups are then required to submit the results to the Professional Standard Committee (PSC).

Organized by ARABOSAI, the team was formed with the participation of a number of audit authorities. It has scheduled its tasks to achieve the aimed goals, some of which are learning from the international and regional experiences in the audit field especially in the exceptional circumstances and setting guidelines for auditors in the supreme audit institutions concerning the implementation of the financial audit tasks. Thus, the initial draft of the manuals was submitted to the ARABOSAI Institutional Capacity Development Committee.



## NEWS from Bahrain



### The National Audit Office prepares 3-year training plan for employees of Supreme Audit Institutions in the Gulf

The Training and Development Committee of the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf recommended the adoption of new training programs and their addition to the training plan for the year 2021-2022.

IPSAS (International Public Sector Accounting Standards)", which will be submitted for approval to the heads of the SAIs in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

According to the plan, these new programs



During their recent 30th meeting held via video conference, the committee members agreed on three new programs:

“Performance Audit of Public Policies”, “Risk-Based Audit in accordance with the COSO (Committee of Sponsoring Organizations) Initiative” and “Accrual-Based Government Accounting considering

will be added to already previously approved programs, which included "Auditing Government Procurement", "Auditing Public Debt" and "INTOSAI (International Organization of Supreme Audit Institution) Professional Standards Framework and related developments". The meeting also approved the NAO's initiative to prepare a 3-year strategic training plan and the other SAIs from the



Gulf Cooperation Council countries will have the opportunity to add their comments and ideas.

The Committee welcomed the invitation of the General Bureau for Auditing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to hold the third symposium for the SAIs in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in January 2023 under the title "Challenges Facing the

Supreme Audit Institutions after the Corona Pandemic."

The meeting was attended by the following representatives from the National Audit Office of the Kingdom of Bahrain: Aysha Adam, Director of Human and Financial Resources, Abdulrahman Bukhammas, Head of Training, and Yusuf Almahmood, Superintendent, International Cooperation.

### **The National Audit Office enhances skills and capabilities of its employees in "Forensic Auditing"**

The National Audit Office (NAO) has strengthened the skills and capabilities of its employees in forensic auditing, one of the modern effective audit tools, with the aim to provide recommendations to the entities covered by the NAO's audit mandate to address possible gaps and strengthen their systems with the purpose to avoid future abuses and violations. Approximately 25 employees from the NAO and other relevant entities recently completed the program on "capacity building and enhancing skills and expertise in the field of forensic auditing."

The Forensic Audit training program was launched by the NAO in cooperation with global company Kroll and included a series of specialized courses to enable employees to use the skills acquired in preparing specialized reports, strengthen cooperation



and partnership with the entities subject to the NAO's audit, provide added value to stakeholders and achieve the NAO's strategic objectives leading to improved services for Bahrain's citizens. According to last year's plan, the NAO had approved 6 forensic auditing courses held over a period of 5 months which concluded last November covering the following topics: Overview on Forensic Auditing, Forensic Accounting/Auditing and Financial Crimes,



, Advanced Analysis of Big Data; Forensic Email Review Techniques, Investigative Interview Techniques, Work Paper Design and Maintenance, Forensic Reporting and Evidencing.

The satisfaction rate given for the courses by the participants was around 91%. The cooperation program with global firm Kroll included assistance in providing specialized training for several NAO employees and identifying technical tools, providing support in preparing relevant policies and manuals as well as subsequent support at the start of the implementation phase.

The Auditor General of the NAO, His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, said that the NAO was interested in keeping its employees up to date about the latest global developments in the audit field to ensure that tasks were carried out in a highly professional manner to achieve the desired goals. During a meeting with the forensic audit team of the NAO, he indicated that the NAO was keen to develop the capabilities of its staff to carry out forensic audit tasks according to international standards and use the skills acquired in preparing reports with professionalism.

His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed stressed that the NAO was looking forward to expanding forensic audit tasks as part of its audit mandate to provide recommendations to the entities subject to its audit to address

weaknesses and strengthen regulations for the sake of avoiding future violations and abuses.

