

ARABOSAI NEWSLETTER



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The Importance of Artificial Intelligence in Audits

In today's increasingly complex and data-driven world, Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) are facing numerous challenges in effectively fulfilling their role of ensuring accountability and transparency in government spending. Fortunately, advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) offer powerful tools that can significantly enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of their audits.

Here's why the use of AI in SAIs' audit practices is becoming increasingly important:

1. Enhanced Data Analysis:

AI-powered tools can analyze massive datasets much faster and more efficiently than humans, uncovering hidden patterns and anomalies that might indicate potential misuse of funds or inefficiencies. This allows auditors to focus their efforts on areas of high risk, leading to more targeted and impactful audits.

2. Fraud Detection:

AI algorithms can be trained to identify suspicious patterns in financial transactions, procurement processes, and other areas prone to fraud. This proactive approach can help SAIs detect and prevent fraud before significant damage occurs, saving taxpayers money and ensuring proper utilization of public funds.

3. Automation of Repetitive Tasks:

Many audit tasks involve repetitive and time-consuming processes like data extraction, document review, and risk assessment. AI-powered tools can automate these tasks, freeing up auditors' time for more complex and analytical work, ultimately leading to a higher number of completed audits.

4. Continuous Monitoring:

AI can be used to create continuous monitoring systems that track government activities and pending transactions in real-time. This allows SAIs to identify potential issues as they arise

and take timely corrective action, promoting more proactive and preventative auditing.

5. Improved Audit Quality:

AI can provide auditors with objective and data-driven insights, reducing the risk of bias and human error in audit judgments. This contributes to improved audit quality and strengthens the credibility of SAIs' findings and recommendations.

Despite the benefits, it's important to acknowledge that many challenges could be faced while implementing AI. The importance of these challenges can vary depending on the context and the SAI specificity:

-Data Quality and Integrity: Accurate data is the foundation of any audit. Without quality data, the entire audit process can be compromised.

-Interpretability and Explainability: Especially important for regulatory compliance and building trust in AI-generated results.

- Expertise and Training: Without the right skills, auditors may struggle to effectively use AI tools or understand their results.

Security: Data breaches or cyber-attacks can have severe consequences, making security a top priority.

-Cost and Implementation: Initial investment and integration challenges can be significant but are necessary for long-term benefits.

- Overreliance and Overtrust: Balancing reliance on AI with human judgment is important to avoid blind trust or underutilization.

Auditors could Address these challenges and more but highlighting them can help SAI prioritizing their efforts and resources effectively when implementing AI in audit processes.

Overall, the use of AI in SAIs holds immense potential to revolutionize the way audits are conducted, leading to greater accountability, transparency, and efficiency in public spending.



However, careful planning, ethical consideration, and responsible implementation are crucial to fully reap the benefits while mitigating the potential risks. In this context, the ARABOSAI has published in its financial audit magazine number 83, three articles whose topics are: “Audits Based on Data Processing and Analysis: Harnessing AI in SAIs”, “The role of AI and big data analysis in improving the performance of financial audit results” and “Applying information technology governance to reduce the risk of electronic information systems”.

The ARABOSAI General Secretariat (GS)



INSIDE ARABOSAI





Meetings of the organization's committees:

Within the preparatory work for the sixty-seventh meeting of the Governing Board and at the invitation of the General Secretariat, the committees of the organization held their annual meetings in accordance with the following calendar:

- The 22nd meeting of the Organization's Professional and audit Standards Committee hosted by the SAI of Egypt during the period from 29 to 31 October 2023.
- The annual meeting of the Information Technology audit Committee, which was organized in the city of Hammamet in Tunisia during the period from 31 October to 3 November 2023, and included the 3rd meeting of the Committee and the 1st scientific symposium that focused on "the evolution of the concepts of information technology audit."
- The ninth meeting of the Committee for the Audit of the Sustainable Development Goals hosted by the Audit Bureau of the State of Kuwait during the period from 6 to 8 November 2023.
- The 23rd meeting of the Institutional Capacity Development Committee hosted by the General Audit Bureau of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the period from 12 to 14 November 2023.
- The 20th meeting of the Strategic Plan Committee and the 10th meeting of the Strategic Plan Follow-up Committee were carried out remotely, the first during the period from 24 to 26 November 2023 and the second on 28 November 2023.

The second periodic coordination meeting between the Presidency of the Governing Board of the Organization and the General Secretariat:

Pursuant to what was stated in the document on the rules and controls of work between the Presidency of the Organization and the General Secretariat and the follow-up activities system, which stipulated "Approving the holding of a periodic meeting between the Presidency of the Organization and the General Secretariat dedicated to following up the activity of the Organization." After

consultation between the General Secretariat and the SAI of Saudi Arabia, the President of the board, the second periodic coordination meeting was held between the Presidency of the Governing board and the General Secretariat on the sidelines of the sixty-seventh meeting of the Governing board on Monday, December 04, 2023.



Sixty-seventh meeting of the Governing Board of the Organization:

The SAI of Saudi Arabia hosted the 67th meeting of the Governing board of the Organization on 6 and 7 December 2023, during which the topics on its agenda were discussed, including considering the reports of the committees, the General Secretariat, and the presidency of the Governing Board, and discussing the final account and the budget of

the Organization. The member bodies that will participate in the structures, committees, and task forces of INTOSAI were also named as representatives of the Arab Organization, in addition to several other topics. The meeting of the Governing board also witnessed the celebration of the SAI of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the centenary of its establishment.

ARABOSAI Information Technology Audit Working Committee Report

ARABOSAI has established the information technology audit committee, then the SAI of Qatar was nominated to chair it. The committee developed a work system and an operational plan that included several projects, as well as opening horizons for cooperation with peer organizations, and organizing an annual scientific conference to exchange expertise and experiences.

Within the operational plan, three main projects stand out and are considered the cornerstone for achieving the committee's objectives. The first project relates to preparing a guide for information technology audit. The project is chaired by the SAI of Morocco, and the SAIs of Jordan, Egypt, and Algeria are members of the project. The completion rate of the project is 40%.

As for the second project, it is related to identifying training needs with the aim of promoting efficiency and enhancing technical capabilities. This project is chaired by the SAI of Syria, and the SAIs of Iraq, Libya, Palestine, and Algeria are members of the project. The project completion rate reached 40%.

As for the third project, it relates to enhancing cooperation and exchanging experiences between member SAIs to contribute to promoting the efficiency of audit work. This project is chaired by the SAI of Iraq, and the SAIs of Morocco, Jordan, the Sultanate of Oman, Palestine, and Sudan as members of the

project. The project has reached an advanced stage of completion, with the completion rate reaching 80%.

Regarding the annual conference, a team, headed by the SAI of Qatar, was formed to make the necessary arrangements to hold the annual conference. The first scientific conference was held in Tunisia under the title: "The Development of the Concept of IT Audit", November 2 to 3, 2023. Members of the committee participated to it, in addition to other delegations from the rest of the Arab countries (the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait), besides the virtual participation of 14 European countries. The EUROSAI IT Audit Working Group also presented a scientific paper about their experience on IT audit, and reviewed aspects of cooperation between the EUROSAI IT Audit Group and the ARABOSAI IT Audit Committee. The EUROSAI ITWG welcomed the opening of horizons of cooperation between committee and the working groups and participating in several joint projects and initiatives.



Workshops and Training



The 2023 ARABOSAI training program:

As part of the completion of the organization's work plan in the field of training for the year 2023, four meetings were held during the second half of 2023, as follows:

-The training meeting on the topic of "International Standards in Accounting" hosted by the SAI of Algeria during the period from 17 to 20 September 2023, the meeting was attended by 30 participants belonging to 15 Arabic SAIs.

-The training meeting on the topic of "Risk-based Auditing" hosted by the SAI of Oman

during the period from 22 to 26 October 2023, the meeting was attended by 34 participants from 15 Arabic SAIs.

