INTOSAI
International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions

Cour des comptes
FRANCE

Draft statement of decision of the INTOSAI Working group on Programme Evaluation meeting (November 17, 2014, Paris)
Draft Executive Summary of discussions - INTOSAI "Evaluation" Working Group Meeting of June 15, 2015 - Paris

1. **Minutes of the last meeting:** approved

2. **Agenda of the discussion session:** approved

3. **Purpose of the discussion session**

The Evaluation Working Group on Programme Evaluation (EWG)[1] met on 15 June 2015 for its annual session chaired by the SAI of France. The SAI of Gabon, Finland, Korea, Switzerland, Morocco, Hungary and Philippines were represented. A delegation of the Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) of Korea, headed by Mr Byoung Chul Kim, Commissioner of the BAI, took this opportunity to meet the First President and attend the meeting as an invited observer.

The main purpose of the EWG meeting was to serve as the logical continuation of the work done in Paris on November 17, 2014, the conclusions and goals of which were reported at the INTOSAI meeting of October 2013 in Beijing and at the 6th KSC Steering Committee in Cairo in October 2014, as well as the 66th meeting of the INTOSAI Governing Board in November 2014 in Vienna.

The intention was to discuss the project proposal and the draft guidelines on the evaluation of public policies to be sent for approval at the next KSC Steering Committee in October 15, 2015 before adoption of the guidelines document as an INTOSAI GOV by the next Congress in 2016 in Abu Dhabi.

[1] This group is currently made up of 22 SAIs: Belgium, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Republic of Korea, Libya, Lithuania, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Switzerland, and United States.

4. The main points discussed

After an initial round-table discussion, and an introduction on the main objectives of the meeting by Mr Jean Raphaël Alventosa, Chair of the meeting, Mr Byoung Chul Kim, addressed a speech of presentation to the meeting participants
Mr Kim thanked the members of the Working Group on Programme Evaluation for the invitation to attend the meeting. After a description of the main duties of the BAI, Mr Kim stressed the active participation and contribution of the BAI in the establishment of the International Standards for Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs).

Mr Richard Bellin presented the due process for development of INTOSAI GOV, stressing the main stages of the due process to be followed in order to get the adoption of the guidelines document as an INTOSAI GOV by the next Congress in 2016 in Abu Dhabi.

During the discussions of the project proposal, Mr Jean-Raphaël Alventosa emphasized the need to define within this document the scope of the project taking into account the letter and comments received from the GAO on 12 June 2015 and from other colleagues. The main point was to discuss about the proposal to replace "programme evaluation" by "evaluation of public policies" everywhere in the draft, knowing that the title of the document was "Guidelines on the Evaluation of Public Policies" in accordance with the decision of the 4th KSC meeting, in Luxemburg, in 2012, to prepare guidelines completing the primer and refining the concept of the evaluation of public policies.
After an interesting debate where the relevance of the two sentences where discussed, the group decided to fully take in consideration the GAO proposal. However, the term "programme evaluation" should remain as the exact title of the Working Group and its historical background.

The First President of Gabon wished to remind the participants that the professionalization of evaluation has to be fostered and that this point should be highlighted in the project proposal.

During the rereading of the exposure draft, the group exchanged about the comments received from GAO about organization, considering that this point depends very often of local circumstances :

- Regarding the pertinence of the use of " A decision making-body" (in the section 5.2 "Organization" of the exposure draft) :

The GAO highlighted in its letter the fact that in the draft, the term "decision-making body" appeared to be separate from the team of evaluators within the SAI.

The Swiss representative (Mr Laurent Cremieux) stressed the importance during the evaluation of public policies to have a decision making-body under the supervision of the Board particularly when the study is heavy, knowing that the senior leaders of the SAI are always the last deciders.

However, after some exchanges on definitions of the terms used, the group decided, in order to make the exposure draft more comprehensible for the reader, to replace "decision making-body" by "supervisory body" for any reference in the draft where "decision-making body" is used.