He explained that that strategy required continuous capacity enhancement which included reviewing the investigative audit policy and manual on a periodic basis, updating the technical tools in use to keep pace with technical development as well as obtaining additional specialized training for the forensic audit team on an annual basis.

Sheikh Ahmed added, "The NAO will continue to encourage its technical staff to obtain forensic audit qualifications approved by reputable international institutes and organizations. In addition, the NAO will implement capacity-building initiatives and enhance coordination, cooperation, and exchange of experience with advanced entities that practice this type of auditing. Furthermore, the NAO will cooperate with specialized organizations and institutions to provide training and advanced technical support when needed."

Some members of the forensic audit team obtained professional qualifications in this field such as CFF (Certified in Financial Forensics), which is granted by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and deals with various topics related to forensic auditing such as



, planning and managing tasks, preparing investigative reports, methods of collecting and retaining evidence and presenting it to the competent authorities, analyzing data and electronic documents, monitoring methods, corruption cases and setting corrective measures.

In addition, the CFE (Certified Fraud Examiners) qualification provides the employee with an advanced understanding of the various fraud methods, procedures for monitoring and investigating various fraud incidents, identifying their perpetrators, investigating the motives of their occurrence, and determining ways to avoid them in the future.

On top of that, the CAMS (Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist) certification qualifies the employee to understand the

practices of financial criminals to conceal and disguise the obtained funds, the methods used to re-list and use those funds in the financial systems, and the methods of exploiting legal persons and civil society institutions as a means for money laundering and terrorist financing. With regard to expanding forensic audit missions, His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed stressed that a periodic plan would be developed which would include follow-up work on previous reports and based on communications received through the approved channels (phone, e-mail, messages) as one of the sources for specific forensic audit tasks. The missions would contribute to addressing weaknesses and strengthen regulations when violations or crimes are discovered by the entities covered by the NAO's audit.



## NEWS from Tunisia



### The Tunisian CoA publishes the annual report on the closing of the state budget

TAs a SAI and a financial jurisdiction the Tunisian CoA has a large mandate in auditing state budget execution which has been reinforced by the adoption of the constitution of January 27th,2014 and the organic law of the CoA voted in April, 30th, 2019.

To fulfil its legal mandate as a SAI aiming to ensure accountability and transparency in public funds use, to make the difference in citizen life as stipulated in ISSAI 12 and to provide advice both to the parliament and government in controlling budget execution, the CoA published on December 2021 ( [insert the link](#)) its annual report on the closing of the state budget and formulated the general compliance conformity act for the budgetary year 2019 despite the delay in producing public accounts by the government because of the covid impacts.

This challenge has been met thanks to the experience and knowledge accumulated by the CoA members while auditing the state budget execution and the use of IT tools and technics in exchanging data with auditees and in performing audit activities.

In addition to providing reliable and verified information on the amount and the trend of spending by the state and on spending items, the CoA audit aims to inform stakeholders and decision makers about the use of state finances with regards to social and economic benefits and effectiveness of public money spending.

Aware about the challenges facing public finance, in addition to the compliance financial audit findings, the report emphasized this year on the ways to reduce external indebtedness by improving





For that purpose, the CoA reiterated the recommendations formulated within the performance audit reports published during the last years in many fields in relation with recovery of tax debts, exploitation of the public domain, restructuring of public enterprises...in order to reduce budget deficit and debt charges.

In addition to these aspects, the CoA drew a particular attention to the preparedness of the ministry of finance to move to the accruals based

budget system since the new finance organic law has been already voted in 2020.

Beyond the content of the report, the CoA sought to innovate in the format of the report in order to make it more comprehensible and more attractive by simplifying as much as possible terminology used and introducing more graphs both in the report and in the executive summary. A substract in French language has been also published in order to meet stakeholder's expectation.

**ARABOSAI**



**NEWSLETTER**

VISIT US ON LINE : [WWW.ARABOSAI.ORG](http://WWW.ARABOSAI.ORG)

FOR MORE INFORMATION YOU CAN CONTACT US: [CONTACT@ARABOSAI.ORG](mailto:CONTACT@ARABOSAI.ORG)