-Training meeting on the topic of "Risks of the use of data and how to detect means of fraud and corruption" hosted by the SAI of Saudi Arabia during the period from 22 to 26 October 2023. It was attended by 30 participants from 12 Arabic SAIs. - The scientific meeting on the topic of "E-Governance audit" hosted by the SAI of Saudi Arabia during the period from 17 to 21 December 2023, in which 23 participants belonging to 10 Arabic SAIs participated.





The organization's half of 2023:

work plan during the second

Within the framework of the implementation of the operational plans of the organization's structures and committees for the year 2023, the following training meetings were carried out:

- Training meeting on the topic of "Training senior members from SAIs to exercise the peer review" which was overseen by the committee of Professional and audit standards in cooperation with the Arabosai General Secretariat which was carried out in the city of Hammamet in Tunisia from 2 to 6 October 2023, the meeting was attended by (21) participants from (10) Arabic SAIs.



- Training meeting on preparing strategic plans and operational plans at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Organization took place from 25 to 29 December 2023, the meeting was attended by 16 participants in attendance in addition to 1 participant remotely from 7 Arabic SAIs.



- Workshop on the topic of "Preparation and implementation of Stakeholder Communication Strategy" It falls within the projects of the Institutional Capacity Development Committee of the organization hosted by the SAI of Morocco during the period from 19 to 21 December 2023, with 11 participants in attendance and 7 participants remotely who belong to 10 SAIs.



The fourteenth competition for scientific research of the organization:

Within the of continuity of organizing the scientific research competition by the Arab Organization every three years, the Governing Board adopted within its decision No. 393/2023. (67) The announcement related to the fourteenth scientific research competition in the field of financial audit, which includes the topics of the competition, the conditions for participation in it, the prizes for the winners,

the date of submission of nominations, as well as the date of submission of research for this competition. Accordingly, the Arabosai General Secretariat circulated to the member bodies the document announcing the competition (The deadline for accepting nominations was 31/1/2024) to select the best five papers written specifically on each of the following five topics:

TOPIC	Audit of Information Systems and Cybersecurity
Theme No. 2	Modern scientific methods and innovation in audit work
Theme No. 3	Evaluation of Public Programs and Policies "Best Experiences and Practices"
Theme No. 4	The role of SAIs in the development of risk management systems in government entities
Theme No. 5	The role of professional qualification of the auditor in increasing the efficiency and quality of audit reports



COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP



Strategy, Performance Measurement and Reporting (SPMR) Knowledge Sharing Workshop

In cooperation between the IDI and the ARABOSAI, a workshop on Strategy, Performance Measurement and Reporting (SPMR) was held in Sousse, Tunisia, during the period from 10 to 14 July 2023, which was an initiative launched since 2019 aimed to support the capabilities of the SAIs involved in the field of strategic management.

The stages of the initiative are as follows:

Stage 1: Evaluating the performance of the SAI using the instrument performance measurement framework.

Stage 2: Strategic Planning.

Stage 3: Implementation and Reporting.

The last meeting under this track was held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman from 29 July to 4 August 2022. The workshop held in Tunis aims to exchange experiences and knowledge regarding the implementation of the initiative, discuss the next stages and further develop the methodology used to achieve it.

Participation in INTOSAI Capacity Building Committee, Donor Cooperation Steering Committee and Mosaic Steering Committee meetings:

The General Secretariat, together with the Chairmanship of the Institutional Capacity Development Committee, participated to the meetings of the INTOSAI Capacity Building Committee, the Donor Cooperation Steering Committee and the Mosaic Steering Committee held in Jamaica from 19 to 23 June 2023.

Participation in the fifth meeting of the INTOSAI Extractive Industries Audit Working Group:

The General Secretariat of ARABOSAI participated to the fifth meeting of the INTOSAI Extractive Industries Audit Working Group, which was held in Jakarta during the period from 24 to 27 July 2023.

Representatives from the SAIs of Egypt, Qatar and Kuwait also participated to the meeting. The representative of the General Secretariat made a presentation on the work of the organization in the field of audit of the extractive industries, including providing an overview of the outputs of the cooperative audit mission in which the SAIs of Iraq, Libya, Sudan and Kuwait participated.

15th KSC SC Stimulus Committee Meeting:

The organization, represented by the SAI of Saudi Arabia, President of the Governing Board, participated to the fifteenth meeting of the KSC SC, which was held on October 4, 2023, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. During the meeting, the working groups of the Committee presented its most important achievements, and the meeting ended with a recommendation to continue working on organizing seminars, workshops, and training courses, whether in-person or virtual, to enhance the spread of the Committee's products. The meeting was also attended by the SAI of Egypt.

Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the EUROSAI IT audit Working Group:

In the context of bilateral cooperation between the ARABOSAI and the EUROSAI and the implementation of the agreement concluded between the two parties, the General Secretariat of ARABOSAI participated to the 16th annual meeting of the EUROSAI ITWG, held in Bologna on 10 and 11 October 2023.

Participation in the ESCWA 2023 Annual Forum on Sustainable Development:

Within the implementation of the activities of the memorandum of understanding concluded with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the organization participated to the activities of the virtual seminar on "Assessing the capabilities of the SAIs in relation to the audit of Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals" held on 20/11/2023. His Excellency the Deputy Secretary-General of Arabosai opened the proceedings of the symposium through a speech in which he



highlighted the importance of the role of the SAIs in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, especially regarding Goal 16 to ensure transparency and accountability.

As a result, the three sessions of the symposium were launched. The third session of the symposium was devoted to presenting the experiences of the organization's member bodies in the field of supporting transparency, accountability and combating corruption.

The SAI of Morocco, the SAI of Egypt, the SAI of Palestine, and the SAI of Kuwait participated to it.

Participation in the work of the seventy-seventh meeting of the INTOSAI Governing board:



The ARABOSAI represented by the GS and the SAI of Qatar which is the representative of the ARABOSAI in the Governing board of INTOSAI, participated to the work of its seventy-seventh meeting, which was held on 20 and 21 November 2023 in Vienna, Austria, the permanent headquarters of the GS of INTOSAI. Representatives from Arab SAIs of Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Egypt participated to the meeting. During the meeting, the reports of the Presidency of the Board, the General Secretariat of INTOSAI, the committees and structures of the world organization as well as the regional member organizations were approved. A report was presented on the preparations of the SAI of Egypt to host INCOSAI 25, which was scheduled to be held in Sharm El-Sheikh in 2025, in terms of structural organization, planning and coordination preparations for the conference. The second day was devoted to hearing the reports of the goal committees and a number of technical committees, with a round

table, which presented and discussed the experiences of INTOSAI regional organizations on two themes; the first concerned "the role of regional organizations in advocating the independence of the SAIs" the representative of the ARAOSAI GS made a presentation on the subject, the second subject concerned "Partnership of regional organizations for effective knowledge-sharing in support of the importance of the SAIs"





**News from ARABOSAI
Members**



SAI of Qatar and SAI of Egypt

A delegation from the SAI of Qatar, headed by His Excellency Mr. Abdulaziz bin Mohammed bin Ahmed Al-Emadi, and a delegation from the SAI of Egypt, headed by His Excellency Counselor Hisham Badawi, participated to the work of the International Symposium on "The Role of the SAIs in Promoting Transparency, Public Integrity and Good Governance", which was held on Tuesday, September 12 in Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco.

The seminar aimed at exchanging experiences and ideas on emerging issues and challenges related to the contribution of SAIs in enhancing transparency, integrity and good governance in the public sector. The discussions focused on the following three topics:

- Institutional partnerships to promote transparency and public integrity.
- Audit strategies for SAIs in the service of promoting transparency and public integrity.
- Digital transformation as a means to promote transparency , public integrity and good governance.