- Regarding the pertinence of the use of "A monitoring body" (in the section 5.2 "Organization" of the exposure draft)

The GAO stressed the monitoring body appears to be optional in one hand and overly restrictive on the other hand in this paragraph.

The Moroccan representatives (Mr Mohammed Bastaoui and Mr Yassin Naciri-bensaghir) suggested to introduce two levels of monitoring, but the Swiss representative (Mr Laurent Cremieux) expressed reservations about the pertinence of introducing two levels of monitoring.

After some exchanges, the group decided to modify the terms used in order to keep "A monitoring body" as optional, but deemed that this body can't be competent to take decision about the conclusion of the evaluation. The group decided to modify the draft to be clearer.

The Hungary representative (Mr Gergo Literati) stated that the section 5 of the draft guidelines (Evaluation planning) was part of the methodology described in the section 4 (Methodology of the evaluation). Accordingly, the group decided to modify the title of the section 4 and 5 in order for the reader not to make confusion between these two different sections.

5. The main conclusions of the session

After a day of constructive discussions, several amendments, both in form and in substance, were adopted. The document, primarily intended to be a methodological guide of the different forms of evaluations conducted by member countries, should concern first the evaluation of public policies, within the scope of programme evaluation and performance auditing. Evaluation and performance auditing are made up of multiple methodologies. These guidelines about evaluation of public policies provide the most relevant tools possible, given the technical development of methods and the members's now increasing experience. Each SAI can use them, taking into account local circumstances.
Mr Jean- Raphaël Alventosa, Director of the Department of International Relations, External Audits and the Francophonie (DRIAEF), will accordingly send out a new version of the exposure draft and the project proposal on 22 June 2015 to EWG members for comments

6. The next steps

Development of INTOSAI GOV 9400	**Date**
Stage 1 : Drafting of the project proposal by EWG	15 June 2015: EWG meeting in Paris (discussions on the last drafts of the project proposal and the guidelines on the evaluation of public policies). 16 June to 22 June 2015: drafting of the project proposal and the guidelines according to the received comments during the last EWG meeting. 22 June 2015: new drafts of the project proposal and the guidelines to be sent to EWG members for comment.

	6 July to 14 July 2015 drafting of the final version of the project proposal and the guidelines according to the received comments (done by email exchange)
Approval of the project proposal by KSC.	15 July 2015: project proposal and guidelines to be sent to KSC for approval. 15 October 2015: KSC Steering Committee (approval of the project proposal and last draft of the guidelines).
Stage 2 : Drafting of the exposure draft by EWG	16 October to 31 October 2015: drafting of the exposure draft by EWG.
Approval of the exposure draft by KSC.	1 November 2015: exposure draft to be sent to KSC for approval. 30 November 2015: approval of the exposure draft by KSC (done by email exchange).
Exposure period of the exposure draft on www.issai.org by KSC	1 December 2015 to 29 February 2016: public comments of the exposure draft on the website.
Engagements of EWG with limited number of International Institutions and external auditors for comments on the exposure drafts	1 to 31 December 2015
Stage 3 : Overview of comments received by EWG	1 March to 31 May 2016: analysis of the comments received during the exposure period. 1 June 2016 : new draft of the guidelines to be sent to EWG members for comment ; 20 June 2016 : EWG meeting (discussions on the new draft of the guidelines)
Drafting of the endorsement version of the guidelines by EWG	21 June to 31 June 2016: drafting of the endorsement version according to comments received during the last EWG meeting. 1 July 2016: Endorsement version to be sent to EWG members for comment. 31 July 2016 :drafing of the endorsement version according to comments received from EWG members (done by email exchange) 1 August to 14 October 2016: Translation of the final endorsement version in the 5 official languages of INTOSAI.

Approval of the endorsement version by KSC and by the Governing Board	15 October 2016 : Endorsement version to be sent to KSC for approval. November 2016 : Endorsement version to be sent to Governing Board for approval.
Stage 4 : Endorsement of the final version of the guidelines by INCOSAI.	XXII INCOSAI, Abu Dhabi, 2016