

PRESS RELEASE

The Court of the Accounts of the Kingdom of Morocco hosts the Inaugural Steering Committee Meeting to Implement the Global Strategic Initiative between the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) and the Donor Community for Capacity Development of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) in Aid Recipient Countries.

Marrakech, 22 - 23 February 2010 – Following the October 2009 signing in Brussels of the milestone **Memorandum of Understanding** (MoU) between INTOSAI and 15 partners, including the African Development Bank, Austria, Belgium, Canada, the European Commission, the Inter American Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the World Bank, the inaugural Steering Committee Meeting was held to execute the MoU and coordinate support for capacity development of developing countries SAIs.

The inaugural meeting constituted the Steering Committee and its working modalities. The working modalities include a Steering Committee leadership consisting of joint Chairpersons and joint Vice Chairpersons from the INTOSAI and Donor Communities respectively. The World Bank was appointed Chair and DFID as Vice Chair from the Donors, while the SAI of Saudi Arabia was appointed Chair and the SAI of USA Vice Chair by INTOSAI. An interim Work Programme was adopted, where the primary focus for the next period will be on taking stock of ongoing capacity building initiatives, and starting the process of assessing the needs of SAIs in aid recipient countries and the funding gaps. This survey and analysis will serve as important input to the Joint Work Programme to be decided upon at the second Steering Committee meeting in November to ensure that support is provided in a more strategic, transparent, coordinated, sustainable and needs based manner.

The initiative is consistent with the international principles on aid effectiveness expressed by the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action. Good governance is increasingly recognized as a major aspect of poverty alleviation and in the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. Strong, independent and well functioning SAIs can make an important contribution to strengthening domestic accountability, transparency and increased reliance on country financial, accounting and legal systems.

The INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) will take on the role of the Secretariat for this initiative, and will provide the INTOSAI-Donor Steering Committee with the necessary support as it works to fulfil the objectives of the MoU.

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