SAI of Jordan



1- The SAI of Jordan participated to the Leaders Forum to support the independence of the SAIs hosted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD):

The President of the SAI, Dr. Radi Al-Hamadin, participated to the forum organized by the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) in cooperation with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which was held at the headquarters of the Organization in Paris from 11 to 13 October 2023, entitled "The Role of the Leaders of the Supreme Audit Institutions in Supporting the Independence of the Supreme Audit Institutions". Al-Hamadin stressed that the meeting discussed the importance of the independence of the SAIs and their employees as an essential component of the accountability frameworks in the state, in addition to the standards of international integrity, behavior and ethical practices represented by the values of objectivity and impartiality that govern the work of those SAIs and that have their mandate from the constitutional and legal articles, which ultimately benefit the state and citizens, as well as the relationship of public opinion with the independence of the Supreme Audit Institution, including the role of the media. The forum also included a discussion of several axes and

working papers submitted by many SAIs and relevant international organizations, which included the importance of the independence of Supreme Audit Institutions from the point of view of the government, development partners, the relationship of SAIs with the Ministry of Finance and the general budget, and donors based on their common goals of ensuring accountability, transparency, good governance and the proper use of public money.

During the forum, he also presented models highlighting the issue of independence by civil society institutions and professional associations and its relationship to accountability, as well as the independence of the SAI from the point of view of the government, and development partners such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the European Investment Bank (EIB), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Ways to enhance cooperation between SAIs and CSOs and citizen participation were also discussed, as a means of enhancing public accountability and achieving integration through higher quality and more effective auditing, and accountability processes.





2- Conclusion of the twinning project between the Jordanian and Polish SAIs:

On October 30th, 2023, the closing ceremony of the twinning project between the Jordanian SAI and the Polish SAI was held in Amman under the title "Strengthening Institutional Capacities and Improving Audit Processes and Outputs of the Jordanian SAI 2021-2023".

The head of the SAI, Dr. Radi Al-Hamadin, said that the project, which lasted for thirty months in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and funded by the European Union at an estimated cost of two million euros, as the project aims to raise the capacity of the auditors of the SAI, included three axes: financial auditing and compliance, quality assurance, and electronic auditing. Al-Hamadin added at the closing ceremony, which was attended by the Ambassador of the European Union in the Kingdom, the Ambassador of Poland to the Kingdom and the Head of the Polish Supreme Audit Institution, that the project also included (72) supervisory and training tasks, which resulted in the formation of (8) pilot teams, which resulted in the preparation of three guides prepared in cooperation between the cadres of the SAI and Polish experts in accordance with the standards of the International Organization of INTOSAI.

Al-Hamadin also stressed that the SAI has taken a developmental approach in response to the

royal visions based on cooperation with international SAIs with professional experience with the aim of exchanging experiences, building and strengthening the institutional capacities of the SAI, and identifying the best international professional practices in supervisory work, which in turn enhances practices related to accountability and transparency.

For his part, the Chairman of the Supreme Audit Institution of Poland, Mr. Marian Panache, expressed his pride in the joint success achieved, praising the auditors of the SAI in terms of commitment and openness to new solutions and the desire to learn.

His Excellency Pierre-Christophe Schatzisavas, Ambassador of the European Union to the Kingdom, expressed pride in the results achieved by the twinning project, such as the risk-based audit manual, audit forms and quality assurance worksheets, and paying special attention to audit techniques with the help of information technology and data analysis automation.



3- The SAI of Jordan hosted a training course for auditors from the SAI of Oman:

The Head of the SAI of Jordan, Dr. Radhi Al-Hamadin, confirmed during the training course entitled "Economic Efficiency of Investment Funds" hosted by the SAI on November 19, 2023, that investment funds are funds for future generations that must be managed on a professional basis to achieve the required return to ensure the sustainability of these funds and their contribution to enhancing the economic stability of any country. He stressed

that during the training program, several topics will be presented: concepts related to investment, its types, legal and regulatory frameworks, in addition to economic efficiency





and indicators for evaluating the efficiency of funds, as well as studying their financial statements and the steps of the process of

auditing the efficiency of investment funds and the role of the SAI in auditing them.

4- The SAI of Jordan participated to the Conference on Policies, Governance and Leadership in Times of Crisis in the Middle East and North Africa Region:

The SAI of Jordan participated to the work of the joint international conference held by the Middle East and North Africa Network for Public Administration Research (MENAPAR) and the Association for Public Policy and Administration in the Middle East (AMEPPA), entitled "Policies, Governance and Leadership in Times of Crisis in the Middle East and North Africa Region", between 7 and 10 December 2023, organized and hosted by the American University in Cairo and supported by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The Chief of Staff, Dr. Radi Musa Al-Hamadin, attended as a keynote speaker in the work of the fourth discussion session of the conference on how oversight and auditing contribute to enhancing accountability, governance and public administration, in the presence of a

number of ministers, officials, researchers, experts and interested parties.

The conference dealt with a number of vital topics, including political crises and institutional vacuums and their effects on public policy, systems related to energy, food and governance and their impact on sustainable development, and the importance of benefiting from the experiences and knowledge gained through actions to confront the Covid-19 crisis, global crises, and new practices related to digital transformation, e-governance, crisis response, adaptation policies, and leadership in times of crisis.



SAI of Bahrain**1- Bahrain hosted INTOSAI meetings:**

The Kingdom of Bahrain hosted meetings to prepare the new Strategic Plan for the Development of Professional Standards (SDP) for the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI), and meetings of the Organization 's Forum of Professional Issuances and Guidance (FIPP).

The 5-day meetings were attended by about 33 people representing about 15 countries, in addition to Bahrain, the United States of America, Australia, Austria, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Luxembourg, Bulgaria, Tunisia, Brazil, India, South Africa, Guatemala, Nepal, as well as representatives of the General Secretariat of the Organization (AFROSAI), the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI), and the European Court of Auditors.

His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, President of the SAI, said that the meetings were an opportunity to enhance joint supervisory work, exchange experiences and knowledge, and build bridges of cooperation with international organizations and SAIs, especially with the presence of such a large number of officials and experts, pointing out the need for standards to be clear and

applicable, with the possibility of reviewing, amending and revising them whenever the need arises.

The meetings included joint meetings between the heads of INTOSAI Standing Committees and members of the FIPP to discuss the new strategic plan for the development of the organization's professional standards, where the views of INTOSAI member bodies and relevant professional organizations were reviewed and discussed. As for the FIPP meetings, they discussed setting new standards and updating some of the existing ones, while developing work mechanisms related to preparing and updating standards, in addition to discussing improving work procedures and governance in general.

Since 2005, the SAI of Bahrain has also been a member of the Supervisory Committee of the Professional Standards Committee of INTOSAI (Professional Standards Committee-PSC) as a representative of the Arab Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ARABOSAI).

<https://www.nao.gov.bh/en/article/meetings->



on-intosai-professional-standards-kick-off-in-bahrain

2- The SAI participated to the meeting of the Supervisory Committee of the INTOSAI Professional Standards Committee:

The SAI participated to the 23rd meeting of the Steering Committee of the INTOSAI Professional Standards Committee on 27 and 28 September 2023 in Luxembourg, representing

the Arab Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ARABOSAI). During the meeting, the Strategic Plan for the Development of Professional Standards (SDP) was adopted,



which was outlined during the meetings held in the Kingdom of Bahrain in May 2023, in addition to discussing the request of the Capacity Building Committee regarding the launch of an initiative aimed at supporting SAIs facing challenges and difficulties in implementing professional standards. They also reviewed the initiatives related to the provision of professional qualifications and training in the field of performance control, and the progress of work in the projects on which the Forum of INTOSAI Professional Issues and Guidance (FIPP) and the various work teams are working, in relation to the issuance of new professional standards or the review of a number of existing professional standards and publications. During the meeting, the Bureau presented a working paper aimed at developing and improving the process of preparing professional standards in INTOSAI. The paper addressed the importance of involving stakeholders in the process of preparing, reviewing, and updating

professional standards. It also included a number of proposals on possible means that would enhance the participation of stakeholders in the preparation of professional standards issued by the organization, in application of the principle of partnership and control established by the SAI of Bahrain in its work.

<https://www.nao.gov.bh/en/article/the-national-audit-office-participates-in-the-meeting-of-the-steering-committee-of-the-intosai-professional-standards-committee>





SAI of Algeria



Study visit on budgetary transparency

Within the implementation of the cooperation project between SAI of Algeria and the financial services voluntary corps, related to strengthening the capabilities of the Court of accounts, and in order to learn about the budget transparency model of the USA and share experiences in the areas of financial

audit, performance audit, and evaluation of programs and public policies, as well as interaction with various stakeholders,

in particular Civil society organizations, a delegation headed by M. Mohamed Selim Benammar, Secretary General of the SAI of Algeria, conducted a study visit during the period from March 6 to 10, 2023, to the US SAI, the New York State Comptroller's Office, the Congressional Budget Office, the New York State Budget Department, the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance and the New York State Citizens Budget Commission, as well as Taxpayers for Common Sense.

A training meeting on evaluating public policies with greater involvement of civil society organizations

Within the implementation of the memorandum of understanding concluded between Algerian SAI and SAI of Iraq, The first mentioned organized, from June 18 to 21, 2023, a training meeting on "Evaluating public policies with greater involvement of civil society organizations."

The training meeting also touched on the following topics:

- General concepts about public policies and methods for formulating them,
- Evaluation methods and tools and steps for structuring and implementing the evaluation process according to the INTOSAI guideline "9020GUID: Public Policy Evaluation",
- Evaluating public policies in the health sector that fall within the implementation of the third goal of the Sustainable Development Goals,
- Involving civil society in evaluating public policies,
- The role of communication in facilitating optimal exploitation of evaluation results,
- Presenting the experiences of the two SAIs in the field of evaluating programs and public policies, as well as involving civil society in the evaluation.



This training meeting witnessed the participation of twenty (20) Governings and auditors from the SAI of Iraq. The meeting represented an opportunity to upgrade cooperation relations and exchange experiences and good practices in the field of evaluation between the two SAIs.



A meeting of the AFROSAI SAIs

Within the of implementation of its annual work plan for the year 2023, the AFROSAI working group on the independence of SAIs, headed by the Algerian Court of accounts, organized a meeting on September 12, 13 and 14, 2023, in Algeria.

The main objective of this meeting is to design a proactive, collaborative and ambitious

working group on the independence of

approach to strengthening the independence of African SAIs, which is considered a guarantee for all African SAIs to gain their credibility with public authorities and citizens' recognition of their effective and quality contribution to the transparent and fair management of public funds.

A training meeting on international standards in accounting

Within the implementation of the work plan in the field of training and scientific research for the year 2023 of the ARABOSAI, the Algerian SAI, in coordination with the ARABOSAI, organized a training meeting on the topic of "International Standards in Accounting", during the period from 17 to 20 September 2023.

This training meeting witnessed the participation of 31 representatives

from the various SAIs, members of ARABOSAI, and revolved around the following main topics:

- General foundations for building international accounting standards and choosing accounting policies,
- International Financial Reporting Standards (IAS/IFRS), and International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS),
- Exercising a financial audit over the financial statements based on international accounting standards,
- View the experiences of participating devices.

Organizing a forum on the future prospects of budget and accounting reforms under the Organic Law of Finance Laws

Within the implementation of the institutional twinning project concluded between the Algerian SAI and its French and Portuguese counterparts, related to strengthening the institutional and technical capabilities of the Court of Accounts in the field of attesting state accounts, the Court of Accounts, in cooperation with the European Union Mission in Algeria, organized, on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, a forum on future prospects for budget reforms. And accounting under the organic law of finance laws.

This forum witnessed the participation of Algerian and European experts, and addressed the following topics:

- A point of view on the strengths and points that need to be improved in applying the organic law related to financial laws in Algeria, according to the French experience,
- Presentation of the law relating to the rules of public accounting and financial management,
- Evaluating internal control is an essential step in forming the auditors' opinion.
- Accounting framework: design and publication strategy,
- Comprehensive diagnosis related to preparation for the elaboration of the certification process for each ministry,



- Presenting the situation related to the integrated budget management system,
- Information system at the level of the network of public accountants,
- Portuguese and French experiences in adapting information systems to the task of certification,
- How is the Algerian Court of accounts preparing to carry out a financial audit and enhance its skills?

Participation in the work of the seventy-seventh (77) meeting of the Governing Board of the INTOSAI:

On 20 and 21 November 2023, a delegation from the SAI, headed by Mr. Abdelkader Ben Marouf , Chairman of the SAI, participated to

the work of the seventy-seventh (77th) meeting of the Governing Board of INTOSAI, which was organized in Austria.



SAI of Oman



1. The SAI issued a summary of the results of its work contained in its annual report for the year 2022:

The SAI issued a summary to the community of the results of its work contained in its annual report for the year 2022, reviewing the results of the financial and administrative follow-up of some government units, bodies, investments and companies under its control, after completing the procedures followed with those entities, in addition to communicating about its efforts in promoting integrity during the year 2022.

The positive effects of the results of the work of the SAI for the year 2022 were to achieve a direct added value from the collection and recovery of amounts of money for the public treasury amounting to about (17.8) million Omani riyals distributed to government units, bodies, investments and companies, in

addition to (80) million Omani riyals collected in 2021 and included in the annual report for the year 2022 in light of the SAI's follow-up of those amounts and receiving the support for their collection after submitting the annual report for the year 2021.

In addition, the SAI dealt with 113 cases related to public funds in 2022, some of which were convicted of several violations classified as bribery, forgery in official and customary documents, embezzlement, abuse of office, information forgery in government data, as well as abuse of office, conflict of interest, infringement of public funds, and breach of duty. He added that in 2022, the SAI completed a study of 81 pieces of legal legislation.

2. SAI participated to the Ministerial Meeting of Heads of Agencies Responsible for Preventing and Combating Corruption of the G20 of the Republic of India:

His Excellency Sheikh Ghosn bin Hilal Al-Alawi, Chairman of the SAI, headed the delegation of the Sultanate of Oman at the Ministerial Meeting of Heads of Agencies Responsible for Preventing and Combating Corruption of the G20, held in India, on Saturday, August 12, 2023, with the participation of heads of agencies responsible for preventing and combating corruption of the G20.

His Excellency the Chairman of the SAI delivered the speech of the Sultanate of Oman at the meeting, in which he pointed out that

the participation of the Sultanate of Oman undoubtedly contributes to enhancing international cooperation in the fields of promoting integrity and combating corruption.





During the meeting, several key themes on the agenda were discussed, the most important of which was the issuance of the 2023

Accountability Report and the Compendium of Good Practices, in addition to the adoption of the Second G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Declaration.

3. The SAI carried out a seminar on the role of institutional and community partnership in protecting public funds and combating corruption:

The SAI, in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Board, carried out a seminar entitled "Institutional and Community Partnership and its Role in Protecting Public Funds, Promoting Integrity and Combating Corruption", on Thursday, August 24, 2023, in Dhofar Governorate, with the participation of representatives of the anti-corruption agencies in the Gulf Cooperation Board countries, and a number of specialists in government units.

The symposium aimed to enhance the activities of exchanging expertise and experiences

among Member States regarding the protection of public funds, the promotion of integrity and combating corruption, and to clarify the institutional roles in this field, in addition to identifying the areas of community partnership in the protection of public funds, the promotion of integrity and combating corruption, and monitoring the best international practices in the areas of partnership between the authorities concerned with the protection of public funds, the promotion of integrity and civil society institutions.

4- The SAI participated to the First World Conference on the use of Data to Improve the Measurement of Corruption in Vienna:

The SAI and relevant government agencies participated to the work of the first Global Conference on the use of Data to Improve the Measurement of Corruption, which was launched from the United Nations headquarters in Vienna on Thursday, August 31, 2023 for two continuous days. Through a series of working sessions, the conference discussed a number of main topics, including the work of the United Nations Office and the

initiative of the International Anti-Corruption Academy to build an international index to measure corruption, as well as discussing the observations of countries on the mechanisms adopted for this and the views related to measuring the effectiveness of anti-corruption bodies and policies, and the use of data and technology in monitoring and measuring corruption.

5- The SAI participated to the work of the meeting of the Working Group on Review of the Implementation of the Convention against Corruption:

The SAI participated to the work of the fourteenth session of the Working Group on Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the seventeenth meeting of the Intergovernmental

Working Group on Asset Recovery, and the twelfth meeting of international experts to enhance international cooperation, organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and



Crime at the United Nations Headquarters in Vienna during the period (4-8) September.

The meetings of the fourteenth session included a number of main themes, the most important of which was the review of the reporting of chapters IV and V of the Convention related to both international cooperation and asset recovery, in addition to

discussing ways to use information and communication technology for the implementation of the Convention and non-binding guidelines to strengthen international and multilateral cooperation to continue the prevention, identification, investigation and prosecution of corruption in times of emergency, and crisis response and recovery.

SAI of SOMALIA

The SAI of SOMALIA Conducted Joint Review Workshop – Launched 2024 Audit Plan

On January the 10th, in Mogadishu, The SAI of Somalia, concluded a three-day seminar dedicated to the development and finalization of the Annual Overall Audit Plan (AOAP) for the Financial Year ended in 2023.

In his opening remarks, the Auditor General, H.E. Ahmed Isse Gutale stated that “the objective of the workshop is to bring together key audit personnel from the Office of the Auditor General with advisors and peers in order to foster a shared space for the exchange of ideas and recommendations.”

Participants included Directors and Managers from all audit streams of the SAI, technical advisors, and representatives from partner institutions such as IDI, AFROSAI-E, SAI of Uganda, Turkish SAI, and the Swedish SAI.

The conference meticulously reviewed the AOAP, a process initiated by the SAI team in August 2023. Each audit stream underwent a detailed examination, aiming to craft a final audit plan that optimally allocates resources to high-risk areas, ensuring the delivery of high-quality and relevant audit reports. The targeted audits for 2024 include:

1. Financial Audits
2. Donor-funded Projects Audits
3. Compliance Audits
4. Performance Audits
5. Information Systems Audits
6. Special Audits

The compliance audit stream is set to undergo the most significant year-over-year change.



Focused on government entities' adherence to established laws, regulations, and internal boundaries, this component will see the Office of the Auditor General broaden its audit scope to cover a substantially higher portion of the approved National Budget compared to 2023 (2023's compliance audit covered 57% of the approved national budget, while the 2024 audit will cover 80%). Furthermore, the mentioned SAI will target never-before-audited ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs).

This year also marked a pivotal milestone for performance audits at the mentioned SAI. This audit stream, piloted in the 2023 audit year, will see a continuation of ongoing performance audits as well as some additions.

With the formal sign-off of this pivotal plan, the SAI initiates its 2024 audit activities earlier than usual. This early start, it was noted, will allow ample time for the distribution of audit staff resources among the planned audits, thereby ensuring the production of high-quality and on-time audit reports.



The SAI of Somalia hosted semi-annual meeting with development partners

On Wednesday 11th October, in Mogadishu, SAI of Somalia recently convened its Semi-Annual Development Partners Meeting. Held virtually, the gathering aimed to bring together SAI's external support network, fostering collaboration and support—both technical and financial—for the Office. Chaired by the Auditor General, H.E. Ahmed Isse Gutale, the meeting featured Governings from the SAI and representatives from the World Bank, the European Union, the Royal Norwegian Embassy, the IDI, the AFROSAI-E, and SAI peers, including the Turkish SAI, SAI of Uganda, SAI of Malawi, and the Swedish SAI.

In his opening remarks, the Auditor General expressed his delight at attending his inaugural development partners meeting. He reflected on the storied history shared between the SAI and its Development Partners, expressing his wish to see it flourish during his tenure. The AG highlighted both achievements and challenges faced during his time at the SAI, emphasizing the need for a synchronized approach in the support ecosystem provided to the Office. He underscored the pivotal role partners play in propelling the service to the Somali people to new heights.

Following his opening, the Auditor General outlined the meeting's agenda and formally commenced proceedings. Agenda points included an overview of the SAI's performance in the first half of 2023, an examination of the Annual Overall Audit Plan (2023) and subsequent Audit Reports, as well as the 5-year Strategic Plan (2023-2027).



Within this presentation period, time was allocated for a presentation on the Peer-Support Project—a trilateral, peer-based cooperative framework involving the SAI, IDI, and AFROSAI-E. Before opening the floor for a Q&A session, allowing attendees to pose questions and provide valuable feedback, the SAI team made a final presentation outlining challenges faced by the institution from a needs and recommendations perspective. This concluding component of the presentations facilitated an engaging discussion between the SAI team and development partners.

The Semi-Annual Development Partners meeting aligns with goal 3 of the SAI Strategic Plan, contributing to the broader campaign to establish proactive engagement and trustful collaboration with key stakeholders. As the roles and responsibilities of the SAI evolve to meet the demands of a dynamic audit landscape and a growing nation, maintaining a robust connection with its support ecosystem remains of paramount importance.



SAI of Qatar



1. The SAI of Qatar participated to the meeting of the Heads of SAIs in the Cooperation Board for the Arab States of the Gulf:



A delegation from the SAI headed by His Excellency Mr. Abdulaziz bin Mohammed bin Ahmed Al-Emadi, President of the SAI, participated to the 20th meeting of Their Excellencies the Heads of the SAIs in the Cooperation Board for the Arab States of the Gulf, which was held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

2. The SAI participated to the meeting on the role of SAI leaders in supporting the independence of SAIs:

H.E. Sheikh Fahad bin Hamad bin Saud Al-Thani, Vice President of the SAI, led the Bureau's delegation at the meeting held within the initiative of IDI organized by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris from 11 to 13 October 2023 on "The Role of SAIs Leaders in supporting the independence of SAIs." The meeting discussed the work of the IDI on the independence of SAIs and cooperation between SAIs and Civil society organizations as a way to promote public responsibility





3. The SAI participated to the the SAIs in the Gulf Cooperation

The SAI participated on Sunday, July 16, 2023 in the meeting of the thirty-fourth session of the Training and Development Committee for employees of the SAIs in the countries of the Cooperation Board for the Arab States of the Gulf, It was held at the headquarters of the General Secretariat in Riyadh and lasted for two days. The meeting discussed the selection of training programs for the training plan for the year

2024–2025, and the preparation of the operational plan of the strategic plan for the years 2023-2025, in addition to discussing and selecting Topics of the Sixth Cooperation Board

meeting of the Training Committee of Board countries:

Competition for Research and Studies in the field of audit and accounting.



4. The SAI participated to the meeting of the Working Group on Audit Rules for Supreme Audit Institutions in the Cooperation Countries:

On Tuesday, July 18, the SAI participated to the 21st meeting of the Audit Rules Working Group of the Supreme Audit Institutions of the Cooperation Board for the Arab States of the Gulf, which was held at the headquarters of the General Secretariat in Riyadh and lasted for three days. The SAI was represented in the work of the meeting by Mr. Khaled Abdul Salam Al-Emadi, Head of the Audit and Financial Examination Section on Transport and Communications in the Audit and Financial Examination Department.

The meeting discussed the review of the final drafts of the manuals that have been updated, in addition to discussing and reviewing the updates of the Financial Audit Manual (General

Manual), and reviewing the initial draft of the Audit Manual in light of disasters and crises.





5. The SAI participated to the program of the SAIs in the countries of cooperation:

The SAI participated to the training program on "Evaluating the Performance of Strategic Plans" organized by the SAI of Oman during the period from 27 to 31 August.

The organization of this program, which lasted for five days, comes within the framework of the implementation of the training plan for 2023 for the SAIs of the Cooperation Board for the Arab States of the Gulf.

Sultanate of Oman in the joint training



6 . The SAI Participated to INTOSAI IT Audit Working Group Meeting:

On Monday, October 2, the SAI participated to the 32nd meeting of the Information Technology Audit Working Group of the INTOSAI, which was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, and lasted for two days. It included discussing the updating of projects and IT audit manuals, and the adoption of draft plans for the years 2023-2025.





SAI of Palestine



ديوان الرقابة المالية و الإدارية
State Audit & Administrative
Control Bureau

1. Closing ceremony of the twinning project between the SAI of Palestine and the SAI of Poland funded by the European Union:

On 21/09/2023, the closing ceremony of the twinning project between the SAI of Palestine and the SAI of Poland, funded by the European Union, was held in Ramallah, the project lasted thirty-three months, and included a lot of professional cooperation and exchange of experiences between the teams of the two SAIs.

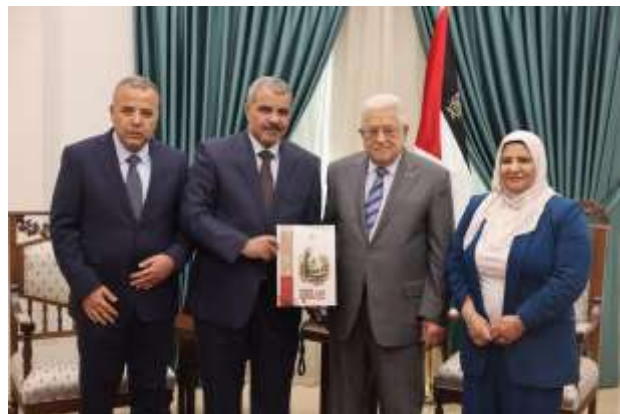
The President of the SAI of Palestine, Counselor Iyad Taym, thanked Mr. Marian Panache, Head of the SAI of Poland, and all experts and participants in this project from the Polish SAI for their cooperation and effort in order to make the project a success and implement all activities related to it, especially Mr. Greg Haber, Project Manager, and Mr. Machi Zarnota for their effective role in following up and managing the project since its inception in cooperation with the SAI's staff.

Mr Taym added that the selection of the components of this project came in accordance with the SAI's strategic vision of developing the skills and capabilities of its employees, in line with international standards and reflecting them on the results of its work.



2. The President of the State of Palestine, Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, received the annual report issued by the SAI for the year 2022 from the Chief of the SAI, Counselor Iyad Taym:

On 08/08/2023, His Excellency the President of the State received, at the headquarters of the Presidency in the city of Ramallah, a delegation of the SAI, headed by its Chief the Counselor Iyad Taym, the Deputy Chief of the SAI, Mrs. Amal Faraj, and the Director General of the SAI, Mr. Jaffal Jaffal. Mr Taym briefed on the most important results included in the annual report, what has been achieved during the past year, and the plans to develop the work of the SAI in a way that strengthens the foundations of transparency and accountability in Palestinian institutions.





3- The SAI completed the first

Within the framework of the regional cooperation of a partnership project with the Dutch SAI, the team of the SAI, along with the teams of Algeria, Jordan, Iraq, Tunisia, Libya and Morocco, participated to the final meetings of the Partnership 2 project, held in the Dutch city of The Hague, during the period from 11 to 17 June. In its first phase, the project focused on the audit of development goals Sustainable, especially Goal No. (11) Cities and Communities sustainable locality, and the SAI team reviewed the audit mechanisms used and the most important observations reached during Audit process.

For his part, both the Dutch side and the participants praised the efforts of The SAI team and its approved work mechanism. In the same context, the Liaison and Communication Officer

phase of the partnership project 2:

participated to partnership project 2 in Liaison and Outreach Officers Meetings, to discuss the mechanism of



communication with the parties subject to audit in each SAI in addition to discussing the next phase of the partnership project 2 and the topics presented by the participating SAIs to start preparing for the next phase.



SAI of Egypt



Dealing with AFROSAI

1-The SAI of Egypt as Chairman of the Editorial Board of the African Journal of Comprehensive Auditing and the Libyan SAI as the first vice-president of AFROSAI, participated to **the preparatory virtual meeting for the Sixteenth General Assembly of AFROSAI**, which was held on 17 and 18 July 2023.

The meeting dealt with a range of topics, the most important of which were:

- What will be discussed at the 16th General Assembly of AFROSAI to be held in Libya in 2024, as well as the role of Supreme Audit Institutions in combating climate change and promoting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in addition to presenting the topic of the new scientific competition for AFROSAI.

2-The SAI participated to the **training program of the AFROSAI Environmental Review Working Group on the topic "Review of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation"**, which was held virtually from 21 to 25 August 2023, where the SAI participated to two presentations entitled:

- Challenges and efforts to combat climate change including desertification in Africa.
- Environmental auditing of desertification activities within the design and conduct of desertification auditing.

3-The SAI participated to the **webinar on the professional qualification of auditors and the quality of outputs**, which was held virtually on October 3, 2023, and organized by the Professional Working Group of the Technical and Institutional Capacity Building Committee of AFROSAI. The webinar dealt with the following topics:

- The great challenges facing the SAIs in attracting competencies.
- The role and responsibilities of the SAI at the public level under ISSAI 150
- How to assess the quality of the outputs of SAIs.
- The main objectives of the international standard ISSAI-140 on quality audit.

4- During the period from 27 to 29 November 2023, the SAI participated to the **eleventh meeting of the AFROSAI Environmental Review Working Group of the AFROSAI Technical and Institutional Capacity Building Committee**, which was held in a mixed format in Abuja, Nigeria, where the SAI participated remotely.

The meeting dealt with many topics, the most important of which were:

- Reviewing the efforts of African governments to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and reviewing the role of supreme audit institutions in combating climate change.
- Combating desertification through the Great African Green Wall and forest conservation in Nigeria.



Dealing with Common Market (COMESA):

1-The SAI participated to **the 27th meeting of the COMESA Audit and Budgeting Subcommittee**, which was held virtually during the period from 2 to 5 October 2023. During the meeting, Egypt was appointed as a member of the COMESA Audit and Budgeting Subcommittee during the period from 2024-2026.

2-The SAI participated to the 45th meeting of the Administrative and Budgetary Affairs

for Eastern and Southern Africa

Committee of COMESA, which was held in presence in Lusaka, Zambia, from 31 October to 2 November 2023. The meeting discussed some topics, the most important of which were:

- Report of the Human Resources Committee.
- Report of the COMESA Qualifications Framework Development Working Group.
- Report of the Sub-Committee on Audit and Budget Affairs.

News and international posts:

1-His Excellency Counselor/ Hisham Badawi, President of the SAI, who is the first vice-president of the Governing board of INTOSAI, participated to the **high-level meeting of the Supervisory Committee on Emerging Issues (SCEI)**, which was organized virtually by the SAI of Brazil on July 19, 2023. During the meeting, it was agreed to develop a strategy on moving forward towards the work of the Committee and a roadmap for the implementation of that strategy, the most important of which is

- Establish a group of experts to hold discussions on emerging issues and gather insight and forward-looking insights on risk management.

- Formation of a core group of 8 technical persons from SAIs for the Supervisory Committee on Emerging Issues to participate in foresight, risk management and reporting activities, assisted by a flexible group of experts.
- Establish a rapid response mechanism for crisis management.
- It is proposed to establish a center for advanced studies to link the Supreme Audit Institutions and the academic community, with a scientific and administrative board, and that the types of participation such as: scholarships, guest programs, and research fellows.

2- On July 19th 2023, the SAI participated to the virtual **seminar organized by the INTOSAI Working Group on the Impact of Science and Technology on Financial Auditing (WGISTA)** and hosted by the SAI of the United Arab Emirates on the theme "The Future of Auditing: Uncovering Emerging Technological Tools", where strategic insights were provided by professionals and experts speaking towards instilling a culture of technology integration

and technology-based auditing in SAIs in order to improve the audit capacity of SAIs.

The SAI also participated to the fourth annual meeting of the same group, which was attended virtually on November 6 and 7, 2023. The meeting concluded with several recommendations, the most important of which were: adopting digital technologies, following up on technological developments, identifying and managing the risks of modern technology, and enhancing cybersecurity.

3-The SAI hosted in Cairo the seventh meeting of the INTOSAI Working Group on Big Data (WGBD), from 13 to 15 September 2023. Four

presentations were submitted under the following headings:

- Review in a big data environment using AI and GIS technologies.



- The role of artificial intelligence through big data.

- Audit of e-commerce through big data.
- A practical case on how to use big data in reviewing the banking sector.



4-The **16th meeting of the the INTOSAI Anti-Corruption and Anti-Money Laundering Working Group**, which was held in the Kingdom of Thailand from 10 to 12 October 2023, was chaired by His Excellency the Counselor/ Head of the Egyptian SAI, , at which the Group's 2023-2025 Work Plan was adopted. The theme of the meeting was “The Role of SAIs in Employing Artificial Intelligence in Combating Corruption”.

The meeting concluded with several recommendations, the most important of which is promoting the use of artificial intelligence techniques in improving the efficiency of anti-corruption operations and detecting money laundering operations, calling for the development and improvement of legislation, policies, measures and mechanisms related to combating corruption, and directing great efforts towards training and developing human resources in this regard.

5- The SAI of Egypt has achieved a new achievement in the field of audit by appointing it as **the external auditor of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)** based in Vienna, Austria, for a period of two years starting from July 1, 2024, succeeding the SAI of the Russian Federation. The SAI obtained this position through a majority vote during the general assembly of the organization, which was held on November 30, 2023.

Egypt also held the position of **external auditor of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)**, based in Madrid, Spain. The voting process was by secret ballot, which took place during the work of the General Assembly of the Organization at its twenty-fifth session, held on 18 and 19 October 2023 in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Egypt and Turkey were nominated for this position.



SAI of Yemen



1-His Excellency Judge/ Abu Bakr Hussein Omar Al-Saqqaf, Chairman of the SAI of Yemen, met with His Excellency Counselor/ Hisham Badawi, Chairman of the SAI of Egypt and his deputy, His Excellency Counselor/ Mohamed Al-Faisal, in light of the coordination and cooperation between the two SAIs to discuss issues of common interest.

The meeting comes within **the visit of a delegation of members from the SAI of Yemen to the SAI of Egypt, during the period from 17 to 25 October 2023**, during which the visiting delegation was briefed on the experience of the SAI of Egypt in several areas, the most important of which are the following axes:

2-His Excellency Judge/ Abu Bakr Al-Saqqaf, Head of the SAI, presented **the SAI's vision for tax reforms**, which focuses on developing new mechanisms for collecting and collecting tax revenues and the rules for their management by the Presidency of the Tax Authority in

3-Within enhancing integration and coordination between the SAI and the concerned state institutions, the SAI intensified its meetings with senior leaders. The Prime Minister, Dr. Maeen Abdul Malik Saeed, and the head of the SAI, Judge Abu Bakr Al-Saqqaf, met on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, and discussed mechanisms to enhance integration and coordination, based on the role of the SAI in achieving effective audit over state funds and following up the performance of the Governing bodies at the central and local levels of their responsibilities. Dr. Moin Abdul Malik was briefed on the activities carried out by the SAI during the last period to monitor and review the performance of several government institutions, and to ensure that the audit work

The first axis: Reviewing public debt and its relationship to fiscal and monetary policies.

The second axis: Reviewing and evaluating tax accounting procedures at its various stages.

The third axis: Reviewing the banking sector and particularly the Central Bank.

Experts from the members of the SAI of Egypt presented their experience in the above mentioned fields, and there were many discussions to exchange expertise and experiences between the two SAIs to enhance the knowledge and capabilities of their members.

particular and the Ministry of Finance and the Presidency of the Government in general, in the context of modernizing the tax system, to be more understandable by specialists and taxpayers and thus make them more accountable.

includes all central and local institutions without exception to monitor, review and take the necessary measures to activate the implementation of the recommendations of the SAI.

The Prime Minister renewed the government's commitment and full support for all measures





and policies aimed at auditing the performance of state institutions, combating corruption, and activating the rule of law over all without

exception. He praised the efforts made by the leadership and cadres of the SAI in performing their work and audit tasks.



SAI OF MOROCCO

المملكة المغربية
المجلس الأعلى للحسابات



High level roundtable on the “Contribution of SAIs to the Achievement of United Nations’ 2030 Agenda: Exploring the Path Forward” organized by the SAI of Morocco, Marrakech, October 14th

During the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank Group, held in Marrakech, Morocco from 9 to 15 October 2023, the Court of Accounts of Morocco organized on October 14th a high level roundtable on the “Contribution of Supreme Audit Institutions to the achievement of United Nations’ 2030 agenda: Exploring the path forward”.

This event gathered high officials of key role players and stakeholders in the design, the implementation and auditing of SDGs. The keynote speakers in the roundtable included Ms. Amina Mohamed, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, many Moroccan ministers along with INTOSAI community leaders; namely the Presidency of INTOSAI, heads of SAIs from many regions and the chair of INTOSAI working group on SDGs and Key Sustainable Development Indicators as well as representatives of international development organizations and NGOs.

The roundtable took place in a context characterized by complex global challenges and a collective international commitment to sustainable development where the role of SAIs has taken on newfound significance. In this regard, the contribution of SAIs in the implementation of SDGs is acknowledged and emphasized in various UN documents due to their significant input in promoting good governance, effective institutions, and accountability mechanisms which are essential for achieving the SDGs. SAIs are considered, indeed, critical players in overseeing the use of public resources, ensuring that funds are allocated and utilized in a way that aligns with sustainable development objectives.

The roundtable engaged SAIs and SDGs stakeholders in a comprehensive and

productive discussion on the multifaceted roles SAIs play in the context of the 2030 Agenda. The roundtable focused in particular on their contribution to accelerating the implementation of inclusive, fair and sustainable economic, social environmental public policies to meet national 2030 targets. Through a diverse array of perspectives, expertise and insightful testimonies, the roundtable discussions covered many topics namely:

relevant strategic approaches to supporting the acceleration of the achievement of national priorities and SDGs targets;

practical SAIs contribution to more effective, transparent and informative accountability for outcomes;

innovative methodologies SAIs can adopt to assess the impact of sustainable development initiatives and how can they leverage technological advancements and data analytics to better monitoring and evaluation;

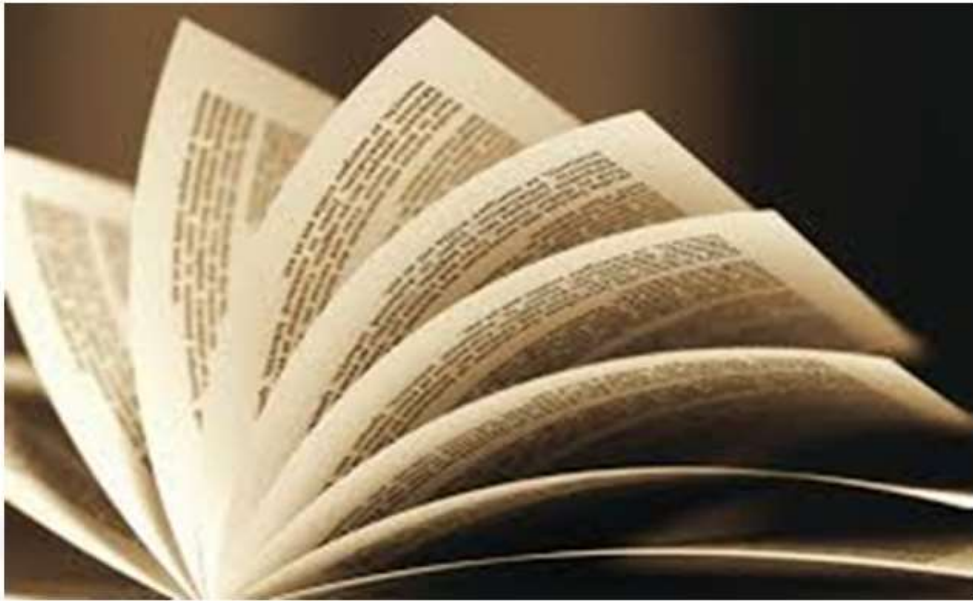
enhancing the value of public auditing and extend the provision of audit-based advice on issues that are of strategic interest for parliament, government and public administration and collaborative approaches that can be forged between SAIs and relevant stakeholders to amplify the reach and influence of audit findings resulting from SDGs auditing.

The roundtable concluded that, as the world advances towards the United Nations' SDGs agenda, and with only seven years ahead of the horizon 2030, SAIs are facing emerging challenges and are expected to usher in fresh insights, forge meaningful connections and pave the way for a near future where they operate as catalysts for rapid change, contributing substantially to the global efforts



of achieving the 2030 Agenda. SAls are invited, in this regard, to shift from considering SDGs agenda only a matter of achieving specific results to an approach that focuses on including the development principles and considerations in all their audit related activities (i.e. inclusiveness, balance and interdependency and cross-impact of policies) and developing approaches to more future-oriented recommendations, as SDGs implementation programs have that long-term strategic perspective.





Papers



Planning Budgets in Economic Units and their Impact on the Financial Audit Process

At first glance, it might not seem that there is a relationship between planning budgets in economic units and financial auditing, but there are multiple impacts due to the existence of a planning budget's system, in the audited economic entities and on the process of financial auditing as the financial auditing planning stage as well as its implementation during the examination contribute to reaching an opinion on the Financial Statements. This will be addressed in this article by revealing the concept of planning budgets, their significance, and their role in planning a financial audit process in addition to its implementation.

The Concept of Planning Budgets:

The concept of planning budgets is considered one of the important concepts in planning management which enjoys a wide interest of organizations. The budget should be developed scientifically and systematically according to logical inferences and projections in order to be resilient in facing future variables.

A planning budget is defined as a comprehensive financial plan for a specific period in quantitative and numerical formats

aiming to achieve the company's specific objectives. It is a means of coordination between the various activities as well as an effective auditing and performance evaluation¹tool.

The Importance of Planning Budgets:

The planning budget is closely related to the objectives of the corporation as there is no planning without control, and there is no control without evaluating the actual performance in comparison with the planned. The importance of planning budgets is as follows:

1- Planning Tool: Planning Budgets are considered a planning tool based on translating plans and objectives into estimated tables. Facilities rely on planning and using budgets as a tool to achieve the desired goals, which lead in one way or another to the coordination of work between the facility's departments and its various activities in order to unify efforts and direct them towards the goal².

2- A Tool for Control and Performance Evaluation: Planning budgets are an effective tool through which management can carry out the process of monitoring and evaluating performance by measuring the actual performance and comparing it with what is estimated or planned for. When there are anomalies between the expected and actual results, the causes of these deviations are analyzed through the responsibility centers so that the administration could take the necessary corrective measures³.

¹ Ashraf Abd Rabbo Ahmed, "The Importance of Using Planning Budgets in Planning, Control, Performance Evaluation: An Applied Study in the State Company for Fertilizer Industry in the Southern Region, Republic of Iraq", **Journal of Administrative Studies**, College of Administration and Economics, University of Basra, Vol. 10, No. 21, 2018, p. 142.

²Awad Al-Tarawneh, "Evaluation of Planning Budget Systems and their Role in the Effectiveness of the Management of the Petra Regional Authority", **unpublished master's thesis**, Al al-Bayt University, Jordan, 2005, p. 17.

³ Anthony A Atkinson, Robert S. Kaplan, Ella Mae Matsumura, S.Mark Young, Management



3- A Tool for Coordination and

Communication: - Coordination is a full harmony and balance of all aspects of production, services, units or sections present in the facility in order to achieve the facility's objectives. The coordination element pushes managers within the facility to think about the relationship that links each department of the company separately with the company as a whole, and the planning budget system achieves full coordination between the facility's departments and sections as well as its various activities during the budget implementation process, where everyone works to achieve the predetermined goals⁴.

4- A Tool to Motivate Employees: Planning budgets are used as a tool to motivate employees within the company at all administrative levels, as the failure to achieve the estimated budget at the beginning of each year is considered one of the forms of failure which in turn reflects negatively on the employees' performance within the facility. Thus achieving the estimated budget is one of the most important goals that should be attained by the facility's Middle Management⁵.

Planning Budgets for Economic Units and their Role in Planning the Financial Audit

Process:

The financial audit aims to give appropriate assurance that the Financial Statements have been developed in accordance with the framework specified for the Financial Statements, which ensures that they fairly reflect the entity's financial position and the results of its work. The audit process, in reaching this opinion, follows the audit approach based on the risk concept, where planning activities are divided into two main sections 6:

[1] Developing a general audit strategy by identifying the auditee and initially determining audit risks.

[2] Developing an audit plan for the audit process in order to reduce the audit risk to an acceptable low level.

The development of the general audit strategy includes studying the important factors that will be the focus of the team's efforts, such as determining the levels of materiality, initially identifying areas where the risk of significant and impacting misrepresentations can increase, initially determining significant components and account balances, assessing whether the auditor could plan to obtain audit evidence related to the effectiveness of the internal control system, identifying the most recent entity activities, financial reports and any other relevant developments.

One of the elements of the significant and influential irregularities' risks is the risk of control which is the risks of a significant anomaly in the balances of accounts or in a category of transactions, which might be significant, whether solely or when combined with errors in other balances or categories and are not prevented or detected and corrected in a timely manner by the internal control system. When the control risk is related to the subject matter of the task, the risk of control remains present due to the limitations inherent in the design and operation of any internal control system.

The internal control system consists of five elements⁷:

- [1] control environment.
- [2] Risk assessment process.
- [3] Information system which includes the associated activity processes related to the development and publication of financial reports.
- [4] control activities.
- [5] Following-up control systems.

The planning budget system affects the first element of internal control which is the

Accounting, Fifth Edition, Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007.

⁴Charles T.Horngren, Srikant M.Datar, George Foster, Cost accounting, Twelfth Edition., Pearson Prentice Hall, 2006, p182.

⁵Charles T.Horngren, Previous reference, p182.

⁶ INTOSAI 2300 ISSAI "Planning of the audit of financial statements".

⁷ Financial Control Manual for Supreme Audit Institutions for Public Sector Units of an Economic Nature, April 2021.



control environment. The adoption of the facility's management to planning budgets, whether when developing them or when using them as an element of internal control, affects the auditors' evaluation of the internal control elements. Also, the activities of following-up the application using planning budgets are part of the fifth element of the internal control system - follow-up control systems - which also affects the evaluation of the internal control system of the audited unit.

Planning Budgets of the Economic Units and their Role in Implementing the Financial Audit Process:

The audit implementation phase constitutes two types of operations, the first is analytical procedures and the second is testing the processes' details.

"Analytical procedures" means the evaluation of financial information by studying the expected relationships between financial or non-financial statements⁸.

One of the most important analytical procedures is to compare the actual performance with the estimated performance by comparing the financial data included in the Financial Statements with the data included in the planning budgets, identifying deviations, inquiring from management about the causes of these deviations and expanding in the examination of operations' details that the auditor was not convinced of their reasonableness in order to determine the accuracy of their financial data.

⁸ INTOSAI 2520 ISSAI standard " Analytical Procedures".

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